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for information

The Green Manager Scheme

Introduction

This paper briefs Members on the Green Manager Scheme (GMS).

Background

2. In his 1992 policy address to the Legislative Council, the Governor committed the Government to setting a good green example for the private sector. In 1993, the Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands (SPEL) proposed the establishment of the GMS in government. Under the scheme, Green Managers were to be appointed in each government branch/department to oversee green housekeeping matters in their offices, and to send quarterly reports to PELB who would monitor the effectiveness of the scheme. It was intended that whilst in the early stage of the GMS the focus would be on green initiatives, there would be a need to extend the scheme to cover environmental audits (EA) and environmental management systems (EMS) later.

3. The GMS came into force in January 1994 when all government branches/departments had appointed their Green Managers. They were responsible for implementing a programme of green housekeeping within their departments. These included waste minimisation practices, energy and water conservation, publicising the commitment to protecting the environment, formulating action plans and recording achievements.

4. SPEL commissioned consultants, at a cost of \$1.6 million, to carry out pilot EAs in a number of departments including the Planning Department and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in 1993/94. The intention was to enhance our knowledge and experience on the implementation of EAs, which is the first step to implementing EMSs. The consultants identified the key environmental issues associated with the operation of these departments, and concluded that the benefits of EA and EMS could be realised within the public sector.

5. In late 1995 Government decided to commission a second consultancy to provide advice and training to branches and departments on EAs and EMSs. The consultancy assignment comprises the following elements :-

- (a) to conduct 10 training sessions to train 250 government officers;
 - (b) to audit 12 work sites;
 - (c) to provide a Help Desk to provide technical guidance to those participating branches and departments when they develop and implement their own EA/EMS; and
 - (d) to produce an EA training video.
6. The consultants will hold the first of the training sessions in April 1997.

Progress on Green Housekeeping

7. The following indicates the progress so far made in implementing the GMS -

- (i) eighty-eight government branches and departments have appointed Green Managers;
- (ii) Green Managers have employed a total of 65 green housekeeping measures involving waste minimisation, waste recovery, energy conservation, staff participation, publicity and education;
- (iii) seven departments have completed or are in the process of conducting environmental audits for their offices and operations; and
- (iv) to maintain the momentum of the Scheme, a plenum of Green Managers will take place in March 1997.

8. Government is also promoting the GMS in the private sector through the following measures -

- (i) we compile and update a Green Manager Information Database and maintain liaison with private sector green managers to promote initiatives related to corporate environmental management;
- (ii) the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) collaborates with the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC), the Centre of Environmental Technology and the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency to provide training to interested private sector companies;
- (iii) the EPD has provided advice to the HKPC on the ISO 14000 Environmental Management System pilot scheme;

- (iv) a pamphlet "Green Managers in Business" has been published to provide guidance on setting up GMS;
- (v) a book "A simple Guide to set up an Environmental Management System" will be distributed by March 1997 and placed on the EPD's homepage on the internet to help Green Managers establish EMS;
- (vi) a booklet "Advisory Note on Energy Efficiency in Existing Commercial Buildings in Hong Kong" has been published to provide guidance to Green Managers and building users on energy efficiency and conservation;
- (vii) a brochure "Waste Paper Recycling from Office" encourages Green Managers to start waste paper recycling programmes in office buildings;
- (viii) the Industrial Support Fund, managed by the Industry Department, funds industrial and technological development research, including environmental projects relevant to Green Managers; and
- (ix) we will shortly be distributing a video entitled "Green Offices" to introduce practical tips to reduce waste in offices and to promote the GMS.

Conclusion

9. Members are requested to note the contents of this paper.

Planning, Environment and Lands Branch
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