



BEC E-NEWSLETTER

Connecting · Nurturing · Creating for a Sustainable Environment

THE ERA OF SUSTAINABLE BUILDING INTERIORS

BEC's Ir C.F. Leung, Director - Operations, describes future trends in sustainable building interiors and how that may impact relevant standards.

Interior design plays a crucial role in our daily lives as we spend about 90% of our time indoors. Interesting interiors enhance our experience, uplift our spirit and increase productivity. The concept of "green interiors" has existed in the building industry for decades, aiming to reduce environmental impact with a balance between aesthetics and functionality. Recently, as public awareness of sustainability has increased, there is a greater interest in the environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable buildings. This has partly contributed to the rise of environmentally friendly and human centric building interiors, and how these can be leveraged to access green finance products.

In Hong Kong, BEAM Society Limited first launched a green building tool, BEAM Plus Interiors Version 1.0, in 2013. The tool defined the key elements for the interior environment that are better for people and the planet. As the practices and technologies employed in green buildings have been constantly evolving over the past eight years since the launch of the tool, it is about time to upgrade it to embrace the latest innovations and government standards and to integrate the best project practices.

It is expected that any upgrade to the tool will likely integrate the learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic which has rapidly changed the way we live our lives the world over and revealed the importance of buildings, especially the interior environment, in enhancing our health, safety and wellbeing. The future tool must consider interior design through a post-pandemic lens incorporating a range of design elements such as a touchless environment as well as hygiene support. Another rapid shift as a result of the pandemic experience is

the transformation of traditional working modes to more hybrid workplaces which will also impact interior design trends. A common example is the rise of flexible furnishings where partitioned work spaces can be easily dismantled into shared open areas enhancing the useability of a space based on need.

Another set of trends to look out for in an upgraded tool is artificial intelligence ("AI") and smart technologies. For example, lighting controls will no longer be operated manually and real-time monitoring helps building occupants take immediate action to rectify deteriorating indoor air quality. Combining plentiful data obtained from a building management system ("BMS") with other data sources such as weather conditions and occupancy profiles can help generate more comprehensive and accurate building energy use predictions. Compared to the traditional system, an AI-enabled BMS learns from experience when to automatically adjust building operations to maintain optimal performance and improve energy efficiency.

The timely revamp of the sustainable building tool could drive building performance towards wellness, carbon-neutrality and greater resource conservation. A concerted effort is essential to meet the need and demand for sustainable interiors that enhance liveability in the long term. It is time for business leaders to work together for a new chapter in Hong Kong's green buildings movement.

To learn more about how you can adopt sustainable building interiors, please contact Ir C.F. Leung at cfleung@bec.org.hk

Acknowledgement: A note of gratitude to Mr Tommy Szeto and Ms Rose Ho of the BEC Green Building Team for contributing to this article.

Room for Improvement: Enhancing Building Energy Efficiency Through Stakeholder Engagement

Thank you to our speakers Eur-Ing Phil Healey, Mr Sunny Poon, Ir Wallace Lin and Ms Bonnie Chan for sharing their views and experiences on collaboration for better energy efficiency and green tenancy during the BEC Low Carbon Charter "Room for Improvement: Enhancing Building Energy Efficiency Through Stakeholder Engagement" webinar on 23 June.



Key takeaways:

- Building energy efficiency improvement is not necessarily a costly process. With smart sequencing and collaborative partnership, energy savings can be achieved through raising staff awareness and engaging with tenants.
- Effective tenant engagement should extend beyond the conventional business-to-business ("B2B") model to the business-to-customer ("B2C") model and communicate with individual end-users directly.
- Jargon-free conversations and rewards schemes have proven to be useful to get buy-in and drive behavioural change.

Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035

BEC commends Environment Bureau's new clean air plan published on 29 June which sets out enhanced air pollution control strategies for Hong Kong up to 2035. While there are several areas to improve, notably roadside nitrogen dioxide level and regional smog problem, Hong Kong's air quality has improved significantly in the past five years backed up by better air quality readings and improved visibility.

