



# CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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## 1

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Human influence on the climate system is unequivocal, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group I Sixth Assessment Report. Furthermore, continued urbanisation has exacerbated the effects of global warming. As a high-density, storm-prone, coastal city, Hong Kong is already experiencing the physical, financial, and social consequences of heat stress, storm surges, and extreme weather events. The challenge Civic Exchange has set itself is how we can design, construct, govern, and inhabit our urban spaces to create a decarbonised, resilient, liveable Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Since its establishment in 2000, Civic Exchange has published evidence-based reports that address social, developmental, and environmental challenges in Hong Kong. This year, with continued support from our funders, industry partners, and local and international research networks, we published a report on the decarbonisation of Hong Kong's power system and 3 reports on decarbonising the buildings sector. We have also begun our deep dive into mobility and expanded our geographic scope to the GBA. Decarbonising these sectors will lower emissions, improve air quality, reduce health problems, and improve public wellbeing.

We envision Hong Kong and the GBA of the future to be people-centric, liveable, healthy, and economically successful. A liveable Hong Kong is not just created through decarbonisation roadmaps, it is also built through community-level action to improve our quality of life. This year, Civic Exchange has continued our longstanding

interest in public open spaces. We have explored how Hong Kong can have diverse, welcoming spaces along its waterfront, as well as a more vibrant urban environment with street performances.

To ensure our research translates into action, we have developed strong collaborative relationships with government departments, environmental organisations, and the business sector. It was rewarding to see some of the targets in the October 2021 *Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan (2050)* aligned with our recommendations for a low-carbon transformation. Aside from building strong community partnerships, we are using our outreach programmes to engage Hong Kong's younger generation in efforts to forge a more sustainable future.

Although the path to sustainability is challenging, we at Civic Exchange believe that our changing climate and evolving urban environment represents a positive opportunity for us to collectively rethink our environment, economy, and society. The future we face comes down to the choices we make today. Let us work together to explore what a sustainable future will look like for Hong Kong! I thank you for your continued interest and support.

**Evan Auyang**

February 2022

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**It was rewarding to see some of the targets in the October 2021 Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan (2050) aligned with our recommendations for a low-carbon transformation**

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# ABOUT CIVIC EXCHANGE

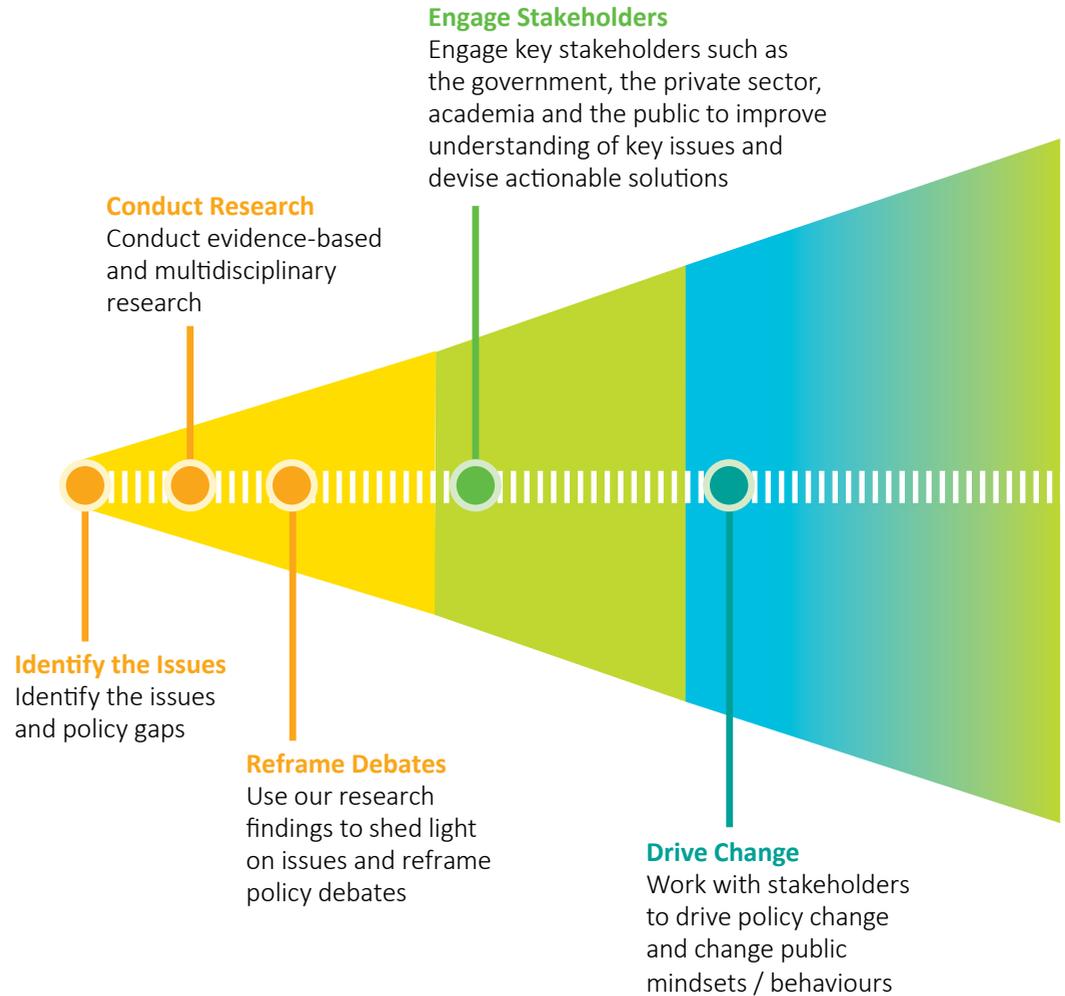
Civic Exchange is an independent Hong Kong public-policy think tank established in 2000. We use in-depth research and dialogue to inform policy and engage stakeholders on addressing societal and environmental challenges in Hong Kong. Our research focuses on four areas that are integral to a liveable city: environment, economy, society, and governance. Civic Exchange has been consistently ranked among the top 50 environmental think tanks in the world by the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.

