

Innovation and Technology Commission

Environmental Report 2008



1. Introduction

This is the ninth Environmental Report published by the Innovation and Technology Commission, covering the Commission's environmental policy, targets and achievements in different environmental aspects in calendar year 2008.

The mission of the Innovation and Technology Commission is to spearhead Hong Kong's drive to become a world-class, knowledge-based economy. We strive to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and develop our city into an innovation and technology hub. Since 2000, we have been working on the following initiatives:

- ♦ Supporting innovation and technological infrastructures including the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Institute of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Hong Kong Design Centre, the InnoCentre for design clusters, and five Research & Development Centres;
- ♦ Providing a comprehensive funding programme to support innovation and technology development;
- ♦ Assisting our industries in developing a high value-added, high intellectual property and creativity content to move up the value-chain;
- ♦ Collaborating with the universities, technology support organisations and industry to strengthen the research capabilities in Hong Kong;
- ♦ Encouraging private sector investments in research and development;
- ♦ Promoting internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services to underpin technological development and international trade; and

- ♦ Fostering an innovation and technology culture in the community, and promoting technological entrepreneurship.

2. Environmental Policy

Innovation and technological development cut across different fields, of which environmental management is one. We aim at providing support to Hong Kong industries to develop and implement advanced technologies for environmental management.

This Commission is also committed to providing a green office environment at the workplace and to ensuring that our operation is conducted in an environmentally conscious and responsible manner. We also educate and train our staff to ensure that they are aware of our departmental environmental policy, initiatives and their responsibilities such that they can participate actively in protecting the environment.

3. Support Measures to the Industry on Environmental Matters

Local industries and the society at large were more conscious about the environment than before. Industries recognised the need to adopt cleaner and more environmentally friendly technologies. The Commission continued to provide funding support to the development and adoption of clean environmental technologies and processes suitable for application in Hong Kong. Funding was available for eligible environmental technology-related projects under the Innovation and Technology Fund.

The Panel of Assessors for the Innovation and Technology Support Programme under the Innovation and Technology Fund would vet those environmental-related applications, among others, for funding support from the Innovation and Technology Fund. The Panel also monitored the implementation as well as effectiveness of the funded projects.

In 2008, the Innovation and Technology Fund provided funding support to 9 environment-related projects with a total commitment of about \$18.6 million. Examples of these projects are:

- Interactive 3D Traffic Noise Model Construction System
- A New Generation of Electric Vehicle Power Pack Platform
- Novel Quick Testing Sensors of Formaldehyde in Textile Fabrics and Clothing Products

- Application of Foam Dyeing Technology for Developing Colour Wash-out Effect on Cotton Knitted Fabric
- Development of High Efficiency and Energy Saving Multi-layered Nano-film Based Heating Apparatus and Devices
- Production of Photocatalytic Materials for Air Pollution Treatment by a Microwave Plug-flow Reactor

4. Green Housekeeping Measures

In support of the Government's efforts to protect the environment, this Commission is committed to ensuring that our internal operations are conducted in a manner conforming to environmental protection principles and practices. In 2008, we continued to adopt the following green practices:

Paper Consumption

- ★ We continued the use of the web-based Electronic Leave Application and Processing System (E-Leave) to promote a paperless office environment.
- ★ We continued the use of the electronic modes for internal and external communications, official correspondences and information circulation.



- ★ We provided all staff with an individual e-mail account and access to computer terminals connected to the departmental network.

- ★ We continued to use the electronic Admin Bulletin board to disseminate information including telephone directories, training activities, newsletters, circulars, etc.



- ★ We continued to critically review the subscription of newspapers and periodicals and, where possible, replace them by e-version of magazines and periodicals.

- ★ We used recycled paper in place of white paper when printing work was required.

- * We provided divisional Green Executives with regular reports on paper consumption to facilitate monitoring at divisional level.
- * We regularly reminded colleagues to use less paper and to use the blank side of used paper.
- * We discouraged colleagues from using fax cover sheets.
- * We used photocopiers and network printers capable of producing double-sided printouts.
- * We placed boxes holding single-side used paper beside photocopiers and printers to encourage the use of the blank side of used paper.
- * We sent festive greetings electronically.
- * We issued press releases and distributed application forms for funding support to members of the public through our website.

