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## Climate change plans dismissed as unsound (<http://www.scmp.com/article/734067/climate-change-plans-dismissed-unsound>) [1]

Submitted by admin on Dec 23rd 2010, 12:00am

Olga Wong and Lo Wei

Green groups and an academic yesterday attacked the government's feasibility study on climate change, saying measures proposed to cut carbon emissions including the import of nuclear power were not scientifically sound.

They also urged the Environment Bureau to explain why the projected growth of energy consumption by 2020 was six times the growth of the past 10 years.

The bureau launched a public consultation in September on the government's target to cut carbon intensity by 50 to 60 per cent by 2020 from the 2005 level. A set of proposed measures to achieve the target were included in the paper, including increasing nuclear power from 23 per cent of the total to 50 per cent.

But a full report - close to 500 pages - demonstrating why such measures should be adopted was only released early this month after pressure from green groups, which said the public were not fully informed of the government's decision-making process. The bureau then promised to extend the public consultation to January 10.

But the latest disclosure led to further controversy. Invited by green groups to analyse the full report, an academic specialising in energy and environment at City University said the government's study was scientifically unsound. His views were expressed at a press conference held by WWF, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace yesterday.

'The report wouldn't get a pass if it was a thesis of my students,' associate professor William Chung Siu-wai said. He said the measures recommended by the government's consultant were not tested with the internationally recognised model and as a result they were not proved to be feasible.

Only the current business-as-usual scenario was tested, he said, urging the government to improve the study and come up with more scenarios to choose from.

The model, widely used by more than 60 countries, can derive low-cost solutions for tackling climate change by inputting data concerning a city's energy supply, technology, relevant costs and constraints.

The government's consultant report said some recommended measures were not assessed with the model but based on its own assumptions as 'they are not considered to be commercially viable within the necessary timeframe'.

Dr William Yu Yuen-ping, climate head of WWF Hong Kong, said the report did not mention the impact on electricity tariffs, and he suspected the bureau had exaggerated the growth of energy use, which was

estimated to increase 36 per cent by 2020 from 2005. 'It's unreasonably high when comparing it with past figures. Consumption grew only 6.3 per cent from 1998 to 2008. The bureau should provide clear justifications.'

He said significantly increasing nuclear power might not be the most cost-effective solution and investing the same amount of money in controlling energy demand could be far more effective and less costly.

An Environment Bureau spokeswoman said last night all proposals had been scientifically assessed and the projected energy consumption was based on growth in population and economic activities.

Topics: Environment Environment Environmental Issue

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