

JULY 2024

BEC E-NEWSLETTER

Connecting · Nurturing · Creating for a Sustainable Environment

TAKEAWAYS FROM THE HYDROGEN STRATEGY FOR HONG KONG

BEC CEO Mr Simon Ng shares his insights on the development of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong.



In mid-June, the Government announced the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong (“the Strategy”). This highly anticipated blueprint, which outlines Hong Kong’s approach towards creating a conducive environment for the development of hydrogen energy in the city and offers us one of the potential pathways in reducing carbon emissions in sectors where market-ready and scalable solutions are not yet available, has been well received across different sectors and stakeholder groups, including the local business community.

The Strategy rightly set out to address major technical challenges associated with the development of a hydrogen ecosystem, including safety, suitable technologies, infrastructure, cost-effectiveness, capacity building and public acceptance, all of which must be considered thoroughly in the rather unique situation of Hong Kong. Four strategies were promulgated to improve legislations, establish standards, ensure alignment with the market, and advance the development of hydrogen energy in a prudent manner. The Hydrogen Strategy also demonstrates a strong connection with national policy and development plans on hydrogen, as well as a clear intention to foster and deepen collaboration within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

BEC welcomes the announcement of the Strategy, as it is always helpful from the corporate perspective that government policies are clear in direction, allowing the private sector ample time for business decisions, planning and actions.

In terms of the timeline, the Strategy indicates that given all the uncertainties surrounding the future global development of hydrogen energy, it makes a lot of sense for Hong Kong to take a step-by-step approach – starting with the promotion and facilitation of demonstration projects with the industrial application of hydrogen technology, the provision of policy and financial support to incentivise research and development, and the use of grey hydrogen that is more readily available in the initial development stage. As the market matures, the regulations and standards necessary for the management of the hydrogen supply chain will be put in place, and there will be a gradual transition from sourcing grey to blue and green hydrogen. In other words, the development of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong is much more of a marathon, rather than a sprint.

While the benefits of the development of hydrogen energy, such as its contribution to achieving Hong Kong’s carbon neutrality target, transitioning towards a low-carbon economy and strengthening our international competitiveness, may take time to realise, there are immediate lessons that we can learn from the Strategy and its implementation plan.



Photo Credit: GovHK

First, to prepare for the development of hydrogen energy, the Government has set up an Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (“the Working Group”) back in 2022, comprising more than 10 bureaux and professional departments, with the objectives to remove barriers and facilitate commencement of local hydrogen applications via various pilot projects. With the announcement of the Strategy, it is suggested that the role of the Working Group will be expanded to support implementation, strengthen co-ordination, assist promotion, and regularly review progress and update the Strategy.

It is commendable that the Working Group has played an important role right from the start to bring together internal expertise and other resources from within the Government, and to serve as a one-stop platform for engaging and partnering with external stakeholders, resulting in the delivery of a high-level, well-thought-out strategy over a relatively short period of time. A similar approach should be replicated for the development of other market-ready or emerging low-carbon fuels, such as liquefied natural gas, green methanol, sustainable aviation fuel, and renewable diesel, that would play a significant part in decarbonising harder-to-abate sectors like international shipping, aviation and road-based commercial freight transportation.

Second, the Government will introduce an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in the first half of 2025 to provide a legal basis for regulating the manufacture, storage, transport, supply and utilisation of hydrogen, either used or intended to be used as fuel under the Gas Safety Ordinance. There is also the plan to formulate the approach for certifying a hydrogen standard that aligns with international practices by 2027. While the Government has

made it clear that Hong Kong will adopt a prudent approach for the development of hydrogen energy, the decision to take early steps in legislative amendment and standard setting is actually a smart move, as clear legislation is conducive to innovation and investment, and standards and guidelines consistent with international best practices will improve safety and technical compliance, and boost public confidence and acceptance towards hydrogen fuel.

Usually, reviewing and amending legislations, or establishing new standards and guidelines are time-consuming processes. In this case, the Government has taken the initiative for the advanced handling of regulations and standards associated with the local application of hydrogen energy, so that Hong Kong will become hydrogen-ready sooner with a supporting regulatory regime to capitalise on the development of hydrogen fuel when the technology and the market matures. By the same token, we may consider early amendment and preparation of legislations and standards related to other green fuels, especially those with greater potential for local applications, so that we can once again shorten the time frame for early adoption and implementation.

At this juncture, it is difficult to predict the pace of the up-taking and scaling of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong with a definite timeline. Nonetheless, with co-ordinated effort as demonstrated by the spirit of the Working Group and the pilot projects that are running or in the pipeline, as well as the Government’s early preparation in closing some of the existing legislative and regulatory gaps related to hydrogen, we have reasons to believe that the Government and the private sector will slowly and collectively create an enabling environment for the application of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong.

