

## Hong Kong Youth Statement on Climate Actions

### CarbonCare InnoLab Youth Delegates to COP27

Chan Hiu Ching, Cheung Nga Ching, Cheung Yan Ling, Ching Tsz Yan, Lam Chin Chin, Lam Chung Yan, Leung Pui Yee,  
Yip Yuk Long

October 2022

## Opening Statement

Climate change is the defining challenge of our generation and poses a critical threat to the future of our planet. This Youth Statement outlines our vision for the road ahead in fighting climate change and the steps required to achieve it with mutual respect. Coordinated by CarbonCare InnoLab Youth Delegates to the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), this Youth Statement combines various research, discussions, and public youth dialogues to ensure that voices of local youth are being heard and represented.

Leading up to the four main themes of COP27, we have developed our main demands which are crucial in achieving our vision. Given the robust evidence that reflects the dire magnitude of the warming climate nowadays, and the immediate cross-sectoral actions that are required in the face of climate emergency, we urge the Hong Kong government to listen to local youth voices and seriously consider their demands. We call for these demands to be integrated into the city, and into national and international agendas and commitments where appropriate.

### Main Demands

1. We demand immediate sustainable urban interventions for a climate-resilient city and a healthy planet.
2. We demand to speed up the growth of renewable energy (RE) in the energy portfolio and reduce private car dependency.
3. We demand to provide a solid and clear Climate Budget Plan with a summary of expenditure estimates to support diverse climate-related projects and actions, and to regulate greenwashing issues.
4. We demand to implore internal organisational structure and capacity on climate change and enhance transparency in climate policy processes.
5. We demand inclusive and meaningful youth involvement in local climate actions and decision-making processes in key climate and environmental policies.

## 1. Adaptation

Reflecting on our demand for “immediate sustainable urban interventions to shape our climate resilient city and a healthy planet”, we call on the Government to:

- 1.1. Introduce an integrated and transparent “Climate Vulnerability Assessment” at the city level to be performed once every few years. The assessment seeks to recognise climate risk areas and the best solutions to these environmental problems regarding town planning and other actions to enhance the city’s climate resilience.
- 1.2. Review the existing guidelines and regulations in town planning such as the “Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines” (“HKPSG”) and Sustainable Buildings Design Guidelines (APP152) to rezone appropriate land use zonings at high-risk areas identified through climate vulnerability assessment at the city-level for the former, and increase climate resilience for urban developments for the latter.
- 1.3. Preserve and implement city-wide blue-green infrastructure to reduce urban heat island effects and to maximize carbon sink and flood prevention capacity. Providing necessary emergency response facilities to increase the city’s preparedness and climate resilience (such as temporary shelters). Similar to China’s Sponge City Policy, establishing an actual target for blue-green infrastructure coverage within Hong Kong’s developed area may better push the agenda.
- 1.4. Strengthen the contribution of nature-based solutions as part of climate adaptation measures, as the proposed solutions in the Climate Action Plan focus largely on infrastructure projects. This can be achieved by supporting green investment in research and development to identify practices in terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems while recognizing socio-cultural and economic contexts. Proactively implement conservation projects including coral transplantation, wetland restoration, and oyster farming.
- 1.5. Review and refine 1) the current Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance to include impacts on climate change, mitigation, and adaptation; 2) to develop a more comprehensive Ecological Impact Assessment in selecting conservation sites, and 3) review tree conservation policy to minimise the potential of removing trees during development and to adopt stricter protection policies for tree compensations. Current government policy provides priority protection to Old and Valuable Trees while trees outside the “Old and Valuable Trees and Tree Register” and trees on private land are insufficiently protected.

- 1.6. Allocate specific financial budgets for welfare, healthcare services, and community facilities for areas and people affected by extreme weather events caused by climate change, especially for the elderly and underprivileged/ grassroots communities that are most affected.
- 1.7. Measure and disclose the food-related emission of Hong Kong that is neglected in CAP2050, and commit to taking responsibility as an import-oriented heavy meat consumption city. The food sector should be held accountable for environmental harm done, and the Government should implement policies related to the sector such as banning single-use plastic by 2030.

