

Panel on Environmental Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 27 November 2023)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Conversion of petrol filling stations into quick charging stations

December 2023

Green transport is one of the important measures for Hong Kong to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In order to promote green transformation of vehicles, the Government announced the “Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles” in March 2021, setting out the long-term policies and measures to promote the use of electric vehicles (“EVs”) and the necessary supporting facilities in Hong Kong, including expansion of the charging infrastructure by conversion of petrol filling stations (“PFSs”) into quick charging stations.

In July 2023, the Chief Executive in Council approved amendments to land lease conditions to provide incentives to existing PFSs to install EV chargers. The Administration plans to invite tenders in the first quarter of 2024 to convert two vacant PFS sites into quick charging stations. It is also expected that about 100 quick chargers will be installed at existing PFSs in about 18 months.

2. Latest progress of the voluntary scheme for phasing out personal care and cosmetic products (“PCCPs”) containing microbeads

December 2023

In May 2021, the Administration briefed the Panel on the proposed voluntary scheme for phasing out PCCPs containing microbeads (“the Scheme”) at source, which was formulated according to the actual situation in Hong Kong. The Environmental Protection Department launched the Scheme in September 2021, inviting all sectors to jointly promote the elimination of microbeads through a Charter, while enhancing public awareness of microbead-related issues and assisting consumers in choosing microbead-free PCCPs. The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest progress of the Scheme.

		Proposed timing for discussion
3. Implementation of Kigali Amendment on regulation of hydrofluorocarbons in Hong Kong		1 st quarter of 2024
<p>The Administration will seek the Panel's views on the regulatory proposal relating to the phase-down of the consumption of hydrofluorocarbons in Hong Kong, which will enable the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to fulfil its international obligations under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.</p>		
4. Control of noise arising from the use of loudspeakers, etc., and other miscellaneous amendments to Noise Control Ordinance		1 st quarter of 2024
<p>The Administration will brief the Panel on proposed amendments to the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) to impose control on, among other things, the use of loudspeakers for street cries and playing music in public places; as well as other miscellaneous amendments for facilitating law enforcement, etc.</p>		
5. Implementation progress and review of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan ("BSAP")		1 st quarter of 2024
<p>The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department attended the second part of the 15th meeting of Conference of the Parties ("COP 15") to the UN Biodiversity Convention, which was held from 7 to 19 December 2022. The Administration will brief the Panel on the developments in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and relevant decisions adopted at COP 15; new emerging issues and priorities at local, regional and national levels; and preparation for the next biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>		
6. Strategic Feasibility Study on the Development of Wetland Conservation Parks System under the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy (the "Study")		1 st quarter of 2024
<p>Under the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy, it is proposed to adopt a proactive conservation policy, resume private fish ponds and wetlands with conservation value in Deep Bay and, together with the adjoining Government land, establish a system of Wetland</p>		

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Conservation Parks (“WCPs”) to create environmental capacity, so that Hong Kong can strike a proper balance between conservation and development and achieve “Co-existence of Development and Conservation”. The Government launched the Study in August 2022 with a view to determining the exact locations/areas and management model for WCPs to be established under the system, etc. The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest progress of the Study.

At the meeting on 17 January 2023, Ir Gary ZHANG Xinyu suggested discussing the latest progress of the initiative, proposed geographical coverage of WCPs, and estimated expenditure involved. Mr Steven HO Chun-yin expressed the views that the item should also cover the potential impact of conservation measures to be carried out in WCPs on the pond fish culture industry, and that members of the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene should be invited to join the discussion.

7. Update on waste reduction and management measures

1st quarter of
2024

The Administration will brief the Panel on the implementation progress of major waste-to-energy/resources facilities and measures for promoting waste reduction and recycling.

Dr Junius HO Kwan-yiu proposed this item at the meeting on 17 January 2023, and suggested that the Administration should report to the Panel the cost-effectiveness of the said facilities and measures.

The Subcommittee to Study Policy Issues Relating to Municipal Solid Waste Charging, Recovery and Recycling referred the following issues to this Panel for follow-up: promoting local reuse of recyclables and green procurement; planning and support for the development of the green industry and related manpower training; and regional collaboration and strategy for waste management.

8. Balance between development and environmental protection

2nd quarter of
2024

At the meeting on 25 January 2022, Mr CHAN Yung proposed discussion on the development potential of Green Belt sites. Ir CHAN Siu-hung suggested that the Administration should

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

(a) introduce requirements relating to carbon emissions into contracts for public works projects, with a view to striking a better balance between development and environmental protection; and (b) promote the adoption of ESG (i.e. environmental, social and governance) practices in both the public and private sectors. Prof LAU Chi-pang urged the Administration to ensure proper environmental protection during the development of the proposed Northern Metropolis.

9. Mitigation of road traffic noise

2nd quarter of
2024

Mr Dominic LEE Tsz-king expressed concern that some residential estates were seriously affected by road traffic noise (such as The Palazzo in Fo Tan and The Regent in Tai Po). At the meeting on 25 January 2022, he suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the measures for mitigating road traffic noise, including the retrofitting of noise barriers at strategic locations.

10. Promoting the development of green transport

2nd quarter of
2024

The Chairman, Mr CHAN Hak-kan, Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming and Ir CHAN Siu-hung proposed this discussion item at the meeting on 17 January 2023. They suggested that this item should cover the progress of developing and adopting various types of zero-carbon transport technologies (such as hydrogen fuel cell, ammonia, and green methanol technologies), government support for transport operators to transition to new energy vehicles/vessels, and measures for promoting Hong Kong's development into a sustainable aviation fuel hub.

The Chairman and Ir CHAN Siu-hung suggested that a joint meeting with the Panel on Transport be arranged to discuss this item.