

APRIL 2024

BEC E-NEWSLETTER

Connecting · Nurturing · Creating for a Sustainable Environment

BEC ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2024-26 TERM



Business Environment Council Limited (“BEC”) held its Annual General Meeting on 24 April and elected its Board of Directors for the new term from 2024 to 2026. Mr Kevin O’Brien was re-elected as Chairman of the Board.

“It is my honour to be re-elected as the Chairman of BEC. On behalf of BEC, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all retiring Board Directors for their contributions over the past two years. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new board members. I look forward to collaborating closely with all of you in the coming two years, mobilising the business community in addressing various environmental issues, and accelerating the transformation of Hong Kong into a green, liveable and sustainable city,” Chairman of BEC Mr Kevin O’Brien said.

“Looking ahead, we will continue to leverage BEC’s thought leadership and knowledge, networks and connections, and the experience and commitment of our members and partners in driving environmental excellence. We aim to build stronger connections among our members, the local business community, the Hong Kong government, as well as other local and international stakeholders. Together, we will support Hong Kong in transitioning to a net-zero economy and achieving the target of carbon neutrality before 2050,” Mr Kevin O’Brien added.

[List of BEC Board of Directors for the term from 2024 to 2026](#)

BEC CEO Dialogue: Accelerating Digital Transformation for a Net-zero Future

BEC organised our biannual signature event “BEC CEO Dialogue” on 17 April, focusing on the theme of “Accelerating Digital Transformation for a Net-zero Future”. Mr Erdal Elver, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Hong Kong and Macao, was invited as our honourable guest to exchange views with BEC Board Director Mr Andy Yeung and BEC CEO Mr Simon Ng on the power of digital technologies in reducing energy consumption in various industries, as well as the key considerations of companies when adopting digitalisation strategies for a net-zero future.

[Click here for more photos](#)



Expert Talk with David Gottfried

Mr David Gottfried, founder of the US Green Building Council and World Green Building Council, shared his wealth of expertise in multiple aspects of green building at the Expert Talk on 23 April. Co-organised by BEC and Hong Kong Green Building Council, the talk focused on the theme of “Catalysing Green Building Movements at Scale: Think Global, Inspire Local”. Mr David Gottfried gave great insights into areas including green technology, green financing and green building engineering, offering an enlightening experience to professionals in the field.



BEC IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Jockey Club Energy Saver in Schools Project featured in AM730

The launch of the Jockey Club Energy Saver in Schools Project organised by BEC and funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust was featured in AM730 on 2 April.



BEC Opinion Article on Master Insight

An opinion article on WELL Building Standard™ written by BEC Manager – EHS PT Man Law and BEC Officer – EHS PT Orion Poon was published on Master Insight on 17 April.

[Click here to learn more](#)

BEC CEO Dialogue featured in The Standard

BEC’s biannual signature event “BEC CEO Dialogue” held on 17 April was featured in The Standard on 24 April.



UPCOMING COURSES: BEC IEE TRAINING

The BEC Institute of Environmental Education ("BEC IEE") provides structured and tailor-made courses under our focus areas, including Climate Change and Carbon Management, Circular Economy and Resource Management, Green and Healthy Buildings, and Corporate Sustainability. Click the course titles below for more details about upcoming structured courses:

[Insights and Applications of Life Cycle Assessment \(Level 1\)](#)



12 June

[Insights and Applications of Life Cycle Assessment \(Level 2\)](#)

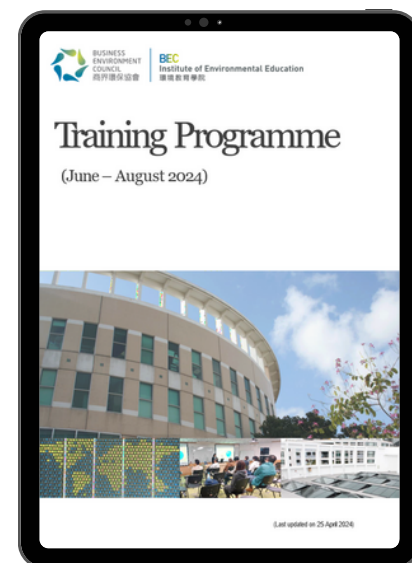


19 June

[ESG Bridging Programme for Students and Recent Graduates](#)



6, 13 July



ESG CORNER

Ban on Single-use Plastic – A Strategic Move towards Sustainability

In a significant move towards environmental sustainability, Hong Kong is set to implement a ban on single-use plastic products in two phases, with the first stage commenced on 22 April, coinciding with Earth Day.

