

THE CITY OF HSINCHU TAIWAN

Hsinchu is located in the northwestern part of Taiwan. The city is on the vital North-South freeway with rail services, good public roads and a harbor for shipping. Similarities are the existence of the Hsinchu Industrial Park, which has been dubbed “Asian Silicon Valley,” where a huge amount of scientific and technological progress has been made since its founding. Electronics, agriculture, food processing, glass production and fishing are the main industries. The population is 300,000 and the city occupies 40.6 square miles. Hsinchu, signed in 1988, was the second signed Sister City of Beaverton¹⁸.



The city of Hsinchu

Aside from its high tech attributes, Hsinchu prides itself on its incredible natural scenery. Located on the coast and surrounded by mountains on three sides, outdoor enthusiasts and admirers would be hard pressed to find a more varied and stunning landscape. Nature is so much of the culture of Hsinchu that their city emblem is made up of three elements: heaven, earth and hman. This alludes to the idea of happiness, joy and harmony.

HSINCHU AND SUSTAINABILITY

How has your city officially defined “sustainability” or created a resolution to protect the environment, economy and society?

Hsinchu has created resolutions to protect the environment, economy and society in many areas. The city carries out the resolution by:

- Establishing a safe and user-friendly transportation network. The city encourages the citizens to use “Green Transports” and public transit system.
- Promising to make Hsinchu City a “Green City” with energy efficiency and reduce its carbon emission.
- Organizing seaside bicycle routes
- Promoting Hsinchu City to become the



Hsinchu City is being promoted to become the “Garden City”

¹⁸ from the Beaverton Sister Cities Website: <http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/departments/sistercities/cities/Hsinchu.aspx>

“Garden City”. Hsinchu City will not only be an important technology city, but also the center of culture, education, and leisure.

- Advocating the idea of sustainable development to the local enterprises. The city encourages these companies to perform its social duty by executing strategies with consideration of sustainable development.
- Integrating the local community force with the focus of sustainable development.
- Devoting time and energy to create a safe environment for the citizens of Hsinchu City.



The city collects garbage and recyclables from restaurants and citizens three days a week.

How does your city take care of recycling, garbage collection, water provision or parks?

The current monthly Resource Recycle Ratio is 36.872% for Hsinchu City. The city has policies including categorization of garbage into three categories:

- usage of “Resource Recycle Vehicle” following Garbage Truck to collect garbage three days a week
- free moving service for large-size furniture, transforming left over into fertilizers from local schools
- and free setup for sales market of fixed furniture.

What are your city’s goals supporting the notion of sustainability?

Hsinchu City Government has made policies regarding Sustainable Development based on the following eight topics: Visionary City, Sustainable Environment, Green Traffic, Sustainable Industries, Cultural Renovation, Energetic Community, Reduction of Carbon Emission, and International Co-Operation.

What achievements has your city made in regards to sustainability?

- Using “Cultural Garden City” as the background and learning strategies regarding international sustainable city development.
- Ensuring the diversity of animals, preventing pollutions, maintaining coastline, and reducing garbage and CO2.
- Establishing safe walk zone and bike route. Fully utilizing the public transit.
- Pursuing the sustainable development of industry.
- Using culture as the main theme for city development. Advocating Green Culture in local communities.
- Increasing green-energy usage efficiency.
- Using “Sustainable Living” and “Environment” as the main theme to form cooperation with international organizations.

What activities are in place?

- Establishing “Greenery Tourism Industry” to create “Garden City”.
- Constructing convenient public transit system by planning “Hsinchu-Mioli Transit System”.
- Activating relics in Hsinchu City.

What challenges have you faced?

- The limit of budgets, laws, and policies.
- The cooperation among different departments.
- The understanding of local citizens is passive and conservative.



Many private companies and community organizations help the city in their goals towards sustainability. Some public companies will write a white book (paper) each year to include sustainability into the strategies of companies’ development.¹⁹

¹⁹ For a list of businesses that promote sustainability see Appendix 1.5
For a list of organizations that promote sustainability see Appendix 2.4