

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTION

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- Prospects for overcoming
- Concluding remarks



BACKGROUND

SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

- ◎ Council for Sustainable Development (CSD), under the Environment Bureau
- ◎ Established in 2003 with Terms of Reference:
 - ◎ advising the Government on the priority areas it should address in promoting sustainable development;
 - ◎ advising on the preparation of **a sustainable development strategy** for Hong Kong that will integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives;
 - ◎ facilitating community participation in the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong through various means, including the award of grants from the Sustainable Development Fund; and
 - ◎ promoting public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development.

NO INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BY CSD

Public Engagements conducted by the Council

Promotion of Sustainable Consumption

- [Public Engagement Document](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Council Report](#) (PDF, 3.5MB)
- [Report of Independent Analysis](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Government's Response](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)

Municipal Solid Waste Charging (2013)

- [Invitation for Response Document](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Council Report](#) (PDF, 1.7MB)
- [Report of Independent Analysis](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Government's Response](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)

Combating Climate Change: Energy Saving in Buildings (2011)

- [Invitation for Response Document](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Council Report](#) (PDF, 0.3MB)
- [Report of Independent Analysis](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Government's Response](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)

Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment (2009)

- [Invitation for Response Document](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Council Report](#) (PDF, 0.2MB)
- [Report of Independent Analysis](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Government's Response](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)

Clean Air - Clear Choices (2007)

- [Invitation for Response Document](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Council Report](#) (PDF, 0.2MB)
- [Report of Independent Analysis](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)

Enhancing Population Potential for a Sustainable Future (2006)

- [Invitation for Response Document](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Council Report](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Report of Independent Analysis](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)

Making Choices for Our Future (2004)

- [Invitation for Response Document](#) (PDF, 0.1MB)
- [Council Report](#) (PDF, 3.5MB)

- ③ Sustainable consumption of biological resources (2016)
- ③ Municipal solid waste charging (2013)
- ③ Combating climate change: energy saving & carbon emission reduction in buildings (2011) **SDG13**
- ③ Building design to foster a quality and sustainable built environment (2009)
- ③ Clean air—clear choices (2007)
- ③ Enhancing population potential for a sustainable future (2006)
- ③ Making choices for our future (2004)



SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

☉ Goal 4: Inclusive & equitable quality education & lifelong learning?

Education	Length	Type			
Kindergarten	3	Voluntary	Net primary enrolment rate (%)	98.15 (2016)	UNESCO (2018b)
Primary school	6	Compulsory	Mean year of schooling (years)	12.0 (2015)	UNESCO (2018b)
Junior secondary school	3	Compulsory	Literacy rate of 15-24 years olds, both sexes (%)	99.9 (2016)	Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR (2018e)
Senior secondary school	3	Selective	Population age 25-64 with tertiary education (%)	34.9	Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR (2018a)
Tertiary education		Selective	PISA score (0-600)	523 (Science) 527 (Reading) 548 (Mathematics)	OECD (2018a)
			Percentage of variation in science performance explained by students' socio-economic status (%)	4.9	OECD (2018a)
			Students performing below level 2 in science (%)	9.4	OECD (2018a)
			Resilient students (%)	61.8	OECD (2018a)

SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

◎ **Goal 8:** Decent work for all & inclusive and sustainable economic growth?

Adjusted Growth (%)	3.791 (GDP growth rate)	World Bank (2018a)
Slavery score (0-100)	24.7 (2018)	Walk Free Foundation (2018)
Adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (%)	95% of adults had bank accounts in 2017	Demirguc-Kunt et al. (2018)
Unemployment rate (% total labour force)	3.173% (2017)	ILO (2018c)
Employment-to-Population ratio (%)	58.5 (2017)	ILO (2018a)
Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (%)	6.1 (2016)	ILO (2018a)

SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

- ◎ **Goal 8: Decent work for all & inclusive and sustainable economic growth?**



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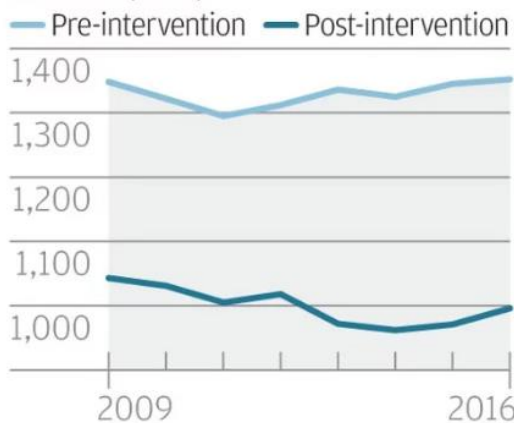
<http://dailyhotels2.cafe24.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2.jpg>

SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities?

