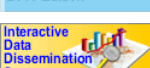
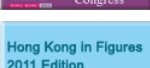




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About Us

C&SD Environmental Report 2010

Introduction

1. The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) was set up in December 1967. Together with the statistical units established in various government bureaux and departments, it forms the Government Statistical Service.
2. The work of C&SD can be classified into three main categories:
 - (a) Conducting statistical surveys and operating statistical systems for the compilation 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 consultancy and support services on statistical matters to various government bureaux/departments.
3. The Commissioner for 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 2010, the establishment of C&SD was 1 311.
4. Being the leading department in the provision of official statistical services, the work of C&SD interacts with the environment mainly in the aspects of paper and material usage, waste management and energy consumption. An effective reporting system has been in force and various initiatives have been implemented in the department to enable the monitoring and improvement of its performance in these significant environmental aspects.
5. Enhancement of C&SD's environmental performance can be achieved only through the dedication and support of its stakeholders, which include its staff, its material suppliers and contractors, users of official statistical services, and other relevant government bureaux/departments. It is hoped that, with reference to this environmental report, these stakeholders can better understand C&SD's environmental concerns and will join the department in environmental protection.
6. Unless otherwise stated, figures quoted in this report refer to the calendar year 2010.

Environmental policy

7. C&SD makes good effort to ensure that all statistical activities it undertakes are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner, and meet the commitments of the Clean Air Charter signed by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in November 2006. To this end, C&SD has adopted the following arrangements in pursuance of its environmental concerns:
 - (a) Consumption minimisation
C&SD adheres to the principle of "Avoid, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" in the consumption of paper, materials and energy. The usage of information technology is actively pursued in enhancing the performance in this aspect wherever applicable.
 - (b) Staff training and education
C&SD ensures, through appropriate measures such as provision of training and guidelines, that all its staff are aware of various environmental issues.
 - (c) Procurement management
C&SD demands its suppliers and contractors to provide, wherever possible, products and services that can meet high environmental standards.
 - (d) Communication
C&SD makes its environmental policy known to its stakeholders and the community at large 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 amongst them a sense of responsibility for the environment.
9. The green measures and environmental performance achieved by C&SD to meet the above objectives and fulfill the commitments of the Clean Air Charter are highlighted in the following sections.

Environmental management

10. 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, two Statisticians and a Senior Clerical Officer.
11. Since its establishment, the EMC has explored a variety of green initiatives, introduced a series of green office guidelines and set the directions in implementing various environmental programmes in the department.
12. To implement environmental programmes effectively, the EMC has established a network of Green Ambassadors in the department since 1999. Under the programme of Green Ambassadors, an officer (normally at section head level) on each floor of C&SD's offices is appointed as Green Ambassador who is responsible for promulgating various measures of environmental protection to other colleagues working on the same floor. Specifically, the Green Ambassadors have the following roles:
 - (a) Facilitating prompt actions on environmental measures and messages formulated by the EMC in different offices of C&SD;
 - (b) Assuming a monitoring role when green measures are implemented;
 - (c) Enhancing communication between the EMC and staff in different offices of C&SD on environmental issues; and
 - (d) Serving as site facilitators in the conduct of environmental audits in selected offices where applicable.

As at 1 April 2010, there were a total of 24 Green Ambassadors in C&SD.

13. C&SD has put in force an environmental audit programme since December 1999. The aims of the audit programme are to verify if the day-to-day office operations and activities comply with the department's environmental policy and objectives and to explore new green initiatives through on-site visits for continual improvement in environmental performance. The focus of the programme is on energy conservation, consumption minimisation, waste recovery as well as enhancing green awareness of staff and quality of environmental management. Ad hoc audit teams are formed each year to conduct environmental audits in selected offices and the Green Ambassadors of the audited offices will take follow-up actions if required in accordance with the recommendations stated in the environmental audit reports. In 2010, two environmental audits were conducted in selected offices of C&SD.
14. 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 the workplace of C&SD so as to maintain a healthy workplace for its staff. Starting from 1 January 2007, it is a requirement by law that smoking in all Government buildings is prohibited.