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## HOW WE OPERATE



# KEY MILESTONES

## 2000

Civic Exchange was founded by Christine Loh, who later became Hong Kong's Under Secretary for the Environment, and environmental researcher Lisa Hopkinson. It was among the first organisations to conduct in-depth surveys on Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta residents' environmental behaviours and attitudes.

## 2009-2012

Civic Exchange was involved in the development of the Hedley Environmental Index, which tracks the financial and human cost of pollution.

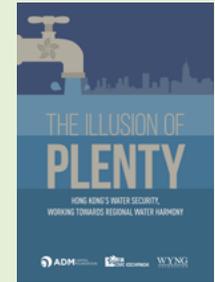


## 2016

Civic Exchange hosted the first international Walk21 conference in Asia. Walk21 Hong Kong attracted 156 speakers from all over the world, 600 delegates, and 300 participants in public forums.

## 2017

Civic Exchange's work on water resources in the Pearl River Basin started in 2009. The "Illusion of Plenty" report, published in 2017, received widespread attention in the media, the general public, and the government.



## 2006



Civic Exchange produced Hong Kong's first comprehensive air-management policy and published a ground-breaking report on local versus regional pollution sources. That was followed up in 2007 with the first report on climate change in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

## 2011

Civic Exchange was also instrumental in crafting The Fair Winds Charter, which was adopted in 2011 to encourage shipping lines, cruise liners, and outliers to use fuel with lower sulphur content.



## 2019

## HONG KONG 2050 IS NOW

Civic Exchange created the Hong Kong 2050 is Now Initiative, with the aim of mobilising action to transition Hong Kong towards long term carbon neutrality by mid-century. Thus far, the initiative has been involved in over 10 large-scale climate projects, over 55 public events, and has also engaged with over 500 youths.

# ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS

**6**  
REPORTS



**48**  
MEDIA  
MENTIONS



**30+**  
PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENTS



**46,758**  
SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



**15,479**  
FOLLOWERS ACROSS PLATFORMS





# 1 | RESEARCH AND DATA FOR CHANGE

# RESEARCH SUMMARY

| Projects           | <b>Decarbonising power</b>   | <b>Decarbonising buildings</b>   | <b>Decarbonising mobility</b>  | <b>Decarbonising the GBA</b>   | <b>Managing the waterfront</b>   | <b>Managing street performance</b>   |
|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Date published     | October 2021   | December 2020  | Ongoing  | Ongoing  | November 2021  | April 2021   |
| Project objectives | Evaluate clean energy technologies and develop energy mix scenarios for a decarbonised power system by 2050.   | Evaluate international green building standards and policies, identify policy gaps in HK, and recommend ways for HK to decarbonise its buildings.  | Evaluate clean vehicle technologies and develop recommendations on the pathway to decarbonise urban transportation.  | Explore technological, policy, and financial solutions to facilitate the achievement of carbon neutrality in the GBA by 2050.                    | Review existing mechanisms for the private management of waterfront public open space and develop recommendations to improve implementation and accountability.                                  | Craft policy recommendations based on stakeholder interests, towards the creation of an effective street performance management system.                            |
| Key takeaway       | A power system composed primarily of renewable energy and imported nuclear can reduce power system emissions by 70% by 2035 and reach net zero before 2050.  | Regular reporting of energy performance can lead to better management of building energy use and contribute to decarbonisation.  | A decarbonisation roadmap can align the technological, financial, and policy support required for the widespread use of electrical or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. | Collaboration with local governments in the GBA on standard setting and carbon markets is necessary for HK's decarbonisation.                    | Improved design guidelines, increased financial support, flexibility, accountability, and coordination are required when involving the private sector in future waterfront development projects. | A comprehensive approach to street management needs to encourage vibrancy, be inclusive of all street performers, and be beneficial to all users of public spaces. |
| Impacts            | Achieved an alignment between some targets in the government's updated Climate Action Plan and our recommendations, including phasing out coal, enhancing renewable energy targets, and developing a hydrogen economy. | Successfully campaigned for Hong Kong's first absolute energy intensity target in the Climate Action Plan, and encouraged corporates to display stronger commitments to green buildings. | Established a consortium with bus operators and energy companies, and it will send the government its final recommendations in the first quarter of 2022.          | Showcased our research at forums in the GBA to generate systematic change across jurisdictions and received support from prominent corporations. | Lobbied for reform of the waterfront management so that HK's waterfront promenades can be diverse, vibrant spaces that are well-managed and enjoyed by the public.                               | Suggested that adequately managed street performances can add vibrancy and dynamism, creating a more pleasant and liveable urban environment for HK citizens.      |
| Stakeholders       | Government, power companies in HK and Guangdong  | Government, green building certifiers, property developers, tenants, financial institutions  | Government, franchised bus companies, taxi companies, private vehicle owners   | HK Government, GBA city governments, financial institutions  | Government (Harbour Office, Development Bureau, Lands Department, LCSD), property developers   | Government, street performers, community advocacy groups, district councillors, local businesses (property, retail, hotel sectors)                                 |

