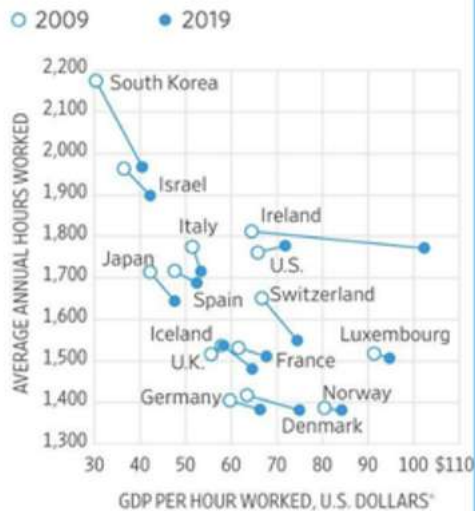


GENERVISION CAPE

The Productivity Puzzle

Working more hours does not always make a country more productive.



*In 2010 dollars

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

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IS WORKING FROM HOME BETTER?

The pandemic has driven many companies to digitalise their workplace, and the people working from home had risen to 39% globally compared to just 24% before the pandemic. A recent global survey finds that, among 12,500 people surveyed in 29 countries, two-thirds of the working adults believe that they are more productive with a flexible work schedule, and that employers should allow more flexible working hours in the future.

Iceland has recently made a huge success from their trial to move workers from a 40-hour to 35- or 36-hour workweek without reduced pay. The report shows that productivity had remained the same or improved, and workers' wellbeing has "dramatically increased" across indicators such as perceived stress and burnout. However, this is not a one-size-fits-all solution for all kinds of businesses, and it's critical that companies must relearn how to arrange work so that employees can work in a more focused way with less time.

Achieving Sustainable Mobility in Macau

Gladys Ng

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced earlier that Macau will follow China's national carbon reduction strategy to peak its carbon emission by 2030. Endorsing Ho's announcement, the Secretary for Transport and



Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário stated that Macau will reach emission peak and carbon neutrality ahead of the national timeline. However, there are yet to be any specific policies or plans issued by the government regarding such goals. There is still a long way to achieving the emission peak goal.

According to the report released by Environmental Protection Bureau, the major greenhouse gas (GHG) emission sources include local production of electricity, land transport, and energy use by commercial, domestic and service industries. Among these sources, land transport is the most apparent aspect that the government's emission reduction effort focuses on.

Launching tax incentives for eco-friendly vehicle, establishing standards on unleaded gasoline and light diesel for vehicles, restricting imports of polluting vehicles, funding community associations and enterprises to instal diesel exhaust treatment equipment, and requiring public bus companies to use new energy vehicles, etc., are the Macau government's approach to reducing air pollution and GHG emissions from land transport.

But as the number of motor vehicles in Macau increases, the related carbon emissions also follow. Although the exact amount of land transport's contribution to GHG emissions has not been published in the latest Report on the State of the Environment of Macao, it is estimated that land transport has accounted for nearly 30% of total emissions in 2019, and its emissions have increased by more than 15% since 2012. Judging from the data, Macau's current policies and measures are still inadequate to reduce the carbon emissions produced by transportation.

To achieve low-carbon travel, other aspects of urban life should also be considered besides addressing the vehicle's emissions. Here I suggest two relevant ways to help achieve a low-carbon city:

Consider “sustainable mobility” in urban planning

Mobility takes into account the time, affordability and safety for people to commute to places that are necessary for a healthy life. For example, in the Sustainable Sydney 2030 strategy of Sydney, Australia, the accessibility of the city and the building of a



pedestrian-based city are emphasized. The initiatives include the design of walking-oriented infrastructure suitable for everyone and the design of new developments and urban renewal areas based on a “people first” approach, with walking and cycling as the basis of activity planning. Another example is the Mayor's Transport Strategy for the city of London. The strategy uses the "Healthy Streets"

approach, which aims to reduce people's dependence on cars and plan the city around the use of walking, cycling and public transport. When urban design is people-centric, it will attract people to experience the environment and reduce carbon emissions by eliminating the need for motorized travel.

