

EnviroSeries Conference Takeaways and Related Work by BEC



BEC EnviroSeries Conference was held on 8 July 2020. Entitled “Business Sustainability in the midst of Disruption, Turbulence and Recovery”, the Conference reflected on the unprecedented disruption the world is facing in recent months. The main objective of the conference was to challenge the conventional wisdom and find an innovative, low carbon approach to recover from the lows of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Business Environment Council (BEC) wanted to highlight the tough challenges, extended risks but also new-found opportunities faced by businesses in such difficult time, and to showcase how corporate leaders are building resilience and adaptability into their business planning and operations for long-term sustainability.

This Topical Digest summarises the takeaways from the Conference and related work by BEC. Click [here](#) to see the full report.

At the conference, discussions centred around the impacts of COVID-19 and the lack of resilience Hong Kong has shown during times of disruption, which could be strengthened to better prepare for future shocks, such as the impacts of climate change.

Another focal point on the day was the importance of long-term policies and planning in the recovery process. Climate policies and actions should be an integral part of the recovery – some of the important steps mentioned are highlighted below.

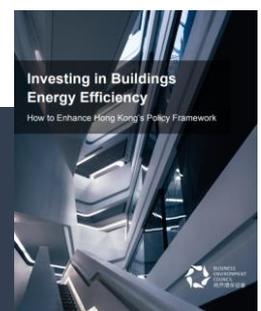
1. The business community has demonstrated that they are willing and ready to step up their decarbonisation efforts by initiating various emission reduction projects and pledging to join voluntary initiatives.



To harness the momentum from the business community, the **BEC Low Carbon Charter** was launched to mobilise companies in Hong Kong to decarbonise. Since its launch in March 2019, a total of 72 companies of all sizes and across various sectors have committed to set and achieve decarbonisation targets as of September 2020.

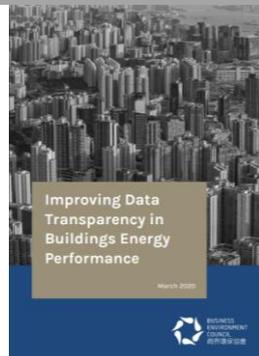
2. To decarbonise the built environment, more incentives should be provided for better building design, energy conservation and retro-commissioning or retrofitting throughout the building life cycle.

In 2019, BEC compared Hong Kong's policy framework related to buildings energy efficiency with other jurisdictions and proposed 20 policy recommendations across 7 different policy categories to further improve energy performance of buildings. [Read more here.](#)



3. **Data disclosure and transparency** is essential to energy saving, decarbonisation, and enhancement of businesses' climate resilience, as companies rely on quality data to track their performance, formulate performance improvement plan and risk management strategy, as well as benchmark their progress against their peers.

BEC's [Submission on the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address](#) called for the Government to also map out and share information on the possible changes in regional and local climate. This would be essential for the private sector to acknowledge and manage climate risks and improve climate resilience.



BEC's [Improving Data Transparency in Buildings Energy Performance](#) report points out the inadequacy of the current building energy consumption indicators and recommends the introduction of a mandatory reporting system to increase availability and quality of relevant data.

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

Business Environment Council Limited 商界環保協會有限公司 (“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 programmes for government, business and the community, thus enabling environmental protection and contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy.

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