

Green living

Overview

Hong Kong abounds in unexpected and delightful contrasts. Although renowned as a fast-paced business hub, Hong Kong offers a variety of landscapes and scenic vistas rarely matched in such a compact city, ranging from sandy beaches and rocky shorelines to open grasslands and mountain ranges.

Designated Places for Nature Conservation

- Around **40%** of Hong Kong's 1,110 square kilometres of land is designated as **country park and special areas** for the purpose of nature conservation, recreation and outdoor education. There are currently 25 country parks and 22 special areas, which cover about 44,800 hectares, and attract some 12 million visitors every year.
- The four long-distance **hiking trails** are very popular among locals and visitors. The MacLehose Trail, a 100-kilometre trail, traverses the New Territories from the east to the west. Many hiking trails are "next" to urban areas and easily accessible. For example, it takes less than 20 minutes by bus from the bustling downtown area on Hong Kong Island to reach the start of the Dragon's Back trail, which has been rated Asia's "Best Urban Hike".
- Hong Kong has **eight marine parks** and **one marine reserve** covering about 8,500 hectares to conserve local marine environments.
- The Government will establish a **Wetland Conservation Parks System** in the Northern Metropolis, with the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park being the first park to be established, to promote wetland conservation, eco-education and eco-recreation, modernisation of aquaculture, as well as enhance the ecological quality and biodiversity of the Northern Metropolis. As a mitigation measure for the ecological impacts arising from the development of the Kwu Tung North and Fanling North New Development Areas, **Long Valley Nature Park** is a new facility opened in November 2024, integrating wetland conservation, farming operation and nature education. The extensive freshwater wetland at Long Valley is composed of a mosaic of wet and dry farmlands, marshes, water ponds, water channels, and other habitats. Through habitat management and eco-friendly farming practice for conserving and enhancing the ecological value of this important piece of freshwater wetland, Long Valley provides a habitat for diverse wildlife.

Astonishing Biodiversity

- Rich and wonderful biodiversity is a precious natural resource. Hong Kong has over 3,300 species of vascular plants; 55 species of terrestrial mammals; over 580 species of birds (approximately one-third of total bird species recorded throughout China); 116 species of amphibians and reptiles; 203 species of freshwater fish; 245 species of butterflies and 134 species of dragonflies.
- There are more than 1,000 species of marine fish and 84 species of hard corals – more than the hard coral species found in the Caribbean.
- Hong Kong is also home to a number of globally threatened species, such as the Bogadek's Burrowing Lizard, Three-banded Box Turtle, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Short-legged Toad, Chinese Pangolin and Chinese Tiger Dragonfly.

- The Government planted more than five million plants in the countryside and urban areas in 2024/25 to green Hong Kong.
- Implementation of **Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)** has achieved tangible outcomes since 2016. These include, but not limited to, the designation of new country park and marine parks, a complete ban on the local ivory trade, the development of **Long Valley Nature Park**, and the launch of **Hong Kong Biodiversity Information Hub**. The Government is updating the BSAP for implementing the next phase of work in the coming 10 years, focusing on four strategic action areas, namely nature conservation, deepening mainstreaming, capacity building, and collaborative partnering to further enhance biodiversity conservation and support sustainable development in Hong Kong.

Efforts in Ecological, Nature and Countryside Conservation

- To deter illicit trade in endangered species, the Government gradually phased out ivory trade and imposed heavier sentences under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, and the full ban on local ivory trade has been in effect since the end of December 2021. In 2023, the government amended the list of controlled species under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance based on the latest decision of the Conference of the Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- To address the ecological imbalance and environmental hygiene issues caused by feeding of wild animals and feral pigeons, the Government amended the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance to expand the feeding ban area of wild animals to cover the entire territory of Hong Kong in 2022, and further expanded the feeding ban on wild animals to cover feral pigeons, increased the maximum penalty for illegal feeding to a fine of HK\$100,000 and imprisonment for one year, and introduced a fixed penalty of HK\$5,000 in 2024.
- The **Countryside Conservation Office (CCO)** was established in July 2018 to co-ordinate the conservation and revitalisation of countryside areas. It launched the **Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme** in October 2019 and a total of 57 projects involving over \$340 million in total had been approved as at end 2025, to conduct countryside conservation at different levels, including promoting to the public scenic countryside natural habitats, valuable historical architectural and cultural heritage, and supporting villagers and local non-profit-making organisations, etc., to undertake countryside conservation and revitalisation projects. The CCO is also utilising the earmarked funding of \$500 million to carry out countryside minor improvement works, such as repairing footpaths, renewing public sewerage system, examining flood prevention measures and introducing smart and low-carbon public washrooms.