Environmental performance



Reduction of paper consumption

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 is internally accessible and maintained via both the Lotus Notes bulletin boards and the newly developed Knowledge Management Support System, which are organised systematically into such topics as statistical management, administrative and general matters, and IT user resources for easy retrieval.
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 at the C&SD Website to facilitate users' applications for various statistical services. As from June 2009, a legal provision has been made whereby e-delivery of survey questionnaires to respondents is legally acceptable under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance, such that despatch of survey questionnaires in paper form is not strictly necessary in some cases.
17. Regarding the distribution of statistical publications, data users can download these publications free of charge at the C&SD Website. Besides the latest issues, back issues of publications starting from October 2001 are also available for free download.
18. Following the implementation of the free download policy, C&SD has also reduced the distribution of complimentary copies of statistical publications. Furthermore, C&SD has ceased the production of print version of most statistical publications by phase starting from 2009. These measures have resulted in a substantial saving of paper consumption for publication printing purpose, equivalent to some 2 000 reams of A4 paper in 2010.
19. On dissemination of statistical information, many publicity/educational leaflets, pamphlets and frequently asked statistics of C&SD are available for free access at the C&SD Website. In line with its environmental policy, C&SD has ceased the production of print version of selected leaflets and pamphlets starting from end 2010.
20. On the same basis of comparison by not including the paper consumption relating to ad hoc statistical surveys, the amount of A4 paper consumed by C&SD in photocopying/office printing in 2010 was 13 815 reams, down by 3.5% as compared with 14 295 reams in 2009.
21. In support of the Government's call for reduction in paper consumption, C&SD will continue to contain the consumption of paper in photocopying/office printing in 2011.

Waste recovery for recycling/re-use

22. C&SD continues its efforts in recycling the waste paper which it has generated. Each section of C&SD is provided with waste paper recycling bags for collecting waste paper. In 2010, 25 tonnes of waste paper were collected for recycling.
23. Since 2001, C&SD's effort on waste separation and recycling has extended to aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Collection bins are placed on each floor of the Wanchai Tower headquarters and two sub-offices for collecting aluminum cans and plastic bottles separately.
24. 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 2010, 975 printer cartridges were recycled.

Reduction of plastic bag consumption

25. C&SD keeps on reminding its staff to be economical in paper consumption with a view to reducing the rubbish generated and minimising the usage of plastic garbage bags. To further promote the use of "degradable" plastics bags, C&SD has included a provision in the new cleansing services contract for its offices requesting the cleansing contractors to use "degradable" plastic bags or bags made of "recycled plastics" for storing rubbish.
26. Starting from May 2008, C&SD has stopped distributing single-use shopping bags to members of the public (e.g. when they purchase statistical publications in the offices of C&SD) so as to help reduce the consumption of plastic and paper bags.

Energy conservation

27. C&SD recognises the importance of energy conservation and efficiency. It has carried out a good amount of energy saving retrofit works since 1998, including installation of energy-saving fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lamps, and replacing magnetic ballasts with electronic ballasts.
28. Apart from the modification of engineering installations, C&SD emphasises 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 room temperature, etc.
29. To assess C&SD's performance in energy saving, figures on the total amount of electricity consumption in four C&SD office locations⁽¹⁾ in 2009 and 2010 are compared on the same basis by not including electricity consumption in newly set up offices. In 2010, the four selected locations consumed 1 120 919 kWh of electricity, 5.6% less than the amount of electricity consumed in 2009 (1 187 789 kWh). The emission of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and respirable suspended particulates (RSP) corresponding to the electricity consumption in these offices amounted to 2 141 kg, 1 300 kg and 67 kg respectively.
30. There are three departmental vehicles in C&SD. The total mileage in 2010 was 39 811 km, and the fuel consumption was about 5 861 litres. The corresponding emission of NO_x and RSP was about 43 kg and 3 kg respectively.

Carbon audit

31. In April 2010, information was provided to the Building Management Office (BMO) of Wanchai Tower to facilitate the collection of carbon emission data in respect of activities conducted by various departments in Wanchai Tower (including C&SD) during the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.
32. The BMO of Wanchai Tower will carry out another round of carbon audit in mid 2011 for activities conducted by these departments (including C&SD) during the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Indoor air quality

33. A "good class" indoor air quality certificate was issued to Wanchai Tower (where C&SD is located) in October 2010.

Building an environmental culture

34. To keep staff informed of C&SD's latest measures on environmental protection and to foster their awareness of green office practices, a permanent column entitled "Environmental Protection and You" has been established in the Departmental Newsletter since March 2002. Articles on environmental issues contributed by Green Ambassadors, covering such topics as waste recovery, energy conservation, green pledge and green procurement, are regularly published in that column.
35. One environmental seminar was held in June 2010. Around 20 staff members of C&SD attended the seminar.

The way ahead

36. C&SD will continue to work along its environmental policy and improve its environmental performance. Specific targets that C&SD aims to achieve in the coming year are set out below:
 - (a) To sustain efforts in consumption minimisation, waste recovery and energy conservation;
 - (b) To continue organising training sessions and green activities to raise staff's awareness of and participation in environmental protection; and
 - (c) To explore more green initiatives which can be implemented in office operations and activities of C&SD.

(1) Four office locations in C&SD, out of a total of six, were selected for quantitative assessment of performance in energy saving. This was because separately metered electricity consumption figures comparable over the two years 2009 and 2010 were available only for those four office locations.