

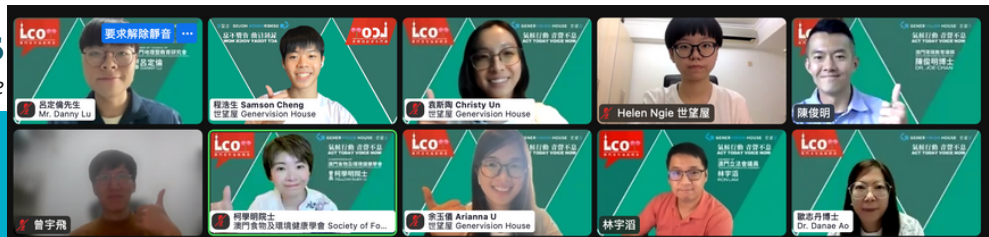
GenerVision Cape

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Featured Articles

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Original Articles in partnership with Macao News



How Macao can better support dementia patients and their caretakers as cases rise



How supporting local businesses helps Macao's economy and environment



Know more about Sustainable Development

THE GLOBAL GOALS

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It's not an ending but the beginning of a sustainable movement.

Genervision House held the first LCOY Macau, which took place online on 22 and 23 October and which was attended by around 200 participants. The Conference was officially endorsed by YOUNGO under the UNFCCC and sponsored by Sands China Ltd.

The Conference consisted of two roundtables, named respectively "causes and impacts of climate change" and "youth participation and policy advocacy", one session of presentation about urban green transition and climate governance, as well as a climate change position statement writing workshop.



During the Workshop, 58 youth participants, with our members' coordination and under the guidance of four young guest instructors from Hong Kong and Macao, wrote together the Macau Youth Statement Towards Addressing Climate Change. The Statement covered the following five topics: Action for Climate Empowerment; Climate Adaptation; Climate Change, Cities and Health; Renewable Energy; and Green Jobs. Our members edited and organised the Statement, which was attached to the LCOY Macau 2022 Final Report. Both the Report and the Statement have been submitted to the Macao Government, COP 27 and the 17th Global Conference of Youth.

Scan the QR Codes below to read more about the media coverage of LCOY Macau 2022, the Final Report and the Statement.



Macao Magazine Final Report Statement

We are delighted that the Conference was covered by the Chinese news outlet of *Macao Daily News* and was also featured in *Macao Magazine* in English.



“The natural resources base and ecosystems must be managed sustainably to meet people’s food requirement, and other environmental, social and economic needs.”

— Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

Environmental Sustainability-Cases in HK

全城耗動 SPORTS ZERO: SPORTS WITH ZERO WASTE



由香港青年獎勵計劃舉辦的「全城耗動」計劃，旨在回收大自然中的塑膠廢物，並讓年輕人發揮潛能。活動以多元化、可持續發展及運動為核心，鼓勵大眾循環再造塑膠廢物。年輕人可一邊划木舟、一邊收集塑膠廢物，並將廢物升級再造。

Placing diversity, sustainability, and sports at its core. Sports Zero participants collect plastic waste while kayaking to creating uncycled sports equipment that can be used in local communities

愛協農莊 Oi Hip Farm House



由基督教愛協團契有限公司舉辦的「愛協農莊」，希望透過園藝治療，支援中度精神病患發輕微肢體障礙人士的精神健康。此計劃利用園藝發農耕活動，向大眾推廣環境及園藝身心健康的益處，同時使參加者提升體能及心理彈性。

Oi Hip Farm House uses horticultural therapy to help people with mild intellectual or physical disabilities and to educate the public on the physical and psychological benefits of gardening and farming.

全民絕膠@元朗 Plastic-free Community



綠領行動通過舉辦「全民絕膠@元朗」計劃，提高大眾對塑膠排提高大眾對塑膠污染問題的關注，此計劃旨在鼓勵元朗區食肆的食客自備餐具，並透過發放現金回贈培養減塑習慣。

The need to raise public awareness on the importance of plastic reduction, and to encourage people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution, is the focus of Plastic-free Community from Greeners Action. Starting from Yuen Long district, restaurant patrons are encouraged to bring their own reusable cutlery with a cash-back incentive at participating restaurants.

