

Environmental Protection

The Registry is very conscious of the importance of environmental protection and is committed to developing and conducting all our services and operations in an environmentally responsible manner. A Green Manager and four Assistant Green Managers have been tasked to oversee the development and implementation of green measures in the department. We have adopted the following environmental policies and principles to improve the environment:-

- (a) Encouraging the efficient use of energy and materials by adopting the three “R” principles – Reduce, Re-use and Recycling of materials, and green purchasing.
- (b) Maintaining a high level of environmental awareness amongst staff and encouraging them to practise green environmental measures.
- (c) Complying with legislation, regulations and standards on environmental protection.
- (d) Minimising waste and contaminants and ensuring the safe handling of waste produced.
- (e) Pursuing environmental protection through the adoption of environmental friendly modern technologies, minimisation of possible adverse impact on the environment, and continuing to find ways to improve the Registry’s environmental performance.
- (f) Conducting environmental audits by independent experts as and when necessary.

Previously, one of the Registry’s specific activities was the production of rollfilms and microfiche copies containing images of documents filed with the department for search by customers and internal use by staff. Chemical waste was produced during the process. After the conversion of all microfiches into digitised images, and the launching of new electronic search services on 28 February 2005, we have ceased the production of rollfilms and microfiche copies, contributing significantly to both occupational health and environmental protection. Furthermore, thanks to the electronic payment facilities introduced under Phase I of ICRIS, the use of paper has been reduced considerably.

We have also participated in the ‘Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places’ organised by the Environmental Protection Department. A ‘Good Class’ certificate has been awarded to the Registry, certifying that the indoor air quality in the floors occupied by the department in the Queensway Government Offices has fully complied with the Good Class of the Indoor Air Quality Objectives.

Our targets and actual performances are as follows:-

	Target for 2004	Performance in 2004	Target for 2005
	%	%	%
(a) Waste Minimisation			
• using blank side of used paper for drafting	99	99	99
• using recycled/wood-free paper	100	100	100
• re-using envelopes or using transit envelopes	97	97	97
• using refillable ball pens	100	99	100
• using old sets of documents for re-circulation	99	99	99
(b) Waste Recovery for Recycling/Re-use			
• collection of waste paper	98	98	98
• collection of used printer cartridges	100	100	100
(c) Energy Conservation			
• routine checking to switch off lights, photocopiers etc. outside office hours	99	99	99
(d) Measures at Festive Seasons			
• re-using decorations	99	99	99