Fuel economy standards for vehicles

Transitioning from fossil fuel-based vehicles to electric vehicles is a key strategy to tackle emissions from transport. Since pushing for the adaptation of new energy vehicles (NEV) is challenge (e.g. There are only 1489 privately-owned electric cars in Macau, accounting for only 13% of the total number of private cars), policies are needed to tighten fuel economy and emission standards of fossil fuel-based vehicles at the same time. A recent study found that over the past 40 years, 17 billion tons of carbon emissions have been saved through improvements in the fuel economy of light vehicles in the US. To encourage the use of NEVs, Mainland China has introduced subsidies that target vehicle models with longer range, better fuel economy and higher battery energy density. In addition, mandatory national standards for automobile fuel consumption limits have also promoted energy saving and emission reduction in vehicles. Undoubtedly, reducing the environmental impact of all vehicles is just as important as increasing the number of NEVs.

Transport, although not as big a contributor to overall GHG emissions as local production of electricity, remains a key aspect for carbon-reduction measures. Moreover, controlling carbon emissions from transport while improving the livability of the city is policy approach that worth investigating.

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Lessons learnt from the Hong Kong Corporate ESG Report

What is ESG?

E - Environment, S - Social and G - Governance.

Nowadays, investors are not only concerned about financial operations, but also the relationship between companies, the environment, and the society.

In 2019, Natixis from France conducted a study entitled "Looking for the Best of Both Worlds". Seventy percent of investors believe that it is important to make a positive impact on society through their investments. More than half of the investors surveyed would avoid investments that contradict their values. Growing concern about the risks of climate change has spurred a rise in responsible investment, with global socially responsible investment growing 34% to \$40.5 trillion in 2020, an increase of 27.5% over 2019.

The U.S. Global Change Research Program warned in 2018 that the planet has only a decade left to prevent the worst effects of climate change. These measures have put pressure on businesses to respond to the threat of climate change. These measures put pressure on companies to make their fair share of contributions and to pay attention to ESG reporting.



Corporate response to the release of the ESG Reporting Guidelines in Hong Kong

In 2016, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX) issued new ESG Reporting Guidelines and a reporting framework for listed companies to make ESG disclosures.

Watsons and Environment protection

Watsons participates in the Hong Kong Environment Bureau "Charter on External Lighting" and over 140 Watsons stores have switched to energy-efficient LED lighting. Watsons is replacing cardboard boxes with reusable bags for online purchases in June 2019 to reduce the excessive use of disposable cardboard boxes. Watsons also replaces diesel trucks with new gas-powered trucks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Awarded the United Nations' Better World Company and the Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS) of World Green Organisation (WGO) in recognition of its effective practices in energy conservation, water conservation, waste reduction, paper reduction, information technology use and disposal in its business.

Hong Kong's MTR received an "AAA" in the ESG rating by MSCI

From the disclosed sustainability report, we can see the following key points.

- In terms of carbon emissions, MTR has searched for renewable energy sources, used more low-carbon energy-saving devices, and launched a campaign to encourage passengers to reduce carbon emissions by using MTR public transport.
- In terms of social impact, employees are encouraged to actively participate in volunteer work, organize charity events for different age groups, and conduct art exhibitions at MTR stations.
- In terms of labor management, employees are required to undergo up to three months of induction training and attend regular seminars.

As a result of the recognition of MTR's sustainable development philosophy, the Green Bond issue has raised HK\$16.8 billion to date.

Conclusion

Following the release of the ESG Reporting Guidelines by the HKEX, all industries in Hong Kong have started to pay attention to these three aspects of their companies and set relevant KPIs. This allows companies to increase their social impact and environmental responsibility, while helping them to improve their internal structure and obtain more financing, resulting a double whammy!

Being constantly operating organization, companies consume a lot of resources and cause a lot of pollution. If they can pay attention to and adjust their own behavior, they can make our society more sustainable.

European Union Set To Become The World's Largest Green Bond Issuer

As part of its Green Bond Framework, the European Commission has just announced launching a €250 billion worth of green bond with an initial issuance expected in October of this year. This will make the European Union (EU) as the largest green bond issuer worldwide.

The Framework sets a criteria for investments from green bonds to finance climate-relevant activities, such as green transition, climate change adaptation and waste management. This Green Bond Framework will contribute to 30% of the EU's €800 billion recovery program, NextGenerationEU, that aims to transform the regional bloc to be greener, more resilient and more digitalised.

According to Moody's Investors Service, global sustainable bond issuance is predicted to reach \$850 billion this year, meaning a 59% rise compared to the year before. This suggests that green and sustainability bonds are set to become the new driving force to sustainable development.



