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Solicitors & Notaries

**URBAN PLANNING AND
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
QUARTERLY**
(Published since May 1992)

簡家驄律師行 · 城規環保季刊

Wetlands are a vital component of Hong Kong's biodiversity and broader environment. In this edition, we provide an overview of the status and importance of our limited wetlands.

The Editors

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THE PRECARIOUS FUTURE OF HONG KONG'S WETLANDS

Wetlands

According to the Ramsar Convention 1991 (*Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat*) wetlands are areas "of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters."

In Hong Kong's *Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2035* (BSAP) wetlands are described as areas "where water is the primary factor controlling the ecosystem. They occur in areas where the water meets the land. In general, wetlands cover a wide variety of natural habitat types, including rivers and streams, freshwater or brackish marshes, intertidal areas at estuaries, and mangroves. In addition, there are human-made wetlands, such as fish and shrimp ponds, irrigated agricultural land, farm ponds, reservoirs and drainage canals".

There are approximately 1.2 billion hectares of wetlands globally today. However, approximately 35% of the world's wetlands have been destroyed by human activity since 1970. The *Institute for Environmental Research and Education* notes that wetlands are a "vital component of Earth's ecosystems." The Institute adds that wetlands are:

- the most biologically diverse ecosystem on Earth. They provide habitat for a vast array of plant and animal species, including many threatened and endangered species. They also serve as important breeding and feeding grounds for migratory birds, fish and other species;
- highly effective at storing carbon (by locking up greenhouse gases in plants and soil); and
- a natural protective barrier, preventing or reducing coastal erosion from storm surges.

There are two kinds of wetlands:

- "blue wetland", which is a marine water wetland; and
- "teal wetland", which is a freshwater wetland.

Hong Kong has both kinds.

Hong Kong's wetlands

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) considers that Hong Kong has approximately 6640 ha of inland wetlands, mainly in northwestern New Territories. These represent roughly 4.6% of Hong Kong's land area. These comprise:

- reservoirs – 2480ha
- aquaculture ponds – 1590ha
- marsh – 1100 ha

September 2026

- drainage channels – 720ha
- rivers and streams – 460ha
- wet aquacultural land – 290ha
- natural wetlands – 720ha.

Natural wetlands have a significantly higher ecological value than artificially created or impacted wetlands. Most of Hong Kong's natural wetlands have been converted to shallow shrimp ponds (*gei wai*) or for oyster and fish farming. Most of the natural wetlands are located near Deep Bay.

There are several designated wetlands reserves, such as:

H. K. Wetland Park

This is a 60ha area opened to the public in 2006. It lies next to the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. The BSAP 2035 notes that the reserve “preserves and restores a variety of habitats for water birds and wildlife.”

Long Valley Nature Park

This 37ha reserve, opened in November 2024, is close to the Sheung Yue River. The AFCDD says the reserve is a new facility “integrating wetland conservation, farming operation and nature education”. It is a freshwater wetland “composed of a mosaic of wet and dry farmland, marshes, water ponds, and water channels” and is home “for diverse wildlife”.

Mai Po Natural Reserve

The Mai Po Marshes, as the Reserve is commonly known, is the most important wetland in Hong Kong. Mai Po and its buffer zone and neighbouring Deep Bay wetland areas (Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Wetlands) are predominantly a natural wetland and so are of significantly more importance ecologically than human-made or influenced wetlands – such as fish and shrimp ponds.

Since 1995, Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay wetlands (approximately 1500 ha total) are a designated wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention: Mai Po Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site). Part of Mai Po marshes is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Mai Po Reserve itself is an area of 380ha (approximately). The Ramsar Site lies on the southern bank of the Pearl River estuary.

Since 1983, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has managed the Ramsar Site in conjunction with the AFCDD. WWF also manages a separate 45ha mudflat section of the Inner Deep Wetlands.

Every five years WWF prepares a comprehensive conservation strategy and management plan for the Ramsar Site, which is implemented by WWF and the AFCDD. A specialist group of experts, the Mai Po Management Committee, has input into the formulation and implementation of the management plan. The current plan covers the period 2024-2026.

As is well known, the Ramsar Site is an important staging (rest) area for many species of migratory waterbirds which migrate along the 13,000km East Asian – Australian Flyway, such as the Black-faced Spoonbills and Saunders's Gull. The Site supports approximately 46,000-66,000 waterbirds in winter and has recorded approximately 50 globally threatened species.

The area is also a vital refuge for a wide variety of animals and insects, especially wetland and mangrove species. For example, leopard cats, Hong Kong's only wild felid, live within the Ramsar Site.

Mai Po Nature Reserve has five main kinds of habitat: *gei wai* (disused shrimp ponds); freshwater ponds; inter-tidal mudflats; mangroves and reedbeds. The WWF notes that the Reserve and surrounding Deep Bay wetlands are “a haven for tens of thousands of migratory waterbirds each year” and set a “prime example of conservation success for regional wetlands.”

The BSAP 2035 summarises (with a degree of reverence) a description of the ecological importance of the Ramsar Site as follows:

The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in Hong Kong is centrally located on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), the busiest migratory bird route in the world. Every year, it attracts about 60,000 waterbirds of more than 70 species to winter here, with many species of conservation importance, including Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders's Gull and Nordmann's Greenshank.

Wetlands and the Northern Metropolis

Hong Kong's monster urban and infrastructure development in the New Territories, adjoining Shenzhen, the 30,000ha Northern Metropolis, represents both a singular threat to the survival of the area's wetlands and an opportunity to “create” new wetlands (although these will rarely be of an ecological value equivalent to displaced natural wetlands).

Since construction of components of the Northern Metropolis began, several years ago, satellite imagery has revealed that already 79ha (approximately) of wetlands have been destroyed, according to the *Conservancy Association* and *Greenpeace*. An additional 587ha of wetlands are “at risk under current plans”.

The government has publicly stated that “in the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy, the government has committed to incorporating most of the fishponds in the Wetlands Conservation Area into three separate wetlands conservation parks”.

Shan Po Shue Wetland

The first of such parks to be “constructed”, or created, is the Shan Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (Shan Po Shue), which is not due to be completed until 2039, long after most of the Northern Metropolis is in place. The other three proposed wetlands parks will “be planned later”, according to the government.

On 23 February 2024, the Town Planning Board approved the establishment of Sham Po Shue by way of amending the Outline Zoning Plans for Ngau Tam Mei Mai Po and Fairview Park. Sham Po Shue has an area of 338ha; however, originally it was planned to be 502ha, but this was reduced by a decision of the government in November 2023.

The stated goals of creating the park are:

- to strengthen wetland conservation;
- to make wetland compensation for the loss of 240ha of existing wetland conservation area and buffer zone to allow for construction of the San Tin Technopole (a component of the Northern Metropolis).

Works to create Sham Po Shue commenced in 2025. The first phase is due to be completed by 2031 and the entire park by 2039.

Other planned wetland parks

Three additional wetlands conservation parks are proposed as part of the overall Northern Metropolis plan:

- Nam Sang Wai Wetland Conservation Park
- Hoo Hok Wai Wetland Conservation Park
- Hong Kong Wetland Park Expansion Area

These wetland conservation parks will occupy an area of approximately 2000ha when completed. The government says these parks “will be planned later”. Clearly, in the context of the creation of the Northern Metropolis, wetlands conservation is not a government priority.

Conclusion

In view of Hong Kong’s history of destroying or degrading wetlands by way of direct and ancillary damage caused by development projects, and the long delay in establishing the Northern Metropolis wetlands conservation parks – plus their presently unknown constituents – it is difficult to be optimistic about the future of such remaining wetlands we have.

Hopefully the government will at least adopt a “rewilding” approach when creating the new wetlands, as recommended by Dr. Felix Leung, a fellow with the *Nature Conservancy H. K.*, who recently wrote that these wetlands conservation parks should aim for a natural approach. They *should not be just like country parks, but a place that can be based on nature-based solutions, integrating well with traditional fish farming and mangroves to enhance biodiversity. The idea of a wetland conservation park should be to restore a more natural wetland* (emphasis added).

TOWN PLANNING

Town Planning Board approves Technopole blueprint

The Town Planning Board has given the green light to statutory planning maps for the San Tin Technopole, paving the way for a major innovation and technology hub in the Northern Metropolis.

After reviewing roughly 160 public submissions during a four-day hearing, the Board signed off on three draft Outline Zoning Plans covering the Technopole (excluding the Loop) and the adjacent Sham Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park. Whilst most feedback supported the tech-driven development, some raised concerns about filling fish ponds for land. The Board concluded that geographical limits and the need for an economy-of-scale cluster made limited pond filling unavoidable, especially given the site's strategic position next to the Loop and Shenzhen's own tech zone.

To strike a balance between progress and nature, the approved framework leans on a legally approved Environmental Impact Assessment. A 338-hectare wetland park will be created to fully offset ecological losses, and pond filling won't begin until conservation works commence in 2026–27. Developers will also have to follow a new Planning and Design Brief that mandates bird-friendly architecture, wildlife corridors, lower building heights near villages and wetlands, "sponge city" drainage, and the preservation of local heritage. These rules will be baked into land leases, with master plans vetted by a Development Bureau committee.