# A | HONG KONG 2050 IS NOW

## Background

“Hong Kong 2050 is Now” was launched in 2019 for research, collaboration, action, and education on the climate crisis. Through inter-disciplinary research, we strive to develop feasible decarbonisation strategies and policy roadmaps for Hong Kong. Our efforts form a strong foundation for policy change and climate action to help Hong Kong become a sustainable, resilient, and decarbonised city. “Hong Kong 2050 is Now” is a flagship programme under Civic Exchange, and was established jointly with the World Resources Institute (WRI), ADM Capital Foundation (ADMCF), and RS Group.

Thus far, there have been 10 research projects under Hong Kong 2050 is Now. In June 2020, we collaborated with WRI on *Towards a Better Hong Kong: Pathways to Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050* – a policy report on Hong Kong’s deep decarbonisation strategy. On this basis, we are embarking on several deep dive sectoral studies with our research partners in key areas for emissions reduction in Hong Kong, namely electricity generation, building efficiency, and transport. We are further expanding our research efforts to the GBA.

Hong Kong 2050 is Now works with stakeholders to drive climate action in Hong Kong. We have developed strong connections with the government, industry leaders, business communities, environmental organisations, and civil society groups to turn

strategies into action. Our projects have produced strong and substantive inputs for the government’s policy formulation process. We have also increased awareness among businesses that net zero carbon pathways are drivers of continued socio-economic prosperity.

## Decarbonising Power

The power sector is Hong Kong’s largest emitter, generating around 66% of the city’s greenhouse gas emissions. Continued economic growth and widespread electrification across sectors will increase our electricity demand. For this reason, a zero-emission power system needs to be established as soon as possible. To encourage the government and power companies to establish a more ambitious target on the race to zero, Civic Exchange worked in collaboration with WRI on *Powering a Carbon-Free Hong Kong: Pathways towards a Net-Zero Power System for Hong Kong*.

The report examined the opportunities, and challenges of different clean energy technologies. From there, five energy mix scenarios were evaluated on their potential to decarbonise Hong Kong’s power sector while maintaining energy security. The report found that a system with a high ratio of imported nuclear energy and an ambitious proportion of renewable energy can reduce 70% of power systems emissions by 2035 and reach net zero by 2050.



*Powering a Carbon-Free Hong Kong* was published on 19th October 2021, and was developed from a year-long consultation between WRI, Civic Exchange, the Environmental Protection Department, local energy companies, and local and international energy experts. Our recommendations have successfully been incorporated into the government’s *Climate Action Plan 2050*: the government committed to phase out coal, pursue an ambitious renewable energy target, and explore regional collaboration opportunities.

## Decarbonising Buildings

In Hong Kong, activities in buildings account for more than 90% of electricity consumption and 60% of greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing electricity consumption in buildings is therefore crucial to Hong Kong’s decarbonisation. To address this urgent issue, a Green Building Task Force was formed under Hong Kong 2050 is Now and is jointly led by Civic Exchange and the Hong Kong Green Finance Association (HKGFA).

Two reports were published in December 2020. *Green Building Rating Systems: Energy Benchmarking Study* was published in collaboration with CECEP Environmental Consulting Group. Upon comparing the energy saving potential of 8 international green building rating systems, we found that performance-based ratings, which measure operational performance, are more effective at driving decarbonisation than scoring-based systems, which focus on design. The second report, *Decarbonising Hong Kong Buildings: Policy Recommendations and Next Steps*, was published in collaboration with ARUP. Through a comprehensive review of local and international policy environments, the report recommends Hong Kong to actively upgrade its buildings regulations and increase market incentives.