## 2. Energy Transition

In fostering net-zero electricity generation and promoting sustainable transportation, we call on the Government to:

- 2.1. Speed up the growth of renewable energy (RE) in the energy portfolio to 20% by 2030 and elevate the proportion of solar energy to 10% at the same time.
- 2.2. Introduce stronger incentives and assistance for solar panel installation, follow up on the potential to import RE from overseas, as well as accelerate RE infrastructure construction including wind farms, solar energy generation systems, and waste-to-energy facilities.
- 2.3. Reduce private car dependency while widening the coverage of Electric Vehicle (EV) charger construction in both residential and public areas to keep up with the increasing EV usage. Alleviate rising traffic congestion on roads to maintain the efficiency of public transportation by reducing private car dependency, promoting sustainable urban mobility such as walking and biking, quickening the implementation of Electric Road Pricing policy, Car Free Zones, and enhancing the Park and Ride Schemes. Private cars occupy much more space per capita than public transport, the reduction in private cars on the road will free up large portions of roads which can then be better utilised to pursue in blue-green infrastructure projects.
- 2.4. Adopt stricter standards and provide additional incentives for commercial buildings to reduce their energy consumption. Incentivise retrofit and retro-commissioning projects for old buildings to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. Tighten requirements on retrofitting works that need to comply with the Building Energy Code, whilst introducing support mechanisms such as green financing solutions.
- 2.5. Digital infrastructure especially data centres require a large amount of energy for operation. With the Government's vision highlighted in the Smart City Blueprint 2.0, Innovation and Technology developments such as the San Tin Technopole (within the Northern Metropolis), there is a need to establish regulations and policies to ensure that device manufacturers, network and data centre operators are committed to building energy efficient digital infrastructure as well as sustainable supporting building infrastructure.

- 2.6. Set up a “Just Energy Transition” task force to ensure a just and inclusive energy transition. The task force should comprise subject matter experts in environmental and social issues, including academia, government officials, utility companies and NGOs etc., in order to develop a holistic plan to help vulnerable groups to adapt to climate change.

### 3. Climate Budgeting and Finance

Climate budget and finance are crucial in realising all local climate adaptation and mitigation work and development, we call on the Government to:

- 3.1. Disclose a solid and detailed climate budget plan of its HK\$240 billion climate budget pledge under Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 to combat climate change, including information such as timeline, the budget allocation on mitigation and adaptation measures respectively and so on, to the public in full transparency.
- 3.2. Utilise proceeds raised under the Government Green Bond Programme in supporting more projects on adaptation and nature conservation/ biodiversity. These are often overlooked when compared with mitigation. The government should also include projects that would easily be seen by the general public, such as electric vehicles, local waste collection and recycling, so as to raise public awareness.
- 3.3. Address greenwashing issues through regulations to require mandatory disclosure and verification on green financial products and its environmental performance to ensure proceeds are properly managed and allocated to green projects or activities that will bring environmental benefits to prevent greenwashing and increase product credibility.
- 3.4. Consider contributing to the Green Climate Fund (the "Fund") in order to support the efforts of developing countries in response to the challenge of climate change. Currently, Paris has contributed USD 1.34 million to the Fund, while Vietnam as a developing country has also contributed USD 1 million. By being the first Asian city contributing to the Fund, it would not only demonstrate Hong Kong's leading role in helping developing countries to realise their climate ambitions but also our willingness to engage with other countries for the benefit of our one world.
- 3.5. Provide capacity-building workshops, seminars or training to support, guide, and educate different stakeholders, including but not limited to investors, financial institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to build a strong foundation in terms of awareness, attitudes and solid capacity for supporting green and sustainable finance development as a bottom-up approach.