BEC Technical Visit – Tech for a Greener Future: A Visit to Innovators in Hong Kong

BEC held its technical visit “Tech for a Greener Future: A Visit to Innovators in Hong Kong” on 28 June for its members, with the aim of understanding the latest technology applied for a greener future. The group’s first stop was the relocated Sino Inno Lab in Kwun Tong, where the Assistant General Manager (Innovation) at Sino Group Dr Simon Law introduced the lab’s mission to provide a sandbox platform for inventors in developing PropTech solutions. He also demonstrated various innovations and technologies implemented and showcased in the lab.

Following that, the group proceeded to the new full-scale EcoBricks factory. Both the founder Mr Shervin Sharghy and co-founder, COO and CFO of EcoBricks Ms Sophie Chapman presented their pioneering concrete made from waste plastic and shared insights into the production processes and concepts.



[Click here for more photos](#)

BEC Collaborates with Aurecon to Co-organise Seminar – Unlocking Sustainable Solutions for Climate Resilience

BEC was delighted to have Dr Balamurugan G, Professor Alexis Lau, Ms Vivian Lee, Mr Fredrick Leong, and Mr Dickson Tsui share their expertise at the seminar “Unlocking Sustainable Solutions for Climate Resilience” on 9 July. Our CEO Mr Simon Ng moderated the panel discussion on “How do we mainstream climate resilience?”, bringing about an insightful conversation on the integration of climate resilience into our frameworks. Co-organised by Aurecon and BEC, the seminar offered key insights into the latest advancements in technology, innovative design approaches, and forward-thinking strategies to enhance climate resilience across various domains.



BEC Technical Visit – From Waste to Materials

On 12 July, BEC held its Technical Visit “From Wastes to Materials”. The group visited the Baguio Waste Glass Bottle Recycling Plant, the BSF Hatch Bioconversion Plant and finally the New Life Plastics Food-grade Ready Plastics Recycling Facility, to learn about how the industrial peers adopt innovative solutions and technology to transform wastes into useful materials.

Ms Wing Cheng, Assistant Corporate Communication Manager of Baguio Green Group Limited, presented to the group the recycling machines at the plant, and introduced the recycling process of glass bottles as she displayed products made from the collected materials with the participants.



Mr Kenny Tso, CEO of BSF Hatch, explained the process of turning organic wastes into animal feed and organic fertilisers using the larvae of the black soldier fly (“BSF”). Participants had the opportunity to observe and interact with the various development stages of BSF to understand how they may help decompose waste and recycle nutrients along the food chain.

At the last stop of the visit, Mr Sebastian Opdahl and Ms Jennifer Cheng, respectively the Operations Manager and Sustainability and Communications Manager of New Life Plastics Ltd, uncovered the recycling process for plastic bottles by sharing with participants the factory’s operations, challenges they are facing, and the products made from recycled materials.

[Click here for more photos](#)

Champion REIT ESG Forum

BEC is glad to support Champion REIT ESG Week, which brings together like-minded individuals from business and community groups to exchange ideas on promoting climate resilience, holistic well-being and championing diversity, equity, and community empowerment. Our CEO Mr Simon Ng was invited to attend the ESG Forum on 17 July, which marks the opening of the ESG Week, and moderate the panel discussion on “Green transitions: Influencing Organisational and Social Behavioural Change towards a Circular Economy”. The event facilitated inspiring dialogues around building a more equitable society while fostering a greener transition.



BEC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023 featured on on.cc and Sky Post

The launch of BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023 was featured on [on.cc](#) and [Sky Post](#) in July.

BEC Opinion Article on *Master Insight*

An opinion article on green building management written by BEC Director – Operations Ir C.F. Leung and Manager – Green Building Mr Tommy Szeto was published on [Master Insight](#) on 16 July.



BEC Opinion Article in *Capital Magazine*

An opinion article on nature-based solutions and TNFD framework written by BEC CEO Mr Simon Ng was published in Capital Magazine (July 2024 issue).

RECENT PUBLICATION

BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023

The BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023 is now released. Recognising the rising consciousness of climate disclosure among Hong Kong companies, this report underlines the impact of transparent reporting in driving accountability, fostering sustainability, and paving the way for a resilient and environmentally responsible business landscape. It has also uncovered detailed insights from the Charter Signatories, addressing a comprehensive range of topics, including climate-related disclosure, risks and opportunities faced, as well as their ambitious targets on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and proactive decarbonisation measures.

[Click here for the full report](#)



ESG CORNER

Powering a Greener Future: ESG Impacts of Corporate Decarbonisation in Hong Kong

As the global momentum for sustainability intensifies, the business community in Hong Kong has stepped up to the challenge by embarking on a decarbonisation journey that aligns with the growing emphasis on ESG factors. The recent BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023 sheds light on the ambitious efforts undertaken by Hong Kong corporates to reduce their carbon footprint and drive the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

The report's findings indicate that Hong Kong corporates are making significant strides in setting and achieving emissions reduction targets across all three scopes of Greenhouse Gas emissions. A combined total of 61% of respondents are actively engaged in Scope 1 and 2 target setting, working to curb their direct and indirect emissions from purchased energy. Moreover, nearly half of the respondents have reported emissions reductions in all three scopes, showcasing their commitment to addressing their environmental impact.