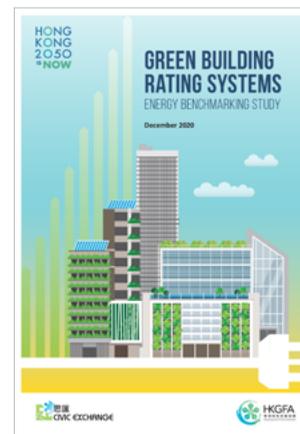
Our green buildings reports were launched at a virtual event on 8th December 2020. In July 2021, during a meeting with the Environment Bureau, we presented a white paper to the Secretary for the Environment, titled *Decarbonising the Building Sector in Hong Kong*, which details our key recommendations to the relevant government departments. We are pleased to note that the Government’s subsequent *Climate Action Plan 2050* includes an absolute energy intensity target for buildings.

## Decarbonising Mobility



Urban transport is the second-largest source of greenhouse gases emissions in Hong Kong (18.1%) and is a major source of roadside air pollution. Achieving net zero emissions by 2050 requires a radical rethinking of mobility. Civic Exchange’s approach is to envisage options for a 2050 zero emissions mobility system then determining the technologies that might be used on Hong Kong’s transition journey, and from there consider the town planning, lifestyles, and infrastructure changes required.

To aid the government in creating a time-specific zero-emission roadmap for road transport, Civic Exchange has two ongoing initiatives. The first is a report on decarbonising urban transport led by WRI, which provides analysis on how Hong Kong can substitute internal combustion engine vehicles for battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electrical vehicles on its transition journey. This report will be published within the first half of 2022.



The second is a Zero Emissions Mobility Consortium (ZEMC), launched in July 2021, involving 10 major stakeholders, including representatives from franchised bus companies, power companies, academics, and civil society. It advises the government on the policy support required to accelerate the transition of commercial vehicles and public transport to zero-emissions modes. Moreover, ZEMC is discussing new business models for public transportation to become net zero while remaining profitable and affordable. Thus far, ZEMC will send the government its final recommendations in the first quarter of 2022.

## Decarbonising the Greater Bay Area ONGOING PROJECT

In 2020, President Xi Jinping announced China's ambition to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), as one of the economic backbones of China, is well-positioned to become the national leader in reaching these objectives. To accelerate decarbonisation in the GBA, Civic Exchange is evaluating feasible solutions, exploring potential roadmaps, and seeking ways for Hong Kong to capitalise on this tremendous opportunity.

We are currently working on a roadmap for the decarbonisation of the GBA's building sector. This project, in collaboration with the Tsinghua University Building Energy Research Centre, Hong Kong Green Finance Association (HKGFA), GBA Green Finance Alliance (GBA-GFA), and WRI, investigates the challenges and opportunities of low-carbon buildings in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, and Foshan. The report will be published in early 2022.

Our second GBA project kicked off in August 2021. We will construct decarbonisation roadmaps for the industrial, buildings, and transport sectors, and explore how transition finance can be leveraged to accelerate decarbonisation. This project is conducted in collaboration with the HKGFA, WRI, Guangdong Energy Conservation Centre, Central University of Finance and Economics, and the Guangdong University of Technology. We anticipate the report to be published at the end of 2022.

The GBA project has been well-received so far. We have presented the interim results of our studies at the the Annual Conference of the GBA-GFA in September 2021 and the GFA Annual Forum in November 2021. Our ongoing work on net zero pathways for the GBA will enhance inter-city exchange of ideas, allow Civic Exchange to showcase our research in top-tier forums, and influence systematic change in the region.



## B | VIBRANT PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

### Background

Hong Kong is a fast-paced, high-density, highly efficient city, but this introduces numerous challenges when planning for sustainability, liveability, and resilience. Rather than just prioritising heavy infrastructure, the government should focus on building a more liveable city. This can in part be achieved through urban planning. Streets are more than pieces of infrastructure or means of transport – they can play a much wider role in creating attractive, liveable, and social places.

Civic Exchange has a longstanding interest in the promotion of walkability and public open space. Over the years, we have spearheaded research, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder engagement to contribute to a Hong Kong where walking is encouraged, convenient, and enjoyable – and where street vibrancy is celebrated. In 2018, we published *Managing Vibrant Streets*, including numerous recommendations for the improvement of street management in Hong Kong. This year, we released the second part of this report, focusing specifically on street performance policy. We also concentrated our efforts on the better management of public open space and recreational amenities on the waterfront.

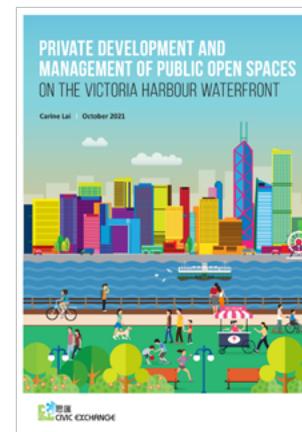
Much more progress needs to be made. Looking ahead, Civic Exchange will continue to work towards a high quality, people-centric, and sustainable Hong Kong.