Among the new proposed actions, BEC highlights and welcomes measures relating to vessels, which is the major local source of air pollution, including trials for new energy ferries, tightening the sulphur content limit of locally supplied marine fuels to 0.001%, imposition of emission standards for new petrol-powered outboard engines, taking forward the use of liquefied natural gas ("LNG") in ocean-going vessels, and formulation of technical requirements and safety standards for LNG bunkering in Hong Kong.

[Read BEC's Statement of Support](#)



BEC Jockey Club Intelligent Resource Management Programme

The Closing Ceremony cum Award Presentation Ceremony for participating schools and commercial office and private residential buildings concluded on 30 June and 14 July, respectively. Thank you to all guest speakers from the funding organisation, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and the supporting organisation, the Environmental Protection Department for their insights. We were also pleased to have the awardees from the Programme share their valuable experience on waste reduction and recycling.



HKIE Job Shadowing Programme

BEC supported the Job Shadowing Programme organised by the Environmental Division of The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers ("HKIE"). On 12 July, we shared engineering-related knowledge and major sustainability issues in Hong Kong including climate change and waste management with Logos Academy students.

BEC is committed to raising environmental awareness and expanding related knowledge by engaging with the wider community to work towards a more sustainable society in Hong Kong. We help to instil sustainability concepts into the next generation through various means including community engagement projects.



[Click HERE to learn more](#)

BEC Industry Visit - Smarter Office, Greener Future

In view of the overwhelming response, BEC re-ran the Industry Visit to the Canon Business Experience Center on 23 July. Corporate Member Canon HK offered participants insights on office sustainability including e-booking systems, administrative measures and digital solutions to enhance operational efficiency and business sustainability!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Target Setting for Long-term Decarbonisation: A Practical Challenge for Businesses in Hong Kong

2 August



[Click HERE for details & registration](#)

Target-setting is critical to driving decarbonisation and behavioural change. In the business context, it allows companies to understand their emission sources and embed carbon reduction goals into their business strategies. SMEs and other companies looking to start their decarbonisation journey face the challenge of enhancing their climate change knowledge and identifying a starting point.

In the upcoming BEC Low Carbon Charter workshop, academics and practitioners will share their experiences in kickstarting their target-setting process, and their considerations when setting a science-based target.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Corporate Governance for Climate Resilience: Trends and Opportunities for Hong Kong

4 August



Corporate Governance for Climate Resilience: Trends and Opportunities for Hong Kong

4 August 2021 (Wednesday)
10:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. HKT
Zoom Webinar



[Click HERE for details & registration](#)

As ESG has become the norm and climate change has emerged as a key business risk, climate resilience has gradually been incorporated into good corporate governance practices. The rise of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (“TCFD”) further drives companies to consider climate risks and opportunities using a top-down approach. As we expect more stringent regulations and ratcheting investor expectations, Hong Kong’s company boards need to be ready to respond to climate change.

Join our upcoming webinar to better understand how the government, private sector and others can strengthen board accountability on the topic and learn how companies can become more climate resilient. In the webinar, we will also launch BEC's research findings on corporate climate governance in Hong Kong.

BEC Industry Visit - Explore the Culture of Tai O Village 18 & 24 August



BEC Industry Visit:
Explore the Culture of Tai O Village



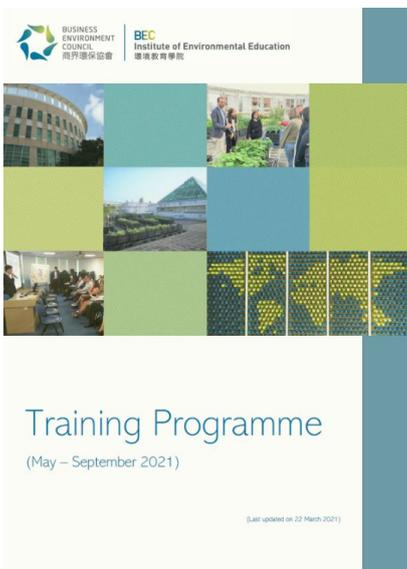
18 August 2021 (Wed)
24 August 2021 (Tue)
10:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

BEC and Tai O Heritage Hotel are bringing you a guided Tai O Village cultural tour which also covers the history and architectural merits of the UNESCO-awarded Hotel at the site of the restored Old Tai O Marine Police Station. Join us in August to experience the unique culture and ambience of Tai O.