This comprehensive approach to decarbonisation is a testament to the growing recognition among Hong Kong's business leaders that ESG considerations are not just a matter of compliance, but a strategic imperative for long-term business resilience and competitiveness. By taking responsibility for their direct and indirect emissions, these companies are not only mitigating climate-related risks but also positioning themselves as sustainability champions within their respective industries.

However, the path to net zero is not without its challenges. BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023 highlights the critical importance of dedicated budgets for emissions reduction, energy efficiency, and low-carbon research and development. In the context of Hong Kong's business landscape, where competition and operational costs can be intense, mobilising the necessary resources for decarbonisation efforts can be a significant hurdle.

ESG CORNER

Powering a Greener Future: ESG Impacts of Corporate Decarbonisation in Hong Kong (Cont'd)

However, the path to net zero is not without its challenges. BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023 highlights the critical importance of dedicated budgets for emissions reduction, energy efficiency, and low-carbon research and development. In the context of Hong Kong's business landscape, where competition and operational costs can be intense, mobilising the necessary resources for decarbonisation efforts can be a significant hurdle.

Overcoming this challenge will require a multifaceted approach that encompasses not only financial support but also robust internal engagement and cross-sector collaboration. Decarbonisation is an organisational endeavour that demands sustained commitment and coordination from all levels of the corporate hierarchy, as well as effective stakeholder engagement to leverage collective expertise and resources.

The business community in Hong Kong has a unique opportunity to leverage its position as a global financial and commercial hub to drive transformative change. By aligning their ESG strategies with ambitious decarbonisation targets

and proactive sustainability measures, Hong Kong corporates can not only contribute to the local and global sustainability agenda but also reap the benefits of enhanced reputation, improved access to capital, and increased investor confidence.

The insights gained from BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Progress Report 2023 underscore the pivotal role of Hong Kong's business sector in shaping a greener future. As the local businesses continue to navigate the complex landscape of corporate decarbonisation, they must remain steadfast in their ESG commitments, fostering innovation, collaboration, and a shared vision for a sustainable tomorrow.

By embracing the challenge of decarbonisation and integrating ESG principles into their core operations, Hong Kong's corporates will be able to serve as a shining example for businesses worldwide, demonstrating the power of collective action in addressing the pressing environmental issues of our time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEC Technical Visit – Unveiling Technological Advancements and Sustainable Elements in Cement Production

30 August

Traditionally, cement production has been a significant source of CO2 emissions, so the decarbonisation of cement production is crucial for achieving a sustainable future. BEC is pleased to present a technical visit to Green Island Cement Plant on 30 August (Friday) to observe its environmentally friendly production process, and to learn about the innovative technologies behind it.

BEC Technical Visit – Unveiling Technological Advancements and Sustainable Elements in Cement Production

30 August 2024 (Friday)
1:45p.m. – 5:30p.m.



Green Island Cement has been a leading manufacturer and distributor of cement products in Hong Kong since 1887. Over the past decade, they have conducted a series of successful trial burns to demonstrate the adequacy of multiple high-caloric solid wastes as alternative fuels, thus reducing the reliance on coal consumption. Furthermore, in 2021, they introduced the Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GGBS) as a sustainable choice for construction, making a remarkable breakthrough in the development of environmentally conscious practices. Seats are limited, register now!

[Click here to learn more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEC Anniversary Dinner 2024

24 September



BEC Anniversary Dinner is a premium platform to review BEC's work, preview the exciting opportunities ahead, and network with like-minded sustainability leaders who have shared our vision and supported our efforts in leading our city further along the sustainability pathway. It is also an excellent occasion to acknowledge the longstanding support of BEC's members and partners, and to celebrate the expanding network in our sustainability leadership platform. This year, we are pleased to have Mr Tse Chin-wan, BBS, JP, Secretary for Environment and Ecology, as our Guest of Honour to deliver the Keynote Speech at our Anniversary Dinner.

[Click here to learn more and register](#)

Chinachem Group Sustainability Conference 2024

7 November



Save the date on 7 November (Thursday) to join us at the Chinachem Group Sustainability Conference 2024 at Nina Hotel Tsuen Wan West to learn about the latest developments on important sustainability topics covered by the forward-looking theme of **"Integrating Sustainability Solutions towards a Resilient Future"**.

Organised by Chinachem Group, and co-organised by BEC and Hong Kong Green Building Council, the Conference is stepping into its fifth edition. This year, renowned experts and leaders from Hong Kong and abroad will be invited to share their insights coupled with representable case studies on three key pillars surrounding the main theme, namely **climate change**, **sustainable financing**, and **impact investment**. Through a dynamic mix of keynotes, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, it is expected that the Conference will inspire business leaders, policymakers, investors, environmental experts, academia, and sustainability champions to drive impactful and holistic solutions to accelerate the transition to a climate resilient, socially equitable, and sustainable future.