The Board is also tweaking the plan's explanatory notes to ensure the government keeps talking with villagers whose facilities may be affected. Other feedback on roads, funding, and tech details will be passed to the Development Bureau for further action.

[Press Release, Government of Hong Kong, 20/07/2026]

Government incentivises redevelopment

The Development Bureau is rolling out a Bonus Plot Ratio Pilot Scheme this September, giving private developers extra incentives to tear down and rebuild ageing residential blocks in seven of Hong Kong's oldest districts. The move comes as the government tries to speed up urban renewal at a time when the pace of building decay is far outstripping redevelopment efforts.

Under the scheme, developers who commit to redeveloping a residential building aged 50 years or above with a site area of at least 700 square metres can receive an additional 20 per cent of plot ratio as a bonus. This bonus comes in two alternative streams: developers can either apply to increase the permissible gross floor area directly on the redevelopment site itself, or they can convert the bonus into land premium value to offset payments for the same project or for other land transactions anywhere in Hong Kong, including the Northern Metropolis. The latter option carries a 10-year validity period and is non-transferable.

To make things easier for the industry, the government has also introduced pre-application enquiries so developers can check eligibility and land premium calculations before formally applying. Land premiums for the bonus portion will be assessed using standard rates, with district-specific figures published in a new Lands Department practice note. The scheme will run for five years, beginning 1 September 2026, and includes lease conditions with building covenants and penalties to ensure projects actually get built on time. The Development Bureau will keep an eye on how it performs and may extend or tweak the scheme depending on market response.

[Press Release, Government of Hong Kong, 19/08/2026]

Town Planning Board revises guidelines

On 21 August, the Town Planning Board (TPB) announced revised guidelines to relax the existing Transfer of Plot Ratio (TPR) scheme, aiming to accelerate urban redevelopment by allowing cross-district transfers of development rights. Key changes include:

- **Cross-district transfers:** Receiving sites (RSs) may now be located in different districts from sending sites (SSs), such as the Northern Metropolis or other new development areas with greater infrastructure capacity.
- **Expanded coverage:** SS eligibility is extended beyond Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei to five additional designated areas with urgent redevelopment needs.
- **Relaxed RS requirements:** The limit of two RSs per application is removed; the minimum site area is reduced from 1,000 to 700 sq m; and minor exceedance of the 30% plot ratio cap is permitted.

New incentives include bonus plot ratio (premium-free GFA) at SSs for converting space into public areas, conserving graded historic buildings, or providing community facilities to support ongoing management and maintenance costs. Land premium assessments for SSs and RSs may now be combined even in separate transactions. Projects meeting the criteria may also concurrently apply for the Bonus Plot Ratio Pilot Scheme (announced 19 August). All applications will continue to be reviewed case-by-case under section 16 of the *Town Planning Ordinance*. These measures follow the Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address, which called for innovative use of new land to encourage private-sector redevelopment of ageing urban districts.

[Town Planning Board Press Release, 21/08/2026]

DIGEST OF LEGISLATION

Northern Metropolis Development Bill

The government gazetted the *Northern Metropolis Development Bill* on 3 July 2026, marking a decisive step to fast-track the planning, land, and construction processes for the Northern Metropolis (NM). The Bill was introduced to the Legislative Council for its first and second readings on 8 July, with the Administration aiming for passage within the year. This legislative push is backed by the national 15th Five-Year Plan, which explicitly supports accelerating the NM's development and underscores its strategic role in integrating Hong Kong into overall national development.

The Bill specifies six policy areas and empowers the Chief Executive in Council (CE-in-C) to enact subsidiary legislation for implementation details, giving the Government the flexibility to adjust measures as development needs evolve. The first batch of draft subsidiary legislation has been submitted to LegCo for preview to aid scrutiny, though it will only be formally tabled after the Bill's passage. The Bill's application is confined to the NM, with certain facilitation measures applying only to designated areas within the region.

Town planning procedures within designated NM areas will be compressed from at least nine months to just two months through an expedited application process similar to Section 16 of the *Town Planning Ordinance*, though conservation zones and areas with pending new OZPs are excluded. Public inspection for three weeks remains mandatory. Separately, to free up resources for actual development, the land resumption compensation framework will cease interest accrual if former owners fail to accept provisional payment offers within three months, and compensation for tso/tong land can be paid directly to registered managers.

The Bill facilitates innovation in building works by allowing the Building Authority to grant modifications or exemptions under Section 42(1) of the *Buildings Ordinance* where innovation and quality enhancement are demonstrated. Construction noise permit procedures will be streamlined for specified NM projects via a new Technical Memorandum. Most notably, the Bill empowers the CE-in-C to regulate cross-boundary flows of personnel, goods, data, and capital—including a "White List" system for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park staff—and permits disapplication of certain air quality and noise control provisions for cross-boundary transport infrastructure projects to boost efficiency.

A two-month public consultation from March to May 2026 and briefings to the LegCo Panel on Development drew general societal support for dedicated NM legislation. The government has refined the proposals based on public feedback and will fully co-operate with LegCo's scrutiny. Upon passage, the first batch of subsidiary legislation will be formally submitted, paving the way for statutory corporations to be established for designated areas and the NM's full-scale construction to proceed at an accelerated pace.

[Press Release, Government of Hong Kong, 03/07/2026]

Government gazettes port subsidiary legislation

On 24 July 2026, the government has gazetted six pieces of subsidiary legislation to support the operation of the Huanggang Port/Hong Kong Port Area and its Related Extended Areas (together, the Hong Kong Port Area), timed to take effect on 31 July alongside the *Huanggang Port Hong Kong Port Area Ordinance* (Cap. 659). The redeveloped Shenzhen-side Huanggang Port will adopt a co-location clearance model and become the primary 24-hour passenger land boundary crossing between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Hong Kong law applies inside the declared Hong Kong Port Area.

The six instruments cover the practical administration of a closed border zone under Hong Kong jurisdiction:

- A Police Notice granting general entry/exit permission for cross-boundary drivers, passengers and travellers;
- Two Security Bureau orders designating immigration detention quarters for routine control and enforcement;
- A Customs Notice adding the Hong Kong Port Area to the list of control points where cash or bearer negotiable instruments over HK\$120,000 must be declared;
- A Transport and Logistics regulation extending New Territories taxi operating roads to all roads inside the Port Area;
- A CE-in-C Telecommunications Order exempting Mainland-approved mobile operators from Hong Kong licensing so they can provide public mobile services on-site.

All six commenced on 31 July 2026, enabling departments to discharge duties lawfully and facilitating joint system tests, trials and drills with Shenzhen before public opening. The Security Panel was briefed on 27 March, the Legislative Council brief was issued 14 July, the House Committee raised no objection on 16 July, and the subsidiary legislation will now go through Legislative Council's negative vetting procedure after gazettal.

[Press Release, Government of Hong Kong, 24/07/2026]

WEST KOWLOON CULTURAL DISTRICT (WKCD)

The West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is expanding beyond its original cultural-institutional remit into institutional partnerships and regional tourism promotion. Two developments in mid-2026 mark this shift: the M+ Centre Pompidou partnership announced in May, and the July launch of "WestK in Bangkok" – the district's first large-scale Southeast Asia campaign rolled out under its "Cultural CBD" (New Cultural Central Business District) framework.

With Thai nationals ranking first among Southeast Asian visitors to WestK's museums in 2025, Bangkok was selected as the "WestK in Bangkok" campaign's first overseas stop. Running from 6 to 12 July 2026, the campaign comprised a travel trade luncheon, a business networking dinner, and a public-facing activation at Siam Paragon.

Its centrepiece was "Butterbear's WestK Experience," a crossover with iconic Thai character Butterbear, comprising two physical installations at Siam Paragon, accompanied by limited-edition "WestK x Butterbear" merchandise. A dedicated campaign film depicted the character touring WestK's cultural venues and public spaces, and was broadcast across the entire Sukhumvit BTS line and at 17 transit hubs throughout Bangkok. Notably, the district's built environment, its museums, waterfront and Art Park, served as the campaign's visual setting to project WestK's architectural and lifestyle identity to Thai audiences.

Alongside the campaign, WKCD Authority Chairman, Bernard Chan pointed to the Artist Square Towers project as evidence of the district's evolving masterplan – the first Public-Private Partnership development within WestK. Comprising 65,000 square metres of Gross Floor Area and scheduled for completion in 2027–28, the project extends WestK's built environment beyond its original cultural-institutional footprint into mixed office, residential and hospitality uses.

As the district's masterplan evolves to include mixed-use PPP developments alongside its original low-density, green-space-led design, Artist Square Towers offers an early indication of how cultural land designations might accommodate commercial development in future.

[West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, 06/07/2026; China Daily, 07/07/2026; The Reporter Asia, 06/07/2026]

NORTHERN METROPOLIS

Lau Fau Shan technology hub raises planning and ecological concerns

The revised plan for the Lau Fau Shan New Development Area would double the proposed Digital Technology Hub from 15 to 30 hectares, providing approximately 900,000 square metres of floor area and approximately 5,000 talent-accommodation units. Development would be concentrated around the proposed railway station on the Hong Kong–Shenzhen Western Rail Link, with landmark towers reaching about 250 metres and building heights stepping down towards the waterfront, villages and heritage sites. The wider plan combines technology uses, with housing, transport, eco-tourism, blue-green corridors and a coastal protection park, reflecting a transit-oriented approach to integrate urban and rural development.

