

## **Environmental Excellence at CUHK**

### An ecology of lushness and harmony

- CUHK campus is home to 133 species of birds, 11 species of dragonflies, and 48 types of butterflies;
- Green cover amounts to over 70% of the total campus area;
- Large trees and valuable species are recorded on the campus habitat map;
- A tree preservation policy is enacted to prohibit random felling and spraying concrete for slope reinforcement;
- An artificial lake was built and equipped with pumping facilities to supply up to 700,000 litres of water per day to the University;
- Five Chinese medicinal herb gardens were established on campus to collect, cultivate and display more than 500 species of medicinal herbs, the largest variety in Southeast Asia;
- Food and vegetable wastes are used to produce fertilizers for landscaping and organic farming;
- Construction wastes are recycled to produce eco-glass blocks for campus construction projects.

### Energy conservation

- The Energy Saving Task Force was set up in 1999 to oversee the University's energy conservation efforts;
- All central air-conditioning systems are set at 25.5°C;
- Two water towers on the hilltops save pumping power for more than 140 buildings;
- Electricity consumption was reduced by more than 11% in less than six years' time by retrofitting lighting, air-conditioning and electrical equipment;
- Strategic renewable energy applications to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions:
  - Solar panels for water heating, lighting and water pumping have been installed since 2004. Some of these are installed with hybrid integration of wind power;
  - Energy collected by the 2,000 or so solar panels installed equals to 4.2% of the campus' peak consumption;
  - Renewable energy supply common for student hostels, sport halls, bus station canopies and outdoor lighting;
  - Hydraulic energy has been used since 2006 to facilitate irrigation and water circulation;
  - Plans are developed to augment the use of renewable energy by installing more wind turbines/solar panels.

### Carbon consciousness

- Awareness of carbon reduction is promoted through the appointment of 102 energy coordinators, and the Energy Saving Incentive Scheme which monitors carbon and GHG emissions;
- A 'Zero Carbon' refuse depot fully operated by solar power and natural water resource was built;
- The Community Afforestation Scheme was launched in 2008 to plant over 10,000 trees on Grassy Hill, Tai Po, extending our carbon offsetting effort to the community.

### Goals for sustainable development of environmental protection

- Facing the imminent challenge of global warming, the University Steering Committee on Campus Master Plan will set up goals for sustainable development with reference to indicators from advanced countries;
- The University will call on all stakeholders to abandon habitual abuse of Earth's resources and explore measures for enhancing our campus ecology, such as:
  - increasing pedestrian and cycling facilities;
  - reorganizing class schedules to reduce transportation needs;
  - setting reduction targets in saving energy and GHG emissions by 2025;
  - increasing renewable energy from the current 4.2% capacity to another new milestone .