The ban on single-use plastics aligns closely with the environmental pillar of ESG. Single-use plastics have long been a major contributor to plastic pollution and pose significant threats to ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. By prohibiting expanded polystyrene receptacles, disposable plastic tableware, and other non-recyclable items, Hong Kong aims to reduce plastic waste and promote the transition towards more sustainable alternatives.

Plastic pollution has become a global crisis, with vast amounts of plastic waste entering oceans and landfills every year. By taking a proactive stance against single-use plastics, Hong Kong demonstrates its commitment to tackling this pressing environmental issue. The ban encourages businesses and consumers to adopt more eco-friendly practices, such as using reusable containers and opting for biodegradable or compostable alternatives, ultimately reducing the environmental impact of plastic waste.

The social aspect of ESG emphasises the impact of business activities on communities and society as a whole. The single-use plastic ban in Hong Kong directly addresses social concerns related to public health, resource conservation, and the well-being of future generations.

Plastic pollution affects the quality of life for both urban and rural communities. By reducing plastic waste, we aim to

create a cleaner and healthier living environment. The ban encourages businesses to adopt sustainable practices, promoting corporate social responsibility and raising awareness among consumers about the importance of reducing plastic consumption.

The governance aspect of ESG refers to the regulatory and policy framework that guides sustainable practices. Hong Kong's decision to implement the plastic ban illustrates its commitment to effective governance and proactive environmental legislation.

The ban is a result of careful policy formulation and legislative action. Lawmakers passed the bill in the previous year, demonstrating the government's dedication to driving sustainable change. By setting clear guidelines and deadlines for implementation, Hong Kong establishes a strong governance framework to ensure compliance and accountability.

The plastic ban also encourages collaboration between the government, businesses, and civil society organisations. It provides an opportunity for stakeholders to work together to develop innovative solutions and support the transition to a circular economy. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of shared responsibility and strengthens the overall governance framework for sustainable development.

The plastic ban is not just a symbolic gesture; it represents a significant step towards a more environmentally conscious and responsible future. By embracing ESG principles, Hong Kong emphasises its commitment to sustainable development, creating a positive impact on the environment, society, and the economy.

RETHINK HK CORNER

The ReThink HK team had a great turnout at the annual BEC Meet & Greet held at BEC Auditorium on 11 April. Many BEC Members attended the event and were keen to find out more about the opportunities to participate in ReThink HK 2024.

Entering its 5th edition, this year's ReThink HK is anticipated to be an even larger sustainable business forum and solutions expo, with a comprehensive two-day programme featuring eight theatres and stages. Delegates will take a deep dive into the latest topics and challenges of sustainability development faced by all industries and sectors.

As the exclusive co-organiser, BEC will host the BEC Business Transformation Theatre, covering topics on "Embracing Circularity for Sustainable Living". On Day 2, there will be Cantonese sessions exploring themes of "Rethinking Communities" and "Rethinking Sustainability for SMEs".

Don't miss your chance to join ReThink HK 2024! Book a booth at the BEC Pavilion to showcase your solutions. Delegate registration is now open. Book your pass at Super Early Bird rate until 3 June. Register now: <https://2vx.co/ti2iQG6>



[View the session profile of BEC Business Transformation Theatre](#)

MEMBERS CORNER

Council Members

Airport Authority Hong Kong ("AAHK") has launched a renewable diesel pilot project as part of its unwavering commitment to developing Hong Kong International Airport ("HKIA") into the World's Greenest Airport. HKIA is the first airport in Asia to use renewable diesel, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 87% compared to petroleum diesel, on ground services equipment. Renewable diesel, also known as hydrotreated vegetable oil, is a drop-in fuel fully compatible with diesel engines used in equipment such as tractors and apron sweepers. In collaboration with fellow BEC members HACTL and Shell, this project marks a significant milestone in collaborating towards the achievement of the HKIA 2050 Net Zero Carbon Pledge, and more specifically the HKIA 2035 midpoint interim target. HACTL runs the pilot project with sponsorship from the HKIA Greenovation Fund established by AAHK to support pledged business partners to pilot new carbon reduction technologies.



