

PRESS RELEASE

Hong Kong, 6 October 2021 – Independent public policy think tank, Civic Exchange, welcomes the Chief Executive’s reaffirmation in today’s Policy Address of Hong Kong’s carbon neutrality commitment and the Government’s dedication towards building a liveable city.

The think tank also appreciates the following commitments made in Ms. Carrie Lam’s address:

- To establish an **Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality** to promote deep decarbonisation and consider reorganising the policy bureaux to strengthen climate action, waste reduction, resources recycling, and environment-related tasks.
- To **cease coal usage** for daily electricity generation by 2035 and increase the share of renewable energies in the fuel mix to 7.5-10% by 2035 and 15% gradually thereafter.
- To promote **green buildings** and improve energy efficiency, including by reducing electricity consumption of commercial buildings by 30-40% and that of residential buildings by 20-30% from 2015 levels by 2050, with the aim of achieving half the aforementioned targets by 2035.
- To source more **low-carbon electricity** through regional collaboration and joint ventures.
- To develop Hong Kong into a **regional green finance hub**.
- To promote **electric and new energy public transport** and commercial vehicles through pilot projects, investment, and the formulation of specific roadmaps and timetables for the use of new energy public transport in 2025.
- To strengthen support for **community recycling** of resources as preparation for the implementation of municipal solid waste charging.
- To enhance the quality of **public space** along the harbour and expand cycle tracks.
- To streamline and enhance public-private partnership arrangements under the **New Nature Conservation Policy** to better balance development and conservation.
- To invest **\$240 billion** for the enhancement of mitigation and adaptation efforts.

We appreciate the Chief Executive’s consideration and incorporation of the HK 2050 is Now recommendations made in the report, “POWERING A CARBON-FREE HONG KONG” into her Policy Address.

We particularly welcome the added focus on climate adaptation, as Hong Kong needs to be prepared for the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events due to climate change.

In addition, we value the Government’s commitment to developing Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology hub. We hope the government will prioritise funding of net-zero technologies and nature-based solutions that will enhance climate resilience.

We applaud the Government’s commitment to monitor its progress regularly and revise targets every 5 years to heighten ambitions.

While the interim target of reducing Hong Kong’s carbon emissions by 50% before 2035 compared to 2005 levels advances the carbon neutrality goal, we must aim for quicker and absolute emissions reductions.

According to the IPCC, the world needs to reduce global emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030. Hong Kong must follow the science and prepone its 50% reduction target to 2030, as the difference of five years will have irreversible consequences on environmental and human health.

We are looking forward to the announcement of Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050 and the specific targets for Hong Kong to reach carbon neutrality.

For details about Civic Exchange’s recommendations to the Chief Executive, please visit this [link](#).

Media Enquiries: Please contact Miss Fiona Lau, Programme Manager at Civic Exchange, at flau@civic-exchange.org.