



## Government Flying Service

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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This environmental report covers the environmental issues of the Government Flying Service (GFS) in 2006. In this report, we will focus on the key ways we work to help improve the environment and the direct environmental impact of our day-to-day departmental activities.

This report is primarily intended for Hong Kong citizens, our various business partners, other government departments, our own staff and other stakeholders. We understand that a single environmental report will probably not be capable of fully satisfying the information needs and interests of such a diverse group. If you feel there are specific areas that the report should include, please let us know and we will try to take into account your views in our future reports.

### 1. What we do

The Government Flying Service (GFS) is a disciplined services department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is located at the south-western edge of the Hong Kong International Airport.

We provide the community of Hong Kong with a wide range of flying services, including round-the-clock search and rescue coverage, casualty and medical evacuation, fire fighting and support to the law enforcement agencies and government departments. We also provide emergency services to the

international air carriers within our Flight Information Region and international merchant ships using the shipping lanes within our Maritime Area of Responsibility.

The GFS has an establishment of 205 full-time civil servants as at 31 December 2006 responsible for operations, maintenance and administration. We operate a fleet of nine aircraft, namely two fixed-wing aeroplanes and seven helicopters to carry out the full range of flying services and support.

In 2006, the GFS flew a total of 5,956 hours. It assisted in 404 search and rescue operations, transported 1,425 patients to hospital by helicopter and flew 7,637 government officers and official visitors. The recurrent expenditure of the GFS in 2006/07 is \$144 million.

All the flying, engineering and administrative activities, including environmental management activities, are monitored by both internal and external quality and audit control organizations including our own Quality Section, the Civil Aviation Department, and other world renowned aviation units such as the Royal Air Force.

## 2. Our specific job

Our major tasks are to:

- carry out search and rescue over both land and sea;
- conduct casualty evacuation;
- support the Hong Kong Police Force and other law enforcement agencies of Hong Kong in carrying out their law enforcement duties;
- assist in fire fighting and in responding to any other emergencies which constitute a threat to life or property;
- carry out photography for aerial surveys; and
- assist the medical services.

## 3. Vision and Strategy on Green Management

The GFS will continue its efforts to minimize the impact of its activities on the environment and provide the community with excellent search, rescue and aviation support services in an environmentally friendly manner.

#### 4. Environmental, Health & Safety Policy

The GFS is committed to conducting operations in compliance with all environmental, health and safety requirements and regulations. The management is entrusted to providing a safe workplace for all our employees and customers.

The managers and supervisors in the GFS have the responsibility to ensure that every employee fully understands the policies and procedures applicable to his/her work area. The responsibility for safety and environmental practices follow the chain of command and supervisors will be held accountable for a subordinate's actions. The supervisors should provide all necessary training and instructions for their staff to perform their duties in an environmentally sound and safe manner.

Each employee has the responsibility to comply with the GFS work rules, and follow safe work practices and procedures established to protect the environment and the employees. All employees are asked to report to their supervisor all unsafe acts, hazardous conditions, and conditions which impact, or have the potential to impact the environment.

The Government Flying Service Environmental, Health and Safety Committee oversees the Government Flying Service environmental, health and safety policy and goals. It is also responsible for addressing certain topics, including but not limited to waste reduction, accident prevention and training programmes.

The Controller, GFS is personally committed to the continual improvement of our environmental, health and safety performance and will authorise actions necessary to achieve these objectives.

In 2006, the Committee continued to promote occupational safety and health as well as environmental protection.

#### 5. Green Personnel

In the GFS, the Green Manager is responsible for overseeing the environmental issues of the department. He is assisted by the Green Task Force and Energy Wardens in implementing the GFS's Green Policy.

##### **Green Manager**

The Senior Pilot (Aeroplane Standards) is the Green Manager of the GFS with the following responsibilities:

- (a) implementing a programme of green housekeeping within the department;
- (b) introducing measures to increase staff awareness and involvement in relation to environmental issues; and
- (c) publicising the commitment to protect the environment, formulating action plans and recording achievements.