綠化總綱圖 Greening Master Plan (GMP)



土木工程拓展署在制訂綠化總綱圖的過程中，鼓勵公眾參與，並採用「加強地區參與模式」，邀請有關的區議會成立地區參與小組，一起檢討綠化總綱圖的建議，亦有舉辦社區種植典禮和學校講座，邀請附近居民參與種植活動，以提高綠化總綱圖的認受性。

Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) promote public participation in the GMP formulation process and adopt the "Enhanced Partnering Approach" whereby each relevant District Council forms a District Participation Group (DPG) to partner with them in reviewing the contents of the GMPs and to advise on the greening of the districts; meanwhile, CEDD organise community planting ceremonies and school talks and invite local residents to participate in our planting activities in order to receive encouraging responses and appreciation of our works from the public.

Cases in HK show us that we can just start and take action from our surroundings and daily lives to participate, promote and raise the social consensus in environmental sustainability.

DESA

Surveys the Future of Digital Government



The 12th edition of the UN E-Government Survey, published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of which titled "The Future of Digital Government", demonstrates that there is an ongoing shift from the "traditional technocratic e-government approach of the early 2000s to a digital development agenda that is policy-oriented, data-centric and politically driven." It shows how e-government has moved from "siloe approaches" in just a few high-income countries to whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in nearly all countries in the world. Despite increases in online services for vulnerable groups, the study points to "stark" evidence of pervasive digital divides. The survey aims to improve the partnership between SDG10 - Reducing Inequalities and SDG17 - Partnerships for the goals.



雖然幾乎每個國家都在參與數字化進程，但“並非所有國家都能通過電子政務發展實現同樣的可持續發展收益，而且社區和人口中的弱勢群體所獲得的利益是不相稱和不均衡的。”



While almost every country is engaged in the process of digitalization, "[n]ot all countries are able to achieve the same sustainable development gains through e-government development, and the benefits to communities and vulnerable segments of the population have been disproportionate and uneven.



聯合國經濟和社會事務部 (DESA) 發布的第 12 版聯合國電子政務調查標題為“數字政府的未來”，說明世界各國政府正在從 2000 年代初期的傳統技術官僚電子政務方法向以政策為導向、以數據為中心和以政治為驅動的數字發展議程持續轉變。



The 12th edition of the UN E-Government Survey, published by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of which titled "The Future of Digital Government," demonstrates that there is an ongoing shift from the "traditional technocratic e-government approach of the early 2000s to a digital development agenda that is policy oriented, data-centric and politically driven." It shows how e-government has moved from "siloe approaches" in just a few high-income countries to whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches in nearly all countries in the world.



該調查中分析了電子政務發展指數 (EGDI)，該指數反映了在線服務的範圍和質量、電信基礎設施的狀況以及現有的人力資源。研究發現，雖然全球 EGDI 平均值總體上有所增加，但進展並不均衡。位居榜首的是丹麥、芬蘭和大韓民國。伯利茲、科特迪瓦、圭亞那、黎巴嫩、尼泊爾、盧旺達、塔吉克斯坦和讚比亞——首次進入高 EGDI 組，而大洋洲的平均 EGDI 值自 2016 年以來首次下降。

The Survey uses the E-Government Development Index (EGDI), which reflects the scope and quality of online services, the status of telecommunication infrastructure, and existing human capacity. While the global EGDI average has increased overall, progress has been uneven. Topping the ranks are Denmark, Finland, and the Republic of Korea. Eight countries - Belize, Côte d'Ivoire, Guyana, Lebanon, Nepal, Rwanda, Tajikistan, and Zambia - moved to the high EGDI group for the first time, while the average EGDI value for Oceania declined for the first time since 2016.



數字技術使政府能夠在應對圍繞 COVID-19 的挑戰方面發揮關鍵作用，其中大部分地區側重於遠程學習和疫苗接種服務，其他地區還提供遠程醫療和在線安排醫療測試。提供所有四種服務的國家比例最高的是歐洲（90%），其次是亞洲和美洲（各 71%）、大洋洲（65%）和非洲（40%）。



The 2022 Survey shows that digital technologies allowed governments to play a key role in addressing the challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. All regions implemented digital measures, with a majority focusing on distance learning and vaccination services, and others also providing telehealth and online scheduling for medical tests. The proportion of countries offering all four types of services is highest in Europe (90%), followed by Asia and the Americas (71%), Oceania (65%) and Africa (40%).