### Waterfront Management

The Hong Kong government is in the process of assembling a 38km continuous public promenade along the Victoria Harbour shoreline. It expects the private sector to play a significant role in the building and management of the newly accessible waterfront. *Private Development and Management of Public Open Spaces on the Victoria Harbour Waterfront*, authored by Carine Lai, senior researcher at Civic Exchange, examines how the waterfront should be better managed for public enjoyment.

The report reviews existing mechanisms through which the private management of waterfront public open spaces are set up. Based on an analysis of gaps in the quality of implementation, monitoring, and public accountability, it recommends that the government needs a better and more inclusive framework for the private sector to improve the Victoria Harbour waterfront. Operational contracts should be designed to include clear deliverables, subsidies tied to performance, and mechanisms for regular performance reviews.

On November 18th, the report was launched at a private event involving a lively panel discussion with Carine Lai, Francis Ngai, Ian Brownlee, Paul Zimmerman, and Vicky Chan. A key takeaway from the panel was that the government, private developers, and social enterprises need to develop a common vision and generate synergies towards a more creative, vibrant, and inclusive waterfront for Hong Kong. Building on the discussion at the launch, Civic Exchange will assist collaboration among stakeholders in the coming year to revitalise open spaces on the waterfront.

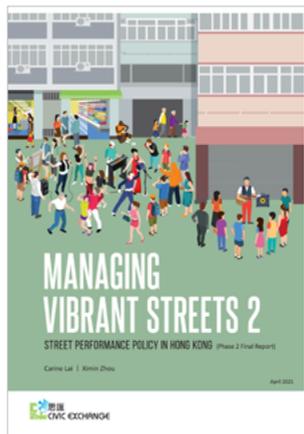


## Street Management

Street performances enliven streets, encourage sociability, and promote local culture. However, performers are treated primarily as a source of nuisance under the existing regulatory framework, despite the government's pledge to promote vibrant, diverse, pedestrian friendly streets. This was identified as one of the most significant street management challenges in our 2018 study *Managing Vibrant Streets*. *Managing Vibrant Streets 2: Street Performance Policy in Hong Kong*, written by researchers Carine Lai and Dr. Ximin Zhou, studies how buskers can successfully be re-integrated into Hong Kong's streets as part of a modern street performance management system.

Following from the results of an interim report published in September 2020, this report presents insights from stakeholder surveys and provides potential policy options for Hong Kong. Across the study participants, there was broad agreement that street spaces need clearer standards and regulations. The government needs to take larger strides in aligning cross-departmental agendas and foster stronger collaborations with the artistic community. Overall, street management needs to (i) encourage vibrancy and diversity, (ii) be inclusive of street performers, and (iii) be beneficial to all users of public spaces.

*Managing Vibrant Streets 2* was funded by the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme of the HKSAR Government Policy Innovation and Coordination Office. It was launched on April 20th 2021 with a panel discussion composed of the authors and three speakers, Ken Chow, Robbie Ho, and Andrew So (Mr. Funny). The panellists discussed how street performance can be a legitimate, professional occupation, and how the government must introduce an accountable management body to improve the cultural vibrancy unique to Hong Kong.



# 2 ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION FOR CHANGE



## A | EMPOWERING YOUTH

### Our objective

Today's young people will be the key decision-makers in governments and boardrooms to navigate an inevitably warmer future. Civic Exchange believes that climate education makes essential contributions to safer, cleaner, and more equitable futures, so in the past year, we have put in more effort to engage with secondary school and university students.

### Our output

We have supported many events and competitions held by local universities. We are, in particular, a close partner with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, having collaborated with them on events such as the Eco-Chats, Eco-Forum, and the HKUST Eco-Business Innovation Award. We have also made a conscious effort to elevate the voices of young people and inspire them to contribute to a sustainable world. We initiated our debut youth education programme, the Young Environmental Ambassador Programme, to nurture a new generation of environmental leaders. In January, we published a series of interviews with young people on our social media platforms on their thoughts about the 2021 Policy Address. Throughout the year, we have hired 7 interns and 4 research assistants who have offered instrumental support for our research work, and taken the lead in developing social media advocacy strategies.

### Our impact

While we have greatly enhanced our in-person youth engagement activities, our social media reach across platforms has decreased from last year by around 50%. This is partly attributable to the change in Facebook's algorithm in 2021. In the coming year, we will refine our social media strategy to greatly enhance our reach. We will also continue our youth engagement work through sharing with students, YEA Programme, and the internship programme.



## HIGHLIGHTS EMPOWERING YOUTH

### Young Environment Ambassador (YEA) Programme

Over the past few years, young faces have taken the reins of climate activism. We aim to position Hong Kong's younger generation front and centre of efforts to bring about a more sustainable future. Civic Exchange has initiated the Young Environment Ambassador Programme to build awareness of climate change among local secondary school students and empower them to carry out climate actions that aid their own communities.