- Date: 7 November 2024 (Thursday)
- Time: 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.
- Venue: Nina Ballroom, Nina Hotel Tsuen Wan West (8 Yeung Uk Rd, Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong) | Online
- Fee: Free of charge
- Express your interest: <https://forms.office.com/r/zCftbhtEme>

UPCOMING COURSES: BEC IEE TRAINING

The **BEC Institute of Environmental Education ("BEC IEE")** provides structured and tailor-made courses under our focus areas, including Climate Change and Carbon Management, Circular Economy and Resource Management, Green and Healthy Buildings, and Corporate Sustainability. Click the course titles below for more details about upcoming structured courses:

[The Fundamentals of Corporate Sustainability](#)



22 Aug



RETHINK HK CORNER

Join us at ReThink HK 2024 on 12-13 September at HKCEC! As the Exclusive Co-organiser, BEC will be hosting a dedicated exhibition space showcasing the latest sustainable technologies and solutions, as well as the BEC Business Transformation Theatre, covering topics on "Embracing Circularity for Sustainable Living". On Day Two, there will be Cantonese sessions exploring themes of "Rethinking Communities" and "Rethinking Sustainability for SMEs".

As BEC member, you can use the code BEC598 by 5 September to save up to HK\$200 for a two-day pass, and obtain free access to the event's video-on-demand recording. Registration is now also open for the networking event at The Arca on Day One!



BEC members are also entitled to an exclusive discount for the BEC Pavilion Expo Booth Space! Eligible companies can get up to 50% funding support via the EMF subsidy.

[Register for your delegate pass](#) | [Book a booth at the BEC Pavilion to showcase your solutions](#)

MEMBERS CORNER

Council Members

Airport Authority Hong Kong ("AAHK") supported International Coastal Cleanup Hong Kong on 22 June at Tai Long Wan, Lantau. This global event aims to engage communities in collecting and documenting trash from beaches and waterways worldwide. Over 30 AAHK staff members and their families and friends participated, collecting 170kg of trash in one afternoon. The event contributed to marine conservation efforts and raised awareness about ocean pollution and marine ecology among participants.



REACT, an initiative by **Chinachem Group**, aims to promote sustainable habits and promote waste reduction within the community. The REACT Waste Reduction and Recycling Class is a platform aiming at raising awareness, sharing practical tips, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge. The class was hosted at D Park from 8 to 21 July, and is being hosted at NINA MALL from 22 July to 18 August. The exhibition and workshops will delve into the challenges of waste management in Hong Kong. It also offers engaging and practical advice on reducing waste at home. Participants will learn effective waste reduction techniques as well as interact with green partners and get answers to their recycling queries, cultivating a more sustainable lifestyle and contributing to a healthier environment.



MEMBERS CORNER

China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited (“CSHK”) strives to improve construction efficiency and quality while reducing environmental impact through the application of emerging construction technologies in projects, one of which being Building Information Modelling (“BIM”). Such efforts were recognised at the HKIBIM Award 2023, where the company received 13 awards, including the Grand Award in the corporate category for the deployment of BIM technologies in projects. CSHK actively seeks opportunities for innovation in BIM application. Such endeavours exemplify CSHK’s commitment to driving digitalised and data-driven construction management for the industry’s sustainable future.



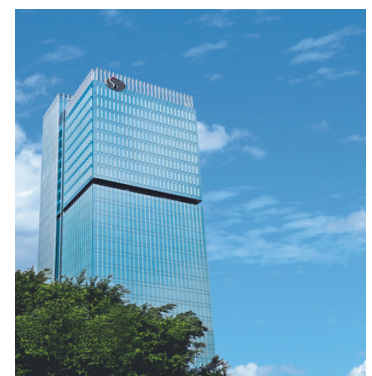
Henderson Land recently scooped two awards that reaffirm its leading position in innovation and sustainability. The company receives the “Developer of the Year – Hong Kong” award for the second consecutive year at the Real Estate Asia Awards 2024, and is recognised as one of the “Top 10 Developers” at BCI Central’s BCI Asia Awards Hong Kong 2024 for the 14th year running. These accolades demonstrate the company’s unwavering commitment to excellence in its exemplary development projects, alongside its ongoing efforts on sustainable development and innovation. Looking ahead, Henderson Land will continue to strive forward to spur innovation and sustainability.



To promote the theme of “Be Chill. Be Carbon Neutral”, **HK Electric** staged a catwalk show at Central Market in early July to showcase how discarded items can be transformed into a series of eco-friendly fashion pieces. The 30 featured eco-friendly fashion pieces are selected from 220 submissions for the “Back in Fashion” Design Competition across four entry categories, namely Open, Parent-child, THEi, and Secondary Schools. Co-organised by HK Electric and a tertiary institute, the competition aimed to encourage the public to reduce waste and to breathe new life into unwanted items by transforming them into stylish outfits. The winning pieces showcase the boundless potential of creative reinterpretation in upcycling.