The proposed scale and building heights have nevertheless raised concerns about impacts on the Deep Bay wetlands and the migratory-bird flyway, including habitat disturbance and bird-collision risks. Although the plan incorporates ecological corridors, conservation areas and lower-rise development near sensitive locations, the central planning issue is whether these measures can adequately protect migratory birds and the coastal landscape as development intensifies.

[SCMP, 10/06/2026]

Northern Link (NOL) Spur Line

The railway plan for the Hong Kong section of the Northern Link Spur Line was gazetted on 26 June 2026. The underground railway will run from San Tin Station to the new Huanggang Port, with two Hong Kong stations at Chau Tau and the Loop. Together with a one-kilometre section in Shenzhen, it will connect the Hong Kong and Shenzhen metro networks. The government aims to commission the Spur Line alongside the Northern Link Main Line by 2034 or earlier.

The project is intended to improve railway coverage, support the Northern Metropolis and strengthen cross-boundary connectivity. Public objection period ended on 25 August 2026. The next milestone identified in the announcement is authorisation of the railway plan; once secured, construction of the Hong Kong section is expected to begin as soon as practicable.

[*news.gov.hk*, 26/06/2026]

Government seeks to accelerate urban development

The *Northern Metropolis Development Bill*, gazetted on 3 July 2026, was scheduled for First and Second Readings in the Legislative Council on 8 July 2026; the Second Reading debate was adjourned. The Bill provides measures to accelerate planning, land delivery, construction and business development in the Northern Metropolis.

In urban-planning terms, the Bill supports a shift from conventional, project-by-project procedures towards a more flexible development regime for a large strategic growth area. Its intended role is to shorten approval periods, coordinate infrastructure and land development, and respond more quickly to the needs of new industries. This approach may accelerate housing and economic development, but also places greater importance on transparent decision-making, public consultation and effective legislative oversight.

Environmental scrutiny will be particularly important because the Northern Metropolis includes wetlands, rural landscapes and other ecologically sensitive areas. Although conservation zones would be excluded from streamlined planning procedures, faster construction and more flexible noise and air-quality controls could still affect surrounding habitats and communities. The Bill should therefore be considered alongside proposals for green transport, blue-green infrastructure and “15-minute neighbourhoods”, with development speed balanced against ecological protection and long-term liveability.

[*Press Release, Legislative Council*, 06/07/2026]

Integration of education, technology and urban development

In a Legislative Council discussion on 8 July 2026, Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, responded to questions from legislator Carmen Kan about the planning, governance and legislative framework for the Northern Metropolis University Town. The discussion followed the Chief Executive’s announcement in June that the project would become an integrated university town area covering more than 1,000 hectares. Guided by the “One Town, Five Elements” concept, it will integrate education, technology, talent, industry and urban development. Campus sites in Hung Shui Kiu, Ngau Tam Mei and New Territories North will total 300 hectares.

Each university town area will have a distinct role. Hung Shui Kiu will focus on smart manufacturing, applied higher education and international talent; Ngau Tam Mei will support life and health technology, artificial intelligence, robotics and microelectronics; and New Territories North will integrate arts, technology, research and industrial development. The government intends to maintain flexible land-use controls to accommodate future needs.

Measures proposed under the Northern Metropolis Development Bill are also intended to accelerate the university town’s development.

[*Press Release, Government of Hong Kong*, 08/07/2026]

Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen moves forward

Land resumption for the second phase of the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area is progressing as part of the Northern Metropolis programme. A recent clearance operation involving about ten structures at Tin Sam Village led to a three-hour standoff between villagers and government personnel. According to the government, affected households had been informed since late 2022, received statutory notices before clearance and were granted additional time to relocate.

The dispute highlights the resettlement and community impacts of converting existing rural areas into new urban districts. The government maintains that compensation and rehousing must follow established eligibility rules, noting that more than half of the affected squatter households in Northern Metropolis projects are reportedly ineligible for dedicated rehousing. As further large-scale land resumptions are expected, timely communication, transparent compensation and consistent treatment of affected residents will be important to maintaining public confidence while implementing the development programme.

[*The Standard*, 15/07/2026]

Investment in Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area

The Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB), with the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), today (August 13) has invited the market to submit expressions of interest (EOI) for the development of selected land parcels of a modern logistics cluster (HSK Logistics Cluster) in the Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen New Development Area (HSK/HT NDA).

To address the logistics industry's long-term demand for logistics sites, the Government has reserved about 32 hectares of land in the HSK/HT NDA for the development of a modern logistics cluster. Strategically located in the western part of the Northern Metropolis, the HSK Logistics Cluster enjoys a prime geographical location of being in proximity to Shenzhen Bay Port and conveniently connected to Hong Kong International Airport and the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals, providing favourable conditions for the development of modern logistics activities.

The findings of the planning study of the development of the HSK Logistics Cluster were announced in January this year, proposing the adoption of an enterprise-oriented principle, creating a market-enabling environment and adopting an innovative approach to drive industry development.

The planning study also put forward a conceptual plan (Annex 1) for the HSK Logistics Cluster, establishing five indicative functional zones:

Zone A: focuses on high-value goods logistics;

Zone B: focuses on e-commerce logistics;

Zone C: focuses on freight forwarding and the low-altitude economy;

Zone D: reserved for the depot of the proposed smart and green mass transit system (SGMTS) for the operation of the SGMTS in the region providing convenient transport services for the logistics cluster; and

Zone E: a future expansion zone in response to future demand and trends in logistics development.

Following a preliminary market sounding-out, three sites in Zone B, one site in Zone A and one site in Zone C, with their respective areas ranging from 3.1 to 5.0 hectares, have been selected for this EOI exercise. Their development will be implemented by phases (see Annex 2 for the site plan), with Zone B being the first batch of the development. The three land parcels within Zone B will be available by end 2027 or early 2028 at the earliest and, if combined, may cater for larger-scale development. Zones A and C, each composed of one land parcel, will be available later.

A TLB spokesman said, "The HSK Logistics Cluster is a key initiative to promote the development of modern logistics in Hong Kong and further reinforce Hong Kong's position as an international logistics hub. Through the EOI, the Government hopes to gauge the industry's interest in developing the first five available sites in the HSK Logistics Cluster, as well as their views on the proposed development terms, infrastructure requirements, development scenarios, land disposal options, financial viability, etc. Taking into account the views to be collected, the Government will formulate the land lease terms and development mode. We encourage interested parties to submit EOIs."

The deadline for submitting the EOI is noon on November 13, 2026.

[Government Press Release, 13/08/2026]

HONG KONG BRIEFING

Incentives to accelerate green shipping transition

The Marine Department launched two three-year schemes on 16 June 2026 to encourage the use of greener marine fuels. Eligible ocean-going vessels using, bunkering or transporting fuels such as liquefied natural gas, methanol, ammonia, hydrogen and qualifying biodiesel can receive refunds of 25 or 50 per cent of port charges.

Under the Green Vessel Registration Incentive Scheme, eligible Hong Kong-registered vessels can receive incentive annually. The measures aim to reduce shipping emissions, stimulate demand for green-fuel bunkering and strengthen Hong Kong's position as a green maritime-fuel hub, with more than 1,000 vessel calls and around 100 new green-fuel vessel registrations anticipated for the next three years.

[Hong Kong Economic Times, 12/06/2026]

Licensing guides for holiday camps and home-stays

The Home Affairs Department published two licensing guides on 29 June 2026 to facilitate holiday camps and home-stay lodgings in rural areas. The guidance provides more flexible building and fire-safety requirements for remote sites, including alternative measures where emergency vehicular access or street fire hydrants are unavailable.

For village houses built before 1961 that may not meet current standards, alternative proposals covering structural safety, fire resistance, escape routes, lighting and ventilation may be considered individually. The initiative aims to remove regulatory barriers while maintaining safety, supporting rural tourism and the adaptive use of village properties.

[Press Release, Government of Hong Kong, 29/06/2026]

New Measures to develop an Asian Yachting Hub

The Marine Department introduced measures on 29 June 2026 to encourage more cross-boundary yachts from the Greater Bay Area and overseas to visit Hong Kong. These include upgrading electronic application systems, relaxing berth requirements for visiting yachts and helping yacht masters from Mainland China to obtain the necessary qualifications.

The measures are intended to streamline approval and port-clearance procedures, strengthen cross-boundary tourism and support Hong Kong's development as an Asian yachting hub. The government will monitor navigation and anchoring safety, review the arrangements and work with mainland authorities and the tourism industry to promote a sustainable and competitive yacht economy.

[*China Daily*, 30/06/2026]

Government launches 30 AI projects

The government's AI Efficacy Enhancement Team has facilitated the first batch of 30 projects across 13 departments, including 10 flagship initiatives covering transport and food business licences, leisure and sports facility bookings, environmental hygiene, complaint handling and environmental protection. Rolled out in phases from mid-2026, the projects use AI to improve application processing, queue management, case triage and environmental monitoring. In some cases, processing or waiting times have been reduced by 90 per cent, while certain internal procedures now take hours rather than days.

An expert task force comprising the Digital Policy Office and Census and Statistics Department is working with AI companies and government departments to develop operational solutions. Successful applications—such as those for online reservations, licence applications, audits, enquiries and assessments—will be adapted for other departments. Further projects are scheduled for progressive implementation during 2026 and 2027.

