

A Climate Resilient Hong Kong Collaborative Efforts of the Government and Business Sector

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The Climate Challenge

Climate change has the potential to cause huge physical, financial and human damage. This is not only through direct physical destruction of homes and assets but also through impacts on investments. The impacts will be much more severe if the world continues on a business as usual path in terms of carbon emissions.

To address climate change in Hong Kong, the Environment Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government has recently issued the Hong Kong Climate Change Report 2015. BEC has also released Hong Kong Climate Resilience Roadmap for Business.

Environment Bureau - Hong Kong Climate Change Report 2015

[Full Report](#) 

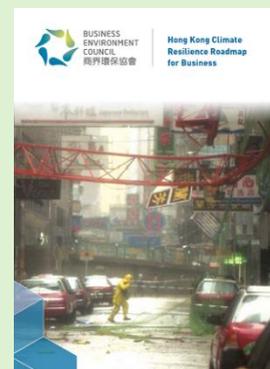
On 6 November 2015, the Environment Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government launched the Hong Kong Climate Change Report 2015. The report outlines the work and joint efforts of the Government and the key private-sector stakeholders in responding to climate change. It also provides an account of Hong Kong's climate change actions so that the public can have a more complete picture of the city's contributions to concerted global action.

BEC - Hong Kong Climate Resilience Roadmap for Business

[Full Report](#) 

On 1 December 2015, BEC launched the Hong Kong Climate Resilience Roadmap for Business (the "Roadmap"), which was developed by BEC Climate Change Business Forum Advisory Group ("BEC CCBF AG"). The Roadmap draws out the actions that businesses need to take to ensure resilience in the face of climate change, as well as measures by the Government to facilitate effective action.

The Roadmap highlights the impact of climate change on Hong Kong, analyses the risks to the city's six key business sectors (transport, property, construction, manufacturing, finance and energy), and provides a set of recommendations.



Our Working Definition of “Resilience”

“A resilient city/territory is one where action has been taken to reduce vulnerability to climate change, with infrastructure adapted to reduce impacts on people and assets, and systems put in place to ensure limited loss and damage and a prompt recovery in the event of a climatic incident.”

Climate Risks

The main impacts of climate change in Hong Kong, direct and indirect are from:

- Floods, landslides, and storm surge
- Heat stress
- Water scarcity
- Health risks
- Supply chain risks



Recommendations

Actions by Business:

1. Assess risk: adopt a broad and systematic approach, integrate into risk management processes, and allocate responsibility within the business.
2. Develop and implement plans: introduce plans to adapt as well as contingency plans, training staff and regularly reviewing progress.
3. Co-operate on a sectoral level and across sectors: co-operate to understand risks, ensure research carried out, and work together where mutual support is desirable.
4. Benchmark performance: develop standards, assess performance against them and publicise achievements.
5. Develop knowledge and innovate: develop knowledge of best practice and seek to improve and innovate, making use of new technologies.

Actions by the Government:

1. Enhance institutional arrangements and maintain dialogue: establish a high level ministerial-level body to make strategic decisions, and ensure dialogue with critical business sectors.
2. Commit to reduce Hong Kong's GHG emissions, adapt and be resilient: articulate new goals and put in place plans post-COP 21 on all aspects of climate change.
3. Fund and encourage research, and provision of information: support collection and dissemination of data/information, and provide funding support for and encourage research on climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as mitigation.
4. Raise awareness, educate and exemplify: continue to raise awareness, inform business of what needs to be done and exemplify good practice.

Government-Business Collaboration

Hong Kong has made excellent progress on many levels, but to safeguard our long term prosperity, with all the uncertainties involved, it is vital that we have:

An integrated and co-ordinated approach that brings Government departments together at a high level, strengthens Government–business systems for working together, and a systematic approach by business to assessing and managing risk.



What the media says about the Roadmap?

Following the launch of BEC's Hong Kong Climate Resilience Roadmap for Business, newspapers and radio reported the key points of the Roadmap. Check out the below links to access to the news stories and radio interview.

Newspapers

Asia Pacific Daily, China News Service Agency, Ming Pao Daily News, People's Daily Online, South China Morning Post, Ta Kung Pao, The Standard, Xinhua Net, Xinmin News

Op-ed issued by BEC

South China Morning Post

Radio

Radio Television Hong Kong (Radio 3)



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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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