Following its first inclusion in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2024 in February, **Kerry Properties** is included in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook (China) 2024 in July, distinguishing the group’s exceptional performance in ESG and sustainability within the real estate sector. This year marks the second publication of the China Edition, with over 1,700 Chinese enterprises evaluated. Kerry Properties has also been upgraded from “A” in 2023 to “AA” in the 2024 MSCI ESG Rating, being acknowledged for its significant ESG advancements. The group has also remained a constituent of the FTSE4Good Index Series for the third consecutive year.



MEMBERS CORNER

OOCL received the “2024 Asian Freight, Logistics and Supply Chain Awards - Best Green Shipping Line” for the second time on June 25. The award recognises the company’s performance in areas such as compliance with environmental standards and investment in green initiatives. Award winners are voted by more than 15,000 voters from freight and logistics companies and clients from the Asia Pacific region, demonstrating the market recognition of OOCL’s environmental initiatives, including bunker saving programmes, artificial intelligence technology enhancing operational efficiency, and investment in eco-friendly and dual-fuel vessels.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Siemens recently hosted a volunteer lunch workshop where the Siemens Volunteer Team engaged in making candied orange peel. During the workshop, the Siemens Volunteer Team learned how to make the traditional Chinese delicacy which was then donated to disadvantaged families in the community. Led by a local housewife, the workshop not only promoted upcycling and repurposing food waste but also provided reemployment opportunities to the community. As part of the broader sustainability initiative at Siemens, vegetarian lunches were also distributed to the workshop participants to promote healthier and greener eating habits.



Sino Land Company Limited has been recognised as one of the World’s Most Sustainable Companies 2024 by TIME Magazine and Statista in the inaugural list. Sino Land is ranked the 153rd among the top 500 companies across more than 30 countries. The sustainability performance evaluation entails analysing over 5,000 of the world’s largest and most influential companies with more than 20 key performance indicators considered, including external sustainability commitments and ratings like the CDP, Science Based Targets initiative, and S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook. Sustainability reporting and transparency have also been evaluated with respect to international standards like the Global Reporting Initiative and the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures. The recognition is a testament to Sino Land’s ongoing efforts to formulate and implement ESG strategies and efforts towards a more sustainable future.



Swire Pacific has become an adopter of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, as one of Hong Kong’s nine adopters. The company acknowledges the significance of biodiversity maintaining a resilient natural environment essential for sustainable development. Previously, Swire Pacific established a Biodiversity Policy with the objective of integrating biodiversity considerations into its operations. The company’s commitments for 2030 and 2050, including achieving net-zero emissions, zero waste to landfill, and water neutrality, are instrumental in halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Swire Pacific will continue to promote transparency and accountability through corporate sustainability reporting efforts.

[Click here to learn more](#)



MEMBERS CORNER

Swire Properties announces that Two Taikoo Place, the newest triple Grade-A office tower at Taikoo Place, was recently named a winner of the Urban Land Institute (“ULI”) 2024 Asia Pacific Awards for Excellence at the 2024 ULI Asia Pacific Summit in Tokyo. This is the second time that Taikoo Place has received this distinguished award since 2020. The ULI Asia Pacific Awards for Excellence recognise exceptional real estate projects that go beyond architectural and design excellence to consider the full development process. Two Taikoo Place was the only recipient from Hong Kong among the 12 winners hand-picked from a list of 44 exceptional submissions.

[Click here to learn more](#)



To support National Ecology Day, **Towngas** will host a Biodiversity and New Energies Symposium on 15 August in hybrid mode at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. Experts from different sectors will be invited to deliver speeches and participate in roundtable discussions covering key topics such as the future of hydrogen energy, green transport powered by new energies, enhanced corporate disclosure of nature-related risk management, and integrating biodiversity into daily business operations. It is free to attend, and registration is now open to industry professionals and the public.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Ricky Wong, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of **Wheelock Properties**, has been awarded the Medal of Honour by the HKSAR Government in July. This distinguished honour recognises his significant contributions in supporting social enterprises and local community. Since 2018, Ricky has served as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the “Enhancing Self-Reliance Through District Partnership Programme” of the Home Affairs Department. He has also actively participated in “Project WeCan”, a programme that has positively impacted over 93,000 students from 82 schools across Hong Kong. As a member of the senior management at Wheelock, Ricky continues to exemplify excellence in sustainability and beyond.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Corporate Members

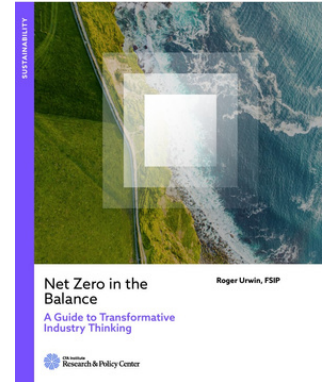
ATAL brought back the “ATAL Green Month” initiative this year, building on its successful launch last year. With the theme “From Trash to Treasure”, this month-long campaign aims to encourage ATAL staff to reduce their resource consumption through creative approaches to upcycle items. One of the activities was the “Cherish Food Experience”, in which ATAL staff volunteers prepared close to 6,000 nutritious meal boxes for those in need, using fresh ingredients donated by the catering industry. The volunteers also collected surplus food from wet markets for sorting and distributing to the local community, promoting food waste reduction.