[*Press Release, Government of Hong Kong*, 17/08/2026]

Heat stress warning system revised

The Labour Department has amended the Heat Stress at Work Warning system following criticism that the mechanism failed to respond to the record temperatures of August.

The system is based on the Hong Kong Heat Index, which takes into account humidity, wind speed and solar radiation in addition to air temperature, the weightings applied to those factors being derived from general hospital admission figures. An index reading of 30 triggers the amber warning, and readings of 32 and 34 trigger the red and black warnings respectively. Neither the red nor the black warning had been issued at any time since the system was introduced in 2023, and the system had never triggered a work stoppage, although stoppages are recommended for workers engaged in heavy physical work when the red or black warnings are in force. The index is not binding on employers.

The Observatory recorded 36.9°C at its Tsim Sha Tsui headquarters on 9 August, under the influence of Tropical Cyclone Dolphin, yet only the lowest tier of warning was issued. Former directors of the Observatory described the mechanism as decorative on that account.

The Labour and Welfare Bureau indicated in mid-August that the government would examine whether the system could be better adapted to local conditions and that the thresholds under the three-tier arrangement might be reviewed. It stated that the thresholds required detailed discussion with the Observatory in order to define clearly how the system is triggered, and that the Labour Department and the Observatory would aim to complete the work within the month. The Bureau indicated that the review would take account of public concern and of the effects of climate change.

The Labour Department announced the revised arrangements on 27 August, with effect from the following day. The threshold for the higher tiers of warning is lowered when the Observatory issues an extremely hot weather special alert, and a warning is elevated automatically by one tier, from amber to red or from red to black, when temperatures reach 35°C or above. The Department stated that the revised system would issue earlier and higher heat stress alerts during periods of extreme temperature. The revised arrangements do not make the warnings binding upon employers, and industry specialists observed that the system as amended may still lack provision for rest breaks.

[*Hong Kong Free Press*, 18/08/2026; *SCMP*, 27/08/2026]

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT (ACE)

Northern Metropolis Highway assessment

The Advisory Council on the Environment has been presented with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the "Northern Metropolis Highway – San Tin Section" (Application No. EIA-322/2026), seeking members' views before the Director of Environmental Protection decides on approval under Section 8(3) of the EIA Ordinance. The Highways Department and its consultants will brief the EIA Subcommittee on the report, which was submitted on 16 March 2026 and met all requirements for public exhibition.

The San Tin Section forms one of four segments of the 24-km Northern Metropolis Highway, a major road network proposed in the 2022 Policy Address. This 9-km dual three-lane carriageway—comprising viaducts (50%), tunnels (30%), and at-grade roads (20%)—will stretch from the Yuen Long Highway/Tsing Long Highway interchange to Fanling Highway (Pak Shek Au Section), with five interchanges along the route. Construction is tentatively set to begin in 2027/28, targeting commissioning by 2036. The project aims to relieve anticipated traffic congestion at San Tin Highway by 2036 and provide an alternative east-west corridor supporting the Northern Metropolis' cross-boundary and regional connectivity.

The EIA highlights several ecological wins. An interchange originally planned west of Ngau Tam Mei Water Treatment Works was relocated south, sparing about 3 hectares of scattered wetlands. Instead, adjacent village and orchard land will be converted into a 5-hectare wetland system, boosting habitat connectivity and biodiversity. Separately, the project will compensate for the loss of 17 hectares of moderate-value woodland by establishing an equal-sized woodland near She Leng; together with offsets from other developments, this creates a contiguous 22-hectare woodland of moderate-high ecological value. By easing regional traffic bottlenecks, the scheme also reduces vehicle idling, fuel consumption, emissions, and noise, delivering broader environmental gains.

The alignment steers clear of sensitive sites such as Lam Tsuen Country Park and the proposed Nam Sang Wai Wetland Conservation Park. To curb habitat fragmentation near Lam Tsuen, viaduct sections are maximised with short at-grade stretches, whilst open spaces beneath bridges facilitate wildlife movement. At Kam Tin River, pier numbers are cut by 30–40% compared to existing viaducts, construction is phased to keep half the area undisturbed at any time, and non-dredged piling at high tide (above 1.0 m Chart Datum) during dry seasons protects foraging waterbirds. Noise barriers will use bird-friendly, non-glaring materials. For tunnel works, the Drill and Blast method is preferred over Tunnel Boring Machine to minimise unnecessary excavation and construction waste, and precast concrete elements will limit on-site impacts.

A 12-month ecological survey informed a Habitat Creation and Management Plan for the 5-hectare wetland and a Woodland Compensation Plan for the 17-hectare offset. Air quality and noise modelling show all existing and planned receivers will meet statutory limits after mitigation (low-noise surfacing, noise barriers, acoustic windows/balconies). Approximately 9,050 trees may be felled, but compensatory planting at a minimum 1:1 ratio will be implemented, with three protected flora species prioritised for retention or transplantation. The EIA report includes an Environmental Monitoring and Audit Manual and was open for public inspection from 8 May to 6 June 2026. Members' advice will guide the Director's decision on approval.

[Advisory Council on the Environment, 15/06/2026]

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate resilience and the design of disaster funding

Aid organisations working across Asia and the Pacific have called for social resilience measures to be integrated into climate adaptation and disaster response funding, which they consider remains concentrated on physical reconstruction.

Although the number of tropical storms is not believed to be increasing, a warmer atmosphere and rising sea temperatures and levels are increasing their intensity and their effect on exposed communities. South Asia, among the regions most vulnerable to climate impacts, records substantial increases in early marriage following natural disasters as households lose livelihoods and income; the International Rescue Committee has recorded increases of up to 39 per cent in Bangladesh after such events.

Advocacy organisations argued that responses to climate and environmental disasters continue to prioritise the rebuilding of infrastructure and recovery over social impacts, and that the developing El Niño will compound the risk. The event is forecast to increase rainfall in Central Asia, the southern parts of South America, the United States and parts of the Horn of Africa, and to cause drought in Australia, Indonesia, parts of Asia and Central America.

Programmes combining climate-resilient livelihoods with education have been advanced as the alternative, including the cultivation of climate-resistant crops, the construction of floating farms in flood-prone areas, and digital skills training enabling direct sale of produce. In rural areas of Cambodia where such programmes have operated alongside education and advocacy work, early marriage rates have fallen by at least 65 per cent over three years. A forthcoming study examines the effect of climate-related shocks and environmental stresses in Bangladesh, Nepal and the Solomon Islands.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade stated that gender equality and climate action are placed at the centre of its international development policy.

[ABC News, 10/07/2026]

China's 15th five-year plan for renewable energy

China has released its “15th five-year plan for the development of renewable energy”, outlining key targets and policies for the sector in 2026–2030. A key focus of the plan is boosting renewable generation and consumption as a share of China's overall energy mix.

The plan calls for continued capacity additions of wind and solar – albeit at lower levels than previous years – as well as hydropower, biomass and other clean-energy sources. Specifically, China will aim to install 3,500 gigawatts (GW) of renewables capacity by 2030, 2,800GW will be wind and solar. The country had previously pledged to install 1,200GW of wind and solar by 2030, a goal that China met six years early.

Another major theme is the provision of wind and solar supply that is “dependable” and “grid-friendly”. Setting a target for “firm capacity” from wind and solar could help to entrench their role as a provider of “energy security”, according to analysts.

The government also aims to boost renewables consumption by developing non-power uses of renewable energy, in sectors such as steel and chemicals.

Five-year plans are key to China's political system. An overarching plan, covering all socioeconomic issues of importance to policy leaders, is published at the beginning of each five-year cycle.

The plan for the 15th five-year period (2026–2030) was published in March 2026. It includes what the government considers to be the most important targets and policy signals for climate and energy. For example, binding targets for carbon intensity, the share of non-fossil energy in total energy consumption and total energy production capacity.

Following this overarching document, five-year plans focused on specific sectors or themes are then published over the course of the five-year plan period.

This year, the government has already published several five-year plans related to energy and climate change. One covers the development of the “new-type” energy sector more broadly. Another wraps climate goals together with other environmental targets under the “Beautiful China” programme.

By contrast, the renewables five-year plan focuses specifically on the development of hydropower, wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and wave energy. It was published in late July by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country’s top economic planning agency, and the National Energy Administration (NEA).

The plan covers topics such as capacity and generation targets, as well as efforts to increase integration and reliability of wind and solar. It also has policies to encourage “non-power use” of renewable energy and ways to strengthen innovation of clean-energy technologies.

China will aim to install 3,500 gigawatts (GW) of renewables capacity by 2030, according to the five-year plan. Of this, 2,800GW will be wind and solar – a pledge reiterated from China’s action plan for peaking carbon emissions, which was released earlier this month.

The goal more than doubles a previous 2030 target for wind and solar to reach 1,200GW, which China met six years early.

As of June 2026, the country has installed just under 2,000GW of wind and solar capacity, as well as 454GW of hydropower. Biomass, geothermal and wave energy hold very small shares of the overall energy mix.

To achieve the plan’s objectives, China would need to build 160GW of wind and solar each year – and just under 220GW of renewable capacity in total. The country installed 277GW of new solar alone in 2024 – and 315GW in 2025.