## 4. Governance

Government plays a vital role in the formulation and implementation of the city's climate strategies which act as the guiding framework for combating climate change. To improve the policy effectiveness, we call on the Government to:

- 4.1. Firmly adopt the whole-government approach raised in both the 2021 Policy Address and Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 on climate strategy planning and implementation. Clearly define the responsibility and authority of the coming "Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality" to empower its leading and inter-departmental coordination role in implementing and internal monitoring our climate policies. Perform regular reviews on the role and performance of existing work groups and committees, and improve policy effectiveness through integration and restructuring.
- 4.2. Foster public engagement and monitoring, and enhance transparency in climate policy processes by setting up a centralised public information platform that communicates all climate change and carbon neutrality policies, task forces, action plans, and evaluation outputs to the public.
- 4.3. Increase institutional capacity on climate literacy by providing regular issue-based training on climate change, adaptation, mitigation, green finance, and energy, to Administrative Officers. This is to ensure that Civil Servants of all levels develop the necessary knowledge and abilities to integrate overarching goals in climate action in parallel to their respective sectoral objectives and strategies.
- 4.4. Pilot and add "Low Carbon" as one of the specifications of the current green procurement policy, and make the green specifications mandatory and highly-rated among all Green Procurement Items, with a long-term objective to promote green procurement practices.



## 5. Youth Engagement and Inclusion

Despite their vital role in advocating for a sustainable and resilient city, youths are at the forefront of the climate crisis and are disproportionately impacted by intensifying climate change. In light of that, we call on the Government to:

- 5.1. Emphasise and include local youth voices in climate-focused steering committees, and ensure more opportunities for local youth representatives to get involved in all levels of decision-making in order to promote greater inclusivity, participation, and collaboration in the implementation and evaluation of local environmental and climate-related policies.
- 5.2. Formulate a more robust, comprehensive, and sustainable climate change education system to educate, engage, and empower youths to lead local climate actions. We also urge the Government to promote outdoor education and experiential learning pertinent to climate change via “Life-wide Learning (LWL)” and “Other Learning Experiences (OLE)” to raise local youths’ awareness of climate change and foster their sense of responsibility and ownership to protect the planet.
- 5.3. Establish a government-funded scheme specifically designed to provide financial assistance and regular capacity-building for teachers to promote climate change education more effectively, particularly in local primary and secondary schools. Meanwhile, appoint at least one certified professional or a teacher with extensive knowledge of climate change education to maintain effective oversight and coordination of experiential learning activities, and ensure that clear key performance indicators are set in place for establishing a more systematic climate change education system.
- 5.4. Review and update the current climate change education curriculum design in primary and secondary schools on a regular basis. Set mandatory minimum learning hours on climate change as a means of equipping students with up-to-date knowledge and techniques, to explore, investigate, and tackle emergent environmental issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, while empowering the young generations to demonstrate leadership and spearhead climate actions in and out of schools.