Carbon Neutrality and Emission Reduction

- The Government announced the **Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050** in October 2021. With the vision of "Zero-carbon Emissions · Liveable City · Sustainable Development", it sets four major decarbonisation strategies and targets for combating climate change and achieving carbon neutrality, i.e. net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction, to lead Hong Kong towards the interim target to reduce Hong Kong's carbon emissions by half before 2035 as compared to the 2005 level, and the goal to strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050.
- The Government will devote about \$240 billion in the coming 15 to 20 years to take forward various measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Government has set up the Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality to strengthen co-ordination and promote deep decarbonisation.
- The Government announced the **Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035** (Clean Air Plan) in June 2021.

Setting out the vision of “**Healthy Living · Low-carbon Transformation · World Class**”, the Clean Air Plan covers six major areas of action, namely **green transport, liveable environment, comprehensive emissions reduction, clean energy, scientific management** and **regional collaboration**, leading Hong Kong to become a more liveable city with air quality on par with major international cities by 2035, and advancing towards the goal of having the air quality to fully meet the air quality guideline levels under the Global Air Quality Guidelines of the World Health Organization. A new round of review on the air quality objectives (AQOs) was completed in 2023 which will further tighten the AQOs.

- Hong Kong's air quality has continued to improve over the past 20 years, resulting in over a 50% reduction in long-term health risks. From 2004 to 2024, annual average concentration levels of **major air pollutants** (including nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, respirable suspended particulates and fine suspended particulates in the ambient air) have **reduced by 45% to 88%**.
- Generating electricity for buildings accounts for over 50% of Hong Kong's carbon emissions. To further promote energy efficiency in buildings, the Government proposed amendments to the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation, which were passed by the Legislative Council. The first stage of the Buildings Energy Efficiency (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 commenced in September 2025, while the second stage will come into effect in September 2026. Upon the full implementation of the Ordinance, it is estimated that an additional 500 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of about 150,000 three-person households, could be saved in 2035.
- The third upgrade of the grading standards of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) has been fully implemented on 30 September, 2025. It enhanced the energy efficiency requirements for refrigeration appliances, washing machines, and storage type electric water heaters. It is estimated that this upgrade will save an additional 270 million kWh of energy per year, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of approximately 80,000 three-person households.
- **The Cleaner Production Partnership Programme** has been put into place since 2008 to encourage Hong Kong-owned factories to adopt cleaner production technologies. Subsequent to the announcement of the Chief Executive in his 2024 Policy Address to inject another \$100 million to the launch of a new round of the Programme in 2025, over \$700 million has been allocated to the Programme so far. The new round of the Programme was launched in May 2025 to focus on providing funding support to Hong Kong-owned factories in adoption of new cleaner production technologies in order to facilitate upgrade of traditional industries through green technologies, accelerate green transformation and dovetail with the country's efforts in promoting high-quality development.
- Funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund, the **Carbon Neutrality Publicity Campaign** (Campaign) is jointly organised by the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Campaign Committee, to strengthen the public promotion of carbon reduction on addressing climate change, to raise public awareness on the imminence of climate change, to instil a sense of urgency to change their habits and reduce carbon emission together, and to engage different stakeholders in the community to encourage the public to transform carbon reduction awareness into action and practise low-carbon living together for the common goal of Carbon Neutrality.
- The Government completed the amendments to the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance in April 2025. From 1 December, 2025, it prohibits the manufacture of the 18 hydrofluorocarbons controlled by the Kigali Amendment and implements an import quota and licensing system to control their import and export.