MEMBERS CORNER

In a recently published report “Net Zero in the Balance: A Guide to Transformative Industry Thinking”, **CFA Institute** has brought together leading thinkers and investors to provide research, practitioner insights, and tools to understand net-zero investing more fully. One of the key challenges is how to finance the trillions of dollars in spending needed over the next three decades to reach this goal. Such a global transition will be uneven across countries and markets, and investors should keep a close eye on the developing nature of net-zero investing because the arc of progress is unlikely to be smooth, and organisational resilience will be tested.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Citybus successfully deployed Hong Kong’s first hydrogen vehicle to pass through the road tunnels in July. This historic occasion was supported by the presence of government officials, Legislative Council members, and many dedicated supporters of public transport and Citybus, who had the privilege of being the first passengers to travel through the road tunnels on a hydrogen vehicle. This achievement also coincides with Citybus’ 45th anniversary celebrations and rides upon the recent release of the government’s “Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong,” further solidifying the company’s position as a leader in establishing new benchmarks for public transportation and the hydrogen sector in Hong Kong.



One of **Great Eagle Group’s** principal holdings held its inaugural ESG Week at Three Garden Road’s Eaton Club from 17 to 19 July. Collaborating with over 20 partners, including BEC and other local NGOs, the event brought together 300 individuals to champion resilience and promote shared values. It also featured programmes such as an ESG Forum to delve into climate and social issues, an innovative Social Impact Pitch, a WELL Summit to explore workplace well-being, and Musica del Cuore concert to create an enchanting music experience. Notably, the event recognised past participants of the Green Challenge Competition and introduced this year’s EcoChallenge Pledge.



Hactl has been acknowledged by the Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for the 19th consecutive year. In the latest awards, both its North and South Office Blocks are named “Excellent Class Premises (Whole Building)”. Hactl is committed to sustainability as well as the health and wellbeing of its staff and terminal users. It has continued to enhance the air quality of its offices and SuperTerminal 1 by regular monitoring and adopting a series of eco-friendly measures throughout its premises.

[Click here to learn more](#)



MTR is the first Hong Kong company to receive the Gold badge from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Sustainable Business Network (“ESBN”) Asia-Pacific Green Deal for 2024. This recognition is a testament to the company’s ongoing efforts in environmental disclosures and underscores its unwavering commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. MTR has established science-based carbon reduction targets for the year 2030, with a long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The Asia-Pacific Green Deal for Businesses Programme, initiated by the ESBN, aims to promote business leadership in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



MEMBERS CORNER

Ricoh Hong Kong (“RHK”) celebrated Global SDGs Action Month by organising activities focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (“DEI”) and environmental conservation. This month-long initiative demonstrated RHK’s dedication to sustainable and inclusive practices in the workplace. The company hosted a Love for Community Day, where three NGO partners shared their social service projects supported by RHK, emphasising initiatives to help the disabled, underprivileged, and elderly. RHK also organised an online quiz game to test and expand staff knowledge on DEI and environmental management. Besides, an SDGs Green Day was held to promote environmental conservation, featuring interactive booths and educational activities. RHK’s Managing Director expressed support for achieving the SDGs and encouraged staff to adopt environmental conservation practices in their daily lives.



Sustainability is now a key driver for consumers, who prefer eco-friendly products from socially and environmentally responsible companies and check product labels to see whether they are tested. Apart from ensuring transparency and credibility in product claims to build trust and avoid greenwashing, companies must also meet the increasing demands for ESG practices. In view of this, **SGS Hong Kong Limited** collaborated with a local statutory body and became the first TIC (Testing, Inspection and Certification) company to launch a landing page providing professional sustainable solutions and information on “hktcdc.com Sourcing” platform. Exclusive discounts on the services are currently offered to “hktcdc.com Sourcing” customers.



[Click here to learn more](#)

At the ESG for Climate Actions International Summit held on 27-28 June at HKCEC, **Vegware** showcased its plant-based food packaging, underscoring its commitment to sustainability. This premier event brought together sustainability advocates and industry leaders for transformative discussions and innovative ideas. Keynote speakers inspired the audience with their dedication to creating positive change, while enlightening panels delved into ESG investing, social impact, and corporate responsibility. The Summit highlighted cutting-edge sustainable solutions, demonstrating the importance of eco-friendly technologies and practices. Vegware remains dedicated to driving compostables in the F&B sector whilst building a circular economy with its innovative recycling solutions.



