



## BEC's Views on Environment-related Initiatives in the 2018 Policy Address

Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam presented her [second Policy Address](#) on 10 October 2018. A series of new environment-related initiatives were announced, inter alia, promoting renewable energy (RE), accelerating the shift away from diesel vehicles, and building a more robust waste collection and recycling system. These new initiatives should provide more opportunities for businesses and the government to work together, and BEC looks forward to continuing driving positive collaborative change.

BEC is pleased to note that many of the new initiatives are in line with BEC's recommendations. The summary of BEC's Submission on the 2018 Policy Address can be [found here](#). In this Topical Digest, we consider the new initiatives under 3 key areas: Climate Change and Energy, Transport and Air Quality, and Waste Management.

We invite BEC members and the wider business community to join the policy discussion with Mr K.S. Wong, Secretary for the Environment, at our [Policy Dialogue Series: The Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address](#) event on 29 October 2018.

## 1. Climate Change and Energy



### BEC's Views & Related Initiatives

- BEC acknowledges the government's commitment to promoting renewable energy systems in Hong Kong, from exploring the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in reservoirs and landfills, assisting schools and NGOs to install small scale RE systems, to relaxing the restrictions in relation to the installation of PV systems in village houses.
- We would like to see swift actions to install RE systems in more government facilities (apart from reservoirs and landfills), and explore the inclusion of other RE systems (e.g. waste-to-energy) in the Feed-in Tariff Scheme.
- In our view, working with and supporting business in developing strategies and targets aligned with the Paris Agreement is also an important facet. BEC has made headway on this front through the Low Carbon Hong Kong: Supporting Businesses to Set Targets initiative, which includes the publishing of an [introductory and guidance report](#), and more recently [engaging C-level business leaders](#) to discuss climate action strategies and targets.
- BEC will hold an EnviroSeries Conference themed "[The Making of a Low Carbon Hong Kong: Business Leadership and Best Practices](#)" on 23 November 2018 to inform and further inspire business action.
- We are supportive of the regular carbon audits in bureaux and departments, and the disclosure of the carbon emission information of major government buildings. In relation to information disclosure, we urge the government to ensure a co-ordinated plan of actions across bureaux/departments, and routine reporting of progress against plans and targets.
- As to buildings energy efficiency, BEC acknowledges the importance of retro-commissioning to reduce energy consumption of buildings. However, retrofitting efforts are also important – many retrofit initiatives can bring net energy and monetary savings, as shown in our [Energy Efficient Retrofits Guide and Calculator](#).

## 2. Road Transport and Air Quality



### BEC's Views and Related Initiatives

- BEC welcomes the government's plan to phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs). Switching some 40,000 DCVs on the road from Euro IV to VI ones will reduce NO<sub>x</sub> and PM emissions substantially (for example, Euro VI light goods vehicles will emit 68% and 92% less NO<sub>x</sub> and PM than their Euro IV counterparts).
- We are pleased to see Hong Kong take bold leadership to consider banning the first registration of diesel cars, similar to the commitments of many other cities around the world. Our other recommendations on improving roadside air quality can be found in the [Roadside Emissions Taskforce Report](#).

- In addition to reducing roadside emissions, we view the above measures as part of a broader strategy to decarbonise the road transport sector, and will continue to work closely with the government in supporting and promoting the use of new energy vehicles (e.g. electric vehicles) through our [Road Transport Dialogue Platform](#) and other means.
- BEC is in support of managing the demand for roads space through congestion charging, and looks forward to seeing the launch of the electronic road pricing (ERP) pilot scheme.

### **3. Waste Management**



#### **BEC's Views and Related Initiatives**

- BEC is supportive of the proposed recurrent resources dedicated to waste reduction and recycling initiatives, the reduction of disposable plastic tableware for restaurants operating in government premises, and the trial schemes on food waste and plastic bottles collection.
- Apart from source reduction and an efficient waste collection system, BEC calls for greater government support in ensuring the financial viability for Hong Kong-based waste processing and pre-processing facilities, which will be an integral and complementary element to the MSW charging scheme of which BEC is supportive.
- We also recommend the government to support “eco-designed” products and sustainable consumption, be it through BEC’s [Sustainable Consumption Programme](#), or other channels.
- BEC will remain in close contact with the government, and engage BEC members and the wider business community to promote the uptake of recommendations set out in [A Waste Reduction Guidebook for Large Scale Event Organisers](#), jointly launched by BEC and the EPD.

#### **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.

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