The programme was launched at an opening ceremony on 10th July. 50 students from 15 local secondary schools participated in 8 learning sessions between July and August, consisting of climate change workshops, site visits, and project development sessions. From August onwards, 9 groups of participants started executing their community projects covering a wide range of environmental issues, from eco-tourism to bus route optimisation.



The YEA Programme is generously supported by the Hong Kong government's Environment Conservation Fund and organised in partnership with Press Start Academy, an education start-up that promotes learning through play. Over the past few months of intensive trainings, our participants have been equipped with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience needed to become a community leader and changemaker. Looking ahead, we will celebrate the students' achievements at a showcase next year and kick off the second edition of the YEA programme.

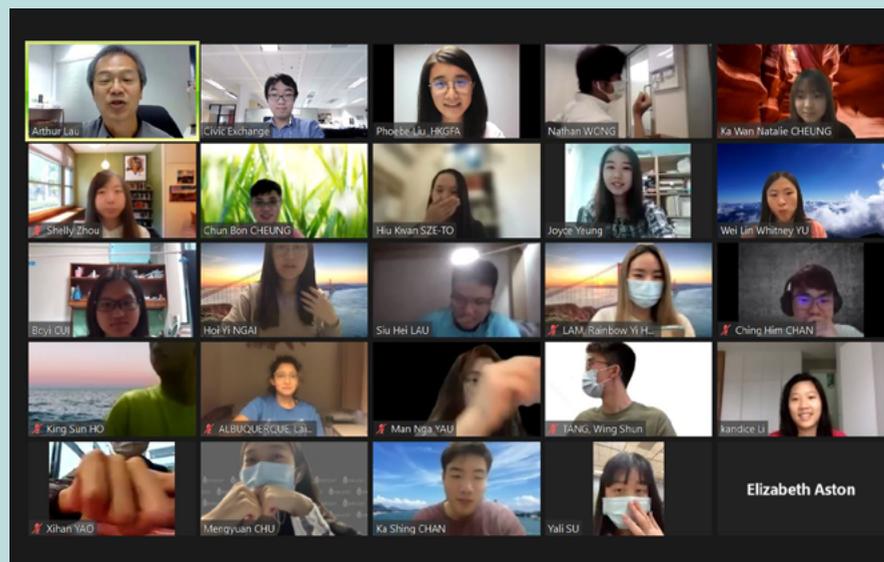
## HIGHLIGHTS EMPOWERING YOUTH

### Eco-Chats

Aside from working with secondary school students, we are also continually engaging with university students to nurture climate knowledge and encourage them to become future sustainability leaders. In the 2020/21 academic year, we collaborated with the Division of Environment and Sustainability of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on a series of “Eco-Chats” for students in the Environmental Management and Technology undergraduate programme.

Utilising our extensive network of industry professionals, we facilitated talks and careers sharing by speakers including HSBC, the HK Green Finance Association, and the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals. We were also speakers at one of the Eco-Chats, where we introduced our work and the role of a public policy think tank in sustainability.

Around 100 students participated in each session, where they were able to learn about the increasing opportunities available to them in the sustainability field. Eco-Chats are a meaningful platform enabling students to gain insider industry insights and to build useful connections. We have continued our collaborative relationship with the Division in the 2021/22 academic year.



## B | SUPPORTING POLICYMAKING

### Our objective

The government plays an important role in the improvement of Hong Kong society, whether in terms of liveability or sustainability. We aim to encourage the government to prioritise sustainability through clear roadmaps and ambitious policies that can accelerate innovation and mobilise collective action.

### Our outputs

In the past year, Civic Exchange maintained close contact with various bureau and departments within the Hong Kong government with the aim of pushing for greater policy leadership on climate action and other environmental issues. The team met with Secretary of the Environment Mr. KS Wong as well as representatives from the ENB and EPD on July 5th to discuss key issues raised in our buildings and power deep-dive reports. We were also invited to high-level government consultations on the Budget and Policy Address.

### Our impact

Through these engagements, we have promoted a reframing of climate change from being a challenge into being an opportunity for greater prosperity and liveability. We also advocated for greater action on improving the quality of Hong Kong's public open spaces. We pushed for greater policy leadership, identified how government procurement can be an effective sustainability tool, and connected experts with the government to help officials understand what their priorities should be up to 2050.