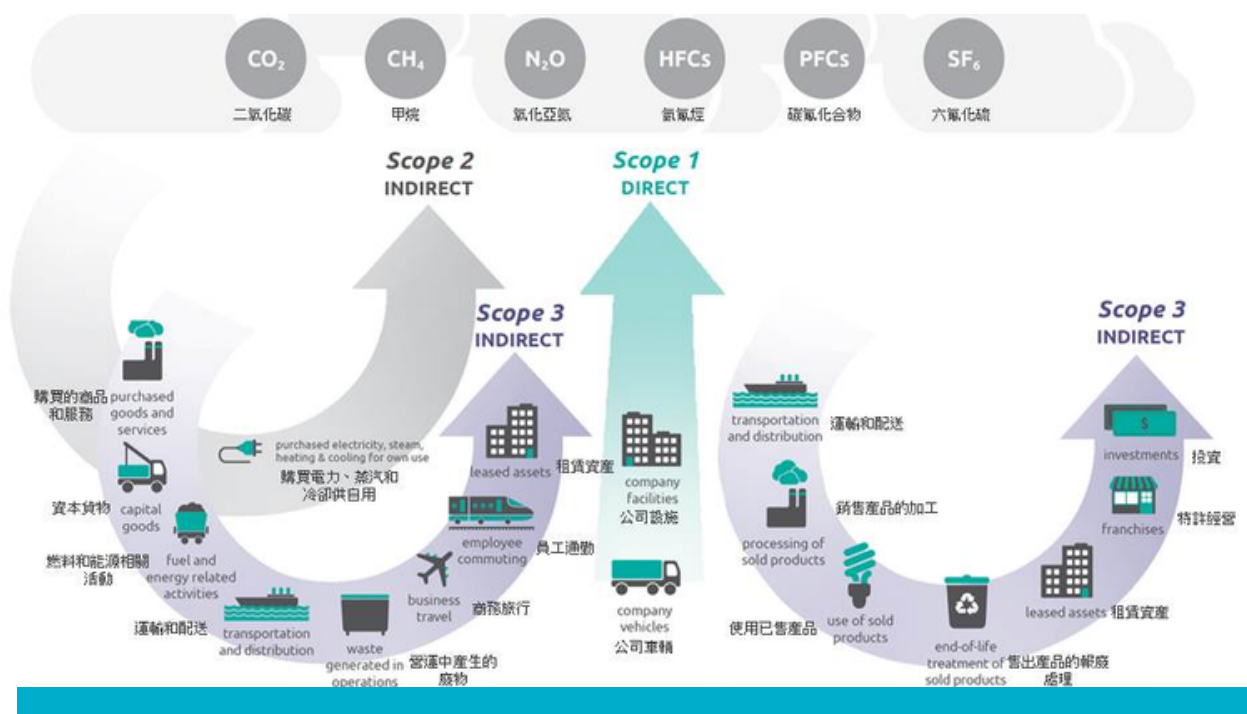


According to the recommendations of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to keep the 1.5°C warming threshold, the world must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 43% by 2030 (compared to pre-industrial revolution levels) and achieve net zero emissions by 2050, to avoid an irreversible large-scale climate disaster.

The management of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions has been at the top of the agenda. Organisations, including governments, corporations and NGOs, are urged to manage the emission levels and execute the climate action plan.

One may wonder how the emission level is being measured and managed. Broadly speaking, the measurement of emissions level is classified into Scope 1 to 3. (See the image below)

From which dimensions do organisations measure and reduce GHG emissions?



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SCOPE 1
Direct greenhouse (GHG) emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization (e.g., emissions associated with fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles)
由組織控制或擁有的來源產生直接產生的溫室氣體排放 (例如, 與鍋爐、熔爐、車輛中的燃料燃燒相關的排放)

SCOPE 2
Indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling
購買電力、蒸汽、熱量或冷卻機器/系統相關的間接溫室氣體排放

SCOPE 3
Scope 3 emissions include all other indirect emissions that occur across the value chain and are outside of the organisation's direct control
整個價值鏈中發生且不在組織直接控制範圍內的所有其他間接排放

Organisations now constantly monitor the emission level and carry out varying actions to achieve the common goal by 2050. Examples include switching to clean energy, building solar panels for the generation of electricity, purchasing from sustainable sources, promoting the importance of waste management, trading carbon credits, etc.

The definition of Scope 1 to 3 does not only provide guidelines and standards for big organisations for emission management but can also serve as a guideline for both local SMEs and individuals to start their climate action plan. Let's begin today.

How Macao can better support dementia patients and their caretakers as cases rise?

(The original article was first published on the website of the Macao News)

With a rapidly ageing population and dementia cases increasing year after year, the city must find new ways to support individuals and their struggling families.