[Click here to learn more](#)

Addressing the urgency of adopting waste reduction and recycling practices in Hong Kong, **Chinachem Group** has partnered with fellow BEC member The Green Earth, a charity with the core value of "Cherish the Earth", to launch the "REACT Campaign". Through a series of engaging and educational activities, they aim to raise environmental awareness of the public and ultimately, inspire citizens to make positive changes for the planet. The campaign will kick off with FunWaste Carnival at Nina Park, Tsuen Wan from 27 April to 1 May. This open-for-all carnival features green-related booths, workshops, art installations and activities. The campaign will then continue through spring and early summer with beach and trail clean-ups, interactive exhibitions & workshops, educational tours and more.



[Click here to learn more](#)

MEMBERS CORNER

Hang Lung Properties announced that half of its operating properties in the Mainland have been powered by renewable energy through power purchase agreements since 1 April, solidifying its market leadership in sustainable real estate practices. The move represents a remarkable milestone in Hang Lung's sustainability journey, and means that by the end of 2024 Hang Lung will go well beyond its 2025 sustainability target of 25% renewable energy for its Mainland China portfolio. These innovative transactions align with the company's commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across its value chain by 2050, in accordance with climate science and its Science Based Target initiative target.

[Click here to learn more](#)

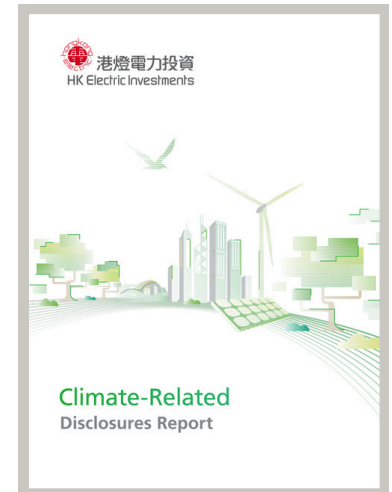


Together with the Hong Kong SAR Government's Strive and Rise Programme, **Henderson Land** has organised an urban farming experience at the group's urban organic farm "Harvest above" at H Zentre. The event featured harvesting sessions introducing the principles of organic farming and showcasing a variety of superfoods grown at the farm to 100 programme mentees and mentors. The participants had the chance to prepare salad using the freshly harvested produce for a true farm-to-table experience.



HK Electric published its inaugural standalone Climate-related Disclosures Report in April, which outlines its approach to identifying, assessing and managing climate-related issues in alignment with the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures recommendations. HK Electric examined the impacts of material climate-related risks and opportunities relevant to its business leveraging the scenario analysis tool. This unique tool effectively revealed an array of possible outcomes under different hypothetical climate and economic scenarios, facilitating the company's understanding of the potential impacts of various risks and variables, as well as finding ways to capitalise on opportunities. Considering physical and transition risks, such as climate hazards, regulatory and market risks, HK Electric is committed to managing these risks through adaptation and mitigation strategies to strengthen its climate resilience, while pursuing opportunities by shifting towards low-carbon transition to build a more climate-resilient city.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Nan Fung Group's latest flagship shopping mall AIRSIDE has partnered with a technology platform that offers digitally tracked tableware rental through AIRSIDE Circular Programme. The programme offers complimentary reusable takeaway cups and containers to six F&B merchants. Members of NF Touch, the group's loyalty programme, can enjoy a \$2 discount on takeaway drinks and meals while earning 50 NF Seeds as a reward every time they use the rental service. To further promote social cohesion, AIRSIDE has collaborated with a social enterprise and hired ten Sustainability Senior Heroes to oversee the quality control of borrowed takeaway cups and containers.

[Click here to learn more](#)



MEMBERS CORNER

Sun Hung Kai Properties (“SHKP”) has received international recognition for its commitment to sustainable development. SHKP has been included in the Dow Jones Sustainability Asia Pacific Index, featured in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2024, and recognised as Regional Top-rated ESG Performer by Sustainalytics. SHKP has also been included in the FTSE4Good Index Series and received an “A” rating from MSCI. Locally, SHKP achieved the highest “AAA” rating in the Hang Seng Sustainability Index Series and performed well in other local indices.