A key part of meeting the targets will be the development of large-scale clean-energy bases in China’s northern regions. These will generate power to be exported elsewhere via ultra-high voltage lines. The plan also encourages greater “local consumption” and installations of distributed energy (see below).

The plan states that further research will be directed at increasing the renewable share of electricity generated by these large-scale energy bases to 100%.

A recent report by the thinktank Global Energy Monitor concludes that output from these bases “continues to be paired with coal-fired generation in the name of balancing and system flexibility”. It says that currently, coal generates 42% of the power transmitted to the rest of the country from these bases.

China will also add more hydropower, says the plan, with capacity rising from 448GW in 2025 to 570GW in 2030. Some 160GW of this will be pumped-storage hydropower. Meanwhile, the plan sets a target for renewable power generation to reach 6,000 terawatt-hours (TWh), 4,000TWh of which would come from wind and solar. This would be a 50% increase in five years as renewables generated just under 4,000TWh of electricity in 2025, according to the National Energy Administration.

By 2030, the plan says that total consumption of renewable energy will stand at 1.8bn tonnes of coal equivalent (Gtce). This would be up from 1.2Gtce in 2025, which represented about one-fifth of China’s total energy consumption of 6.2Gtce that year.

The renewable targets in the plan are lower than those suggested in a recent study by high-profile Chinese scholars. The study, from the department of energy and power engineering and the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University in Beijing, assessed the “likelihood of China attaining its carbon peak” under different pathways.

It found that, in order to meet its climate commitments, China would need to either install more than 4,000GW of “non-fossil energy capacity” before 2030, or to “maintain a total energy consumption” below 6.5Gtce.

As well as increasing the overall size of its renewable power supply, the country must also maintain an “uninterrupted and reliable power supply”, officials from the NDRC and NEA told state news agency Xinhua in coverage of the new plan.

To support this goal, the plan says that the development of renewables will “enter a new stage”. This will mean that “improving quality and serving as a reliable alternative” to fossil fuels will be as important as “expanding scale”.

The plan, therefore, proposes targets for the “firm capacity” from wind and solar (置信出力). This is the amount plants or grids can be relied on to produce during critical supply periods, in conjunction with on-site storage. The target for wind is a firm capacity of at least 11% of total installed capacity by 2030, while the equivalent goal for solar is 6%.

Wind and solar will also be expected to supply more than 20% of total demand in peak periods during the summer and winter evenings, according to the plan. It expects “reliable peak-shaving capacity from renewable sources” to reach more than 300GW.

The new targets are a “positive move”, says Yao Zhe, global policy advisor at Greenpeace East Asia, as it “only applies during peak load and critical supply periods, when coal power is typically used to stabilise the power supply”.

She adds that this could, theoretically, “prevent the construction of new coal-fired power projects that are proposed and approved for the reason of meeting peak demand”.

The new metrics mark a change in focus, says Lyu Wenbin, director general of the Energy Research Institute – a state thinktank under the NDRC – in an “explanatory reading” posted on BJX News. He says it “marks a shift in renewable energy development from the mere pursuit of installed capacity to...also taking into account system support capabilities”.

The plan pledges to “accelerate the construction of grid-friendly wind and solar power stations”. It says this will enhance “reliable peak-load generation” and strengthen renewables’ ability to ensure “safe and stable operation” of the grid. It says this will particularly be a focus in the energy-hungry east, central and south areas of China.

It sets out a slightly different focus for areas that already have a high share of renewables in their power mix, such as north-west China. Here, the aim will be to develop wind and solar parks that are “capable of providing voltage, frequency and inertia support”.

[*Climate Home News*, 31/07/2026]

Countries still missing UN climate plans after deadline

About a quarter of the countries signed up to the Paris Agreement are still breaching its rules by failing to submit a new national climate plan, 18 months after the February 2025 deadline.

Forty-five nations had not submitted a plan known as a nationally determined contribution (NDC), according to the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee's (PAICC) newly-published report of its 7-10 July 2026 meeting. One, Oman, has published it since the meeting.

Twelve countries ignored the committee's repeated attempts to find out why they had not yet produced a climate plan, the report said. They will be invited to the committee's next meeting, from September 1-4, so it can identify the challenges and constraints they face.

Members of the committee are divided, as they were at their last meeting, on whether to name those countries publicly and will debate the question again in September.

The PAICC does not have any power to punish governments, as building these powers into the Paris Agreement was thought to be so controversial that it could have stopped some governments from joining, experts have previously told *Climate Home News*.

A key requirement of the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement is that governments publish a more ambitious NDC every five years, setting targets to reduce their planet-heating emissions and outlining their policies to adapt to climate change, in order to meet the accord's goals on limiting global warming and protecting people from its effects.

The latest set – the third round of plans, with new targets for 2035 – was due in 2025.

Some medium-sized emitters

Countries without an updated NDC include Egypt, Vietnam, Argentina and the Philippines, all of which rank among the world's 40 largest greenhouse gas emitters. The rest of the countries are smaller, poorer nations, mainly in Africa or the Caribbean.

Some nations have argued that they cannot put together an NDC - which requires a significant amount of work in tracking emissions and consulting on how to curb them across the economy - because of exceptional circumstances. For example, a letter from a Sudanese official to the PAICC committee, seen by *Climate Home News*, says that the country's civil war has led to the suspension of its NDC preparation.

The US and Iran are not signed up to the Paris Agreement, although the US submitted a 2035 NDC under the Biden administration before Donald Trump pulled the US out of the UN climate accords.

The committee also expressed concern that the UN's NDC registry continued to label the climate plans of countries that are no longer party to the Paris Agreement as "active", according to its report. The US submission has since been archived.

Since the last PAICC meeting in March, ten countries have published NDCs. The committee did not name them, but they include India, Algeria, Cameroon and Guyana.

[*Climate Home News*, 31/07/2026]

Oil companies cash in as they warm the planet

This past month, Big Oil posted massive earnings, fuelled by the ongoing war in Iran.

Over the past fortnight, the world's largest fossil fuel majors announced a string of staggering second-quarter earnings for 2026. Between April and June, investor-owned majors' profits soared to nearly \$50 billion as the war in Iran continued to boost oil and gas prices (they made \$23.3 billion in the first three months of the year).

Texas-headquartered ExxonMobil came in first, announcing second-quarter profits of \$14.5 billion – more than double compared to last year. It was closely followed by another Texas-headquartered company, Chevron, whose earnings soared by nearly 400% to \$12 billion compared to \$2.5 billion in the same period last year.

British Shell and BP's profits hit \$9.84 billion and \$5.7 billion, respectively, while French TotalEnergies' adjusted net income for the second quarter of 2026 came in at \$5.4 billion – more than double compared to last year. Italian Eni came in last with €2.3 billion (US\$2.6 billion).

Numbers this massive can easily lose their meaning on the page. \$50 billion sounds like a lot, but what does it actually look like in real time? As Oxfam put it:

ExxonMobil made \$1,800 a second in profit over the last three months. Chevron pocketed \$1,200 a second, and Shell \$1,000.

By the end of the year, these six corporations are projected to pocket a staggering \$147 billion. These windfalls have been fuelled by escalating conflicts involving Iran, which sent crude oil and refined chemical prices soaring following major shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz.

[*Earth.Org*, 07/08/2026]

European energy and transport infrastructure disrupted

Record temperatures across central Europe in August placed energy and transport systems under strain, exposing infrastructure that was not designed for conditions of this kind.

The Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute recorded 42.2°C at Dolné Plachtince in the south of the country. Slovakia's only nuclear power station was operating at 80 per cent of capacity as water levels in the Danube, Europe's second longest river, fell to record lows. Hungary was similarly affected: its only nuclear power station, which ordinarily supplies about half of national electricity, was reduced to 10 per cent of capacity. Budapest recorded a new overnight minimum of 28°C. The Austrian national weather agency reported an all-time high of 41.2°C at Bad Deutsch-Altenburg, near the Slovak border.

Low water levels on the Danube and the Rhine also disrupted inland freight in Germany, where several companies moved cargo by road rather than by ship. The resulting reduction in volumes contributed to price increases.

In Italy, all 27 major cities were placed on the highest heat alert for the first time in the year, with public warnings to avoid direct sunlight between 11am and 6pm. At least four deaths were attributed to the heat, including that of an agricultural worker aged 19. Wildfires burned in the Deliblatska Peščara area of Serbia, where villagers near Čardak and Šumarak were asked to leave their homes as a precaution, and near Cetinje in Montenegro; strong winds hampered containment in both countries.

In the United Kingdom, more than half of England and the whole of Wales were in drought. The Environment Agency reported seven consecutive weeks with less than 10 millimetres of rainfall and warned that further areas could enter drought.

Europe is warming faster than any other continent, at twice the global average rate. Thousands of excess deaths were reported across the continent over the summer, and specialists cautioned that much of Europe's built infrastructure was not designed to withstand sustained heat of this kind.

[*Al Jazeera*, 07/08/2026]

Oceans record their hottest June

The world's oceans recorded their warmest June since measurements began, and sea and land temperatures are expected to climb further as an El Niño event takes hold alongside continued greenhouse warming.