The number of people over 65 years old in Macao has more than doubled in the past decade, according to the census report, released in June. This age group now makes up 12.7 per cent of the city's population, which grew at a comparatively modest 20 per cent over the same period. As the World Health Organization has reported, ageing populations tend to see more cases of dementia.

Dementia is an umbrella term for symptoms that indicate brain impairment – essentially, the deterioration of someone's memory, thinking ability, sense of direction, language skills, and/or social skills. One of the most common types of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, for which there's no known cure, is a progressive neurological disorder that kills brain cells.

More than 6,000 Macao people have already been diagnosed with dementia, according to a 2021 study cited by the Macau Alzheimer's Disease Association (MADA). The authors of that study – "Population trend analysis of dementia prevalence and incidence in Macau", published by the *Macao Journal of Nursing* – expect that

number to rise by 1,000 cases each year.

Alzheimer's Disease International estimates dementia affects over 50 million people worldwide as of 2020 and predicts a doubling of cases every 20 years. Dementia's prevalence in mainland China, however, has more than doubled in just a decade, according to studies conducted in 2011 and 2021.

The Global Deterioration Scale for dementia breaks the syndrome down into seven stages. From stage five onwards, people can no longer live without some assistance. By stage seven, all verbal ability, mobility and urinary control is lost. Globally, family members provide the vast majority of in-home care for people with dementia – and have been dubbed "invisible second patients".

As Secretary-general of Caritas Macao, Paul Pun, stated in an interview, most caregivers in Macao underestimate the pressure of taking care of elderly relatives with dementia and fail to recognise when to seek professional help. A study by the University of Macau and the Fuhong Society found almost a third of people responsible for looking after a family member with mental disabilities, including dementia, experienced moderate to severe depression, and almost half experienced moderate to severe anxiety in the course of their caretaking.



Bella Wu

Dementia profoundly affects those who have it, their families and society, which raises an important question: Is Macao ready to care for its ageing population?

Challenges to overcome

There are currently only two residential care facilities in Macao – Cheerful Home and Fai Chi Kei Integrated Elderly Service Center that accept people with dementia as live-in patients and three daycare centres offering services like cognitive therapy and "daily living" training. This is not enough, according to the Social Welfare Bureau.

It usually takes around two months to confirm a dementia diagnosis, followed by another few weeks for a follow-up home visit to assess the diagnosed person's condition for admission to a dementia facility. After that, it can take years to finally be admitted into a facility. Beds often aren't available until an existing in-patient dies. During this time, the patient must be cared for at home by family and qualified domestic workers.

When conducting research on the topic in 2021, Caritas Macao found that the majority of the home caregivers interviewed felt stress and loneliness while looking after loved ones with dementia. The



organisation noted that psychological breakdowns were common amongst dementia caregivers due to the demanding responsibilities expected of them. What's more, many families struggled with a lack of guidance from healthcare professionals.

While there are some new general day-care and residential centres opening, land scarcity in Macao makes building new facilities of any kind a challenge – demand continues to outstrip supply.

Generivision House's vision for dementia care

In the short term, Macao can take pressure off home caregivers and improve the well-being of seniors with dementia by implementing a few support strategies:

- Expand MADA's helpline to become a 24/7 service

This provides immediate help for caregivers (or those with dementia) who are struggling or need support. MADA's existing helpline is manned by trained professionals from Monday to Friday. The service could be expanded online with a live chat option, an AI-powered helpdesk, and an FAQ page for 24/7 assistance. The help offered could also expand from the current services (which include general dementia information, caring skills, and healthcare news) to include treatment options, financial and legal resources and crisis counselling.

- Provide respite care services

Respite care gives home caregivers a break from looking after their family members, and a much-needed chance to re-energise. It usually involves volunteers or paid professionals visiting homes where people with dementia live, and looking after them for a few hours, days, or even weeks. In some cases, respite care takes place in day

centres or residential facilities. In the UK, funding for respite is provided by local councils, the National Health Service and charities.

- Improve caregiver training

Well-trained and/or certified dementia caregivers take pressure off the medical system and improve the levels of care provided. In mainland China, caregiver training specifically for dementia patients has been part of the country's vocational certification system since 2020. While there is some training for home caregivers in Macao – offered by Kiang Wu Nursing College and Caritas Macau – with 43 and 30 student enrollment caps annually, the career path could be more accessible. For example, the Macao government could incorporate



caregiver training into its Employment Orientation Training Program.

In the medium term, Macao could implement so-called "Smart City" initiatives, which harness technology and innovation, to improve the lives of people with dementia by boosting their independence.

