

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)1059/15-16(04)

Ref. : CB1/PL/HG

**Panel on Housing**

**Meeting on 29 June 2016**

**Updated 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 updated background information on the environmental targets and initiatives of the Hong Kong Housing Authority ("HA") and gives a brief account of the views and concerns expressed by members when the subject was discussed at the Panel on Housing ("the Panel") in recent years.

**Background**

2. To promote healthy living and a green environment, HA established an Environmental 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 2014-2015

3. HA set 40 environmental targets for the fiscal year 2014-2015 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 40 environmental targets, 39 of them were fully met, while the target on promoting recycling of used clothes in existing estates was not fully met by a small margin. Such shortfall might be due to HA's keen effort in promoting waste reduction, leading to tenants making better use of their clothes and hence, less used clothes being recycled. Detailed performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2014-2015 are set out in Annex 1 to LC Paper No. [CB\(1\)230/15-16\(04\)](#).

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

5. The Panel receives the Administration's briefings on the performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives regularly, and was last briefed on the progress made by HA in 2014-2015 on 7 December 2015. The major views and concerns expressed by members at previous meetings are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### Implementation of the environmental targets and initiatives

6. Members were concerned about the mechanism to review the inclusion of targets in HA's environmental policy and the impartiality of the body which conducted environmental audit for HA's housing projects. The Administration advised that the targets were selected with reference to the prevailing government policies, research and development in the industry and HA's environmental strategies. HA engaged certification bodies to conduct independent audits in respect of its environmental management and energy efficiency measures in public housing projects.

#### Waste management

7. Noting that some social enterprises had been promoting waste recycling through incentives such as provision of coupons in exchange for recycled products, some members called on the Housing Department ("HD") to promote such recycling schemes to all public rental housing ("PRH") estates. To reduce waste in PRH estates, some members proposed that HD provide storage space for residents to keep their furniture temporarily when their units were under internal renovation. The Administration advised that HD had organized similar incentive programmes in encouraging residents of PRH estates to exchange reusable / recyclable products. While there were space constraints in older PRH estates, HD had reminded contractors to handle the waste in compliance with the law and efforts would be made to minimize the

nuisance caused to the residents as far as practicable. HD would accede to residents' request for storage space if the situation allowed.

### Food waste recycling

8. Some members were dissatisfied that the Administration discontinued the implementation of food waste recycling after a trial scheme, which covered 14 PRH estates, ended in July 2014. These members called on HA to implement food waste recycling projects in all PRH estates and suggested that the Environmental Protection Department and green groups should develop a territory-wide food waste recycling programme which would help reduce the amount of food waste disposed of at landfills. They considered that the compost converted from food waste should be used for greening purposes in PRH estates.

9. The Administration advised that HA had conducted on-site and off-site food waste recycling trial schemes in some PRH estates. Given the practical difficulties associated with the collection, storage and treatment of food waste and the fact that there had been complaints against odour nuisances from food waste recycling, HA had no plan to extend the on-site trial scheme to all PRH estates. As the prevention and reduction of food waste at source would be the most effective way to reduce food waste, HA would focus its efforts on promoting tenants' awareness and participation in waste separation at source, waste reduction and green management initiatives through various publicity channels.

### Energy efficiency

10. Members suggested increasing the usage of light-emitting diode ("LED") lighting, motion-sensor systems and photovoltaic ("PV") panel systems in PRH estates, given their proven energy efficiency. Some members suggested introducing incentives 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 advised 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. Where appropriate, HD would replace the lighting system in communal areas at existing estates with LED lights. As far as the communal areas at new public housing developments were concerned, PV panel systems were provided for supplying electricity as long as they would not cause nuisance to the public and installation of LED lights had currently been specified in construction contracts.

## Greening

11. Members suggested that roof and vertical greening should be promoted in shopping arcades, car parks and community facilities. They also considered it aesthetical to provide "at grade" greening. Some members expressed concerns that HD felled trees at PRH estates inappropriately and without re-planting, while other members were concerned about HD's handling of the problem of mosquitoes and birds arising from greening. The Administration advised that "at grade" greening would be provided as far as practicable in communal areas. To avert the problem of birds and insects, HD would trim the trees when necessary and choose the plant types with care. Trees would be felled when there were safety concerns and re-planting would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## Environmental awareness and participation

12. Members considered that there should be more interaction with PRH tenants in implementing 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. The Administration remarked that it had launched an on-going programme, "Green Delight in Estates" in collaboration with green groups to enhance residents' awareness in protecting environment.

## Control of hazardous materials

13. On members' concern about the progress of removing the asbestos-containing materials in the 17 PRH estates which had such materials, the Administration advised that most of the asbestos-containing materials in PRH estates had been removed and those remaining were mainly in balcony grilles, staircases and lobby grilles as well as chimneys. They should not cause health hazards under normal circumstances. HA would keep them in satisfactory condition by conducting two condition surveys per year and engaging a registered asbestos contractor for emergency repair of underground asbestos cement water-mains for all estates.

## **Council questions**

14. At the Council meeting of 17 December 2014, Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee raised a question about the outcome of the food waste recycling trial scheme carried out at the 14 PRH estates by HA. The Council question and the Administration's reply are hyperlinked in **Appendix**.

### **Latest development**

15. The Administration will brief the Panel on the performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2015-2016 at the Panel meeting on 29 June 2016.

### **Relevant papers**

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

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
23 June 2016

**Performance of the environmental targets  
and initiatives of the Hong Kong Housing Authority**

**List of relevant papers**

<b>Council/ Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
Panel on Housing	3 December 2012	<p>Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2011/12" (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)231/12-13(03)</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. <a href="#">CB(1)231/12-13(04)</a>)</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)515/12-13</a>)</p>
Panel on Housing	3 June 2014	<p>Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2013/14" (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1516/13-14(05)</a>)</p> <p>Background brief on "Performance of the environmental targets and initiatives of the Hong Kong Housing Authority" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1516/13-14(06)</a>)</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)192/14-15</a>)</p>
Panel on Housing	7 December 2015	<p>Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2014-2015" (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)230/15-16(04)</a>)</p> <p>Background brief on "Performance of the environmental targets and initiatives of the Hong Kong Housing Authority" prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)230/15-16(05)</a>)</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)492/15-16</a>)</p>

<b>Council/ Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>
		Administration's post-meeting reply (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)752/15-16(01)</a> )

Council Question:

Date	Council Question
17 December 2014	<a href="#">Council question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee</a>