## SUBMISSION TIMELINE

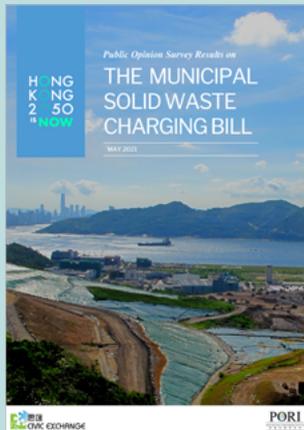
Civic Exchange submits comprehensive recommendations to the government in response to key policy announcements. This year, we presented 6 sets of suggestions in the hopes that the government can display more commitment and action towards sustainability during the policymaking process.

| 2020   | 2021   |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <b>17 NOV</b>  | <b>14 JAN</b>  | <b>2 FEB</b>   | <b>17 FEB</b>   | <b>24 MAR</b>   | <b>15 JUL</b>   |
| <b>Council for Sustainable Development's recommendations for Hong Kong targeting net zero by 2050</b>  | <b>2021-2022 Budget</b>  | <b>Proposed amendments to the Waterworks Ordinance</b>   | <b>Municipal Solid Waste charging bill</b>  | <b>Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles</b>   | <b>2021-22 Policy Address</b>   |
| <b>TARGET</b><br>Environment Bureau  | <b>TARGET</b><br>Financial Secretary   | <b>TARGET</b><br>Legislative Review Unit of the Water Supplies Department  | <b>TARGET</b><br>Yick Chi-ming, chairman of the Bills Committee studying the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill | <b>TARGET</b><br>Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council  | <b>TARGET</b><br>Chief Executive  |
| <b>OBJECTIVE</b><br>Offered suggestions on how the government can implement ambitious decarbonisation action plans in six target areas based on the SDC's recommendations. | <b>OBJECTIVE</b><br>Suggested how the government can direct fiscal spending cost effectively to aid HK's green transition. | <b>OBJECTIVE</b><br>Considered how the WSD can improve water quality and enhance water conservation while simultaneously addressing the impacts of climate change. | <b>OBJECTIVE</b><br>Urged the passing of the MSW Bill as soon as possible.  | <b>OBJECTIVE</b><br>Gave recommendations to help the government establish a concrete action plan for net zero transport, in collaboration with the Clean Air Network and World Resources Institute. | <b>OBJECTIVE</b><br>Recommended the Chief Executive to establish strong targets and a holistic climate policy to reach its 2050 target. |

## HIGHLIGHTS SUPPORTING POLICYMAKING

### Waste management

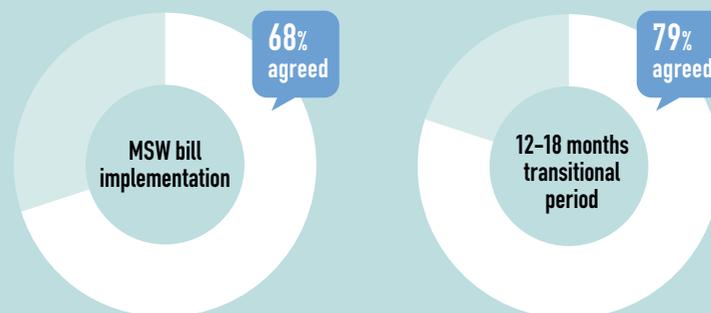
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging has long been proposed as a way for Hong Kong to reduce its volume of garbage disposal. In November 2018, the “Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill” was introduced into the Legislative Council for deliberation. To motivate green advocacy and accelerate discussion in the Council, Civic Exchange worked with the Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (PORI) to survey public understandings and attitudes towards the bill.



The study was conducted in January 2021 with 1012 participants. It shows that Hong Kong people are generally aware of the waste problem, with 90% agreeing that the public should reduce waste at source. Regarding MSW charging specifically, nearly 70% of respondents agreed that a bill needs to be implemented, with support extending across social strata. When asked to evaluate the proposal in the bill for citizens to

pay \$0.11 for every litre produced, along with pre-paid designated garbage bags, two-thirds thought the rate was acceptable, and as high as almost 80% believed that the transitional period of 12-18 months was long enough.

The survey report, *Public Opinion Survey Results on the Municipal Solid Waste Charging Bill* was launched on 20th May 2021 at a joint-NGO press conference. It made the headlines of 12+ major newspapers, reaching an audience of over 3 million people. The results garnered additional support for the legislation of MSW charging and contributed to the passing of the bill on 26th August 2021. The incoming implementation of the bill represents a milestone in Hong Kong’s waste management plan.



## C | BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

### Our objective

Policy and behavioural changes can only be achieved with strong community support. Engagement hence constitutes a key component of our outreach strategy. Through maintaining close connections and forging new partnerships across sectors in Hong Kong, we hope to enrich understandings of climate change, keep climate change at the top of their agendas, and drive impactful action underpinned by evidence-based research.

### Our output

In the past year, the Civic Exchange team hosted and participated in a variety of meetings, workshops, and events. To inspire climate action among corporates, we demonstrated the economic benefits of emissions-reducing solutions (such as improving building energy efficiency) at business conferences and chambers of commerce. We also successfully built partnership in the non-profit sector by rallying green groups to jointly submit recommendations to government consultations and by linking them to similar organisations in the Greater Bay Area.