He is the focal point whereby all initiatives related to the environment can be coordinated, sustained, reviewed and strengthened. He is assisted by the Assistant Departmental Secretary in carrying out these duties.

### **Green Task Force**

The GFS set up a Green Task Force in February 2003 with the main focus on energy conservation. Members of the Task Force are:

Aircraft Engineer (Electrical/Instrument)2  
Assistant Manager (Operations)  
Assistant Departmental Secretary

They are representatives of the Engineering, Operations and Administration Sections. They are responsible for liaising with staff members to explore possible options for saving energy without affecting the GFS operations and also discussing with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) on how to make the proposals and ideas into effective measures.

### **Energy Wardens**

Energy wardens from different sections have been appointed since January 2005. Their main duty is to inspect and ensure that the housekeeping measures for saving energy are complied with. For example, they assist in ensuring that the air-conditioning output at the corridor and lobby areas is always set at a "low cool" level in order to avoid unnecessary consumption of energy. They are also responsible for reminding colleagues to observe the energy saving measures.

## 6. Our Environmental Concerns and Initiatives

### 6.1 Aircraft Noise

We are very much concerned with the noise that is generated by our aircraft. Due to the nature of our flying services, such as casualty evacuation and support of law and order, it is not always possible to avoid flights where the noise may affect the public. Nevertheless, we have always been conscious of the need to conserve the environment and have taken various measures to protect the environment and minimize the noise nuisance caused to the public. Our measures include -

(a) Higher transit height through the harbour

Unless there is an operational requirement, our helicopters will fly at 1,000 feet or above in the harbour to reduce the noise caused to the public.

(b) Winding down of helicopter rotors

If a prolonged waiting time is expected, especially at a helipad in the urban area (e.g. Eastern Hospital rooftop), the helicopter rotors would be winded down to reduce the noise caused to the residence nearby. This can also help save fuel.