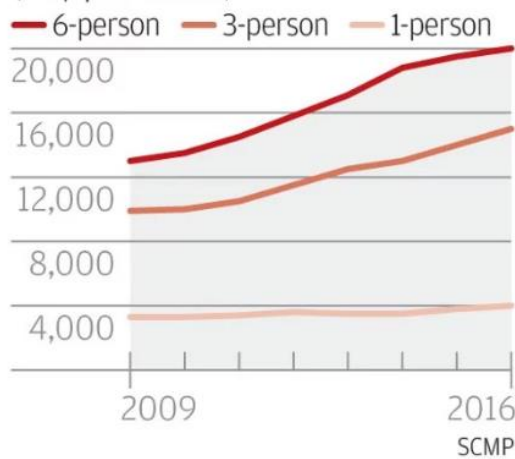
Poverty situation

Poor population after recurrent cash benefits ('000)



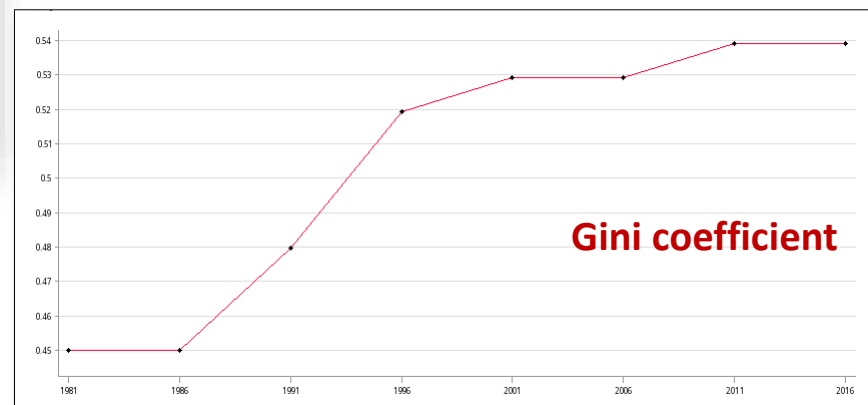
Source: Hong Kong government

Poverty lines by household size (HK\$ per month)



- **Population:** 7.3 million
- **1-person HHs:** 459,015
- **3-person HHs:** 611,489
- **6-person HHs:** 81,980

Gini Coefficient adjusted for top income (1-100)	0.539 (2016)	Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR (2017a)
Elderly Poverty Rate (%)	31.6 (2016)	Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR (2017c)



SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

◎ Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions?

Homicides (per 100,000 population)	0.9 (2014)	UNDP (2016)
Prison population (per 100,000 population)	114 (2015)	UNDP (2016)
Proportion of the population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live (%)	(Subscription may be needed for data access)	Gallup (2018)
Government Efficiency (1-7)	5.525 (2017-2018)	Schwab & Sala-i-Martin (2017)
Property Rights (1-7)	6.05 (2017-2018)	Schwab & Sala-i-Martin (2017)
Birth registrations with civil authority, children under 5 years of age (%)	/ (No data)	UNICEF (2018)
Corruption Perception Index (0-100)	77 (2017)	Transparency International (2017)
Children 5–14 years old involved in child labour (%)	/ (No data)	UNICEF (2018a)
Transfers of major conventional weapons (exports) (constant 1990 US\$ million per 100,000 population)	/ (No data)	Stockholm Peace Research Institute (2018)

SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

- ◎ **Goal 8:** Decent work for all & inclusive and sustainable economic growth?
- ◎ **Goal 10:** Reduced inequalities?
- ◎ **Goal 16:** Peace, justice and strong institutions?

