大埔

大埔跟粉嶺和上水一樣，早在一九五一年就被納入中電的輸電網。不過，供電的範圍還是局限在主要的墟市。

未有電力以前的大埔鄉村，和新界其他村落的生活沒有很大的分別，早睡早起。大埔鄉委會鍾奕明先生記得很清楚，冬天，村民晚上七點多便睡了。沒有街也沒有大路。晚上出外，只有用電筒或稱「花燈」。通電以後，村民起碼十一點後才睡。

大埔墟腳已經多次填海，從前沒有樓房，現在大埔墟已轉變為陸地。外來人與原居民的關係良好，因居民大多為大埔頭、水圍人，溝通的語言為粉嶺本地話，其餘為客家話，彼此語言及生活習慣相同，故能互相融為一體。

大埔鄉會周水先生

一九五四年底的大埔墟，仍然是典型的農村
Tai Po Market in 1954, still a typical village
Tai Po

Tai Po is similar to Fanling and Sheung Shui in that as early as 1931, it was already on the CLP electricity supply network. However, the supply was limited to the main towns only.

Before electricity reached the area, the villages in Tai Po were similar to the villages in other parts of the New Territories. People went to sleep early and got up early too. Mr. Chung Yik Ming of Tai Po Rural Committee remembers clearly how in winter in the past, people went to sleep as early as 7 pm. There were no streets and no roads at all. People who went out at night had to use torches nicknamed “Fa Kei lamps” (meaning American or foreign lamps). After the electrification, rural residents would go to sleep at 11 pm or later.
飲

食方面，村民的習慣也跟其他村落相差不遠。大埔鄉委會文春輝先生回憶說：電力供應前，居民多數以鹽醃、風乾的方法儲存食物，較乾化的則用火水雪欄，放入冰塊，冷藏食物；大埔東村古村舉辦太平清醮公演大戲時，只能靠自備油渣發電機來發電照明。一九六二年八月才開始有電力供應。

有了電力供應，工業開始得以發展。七十年代，東村約有八至十間工廠，包括藤器廠、五金廠、塔香廠、革布廠、木工廠、玩具廠和雲石廠。時移世易，現時大部分工廠已結業，只餘下販賣舊物件的夜市場及廢車場了。進入八十年代，大埔工業才得以全面發展。

以前汀角一帶的交通十分不便，居民出入只靠小路來往大埔墟，路程約需兩小時。初期居民以耕種和農耕維生，農作物有菜和稻米，生活艱難。在艦灣一帶的居民則以捕魚為業，住宿地區為吐露港及大鵬灣一帶海域。

大埔汀角村李宋先生

一九六九年間，嘉道理勳爵與鄉民在大埔東村主持敬送電儀式
Lord Kadoorie inaugurating the lantern event at Lam Tsuen, Tai Po, with the villagers, 1969
or food and drink, the habits of the rural residents were almost the same as in other villages. Mr. Man Chun Fai of Tai Po Rural Committee remembers how in the past, before electrification, people usually used salting or drying as the major methods for preserving food. Those who were more “westernized” would use kerosene refrigerators. They would put in the ice and keep food frozen. The residents of Tai Hang Village in Tai Po held “Tai Ping Ching Chiu” (meaning “Thanksgiving for Peace”) events periodically. At that time they could only use diesel generators to supply electricity for illumination. Proper supply of electricity started only later in August 1962.

With the supply of electricity, industrial development also prospered. In the 1970s, Tai Hang Village had about 8 to 10 factories including rattan work, metal ware, aromatic products, leather, woodwork, toys and stonework. As time passed, most of these factories were closed. The places are now used for storage of second-hand goods and broken down cars. Not until the 1980s did the industries in Tai Po undergo a wide-ranging development.
大埔社區最具特色的地方之一是塔門。這個原來鮮為人知的小島，現在已經成為一個著名的旅遊景點。塔門漁民新村張志偉先生與這個別有風味的小島一起成長。一九七八年間，塔門開始有電力供應。他還記得當時嘉道理主席也來到塔門剪緞，到處參觀及吃海鮮，並送贈雪櫃、洗衣機、電風扇給村民。塔門一帶電力供應未普及之前，最先出現的電器主要是電燈、光管等。到電力供應後一年，電力才開始普及，電視、雪櫃等也相繼出現。

自七十年代初開始，塔門逐漸成為新興的旅遊熱點，雖然當時尚未有電力供應。遊客主要來塔門觀看古蹟及漁民生活；而當時的海鮮酒家還未成為遊客的吸引點，他們多為村民服務。後來通電了，交通也愈來愈方便，遊客更不斷增加，塔門昔日純樸的生活亦有所變化。

一九七八年嘉道理親自往塔門拜會鄉民，並主持供電儀式
Lord Kadoorie visiting Grass Island, met with the villagers and hosted the inauguration of power supply, 1978
Grass Island is one of the most remarkable places in Tai Po. This was originally an outlying unknown island, but it has become nowadays a famous scenic spot. Mr. Cheung Chi Wai of Grass Island Fishermen New Village has grown up on this special island. In 1978, electricity reached Grass Island. He still remembers Chairman Lawrence Kadoorie coming to the island in person to host the opening ceremony. He went throughout the island, seeing different places and had a seafood meal. In addition he gave refrigerators, washing machines and electric fans as gifts to the residents. Before electricity became popular on the island, the first electrical appliances to be used on Grass Island were lamps and fluorescent lamps. One year after electrification, electricity became popular and television sets and refrigerators were also seen on the island.

Though it had not yet an electricity supply, Grass Island had gradually developed into a scenic spot for tourists since the early 1970s. Tourists mainly came to see the historical sites and to witness the lives of the fishermen. The seafood restaurants there were not yet the main attraction for the tourists. They still chiefly served the local residents. Later when electrification occurred, transportation became more convenient and the number of tourists increased rapidly. The simple lives of the people on Grass Island thus changed.