[Click HERE for details & registration](#)

UPCOMING COURSES: BEC IEE TRAINING

The BEC Institute of Environmental Education (“BEC IEE”) offers a variety of courses for business professionals, including senior executives and managers, to advance their knowledge and skill sets. Click on the course titles below for more details:



[Carbon Audit Step by Step](#)



6 August

[Organizational-level Greenhouse Gas Accounting and Verification - ISO 14064 Introductory and Implementation Course](#)



9-11 August

[ISO 14001:2015 Internal Auditing \[Rescheduled\]](#)



19-20 August

[GRI Professional Certification Program: 3-day Standard Training](#)



1-3 September

RETHINK HK 2021 CORNER

ReThink HK pledges to present ideas, inspiration and innovation for a cleaner, greener and more sustainable city, and facilitate action-focused discussions on strategies and solutions that will drive Hong Kong towards a low-carbon economy by 2050.

ReThink HK 2021 in numbers:

- 2 days of insight, inspiration and innovation
- 122 conference sessions
- 16 deep dive workshops
- 112 confirmed showcase exhibitors
- Nearly 700 attendees confirmed among 2,000 limited passes
- 1 BIG opportunity to accelerate the change towards a low-carbon economy

BEC's CEO Mr Adam Koo demonstrates BEC's support as the exclusive co-organiser for ReThink HK 2021 in the latest promotional video.



05 & 06 OCTOBER 2021
HKCEC, HONG KONG



MEMBERS CORNER

Council Members

In July, **Airport Authority Hong Kong ("AAHK")** rolled out an airport-wide Green Airport Design and Construction Strategy, which provides a consistent approach to embedding green design and sustainable construction considerations in both its building and non-building infrastructure projects, as well as developments that are implemented by its franchises and other business partners at Hong Kong International Airport. The strategy helps ensure a high importance on environmental and green design elements will be put at the early stages of project design and development and these elements will be implemented in the subsequent works to minimise the environmental impact over the whole project life cycle.



Kerry Properties' Enterprise Centre at Kerry Everbright City Phase III in Shanghai became Asia's first LEED Zero Waste certified project in May for its achievement of net zero carbon, energy, water and waste goals. Prior to LEED Zero Waste Certification, the project already received a dual accreditation of LEED Platinum Certification (Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance) in 2020 and TRUE Zero Waste Platinum Certification in 2021. This most recent certification marks a milestone in the company's decarbonisation journey and demonstrates its commitment and consistent actions towards long-term sustainability goals.



Sino Land Company Limited announced its first financing arrangement directly linked to its sustainability targets in June, after a five-year HK\$1 billion loan signed with a local bank in April 2020 has been converted to a sustainability-linked loan. The proceeds will be used for funding sustainability- and ESG-related initiatives as part of its Sustainability Vision 2030, which covers crucial areas including renewable energy, plastic reduction, green building certification and innovative solutions. Upon achieving the sustainability performance targets, Sino Land will be incentivised with a reduction in the interest rate applied to the loan.



[Click HERE to learn more](#)

MEMBERS CORNER

In June, **The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (“Towngas”)** was selected from 200 corporations in Greater China to take the top spot in the Greater China Business Sustainability Index. Towngas also ranked first in the Hong Kong Business Sustainability Index for three consecutive years and the Greater Bay Area Business Sustainability Index for two consecutive years. Winning three awards this year recognises the group’s efforts to pursue business sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

HK Electric will organise different activities under its Happy Green Campaign for students to learn more about decarbonisation in the upcoming 2021-22 academic year. Green Energy Dreams Come True competition is now open for secondary schools and tertiary institutions to sign up. Students will form teams and submit project proposals on energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, low-carbon lifestyles as well as decarbonisation. Moreover, primary and secondary schools can join the Happy Green Schools network which offers various “Other Learning Experiences”, ranging from interactive drama, STEAM workshops and Smart Power Gallery visits.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

Corporate Members

In June, **Allied Sustainability and Environmental Consultants Group Limited (“AEC Group”)** received the ESG Committee Prize at the InnoESG Prize 2021 and Gold award in Special ESG Awards – Outstanding ESG Performer of the Year at the inaugural ESG Achievement Awards 2020. These recognitions affirm AEC Group’s unwavering efforts in driving sustainability within and beyond the company.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