In 2015:

- The wealthiest 18 people in HK collectively own HK\$1,393 billion, more than government reserves
- The poorest people need to work 2.4 years to earn as much as what the wealthiest earn in a month
- 460,000+ Households (18.7%) or 1.16 million people were living in poverty
- >620,000 people living in working poor families

(source: Oxfam, 2015)

SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

◎ Goal 17: Partnership for Sustainable Development

Government Health and Education spending (% GDP)	Education: 3.316 (2017) Health: 6.0 (2014/15)	UNESCO (2018a); Food and Health Bureau, HKSAR (2018)
For high-income and all OECD DAC countries: International concessional public finance, including official development assistance (% GNI)	/ (No data)	OECD (2018)
For all other countries: Tax revenue (% GDP)	12.5 (2014)	UNDP (2016)
Tax Haven Score (best 0-5 worst)	(HK ranked #9 in Oxfam's top 15 corporate tax havens)	Oxfam (2016)
Financial Secrecy Score (best 0-100 worst)	71.05 (2018)	Tax Justice Network (2018)

SDGs NOT EXPLICITLY ADOPTED IN HONG KONG

◎ Goal 17: Partnership for Sustainable Development



- Launched in 2015 to help move sustainability from concept to practice
- An initiative of the Caring Company Scheme, established by **Hong Kong Council of Social Service** (an NGO) in 2002 to cultivate strategic partnerships between business & NGOs
- >2,900 Caring Companies & Organisations

CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES

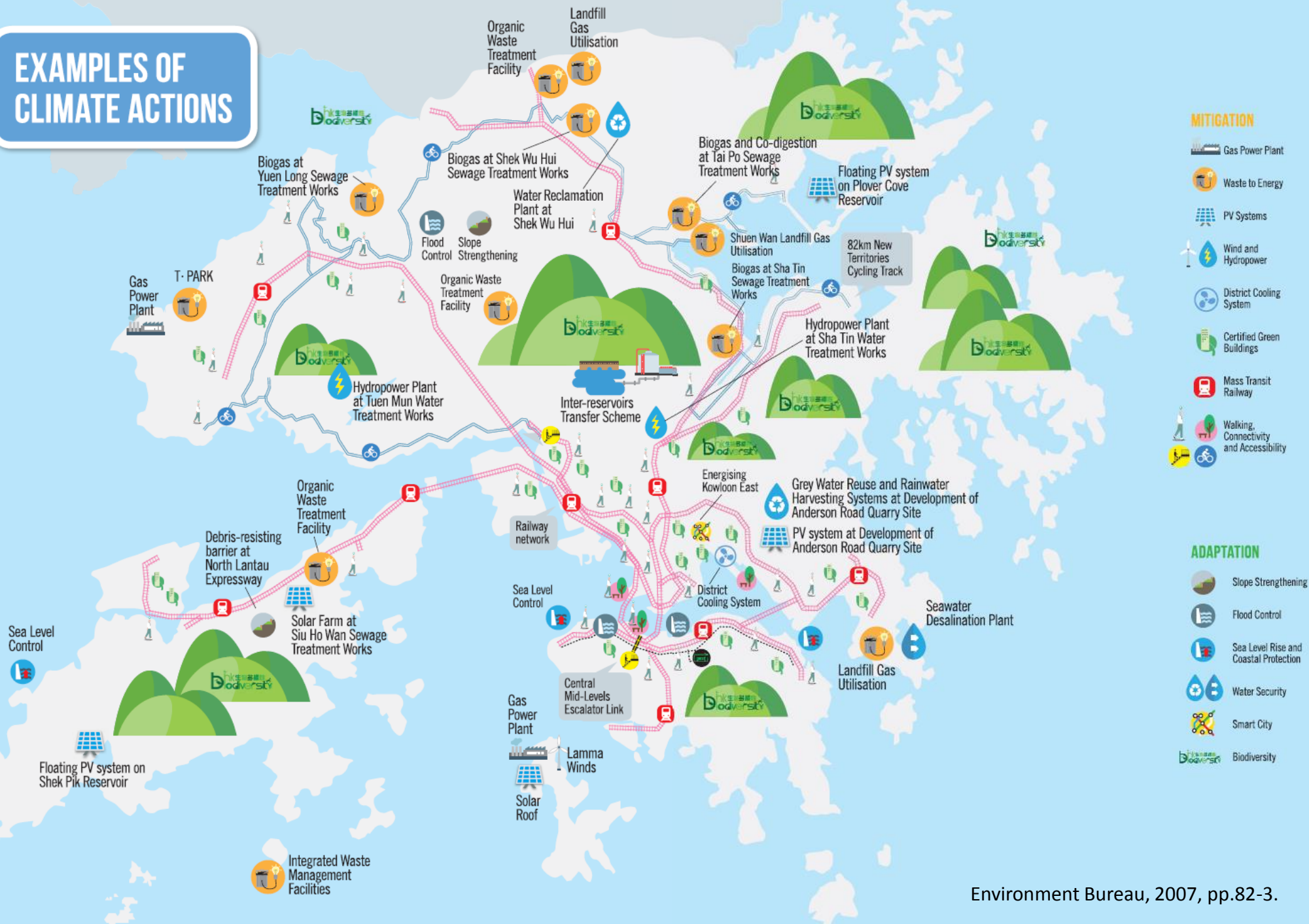
⊙ Government

- ⊙ SDGs are not on the policy agenda
- ⊙ An environmentally biased understanding of sustainable development—yet the Climate Action Plan 2030+ sets only modest targets
- ⊙ Fragmented and compartmentalized approach to resolving issues related to SDGs

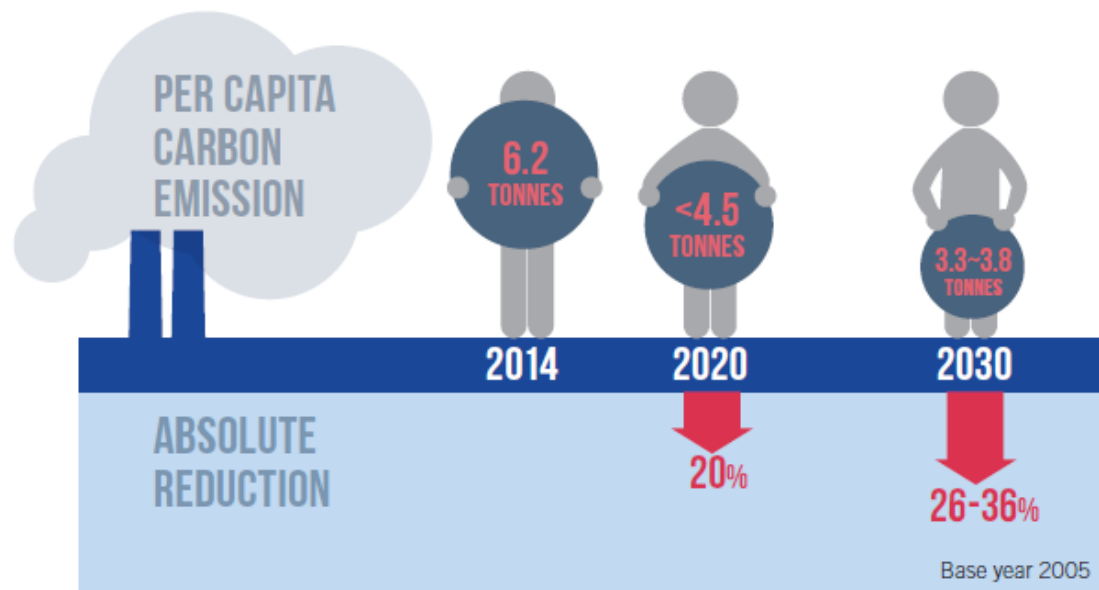
⊙ Private sector & Civil society

- ⊙ Limited understanding of SDGs →
- ⊙ Limited number of companies committed to fulfilling SDGs: 2,900+ / 1,300,000 +
- ⊙ A built environment that is increasingly exclusive →