China stops building new coal-fired projects overseas

In a video remark at the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), President Xi Jinping announced the country's decision to increase support for green and low-carbon energy generation in developing countries and stop building new coal-fired projects overseas.

This commitment quickly sparked worldwide attention. Numerous international media have sent out reports in the first place

- **BBC:** China will not build new coal-fire projects abroad, a move that could be pivotal in tackling global emissions
- **The New York Times:** Mr. Xi's pledge, coming just weeks before the United Nations-led climate talks in Glasgow, sharpens the coal dilemma for large, emerging economies like India, South Africa and Turkey, all major consumers of coal
- **The Guardian:** This is a major step, in spite of worsening tensions between the US and China, suggesting that a more competitive stance hasn't impeded China's ability to make more ambitious climate commitments.



 綠色行動

GREEN ACTION



早在2015年，荷蘭鐵路公司已與國內能源公司Eneco合作，擬於國內建設多個風車農田。

Back in 2015, the national train company has already teamed up with an energy company called Eneco to build a large supply of wind farms.



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Talking about Netherlands, you may think of flowers. However, do you know that Netherlands are well-known for its renewable energy as well?

Windmills in polder are absolutely one of the most iconic attractions in the country. They transfer wind energy to rotation energy, by catching the movement through wings that are sent spinning. Energies can be used in several ways such as pumping water, grinding crops, and creating electricity



回到澳門，從2006年到2015年期間，可再生能源佔比卻下降了足足4倍。

這不禁讓我們反思一下，究竟我們居住的小城 - 澳門，在想像的未來又能在能源方面有什麼發展呢？

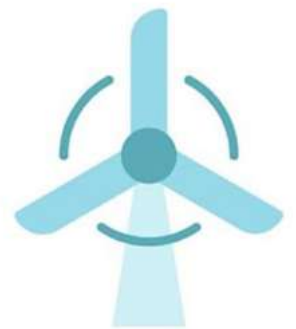


However, in the meantime, Macau experienced a slump in renewable energy consumption from 2004 to 2015, amounting to a 40% decline. Hence, it maybe worth pondering the question of how renewable energy resources can play a role in the future of this small city - Macau?

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不負眾望地，他們最終於2016年達成國內鐵路系統75%使用風能、2018年達到全面鐵路使用風能的目標。



REALITY
REALITY
REALITY

Lastly, they attained their goal of applying wind energy to 75% of the national train system in 2016. By 2018, the whole railway system was powered by wind energy.

GENERVISION HOUSE | 世望屋

EU Commision proposes a common charger for electronic devices

Recently, the European Commission has presented a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and the Council to tackle e-waste and consumer inconvenience.



In the European Union, approximately 420 million mobile phones and other portable electronic devices were sold in the last year. On average, a consumer owns around three mobile phone chargers, of which they use two on a regular basis. 38% of consumers report having experienced problems at least once that they could not charge their mobile phone because available chargers were incompatible. The situation is inconvenient and costly for consumers, who spend approximately €2.4 billion annually on standalone chargers that do not come with their electronic devices. In addition, disposed of and unused chargers are estimated to represent about 11,000 tonnes of e-waste annually. A common charging solution is expected to reduce this by almost a thousand tonnes annually.

The Commission has therefore proposed that all mobile phones, tablets and other portable electronic devices sold in the EU should be required to use a single charging port so that they can be charged through the use of a common charger. In addition, the Commission proposes to separate the sale of chargers from the sale of electronic devices.

As USB Type C connectors are already common in many devices, they have been chosen as the standard charging port in the proposal. This measure will improve consumer convenience and reduce the carbon footprint associated with the production and disposal of chargers, thus supporting the green and digital transition.

4 Basic Steps for Food Safety

With the temperature is hitting a record high, how to handle food properly becomes essential, unsafe food containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances can cause food-borne illnesses.

Here are the 4 tips you should keep in mind:

1. Clean - Always wash your food, hands, counters, and cooking tools.
2. Separate - keep raw foods away from the cooked, the last thing you want is to have a germ party on your ready-to-eat foods.
3. Cook - cook food thoroughly
4. Chill - Put food in the fridge right away. The 2-hour rule is the standard but we highly advise doing this within one hour for Macau's heat.

