

My Vision for a Greener Hong Kong

by Alexander Paget (5E)

Sir David Attenborough once said, "If working apart we are a force powerful enough to destabilize our planet, surely working together we are powerful enough to save it." I firmly believe that if we work together, we can create a greener Hong Kong. This is my vision for the future of our beautiful city.

As we all know, Hong Kong isn't the greenest place on earth. On ground level, yes, there are a few initiatives to recycle and be more sustainable. But our city is constantly developing and new buildings are springing up like mushrooms. I think sustainable architecture in Hong Kong is still a far cry from cities like Singapore. So, what can be done?

The first and easiest way is for buildings to develop roof gardens. It's a simple solution and it helps by improving the air quality and lowering the temperature. The city can also start using more sustainable building materials like laminated timber. It's almost stronger and definitely more sustainable than concrete. We should also start considering vertical and linear cities to avoid urban sprawl, and integrate more space for parks and cultivation.

Now you might tell me that Hong Kong is already trying, and there are *indeed* some sustainable designs in the city. Outside of K11 Musea, there is a line of uniquely designed benches that use the natural cooling effects of plants. The Zero Carbon Park in Kowloon is a testing ground for eco-building. It runs off of solar panels and biofuel, and produces zero carbon emissions. Aluminum is also used extensively in buildings and is very recyclable. A perfect example of this can be seen at Tai Kwun in Central where the cast aluminum cladding is actually made from recycled aluminum alloy wheels!

Hong Kong really **can** become one of the most sustainable cities in the world. We have great minds and endless resources that are powerful enough to work together towards a more sustainable future. By changing the city layout, building with more sustainable materials and taking inspiration from other works of eco-building and biophilic designs, my vision for a greener and more sustainable Hong Kong **can** become a reality.