For example, the Macao government could upgrade the city's transportation app into a more dementia-friendly version that aids accessibility. Simpler interfaces showing streamlined commuting routes (direct trips from Point A to Point B) would streamline journeys and reduce confusion for people with mild dementia. A virtual map with real-time locations, the ability to share tracking records, and a 999

auto-dial function would make journeys for people with dementia a lot safer.

Smart home devices such as motion-sensitive lighting, stoves with that automatically shut-off, water isolators, and fall-detection monitors would also help. Meanwhile, the government could subsidise the installation of such safety devices in homes where people with dementia reside.

In the long term, Macao is already starting to look to the Greater Bay Area (GBA) to help solve its land scarcity issues; the Macao New Neighbourhood residential development in Zhuhai is one example. More daycare centres and residential facilities catering to dementia patients should be incorporated into such plans to accommodate growing demand for such services. Both public and private organisations could consider more creative healthcare models that make use of the GBA's resources, in accordance with Macao's policy of developing its healthcare industry.

The government could consider funding dementia-friendly communities, modelled on De Hogeweyk in the Netherlands. A nursing home for dementia patients that resembles a Dutch village, De Hogeweyk has shops, a grocery store, a cinema and more – all staffed by trained dementia specialists. The idea is to let patients live relatively normal lives in a safe space (where no money is used) away from the general public. The Hogewey approach has been widely praised for the high quality of life patients experience in that environment. The model has been adopted in several European countries already – and Macao has a chance to build the first dementia village in China.

Scotland first in world to make period products free

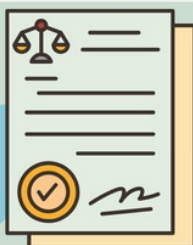


Menstruation is a natural physiological phenomenon that occurs in women. However, it doesn't appear to be a natural topic to be discussed. In both developed and developing areas, women can suffer from discrimination, be treated unequally or even lose their chance to go to school or work because of their period. By sharing this piece of news about Scotland's Period Products Bill, we hope to learn with you about the relations between menstruation and sustainable development.

蘇格蘭立法保證月經用品免費供應

Right to free period products become law in Scotland

2022年8月15日，蘇格蘭《月經用品免費供應法》正式生效，這意味著在蘇格蘭全境內的市政機構和教育場所將免費提供如衛生巾、衛生棉條等的生理用品。該法案在2020年11月由蘇格蘭議會全數通過。早在該法案生效前，當地政府已於2018年起在學校、學院和大學內向學生提供免費的生理用品，開創世界先例，而84%的受益學生認為該措施對她們有正面影響。



Scotland's Period Products Act came into effect on 15 August 2022, which means that period products like sanitary pads and tampons can be obtained for free in councils and educational institutions in Scotland. The bill had been unanimously approved in the Scottish Parliament in November 2020. Right before that, in 2018, the government had already made history by becoming the first to make period products free to students. 84% of those who have benefited from the scheme said that it had a positive impact on them.



為何要立法？

Why is it necessary to have such legislation?

大家有沒有聽過月經貧窮這個概念呢？它指的是低收入者負擔不起或者無法獲得合適的經期產品，消除月經貧窮正是該法案其中一個核心目的。從2016年開始，該法案的提出者蘇格蘭工黨議員MONICA LENNON已經開始此做準備。她針對這項議題進行研究時，發現一些蘇格蘭女性在月經期間，會將衛生紙或抹布當作生理用品使用，更會因為買不起而曠課或曠職，家暴受害者通常更會被伴侶控制使用該產品。該法案的通過和實施，相信能夠更大程度地保障蘇格蘭女性月經期間的身心健康以及她們上學或上班的權利。



Have you ever heard of **period poverty**? It means that those on low incomes can't afford, or access, suitable period products. Tackling period poverty is exactly one of the core aims of this bill, which was introduced by Labour MSP Monica Lennon. Since 2016, she has been campaigning to end period poverty. While she was doing research for the bill, she found out that some Scottish women would use toilet paper or rags as sanitary pads during their period. Some even skipped classes or didn't go to work because they couldn't afford the products. Victims of domestic violence were restricted to use those products by their partners. Thus, the act is believed to be able to ensure Scottish women's mental and physical health during their period as well as to guarantee their right to go to school or work.



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還有誰在經歷月經貧窮？

Who else is suffering from period poverty?



根據世界銀行估算，全球至少有五億女性無法獲得她們生理期的必需品。

The World Bank estimated that at least 500 million women globally lack access to the facilities they need to manage their periods.