The Copernicus Marine Service reported a global average sea surface temperature of 20.98°C for June, exceeding the previous records set in 2023 and 2024. The first six months of 2026 averaged 20.04°C, marginally below the record for that period set in 2024. Marine heatwave conditions affected approximately 82 per cent of the world's oceans during the first half of the year, the second largest extent recorded after 2024.

Regional figures were more pronounced. The Mediterranean recorded its hottest June at 24.3°C, surpassing the previous highs set in 2023 and 2025, with marine heatwave conditions affecting 98 per cent of the basin over the six-month period. The tropical Pacific likewise recorded its hottest June, at 27.26°C, and matched its 2016 record for the period from January to June, the strongest and most persistent warming occurring in the western equatorial Pacific and off the coasts of Peru and California.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service attributed the outlook to two compounding causes: the onset of El Niño, and continued warming driven by greenhouse gas emissions. The oceans absorb around 90 per cent of the excess heat trapped by those emissions. Warmer seas add moisture to the atmosphere, fuelling tropical cyclones and heavy rainfall, and contribute to sea level rise through thermal expansion, while prolonged marine heatwaves bleach corals and cause marine mortality. A United Nations scientific assessment published shortly beforehand described the oceans as being in a deepening crisis.

The World Meteorological Organisation confirmed in September that El Niño was firmly established and would intensify to a very strong event, peaking towards the end of the year. Its Global Producing Centres put the likelihood of the event persisting through to February 2027 at nearly 100 per cent, the first occasion on which a WMO update has been so unequivocal. The Niño 3.4 index rose from an average of 1.5°C above normal over the period from May to July to 2.0°C above normal in July, with weekly values between late July and mid-August ranging from approximately 2.2°C to 2.6°C above average. Subsurface ocean temperatures in some areas exceeded the average by more than 8°C during July and early August.

The Organisation emphasised that El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon and is not itself caused by climate change, but that an event of this strength arriving on a warmed baseline raises the risk of floods, drought and extreme heat. Forecasts for the period from September to November indicate above-normal temperatures across almost all land areas.

A positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole is also expected, and the equatorial Atlantic is forecast to remain warm; these drivers may reinforce, weaken or alter typical El Niño effects from region to region. The Organisation has begun an unprecedented mobilisation with national meteorological and hydrological services to strengthen early warning and preparedness in the agriculture, health, energy and water sectors.

[*RFI*, 01/07/2026; *World Meteorological Organisation*, 03/09/2026]

France records its hottest summer

France recorded its hottest summer since measurements began in 1900, and the government has undertaken to bring forward new measures under its national climate change adaptation plan.

Météo-France reported an average summer temperature of 24°C, some 3.6°C above the seasonal norm. Rainfall was nearly 40 per cent below normal, making it the second driest summer on record. The country experienced several severe heatwaves, including one in late June that set a new intensity record, and a second which ran from late July into August and matched a 23-day record set in 1983. Major wildfires occurred, including in regions that are ordinarily cooler and wetter.

The Health Ministry reported 2,025 excess deaths during the June heatwave, with a marked increase among those aged over 45.

France joined Belgium, Britain and Ireland in recording their hottest summers on record; extreme temperatures were also experienced in Italy, Spain and elsewhere on the continent. According to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, Europe is the fastest warming continent, with temperatures rising at twice the global average rate since the 1980s.

The Prime Minister instructed the Environment Ministry in late July to bring forward measures to accelerate implementation of the national adaptation plan. At the presentation of the summer climate report in early September, the Ministry undertook to publish its conclusions by the end of that month, including a five-year funding plan.

[*Al Jazeera*, 03/09/2026]

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

CHINA

China's national carbon market to expand

Cumulative trading volume on China's national carbon emissions rights trading market exceeded 930 million tonnes by the end of July 2026, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment. The market, which began trading in 2021, has assisted industry in reducing emissions at lower cost.

The Ministry stated that the market would be expanded beyond power generation, steel, cement and aluminium smelting to cover further high-emission industries, including petrochemicals and chemicals, bringing approximately 80 per cent of national carbon dioxide emissions under effective control.

The recently issued 15th Five-Year Plan for Building a Beautiful China provides for the orderly expansion of the market's coverage, an increase in the number of participants, and a reduction of approximately 3 per cent in carbon emissions per unit of product covered. The Ministry indicated that it would continue to advance the low-carbon transition in energy, industry, transport and urban and rural development, and would strengthen control of non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gases, including methane.

[*Xinhua*, 13/08/2026]

Saidel causes heritage losses in southern China

Sustained flooding following Typhoon Saidel triggered a fatal landslide in Sichuan County, Jiangxi province, in which one person died and eleven were reported missing.

The Ministry of Natural Resources upgraded its geological disaster defence response for Jiangxi from Level IV to Level III on account of the suspected mudslide, despatched a working group to oversee rescue operations, and directed an advance team of provincial natural resources experts to provide technical support. Local authorities were instructed to increase patrols, monitoring and early warning in order to prevent secondary disasters, and the China Geological Survey and the Ministry's technical guidance centre were directed to provide further analysis.

Rescue services evacuated stranded residents by boat where roads were impassable, temporary traffic controls were imposed in Jinshi town following a series of road collapses, and crews worked to restore telecommunications connections for more than 300 households.

Fujian province was also severely affected, prompting the National Development and Reform Commission to allocate a further 100 million yuan, approximately US\$15 million, in recovery support. Several parts of the province recorded their highest daily rainfall, including Putian city, where 416.5mm fell within 24 hours, a local record for September; some surrounding villages recorded more than 500mm over the same period.

Floodwaters in Huating town reached three metres, submerging homes. The Taiping bridge in Fengting town, which had stood for a thousand years, was swept away, and near the Fujian Tulou heritage complex in Nanjing County floodwaters of up to five metres uprooted a 600-year-old banyan tree. Tea production was severely affected in Fuding city, where storage facilities were submerged under up to two metres of water and direct losses were estimated locally at 330 million yuan.

Air services were disrupted along the east coast, including routes to and from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Okinawa.

The landslide followed a series of fatal extreme weather events, including a slope failure in Pengshui county, Chongqing, on 17 July which claimed 42 lives, and a debris flow on the border with Nepal on 26 August caused by a glacier collapse, which destroyed border infrastructure and entire settlements.

[SCMP, 05/09/2026]

CHINA/INDIA

Fault line threatens the Yarlung Tsangpo hydropower project

Chinese geologists have warned that an active fault beneath the hydropower project under construction on the Yarlung Tsangpo river in Tibet threatens the structural stability of the scheme and have called for slope reinforcement and retaining protections.

The study was carried out by geologists from Chengdu University of Technology, the Civil-Military Integration Centre of the China Geological Survey and the Middle Yarlung Zangbo River Natural Resources Observation and Research Station and published in a Chinese-language journal supervised by the state-owned China Geological Survey. The researchers concluded that the Paizhen Fault, highly active since the Pleistocene, would have a major effect on the structural stability and construction of nearby structures including dams, roads, bridges and tunnels, as well as on the reservoir area itself.

Fault movement has fractured the surrounding rock and altered its mechanical properties, reducing foundation bearing capacity. The terrain was described as having a loose structure and weak cohesion, such that instability of the slopes on either side of the reservoir may readily be triggered after prolonged immersion and under the influence of fault activity and earthquakes.

Pai village area lies within the construction zone and within the Himalayan seismic belt, which experiences the strongest and most frequent earthquakes in China and neighbouring regions. Dating of ancient lake sediments indicates the fault was active as recently as 9,500 years ago, and a magnitude 6.9 earthquake at Milin in 2017 occurred at its northern end.

Construction of the project, said to be the largest of its kind in the world with an estimated annual capacity of 300 billion kilowatt-hours, some three times that of the Three Gorges Dam, began in 2025.

The Yarlung Tsangpo becomes the Brahmaputra on leaving the Tibet autonomous region, flowing into the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and then into Bangladesh as the Jamuna. The scheme has given rise to concern over water supply and environmental effects downstream.

[SCMP, 09/07/2026]

AUSTRALIA

Hidden plastic hazard

Single-use paper cups used for takeaway coffee and other beverages release millions of microplastic particles when exposed to hot liquid, a new Australian study has found.

University of Queensland researchers examined single-use cups lined with fossil-based polyethylene or the biodegradable alternative polylactic acid.

Researchers said both types of cups were found to release plastic particles – but the PLA or biodegradable plastic-lined cups released 12 times more.

“A cup made mostly of paper does not mean that the cup is plastic-free because many contain a thin plastic lining that provides water resistance and structural integrity,” Dr Elvis Okoffo said.

[Sunday Mail, 30/08/2026]

INDONESIA

Indonesian Constitutional Court restricts mining permits

The Constitutional Court of Indonesia has held that the government may not directly appoint the recipients of mining permits, and that all such allocations must be made through an objective and accountable selection process.

The ruling applies without exception, extending to religious organisations, cooperatives, small and medium enterprises and universities alike. The Court did not exclude any of those categories from participation in the mining sector; it held that no applicant should receive a permit merely because the government has decided to confer one, whatever the size of its membership or the merits of its social or economic case. Commentary in the Indonesian press treated the decision as drawing a boundary between public mineral wealth and political favouritism, and as correcting a system which, in relying on executive preference rather than objective criteria, had remained open to abuse.

