

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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**Panel on Housing**

**Meeting on 5 July 2021**

**Updated background brief on performance of the environmental targets and initiatives of the Hong Kong Housing Authority**

**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 views and concerns expressed by members of the Panel on Housing ("the Panel") during relevant discussions 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 on multiple fronts, including planning and construction of new housing estates, operation of existing estates and HA's own offices at work. 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

3. HA set 41 environmental targets for the fiscal year 2019-2020 covering six aspects including energy efficiency, water conservation, greening, waste management, control of hazardous materials as well as enhancement of environmental awareness and participation in environmental protection initiatives.

4. According to HA, all the 41 environmental targets were met in the fiscal year 2019-2020. Detailed performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2019-2020 are set out in Annex 1 to LC Paper No. [CB\(1\)561/19-20\(05\)](#).

### **Members' views and concerns**

5. The major views and concerns expressed by members during relevant Panel discussions in recent years are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### Environmental targets and initiatives

6. Members enquired about the mechanism to review the inclusion of targets in HA's environmental policy, and the challenges that HA had encountered in implementing the environmental targets in its existing estates.

7. The Administration advised that HA established its Environmental Policy in 1999 and set annual environmental targets at the beginning of each fiscal year. The number and types of the targets would be reviewed depending on a number of factors, such as the Government's prevalent environmental policies, research and development in the industry, and HA's latest environmental management strategies. HA had partnered with green groups and tenants in implementing the environmental targets in its existing estates.

#### Participation in environmental protection initiatives

8. Members expressed concern about the low participation of public rental housing ("PRH") residents and local communities in HA's environmental protection initiatives in estates. Some members opined that HA should step up publicity and education through various channels, such as the printed and electronic media, to promote awareness and participation in the environmental initiatives in its estates, and liaise with non-government organizations to organize second-hand goods exchange events in its estates to encourage reuse of suitable items.

9. The Administration advised that HA had all along acknowledged the need to step up publicity and education on environmental protection. Since 2005, HA had conducted the "Green Delight in Estates" programme in various PRH estates in collaboration with green groups to enhance

environmental awareness and promote environmental education. In 2020, HA had partnered with Greeners Action, Business Environment Council, and World Green Organisation to carry out the "Green Delight in Estates" programme. The programme comprised various activities, including second-hand goods barter markets.

### Waste recovery and recycling

10. Members enquired on how HA would enhance the environmental performance of its contractors/service providers, and whether HA would include relevant environmental measures as important criteria for selecting contractors/service providers. The Administration advised that the contracts between HA and cleansing contractors included the requirements with respect to waste separation and recovery. As regards contractors who collected recyclables from recycling bins in estates, HA would step up supervision and monitoring where appropriate, including their performance in keeping the recycling bins clean and timeliness in collecting recyclables from the recycling bins.

11. Members enquired whether HA would broaden the types of recyclables to be recovered. Some members were concerned that there was no notable increase in the quantity of plastic bottles recovered from PRH estates for recycling in recent years. In view that the Administration would introduce a pilot scheme on reverse vending machines to promote recycling of waste plastic beverage containers,<sup>1</sup> members suggested that HA should place such machines at some of its estates for trial.

12. The Administration advised that in considering the types of recyclables to be recovered in PRH estates, HA would take into account the relevant programmes and initiatives taken forward by the Environmental Protection Department. As regards plastic bottles recovered from PRH estates, the quantity had doubled since 2008. HA would continue to explore ways to drive behavioural changes in reducing waste disposal and encourage residents to practice recycling through publicity work.

### Greening

13. In view that HA had set a green coverage target with respect to new public housing developments, members enquired whether this included green roofing and vertical greening. Some members opined that HA should increase the green coverage in existing PRH estates.

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<sup>1</sup> Reverse Vending Machine is an automatic device that allows consumers to feed in used beverage containers (e.g. plastic beverage containers) for instant rebate.