[Click here to learn more](#)

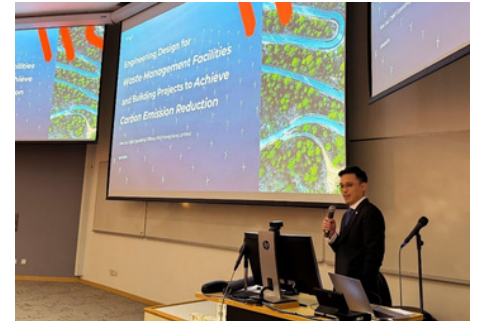
Veolia Hong Kong has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with fellow BEC member Towngas to develop the first green hydrogen project in Hong Kong by utilising biogas from the landfill for application in green mobility. The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of Mr Tse Chin-wan, Secretary for Environment and Ecology; Legislative Council Members; and other government officials, who witnessed this significant milestone. This project highlights the importance of partnerships in tackling ecological transformation challenges, subsequently accelerating Hong Kong’s decarbonisation efforts and is a testament of how Veolia’s GreenUp strategic programme is driving value for the clients.



MEMBERS CORNER

WSP's Asia Chief Operating Officer Rex Lai was invited to speak at the 30th Anniversary Hong Kong Waste Management Association International Symposium themed "Sustainable Waste Management towards Carbon Neutrality". Rex shared insights into WSP's flagship projects from local and global perspectives, highlighting the company's achievements in carbon emission reduction through application of Whole Life Cycle Assessment. By leveraging this strategic approach, WSP is able to drive tangible outcomes in support of net-zero emissions and circular economy. As a changemaker with a "Future Ready" mindset, WSP remains committed to delivering innovative, data-driven solutions that enhance sustainability and resilience across the built environment.

[Click here to learn more](#)



General Members

Allied Sustainability and Environmental Consultants Group Limited ("AEC Group") launched Hong Kong's first rules-based ESG Certified Professional ("ESGCP") Examination as the key knowledge partner, in collaboration with a local company in June. This initiative aims to enhance the professionalism of ESG practitioners and promote the development of the ESG industry in Hong Kong. The ESGCP Examination Review Course offered by AEC Group's ESG Academy has been successfully completed, providing comprehensive coverage of the exam syllabus and application skills. The first round of the examination was scheduled on 12 July.

[Click here to learn more](#)



ALBA-IWS recently held the "E-waste Management & Partnership 2024" Awards Presentation Ceremony, with Mr Kenneth Cheng, Acting Deputy Director of Environmental Protection Department, as the Guest of Honour. The company recognised 100 awardees from various sectors for their outstanding contributions to E-waste collection and acknowledged corporations, NGOs, and volunteer groups for participating in electrical appliances' refurbishment and donation. The Awards were crafted from recycled glass from WEEE.PARK, symbolising ALBA-IWS's circular economy journey with the awardees. The highlight of the ceremony was a panel discussion on "E-waste Driving Circular Economy".



Asia Airfreight Terminal ("AAT") has become the first cargo terminal operator in Hong Kong to introduce autonomous electric tractors ("AETs") at its terminal earlier this year. The move enhances cargo handling efficiency and propels AAT towards a greener future by minimising its environmental impact. The AETs boast extended operating hours and the ability to work in inclement weather conditions, improving overall operational resilience and efficiency. They also substantially reduce carbon emissions by up to 35% compared to traditional diesel tractors.

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MEMBERS CORNER

Following the conclusion of the 13th AGM of **BEAM Society Limited (“BSL”)** on 26 June, a new Board was formed for the term 2024-2026. Under the leadership of the new chairperson Sr Frankie So Hung-fai and the diverse Board, BSL will continue to strive for technical excellence of BEAM Plus Assessment, contributing to a sustainable liveable built environment.

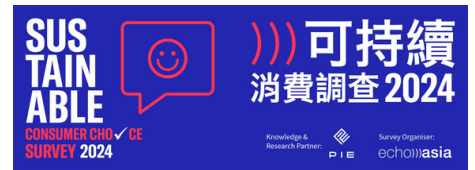
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Community Leap’s E-waste management project unit “Vessel REPAIR” recently received an Appreciation Award at the ALBA-IWA E-waste Management and Partnership 2024 Appreciation Awards Presentation Ceremony. Driven by the dedicated efforts of promoting the “Vessel Repairing” concept to the community, Vessel REPAIR has launched various projects in collaboration with fellow BEC member ALBA, including electrical appliances donation, collaborating with business sectors to offer volunteer repair and volunteer training. These contributions demonstrate Vessel REPAIR’s ongoing commitment to extending the life cycle of electrical resources and promoting circular economy in Hong Kong.



ECHO ASIA has published the latest “Sustainable Consumer Choice Survey 2024”, based on a questionnaire completed by 1,199 Hong Kong consumers, that aims to analyse Hong Kong consumers’ behaviours regarding sustainability and to gain insights into sustainable consumption market trends. The study finds that 49% of respondents have ceased or reduced their purchases due to the brands’ lack of commitment to sustainability. Nearly 70% of consumers prefer products with sustainability aspects when quality and price are comparable.



