

**First Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy for Hong Kong
First Annual Implementation Progress (May 2006)**

I. Solid Waste Management

First SD Strategy for Hong Kong	Implementation Progress
<p>A. <u>Strategic Objectives</u></p> <p>(1) As a community, to make every effort to avoid generating waste and to reduce the amount of solid waste that needs final disposal, by adopting measures to facilitate the separation of discarded material, the recovery and reuse of material and the recycling of non-reusable material.</p> <p>(2) To apply the “user pays” principle as a means of reducing volumes of waste for disposal.</p> <p>(3) To adopt advanced technologies and practices to treat waste requiring final disposal and to create new economic opportunities.</p> <p>In the near future, we will publish a White Paper to set out the strategy for the management of municipal solid waste.</p>	<p>(a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) published “A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) (Policy Framework)” in December 2005 which sets out a comprehensive strategy (see <u>Appendix</u>) with clear targets and timetables for MSW management in Hong Kong for the ten years from 2005 to 2014.</p> <p>(b) The Policy Framework embraces the fundamentals of sustainable waste management, the “user pays” and “producer responsibility” principles and proposes tools and measures to create economic incentives to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle waste.</p> <p>(c) Also included in the Policy Framework is a strategy to deal with unavoidable waste that we must handle. We propose to develop state-of-the-art Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) with incineration as the core technology for final waste treatment before disposal at our landfills.</p>

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<p data-bbox="280 300 421 331">B. <u>Targets</u></p> <p data-bbox="324 371 1075 435">We will review the targets recommended by the Council for SD, namely –</p> <ol data-bbox="324 483 1075 802" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="324 483 1075 579">(1) To reduce the amount of municipal solid waste generated in Hong Kong by 1% per annum up to the year 2014, based on 2003 levels.<li data-bbox="324 627 1075 691">(2) To increase the recovery rate of municipal solid waste to 45% by 2009 and 50% by 2014.<li data-bbox="324 738 1075 802">(3) To reduce the total municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills to less than 25% by 2014.	<ol data-bbox="1131 371 1937 754" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1131 371 1937 435">(a) We have fully adopted the targets recommended by the Council for SD and included them in the Policy Framework.<li data-bbox="1131 451 1937 595">(b) The Policy Framework’s comprehensive strategy will be supported by public education and partnership with stakeholders. Legislative measures are also included to reinforce administrative tools and voluntary schemes.<li data-bbox="1131 611 1937 754">(c) So far, the launching and progressive implementation of the source separation of waste programme and our stepped up education and publicity efforts have achieved encouraging results.

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<p>C. <u>Plan of Action</u></p> <p>(1) To embark on educational programmes to reduce waste generation.</p>	<p>(a) The EPD, together with the Environmental Campaign Committee, will continue to organize community-based and school-based waste reduction activities and to publicize waste reduction messages through the mass media.</p> <p>(b) We are striving to make people more aware of how to reduce their waste. General awareness is being promoted through the local media, including television, radio stations and local newspapers. We also produced APIs (Announcements in the Public Interest) on a variety of waste issues, as well as disseminated waste reduction messages through the printed media.</p>
<p>(2) To introduce community programmes to encourage territory-wide separation of waste at source and introduce measures to facilitate household participation.</p>	<p>(a) To date, we have enlisted about 280 housing estates in the territory-wide programme on source separation of domestic waste. Our medium term aim is to enlist 80% of the population in Hong Kong by the end of 2010 and to extend the programme to all public rental housing estates by 2012.</p> <p>(b) Apart from funding support through the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to help property management companies to install source separation bins at the housing estates, we will, through liaison with the Buildings Department and Fire Services Department, publish a Guidebook to facilitate household participation in source separation in the second quarter of 2006.</p>