## Reference List

City and Adaptation	<p><b>Guide for Urban Planning and Climate Change:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Royal Town Planning Institute's "Rising to the Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change"  <a href="https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3568/rising-to-the-climate-crisis-1.pdf">https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3568/rising-to-the-climate-crisis-1.pdf</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Youth-led advocacy campaigns on cities and adaptation:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Community Climate Resilience Concern Group" : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Proposal Letter (already submitted to Sham Shui Po District Council and relevant Government Departments such as Home Affairs Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and Hong Kong Observatory).  <a href="https://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/ssp/doc/2020_2023/tc/committee_meetings_doc/DFCAC/22001/SSP_DFCAC_2022_20_annex1_tc.pdf">https://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/ssp/doc/2020_2023/tc/committee_meetings_doc/DFCAC/22001/SSP_DFCAC_2022_20_annex1_tc.pdf</a>  Attachment to the proposal letter: <a href="https://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/ssp/doc/2020_2023/tc/committee_meetings_doc/DFCAC/22001/SSP_DFCAC_2022_20_annex3_tc.pdf">https://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/ssp/doc/2020_2023/tc/committee_meetings_doc/DFCAC/22001/SSP_DFCAC_2022_20_annex3_tc.pdf</a></li> <li>b. Government Departments' Written Response to submitted letter. (20a/22- 20c/22)  <a href="https://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/ssp/tc_chi/meetings/committees/dc_committee_meetings_doc.php?year=2022&amp;meeting_id=22001&amp;committee=530">https://www.districtcouncils.gov.hk/ssp/tc_chi/meetings/committees/dc_committee_meetings_doc.php?year=2022&amp;meeting_id=22001&amp;committee=530</a></li> <li>c. PowerPoint Presentation Report  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NpKHw6omjDVUs2K5EYiYO6KUg139XikC/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NpKHw6omjDVUs2K5EYiYO6KUg139XikC/view?usp=sharing</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. "Empower" - Powerpoint Presentation Report  <a href="https://www.canva.com/design/DAFN_x8zPv0/b9pXhO99fCXK2IAXBXNVKw/view?utm_content=DAFN_x8zPv0&amp;utm_campaign=designshare&amp;utm_medium=link&amp;utm_source=publicsharelink">https://www.canva.com/design/DAFN_x8zPv0/b9pXhO99fCXK2IAXBXNVKw/view?utm_content=DAFN_x8zPv0&amp;utm_campaign=designshare&amp;utm_medium=link&amp;utm_source=publicsharelink</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Energy Use by Information and Communications Technologies: Study Link</b></p>
---------------------	--

	<a href="https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/b1e6600c-4e40-4d9c-809d-1d1724c763d5/DigitalizationandEnergy3.pdf">https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/b1e6600c-4e40-4d9c-809d-1d1724c763d5/DigitalizationandEnergy3.pdf</a>
Vulnerability Assessment	<p>Conducting a vulnerability assessment can be referred to the following guidance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. C40 cities City Inventory Reporting <a href="https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/City-Inventory-Reporting-and-Information-System-CIRIS?language=en_US">https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/City-Inventory-Reporting-and-Information-System-CIRIS?language=en_US</a></li> <li>2. Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) <a href="https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/guide-navigation?language=en_US&amp;guideRecordId=a3t1Q00000071EWQAY&amp;guideArticleRecordId=a3s1Q000001iahxQAA">https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/guide-navigation?language=en_US&amp;guideRecordId=a3t1Q00000071EWQAY&amp;guideArticleRecordId=a3s1Q000001iahxQAA</a></li> </ol> <p>Examples of different cities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wuhan' s Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Programme <a href="https://www.c40.org/case-studies/wuhan-s-climate-change-vulnerability-assessment-programme/">https://www.c40.org/case-studies/wuhan-s-climate-change-vulnerability-assessment-programme/</a></li> <li>2. New York City Panel on Climate Change: Community-Based Assessment of Adaptation and Equity <a href="https://nyaspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nyas.14009">https://nyaspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nyas.14009</a></li> <li>3. Mumbai Climate and Air Pollution Risks and Vulnerability Assessment <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fItAQZ3qPsNEFe4bsq24orbWqRHPp6d3/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fItAQZ3qPsNEFe4bsq24orbWqRHPp6d3/view</a></li> </ol> <p>Cross-sectional and integrated vulnerability assessments are needed. Currently, only separate assessments are being conducted, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD): Study of Coastal Hazards under Climate Change and Extreme Weather and Formulation of Improvement Measures - Feasibility Study <a href="https://www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/our-projects/project-reports/index-id-24.html">https://www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/our-projects/project-reports/index-id-24.html</a></li> <li>2. HKMA: Pilot Banking Sector Climate Risk Stress Test <a href="https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-functions/banking-stability/Pilot_banking_sector_climate_risk_stress_test.pdf">https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-functions/banking-stability/Pilot_banking_sector_climate_risk_stress_test.pdf</a></li> <li>3. Hong Kong Observatory' s record on extreme weather and projections of climate <a href="https://www.hko.gov.hk/en/climate_change/future_climate.htm">https://www.hko.gov.hk/en/climate_change/future_climate.htm</a></li> </ol>
Energy transition	Solar energy reference:

