

Panel on Environmental Affairs

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 17 January 2025)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons (“PCPRS”)

February 2025

It was announced in the Chief Executive’s 2024 Policy Address to introduce a bill in 2025 to establish a common legislative framework of producer responsibility schemes on different products, thereby facilitating the progressive inclusion of such products as plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons in future. To this end, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department have commenced the legislative drafting work pertinent to the amendments of the Products Eco-responsibility Ordinance and relevant ordinances with the Department of Justice and plan to introduce the amendment bill into the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) in the first half of 2025.

The Administration will consult the Panel on 24 February 2025 for the operational details of PCPRS, and plans to introduce the subsidiary legislation of the scheme into LegCo in the second or third quarter of 2025, with a view to implementing PCPRS in late 2025 at the earliest.

Besides, it is proposed to take the advantage of this legislative opportunity to carry out technical amendments to the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap. 603) and Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation (Cap. 603A) in one go, for the sake of adding Faster Payment System as an option for penalty payment under the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme.

2. Proposed amendments to Schedule 3 to the Mercury Control Ordinance (Cap. 640)

February 2025

The 4th and 5th meetings of the Conference of the Parties (“COP”) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury decided to phase out 16 new mercury-added products (“MAPs”) by amendments to the Convention. To implement the relevant amendments in Hong Kong, the Administration proposed to introduce legislative amendments to the Mercury Control Ordinance (Cap. 640) to include these 16 new MAPs. It is also planned to introduce the proposed legislative amendments into LegCo in May 2025.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

3. Implementation progress and review of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

1st quarter of 2025

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.

At the work plan of the Panel meeting on 5 February 2024, the Administration advised that this item would also cover the city-level strategy for the designation and management of marine protected areas.

4. Review on the effectiveness of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024

3rd quarter of 2025

On 19 November 2024, the Panel received a referral (LC Paper No. CB(1)1551/2024(01)) arising from the meeting between LegCo Members and Sai Kung District Council members on 25 October 2024 for follow-up on the issues relating to enforcement and public education for the prohibition of feeding of feral pigeons. The Panel was requested to review the effectiveness of the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 one year after its commencement on 1 August 2024.

5. Issues relating to electricity supply

To be confirmed

Future development of Hong Kong’s electricity market and effectiveness of 2023 Interim Review on Scheme of Control Agreements (“SCAs”)

At the meeting on 16 January 2024, Ms Carmen KAN, Dr Hoey Simon LEE and Ms Elizabeth QUAT suggested discussing:

- (a) structure of and regulatory framework for the local electricity market after the expiry of the existing SCAs;
- (b) progress of increasing the share of green energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation, capital investments involved and tariff impact; and

- (c) effectiveness of the modifications to SCAs following the 2023 Interim Review.

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Ms Carmen KAN suggested that the Panel follow up arrangement of discussion on the above issues.

Electricity supply policy and import of zero-carbon energy

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Dr Hoey Simon LEE, Mr Tony TSE and Ms Elizabeth QUAT respectively proposed discussion on Hong Kong's long-term electricity supply policy, the share of electricity imported from the Mainland and the progress of import of zero-carbon energy.

Development of renewable energy

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr Tony TSE proposed discussion on the development of renewable energy (such as solar energy and wind power generation), including the timetable for taking forward the relevant projects. At that meeting, Dr Junius HO proposed discussion on appropriate relaxation for installation of solar photovoltaic systems in low-density private buildings.

6. Proposed amendments to Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) and its subsidiary legislation

To be confirmed

The Administration will brief members on the outcome of the public/trade consultation and seek their views on the proposals to tighten noise control.

7. Review of operation and cost-effectiveness of district cooling systems ("DCSs")

To be confirmed

Mr CHAN Hak-kan suggested at the meeting on 16 January 2024 that the Administration should review the operation and cost-effectiveness of existing DCSs and report the details to the Panel, including the DCSs' operating and maintenance costs, rates of return on investment, etc., with a view to examining whether there would be a good business case for constructing new DCSs in new development areas/projects. At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, the Chairman, suggested that the Administration be requested to report the operation and cost-effectiveness of DCSs to the Panel as soon as possible.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Balance between development and environmental protection

To be confirmed

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 (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 Northern Metropolis.

