2026 HONG KONG AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE



PROGRAMME BOOKLET

2026

1. INTRODUCTION

The Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (the HKAEE) is led by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) alongside the Environment and Ecology Bureau and in conjunction with nine organisations, in alphabetical order, the Advisory Council on the Environment, the Business Environment Council, the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Hong Kong Chinese Importers' & Exporters' Association, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. The HKAEE is an annual award which aims to encourage companies and organisations to adopt environmental management, benchmark their performance with the best practices within their sectors, and recognise the achievements of the best-performing companies and organisations.

As an environmental award that aims for excellence, the Awards take the pyramidal shape as the form of its logo to show the commitment of different sectors of society for reaching excellence in environmental performance. At the apex of the logo is a tender leaf that symbolises the growth of environmental awareness in the community. The white ribbon that wraps around the pyramid forms the letter "Q" to represent both quality and qualified environmental performance of the awarded organisations.

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Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence

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Hong Kong Green Innovations Awards

In 2026, the Awards encompass two annual competitions, namely:

- ***Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (HKAEE)*** is a sector-specific competition which recognises the overall environmental achievement of an organisation;
- ***Hong Kong Green Innovations Awards (HKGIA)*** recognises the achievement of a green innovation;

Please refer to the separate booklet for details about **HKGIA**, while the ensuing paragraphs of this booklet refer to the details of **HKAEE.**

1.1 Benefits







By participating in the **HKAEE**, companies / organisations can –

- enhance the corporate brand image and demonstrate its commitment to corporate social responsibility;
- obtain free professional advice on enhancing effectiveness of environmental initiatives from the technical consultant of the programme; and
- enhance corporate competitiveness, encourage businesses in the same sector to improve their operations and be more concerned about the environment.

Awards winners of the **HKAEE** –



- may gain media coverage to showcase their environmental achievements;
- may be invited to share their environmental achievements and experiences at public events;
- will be entitled to use the award icons for promotional and publicity purposes in a given period;
- will be presented with a trophy and / or, a certificate; and
- will automatically be eligible to be granted with the title of the **"Hong Kong Green Organisation"** under the Hong Kong Green Organisation Certification (HKGOC) organised by the ECC.

To recognise the efforts of participants, the "Hong Kong Environmental Caring Company" Logo and a "Participation Certificate" will be issued to each eligible participant that has completed the Stage 1 assessment and yet do not receive any awards or certificates.

A number of other local schemes also offer recognition and benefits[1] to the ***HKAEE*** awardees, as summarised below:

Local Schemes	Benefits
BOCHK Corporate Low-Carbon Environmental Leadership Awards" 2026 [2]	Awardees of **HKAEE** will be given 1 bonus point on top of the full marks of the Awards 2026.
BEAM Plus [3]	Awardees of HKAEE will receive 1 bonus credit in BEAM Plus Existing Buildings Version 3.0 – Comprehensive Scheme. Applicable to HKAEE - Property Management sector, awardee will receive 1 bonus credit in Sustainable Property Management (T1) under BEAM Plus Existing Buildings Version 3.0 – Theme Certification.
The Caring Company Scheme [4]	Awardees of the **HKAEE** will be eligible to earn designated points in the Environmental Sustainability section of Form B under the Caring Company Scheme.
Hong Kong Green Mark Certification Scheme [5]	Awardees of the **HKAEE** will be offered 50% discount on the annual licence fee for each first application for "*Green Mark*" certification.
Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS) [6]	Awardees of the **HKAEE** will be recognised as having fulfilled 5 Green Office Best Practice Criteria under the scheme.
CLP Smart Energy Award [7]	Awardees of the **HKAEE** will receive 5 bonus points in the "*CLP Smart Energy Award*".
Hong Kong Green Label Scheme [8]	Awardees of the **HKAEE** will be offered discount on application fee for each first application for "*Hong Kong Green Label*" certification.
WWF-Hong Kong's Low-carbon Operation Programme (LOOP^{PLUS}) and **Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme (LCMP)** [9]	Awardees of Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Certificate of Merit in **HKAEE** will receive HKD$1,000 membership fee reduction on enrolment or next renewal of LOOP^{PLUS} membership. Awardees in **HKAEE** sectors of "Manufacturing and Industrial Services" and "SME - Manufacturing and Industrial Services" will be granted exemption from HKD$1,000 application fee in LCMP.
Hong Kong Green Shop Alliance (HKGSA) Award [10]	Gold, Silver and Bronze Awardees of 2024 and 2025 **HKAEE** will receive 5, 4 and 3 bonus points in HKGSA Award assessment respectively. Awardees of the 2024 and 2025 **HKAEE** Certificate of Merit will receive 2 bonus points in HKGSA Award assessment.