[Click here to learn more](#)

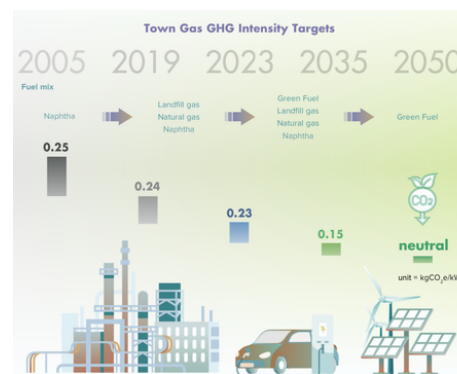


Swire Properties has been invited by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (“WBCSD”) to share their approach on driving positive impacts by incorporating nature-inclusive designs in its buildings. The company’s efforts are featured as a Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (“TNFD”) pilot use case in the “Roadmaps to Nature Positive: Foundations for the Built Environment System” by WBCSD. As the only Hong Kong and real estate sector representative on the TNFD Taskforce, Swire Properties has also become a TNFD Early Adopter, committed to disclosing its nature-related impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities in its Sustainability Report 2023. The company has pioneered the disclosure in accordance with the “LEAP” (Locate, Evaluate, Assess, Prepare) approach – an integrated assessment process for nature-related risks and opportunities management.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Towngas has announced its decarbonisation strategy for Hong Kong’s gas business, and target to reduce the total carbon intensity of using town gas by 36% by 2035, reaching 0.15 kgCO₂e/kWh, through replacement of fossil fuels by zero-carbon fuels in phases, such as green naphtha, green methane, green hydrogen, green methanol. The group is also committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, in alignment with the national “30-60” dual carbon goals and the Hong Kong SAR Government’s 2050 carbon neutrality strategy. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in its operations, Towngas also provides low-carbon energy solutions to its customers, ensuring they have access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy.



Corporate Members

AECOM is advancing the “Three Railways & Three Major Roads” model under the RMR2030+ strategic studies, now part of the HKSAR Government’s Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint. Besides facilitating public discussions and conducting comprehensive transport forecasting and modelling up to 2046, the company’s contributions also encompass feasibility studies for three smart and green mass transit systems serving Kai Tak, Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen, and East Kowloon. Looking ahead, AECOM is keen to explore alternative ways to realise this blueprint for the benefit of Hong Kong through efforts such as co-organising and sponsoring the “New Approaches to Collaboration and Implementation of Hong Kong’s Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint: Why It Matters” event.

[Click here to learn more](#)



MEMBERS CORNER

The “AlgoWater – Smart Alum Dosing Control System”, **ATAL**’s Artificial Intelligence-enabled solution for water and wastewater treatment based on cutting-edge Digital Twin technology, won a merit award at the “CIWEM HK 2023 Innovation Awards”, recognising the company’s remarkable efforts in pushing boundaries in innovative water and wastewater treatment. By reducing chemical usage, AlgoWater not only saves costs but also promotes a greener future. ATAL’s Digital Twin technology can also be extended to various sectors including data centres, lifts and escalators, airports, hospitals and more, exemplifying the company’s drive for innovation in sustainability and commitment to Hong Kong’s smart city development.



In March, **CFA Institute** published a research paper titled “Navigating Transition Finance: An Action List”, which analyses the many challenges implicit in transition finance as a mechanism for the decarbonisation of high carbon-emitting sectors. The research discusses the different stages of readiness and adoption of transition finance across a selection of industries, markets and regions, and offers recommendations for corporations, investors, and policymakers to improve the environment for transition finance investors. It also discusses the inadequacy of existing fiscal policies, the potential of green public procurement, and the role of blended finance facilities and other policy interventions.



[Click here to learn more](#)

City Facilities Management (“City FM”) received multiple awards in 2023 including CLP SEA - Joint Energy Saving Award, TVB ESG Award - ESG Special Recognition Award, HKRMA Smart Retailing Award - Smart Green Retail Tech Solution Award, among other awards from HKGSA and IFMA. Most recently, the company received the inaugural PropTech Excellence Award in the ESG category, recognising the impact of its groundbreaking Waterloop refrigeration design that reduces refrigerant usage, energy consumption, whilst improving food temperature. City FM is dedicated to creating a more sustainable future and driving positive change in the industry.



Globally, plastic waste is increasing at an alarming rate – almost twice as much as it was two decades ago. According to the OECD, only 9% of plastic waste can be successfully recycled. **Fujifilm** paper now comes with an enhanced wrapper, which is fibre-based, recyclable, and biodegradable. The new wrapper is not plastic laminated and has a less carbon-intensive production process. The company also supports the vision of developing a sustainable supply chain by selecting copy paper supplies that further promote sustainable development.