14. The Administration advised that HA had set a target for new public housing developments to achieve at least 20% green coverage, and for sites exceeding two hectares to achieve at least 30% green coverage. The green coverage target included all forms of greening, including green roofs and vertical greening. In considering whether the green coverage should be increased in existing PRH estates, HA had to take into account the space constraints and the views of Estate Management Advisory Committees. To enhance the quality of landscape and upgrade the existing landscape, HA had completed the Landscape Improvement Programme<sup>2</sup> in 20 PRH estates, and improved the appearance of 10 slopes at PRH estates by providing hydroseeding, stone pitching and toe planters. HA would continue its efforts in improving the quality of landscape and upgrading the existing landscape facilities in its estates.

15. Members opined that estate management staff or contractors might face difficulties in carrying out the maintenance of green roofs provided in some PRH estates, and enquired whether HA would increase relevant resources, such as gardeners, to ensure that the plantings and green roofs provided in its estates would receive proper and comprehensive care.

16. The Administration advised that HA was aware of the feedback on the implementation of roof greening measures in the earlier generations of PRH estates. After conducting trials, HA had enhanced the design by various means, such as the use of drought tolerant plants, which required less maintenance and irrigation, on green roofs; and the use of Zero Irrigation System for on-grade planters in its new building projects to reduce consumption of irrigation water. In the property management contract between HA and the property services agent of a new estate, HA would specify that the property services agent was required to provide horticultural maintenance services for all the greening facilities in the estate. For some larger estates, HA might further set out in relevant tender documents its requirement of additional manpower for such services.

#### Use of green materials and components

17. Members enquired about the adoption of green materials and components in HA's projects. The Administration advised that the introduction of green materials and components by HA in its projects involved five stages, including exploration, piloting, monitoring, reviewing and mass application. Materials that had proven

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<sup>2</sup> Under the programme, HA improve the quality of landscape and upgrade the existing landscape facilities (LC Paper No. [CB\(1\)561/19-20\(05\)](#)).

environmental benefits and met cost and quality considerations would be applied to all new projects under HA. For instance, the use of recycled aggregates and recycled glass cullet for external concrete paving blocks; use of softwood and at least 50% of all timber from sustainable source for doors; and use of timber from sustainable source for temporary works during construction, etc. Besides, HA had reduced material consumption in various ways, including painting internal and external concrete walls without plastering; and adopting power float on fair-faced concrete floor without screeding.

### **Latest development**

18. The Administration will brief the Panel on the performance of HA in respect of its environmental targets and initiatives in 2020-2021 at the Panel meeting on 5 July 2021.

### **Relevant papers**

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

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
30 June 2021

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

**List of relevant papers**

| <b>Committee</b> | <b>Date of meeting</b> | <b>Paper</b>   |
|------------------|------------------------|--|
| Panel on Housing | 3 December 2012        | 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> )<br><br>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)515/12-13</a> )  |
| Panel on Housing | 3 June 2014            | 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> )<br><br>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)192/14-15</a> )   |
| Panel on Housing | 7 December 2015        | 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> )<br><br>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)492/15-16</a> )<br><br>Administration's supplementary paper (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)752/15-16(01)</a> ) |
| Panel on Housing | 29 June 2016           | Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2015-16" (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1059/15-16(03)</a> )<br><br>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1199/15-16</a> )  |
| Panel on Housing | 11 July 2017           | Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2016-17" (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1055/16-17(01)</a> )<br><br>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1425/16-17</a> )  |

| <b>Committee</b> | <b>Date of meeting</b> | <b>Paper</b>  |
|------------------|------------------------|---|
|                  |                        | Administration's supplementary paper (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1452/16-17(01)</a> )  |
| Panel on Housing | -                      | Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2017-18" (May 2018)<br>(LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)1012/17-18(01)</a> )   |
| Panel on Housing | 4 May 2020             | Administration's paper on "Performance of Environmental Targets and Initiatives in 2019-20" (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)561/19-20(05)</a> )<br><br>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. <a href="#">CB(1)907/19-20</a> ) |