

Heading towards Sustainability? Indicators of Environmental Sustainability for Hong Kong

Cities need to become sustainable societies to ensure a reasonable quality of life for the inhabitants. The results of unsustainable development; uncontrolled development on land better suited for other uses, inefficient, fossil fuel based transportation, environmental degradation and poor economic performance are well documented.

One result of an unsustainable urban transportation system is air pollution. Public transport is a necessity and a major part of urban life. In Hong Kong the combination of the semi-tropical climate and topography encourage the use of powered transport. An increasing population means that urban journeys will increase and if we continue to rely on traditional transport and build more roads to accommodate a greater number of vehicles, the air quality will only continue to deteriorate.

In Hong Kong the daily pollution levels are more than just an unpleasant side effect of development and progress, they are causing increasing public concern and raising questions from the media. Hong Kong needs to acknowledge the links between the environment, the economy and social well-being. If it wants to retain its status as a key tourist destination and attract overseas investment. Continuing pollution would cause disruption to the tourism industry, an important sector which makes a significant contribution to the economy. Hong Kong needs a reputation of a clean, non-polluted environment to be able to prosper.



The recent report 'Heading towards Sustainability? Indicators of Environmental Sustainability for Hong Kong', produced by the Centre of Urban Planning and Environment Management on behalf of the Environment and Conservation Fund, indicates that Hong Kong is not following a path of sustainable development. This report defines seven initial threshold indicators for environmental sustainability of land, marine water and air within Hong Kong. The identification of these indicators means that more accurate projections can be made on the results of future development.

Foreseeable pressures such as an increasing population and the need to maintain environmental quality are addressed in the report and alternatives to the present transport system and power generation analysed. The report emphasizes the need for a complete Government rethink for environmental protection.

The conclusion of the report is not optimistic; Hong Kong, despite the present efforts, continues to follow an unsustainable path and is moving further away from sustainability. Long term affluence, lack of sustainable planning and the economic success of nearby parts of China all contribute to a rise in pollutant emissions within the Pearl River Delta.

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向可持續性邁進？香港可持續性環境指標

城市應該是可持續性的社會以確保居民有一個合理的生活質量。非持續發展、工地的失控利用、以礦物燃料為基礎的交通、環境退化以及經濟效益低下所造成的後果已經有了很好的記載。

非可持續性的城市交通系統的後果是空氣污染。公共交通是城市生活的必要和主要部分。在香港亞熱帶氣候和地貌的結合鼓勵了動力交通的使用。人口增長意味著城市旅行將增長。假如我們繼續依賴傳統交通，建造更多的道路以包容更多的車輛，那麼空氣質量只有等待更進一步惡化。



香港日常污染水平不只是發展和進步的副作用，他們也在引起公眾關注和媒體質問。香港需要意識到環境、經濟和社會福利之間的關係，以維持香港作為一個主要旅遊地和海外投資熱點的地位。持續的污染將引起對旅遊

工業嚴重干擾。而旅遊業又是香港經濟的重要部門。香港需要有一個乾淨、不污染環境以及繁榮的信譽。

最近，由城市規劃各和環境管理研究中心為環境與保護基金會所完成的“向可持續性邁進？香港可持續性環境指標”顯示香港沒有遵循一條可持續發展的道路。該報告定義7個可持續性環境臨界性指標。涉及香港的土地、海水、空氣諸因素。這些指標的確立意味著更精確的預測可以根據未來發展的結果來作出。

可預見的壓力諸如人口的增加以及維持環境質量的需要都在報告中得到了闡述。報告還分析了目前交通系統和能源產生等，強調政府需要對環境保護完全再思考。

報告的結論不是很樂觀。儘管目前的努力，香港還是沿著非持續性發展道路前進，離可持續性更遠了。長期的富足、缺少可持續性規劃、臨近中國大陸地區的經濟成功都將造成珠江三角洲地區污染性排放量的增加。