[Click here to learn more](#)

Hactl has achieved the IATA Environmental Assessment (“IEnvA”) certification, becoming one of the first cargo-handling companies to achieve IEnvA in Asia. Being among the pioneering organisations in the region to receive this esteemed achievement, Hactl sets a remarkable example for other cargo terminal operators in Asia, inspiring them to follow suit and embrace sustainable practices. This milestone further enhances Hactl’s reputation as an industry leader committed to reducing its environmental impact and fostering a greener future for air cargo operations in the region.



[Click here to learn more](#)

MEMBERS CORNER

The first four Mireo Plus B battery-powered hybrid trains from **Siemens Mobility** have begun regular service in Ortenau on 8 April, marking a premiere in Germany as a step toward replacing diesel-powered trains in the future. Powered by green electricity, the battery-electric multiple-unit trains produce no emissions and are extremely quiet, benefiting both the environment and passengers. Thanks to the battery hybrid drive, they can be used on routes with and without overhead power lines. As part of Siemens, Siemens Mobility continues making positive contribution to climate protection with its sustainable mobility solutions.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Vegware Hong Kong joined the “Green Walk Hong Kong 2024” campaign held on 16 March at the Central Harbourfront Event Space. This year’s theme “Promoting a Walkable City and Combating Climate Change” aimed to raise awareness among Hong Kong residents about climate change and encourage the use of low-carbon transportation, thereby promoting an energy-efficient and low-carbon lifestyle. Vegware participated in the city orienteering competition, contributing to the cause. On the same day, the company sponsored the MTR Green T Baby Fun Day by providing its compostable packaging, allowing attendees to enjoy snacks served in plant-based tableware and easily dispose of them in the conveniently placed recycling bins on-site. Together with food waste, they are then sent to a composting site in Sheung Shui, demonstrating circularity and reducing waste to the landfill.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Veolia’s local smart recycling and digitalised collection company, showcased the latest development of its Smart Foodwaste Bin to the government, industry professionals and the general public at the InnoEX 2024 Press Conference. To facilitate the MSW Charging Scheme, the current model enables users to track real-time recycling data essential for encouraging citizens’ recycling habits. Veolia’s specialised waste collection team has customised the current model with pest repellent, auto-deodorisation and fraud detection functions to enhance customer satisfaction based on their dedicated research and customers’ feedback.

[Click here to learn more](#)



WSP joined ESCAP Sustainable Business Network to collaborate with business leaders across Asia Pacific in realising the United Nation’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its associated Sustainable Development Goals. With its commitment to achieve net-zero emissions across the value chain by 2040 and technical expertise in engineering and advisory, WSP is dedicated to working with the network to push sustainability ambition and action through collaborative action, policy advocacy and peer-to-peer learning and inspiration.

[Click here to learn more](#)



General Members

NAP Acoustics has become the official exclusive partner of the world’s largest cork producer and supplier in Hong Kong, Macao and China in 2024. Through this partnership, the company seeks to revolutionise the construction landscape by offering innovative acoustic solutions that prioritise sustainability, efficiency, and performance, ultimately benefitting people’s living environment and wellness.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Recently Published Sustainability Reports

- Cathay Pacific Airways Limited



- Chinachem Group



- Great Eagle Holdings Limited



- Hang Lung Properties Limited



- Hang Seng Bank Limited



- Henderson Land Development Company Limited



- Hysan Development Company Limited



- MTR Corporation Limited



Recently Published Sustainability Reports

- **Swire Pacific Limited**



- **Swire Properties Limited**



- **The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited**

Environmental, Social and Governance Report 2023



Want to share your company's latest green news with over 6,000 BEC e-Newsletter subscribers from various industries? BEC Council, Corporate and General Members are welcomed to submit their recent environmental and sustainability accomplishments to us. Selected submissions will be published in the upcoming edition of BEC's e-Newsletter completely free-of-charge. Please contact **Ms Vanessa Choi (E. vanessachoi@bec.org.hk)** for enquiries.

WELCOME NEW BEC MEMBERS

General Members

- **GFT Group Limited**
- **South Pole (SG) Pte. Ltd.**
- **Sol-clean Environmental Services Company Limited**



BEC SUPPORTED EVENTS

- **Green in Prop+Con** | Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation | Now till 24 May 2024
- **SustainabilityHACK 2024** | MIT Hong Kong Innovation Node, HKPC Inno Space, CIC | 31 May – 1 June 2024
- **25th Annual Corporate and Regulatory Update** | The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute | 7 June 2024
- **The 2nd Greater Bay Area ESG & Sustainability Exhibition** | Coastal International Conference & Exhibition Co., Ltd. | 21-23 June 2024

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