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<p>(3) To step up implementation of the polluter-pays principle through the introduction of fiscal measures such as product responsibility schemes and green tax.</p>	<p>(a) We plan to introduce the Product Eco-responsibility Bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2006 so as to provide a legal framework for introducing producer responsibility schemes (PRSs) for specific products.</p> <p>(b) In parallel, we are presently developing PRSs for vehicle tyres, plastic shopping bags and electrical and electronic equipment for consultation with the relevant trades, with a view to introducing these regulations in 2007.</p> <p>(c) So far, three major supermarket chains and one major beauty and health retail chain in Hong Kong have signed voluntary agreements on plastic bag reduction with EPD. They have pledged to reduce plastic bag distribution by 15% (equivalent to about 90 million plastic bags) in a year. We will continue to encourage other major retailers to enter into similar agreements.</p> <p>(d) A Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme, funded by 34 manufacturers and importers of rechargeable batteries and electronic equipment, was launched in April 2005. Collection points are set up in more than 750 housing estates covering 51% of the population, some 140 commercial/industrial buildings and about 160 schools. About 13 tonnes of rechargeable batteries (equivalent to 320 000 pieces) have been collected and the first shipment of the collected batteries to a designated treatment facility in South Korea for recycling took place in mid-April 2006.</p>

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<p>(4) To develop a policy to promote the recycling industry.</p>	<p>We have been formulating a comprehensive policy to support the recycling industry. Specifically we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) improve the waste collection network through programmes on separation of waste at source; (b) adopt producer responsibility schemes as a major measure to enhance the recovery of recyclable materials as reported in item 3 above; (c) continue to lease suitable short term tenancy sites exclusively to waste recyclers. So far, a total of 30 sites have been let; (d) establish an EcoPark to provide long-term land for the environmental and recycling business (see the Implementation Progress to Plan of Action Item (5) below); (e) adopt a green procurement policy to enhance market demand for recycled products; (f) continue to support and encourage research and development of new recycling technologies through the ECF, the Innovation and Technology Fund and various funds for small and medium enterprises; and (g) continue to organize educational programmes at the community level to increase the public awareness of waste recycling.

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<p>(5) To establish an EcoPark exclusively for the environmental industry.</p>	<p>(a) The EcoPark occupies 20 hectares of land in Tuen Mun Area 38 and will be developed in two phases. There will be a 460-metre long marine frontage in EcoPark for bulk sea transport.</p> <p>(b) Invitations for tender to construct the EcoPark and Expression of Interest on establishing environmental or recycling businesses in the EcoPark were carried out between February and April 2006.</p> <p>(c) Construction of the EcoPark will commence in mid 2006 to make Phase 1 ready for occupation by tenants by late 2006, while Phase 2 will be commissioned in 2009.</p>
<p>(6) To examine the introduction of charges for municipal solid waste.</p>	<p>(a) We aim to introduce the legislation on MSW charging into the LegCo in 2007.</p> <p>(b) We will conduct a 3-month trial scheme in various housing estates with different settings in the latter half of 2006, before drawing up the legislative proposal for the MSW charging scheme.</p>
<p>(7) To consult the public on the introduction of advanced technologies for the bulk treatment of solid waste.</p>	<p>The Policy Framework is the result of extensive consultation with stakeholders, green groups and the public at large. As announced in the Policy Framework, the development of an IWWMF is an integral part of the comprehensive strategy. The next step is to work out the scale and design details before embarking on a Site Search Exercise to identify the potential sites for the IWWMF. Further consultation will be conducted as and when appropriate on the implementation aspects of the IWWMF.</p>

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<p>A. <u>Strategic Objectives</u></p> <p>(1) To explain clearly the issue of Renewable Energy (RE) to the wider community, putting this in the context of local and global sustainable development, by organising regular promotional and educational campaigns.</p> <p>(2) To have an energy policy that is sustainable in the longer term, and that will set clear goals for the increased use of RE in Hong Kong and promote energy efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>(3) To increase and sustain conservation of energy in order to reduce the growing trend of energy use.</p>	<p>To promote renewable energy in the community, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Economic Development and Labour Bureau (EDLB) and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) have been implementing various measures, including cooperation with the two power companies, green groups and other non-governmental organizations in launching public education and publicity programmes, encouraging the use of renewable energy in government buildings as well as the private sector, and working with the power companies to promote the use of renewable energy in power generation. Details are set out below.</p>

