

Highlights of BEC's EnviroSeries Conference in November 2018



Business Environment Council (BEC) successfully held its EnviroSeries Conference on 23 November 2018, themed “The Making of a Low Carbon Hong Kong: Business Leadership and Best Practices”, with a focus on private sector actions and their role in transitioning to a low carbon economy.

The key ideas emerged in the conference are summarised below.

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1) Creating Value from Sustainability



- There is no trade-off between economic growth and environmental sustainability; in fact, sustainable companies perform better, and long-term economic growth is impossible without climate action.
- Increased efficiency from innovation and technology not only brings environmental benefits, but also monetary savings. This should help small and medium enterprises build a business case for environmental sustainability, as they face increasing requirements as part of the value chain of larger companies.

2) Public Private Collaboration

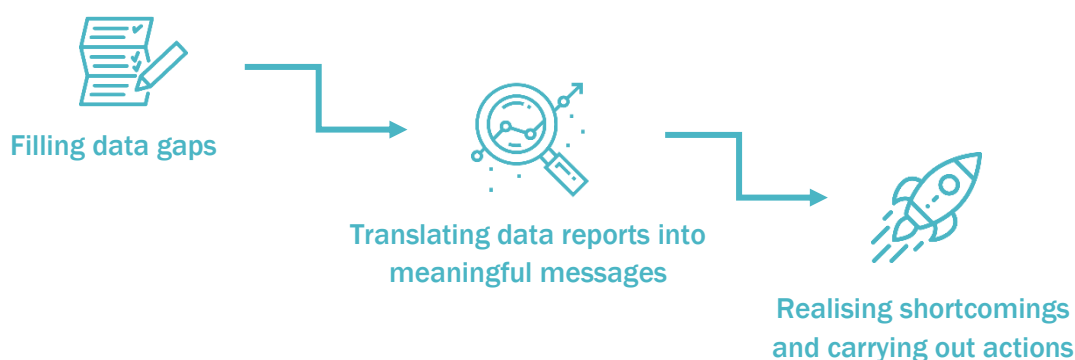


- Climate action is not and should not solely be the responsibility of governments. The private sector is also taking up the responsibility in climate actions – by company or even by sector – locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience open up opportunities for investment and collaborations. However, regulatory changes and working with governments would also be necessary – as an example, panellists recommended Hong Kong to set up a form of carbon pricing as a driver for deep decarbonisation by 2050.
- Hong Kong's small and tight community enables greater exchange and collaboration between the government, the business community, and the academia.

3) Business Target Setting



- Setting a carbon reduction target is an important driver of change; it creates an opportunity to engage the entire company or even external stakeholders on their sustainability strategy
- Internal, non-published stretch targets can be set to motivate behavioural change, as well as encourage innovation and creativity
- The importance of data quality and addressing barriers in a phased approach:



About Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司

Business Environment Council Limited (“BEC”) is an independent, charitable membership organisation, established by the business sector in Hong Kong. Since its establishment in 1992, BEC has been at the forefront of promoting environmental excellence by advocating the uptake of clean technologies and practices which reduce waste, conserve resources, prevent pollution and improve corporate environmental and social responsibility. BEC offers sustainable solutions and professional services covering advisory, research, assessment, training and award programs for government, business and the community, thus enabling environmental protection and contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy.