



BEC E-NEWSLETTER

Connecting · Nurturing · Creating for a Sustainable Environment

THE GLOBAL RISKS LANDSCAPE IN 2021

BEC's Director - Sustainability and ESG Advisory, Dr Nadira Lamrad shares insights from the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2021.

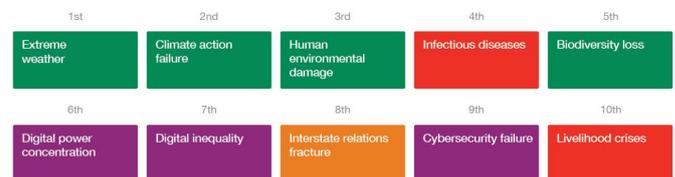
Every January, ahead of the annual meeting of business, political, academic and other leaders in Davos, the World Economic Forum releases The Global Risks Report (the "Report"), a roundup of the global risk landscape and an analysis of the potential impacts posed by these risks. The Report is based on the results of an international survey of leaders of varying expertise, however, as business was the most widely represented organisation type, it is safe to assume that these risks accurately reflect business concerns in addition to those of governments and civil society. In 2020, before we understood the full extent of COVID-19, environmental risks dominated the agenda for the first time, coming in as the top 5 risks in terms of likelihood and 3 of the top 5 in terms of impact. This reflected and validated BEC's consistent message over the years – environmental risks are business risks.

In anticipation of the release of the 2021 Global Risks Report, questions arose as to the effect of our collective pandemic experience on the outcome of the survey. The socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 were certainly deeply felt around the world and the intimate familiarity of these impacts were likely to influence the perceptions of the global risk landscape. Indeed, the 2021 Report does reflect this reality with "infectious diseases" shooting up the ranks from relatively unlikely in 2020 to the 4th top risk in terms of likelihood and from 10th to the top risk in terms of impact. Still, it was encouraging to see that environmental issues continued to top the agenda coming in as 4 of the top 5 risks by likelihood and 3 of the top 5 risks by impact.

Global Risks Landscape 2021



Top Global Risks by Likelihood



Top Global Risks by Impact



■ Economic ■ Environmental ■ Geopolitical ■ Societal ■ Technological

Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2021

It is notable that the 2nd most impactful and most likely risk is "climate action failure" defined as the failure of governments and businesses to enforce, enact or invest in effective climate-change adaptation and mitigation measures, preserve ecosystems, protect populations and transition to a carbon-neutral economy. We look forward to seeing the government's updated Climate Action Plan in response to their 2050 carbon neutral pledge.

The Report provides a more nuanced understanding of the risks landscape including an analysis of the risks by timeframe (short-, medium- and long-term), a look at risk response "blind spots" where the global response falls short of the risk's potential impact and the lessons learned from the responses to COVID-19. Of particular note is the Report's repeated mentions of the need for a green recovery as an approach to facilitate inclusive and sustained value creation which addresses both short- and long-term risks.

BEC members are invited to read more in our upcoming Topical Digest.

[Read Global Risks Report 2021](#)

BEC Sustainability Update 2020

BEC has published our Sustainability Performance Update 2020 with details on our swift responses to COVID-19 pandemic and our building's environmental performance. Sustainability metrics for FY 2019/20 have also been updated.

[Read BEC Sustainability Performance Update 2020](#)



BEC's views on Hong Kong's Roadmap on the Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (EV)

BEC recently submitted our policy suggestions on Hong Kong's Roadmap on the Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (EV). In our submission we made the following key recommendations:

- The EV Roadmap and supporting policies should aim at improving roadside air quality and reducing carbon emissions, rather than increasing the number and share of EVs.
- Accounting for a significant percentage in air pollution and carbon emissions, commercial vehicles should receive more attention in the Roadmap.
- A multipronged approach should be taken for different vehicle types, and early transition should be adopted as there is a cost in delayed action.
- The Government should set a time limit for the phasing out of vehicles that use fossil fuel as the only energy source.

[Read the submission](#)

BEC Jockey Club Intelligent Resource Management Programme (IRMP)

After recruiting 202 schools and commercial and residential buildings to participate in the Programme, the next stage of IRMP has started! To further promote resource recycling, we offer participating buildings and schools free enhancement of recycling facilities through the Programme. Waste paper, metals and plastics recycling bins, available in different designs, have been delivered to participating buildings to fit the habits and needs of tenants, residents or students. Additional recycling bins for other recyclables can be provided upon request. BEC also offers waste audit services and specific recommendations to reduce waste generation, improve recycling performance and develop waste management strategies.

[Learn more about IRMP](#)



Start 2021 with a pledge to join BEC's Low Carbon Charter!

Although the pandemic has caused economic and social disruptions worldwide, it is heartening that many governments have not stopped galvanising efforts to decarbonise. With China's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 and Hong Kong's pledge to reach this target by 2050, we must accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon economy. Hong Kong businesses have a substantial role in reducing emissions during this transformation.

The BEC Low Carbon Charter is an ongoing initiative to mobilise Hong Kong's business sector to take bold climate actions with collective resolve. To date, 73 companies of different sectors and sizes have signed up to the Charter and pledged to set and achieve carbon reduction targets. The BEC Low Carbon Charter has also received strong backing from various organisations and partners, including the Environment Bureau.

BEC continues to welcome companies to sign the Charter. For enquiries and more information, please contact chloeho@bec.org.hk or violetlaw@bec.org.hk.



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Council Members

Two **Gammon** projects were honoured at the Construction Industry Council Sustainable Construction Awards 2020 in November 2020, receiving Contractor Gold Award in the New Works category and Contractor Silver Award in the Repairs, Maintenance, Alterations and Additions category, respectively. In recognition of Gammon's ability to build, install and deliver safe and high-quality solar PV systems with reliable performance and sophisticated monitoring, the Solar PV System at Gammon Technology Park was awarded in December 2020 the Grand Award under the category of Renewable Energy (Corporate / Government Bodies) at the CLP Smart Energy Awards 2020.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



Hongkong Land strives to enhance the sustainability performance of its managed properties. Recently, the company was honoured as Winner of the "Sustainability Achievement of the Year" category at the RICS Awards 2020 Hong Kong for its Hong Kong Central Portfolio. This award recognises Hongkong Land's continuous efforts towards implementing various enhancements and green initiatives and demonstrates its adherence to high environmental standards in managing the Central Portfolio.



Kerry Properties Limited won the "Best ESG Materiality Reporting (small to mid-cap)" award at the IR Magazine Awards – Greater China 2020 in December 2020 rounding off a year of impressive results in several global and local indices including attaining 4th place among East Asian listed companies participating in the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB).

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



HK Electric has been working on decarbonisation initiatives such as coal-to-gas transition in power generation. Its gas-fired generation was brought to about 50% of the total output in 2020 after the commissioning of gas-fired unit L10 earlier in the year. This proportion will be further raised to about 70% by 2023 upon commissioning two new gas-fired units, helping to support the government's 2050 carbon neutrality pledge.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



Corporate Members

To support the construction sector in building a greener Hong Kong, **Alliance** has partnered with a leading solar developer and investor in carbon neutrality solutions to design, build and manage a solar power project in two of Alliance's concrete batching plants in Tsing Yi and Yuen Long. The systems can generate 76,170 kWh electricity annually. In December 2020, the electricity output was able to offset 39 tonnes CO₂ per year, equivalent to planting 647 trees. Alliance will continue to monitor the electricity output of the two pilot plants and explore opportunities to promote renewable energy to the other production facilities to enhance efficiency and strive towards carbon neutrality.



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Allied Sustainability and Environmental Consultants Group Limited (AEC Group) was the only Growth Enterprise Market listed company presented with Honorable Mention in the Hong Kong Corporate Governance Excellence Awards in December 2020. According to the judges, AEC Group walked the talk and led by example in embedding sustainability in its operations. It will continue to reinforce corporate governance and actively advocate ESG best practices in the hope of promoting sustainability among the business community.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

To support the needy and demonstrate its corporate social responsibility, **Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (Hactl)** has joined a 4-week Chinese New Year surplus donation programme. A collection point has been set up in Hactl's SuperTerminal 1 to collect surplus food, red packets, toys, home appliances and electronic devices from the staff. All items collected will be donated to three partnering NGOs in Hong Kong.



To promote sustainable apparel culture to textile companies, **Intertek** recently organised Green Webinar series covering topics including an introduction to the Higg Index, chemical management, biodegradability, microfibre shedding and recycled content verification for more than 300 apparel corporations, aiming to help businesses step up their efforts to protect the environment along their supply chain.



SGS achieved a strong rating in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) World and Europe announced in November 2020. The company remains a leader in the Environmental and Social criteria and earns one of the highest industry scores in the Governance and Economic criteria. SGS is recognised by DJSI for outperforming its peers in sustainability metrics across all industries. The company will continue its efforts towards industry-leading sustainability performance this year.



[Click HERE to learn more](#)

General Members

En-trak's innovative lighting and air conditioning control system was deployed across 1 million square feet of office buildings in Hong Kong in 2020, saving energy of about 1kWh per square feet per year! The innovative system enables workstation lighting and air con to remain off until a staff member arrives or scans the QR code on the desk.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



EnviroEvents HK is excited to announce that ReThink HK 2021 will now take place on 5 & 6 October at the HKCEC. The new dates have the full support and backing from the exclusive co-organiser, BEC. The October dates provide a higher chance of hosting the comprehensive two-day conference and solutions showcase unimpeded and with minimal restrictions on in-person attendance. The BEC Theatre will host "Empowering Business to Lead" on Day 1 and "Sustainability for SMEs" on Day 2 – open to all delegates. Pre-registration is now open until 22 March. Secure your place on the priority booking list at the link below.

[Click HERE to register](#)



05 & 06 OCTOBER 2021
HKCEC, HONG KONG

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GreenCo ESG Advisory Limited (GreenCo) has been focusing on the research of corporate exemplary practices in sustainable development from a growing number of global enterprises. In January 2021, GreenCo published a detailed research report on a leading luxury watchmaking brand analysing its sustainability strategy through a robust management of its social and environmental impacts.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



For the first time in its history, **Tarkett** received a B score, i.e. management level at CDP in December 2020, illustrating its enhanced maturity in the fight against climate change. The company hopes to push the score even higher as it strives to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 30% by 2030 compared to 2020 levels. Having an outstanding sustainability performance, Tarkett was also awarded the Platinum medal by EcoVadis sustainability rating in January 2021, the highest accolade given to companies scoring in the top 10% of their sector.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



Not a BEC Member yet?



Contact our **Membership Team** (T. 2784 3924 | E. membership@bec.org.hk) to know more about our membership scheme. You can also contact our membership team to explore potential speaking and sponsorship opportunities. Want to share your company's latest green news with over 6,000 BEC newsletter subscribers from various industries? BEC Council, Corporate and General Members are welcomed to submit their exciting news/ technology/ activities related to sustainability and environmental excellence to us. We will then share your news via BEC communications channels, including our social media platforms and e-Newsletter. Please contact **Ms Jaz Chan** (T. 2784 3912 | E. jazchan@bec.org.hk) for submissions and enquiries.

BEC SUPPORTED EVENTS

- 粵港澳大灣區綠色建築發展高峰論壇 | China Green Building (HK) Council | 6 Feb
- CIOB (HK) Conference 2020: "Smart Construction - Digital and Robotic Application" | The Chartered Institute of Building (Hong Kong) | Postponed to 20 April
- Water Resources Management Conference 2021 - "Future Intelligent / Smart Water Resources Management" | Chartered Institute of Plumbing Engineering - Hong Kong Branch, Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management - Hong Kong Branch, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers - Building Services Division | 27 April
- "My Green Space" Student Competition 2020-21 | Hong Kong Green Building Council | Now till 31 May

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