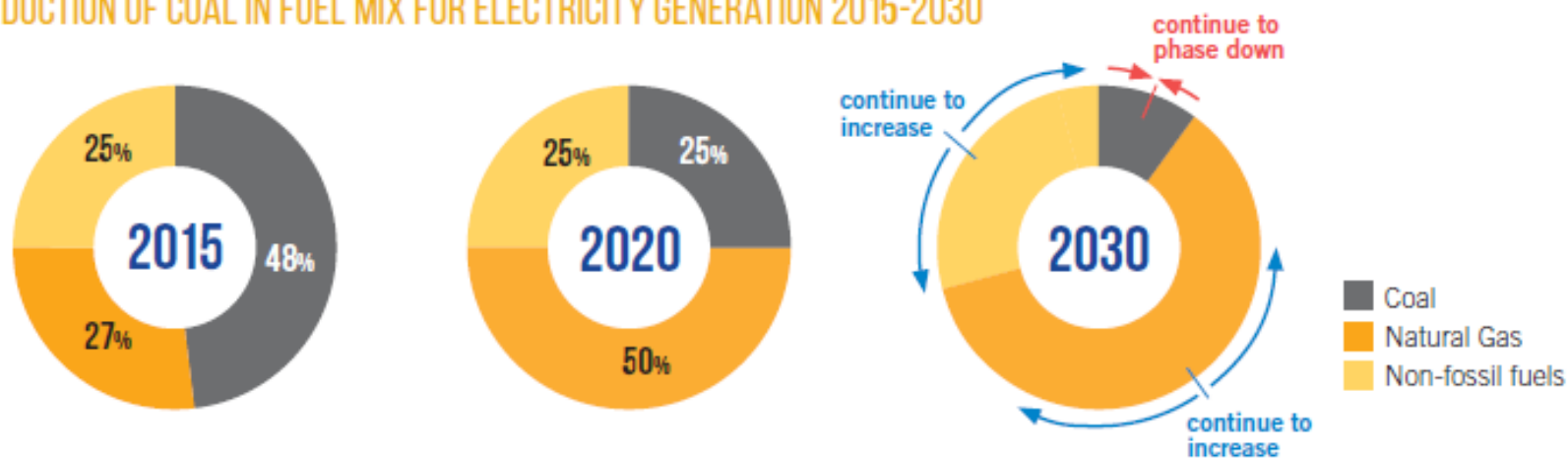
EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE ACTIONS



HONG KONG'S EXPECTED ABSOLUTE CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION AND PER CAPITA CARBON EMISSIONS LEVEL IN 2020 AND 2030