[The Jakarta Post, 28/07/2026]

KENYA

Planned increase of renewable energy sources

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya has tripled its long-term target for expanding its renewable energy capacity to meet surging demand and support its industrialisation, but that might not result in more affordable power for consumers.

The plan calls for renewable power generating capacity of 5,500 megawatts, up from about 1,500 MW now. That would include 2,000 MW of nuclear power alongside 700 MW of hydropower and new geothermal projects.

That will strengthen the country's position as a global leader in renewable energy. Kenya already produces 93% of its electricity using renewable sources. But experts say that reforms for utility contracts, electricity grids, financing and pricing are needed to translate clean energy growth into lower cost power for consumers.

"We have recalibrated our long-term growth trajectory from 1,500MW to a 5,500MW renewable energy development pipeline," said Peter Njenga, CEO of KenGen, the state-owned utility that produces about 60% of Kenya's power.

Lawmakers have been pushing the government to reduce electricity rates. In July, the parliament directed Energy Minister Opiyo Wandayi to develop a policy for renegotiating electricity supply agreements with major power producers. Lawmakers said lower wholesale prices could create more leeway for Kenya Power to cut consumer rates without damaging its finances.

Energy experts say Kenya needs to focus less on building new generation capacity than on making electricity cheaper.

"The answer to this conundrum is not as straightforward as it may seem," said Mugwe Manga, climate finance lead at the nonprofit FSD Kenya. "One must look at the entire energy system holistically to understand the drivers of the end cost of power."

Unlike countries like Morocco, Egypt and China, Kenya provides limited direct subsidies to cushion electricity prices. While renewable generation costs are broadly competitive, consumers ultimately bear the burden of financing costs, transmission and distribution losses, taxes, and foreign exchange movements.

Latest data show that industrial consumers in Kenya pay between \$0.18 and \$0.23 per kilowatt-hour, compared with about \$0.03 in South Africa and Egypt, and \$0.05 in Morocco and Ethiopia.

"The perception that electricity is expensive is subjective," Kenya Power CEO Joseph Siror said in an earlier interview. "The consumer prices are dependent on infrastructure costs, electricity tariff structures, and outstanding bill recoveries."

Kenya's heavy reliance on green energy sources adds to costs since the infrastructure required to generate such power is expensive to install and maintain, he said.

One of the biggest inefficiencies keeping electricity costs high lies in the distribution network itself, Manga said.

More than 20% of electricity is lost to technical failures and illegal connections, compared with a global average of 8%-10%," he said, "That offers a great low-hanging fruit to improve efficiency and pass that efficiency dividend to end consumers through reduced tariffs."

High financing costs are another problem. Renewable energy developers across Africa borrow at significantly higher interest rates than their counterparts in wealthier economies because investors perceive view projects as having greater risks. Those extra borrowing costs ultimately are passed on to consumers.

Kenya's power purchase agreements have also come under renewed scrutiny. Independent power producers supply about 40% of total capacity under long-term contracts signed after electricity generation was liberalized in the late 1990s.

Some contracts include "take-or-pay" clauses that require Kenya to make agreed-upon payments even when contracted electricity is not fully consumed. Critics argue such arrangements force consumers to pay for surplus electricity, although Manga said such guarantees were necessary to secure financing for capital-intensive projects.

"Kenya's renewable resource base is a major advantage, but electricity prices are determined by the whole system, not only by the cost of power generation," said Albert Nganga, senior regulatory manager at CrossBoundary Energy. "They also reflect how power is contracted, transmitted, distributed and recovered."

Recently proposed open-access electricity market reforms could increase competition by allowing large consumers to purchase electricity directly from power generators, he said.

The ambitious targets for expanding power generation require predictable investment policies and reforms, said Cynthia Angweya-Muhati, CEO of the Kenya Renewable Energy Association

[Climate Home News, 21/08/2026]

SOUTH AFRICA

New oil fields challenged

Two court cases against oil majors TotalEnergies and Shell could derail South Africa's plan to expand offshore fossil fuels

Layers of red dust coat South Africa's Saldanha Bay, a legacy of the one billion-plus tonnes of iron ore exported from what was once a quiet coastal fishing town in the 1970s. Now the government wants to turn this area into the "oil and gas hub of South Africa", but opposition from local communities and civil society could force a change of plan.

Since 2014 South Africa has developed a strategy for taking "full advantage" of its marine resources, known as Operation Phakisa. It has resulted in more than 95% of the ocean off South Africa's nearly 3,000-kilometre coastline being mapped for oil and gas exploration.

The plan seeks to "drill 30 exploration wells in 10 years", which it estimates could lead to the production of an average of 370,000 barrels of oil and gas per day over 20 years, with Saldanha Bay earmarked as a key logistics hub. It also aims to develop other marine sectors like aquaculture, maritime transport and ocean tourism.

However, two major court cases against the government and oil giants Shell and TotalEnergies have challenged those plans, as coastal residents, allied with national civil society groups, have pushed back against oil concessions held by the multinationals, arguing they were not consulted, and that towns like Saldanha Bay could face social and environmental harms from the fossil fuel extraction.

Melissa Groenink-Groves, programme manager at legal nonprofit Natural Justice, said the cases in South Africa could set a precedent for the whole region. "When communities win in the courts, the successes serve as inspiration for other communities to advocate [for] their rights in their own contexts," she explained.

She added that the legal challenges to Operation Phakisa also develop climate litigation in South Africa, and could impact how environmental impact assessments are conducted going forward.

Globally, as the oil and gas industry sets its sights on the ocean (over 85% of new discoveries in 2024 made offshore), scientists and activists warn oil exploitation threatens marine life and coastal communities, and weakens the ocean's ability to trap excess heat from the atmosphere, fuelling planetary warming further.

About 400 kilometres north of Saldanha Bay, the Aukotowa Fisheries Cooperative, backed by nonprofits The Green Connection and Natural Justice, has taken TotalEnergies to court over its plans to drill for oil and gas in a 30,000-square-kilometre block off South Africa's west coast.

The oil exploration block is in a biodiverse marine area bordering Namibia and South Africa known as the Orange Basin, which is a "highly relevant" sanctuary for endangered species, according to Nelson Mandela University's Institute for Coastal and Marine Research.

Among other grievances, the cooperative maintains that the company's environmental impact assessment was flawed, because it failed to consider the project's contribution to climate change, and that the government "placed the profits of a multinational corporation above the livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities." The Western Cape High Court concluded hearings in late March and is expected to deliver a ruling later this year.

Walter Steenkamp, chairperson of the Aukotowa Cooperative, is concerned that the oil and gas drilling will lead to increased inequality, asking "for whom is the development? Definitely not for us."

In a written statement, TotalEnergies told Climate Home News that it "is a responsible operator fully committed to complying with all applicable South African legislation."

On the other side of the country, along South Africa's eastern coastline, community-based nonprofit Sustaining the Wild Coast and partner organisations have since 2021 challenged Shell and Impact Africa's exploration permit, arguing that the firms had failed to consult impacted communities – a legal requirement under South African law.

Co-plaintiff Sinegugu Zukulu also said in 2022 that "oil and gas will lead to more emissions, and in the face of climate change, this is wholly irresponsible".

Following two rulings against the companies by lower courts, the case is now before South Africa's highest Constitutional Court, which has reserved judgment since September 2025. A ruling against the companies would be final, effectively ending the exploration permit.

Legal expert Groenink-Groves said oil exploration applications under Operation Phakisa have been "granted largely without properly assessing the devastating impact an oil spill could have on small-scale fishers, the risks of drilling in ultra-deep waters, [and] without accounting for climate change impacts associated with oil and gas exploitation."

She added that exploration applications have often failed to consider coastal management laws and, in some cases, cross-border and regional environmental risks.

[Climate Home News, 14/08/2026]

SOUTH EAST ASIA/MALAYSIA

Transboundary haze spreads across South East Asia

Smoke from forest and land fires in Indonesia has spread across parts of South East Asia, affecting Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines, and placing the region's haze-control framework under strain.

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control, operating through an interim office at the ASEAN Secretariat, applied Regional Alert Level 3 on 26 August. Member states are required at that level to submit daily situation reports, including haze trajectory maps, for distribution to national focal points.

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry stated that Indonesia had met its daily reporting obligations and the mandatory actions required under Alert Level 3, providing data on hotspots, environmental conditions, indications of haze movement and fire control measures, and that it was continuing to use the mechanisms established under the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution.

An emergency was declared throughout Serian Division in Sarawak after the Air Pollutant Index exceeded 500, with hazardous or very unhealthy air quality recorded elsewhere in the state. Malaysia began cloud-seeding operations in Sarawak and sought permission to use Indonesian airspace. Smoke reduced visibility at Supadio Airport in West Kalimantan to approximately 100 metres on 3 September, and schools in Pontianak were still teaching remotely on 7 September. By 5 September smoke had reached Sabah and Sarawak, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines, including Manila.

The National Disaster Management Agency reported that 61 of 166 hotspots detected by the meteorological agency in West Kalimantan had been verified by field inspection as actual fires, verification being necessary before the data can support an operational response.

The difficulty is greater in peatland, where burning continues below the surface. At its meeting in Bali in July, ASEAN noted progress by Indonesia in preparing the legal, operational and monitoring arrangements for the Coordinating Centre, and urged member states to complete the national ratification required for its establishment agreement to enter into force.