Note:

1 Subject to the endorsement of the respective Scheme Organisers.

2. BOCHK Corporate Low-Carbon Environmental Leadership Awards is organised by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries. For details, please visit https://bocawards.industryhk.org/en/

3. BEAM Plus is an independent assessment of building sustainability performance. It is certified by Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) while the assessment is handled by the BEAM Society Limited. For details of the BEAM Plus, please visit the HKGBC's website at https://www.hkgbc.org.hk/eng/beam-plus/introduction/index.jsp

4. Caring Company Scheme is organised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. For details of the Caring Company Scheme, please visit the Caring Company website at https://www.caringcompany.org.hk/

5. "Green Mark" certification is managed by the Hong Kong Q-Mark Council, Federation of Hong Kong Industries. For details of the Hong Kong Green Mark Certification Scheme, please visit the website at https://www.qmark.org.hk/

6. Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS) is organised by the World Green Organisation (WGO). For details of the GOALS, please visit the WGO's website at http://thewgo.org/website/eng/goals-green-office/

7. CLP Smart Energy Award is organised by the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited. For details of the CLP Smart Energy Award, please visit the Smart Energy Award Programme website at https://www.clp.com.hk/en/business/smart-energy-award

8. "Hong Kong Green Label" certification is organised by the Green Council. For details of the Hong Kong Green Label Scheme, please visit the Hong Kong Green Label Scheme website at https://www.greencouncil.org/hkgls

9. "LOOP^{PLUS}" and "LCMP" are operated by WWF-Hong Kong. For details of LOOP^{PLUS} and LCMP, please visit WWF-Hong Kong's website at https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/cities/eco/

10. Hong Kong Green Shop Alliance (HKGSA) is organised by the Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC), which aims to foster green shopping environment in Hong Kong. For details of the HKGSA, please visit the website at http://hkgsa.hkgbc.org.hk/index.php

1.2 Key Activities

The schedule of key activities for the 2026 HKAEE is tabulated below.



Activity	Date
Experience Sharing Seminars	December 2026
Application Deadline	31 December 2026
Assessments Period for the HKAEE	1st to 2nd quarter of 2027
Awards Presentation Ceremony	4th quarter of 2027

2. HONG KONG AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

2.1 Eligibility

All organisations and their key management / operation functions in Hong Kong are generally eligible to apply for the HKAEE, with reference to their core business fulfilling the definition of respective sector(s). Functional units within an organisation can enter the same or separate sectors but each functional unit is limited to enter into one sector only. If an organisation has multiple functional units intending to join the same sector, each functional unit should demonstrate that it has its own environmental initiatives within its operation before being considered admissible to the *HKAEE*.

To encourage wider participation, the Gold Award winner of each sector / sub-sector of the previous year will not be eligible for entering the *HKAEE* within the next **two** years. In other words, Gold Award winners of 2024 and 2025 HKAEE will not be eligible for entering 2026 HKAEE, and Gold Award winners of 2026 HKAEE will not be eligible for entering 2027 and 2028 HKAEE.

The Organisers reserve the right to determine the eligibility of any applicant.

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Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence

2.2 Sectors of HKAEE

The following table summarises the scope of sectors of this award scheme. Full details can be found in individual Guidebooks.

Table 1: Awards category under 2026 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence

2026 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence			
8 Sectors (for non-SMEs)			
 Construction Industry^	 Hotels and Recreational Clubs	 Manufacturing and Industrial Services@	 Property Management (Commercial & Industrial / Residential)
 Public Community and Transport Logistics	 Restaurants, Shops and Retailers	 Schools (Pre-school / Primary / Secondary)	 Servicing and Trading
4 Sectors (for SMEs) *			
 Construction Industry^	 Manufacturing and Industrial Services@	 Restaurants, Shops and Retailers	 Servicing and Trading

The Organisers reserve the final right to make the final decision in the event of dispute over the eligibility of an applicant.

^ The nominated construction project should have at least one-third of the project work completed (according to the contract period) at the time of assessment.

@ Hong Kong based manufacturing companies with their factories in the Greater Bay Area will also be eligible to join the HKAEE under the Manufacturing and Industrial Services Sector (for non-SMEs), or Manufacturing and Industrial Services Sector (for SMEs).

* Under the HKAEE, an SME is an organisation that (i) meets the definition of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) adopted by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; (ii) has substantive business operation in Hong Kong; and (iii) its parent company or its affiliated company (if applicable) or itself should not be a listed company (ownership of a 50% of interest or more will be classified as an affiliated company). An SME under the definition of HKSAR Government is a manufacturing business which employs fewer than 100 persons in Hong Kong; or a non-manufacturing business which employs fewer than 50 persons in Hong Kong. The "number of persons employed" includes individual proprietors, partners and shareholders actively engaged in the work of the organisation; and salaried employees of the organisation, including full-time or part-time salaried personnel directly paid by the organisation, both permanent and temporary, at the time of submitting applications.

2026 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence

Awards Category

The awards to be granted in each of the sector:





or a combination as deemed appropriate by the Final Adjudicating Panel(s).

