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ENVIRONMENT BUREAU
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11 July 2016

Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Angel SHEK)

Dear Ms. Shek,

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Follow-up Action for Meeting on 23 May 2016

We refer to the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs held on 23 May 2016.

In the meeting, the Government was requested to provide written response to the Panel regarding (i) the progress of achieving the carbon intensity reduction target by 2020; & (ii) calculation of Hong Kong's carbon footprint including whether it had taken into account CO₂-e emission in relation to waste plastic bags, vessels and aircrafts.

Please find enclosed our responses for members' information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Francis K C Cheng', written over a vertical line.

(Francis K C Cheng)

for Director of Environmental Protection

Encl.

c.c. (Internal)
CEO(CBD)

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Responses on (i) progress of achieving the 2020 carbon intensity reduction target & (ii) calculation of Hong Kong's carbon footprint

During the discussion on the “Latest Development on the Work on Combating Climate Change” at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 23 May 2016, Members requested the Government to provide the following information to the Panel:

- (i) the progress of achieving the carbon intensity reduction target by 50%-60% by 2020 against the 2005 level for Hong Kong, with breakdown of the reduction achieved so far, and aimed to be achieved by 2020, by each of the major mitigation measures to combat climate change; and
- (ii) detailed calculation of the carbon footprint of Hong Kong, including whether it had taken into account CO₂-e emission in relation to waste plastic bags, vessels and aircraft.

2. The responses of the Government are provided below:

(i) *Progress of achieving the carbon intensity reduction target by 2020*

3. The Government attaches great importance to the work on combating climate change. Actions have been taken on various fronts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with a view to reducing the territory's carbon intensity by 50% to 60% by 2020 when compared with the level in 2005.

4. Hong Kong's total GHG emissions in 2013 amounted to 44.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. It represents a decrease of carbon intensity by about 19% compared with that in 2005. Electricity generation is the major source of emissions, amounting to 68.3% of the total GHG emission. Other major emission sources included transport (16.9%); waste (5.7%); other end-use of fuel (5.2%); industrial process and product use (3.9%); and agriculture, forestry and other land use (0.1%). The major contributing factors for the reduction in carbon intensity include using cleaner fuel for power generation, maximising energy efficiency, promoting green road transport, and turning waste into energy. Some major measures are set out below:

- (a) Introduction of Technical Memorandum under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance since 2010 to limit air pollutant emission as a result of which cleaner fuel has been used for power generation;

- (b) The Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance was implemented in 2012 to enhance energy efficiency of key building services installations;
- (c) The Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme was launched in 2009 to encourage the use of more energy-efficient products;
- (d) Expansion of mass transportation services;
- (e) Introduced biodiesel specifications of motor vehicle in 2010;
- (f) A \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund was launched in 2011 to provide funding support for transport trades to try out green innovative transport technologies, including electric and hybrid vehicles; and
- (g) Landfill gas and gas generated during wastewater treatment process has been recovered for conversion into alternative energy where practicable to do so.

5. Apart from implementing the above mitigation measures, we will improve the fuel mix by substantially reducing the use of coal so as to achieve our carbon intensity reduction target by 2020.

(ii) Calculation of Hong Kong's carbon footprint including whether it had taken into account CO₂-e emission in relation to waste plastic bags, vessels and aircraft

6. The Government compiles the GHG inventory in accordance with the methodologies as specified in guidelines published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC Guidelines)¹. The IPCC Guidelines stipulate that GHG emissions should only include those emissions emanated within the geographical territory of a country / city over which it has jurisdiction. In accordance with the IPCC Guidelines, the GHG emission arising from disposal of waste plastic bag in landfills and domestic aircraft and vessels are included in Hong Kong's GHG emission inventory whereas emissions from international aviation and shipping are not included.

Environment Bureau
July 2016

¹ 2006 IPCC guideline for National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (<http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/>)