

# **C&SD Environmental Report 2006**

## **Introduction**

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) was set up in December 1967. Together with the statistical units established in various government departments and bureaux, it forms the Government Statistical Service (GSS).

- 2 The work of C&SD can be classified into three main categories:
- (a) Conducting statistical surveys and operating statistical systems for the production of social and economic statistics including data series on such areas as population, trade, industry, employment, prices, national income and Balance of Payments, etc.;
  - (b) Performing statistical analysis and disseminating statistical data and analytical results; and
  - (c) Providing consultation and support services on statistical matters to various government departments/bureaux.

3 The Commissioner for the Census and Statistics is the head of C&SD. He is assisted by a Deputy Commissioner and five Assistant Commissioners, each of whom is in charge of one division. As at 1 January 2006, the establishment of C&SD was 1 277.

4 Being the leading department in the provision of government statistical services, the work of C&SD interacts with the environment in the aspects of paper and material usage, waste management and energy consumption. Hence, a reporting system has been set up and various initiatives have been implemented to facilitate the monitoring and improvement of these significant aspects.

5 Enhancement in our environmental performance can only be achieved through the dedication and support of our stakeholders, which include users of our statistical services, our staff, our material suppliers and contractors, and other government departments. It is hoped that, through this environmental report, our stakeholders can better understand our environmental concern and will join us in environmental protection.

6 Unless otherwise stated, figures quoted in this report refer to the calendar year 2006.

## **Environmental policy**

7 C&SD is committed to ensuring that all statistical activities it undertakes will be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. It has adopted the following policies in pursuance of its environmental commitment:

(a) Consumption minimisation

C&SD will adhere to the principle of “Avoid, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” in the consumption of paper, materials and energy. The usage of information technology will be exploited in enhancing performance in this aspect.

(b) Staff training and education

C&SD will ensure through appropriate measures such as provision of training and guidelines that all staff are aware of environmental issues.

(c) Procurement management

C&SD will, wherever possible, demand our suppliers and contractors to provide products and services that can meet high environmental standards.

(d) Communication

C&SD will make known its environmental policy to the community through the Internet.

## **Environmental objectives**

8 The environmental objectives of C&SD are:

- (a) To reduce consumption of paper and materials hazardous to the environment;
- (b) To reduce electricity consumption; and
- (c) To increase the environmental awareness of staff and instill a sense of responsibility for the environment.

## **Environmental management**

9 C&SD is committed to promoting green management. It set up an Environmental Management Committee (EMC) in 1995, which is chaired by an Assistant Commissioner. Members of the EMC include the Departmental Secretary, a Senior Statistician from each of the five divisions, a Statistician and a Senior Clerical Officer.

10 Over the past years, the EMC has explored various green initiatives, introduced a series of green office guidelines and set the directions in implementing various environmental programmes.

11 To implement environmental programmes effectively, the EMC has initiated the setting up of a network of Green Ambassadors since 1999. Under the programme of Green Ambassadors, an officer (at Section Head level) on each floor of C&SD's offices is selected to be responsible for promulgating various measures of environmental protection to other colleagues located on the same floor. Specifically, the Green Ambassadors have the roles of:

- (a) facilitating prompt actions on environmental measures formulated by the EMC to be carried out in different offices of C&SD;
- (b) carrying out a monitoring role when the green measures are implemented;
- (c) enhancing communication between staff and the EMC on environmental issues; and
- (d) serving as site facilitators for environmental audit.

As at 1 April 2006, there were a total of 24 Green Ambassadors in C&SD.

12 C&SD has implemented an environmental audit programme since December 1999. The aims of the audit programme are to verify day-to-day office operation to see if it complies with our stated environmental policy and objectives and to explore new green initiatives through on-site visit for continual improvement in environmental performance. The focus of the programme is on energy conservation, waste minimisation, waste recovery and enhancing green awareness of staff and quality of environmental management. Ad hoc audit teams are formed in each year and the Green Ambassadors of the audited offices will carry out follow-up actions if required based on the findings in the audit reports.

13 Given that smoking is a principal source of indoor air pollution, a smoke-free workplace policy has been implemented in C&SD since 1 April 2005. Smoking is prohibited in all workplace of C&SD so as to maintain a healthy workplace for all C&SD staff.

## **Environmental performance**

### *Reduction of paper consumption*

14 In support of the Government's call for reduction in paper consumption, C&SD aimed to cut down total consumption of paper in photocopying/office printing during 2006/07 by 2.5% as compared to a year earlier.

15 Information technology has been widely used in achieving paper saving. A number of office automation applications (e.g. Online Inventory System for Software Asset Management, and the Personnel, Training and Staff Reporting System) have been developed. Besides, most of the departmental information was accessed and maintained electronically via some 70 bulletin boards, which are organised systematically into such topics as statistical management, administrative and general matters, IT user resources and information centre on-line.

