

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)1272/16-17(02)

Ref. : CB1/PL/HG

Panel on Housing

Meeting on 11 July 2017

**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 provides a summary of the major 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 2015-2016

3. HA set 41 environmental targets for the fiscal year 2015-2016 for the promotion of sustainable development on various fronts, including planning and construction of new housing estates, the operation of existing estates and HA's own offices 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 in environmental protection.

4. According to HA, among the 41 environmental targets, 38 of them were fully met, while targets on promoting recycling of domestic waste paper", "recovery of used clothes in existing estates" and "reducing the paper consumption in HA offices" were not fully met. Detailed performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2015-2016 are set out in Annex 1 to LC Paper No. [CB\(1\)1059/15-16\(03\)](#).

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 2015-2016 on 29 June 2016. 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 challenges that HA encountered in implementing environmental management strategies in existing estates where implementation of new measures might be affected by existing structures and limited space.

7. The Administration advised that the environmental targets were selected with reference to the prevailing government policies, research and development in the industry and HA's environmental strategies. HA had partnered with green groups and tenants in implementing the targets in existing estates to enhance the effectiveness of the new measures. In response to members' enquiry about the impartiality of the body which conducted environmental audit for HA's housing projects, the Administration advised that HA engaged certification bodies to conduct independent audits in respect of its environmental management and energy efficiency measures in public housing projects.

8. Members considered that there should be more interaction with public rental housing ("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 advised that HA had launched an on-going programme, "Green Delight in Estates" in collaboration with green groups to enhance residents' awareness in protecting environment. Recycle bins were provided in each PRH block to promote awareness of waste recovery.

Waste management and recycling

9. Members opined that to reduce waste in PRH estates, HA should step up publicity and public education on waste recovery and recycling. Some members were concerned about the increasing amount of construction waste dumped in estates, and suggested that the Housing Department ("HD") should provide storage space for residents to keep their furniture temporarily when their units were under internal renovation. The Administration advised that store rooms were available in some housing estates and HD staff would provide assistance at the request of residents. As regards handling of construction waste, HD had reminded contractors constantly to dispose of waste in compliance with the statutory requirements.

10. Some members suggested that food waste generated in PRH estates should be treated within the estates and turned to fertilizers to support greening within the estates. There were views that HA should implement food waste recycling projects in all PRH estates, and the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD") 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.

11. The Administration advised that HA implemented a food waste recycling trial scheme in 14 PRH estates between 2012 and 2014. The Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") noted with concern the low participation rate of tenants, and HD had been collaborating with EPD in following up the recommendations of PAC. To tie in with the Administration's food waste recycling plan, HD had been in touch with operators of food markets and restaurants in some estates for exploring new ways for food waste recycling. 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

12. Members suggested increasing the usage of light-emitting diode ("LED") lighting and photovoltaic ("PV") panel systems in PRH estates, given their proven energy efficiency. The Administration advised that where appropriate, HD would replace the lighting system in communal areas at existing estates with LED lights, and provide PV panel systems in new public housing developments to supply electricity for communal areas.

Greening

13. Some members suggested that rooftop greening and vertical greening should be promoted in shopping arcades, carparks and community facilities. They also considered it aesthetical to provide "at grade" greening. The Administration advised that vertical greening would be provided at appropriate places within PRH estates. Green roofs would be provided as far as possible, except for rooftops of multi-storey residential blocks which had to cater for fire escape requirement. "At grade" greening would be provided as far as practicable in communal areas. Sitting areas would also be provided alongside green planters for use by the public.

Latest developments

14. The Administration will brief the Panel on the performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2016-2017 at the Panel meeting on 11 July 2017.

15. The Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2016-17" has been submitted to the Panel in May 2017 (LC Paper No. [CB\(1\)1055/16-17\(01\)](#)), providing among others information on the HA's performance in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2016-2017

Relevant papers

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

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

List of relevant papers

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Housing	3 December 2012	Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2011/12" (LC Paper No. CB(1)231/12-13(03)) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)515/12-13)
Panel on Housing	3 June 2014	Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2013/14" (LC Paper No. CB(1)1516/13-14(05)) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)192/14-15)
Panel on Housing	7 December 2015	Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2014-2015" (LC Paper No. CB(1)230/15-16(04)) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)492/15-16) Administration's supplementary paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)752/15-16(01))
Panel on Housing	29 June 2016	Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2015-16 " (LC Paper No. CB(1)1059/15-16(03)) Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1199/15-16)
Panel on Housing	11 July 2017	Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2016-17" (LC Paper No. CB(1)1055/16-17(01))