At the meeting on 16 January 2024, Mr Steven HO suggested that the impact of land development projects on existing industries (such as the logistics industry and the agriculture and fisheries industries) should be covered by this discussion item, and members of the relevant Panels should be invited to join the discussion.

At the work plan meeting on 5 February 2024, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, the Chairman, suggested refining the scope of this item in future to enable more focused discussion.

9. Waste reduction and management measures

To be confirmed

Regulation on the proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings

To strengthen the regulation on the proper handling of recyclables in residential buildings, it was announced in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address that the Government would explore requiring by legislation the property management companies and the owners' organizations of major housing estates and single-block buildings with relatively large numbers of flats to collect common types of recyclables separately and pass them to downstream recyclers for proper processing.

At the work plan meeting on 5 February 2024, the Administration suggested consulting the Panel on the relevant legislative proposal when the Panel discusses waste reduction and management strategy and measures.

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr Dominic LEE expressed concern about the inadequacy of local recycling facilities, and suggested that the Panel discuss issues relating to the enhancement of

community recycling support facilities.

Waste-to-energy/resources facilities

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.

At the meeting on 17 January 2023, Dr Junius HO suggested that the Administration should report to the Panel the cost-effectiveness of the said facilities and measures.

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Ms CHAN Yuet-ming suggested that the Panel discuss the update on the management of the Northeast New Territories Landfill and development of modern waste-to-energy incinerators as a standalone item. At the said meeting, Ms Elizabeth QUAT also suggested that the Panel follow up on the strategy and timetable for the development of modern waste-to-energy incinerators.

Producer responsibility schemes

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, the Chairman, proposed discussion on the implementation of producer responsibility schemes.

Regulation of product packaging

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, the Chairman, and Ir CHAN Siu-hung proposed discussion on the regulation of excessive packaging.

Regional collaboration

Ms Elizabeth QUAT suggested at the meeting on 16 January 2024 that the Administration explore the sharing of waste treatment capacities between Hong Kong and other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Ir CHAN Siu-hung suggested that the Administration expedite arrangement for discussion on regional collaboration in waste treatment to cope with the ultimate waste disposal needs of the territory.

Public education

At the meeting on 16 January 2024, Mr CHU Kwok-keung suggested that the Administration should enhance public education on environmental protection (such as waste reduction and recycling), and interdepartmental cooperation should be strengthened for the purpose.

Development of the green industry and related manpower training

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.

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Ir CHAN Siu-hung suggested that the Administration expedite arrangement for discussion on the development of the green industry and related manpower training to enhance promotion of waste reduction and recycling, and to promote the healthy development of the recycling industry.

10. Improvement of waterfront water quality and odour problems

To be confirmed

On 22 November 2024, the Panel received a referral (LC Paper No. CB(1)1569/2024(01)) arising from the meeting between LegCo Members and Kowloon City District Council members on 25 October 2024 for follow-up on the issues relating to improvement of waterfront water quality and odour problems.

11. Regulation of cement works

To be confirmed

On 16 December 2024, the Panel received a referral (LC Paper No. CB(1)1710/2024(01)) arising from the meeting between LegCo Members and Kwun Tong District Council members on 29 November 2024 for follow-up on the views on the Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill 2024 and the issues relating to the regulation of cement works, including the proposed installation of monitoring system on concrete mixers and the land use planning for the setting up of concrete batching plants.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

12. Promoting the popularization of electric vehicles

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr Dominic LEE suggested that the Panel follow up on the measures to promote the wider use of electric vehicles, including the progress of expansion of the network of charging facilities, as well as conversion of petrol filling stations into quick charging stations or petrol-cum-charging stations.

13. Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr Dominic LEE proposed discussion on the implementation situation of the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong and development of related technologies.

14. Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Ms Carmen KAN proposed discussion on the progress of various measures in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050.

Green and low-carbon development

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Ms Judy CHAN, the Deputy Chairman, suggested holding joint meetings with other relevant Panel(s) to discuss how to expedite the development of green economy and green finance. At the said meeting, Mr LAU Kwok-fan, the Chairman, suggested that the Panel follow up on issues relating to green and low-carbon transformation, carbon trading standards and the development of the green industry.

15. Enhancement of facilities in country parks

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Dr Hoey Simon LEE proposed discussion on the progress of the enhancement of facilities in country parks.