[*Malay Mail*, 05/09/2026; *ANTARA*, 0709/2026]

USA

Trump pushes to remove forest protections

The Trump administration on Tuesday advanced a plan to open nearly 45 million acres of wilderness in national forests to road construction and logging, removing protections that have been in place for a quarter century.

The proposal by the U.S. Forest Service would repeal the 2001 "roadless rule," enacted during the Clinton administration to preserve the wild nature of forest land. It comes as President Trump pressures the agency to increase logging and to thin forests to reduce wildfire risk.

The repeal would hand a major victory to Republican-led states and industry groups which have argued for years that the prohibitions have hindered economic development. More than a dozen lawsuits have unsuccessfully sought to strike down the rule.

During his first term, Trump stripped protections from Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world, only for the Biden administration to restore them in 2023.

This time, the Forest Service is eliminating protections for the nine million undeveloped acres within the Tongass, as well as millions more acres of pristine wilderness across the rest of the United States.

"For too long, outdated restrictions have kept tens of millions of forested acres off-limits to the very treatments that improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk to our communities," Brooke Rollins, the secretary of the Agriculture Department, which includes the Forest Service, said in a statement.

Environmentalists said the plan would destroy untouched landscapes, including crucial habitats for migratory species and headwaters for major municipal water supplies. Multiple advocacy groups are expected to sue to block the repeal.

"By ripping protections from some of our oldest intact forests, the Trump administration is endangering the drinking water supplies of tens of millions and threatening wildlife habitats and recreation opportunities in almost every state," said Drew McConville, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal research organization.

Roadless areas make up about 30 percent of all national forest land, encompassing nearly 60 million acres of America's last wild areas and old-growth forests. They are home to more than half of imperilled wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, elk, salmon and wolverines. Forest land in the United States also absorbs millions of tons of carbon per year, helping slow climate change.

The proposal would affect the management of 44.7 million acres nationally. Idaho and Colorado have their own regulations that supersede the federal rule and insulate those states from being affected by any change in national policy.

[*The New York Times*, 18/08/2026]

UNITED KINGDOM

Heatwaves and drought

The UK has just endured its fifth major heatwave of 2026. The Met Office, the national weather forecaster, declares a heatwave if the heatwave temperature threshold for a certain area is met or exceeded over a period of at least three consecutive days. Depending on the area, that threshold ranges between 25C and 28C. So far this year, temperatures hit or exceeded 30C somewhere in the country on 39 days – a historic high.

The UK is on track for the hottest summer on record, after last year became the warmest (and sunniest) in the country's temperature-tracking history. The Met Office has repeatedly described the current climate as "the new normal," as the evidence points to the fact that 20th-century climate "has now gone."

The shift has happened rapidly: the most recent decade (2016-2025) was 0.51C warmer than the period 1991-2020, and 1.33C warmer than 1961-1990. The number of days over 30C and nights over 18C has more than quadrupled for Greater London this last decade compared to 1961-1990, while the average hottest day of the year has warmed by over 4.5C across Kent through Lincolnshire over the same period. Overall, the country is much sunnier and drier.

The speed at which this change is happening (notwithstanding the fact that scientists have warned about this scenario since the 1970s) has left the healthcare system dangerously unprepared.

Earlier this summer, the Climate Change Committee, the UK's independent climate change adviser, called on the government to install air conditioning in all care homes and hospitals within the next decade. In England alone, a staggering 90% of hospitals buildings are deemed vulnerable to overheating, with surveys revealing that temperatures in some wards exceeded 30C even as outdoor temperatures were just 22C.

Temperatures this high are incredibly dangerous to the human body, especially if exposure is prolonged. In the DAUK survey, the median reported indoor temperature was 33C while the highest was 45C. The NHS recommends a maximum general ward temperature of 28C, and 25C for sensitive areas like birthing and recovery rooms.

The NHS was already at a breaking point before this summer of records, owing to chronic underfunding, severe staffing shortages, and overwhelming patient demand. That demand has skyrocketed this summer as thousands more people show up at hospitals with heat-related symptoms.

In Wales, emergency departments saw record attendances in July, with an average of 3,357 people showing up each day. Darren Hughes, director of the Welsh NHS Confederation, told the BBC that heat had "taken its toll on the NHS" and placed staff "under considerable strain as many worked in high temperatures."

Many survey respondents voiced similar concerns. But on top of being overwhelmed by the amount of patients coming in, they also faced equipment malfunction or failure owing to elevated temperatures, which only worsened the conditions and overwhelmed the system further:

We will only understand the true scale of this heat-related health emergency once the heat subsides, but preliminary findings offer us some clues. Official government figures put the number of estimated heat-related deaths during the May and June heatwaves in England alone at 2,877.

That is likely an underestimation.

Despite our solid understanding of how the human body reacts to extreme temperatures, heat remains a "silent killer" for a reason. Its effects build up gradually, often going unnoticed until symptoms like heat exhaustion or heatstroke strike suddenly and severely, leading to serious illness or death without obvious early warnings.

To further complicate matters, heat-related illnesses and deaths can be multifactorial, involving a combination of heat exposure, individual susceptibility, and underlying health conditions. In these cases, determining the exact contribution of heat to a death can be complex, as it is less likely that fatalities in which temperatures played an indirect role are classified as heat-related deaths.

[*Earth.org*, 22/08/2026]

WORLD

Six World Heritage sites in danger

The World Heritage Committee, meeting in Busan in the Republic of Korea, has added six sites to the List of World Heritage in Danger, three of them by emergency procedure. UNESCO indicated that recourse to the emergency procedure reflects a world increasingly shaped by armed conflict, climate change and other crises which pose serious threats to irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage.

The three emergency inscriptions were entered on the World Heritage List and placed on the danger list at the same time. Mount Amel Castles in southern Lebanon, a group of five fortresses spanning the Crusader, Islamic and Ottoman periods, has suffered extensive damage during the continuing conflict; the site was already subject to enhanced protection under international humanitarian law, and the Committee considered that the conflict directly jeopardises its conservation and requires urgent intervention.

Sebastia, in the Occupied West Bank, preserves archaeological remains spanning more than 2,000 years and faces pressures arising from the conflict in the Middle East together with general development and proposals for a national park which would divide the property.

The Boma-Badingilo Migratory Landscape in South Sudan, which hosts the largest known terrestrial mammal migration, is under strain from commercial poaching, wildlife trafficking, infrastructure development and persistent insecurity; UNESCO noted that several ethnic groups have been custodians of the landscape through herding, farming and fishing over many centuries.

Three sites already inscribed were added to the danger list. The Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora in Ukraine has deteriorated during the temporary occupation of Crimea, where UNESCO and the United Nations Satellite Centre have documented new construction and large-scale excavation threatening the site's authenticity.

The ancient city of Tyre in Lebanon, among the most significant archaeological sites of the Mediterranean, was added as hostilities continue.

The Historic Inner City of Paramaribo in Suriname was listed after new construction significantly altered its historic urban landscape.

The danger list is intended to mobilise international cooperation and technical support for sites facing exceptional threats.

[UN News, 27/07/2026]

Warning over world's soil health

More than half of the world's soils are in poor condition, threatening global food supplies and biodiversity, while proven measures to improve soil health are not being implemented, a UN report says.

"Globally, we must shift from a mindset of soil exploitation to one of soil stewardship," the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned.

Soils "support 95 per cent of our food production, host 59 per cent of global biodiversity and serve as the planet's second-largest carbon sink after the oceans," the report's authors said.

Yet "soil degradation continues to accelerate at an alarming rate". The report found that in 52.5 per cent of regions and subregions soil management was poor or very poor. In a third, it was fair, while in only 14 per cent was it good or very good.

It is the second major report by the FAO, after a pioneering effort in 2015, assessing soil health across the planet. That first study found most of the world's soils were in fair, poor or very poor condition.

Since then, the FAO said, the world's population had grown by 800 million people, while 80 million hectares more land, nearly the combined area of France and Germany, had been turned over to major crops.

[Sunday Mail, 30/08/2026]



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Convictions under environmental legislation: June to August 2026 (September data not available)

[Note: the EPD no longer classifies second (and subsequent) offences.]

The EPD's summary of convictions recorded and fines imposed during the above period is as follows:

June 2026

Sixty convictions were recorded in June 2026 for breaches of legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Six of the convictions were under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, 27 were under the Noise Control Ordinance, 10 were under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, 4 were under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, 12 were under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and 1 was under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

A company was fined \$20,000, which was the heaviest fine in June for contravening the provisions of a licence.

July 2026

Forty-four convictions were recorded in July 2026 for breaches of legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Eight of the convictions were under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, 3 were under the Noise Control Ordinance, 15 were under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, 1 was under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, 16 were under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and 1 was under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

A company was fined \$30,000, which was the heaviest fine in July for contravening the terms or conditions of a specified process licence.

August 2026

Thirty-seven convictions were recorded in August 2026 for breaches of legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Three of the convictions were under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, 13 were under the Noise Control Ordinance, 9 were under the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation, 1 was under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, 10 were under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and 1 was under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.

A company was fined \$18,000, which was the heaviest fine in August for contravening the provisions of a licence.

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