

# Chinachem Group

## Sustainability Conference 2022

Creating Social Impact on the Zero Carbon Journey in Hong Kong



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### Summary

#### *Advancing Net Zero in Countryside Conservation*

- There is an imbalance in the attention given to urban and rural utilisation in Hong Kong. Today's presentation explores how we can make better use of our under-utilised countryside.
- It is important to maintain and conserve our countryside, which is rich in ecological, architectural and cultural resources. However, neglect over the years has led to ruined architecture and abandoned villages. E.g., in Lai Chi Wo, diminishing life has led to degrading biodiversity.
- The 2017 policy address laid out plans to establish a Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) to coordinate conservation projects that promote sustainable development of remote countryside, with HK\$1 billion earmarked for such initiatives. Its priority was to, in collaboration with NGOs, organise diversified and innovative activities, to revitalise Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung.
- The CCO's work approach comprises three steps:
  - Assess – Investigate and innovate
  - Act – Initiate and facilitate
  - Advocate – Cultivate and educate
- HK\$500 million has been set aside to provide financial support to local non-profit-making organisations (NPOs) and villagers through the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS).
- There are 33 CCFS approved projects as of 30 Sept 2022, covering a range of locations and themes.
  - In Lai Chi Wo, these include eco-friendly methods of farming and maintaining habitat diversity.
  - The history and culture of Yim Tin Tsai, and ecological value of Deep Bay Wetland.
  - Hakka life culture, including developing a village restoration model led by villages and villagers.
- There are some challenges, including that of
  - Accessibility:** The Hong Kong Countryside Foundation Limited conducted a Feasibility Study and Pilot Scheme of Water Bus for Inter-village and Coastal Eco-tour Service for Lai Chi Wo and Nearby Villages.
  - Licensing:** The CCO is facilitating license applications for guesthouses and catering facilities at Lai Chi Wo. Obstacles include small windows, mud/brick/timber structures, lack of fire sprinklers, lighting and ventilation, etc. CCO has formed an interdepartmental working group to agree on alternative approaches, without compromising safety and hygiene. License for all 11 guesthouses in Lai Chi Wo were issued in Aug 2022 paving the way for a more fulfilling experience of the Hakka Village at Lai Chi Wo.
  - Improvement works:** To enhance comfort, safety, hygiene, and eco-friendliness.
  - Social impact:** To address misconceptions about the countryside, such as dirty and smelly toilets; and to change mindsets about zero-carbon being dull and uncomfortable.
- The public toilet at Lai Chi Wo is probably Hong Kong's first net zero building, featuring MiC, Renewable Energy, Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse, as well as Passive Design and Smart Tech to support both zero-carbon as well as countryside conservation.
- This project is an attempt to contribute to the zero-carbon journey, in the bigger context of Urban-Rural Symbiosis, and in a smaller context of eco-design strategy and technology.
- To pave the way forward, we have to 'Explore', 'Expand', 'Encourage', 'Explain', working together, with the government, industry peers and our wider community.



# 華懋集團

## 可持續發展論壇 2022

### 香港零碳之旅 · 創造社會效益



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#### 重點

#### 在鄉郊保育推展淨零

- 香港對城鄉資源使用的重視程度不均。我們現探討如何更好地利用未被充分使用的鄉郊地區。
- 維持和保護擁有豐富生態、建築和文化資源的鄉郊非常重要。然而，多年來的忽視導致建築受損和村莊荒廢。以荔枝窩為例，其生物多樣性正逐漸消失。
- 2017年的《施政報告》制定計劃成立「鄉郊保育辦公室」(CCO)，以協調保育項目，促進偏遠農村的可持續發展，並為此預留 10 億港元資金。優先處理項目與非牟利機構合作舉辦多元化及創新的活動，活化荔枝窩和沙螺洞。
- 「鄉郊保育辦公室」的工作範疇涉及三個程序：
  - 評估 — 調查和創新
  - 行動 — 發起和促進
  - 倡導 — 培養和教育
- 預留了 5 億港元，透過「鄉郊保育資助計劃」為本地非牟利機構和村民提供財政支援。
- 截至 2022 年 9 月 30 日，共有 33 個鄉郊保育資助計劃項目申請獲批資助，涵蓋不同地點和主題：
  - 荔枝窩獲批的資助項目包括環保的耕作方法和維持棲息地的多樣性。
  - 鹽田梓的歷史文化以及后海灣濕地的生態價值。
  - 客家生活文化，包括發展以村莊和村民為主導的鄉郊復修模式。
- 我們面對的挑戰包括：
  - 交通**：「香港鄉郊基金有限公司」為荔枝窩及鄰近村莊推出「水上巴士」進行可行性研究和試驗計劃，提供跨村及沿岸生態旅遊服務。
  - 牌照事務**：「鄉郊保育辦公室」協助荔枝窩民宿和餐飲設施申請牌照，須處理窗戶小、泥/磚/木的結構、缺乏消防灑水、照明和通風系統等問題。「鄉郊保育辦公室」成立了一個跨部門工作組，在不影響安全和衛生的情況下提供替代方法以符合規例要求。2022年8月，荔枝窩的11間民宿全部獲發牌照，讓遊客可以更充實地體驗荔枝窩的客家村文化。
  - 改善工程**：提高舒適度、安全性、衛生和環保。
  - 社會影響**：消除部分人對鄉郊的誤解，如誤以為廁所髒臭；以及改變「零碳」予人沉悶乏味的想法。
- 荔枝窩的公廁可能是香港首個淨零建築，它以「組裝合成」建築法興建，利用可再生能源、實踐回收、減廢和重用，以及採用被動式設計和智能科技，支持零碳和鄉郊保育。
- 該項目是在城鄉共生的背景下產生，規模雖小，卻充分展示環保設計的策略和技術，為邁向零碳之路作出貢獻。
- 我們必須與政府、同業、社區不同持分者等合作，一起進行「探索」、「推展」、「鼓勵」和「闡釋」的保育工作，以邁步前行。