16 In line with the E-Government policy, e-options have been provided for major services of C&SD. For example, e-questionnaire templates are available for all surveys amenable to e-submissions; e-forms are also available on C&SD's Website for application for various statistical services.

17 As to dissemination of statistical publications, the "Statistical Bookstore, Hong Kong" (Address: <http://www.statisticalbookstore.gov.hk>), which was launched by the C&SD in October 2001, was the first online bookstore of the Government of the HKSAR. Through the "Statistical Bookstore, Hong Kong", data users can purchase print versions of statistical publications online. Data users can also download statistical publications free of charge from the C&SD's Website (Address: [http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products\\_and\\_services/products/publications/index.jsp](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products_and_services/products/publications/index.jsp)).

18 On distribution of statistical information, many publicity / educational leaflets, pamphlets and frequently asked statistics of the C&SD are available on the C&SD's Website free of charge.

19 On the same basis of not including the paper consumption of the 2006 Population By-census so as to facilitate comparison, the amount of A4 paper consumed by C&SD in photocopying/office printing in 2006 was 15 650 reams, down by 5% per annum on average as compared with 18 282 reams in 2003.

#### *Waste recovery for recycling/re-use*

20 Each section of C&SD has been provided with waste paper recycling bags for collecting waste paper. In 2006, C&SD continued its efforts in recycling the waste paper it generated. 100 tonnes of waste paper were collected for recycling.

21 Since 2001, C&SD's work on waste separation and recycling has extended to aluminium cans and plastic bottles. Collection bins are placed on each floor of the Wanchai Tower headquarters for collecting aluminium cans and plastic bottles separately.

22 Since 1995, C&SD has joined the HP Printer Cartridge Recycling Programme under which used cartridges are collected and passed to HP for recycling. In 2006, 715 printer cartridges were recycled.

#### *Energy conservation*

23 C&SD recognises the importance of energy conservation and efficiency. C&SD has carried out a number of energy saving retrofit works since 1998, including installation of energy-saving fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lamps, as well as replacing magnetic ballasts with electronic ballasts.

24 Apart from the modification of engineering installations, C&SD emphasizes good housekeeping practices in achieving energy conservation. Green energy management practices are widely adopted in the offices. Such practices include switching off lights, air-conditioners and electric equipment when not in use, lowering venetian blinds when sunlight is strong, and setting air-conditioning at appropriate temperature, etc.

25 To assess performance in energy saving, figures on the total amount of electricity consumption of 4 C&SD office locations<sup>1</sup> in 2005 and 2006 are compared. In 2006, the 4 selected locations consumed 1 085 508 kWh of electricity. As compared with the figure of 1 129 954 kWh in 2005, a 3.9% saving was achieved.

#### *Reduction of plastic bag consumption*

26 C&SD has reminded the staff at all times to be economical in paper consumption with a view to reducing the rubbish generated and minimising the usage of

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<sup>1</sup> 4 office locations, out of a total of 6, were selected for quantitative assessment of performance in energy saving. This was because separately metered figures comparable over the two years were only available from those 4 office locations.

plastic bags. For garbage bags used by the cleansing contractors of C&SD, over 50% were “degradable” or were made of “recycled plastics”. To further promote the use of “degradable” plastics bags, C&SD will include a new provision requesting the cleansing contractors to use “degradable” plastic bags or bags made of “recycled plastics” for storing rubbish in the new cleansing services contract.

#### *Environmental audit*

27 Assisted by Green Ambassadors, an ad hoc environmental audit team formed in December 2006 conducted an environmental audit on one of the office floors of C&SD. Report on the strengths and weaknesses of the audited office in environmental protection and suggestions for improvement were prepared by the audit team and conveyed to the relevant Green Ambassador for follow up.

#### *Building an environmental culture*

28 To keep staff informed of C&SD’s latest initiatives on environmental protection and to foster their awareness of green office practices, a permanent section entitled “*Environmental Protection and You*” has been established in the bi-monthly Departmental Newsletter since March 2002. Articles on environmental issues covering such topics as waste recovery, energy conservation, green pledge, environmental procurement were contributed by Green Ambassadors and released therein.

#### **The way ahead**

29 C&SD will continue to work towards its environmental goal and improve its environmental performance. Specific targets that C&SD aims to achieve in the coming year are set out below:

- (a) To continue our efforts in consumption minimisation, waste recovery and energy conservation;
- (b) To continue organising training sessions and green activities to raise the staff’s awareness of and participation in environmental protection;
- (c) To explore if the practice of recycling can be expanded to cover more brands of toner cartridges.