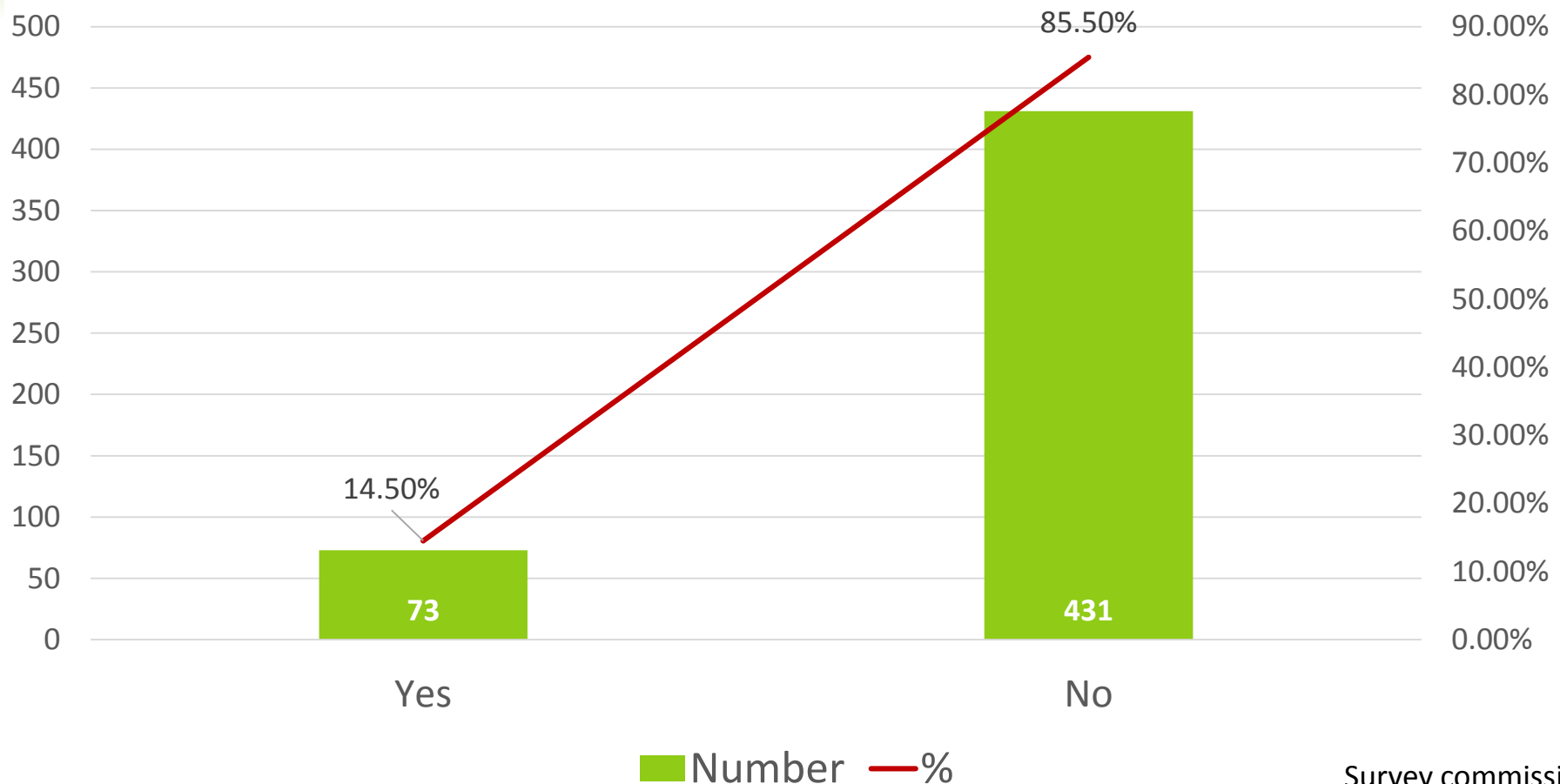


REDUCTION OF COAL IN FUEL MIX FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION 2015-2030



SURVEY Results of 504 individuals, aged FROM 15 to 30 Years Old

Have you heard about SDGs in UN's 2030 SD Agenda?