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<p>B. <u>Targets</u></p> <p>(1) To organise more public education programmes on RE and sustainable energy consumption that links these issues to local and global sustainable development.</p> <p>(2) To aim to have between 1% and 2% of Hong Kong's total electricity supply met by power generated from renewable sources by the year 2012, with this target being subject to regular review in the light of advances in technological solutions and emerging sustainability considerations.</p> <p>(3) To develop plans to promote energy efficiency and conservation as part of a sustainable energy policy.</p>	<p>Details are set out below.</p>
<p>C. <u>Plan of Action</u></p> <p>(1) To work with the power companies and other stakeholders to organise more education campaigns on RE.</p>	<p>(a) The EMSD and the EPD have regular meetings with the two companies on ways to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p> <p>(b) The 800 kW demonstration wind turbine at Lamma Island and an open-air exhibition centre displaying education materials on wind energy and renewable energy by Hongkong Electric (HEC) has come into operation since February 2006. CLP Power (CLP) has also started the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for construction of wind turbine at Kau Sai Chau and Hei Ling Chau. CLP will install a commercial scale demonstration</p>

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	<p>wind turbine at one of the sites after the EIA studies. It is expected that the CLP wind turbine will be commissioned by 2007/08.</p> <p>(c) In collaboration with Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) and EMSD, the two power companies have produced a web-based educational kit for secondary school students on energy efficiency.</p> <p>(d) CLP has launched an Energy Innovation Fund, with \$1M earmarked in 2005, which is open for public application for implementing projects related to renewable energy or energy efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>(e) The Education Path at the EMSD Headquarters was opened in October 2005 where schools and other interested organizations may familiarize with the latest technologies in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Education Path consists of Exhibition Galleries with interactive exhibits and a viewing gallery where a 350kW PV facility and a 1 kW wind turbine are installed.</p> <p>(f) In 2005, EMSD organized a series of technical forum for stakeholders (including real estate developers, Housing Authority, members of professional institutions) and supported non-governmental organizations in organizing several education and publicity activities.</p> <p>(g) The preparatory work for the establishment of an Internet Platform on Renewable Energy, as a hub for renewable energy information in Hong Kong, is in good progress. The Internet Platform, which will provide useful information to the public, in particular those planning to</p>

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	install renewable energy systems in Hong Kong, is expected to be completed by early 2007.
(2) To establish by 2006 a policy on the installation of RE facilities as part of new government buildings and major public sector projects.	The Government has issued a circular on “Adoption of Energy Efficient Features and Renewable Energy Technologies in Government Projects and Installations”. The circular encourages greater adoption of energy efficient features and renewable energy technologies in government projects and installations, and requires works departments to regularly report progress.
(3) To work with the power companies on arrangements for simplifying procedures for RE suppliers to gain access to the existing electricity grid, with the aim of having appropriate procedures in place in the post 2008 electricity market, and to encourage them to use RE sources for power generation.	<p>(a) The Technical Guidelines on Grid Connection of Small Scale Renewable Power Systems was published in April 2005, providing guidance on technical aspects of connecting renewable energy systems of capacity up to 200 kW to the electricity grid.</p> <p>(b) CLP published in October 2005 an information leaflet entitled “Renewable energy systems and CLP’s electricity grid”, providing information on the application procedure for connection by small renewable energy systems to their grid.</p> <p>(c) The Scheme of Control Agreement between the Government and the two power companies will expire in 2008. In the Stage II Public Consultation Paper on Future Development of Electricity Market in Hong Kong, we have proposed to implement the following measures:</p> <p>(i) to institute a standard arrangement for renewable</p>

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	<p>energy users to connect to the grid for backup supply; and to seek the agreement of the power companies to extend the arrangement to cover renewable energy systems with capacities above 200kW and to waive the nominal administrative fees for grid connection by renewable energy users;</p> <p>(ii) to give a higher rate of return for renewable energy infrastructure than all other assets so as to provide financial incentives to the power companies;</p> <p>(iii) to provide “bonus” return to the power companies if they achieve the target for using renewable energy;</p> <p>(iv) to seek the agreement of the power companies to provide connection/access to their grids for generating facilities employing renewable energy, and to facilitate these facilities to connect and feed electricity to their grids; and</p> <p>(v) to have grid connection/access for renewable energy users/generating facilities using renewable energy negotiated between the prospective grid user and the respective power company, and the Government will assist where necessary and when requested by either party, including assisting in arriving at mutually agreed access charges.</p>

