



THE ISSUE

Business as usual is not an option anymore; it is inevitable for all governments to deal with the climate crisis. Time is running out for effective action to address the climate emergency and global heating, as stridently conveyed in the IPCC's latest special report. Effective action requires participation from all stakeholders, especially government in policy making or enactment of law and regulations, and to bring about transformative change away from BAU.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

WWF-Hong Kong is working on innovations in low-carbon offices and supply chains and is a driving force for sustainability in the Hong Kong fashion industry. Companies accredited under our LOOP (Low-carbon Office Operation Programme) and LCMP (Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme) collectively avoided nearly half a million tonnes of carbon emissions since 2014 against a business-as-usual scenario. Our sustainability advisors are engaging with corporate and institutional investors on green bonds, green finance and sustainability reporting.

Our climate policy programme aims to influence a change in government buildings energy efficiency policy regarding the Gross Floor Area (GFA) concessions offered to new buildings, including:

- improving Hong Kong's existing new building energy efficiency policy by increasing visibility and transparency of actual energy usage data by commercial and residential sectors; and
- mobilising widespread awareness about buildings and individual carbon emissions to provide energy savings. WWF-Hong Kong takes part in Earth Hour, the world's largest collective environmental movement, every year. By symbolically switching off all non-essential lights for one hour we turn our attention towards preserving the earth's natural resources and promoting the use of renewable energy.

Making Zero Impact Fashionable and the Hong Kong Fashion Summit provide a platform for collaboration among fashion business leaders in their quest to individually and collectively advance and implement sustainability in their strategic business planning, product development, company policy and operational practices, including:

- adopting measures to reduce their carbon emissions;
- implementing sustainability performance monitoring tools and advisory services to facilitate their suppliers to start the low carbon journey; and
- improving environmental performance and/or ESG reporting.

Our Environmental Finance team aims to influence decision-making processes of asset managers and asset owners to shift capital from unsustainable investments into low-carbon solutions. Our *Climate Primer* provides an overview of the science of climate change, an

articulation of global policy around the issue, a survey of the technological approaches to the problem, and an outline of the various financial entities and resources involved in addressing climate change. This resource is made available to the investor community.

WWF-Hong Kong launched its Solarising Communities project in 2016, installing on-grid rooftop solar systems on stilt houses in Tai O, to demonstrate that solar power can meet half of household power needs. The city's first-ever Renewable Energy Certificate was subsequently launched for corporate application. In 2017, the project was extended with a 100% Solar Mobile Café rolling through the city to collect public opinions.

WWF conducted the city's first-ever study into the city's commercial refrigeration sector, highlighting the energy challenges and food safety risks of open display fridges. WWF's *Missing the Doors* energy report and best practice guide urges a market transformation towards climate-friendly and consumer-oriented refrigeration in the grocery retail sector. It asks for retailers to retrofit doors on fridges for increasing energy efficiency, and for the government to tighten laws regulating cooling temperature, securing food safety; and to raise energy efficiency standards on commercial refrigeration to international standards.

OUR ASK

To reach the ambitious 10% renewable energy goal by 2030, one solution will be for Hong Kong to diversify and broaden its use of solar PV technology, by placing solar PV systems on government and community buildings, in open spaces, along vertical faces of buildings, and on highway infrastructure with large surface areas, such as noise enclosures.

In this connection, the government can leverage available and particularly solar energy innovations in vertical solar panels and curtain walls that suit the unique skyscraper city design in Hong Kong. For a long-term decarbonisation strategy, building energy efficiency is a key focus area to reduce electricity consumption across the city. To help achieve this, the Hong Kong green building model should be made mandatory and add a focus on climate change. We can incentivize decarbonisation locally and regionally via financing from Hong Kong-based institutions. WWF advocates the following government actions:

- The Chief Executive to lead all government departments, public bodies, and agencies to develop and commit to science-based targets in line with limiting global warming to 1.5° C;
- Set up a policy framework by exploring all options available including through legally binding carbon budget as appropriate to contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5° C with a 50% energy saving improvement target by 2050;
- Formulate a central procurement policy in line with limiting global warming to 1.5° C;
- Introduce a decarbonisation financing scheme that replicates the success of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects within government properties to all open spaces and privately-owned buildings;
- Establish a mandatory climate change mitigation and adaptation building scheme to all new and existing buildings;
- Set a 10% renewable energy target by 2030 and implement low-carbon pilot villages in local communities powered by solar energy;
- Establish an extensive, whole landscape-scale native-species reforestation program for extant grassland areas to contribute to carbon sequestration with a view to making Hong Kong more carbon neutral.