### Our impact

Through our partnership-building efforts, we have established active communication channels with policymakers, business leaders, experts, and NGOs. By aggregating the efforts of stakeholders working towards the common goal of a sustainable and liveable Hong Kong, we have amplified our research outcomes, strengthened our thought leadership, and created a louder call for positive change.



# HIGHLIGHTS BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

2021

**COM** Informing the commercial sector

**NGO** Spearheading collective action among NGOs

**GBA** Connecting with the GBA

**28 JAN**

**GBA**

Presentation at a meeting with the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Think Tank Alliance

**29 MAR**

**NGO**

Hosted a workshop titled Alternative Fuels in the Mobility Sector on biodiesel

**15 APR**

**GBA**

Participation in the kick-off meeting of the Carbon Peak and Carbon Neutrality Green Finance Perspective Research Project on Distributed Renewable Energy Investment and Financing in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area

**16 APR**

**COM**

Presentation to the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

**20 MAY**

**NGO**

Joint organisation press conference presenting our MSW Charging Bill survey report

**2 SEP**

**NGO**

Joint-NGO submission offering suggestions for the Policy Address

**17 SEP**

**COM**

Presented our research at the 2021 Annual Conference of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Green Finance Alliance

**GBA**

Presentation on our green buildings research during the Annual Conference of the GBA-GFA

**24 SEP**

**NGO**

Held a roundtable on hill fires and climate change

**6 OCT**

**COM**

Organiser of “Rethinking Energy” programme at Rethink 2021

**OCT-NOV**

**COM**

Co-organiser of “Race to Zero” webinar series

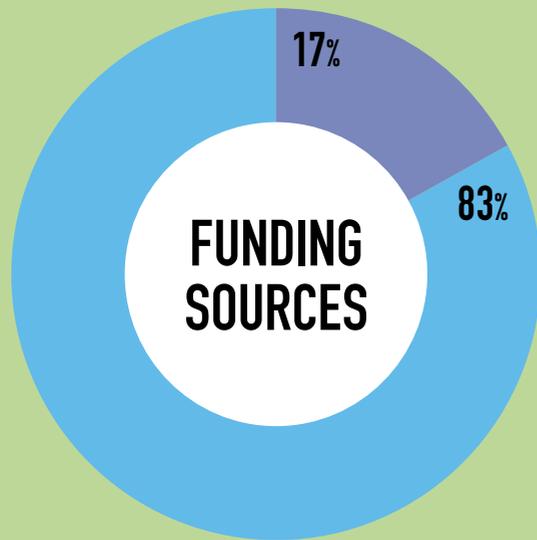
**30 NOV**

**COM**

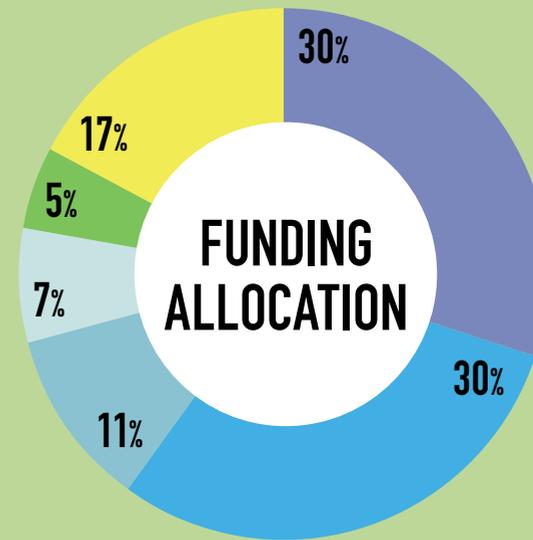
Presented our research at the 2021 Hong Kong Green Finance Association Annual Forum

# FINANCIALS

FUNDING RECEIVED: **\$3.6 MILLION**



- Government
- Private Foundations



- Hong Kong 2050 is Now Project Management
- Decarbonising Buildings
- Decarbonising Mobility
- Managing Street Performance
- Young Environment Ambassadors
- Operations

# OUR PEOPLE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Dorothy Chan**



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**Paul Zimmerman**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 Overlook Foundation  
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 Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office, HKSAR Government  
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 China Water Risk  
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 Greater Bay Area Green Finance Alliance  
 Green Earth  
 Harbour Business Forum  
 Harbour Office, HKSAR Government  
 Hong Kong Baptist University  
 Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited  
 Hong Kong Electric Investments Limited  
 Hong Kong Green Building Council  
 Hong Kong Green Finance Association  
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 Hong Kong Productivity Council  
 Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute  
 HSBC  
 Institution of Civil Engineers  
 Leisure and Cultural Services Department, HKSAR Government

## COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS (cont.)

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Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Power Assets  
 Press Start Academy  
 RS Group  
 Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
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 Wealth of Flows Consulting  
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| Louie Sieh                |                               |

## BOARD STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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Agnus Consulting

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