New Energy Transport Industry

- The Government is making every effort to promote the use and supply of new energy in sea, land and air transport to spearhead the green transformation of these sectors.
- The Government promulgated the **Action Plan on Green Maritime Fuel Bunkering** in November 2024, which sets out five green-centric strategies and 10 actions, covering a wide range of areas such as the supply of green maritime fuels, infrastructural support, port emissions reduction, incentive measures, collaboration with the Mainland and overseas, and talent training, with a view to developing Hong Kong into a high-quality green maritime fuel bunkering and trading centre. In February 2025, Hong Kong completed its first liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunkering operation, and successfully conducted the first LNG simultaneous bunkering and cargo handling operation in June. This marks an important step towards developing Hong Kong into a green maritime fuel bunkering centre. **The Green Maritime Fuel Bunkering Incentive Scheme** was launched in June 2025. An incentive of \$500,000 will be granted to each pioneer company for each of its first two LNG or green methanol bunkering operations completed within one year from Marine Department's acceptance of its risk assessment. The maximum amount of incentive for each type of recognised green maritime fuel is \$2,000,000.
- The Government is promoting the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The existing fuel infrastructure at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is capable of receiving, storing and adopting pre-blended SAF by airlines. The Airport Authority Hong Kong, on the Government's request, has completed a consultancy study on SAF. Depending on the progress of developing the relevant industry and supply chain in the region, as well as the implementation of supporting measures, the Government adopts a vision to achieve a SAF consumption ratio of 1% to 2% for flights departing from HKIA by 2030.
- The Government launched in October 2020 an incentive-cum-regulatory programme to progressively **phase out about 40,000 Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles** by the end of 2027.
- The first **Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles** (EV) was announced in March 2021. Key measures include ceasing the new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier, expanding the EV charging network and marketising charging services progressively, and promoting education and training for technicians and mechanics on EV maintenance.
- Continue to promote green transport by increasing the total number of parking spaces with charging facilities in Hong Kong to about 200,000 by mid-2027.
- The Government announced the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis in December 2024. Major measures include subsidising franchised bus operators to purchase about 600 electric buses and the taxi trades to purchase 3,000 electric taxis.
- To encourage taxi owners to replace existing taxis with **battery electric taxis** (e-taxis), the Government launched the Dedicated 100% Loan Guarantee Scheme for Battery E-taxis in early September 2023. The loan amount per battery e-taxi is its actual sales price, subject to a cap of \$350,000.
- \$50 million earmarked under the New Energy Transport Fund to subsidise the taxi owners to procure wheelchair accessible e-taxis.
- \$350 million has been earmarked to support four ferry operators to progressively test out electric ferries on Victoria Harbour routes. The first two electric ferries under the Pilot Scheme commenced their 24-month trials in end-2024 and mid-2025 respectively, and have already been put into service.
- \$80 million earmarked to commence a pilot scheme on electric public light buses in 2024.
- The Government announced the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in June 2024. The Gas Safety (Amendment) Bill 2025 was passed by the Legislative Council in July 2025, to ensure the safe use

of hydrogen fuel in Hong Kong. The Government will introduce subsidiary legislation on the regulation of “regulated hydrogen” into the Legislative Council for negative vetting within 2026.

- The Government launched a \$300 million Fast Charger Incentive Scheme in July 2025, with an additional 3,000 fast chargers to be provided by the end of 2028. The Government also plans to roll out six sites for the provision of fast charging stations, while bus operators will open up their charging facilities for use by other vehicles.

Green Building Design and Technology

- Setting aside \$3 billion in total to install **small-scale renewable energy systems** at government buildings and infrastructure, of which about \$2.4 billion has been approved for about 280 projects, which are expected to generate a total of about 27 million kWh of electricity annually.
- The **Zero Carbon Building** in Kowloon Bay, which opened in 2012, is the city’s first building with a zero carbon footprint, featuring over 80 types of green technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The sludge treatment facility at Nim Wan, Tuen Mun (**T • PARK**), which opened in 2016, is one of the most technologically advanced facilities of its kind in the world. Heat produced from incinerating sludge at T•PARK is recovered for electricity generation, thus **transforming waste into energy**, which is also used to support the spa pools within the Environmental Education Centre at T•PARK, which people can enjoy for free.

Innovation and Technology for a Green Future

- The \$400-million **Green Tech Fund** supports the R&D and application of decarbonisation and green technologies.
- **Green Technology and Finance Development Committee** is set up, inviting industry representatives from green technology, green finance, green standard certification, etc. to help devise a plan to develop Hong Kong into an international green technology and finance centre.

Waste Management

- Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035 was promulgated in 2021. Setting out the vision of “**Waste Reduction • Resources Circulation • Zero Landfill**”, the Blueprint outlines the goals and measures to tackle the challenge of waste management up to 2035. To achieve “zero landfill” in a timely manner and continuously promote waste reduction at source, the government is taking forward waste reduction and recycling work **along four directions** – strengthening public education, enhancing recycling network, strengthening collaboration with industries, and utilising market forces to develop environmental infrastructure.
- The Government has been continuously enhancing the “GREEN@COMMUNITY” recycling network and food waste collection services across the territory to enhance support for waste separation at sources and clean recycling.
- To reduce the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecology and human health, the regulation on disposable plastic products came into effect on April 22, 2024 (Earth Day), to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products at source.
- I-PARK1, the first waste-to-energy facility for treating municipal solid waste, with a daily processing capacity of 3,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste upon full commissioning, progressively begins operation in December 2025. The Government is also taking forward the construction of I-PARK2, with a daily

processing capacity of 6,000 tonnes. The two facilities together will be able to treat 9,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste per day, marking the steady progress moving towards achieving “zero landfill”.