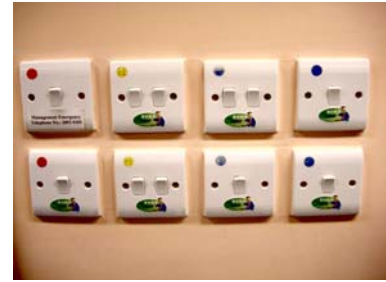


Energy consumption

- * We used energy saving fluorescent lamps in our offices.
- * We reduced lighting to the minimum acceptable level.
- * We enabled the energy saving feature of computers and office equipment.
- * We installed automatic sensor in each cellular office to ensure that lights would automatically be switched off when the room was not in use.
- * We kept reminding colleagues to switch off lights and electrical appliances when not in use. To save energy, a designated staff member would turn off all unnecessary lights and electrical appliances after normal office hours. All lights in store rooms and conference rooms were switched off when not in use.



- * We installed timer switches to automatically switch off unnecessary equipment after office hours.
- * We affixed “Save Energy” stickers on sockets to remind colleagues to save energy.
- * We adopted Environment Bureau’s initiative in setting room temperature at 25.5°C to reduce energy consumption.
- * We fixed thermometers at various locations to cross check the temperature setting to avoid excessive cooling.
- * We installed window blinds with better heat insulating capabilities to reduce direct sunlight during summer.
- * We consolidated the computer servers via the latest virtualisation technology for better server utilisation rate and reduction of energy consumption.



Water Conservation

- * We used self-closing water taps in washrooms to reduce water consumption.

Waste Management

- * We participated in the Programme on Source Separation of Commercial and Industrial Waste.
- * We collected 78 kg of plastic wastes and 27 kg of metal wastes in 2008.
- * We continued to provide green bags in the office for the collection of waste paper for recycling. 4,774 kg of waste paper was collected in 2008.
- * We continued the collection of unwanted Compact Disc (CDs) for recycling. 1,204 CDs were collected in 2008.
- * We continued the collection of rechargeable batteries for recycling. 14 rechargeable batteries were collected in 2008.
- * We collected used printer toner cartridges for recycling.



- * We reused envelopes and loose minute file jackets as far as practicable.
- * We placed boxes holding used envelopes in common areas to facilitate re-use.
- * We reused decorative accessories for festival decorations.

Compliance with Clean Air Charter

- * We adhered to the commitments stated in the Clean Air Charter to help improve Hong Kong's air quality.
- * Our departmental cars run on petrol instead of diesel fuel.
- * Our drivers have been repeatedly reminded of and are observing the instruction of switching off vehicle engines while waiting.
- * We were conscious of the need to reduce energy consumption and implemented energy-efficient measures in our offices.



Indoor Air Quality

- * We participated in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme launched by the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department. Our offices at Wu Chung House and Immigration Tower were certified complying with the "Good Class of the IAQ Objectives".
- * We installed Nano Air Cleaner in the conference/meeting rooms to degrade pollutants and kill bacteria in the air.



Green Procurement

- * We took into account environmental considerations when procuring goods and services.
- * We procured environmental friendly products such as recycled paper and clutch pencils.

Environmental Education

- * We organised environmental seminars to arouse staff consciousness in environmental protection.
- * We issued e-mails to colleagues regularly to appeal for their support of our green initiatives.
- * We reminded colleagues of our green measures regularly through an internal circular.

5. The Way Forward

In 2009, the Commission shall continue to promote and implement green measures and housekeeping practices so as to make continued improvement. To ensure that the green efforts will be maintained and further improved, we are committed to:

1. continue to provide funding support to environment-related projects;
2. continue to promote and encourage the adoption of effective green measures to provide a green working environment;
3. keep encouraging and promoting staff participation through various channels, such as dissemination of green messages and organisation of environmental seminars;
4. continue to implement various energy-efficient measures;
5. continue to adhere to the commitments stated in the Clean Air Charter;
6. continue to conduct Indoor Air Quality Measurement in our offices with a view to pursuing a good air quality;
7. encourage wider use of information technology to minimise paper and energy consumption;
8. adopt a green IT approach in planning future computer projects; and
9. equip our staff with adequate computer facility to facilitate the efficient transaction of departmental business by electronic means.

6. Feedback

We welcome your valuable feedback on this Environmental Report. Please contact the Green Manager of the Commission by :

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This report is also available on the homepage of the Commission at <http://www.itc.gov.hk>.

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