

**The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
(The Treasury Branch)
Environmental Report 2011**

Our Environmental Policy

The Treasury Branch of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) is committed to ensuring that our in-house office management is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. We will regularly review and see continual improvement in our environmental practices based on the principles of *Reduce, Reuse* and *Recycle* in the consumption of materials and minimisation in the consumption of energy.

Policy Objective for The Treasury Branch, FSTB

● ***Policy Objective***

Our policy objectives are –

- to maintain sound and stable public finances in compliance with the Basic Law and to foster a fiscal environment conducive to continued economic growth and success;
- to ensure the right balance is struck between meeting public demand for better government services on the one hand, and adhering to our principles of small government and low taxes on the other;
- to evaluate carefully the implications of policy proposals, infrastructure proposals and the financial aspects of land-related matters;
- to oversee the annual Resource Allocation Exercise and the compilation of the Government's annual estimates of expenditure;
- to oversee Government's investments and loans portfolio;
- to promote value for money across the Government;
- to maintain an effective revenue collection and protection system;

- to provide policy direction on revenue matters;
- to improve the efficiency, quality and cost-effectiveness of Government's central support services in the areas of government land transport, government procurement, government printing as well as financial and accounting arrangements;
- to oversee the cost-effective and efficient management of Government's estate; and
- to manage relationship with the Public Accounts Committee and Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

- ***Size of Expenditure and Establishment***

- The estimates and actual recurrent expenditure in 2010-11 were \$192.3 million and \$169.4 million respectively. The budget for 2011-12 was \$191.2 million.
- Our staff establishment as at 31 December 2011 stood at 177.
- Our head office is located at the Tamar Central Government Offices. Building management is centrally undertaken by the Director of Administration. We operate one outstation office for our Board of Review (Inland Revenue Ordinance) in private premises at Lippo Centre.

Green Measure in Procurement Policies

To promote conservation, we always comply with the Government's green procurement policies which include, as far as possible and where economically rational, avoiding single-use disposal items and purchasing products –

- with improved recyclability, high recycled content, reduced packing and greater durability;
- with greater energy efficiency;
- utilizing clean technology and/or clean fuels;

- which result in reduced water consumption;
- which emit fewer irritating or toxic substances during installation or use; or
- which result in smaller production of toxic substances, or of less toxic substance, upon disposal.

Environmental Management of the Branch

- ***Office Management***

- *Appointment of Green Manager and Green Executives*

We have appointed a Green Manager, currently the Principal Executive Officer (G), to introduce and review initiatives to improve the Branch's environmental performance. We have also established a network of divisional Green Executives to assist the Green Manager to implement, monitor and review the green housekeeping measures in his division/unit.

- *Major Green Housekeeping Measures*

- reusing existing furniture and equipment as far as possible on relocation to Tamar Central Government Offices in October 2011;
- collection of re-useable paper for drafting and internal communication;
- printing on both sides of plain paper;
- use of recycled paper for printing, photocopying and filing;
- reusing envelopes and file jackets;
- using green/recycled products, e.g. refills for ball-pens and clutch pencils, recycled paper and environmentally friendly batteries and correction fluid;
- trade-in of toner cartridges with suppliers;
- application of energy saving and other waste reduction measures, e.g. switching off the electrical appliances in washrooms, pantries and some of the photocopiers in printing

rooms after normal office hours, adoption of task-light approach in the new office at Tamar;

- arranging regular vacuum cleaning of the air-conditioning vents to improve air quality of the office;
- printing of budget publications on recycled paper;
- provide the information on the Budget and Estimates on websites to minimise the volume of hard copies and to enable easy access by interested parties;
- conducting regular large-scale clean-up exercises;
- arranging collection of waste paper, plastics, cans and rechargeable batteries for recycling; and as a special project before the relocation, arranging donation of decoration items to charity organizations,
- extensive use of e-mails for communication both within the Treasury Branch, FSTB and with outsiders through the Government Computer Network and Internet;
- circulating documents to staff through electronic means and using electronic bulletin board in our Local Area Network instead of hard copies for ready reference by staff;
- arranging in-house meetings in paper-less mode through the use of portable notebooks at the meeting;
- issuing all Financial Circulars and Circular Memoranda to other bureaux and departments electronically to save the use of paper copies;
- installing digital senders and promoted their use to facilitate transmission and preservation of copies of documents electronically, to save paper consumption;
- making use of the Annual Estimates Production System to the production of the Estimates of Expenditure partially on the e-platform, and to enhance the use of e-mode in the future revamped system targeted for pilot run in 2012; and
- migrating some housekeeping functions from paper-mode to e-mode, for example, submission of applications for overtime and time-off, reservation of in-house conference rooms and facilities, booking of departmental pool car, etc.

□ *Monitoring of Environmental Performance*

- The number of printed copies of the 2011-12 Budget publications has been trimmed by 1% as compared to the previous year.
- Our internal paper consumption in 2011 has risen by 15% when compared with 2010. This is mainly attributable to the increased responsibilities and activities of the Branch, e.g. setting up of a Special Assignment Team to implement Scheme \$6,000, work related to the Comprehensive Double Taxation Agreements, etc.

● *Promoting Green Culture*

To issue periodic reminders on green measures, e.g. switching off lighting and electrical appliances and equipment when not in use, means to reduce paper use, etc.

Clean Air Charter

To implement the commitment under the Clean Air Charter, we have adopted the following measures in our operations-

- applying energy-saving measures, e.g. using timer for suitable electrical appliances
- maintaining room temperature at 25.5°C during summer months
- avoiding the use of products that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- conducting inspections on a regular basis and sending reminders at intervals to our officers, advising them to switch off lighting and electrical appliances and equipment when not in use
- conducting regular checks to ensure that engines of our departmental vehicles are switched off while waiting in order to avoid idling emission and achieve fuel saving

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we will continue our green efforts to protect and improve

our environment, aiming to achieve a better quality of life for citizens in Hong Kong. We shall strive to provide necessary support to bureaux and departments to work towards this goal, which include implementing the polluters-pay principle to hold them accountable to the source of pollution, and considering fiscal policies to address the need for conservation. For internal management, we shall continue to take advantage of technology and apply it in our work place with a view to preserving nature as well as improving efficiency. We shall monitor closely our achievements on reducing paper consumption and use of green products. We also aim to promote a green culture and conservation awareness among staff through various training and staff activities.

Views and Suggestions

We welcome your suggestions. Please write to our Green Manager at the Treasury Branch, FSTB, 24/F, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong. You may also drop us a note by e-mail at info@fstb.gov.hk or by fax on 2530 5921.

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