CN Logistics (“CNL”) received the ESG Committee Prize at the InnoESG Prize 2021 in June for its notable achievement in maintaining a sustainable supply chain. To further promote circular practices in businesses, CNL is aiming for a 100% increment in recycling tonnage in 2021. As of June, the company has already achieved 70% of this year's target of 824.54 tonnes.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

As part of its long-term commitment to supporting and promoting environmental protection, **Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited (“Hactl”)** has been participating in a fundraising hiking contest since 2013. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of 177 staff members and their families and friends this year, Hactl won three awards in the Aviation and Airport Services Cup by having the most participants, covering the longest hiking distance and raising the most funds.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



MEMBERS CORNER

Kum Shing Holdings Limited is working on an onsite renewable energy project for Newport Centre. Set for completion in 2022, the rooftop photovoltaic system can generate as much as 3.3% of Hong Kong's gross solar energy generation in year 2020, equivalent to planting 13,000 trees, helping to reduce the heat island effect.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



Arup announced in June that it has been commissioned as the technical consultant for one of the initial offshore wind projects in South Korea to support the country's energy plan of increasing renewable electricity generation to 20% by 2030 and 30-35% by 2040. Arup will assess local conditions to determine the most appropriate foundation system, turbine technology and site layout for the chosen site to facilitate early project planning works.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

ARUP

In June, **WSP** Hong Kong joined the Power Up Coalition under BEC Low Carbon Charter to promote, support and achieve zero-emission construction sites in the long run. As a key player in the construction value chain, the company has pledged to provide sufficient electricity connection for all Hong Kong construction sites no later than the commencement of superstructure contracts to reduce diesel generator use and facilitate the use of other electric plants, equipment and vehicles.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



General Members

Circular Economy (Hong Kong) will organise two demonstration workshops on 6 October during ReThink HK 2021 to introduce circular economy and climate change concepts. The workshops will focus on a methodology to implement circular business models in organisations to achieve the triple bottom line (people, planet, profit), and a MIT-developed simulation model that helps people understand the challenges we are facing in climate change.



To meet local EV users' growing need for fast charging, **Cornerstone Technologies** launched its first-ever 30kW direct current ("DC") EV chargers at Shek Yam Shopping Centre in July, which are more efficient than the alternating current ("AC") counterparts. The DC EV chargers are also specially designed with a smaller size compared to common DC chargers to save valuable space.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



GreenCo ESG Advisory Limited (GreenCo) published a special report in July summarising the key takeaways of the new Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive ("CSRD"), after the European Commission adopted a proposal in April for a CSRD to amend the current Non-Financial Reporting Directive which regulates companies' sustainability reporting practices.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



WELCOME NEW BEC MEMBERS

Council Member

- Siemens Energy Limited

SIEMENS
ENERGY

*Membership Upgrade

Corporate Members

- CN Logistics International Holdings Limited

嘉泓
CN LOGISTICS

- Swire Coca-Cola Limited T/A Swire Coca-Cola HK


SWIRE COCA-COLA

General Members

- Canvest Environmental Protection Group Company Limited
- Riskory Consultancy Limited

BEC SUPPORTED EVENTS

- **Accelerating Low-Carbon Innovation Towards Carbon Peak and Neutrality Webinar** | Our Hong Kong Foundation, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology | 3 August
- **2021 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition** | MIECF | 5-7 August
- **HKPC SME Fund Fair 2021** | Hong Kong Productivity Council | August
- **BOCHK Corporate Environmental Leadership Awards** | Federation of Hong Kong Industries | 25 August
- **Sustainable Financing in China 2021 - Webinar Series** | Euromoney Conferences | September
- **Hong Kong Green Building Week 2021** | Hong Kong Green Building Council | September
- **Eco Expo Asia 2021 – Hong Kong Pavilion** | Environmental Protection Department & Federation of Hong Kong Industries | 27-30 October
- **Social Enterprise Summit 2021** | SES | 4-6 November
- **“Advancing Net Zero” Ideas Competition** | Hong Kong Green Building Council | ongoing until 31 December

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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. Please contact **Ms Jaz Chan** (T. 2784 3912 | E. jazchan@bec.org.hk) for submissions and enquiries.