在肯尼亞，65%的女性無法負擔月經用品，有部分女性（包括未成年）需要透過性交易來獲取衛生巾。

In Kenya, 65% of women can't afford period products. Some of them, including minors, can only have access to sanitary pads through transactional sex.



在英國，2017年有接近13萬8千名女孩因為無法負擔月經用品而不能到學校上課。

In the UK, in 2017, almost 138,000 girls skipped classes because they couldn't afford period products.



新西蘭一份2020年調查顯示，超過9萬名學齡女孩因為相同原因而無法上學。

A 2020 survey from New Zealand shows that more than 90,000 school-age girls stayed home from school for the same reason.



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在聯合國17個可持續發展目標中，第5個目標是實現性別平等，增強婦女和女童的權能。當中的具體目標包括消除對女性一切形式的歧視以及使女性能夠獲得平等的對社會事務進行決策的機會。所以，解決女性因月經帶來的諸多問題和困難，令她們在月經期間也能如常地參與一切的社會活動，是實現性別平等的一個重要的基礎。而蘇格蘭的法案對當地甚至全球都有重要的意義，不僅有助於解決當地月經貧窮問題，為其他致力解決月經貧窮的國家和地區提供參考，更能喚起人們對女性權益的重視和思考，把月經話題重新“自然化”。

月經和可持續發展

Menstruation and sustainable development

Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals launched by the United Nations, the 5th Goal is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The specific targets include eliminating all forms of discrimination against all women and girls and ensuring that women can equally have the chance to participate in social affairs and make decisions on them. Therefore, solving women's problems and difficulties caused by menstruation is fundamental to achieving gender equality because this can help women to join all social activities as usual during their period. Scotland's Act is significant at the local and global levels. It doesn't only tackle period poverty, but also provides a model for other countries and regions fighting against the same problem. Moreover, it raises public awareness of women's rights and interests, re-making menstruation a natural topic.




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Can Macao become a sustainable city?

We hear "Leisure city", and "The City of Gastronomy" most of the time, but what about "Sustainable City"?

Becoming a sustainable city is a global aspiration. Is it possible for Macau? Let's check!

Prof. Wai Ming To states that it is not possible for Macau to become a sustainable city in a short time. See the picture on the right to know why. 



澳門能成為可持續發展城市?

澳門
MACAU



可持續發展城市
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT CITY

中短期內，澳門不太可能成為可持續發展城市
IN THE SHORT TERMS, IT MAY NOT HAVE A POSSIBILITY
TO BECOME A SUSTAINABLE CITY

原因有以下3點

REASONS ARE THE ABOVE



1. 地區面積限制
AREA RESTRICTION



2. 建築物密度高
HIGH BUILDING DENSITY



3. 市民環保意識不足
LACK OF PUBLIC
AWARENESS

GENERVISION HOUSE | 世望屋

1 地區面積限制

AREA RESTRICTION

澳門使用可再生能源可行性

THE FEASIBILITY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MACAU

中央政府於2015年向澳門劃撥了85平方公里領海。
是否為興建海上風電場提供了機會?

85 square kilometers of territorial waters have been allocated to Macau by Central Government, is it possible to build an offshore wind farm?



2. 建築物密度高

HIGH BUILDING DENSITY

"SOLAR ENERGY IS NOT EFFICIENT DUE TO THE SHADOWING EFFECT OF ADJACENT BUILDINGS AND THE SMALL RATIO OF ROOFTOP AREA TO TOTAL FLOOR AREA"

“由於相鄰建築物引起的不利陰影效應，加上屋頂面積佔房屋佔地面積的比率甚低，太陽能效率不高”



3. 市民環保意識不足

LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

“多年來，人們一直被教導要落實環保3R原則，即REDUCE（減少使用）、REUSE（物盡其用）和RECYCLE（循環再造）。可惜的是，他們卻甚少將3R原則付諸實踐”



"PEOPLE HAD BEEN EDUCATED TO PRACTICE "REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE" (THE 3R PRINCIPLE) FOR YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAVE SELDOM PUT THE PRINCIPLE INTO PRACTICE"



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"For years we are told to practice the '3R principle' (reduce, reuse and recycle). Unfortunately, people rarely practice it" what do you think about this statement? Why is it that the more we know, the harder for us to take action?