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<p>(4) To draw up by 2007 a sustainable energy policy that has regard to measures aimed at promoting the use of RE and encouraging energy efficiency and conservation.</p>	<p>(a) We have proposed in the Stage II Consultation Paper various measures to promote energy efficiency and conservation as well as the use of renewable energy. We will take into account our targets of promoting the use of renewable energy and encouraging energy efficiency and conservation as well as the public's views when preparing the new Scheme of Control with the power companies.</p> <p>(b) We have been implementing various measures to promote energy efficiency and conservation. For example, EMSD has developed energy efficiency guidelines, including the "Guidelines on Performance-based Building Energy Code" and the "Guidelines on Energy Audit", to promote energy conservation in commercial properties. It has also launched the "Hong Kong Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings" under which certificates are issued to buildings that meet the standards, so as to encourage local buildings to implement various energy conservation measures. We have proposed the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme to further facilitate consumers to choose energy efficient products. We consulted the trade and the public on the proposed scheme in 2005 and are now preparing the necessary legislation.</p>

III. Urban Living Space

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<p>A. <u>Strategic Objectives</u></p> <p>(1) To speed up improvements to the environment of older urban areas through a “people-oriented” approach and the flexible deployment of the “4R” strategy – redevelopment, rehabilitation, preservation and revitalisation.</p> <p>(2) To plan and further develop the New Territories, taking account of stakeholder concerns on sustainability issues such as the need to protect the natural environment and cultural characteristics of rural areas, while having regard to Hong Kong’s long-term socio-economic needs.</p> <p>(3) To promote sustainable urban planning and design practices that will ensure that Hong Kong will be an attractive and enjoyable place in which to live and work.</p>	<p>The Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau (HPLB) has been working with the departments and agencies under its purview towards achieving the strategic objectives, targets and plan of action set out in the First SD Strategy.</p> <p>(a) The Urban Renewal Authority (URA) will endeavour to forge ahead with its urban renewal programme through a “people-oriented” approach.</p> <p>(b) The Planning Department (PlanD) will feed this strategic objective into the overall planning and development strategy of the HK2030 Stage 4 Study.</p> <p>(c) The PlanD will continue to apply the “Urban Design Guidelines”, which were promulgated in November 2003, in various areas and projects.</p>

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<p data-bbox="277 300 421 331">B. <u>Targets</u></p> <p data-bbox="327 371 1075 547">(1) To regenerate older urban districts by taking full account of the need for economic viability whilst emphasizing the importance of open space provision and retaining local socio-cultural characteristics and heritage buildings.</p> <p data-bbox="327 587 1075 762">(2) To clarify the relative social, economic and environmental considerations that would need to be addressed in further developing the New Territories, so that stakeholders can regularly give informed views on the merits of development options.</p> <p data-bbox="327 874 1075 1121">(3) To maintain and to review on a regular basis guidelines governing sustainable urban planning and design, with special regard to issues such as buildings affecting view corridors or restricting air flow and the need to proceed in a manner consistent with the overall sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong.</p>	<p data-bbox="1137 371 1939 443">(a) The URA will continue to work towards the targets under its “4R” urban renewal strategy.</p> <p data-bbox="1137 587 1939 802">(b) The PlanD plans to consult the public on the overall planning and development strategy of the HK2030 Stage 4 Study in early 2007. Relevant reports on the implications of further developments in the New Territories, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report will be released for public information.</p> <p data-bbox="1137 874 1939 1090">(c) Upon completion of the Feasibility Study for Establishment of Air Ventilation Assessment System, the PlanD has revised the “Urban Design Guidelines” to incorporate guidelines to help better air ventilation in the planning of major development projects. It plans to promulgate the revised guidelines by mid 2006.</p>

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<p>C. <u>Plan of Action</u></p> <p>(1) To consult stakeholders on guidelines for revitalisation and redevelopment of older urban areas for inclusion in the Urban Renewal Strategy by 2006, and to publicise the document widely.</p>	<p>(a) Since its establishment in 2001, the URA has been guided by the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance to gradually roll out its holistic “4R” programme on urban renewal. A redevelopment project which involves an interactive and consultative planning process, property acquisition, rehousing and land resumption normally takes several years to complete. As the URA has accorded priority to the former Land Development Corporation projects, redevelopment projects under the new legal framework have only recently been commenced. Besides, the URA’s building rehabilitation programme, which provides technical and financial assistance to eligible owners to undertake building maintenance, has been launched only for a relatively short period. As such, we consider that we need to allow more time for the URA to accumulate adequate operational experience to enable us to fully understand the implementation aspects and effects of its urban renewal programme and carry out the Urban Renewal Strategy review effectively.</p> <p>(b) When we conduct the review, we will take into account, among other things, the importance of the provision of open space and the retention of local socio-cultural characteristics and heritage buildings. We will also consult different sectors of the community with a view to ensuring that our urban renewal efforts will better meet the community’s aspirations.</p>

