

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

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**Panel on Housing**

**Meeting on 3 June 2014**

**Background brief on "Performance of the environmental targets  
and initiatives of the Hong Kong Housing Authority"  
prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the performance of the Hong Kong Housing Authority ("HA") in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives, and gives a brief account of the views and concerns expressed by members on the subject.

**Background**

2. To promote healthy living and a green environment, HA established an Environment Policy in 1999. In addition to complying with environmental legislation and regulations, HA has developed a strategic framework and implemented environmental management strategies for the promotion of sustainable development. To effectively manage the overall implementation of the Environmental Policy, HA establishes environmental targets and initiatives at the beginning of each fiscal year and the performance is reviewed quarterly.

Environmental targets and initiatives in 2011-2012

3. HA has set 39 environmental targets for the fiscal year 2011-2012 for the promotion of sustainable development on various fronts, including planning and construction of new housing estates, the operation of existing estates and its office at work. The targets covered the following six environmental aspects –

- (a) energy efficiency;
- (b) water conservation;
- (c) greening;

- (d) waste management;
- (e) control of hazardous materials; and
- (f) enhancement of environmental awareness and participation.

4. According to HA, among the 39 environmental targets and initiatives, 38 of them were fully met, while the remaining target on the completion of replacing light fittings equipped with electromagnetic ballasts by electronic ballasts in all existing rental blocks would be deferred from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 due to changes in the mode of contract procurement for the retrofitting work. Detailed performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2011-2012 are set out in Annex 1 to LC Paper No. CB(1)231/12-13(03), which is hyperlinked in the **Appendix**.

#### Food waste recycling

5. In pursuing a green environment, HA has started looking at developing food waste recycling in public housing estates. A two-year trial scheme on food waste recycling has been conducted by HA in collaboration with the Environment Protection Department ("EPD") at Tin Ching and Tsz Ching Estates to convert food waste into compost since early 2012. Since November 2012, HA has also partnered with three green groups to conduct a trial scheme on off-site food waste recycling in five estates, namely Ching Ho, Lai Kok, Nam Shan, Tin Wah and Tin Tsz Estates by transporting food waste to recycling plants outside the estates.

#### **Deliberations by the Panel on Housing**

6. The Panel on Housing received briefings on the performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives regularly. It was briefed on the progress made by HA in 2011-2012 at its meeting on 3 December 2012. The major views and concerns expressed by members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### Waste management

7. Members commended HA for its contribution towards developing Hong Kong as a low-carbon city. Noting that some social enterprises had been promoting waste recycling through incentives such as provision of coupons in exchange for recycled products, some members requested that assistance be given by the Housing Department ("HD") to promote such recycling schemes to all public rental housing ("PRH") estates. Members also considered that more incentives should be introduced to encourage energy conservation.

### Food waste recycling

8. Members expressed support for the implementation of food waste recycling projects and urged for the extension of the trial schemes to all PRH estates. They also suggested that EPD and the green groups should be tasked with the development of a territory-wide food waste recycling programme which would help avert the disposal of food waste at landfills. The compost converted from food waste should be used for greening purposes in PRH estates.

9. The Administration advised that the on-site trial scheme was not particularly successful because of the lack of industrial strength in the composting process and there was no capacity for further extension. Complaints had been received on odour nuisances associated with on-site food waste recycling. The off-site trial scheme conducted in the five estates provided for centralized collection of food waste for transport to Yuen Long for recycling into animal feed and composting. The main difficulty with food waste recycling was the lack of space for the collection, transportation and storage of food waste and for distribution of compost. In response to members' suggestion, the Administration advised that HD deliberately adopted a cautious approach in developing food waste recycling in PRH estates lest there would be environmental problems, such as unattended food waste leading to vermin problem.

10. Noting the practical difficulties in conducting on-site food waste recycling, some members supported that more efforts be made to separate food waste, so that food waste generated before and after meals could be separated to facilitate recycling.

### Energy efficiency

11. Some members suggested that incentives should be introduced to encourage energy conservation. For example, PRH households which could achieve electricity savings in the past six months could be entitled to rental deductions equivalent to the savings achieved. The Administration responded that HA was not in favour of providing financial incentives for energy conservation in the form of rental reductions as the PRH rentals were already very low and further reductions would affect the viability of PRH programmes.

12. Other members were concerned that insufficient lighting might cause inconvenience to tenants. They would support the use of sensors in lighting systems for new estates which would be more energy efficient.

13. There was also the view that the 4.5% reduction in electricity consumption within a period of four years was not enough and more should be done to improve energy efficiency. Members supported that lighting at the communal areas of housing estates should be reduced during late night hours in order to conserve energy and that the more energy efficient light-emitting diode lighting and sensor systems should be adopted.

### Greening

14. Members suggested that green roofing and vertical greening should be promoted in shopping arcades, car parks and community facilities. They also considered that it would be more preferable and aesthetical to have "at grade" greening.

### Environmental awareness and participation

15. Members supported that there should be more interaction with PRH tenants in the implementation of greening and energy efficiency initiatives, and that more resources should be provided to Estate Management Advisory Committees in promoting environmental awareness and community participation by way of environmental campaigns and seminars.

### **Latest development**

16. The Administration will brief the Panel on the performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2013-2014 at the Panel meeting on 3 June 2014.

### **Relevant papers**

17. A list of relevant papers is in the **Appendix**.

## List of relevant papers

Council/ Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Housing	10 February 2011	<p>Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2010" (LC Paper No. CB(1)1209/10-11(05))  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0210cb1-1209-5-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0210cb1-1209-5-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Updated background brief on environment-friendly designs and green measures implemented in public rental housing estates prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat            (LC Paper No. CB(1)1209/10-11(06))  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0210cb1-1209-6-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/papers/hg0210cb1-1209-6-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting            (LC Paper No. CB(1)2023/10-11)  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20110210.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20110210.pdf</a></p>
Panel on Housing	3 December 2012	<p>Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2011/12" (LC Paper No. CB(1)231/12-13(03))  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/papers/hg1203cb1-231-3-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/papers/hg1203cb1-231-3-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Background brief on "Environment-friendly designs, green measures and energy saving initiatives implemented in public rental housing estates" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat            (LC Paper No. CB(1)231/12-13(04))  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/papers/hg1203cb1-231-4-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/papers/hg1203cb1-231-4-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting            (LC Paper No. CB(1)515/12-13)  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20121203.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/hg/minutes/hg20121203.pdf</a></p>