- NEEDS THE MACAO GOVERNMENT AND ELECTRICITY COMPANY TO INVEST MASSIVE RESOURCES
- NEEDS A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY

- 需要澳門政府和澳門電力公司大量資源
- 需要專家團隊評估建設海上風電場的可行性

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2022 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

COP 15 - CP/MOP 10 - NP/MOP 4

Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth

KUNMING – MONTRÉAL



What we should know about CBD COP15?

Almost 3 weeks after the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP 27), another important conference of the parties convened on the other side of the earth to address "humanity's senseless and suicidal war with nature". The 15th meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) began on 6 December and ended on 19, taking place in Montreal, Canada, under the Chinese presidency. More than 190 countries gathered with hopes to slow the decline in biodiversity.

甚麼是COP15? What is COP15

聯合國生物多樣性大會(《生物多樣性公約》第十五次締約方會議(COP-15))。COP15召集世界各國政府，就未來十年對自然的一套新目標達成共識，還會研究《生物多樣性公約》的執行情況。

The UN Biodiversity Conference (15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)). COP15 convenes governments from around the world to agree to a new set of goals for nature over the next decade, and the conference will also look at the implementation of the protocols of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



Reports show that only 3% of the world's ecosystems are still ecologically intact — meaning they still support healthy populations of their native species and haven't been ruined by human actions; humans have already altered 75% of the Earth's land and two-thirds of its oceans. So the main goal of COP15 is to stop that from continuing. But difficult negotiations are expected over the wording and substance of the proposed goals, and the biggest tension is likely to revolve around the issue of financing.

This year is particularly special because the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be presented to the parties, who will scrutinize the Framework and come to an agreement. The Framework, which has been hailed as the Paris Agreement on biodiversity, sets a new set of goals for nature over the next decade, including protecting a minimum of 30% of the world's oceans and land, eliminating plastic waste, and increasing financial resources dedicated to biodiversity to at least US\$ 200 billion annually.



However, despite some four years of negotiations in Kunming, Geneva, Nairobi, and Montreal, the GBF is still fraught with disagreements.



One of the major controversies is the issue of funding. According to *the Little Book on Investing in Nature: A Simple Guide to Financing Life on Earth*, published by the French Development Agency (AFD) and Global Canopy in 2021, the amount of funding needed for global biodiversity conservation is estimated to be up to US\$967 billion by 2030, compared to about US\$143 billion today. There is still a huge funding gap. Moreover, the GBF can only be effectively implemented if the funding problem is solved.

Whose Responsibility?

Some developed countries have been collecting and developing resources in those countries with rich biodiversity since the colonial era, and additional and sufficient funds should be provided to support biodiversity conservation in developing countries. Otherwise, no matter how ambitious the GBF is, it will only become a tool to blame developing countries for failing to fulfil their conservation responsibilities.

The developed countries, led by the EU, believe that the developed countries have been providing funds to developing countries for a long time, especially since the EU has been the most stable, predictable and trustworthy source of funds. But this is far from enough. Biodiversity conservation requires the transformation of the global industry to a nature-positive model and the provision of funds by all countries and organizations that have the capacity to do so to places in need, not only developed countries.



Who is right and who is wrong? There is no right and wrong. The developed countries have the greatest historical responsibility for global environmental problems such as biodiversity loss and climate change; however, without further efforts from all countries in the world, it will be difficult to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss, especially when biodiversity-rich areas are concentrated in developing countries.

How supporting local businesses helps Macao's economy and environment

(The original article was first published on the website of the Macao News)

Gladys Ng



Photo by Kanokratnok

As a global city, we need to revitalise economies, restore the environment and become more resilient. We can start by supporting local businesses.

The pandemic and climate change have underlined the inextricable link between the economy and the environment. More than half of the known infectious diseases are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted from animals to humans, and often spread due to human developments that encroach on wildlife habitats. As humans expand their footprint in the name of progress and profit, it can destroy ecosystems and cause land degradation – both of which contribute to climate change.

And when nature suffers, so does our economy.

Since 2020, Macao has seen its economy shrink by almost half from pre-pandemic levels, while recent natural disasters have cost the city dearly. Typhoons Hato and Mangkhut, for example, cost the city MOP 12.5 billion and MOP 1.7 billion, respectively.

Local leadership must focus on the point where economics and the environment converge to ensure a robust and resilient recovery. That recovery might even require rebuilding some of our systems from the ground up.

Macao will need to transition to

renewable and clean energy, build more sustainable transportation, retrofit buildings and homes to be more resilient to the growing impacts of climate change, and improve urban green spaces, among other things. These green investments will not only help a city mitigate climate change, they will also create jobs and more economic opportunities.