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<p>(2) In the context of the “HK 2030” study, to explain clearly the sustainability implications for further development of the New Territories, with a view to having a framework for sustainable detailed planning through stakeholder consultation in place by 2006.</p>	<p>Taking into account the comments received and the latest growth trends, as well as the comments collected in the engagement process of the SD Strategy, we have reviewed the overall development pattern with a view to proposing some development in the New Territories and assessing their social, economic and environmental implications. The outcome will be fed into the overall HK 2030 planning and development strategy being formulated under the HK 2030 Stage 4 Study. Stage 4 is scheduled for completion in early 2007. We plan to consult the public on the overall planning and development strategy including the implications of further developments in the New Territories under Stage 4.</p>
<p>(3) To continue to implement and keep under review the current guidelines on sustainable urban design.</p>	<p>Subsequent to the promulgation of the “Urban Design Guidelines” in November 2003, we have applied the guidelines in various areas and projects including the building height controls in Kowloon Bay/Kwun Tong, the Wong Chuk Hang Business Area, the Kai Tak Planning Review and the proposed Central Government Complex and the Legislative Council Complex at Tamar. The guidelines have also been adopted in the Area Improvement Studies for Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui, Central District and recently Mong Kok, and the proposed Study on the Refinement of the Urban Design Framework for the Central Reclamation and Preparation of Planning / Design Briefs for the Key Development Sites. We will continue to apply the guidelines in other areas and whenever opportunity arises.</p>

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<p>(4) Having regard to the effectiveness of measures to promote sustainable building design features, to consider further enhancing sustainable building design guidelines, with a view to drawing up recommendations for improvement, including an assessment of the implications of setting mandatory requirements in this area by 2007.</p>	<p>The Buildings Department (BD) is in the course of commissioning a consultancy study on sustainable building design, for the purpose of promoting sustainable building design features and developing sustainable building design guidelines, and is examining tender returns. The consultant will draw up recommendations for improvement, including an assessment of the implications of setting mandatory requirements in this area for the Government's consideration. BD plans to commence the study by the 2nd quarter of 2006 and submit the final report to the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau by the end of 2006.</p>

**Specific Measures and Targets in A Policy Framework for the
Management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Hong Kong**

Specific Measures	Targets
Territory-wide Source Separation of Domestic waste	<p>To increase the domestic waste recovery rate from 14% in 2004 to 20% in 2007 and 26% in 2012</p> <p>To increase the number of housing estates under the programme to 180, 700, 1140 and 1360 by the end of 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2010 respectively, so as to enlist 80% of the local population by 2010</p> <p>To increase the number of public rental housing (PRH) estates taking part, from 30 in 2005 to all PRH estates by 2012</p>
<p>Product Responsibility Schemes (PRSs)</p> <p>PRS for specific products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Electrical & electronic equipment ○ Vehicle tyres ○ Plastic bags ○ Packaging materials ○ Beverage containers ○ Rechargeable batteries 	<p>To introduce Product Eco-responsibility Bill to the Legislative Council in 2006</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">} To make Regulations in 2007</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">} To make Regulations in 2008</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">To make Regulation in 2009</p>
MSW Charging	To introduce relevant legislation to the Legislative Council in 2007
Land Policy	To provide short term tenancy (STT) sites with longer duration for the recycling industry on a case-by-case basis
EcoPark	To commission Phase 1 by late 2006 and Phase 2 by 2009
Green Procurement	Government departments to adopt a green procurement policy as far as practicable

Specific Measures	Targets
Funding for recycling technology projects	On-going
Landfill Disposal Bans	To tie in with PRS and IWMF programmes
Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF)	To commission the IWMF in mid 2010s subject to the implementation of the “polluter-pays” principle
Landfill Extensions	To commission these extensions in early to mid 2010s