- On the principle of “**polluter pays**” and the element of “**eco-responsibility**”, the Government has been putting forward various producer responsibility schemes (PRSs), including the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme, PRS on waste electrical and electronic equipment and PRS on glass beverage containers, to promote waste reduction at source and facilitate the development of a circular economy. The Promotion of Recycling and Proper Disposal of Products (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025 was passed by the Legislative Council in July 2025 to establish a common legislative framework for PRSs applicable to different products, facilitating the future inclusion of regulated products progressively based on the actual situation.
- The Government is pushing forward the construction of Hong Kong's first large-scale EV battery recycling facility at the EcoPark, which is expected to commence operation in the first half of 2026. This facility will facilitate the reuse of retired EV batteries, transforming them into regenerated black powder containing precious metals, thereby promoting industrial development.
- To achieve “zero landfill” by 2035, the Government will strive to engage the entire community in waste reduction and waste separation for recycling. A “**food wise and waste less**” culture is being promoted to reduce food waste at source.
- To enhance waste reduction at source, the Government allocated an additional funding of \$180 million in 2025-26 for increasing the number of residential food waste smart recycling bins and food waste collection facilities across the city, as well as expanding the recycling network and increasing waste recovery.
- The **Organic Resources Recovery Centre** Phase 1 (O·PARK1) and Phase 2 (O·PARK 2) started receiving organic waste (including food waste and pig manure) from July 2018 and March 2024 respectively. The two O·PARKs can collectively treat and convert 500 tonnes of organic waste per day into biogas for power generation and process the digestate to produce compost and fertiliser. The two O·PARKs can generate a total of about 38 million kWh of surplus electricity annually, which is exported to the grid and enough to power about 8,000 households.
- The EPD set up the Recycling Fund in 2015, which has so far received an allocation of \$2 billion, to render assistance to facilitate the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiency of the recycling industry for sustainable development, in order to reduce waste disposal at landfills and foster the development of a circular economy.
- The Government launched the **territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services** in September 2020 to promote the sustainable development of the local waste paper recycling industry.
- The Government awarded a lease for setting up a **modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun**, to diversify recycling outlets and transform local waste paper into resources more effectively. The facility has begun trial operation by the end of 2025.
- In 2021, the Government launched a voluntary scheme to **phase out personal care and cosmetic products containing microbeads**, to encourage the trade to stop the production, import and sale of these products, and help consumers choose microbead-free products.
- In March 2025, the Government launched the Packaging Reduction Charter to encourage businesses to review their packaging designs to minimise unnecessary material use, enhancing packaging recyclability and reusability, and explore innovative packaging solutions, fostering a waste reduction culture in commercial operations.

Water Quality Management

- A total investment of \$12.6 billion over the past three years to provide and upgrade **sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure** to further improve water quality in all areas of Hong Kong, in particular Victoria Harbour.
- Hong Kong has a long coastline of about 1,178 km. Since the establishment of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management in 2012, the Government has been **strengthening shoreline cleaning efforts**, including closely monitoring hotspots prone to marine refuse accumulation and conducting clean-up actions. With the concerted efforts of various departments, the shorelines in Hong Kong has gradually become cleaner, which allows the public to enjoy a more pleasant coastal environment
- The Government **supports the initiative of developing “Beautiful Bays”** advocated in our country’s 14th Five-Year Plan, and is actively participating in the joint effort to develop the Greater Bay Area into an international, first-class beautiful bay area. Mirs Bay has been selected as an “Outstanding Example of Beautiful Bays” with an excellent overall score, marking the first time Hong Kong to receive this commendation. The Government will advance the “Beautiful Bays” initiative in Port Shelter, aiming to turn Port Shelter into the next outstanding example.

Leisure Facilities and Projects

More leisure facilities and projects will be developed, including:

- **Round-the-Island Trail** - Developing a trail of about 60 km on Hong Kong Island, connecting the waterfront promenades on the northern shore and a number of existing waterfront and countryside walking trails in the Southern District. Studies and design as well as works were carried out from 2023 onward to connect 90% of the trail by end-2027, with the aim of substantially completing the remaining larger scale works by end-2031.
- **Leisure and Recreation in Southern Lantau** - Building the “South Lantau Eco-recreation Corridor” under the overarching principle of “Development in the North; Conservation for the South”, with a view to enhancing the eco-recreation potential of the South Lantau coast, including Cheung Sha, Shui Hau, Shek Pik and Pui O. It aims to develop the eco-recreation tourism and boost local economy by leveraging the abundant natural ecological and cultural heritage resources. On implementation, we invited the market to submit expressions of interest in April 2025 before commencing any statutory planning process, so that we could capitalize market forces and garner feedback from the market before finalising development requirements as well as ensure the ultimate development schemes to be more attuned to market interests and considerations.

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