In the meantime, how can you, as an individual, make a difference? Invest in the local economy by supporting our local shops and businesses. Not only will shopping locally strengthen our community, but it can also help

revitalise nature and boost economic growth. Better yet, it's something anyone can do to make a difference. Here's why shopping local matters:

1. It keeps money in the community

When we spend money on locally owned businesses rather than their imported goods or international brands, more money circulates back into the community – as much as 70 per cent – through the supply chain and community activities.

Since locally owned businesses carry out most of their activity in the community, they are more likely to hire Macao residents and source goods and services through local suppliers. And because a Macao business owner also lives in our community, the profits earned through the business will be re-spent locally.

Local businesses are also likely to give back to those in need through volunteering, charity work and donations. Philanthropic activities help businesses communicate positive brand values and improve team morale (and because it's *their* community, too!)



2. Fosters a stronger community, stronger eco actions

Local brick-and-mortar shops form a crucial part of a city's identity. They provide spaces where residents can greet each other, catch up and or gather, which develops their sense of familiarity and belonging in a community. Whether it's a century-old *cha chaan teng* (Chinese-style cafe) along busy Avenida Horta e

Costa or a little indie bookshop in the historic São Lázaro area, local shops also help us remember a street or a neighbourhood, which also deepens our connections.

Research shows that people who feel a stronger sense of belonging to the community are more likely to protect its environment. So by investing in our local shops, we are also sowing the seeds for more environmentally friendly choices and actions.

3. Reduces our footprint



Transportation accounts for one-fifth of global carbon dioxide emissions, over 40 per cent of which can be traced to freight.

When we purchase a product from a local shop made locally or regionally, we help lower carbon emissions across the supply chain by minimising transit. And if that product is made using sustainably sourced material from a nearby area, its environmental footprint will shrink further.

For example, buying an apple that was grown in mainland China and transported by truck to Macao will have a smaller carbon footprint than buying an apple imported from the US. Overall, it's best to buy sustainably produced items from a local shop whenever possible instead of buying imports.

There are exceptions to the "buy local" rule, however. Products such as beef and lamb have a sizable carbon footprint regardless of where they are cultivated.

4. Cuts down on waste

Another perk of buying local is that you can avoid creating more waste. Since local products require less transportation, they often require less packaging. Instead of buying imported tofu wrapped in plastic, you can simply visit a shop on Rua da Emenda to buy freshly made tofu with no packaging at all.

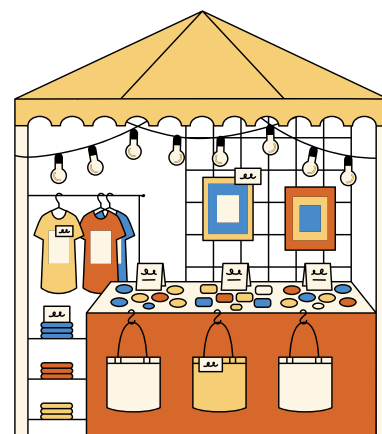
With zero-waste stores starting to appear in Macao, there are now more options to refill your own containers, too – a perfect way to support local businesses and protect the environment!

Many people have had epiphanies during the pandemic: If we are going to solve global problems, local solutions are just as important as national and international ones. Supporting local businesses doesn't just strengthen the community. It can create opportunities for a swift and enduring economic and environmental recovery in the face of future challenges.

How to: Shop local today

With a few easy steps, you can make a big impact.

- Make a list of the daily essentials and groceries you purchase regularly
- Analyse each one: Is there a local alternative in your community?
- Identify Macao-owned shops carrying the local alternatives
- Start phasing out imported goods gradually or all at once



Green jobs?

Food delivery service by bicycles in Ethiopia



At some point, food delivery seems to have completely integrated into our lives. Whether at the consumer or employment ends, food delivery platform companies provide more choices for society. On the other side of the world, however, in Ethiopia, delivery services are just taking off and are still a novelty.

Tikus, a food delivery startup launched only last year, opts to deliver food to its users by bicycle or electric scooter. The aim is to provide fast, affordable service, support local restaurants and create jobs for young people.



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Tikus

"Because the bikes require no fuel, customers can enjoy lower shipping rates and the delivery is environmentally friendly," said TikusCEO. "

This innovation, which is more in line with local spending power and social conditions, and creates lots of jobs, has gained a lot of attention. However, the large number of disposable food containers needed for take-out will remain an environmental challenge. How to balance society, economy and environment? Which to prioritize? Still worth thinking about.



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