2.3 Assessment Procedures

Winners will be selected from a rigorous assessment process comprising three stages:

1 — 2 — 3

Stage 1: **Initial Assessment**

Document review of all entries



Stage 2: **Detailed Assessment**

Field assessment of shortlisted entries



Stage 3: **Final Assessment**

Adjudicating panels to select winners out of finalists



Stage 1 - Initial Assessment

Upon receipt of the application form, eligible applicants will be invited to submit detailed information on their green policies and practices as well as environmental achievements via an online questionnaire. All information submitted by the applicants will be reviewed according to the assessment criteria of the awards. The Organisers may request additional documents for the purpose of information verification. The Organisers will then select applicants for detailed assessment in Stage 2.

All eligible applicants who have completed Stage 1 assessment and yet do not receive any award will receive the "Hong Kong Environmental Caring Company" Logo and a Participation Certificate after completion of all assessment processes.

Stage 2 - Detailed Assessment

Organisations selected for detailed assessment will be visited by a team of assessors. The visit will include a tour of applicant's facilities and interviews with key representatives of the organisation including top management, department heads and general staff. The applicants should arrange the necessary permits and transportation between the Hong Kong-Shenzhen border and the premises in Mainland China, if necessary, for the assessment visit. During the site visit, applicants are encouraged to introduce their environmental performance to the assessors to provide them with an in-depth understanding of their environmental initiatives and the status of implementation.

The assessors will then prepare the assessment reports for submission to the Organisers for further short-listing into the final adjudication in Stage 3.

Stage 3 - Final Assessment

Adjudicating Panels will review the environmental performance of applicants. During the final assessment phase, the Adjudicating Panels may invite candidates to further present their achievements in a meeting. Each Adjudicating Panel will comprise representatives from various trade associations, government departments, professional bodies and the like.

2.4 Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria for the *HKAEE* are based on the well-established "Eco-Business Model". This model is designed to exemplify the strong relationship between the internal operation of a business and the surrounding environment. The key factors, including ***Green Leadership, Programme and Performance*** and ***Partner Synergy***, are generally considered to be vital in the overall integration of environmental measures within an organisation.

Eco-Business Model





Green Leadership

Green leadership refers to the level of commitment demonstrated by an organisation's senior management in the pursuit of environmental objectives within the organisation and the commitment of managers and staff to the implementation of environmental initiatives. Indicators to be reviewed include the types of environmental programmes established by management, the amount of training provided and resources used for the programmes, the degree of staff involvement in carrying out programme tasks, and the manner in which programme progress is monitored for continual improvement.



Programme & Performance

This aspect evaluates the accomplishments achieved by organisations when carrying out their environmental programmes. Environmental measures undertaken during the daily operations of the organisation will be evaluated for effectiveness. The scope of evaluation includes the extent to which an organisation has complied with environmental regulations, conserved energy and water, reduced / reused / recycled waste material, as well as improved environmental qualities such as noise control, ambient and indoor air quality.



Partner Synergy

Partner synergy looks at how an organisation explores opportunities to inform and influence suppliers and contractors about the importance of environmental management and encourage them to adopt their own environmental strategies in their individual operations. The extent to which the organisation participates in environmental education for its customers and the general community is also relevant.

2.5 Weightings of the Assessment Factors for Each Sector

Name of Sector	Green Leadership	Programme and Performance	Partner Synergy
The 8 Sectors for non-SMEs			
Construction Industry	25%	55%	20%
Hotels and Recreational Clubs	25%	45%	30%
Manufacturing and Industrial Services	25%	55%	20%
Property Management (Commercial & Industrial / Residential)	25%	45%	30%
Public Community and Transport Logistics	25%	45%	30%
Restaurants, Shops and Retailers	25%	45%	30%
Schools (Pre-school / Primary / Secondary)	25%	55%	20%
Servicing and Trading	25%	45%	30%
The 4 Sectors for SMEs			
Construction Industry	25%	55%	20%
Manufacturing and Industrial Services	25%	55%	20%
Restaurants, Shops and Retailers	25%	45%	30%
Servicing and Trading	25%	45%	30%

2.6 Notes for Application

For details of the assessment criteria, and application procedures for individual sectors of HKAEE, please refer to respective Guidebooks.

Application of HKAEE can be made online with the official website during the application period (www.hkaee.gov.hk). All applications should be submitted on or before the application deadline of **31 December 2026** and late applications may not be processed. The name of organisation and functional unit, if any, indicated in the application form will be used in the award and publicity, and cannot be changed without justifiable reasons.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Organisers

中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府
環境及生態局
Environment and Ecology Bureau
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Environment and Ecology Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
環境運動委員會

Environmental Campaign Committee

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Environment and Conservation Fund

Environment and Conservation Fund

Co-organisers

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
ACE
香港環境諮詢委員會

Advisory Council on the Environment

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL
商界環保協會

Business Environment Council

香港工業總會
FHKI Federation of Hong Kong Industries

Federation of Hong Kong Industries

HKGCC
Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
香港總商會1861

Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

hkpc
生產力局

Hong Kong Productivity Council

香港中華總商會
CGCC The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong

The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

香港中華廠商聯合會
The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong

The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong

香港中華出入口商會
The Hong Kong Chinese Importers' & Exporters' Association

The Hong Kong Chinese Importers' and Exporters' Association

社聯
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4. ENQUIRY

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5. DISCLAIMER

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