



Auxiliary Medical Service
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Asia's world city **HONG KONG**

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Introduction

This is the 8th Environmental Protection Report of the Auxiliary Medical Service. In this report, you will see our Environmental Protection Policy, the specific environmental protection initiatives that were carried out in the year 2006, and the performance of these initiatives for the same year. We are committed to improving our environment protection performance and providing our services in an environmentally responsible manner. This is primarily done through the optimal use of resources and energy as well as the proper disposal of any clinical waste generated during the course of providing our services. In the year 2006, we have particularly focused in reducing our consumption of energy and paper, using cleaner fuel, collecting recyclable office products for recycling. In the following year, we still hope to further improve our environmental protection performance in the areas of practicing green procurement for medical supplies, tightening vehicle maintenance, raising civil awareness and responsibility in environmental protection to fulfill our environmental commitments.

Environmental Protection Policy

The Auxiliary Medical Service is responsible for augmenting the HKSAR's regular medical and health service to help maintain a quality service to safeguard the well being of the people of Hong Kong. We provide our services through a well-trained professional force as well as a committed force. In carrying out our activities and operations, we are committed to improving our environmental protection performance by:

- a) Meeting the requirements of all applicable environmental protection ordinances or regulations;

- b) Raising the awareness of all staff and members to ensure that they know their overall environmental protection responsibilities, understand the direct and indirect environmental impacts that may arise from their activities, and appreciate the importance of demonstrating compliance with environmental protection policies;
- c) Ensuring good management practices by reviewing them regularly to verify the effectiveness and validity in achieving our environmental protection objectives;
- d) Minimizing the use of energy and resources and reducing the generation of wastes by promoting effective and efficient reduction method, consistent with the best practice; and
- e) Integrating environmental protection management into training program for personnel whose jobs have significant environmental impacts.

AMS Key Interactions with the Environment and How We Aims to Manage Them

At AMS, we strive to improve our environmental protection performance when carrying out our daily activities to provide quality first aid and supplementary emergency health services for the people of Hong Kong. We recognize the potential impacts on the environment due to our activities and operations. Our major activities and operations relevant to the environment include:

- a) First Aid Coverage services;
- b) Ambulance and vehicle fleet maintenance;
- c) Office administrative work; and
- d) Procurement of products and services.

For each of these areas, the AMS has identified the relevant potential environmental impacts, and has increasingly identified control measures to address associated issues. In particular, we have defined 6 areas of environmental protection controls, including:

- i) Legal compliance;
- ii) General material consumption and waste management;
- iii) Clinical waste management;
- iv) Energy conservation;
- v) Fleet management; and

vi) Enhancement environmental protection knowledge and awareness.

In addition, we have designated specific personnel to be responsible for ensuring that appropriate environmental measures are put in place. Table A summaries the major activities potential environmental impacts and corresponding responsible persons.

Activities	Potential Environmental Impacts	Responsible Persons for Implementation of Improvement Programme
First aid coverage services	Generation of clinical wastes	Senior Operations and Training Officer (Operations)
Ambulance maintenance	Consumption of fuel and water, air emission, generation of wastewater and other wastes, use of refrigerants and generation of wastes	Senior Operations and Training Officer (Ambulance Section)
Office administrative work	Consumption of natural resources such as energy and paper, generation of wastes	Executive Officer
Procurement of products and services	A combination environmental impacts arising from the manufacturing processes to the disposal of the products or those used in our service	Supplies Officer, AMS
Policy issues	To carry out environmental review. Give technical advice on environmental protection measures and promote environmental awareness, ensure green housekeeping of the department	Green Manager
Housekeeping	To assist the Green Manager to ensure green housekeeping of the department	Deputy Green Manager

Table A.
Activities, Potential Environmental Impacts and Designated Responsible

Persons

Our Green Initiatives and Performance in 2006

We continue to follow the green measures taken in 2005. We promote to reduce the use of batteries, ball pens, toner cartridges as well as the properly disposal of them. We encourage the better use of paper by informing staff and volunteers to:

- Use 'Scrap' paper
- Use the reverse side of paper
- Use recycled paper
- Use double-side photocopies
- Reuse file jackets
- Reuse envelopes or use transit envelopes
- Communicate by e-mail
- Use old sets of documents for circulation

Material Consumption

Paper and Other Office Supplies

- We had uploaded most of our orders on our website to save papers consumed. In year 2006 in comparison with year 2005. The paper consumption was decreased from 6,250kg to 4,975 kg.
- In October 2006, an Infectious Disease Hand-book and a Basic Nursing Skill Manual were published. Which helped in reducing papers in printing notes for training.
- All circulars and orders were circulated to staff by using the intranet system in AMS HQ.
- We had reduced the use of envelopes from 50,100 to 46,600 numbers in comparison with year 2005.
- We had carried out to use all green and recycle batteries for portable mobile phones and radios.

Green Procurement

In year 2006, we procured environmentally friend products and office supplies.

- 33% of total paper purchased was recycle paper.
- Energy saving office supplies such as photocopiers and plain paper fax machines were used.

Energy Conservation

Staff was reminded to switch off lights/air conditioners during lunch or away for long hours and to keep room temperature not lower than 25.5 °C to avoid excessive air conditioning. We successfully maintained the consumption of electricity. The total amount of electricity consumed in 2006 was 908,903KWh. Moreover, AMS HQ will carefully plan for the training schedule. Other methods such as using equipment with energy saving features and encouraging staff to use staircases instead of lifts for inter-floor traffic.

Waste Manage

We encourage staff to look into the matter of waste reduction. This year we collected 118 numbers of used printer toners. The waste papers collected for recycling was 2,333Kg.

Clinical Waste

The clinical wastes in AMS mainly include materials such as contaminated swabs, dressings and similar substances or products. AMS has produced a certain amount of clinical wastes arising from treatment of casualties in first aid coverage. We have currently segregates clinical wastes from municipal wastes for special collection, handling and disposal in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Management of Clinical Waste. AMS aims to maintain full compliance with the Code in all its operations.

Fleet Management

Regular vehicle maintenance work was carried out to ensure the vehicles could pass the emission standard. Meanwhile, all AMS Non-emergency Ambulances were installed with fans for inside compartment ventilation. Drivers were instructed to switch off the idle engine while sending patients to clinics or their homes. They all strictly complied with the air control ordinance issued. AMS replaced all its Non Emergency Ambulances in August 2006 by the LPG vehicles.

Environmental Information and Awareness

To sustain our work on environmental protection, our staff are regularly reminded of the ways and means of waste reduction and energy conservation. Under the community service programmes such as Fire Safety Ambassador Scheme and Youth Ambassador Scheme, AMS members were trained for fire prevention and to keep our country park clean. In order to disseminate environmental information and promote awareness, promotional leaflets and sheets are posted on all AMS display boards for staff / members' general information.

Objectives and Targets for the year 2007

Green measures taken in 2006 will continue in 2007. We aim at educating all staff and members for the environmental protection awareness and encourage them to participate in environmental protection activities. We will seek better improvement in the efficient use of resources and energy in the years ahead. We would try our best to control the use of paper and electricity in a cautious manner.

Feedback

We welcome any suggestions or comments on our commitments to environmental protection. Please write to our Deputy Departmental Green Manager at AMS Headquarters, 81 Princess Margaret Road, Homantin, Kowloon, or e-mail to tllau@ams.gov.hk or call us at 2886 6618.