SURVEY Results of 504 individuals, aged FROM 15 to 30 Years Old

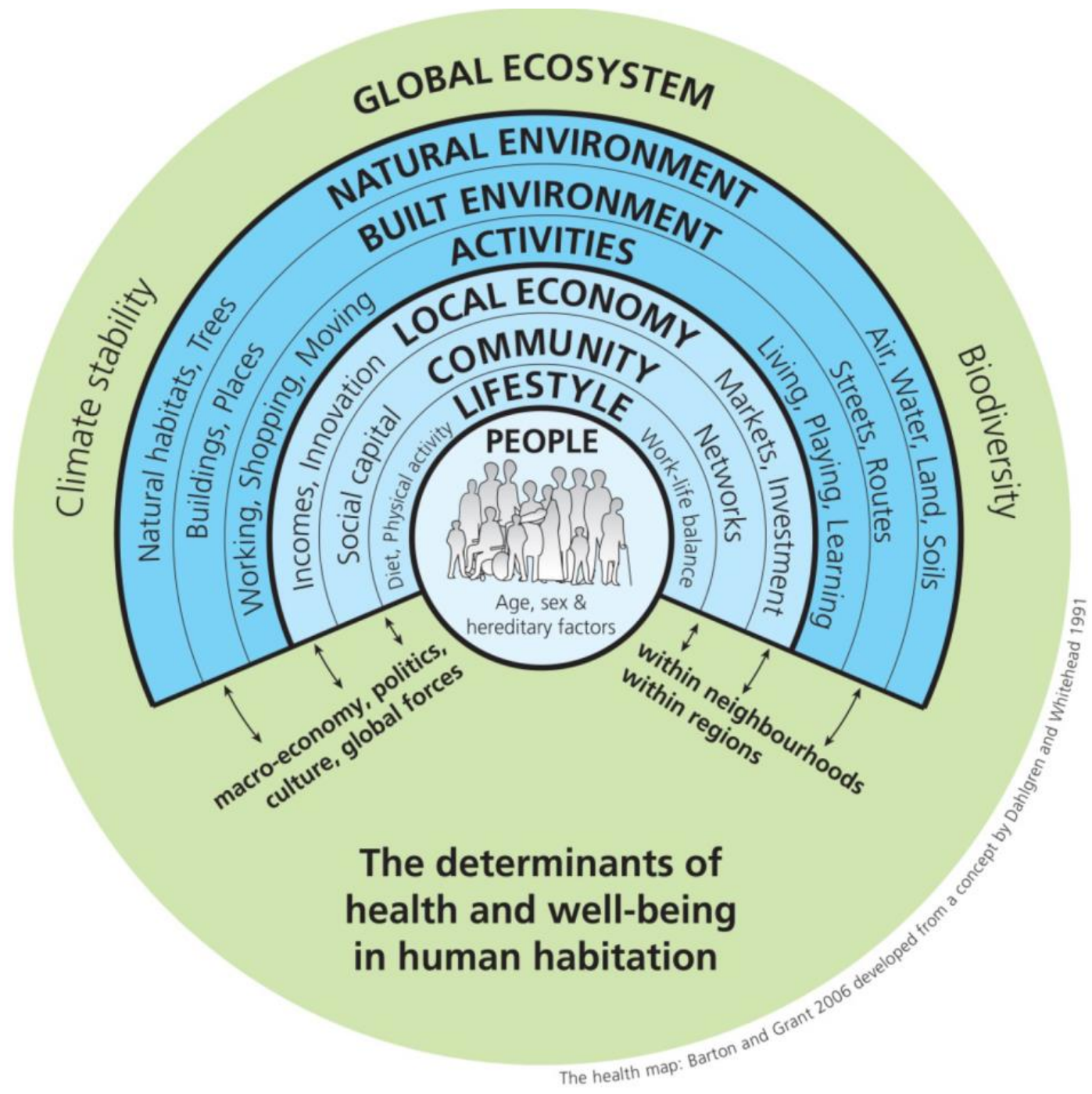
Priority of SDGs, according to average score
(1-not important to 10-very important)

- ◎ **Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (8.81)
- ◎ **Goals 6&7:** Clean water and sustainable energy (8.71)
- ◎ **Goals 1&2:** Zero poverty and hunger (8.44)
- ◎ **Goal 3:** Good health and well-being (8.40)
- ◎ **Goal 16:** Peace, justice & strong institutions (8.11)
- ◎ **Goal 10:** Reduced inequality (7.96)
- ◎ **Goal 4:** Quality education (7.95)
- ◎ **Goal 17:** Partnership for the goals (7.81)
- ◎ **Goals 9&11:** Industry, innovation and infrastructure and planning (7.54)



PROSPECTS FOR OVERCOMING

- ◎ Government
 - ◎ SDGs as **overarching principles and benchmarking pointers** for the city's planning and development initiatives
 - ◎ Providing spaces for people to use, for human flourishing
- ◎ Hong Kong Council of Social Service (+ other NGOs) + Private Sector and academic institutions
 - ◎ Systematic **research** work on the state of achieving each SDG & develop evaluation criteria to inform public policy debate
 - ◎ Set up a **platform** to foster inter-sectoral consensus on achieving various SDGs: help identify who should do what in achieving the SDGs
 - ◎ Systematically **lobby the government** to take SDGs seriously in its various policy areas
 - ◎ Advocating spaces for **local economic development and community building at the neighbourhood level**



CONCLUDING REMARKS

CONCLUDING REMARK

- ◎ The importance of **bottom-up initiatives** & active **lobbying of government** commitment to SDGs → especially in overcoming inequities and fostering cross-sectoral partnerships
- ◎ More than SDGs: **SDGs as an integrated evaluation framework in every policy, planning, project & programme**
- ◎ More urban spaces **for local economic and community development**