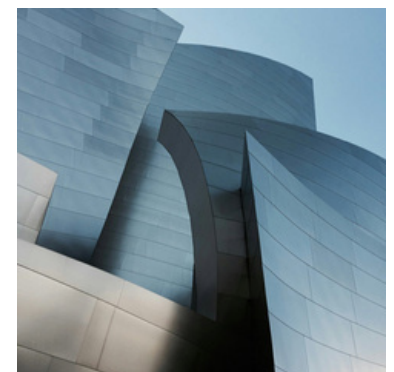
FedEx has collaborated with Hong Kong social enterprises to infuse fresh purpose into unused, old uniforms and shipping materials, advancing towards a more sustainable future. Nearly 260 old uniforms were transformed into brand new FedEx products such as tote bags, laptop sleeves, umbrella cases, and waist bags. Additionally, in collaboration with other local social groups, 179,000 kg of wood skids were upcycled into cat litter and reusable materials for other shipping companies. FedEx continues to invest in sustainable logistics to improve its footprint and make communities more liveable. The FedEx Hong Kong district office has been awarded the Green Office Label and Eco-Healthy Workplace Label by the World Green Organisation.

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New research from **GlobeScan** finds that one-third of sustainability experts point to legislative action as the most significant positive development related to the sustainability agenda in the last year. New sustainability disclosure standards along with a range of actions on climate, nature, renewables, and low-carbon initiatives are also viewed as important recent developments. In addition, more green financing and public awareness are also seen by experts as key breakthroughs. Experts continue to emphasise the importance of sustainability integration and demonstrating real impacts and action as reasons a company is seen as a sustainability leader.

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MEMBERS CORNER

HK Express has partnered with the CUHK Office of Student Affairs and HKUST Sustainability to organise the “Gotta GO! Sustainable Explorer Challenge 2024” since April. The event aims to promote eco-friendly travel among young people. Over 120 students participated in open lectures and workshops on sustainable practices in the aviation industry, gaining valuable insights into more sustainable travel. They crafted innovative and lower carbon “4D3N Sustainable Travel Itinerary” and pitched their ideas to HK Express. Two finalist teams with outstanding itineraries were sponsored by HK Express with travel tickets and full travel fees in June and faced off in the Final Battle on 11 July to compete for the final prize.

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Humans Matter co-organised a three-game workshop series to celebrate Earth Day and Biodiversity Day in spring. The three games were Biodiversity Collage, 2030 SDGs Game and Human Factor Mural. The intimate events saw an attendance of over 30 sustainability practitioners, talent engagement, and learning and development professionals, and received positive feedback from participants. Participants claimed that the workshops offered a dynamic and engaging experience, and enabled them to meet collaborative people.

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Tradeport hosted an event focused on water conservation with fellow BEC member Friends of the Earth on World Environment Day in June. The event aimed to raise awareness about the critical need to preserve water resources. Participants learned effective ways to reduce water consumption in their daily lives by engaging in different mini games. Tradeport demonstrates its commitment to sustainability through this initiative, making a difference in safeguarding water, one of the most vital resources on earth.



Wharf Estates Limited launched the “Office Recycling for Mealboxes Campaign” for the second year to encourage its staff to cultivate recycling habits while performing acts of kindness. To strengthen the awareness of proper separation and clean recycling, the company invited local university students to teach its staff to upcycle used skincare containers into aroma diffusers. In addition, over 38 kg of recyclables were collected and converted into over 480 meal packs for distribution to the needy through a local food rescue organisation. Following the recycling activities, Wharf Estates’ volunteering team sorted and repacked donated food items for the underprivileged.

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Want to share your company's latest green news with over 6,000 BEC e-Newsletter subscribers from various industries? BEC Council, Corporate and General Members are welcomed to submit their recent environmental and sustainability accomplishments to us. Selected submissions will be published in the upcoming edition of BEC's e-Newsletter completely free-of-charge. Please contact **Ms Vanessa Choi (E. vanessachoi@bec.org.hk)** for enquiries.

WELCOME NEW BEC MEMBERS

Corporate Member

- **Ricoh Hong Kong Limited**



Affiliate Members

- **Eco Community Promotion Association Limited**
- **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Hong Kong Limited**



BEC SUPPORTED EVENTS

- **Biodiversity and New Energies Symposium** | The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited, Towngas Smart Energy Company Limited | 15 August
- **iRecycle ESG Award Ceremony** | iRecycle Charity Foundation | 16 August
- **HKIS Annual Conference 2024** | The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors | 21 September
- **Technical Seminar - Data Centre Decarbonisation from Design to Operation** | ASHRAE Hong Kong Chapter and Nano and Advanced Materials Institute | 24 September
- **Eco Expo Asia 2024** | Hong Kong Trade Development Council | 30 Oct - 2 Nov

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