



Business Coalition Statement on Climate Action

The Hong Kong business community calls for determined actions by the HKSAR Government and close collaborations with businesses to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions, through setting concrete targets and benchmarking against the best practices of other metropolitan cities in developed countries, with a view to demonstrate Hong Kong's leadership as a world city.

Targets and Reduction Pathway

1. Businesses are increasingly aware of the potentially catastrophic impact of climate change and many have started to scrutinise their carbon footprints and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The business community urges the HKSAR Government to set concrete targets for an emission reduction pathway in absolute terms up to 2030/2050, by benchmarking Hong Kong against other metropolitan cities in developed countries, devising and implementing policy measures with strong leadership, and engaging closely with the business sector and the wider community.
2. With clear and transparent targets for a carbon and GHG reduction pathway, a long-term policy framework can be established for:
 - developing concrete policy measures and strategies to achieve the targets;
 - facilitating businesses in accounting for climate risks in their decisions; and
 - supporting research and development, as well as deployment and commercialisation of low carbon technologies.

Leadership & Integration

3. In many advanced countries, environmental protection is an integral part of their economic programmes. Japan re-defined pollution as an economic problem 10 years ago. The Canadian government has mandated all ministries to develop their respective sustainable development agenda. China's Five-Year-Plans have been incorporating energy and environmental protection aspects, now supplemented with more detailed plans. Hong Kong should follow global best practices by integrating the environment agenda into all relevant government policies and projects.
4. Significant emissions reduction can be achieved by a combination of low carbon solutions, including clean energy and transport, energy efficiency for buildings, green procurement, waste management and environmentally friendly lifestyle. To implement policies and programmes efficiently, it requires strong leadership and close cooperation among all relevant government bureaux and departments.
5. To demonstrate its leadership and commitment, the government should incorporate carbon reduction into the key performance indicators of all bureaux and departments.

Engagement & Market Facilitation

6. The success of implementing an effective reduction strategy depends in large measure on engagement with the business sector and the wider community. Close engagement with the business sector and the wider community in the early stages of strategy formulation will help generate practical solutions and get strong public buy-in.
7. Working to reduce emissions now is also less costly, or more cost-efficient, than delaying our efforts. The government and the business sector should join hands to develop a low carbon economy by:
 - working with the banking and financial sector in the development of financing tools for carbon reduction projects, such as retrofitting buildings and replacing vehicles;
 - providing incentives for businesses to invest in low carbon infrastructure and technologies;
 - establishing a carbon market; and
 - working closely with the Pearl River Delta to address region-wide issues.

In conclusion, the low carbon economy is our future, providing significant opportunities for sustainable growth and innovation, and bringing enormous benefits by establishing Hong Kong as the leading low carbon city in China and a favourable place for businesses. Now is the time to create the foundation to pursue a long-term, low carbon prosperity. We stand by to work closely with government in achieving this goal.

Presented by The Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment, 28 January 2010

Endorsed by: Association of Consultant Quantity Surveyors
Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Austrian Chamber of Commerce
Business Environment Council
Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Danish Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong
Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Federation of Hong Kong Industries
French Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Hong Kong
German Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Korean Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

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The Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment is a partnership of various business and private sector organisations formed to create a coherent voice addressing environmental matters. It aims to promote greater environmental awareness, responsibility and performance in the business community and to act as a catalyst for Government actions and policy changes toward an improved environment for Hong Kong. It also seeks to promote environmental cooperation and awareness in the Pearl River Delta.