n	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="http://aesc.hkbu.edu.hk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/draft_chinese_1215_FINAL.pdf">http://aesc.hkbu.edu.hk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/draft_chinese_1215_FINAL.pdf</a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://www.pico.gov.hk/doc/en/research_report(PDF)/2013_A6_010_13A_Final_Report_Dr_Lu.pdf">https://www.pico.gov.hk/doc/en/research_report(PDF)/2013_A6_010_13A_Final_Report_Dr_Lu.pdf</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guidelines for the Development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) in ASEAN Metropolitan Regions <a href="https://asean.org/book/guidelines-for-the-development-of-sustainable-urban-mobility-plans-sump-in-asean-metropolitan-regions/">https://asean.org/book/guidelines-for-the-development-of-sustainable-urban-mobility-plans-sump-in-asean-metropolitan-regions/</a></li> <li>2. How to shift from private vehicles to public transport, walking and cycling <a href="https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/How-to-drive-a-modal-shift-from-private-vehicle-use-to-public-transport-walking-and-cycling?language=en_US">https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/How-to-drive-a-modal-shift-from-private-vehicle-use-to-public-transport-walking-and-cycling?language=en_US</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Electric Vehicle:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.tesla.com/en_hk/model3/design#overview">https://www.tesla.com/en_hk/model3/design#overview</a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/24/P2021022400249.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/24/P2021022400249.htm</a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/24/P2021022400249.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202102/24/P2021022400249.htm</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Green Buildings:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beam Plus New Buildings Version 2.0 (05.2021) <a href="https://www.hkgbc.org.hk/eng/beam-plus/beam-plus-references/manuals-assessment/ManualsFiles/BEAMPlus_New_Buildings_v2_0_(2021Edition).pdf">https://www.hkgbc.org.hk/eng/beam-plus/beam-plus-references/manuals-assessment/ManualsFiles/BEAMPlus_New_Buildings_v2_0_(2021Edition).pdf</a></li> </ol>
Climate Budgeting and Finance	<p><b>Green Climate Fund contributors:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/resource-mobilisation/irm">https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/resource-mobilisation/irm</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Green Bond report:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.hkgeb.gov.hk/en/others/documents/Green_Bond_Report_2022.pdf">https://www.hkgeb.gov.hk/en/others/documents/Green_Bond_Report_2022.pdf</a></li> </ol>
Governance	Youth-led advocacy campaign on Green Procurement:

	<p>1. Hong Kong Green Procurement Policy Recommendation Report <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1208CRki4Pe7Ano3ctIOATpFrHgQqNr0X/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1208CRki4Pe7Ano3ctIOATpFrHgQqNr0X/view?usp=sharing</a></p>
Youth Engagement	<p><b>Environmental education:</b></p> <p>1. Adcoating for mainstreaming and strengthening environmental education in Hong Kong School Curriculum <a href="https://www.owlhk.org/en/ee-development-and-advocacy/policy-advocacy/0130002/Joint+Statement+-+Mainstream+and+Strengthen+Environmental+Education+in+Hong+Kong+School+Curriculum">https://www.owlhk.org/en/ee-development-and-advocacy/policy-advocacy/0130002/Joint+Statement+-+Mainstream+and+Strengthen+Environmental+Education+in+Hong+Kong+School+Curriculum</a></p> <p><b>Climate Education:</b></p> <p>1. <i>Report on Climate Change Education in Hong Kong: Gaps in the Education System and Key Recommendations</i>, Climate Sense <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qCCmwDBY-cBSuhE0OdKnfEMWkGHfETTj/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qCCmwDBY-cBSuhE0OdKnfEMWkGHfETTj/view?usp=sharing</a></p>