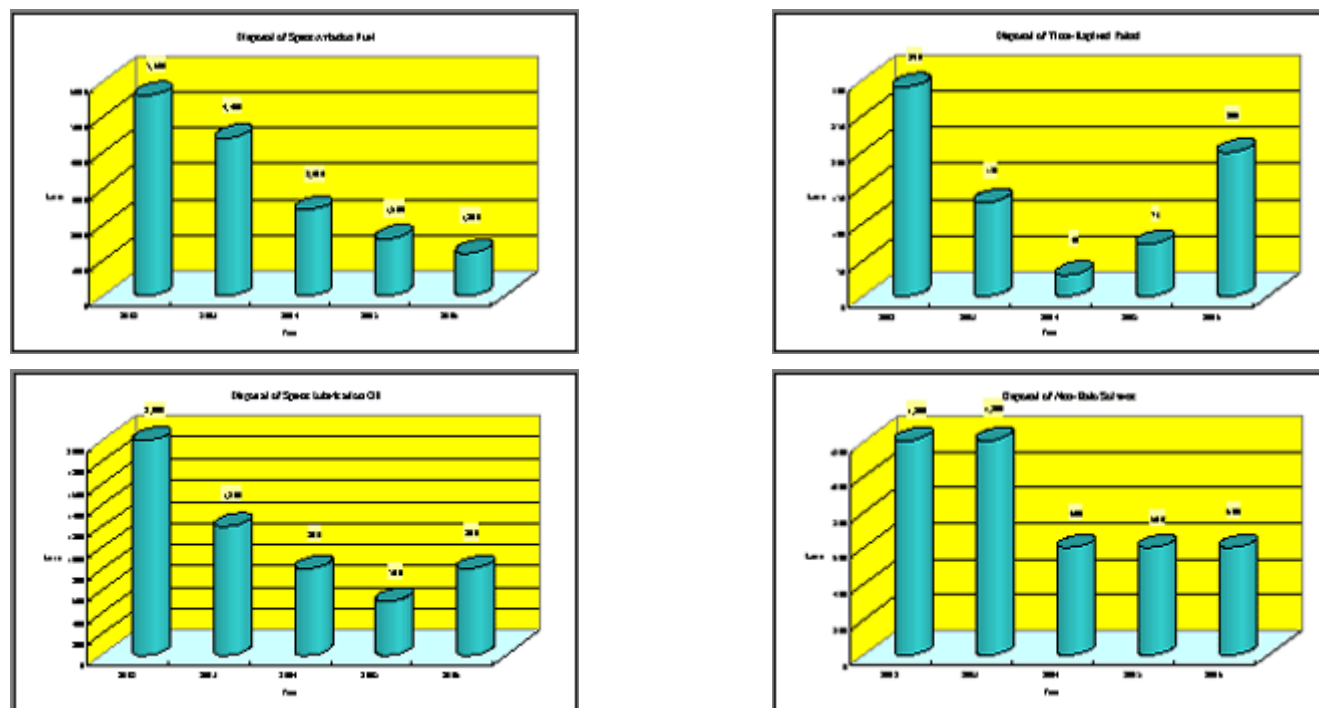
(c) Flight scheduling

Different tasks are combined into one flight as far as possible to reduce the total flight time and fuel consumption.

### 6.2 Chemical Substances

The common chemical substances used in the GFS for the maintenance of our fleet are cleaning solvent, aviation fuel (AVTUR), lubrication oil, grease and paints. These substances are used on a daily basis. The waste chemical substances are disposed of through licensed waste collectors approved by the Environmental Protection Department. The amount of waste disposed of in the past five years is as follows -

-



The amount of chemical wastes disposed of between 2002 and 2003 was relatively high because of the increase in the number of helicopters in operations between November 2001 and March 2003 when the old fleet was yet to be phased out completely and the new fleet has been brought into operation. The overlap of the old and new fleets during this period has resulted in an increase in the amount of aviation fuel used in the daily fuel sampling process and chemical and fluids in maintenance activities. The amount of chemical wastes has gone back to normal after the whole of the old fleet has retired.

For flight safety, the GFS conducts fuel sampling for each aircraft daily before the fuel is injected into the aircraft. In the past, the GFS disposed of these fuel samples. To reduce the amount of chemical wastes, since 2005 the GFS filtered the fuel samples and re-used it for other purposes. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of spent aviation fuel.

After years of effort, the disposal of time-expired paint has stabilised at a low level. The 200 litres of time-

expired paint disposed of in 2006 included some expired paint in 2004. We have not disposed of it earlier because the Environmental Protection Department requires that chemical waste cannot be disposed of without the relevant material safety data sheet. We were only able to obtain such data sheet for the 2004 expired paint in 2006. There will be savings in cost if the paint is disposed of in one lot.

The GFS reminds its staff regularly the importance of the effective use of chemical and solvents in maintenance activities so as to further reduce the amount of chemical wastes.

### **6.3 Working with Other Government Departments in Environmental Protection**

We work closely with other government departments in environmental protection. For example, our helicopters assist the Marine Department in conducting surveillance of floating refuse and oil pollution in Hong Kong waters. We also help in spraying oil dispersant over the sea when required.

Our helicopters also assist the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in conducting a "Sky-shout" exercise on hill fire prevention publicity. On Sunday, public holidays and particularly Chung Yeung Festival and Ching Ming Festival, our helicopters help to disseminate the message of preventing hill fire to the public by flying above the countryside and playing pre-recorded voice messages through the loudhailers.

Besides, our aircraft carry officers of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to take aerial photographs of power stations and their surrounding environment for studies and analysis. We also assist EPD in conducting aerial inspections, surveys and monitoring of river catchments of Deep Bay and Mirs Bay on the spreading of wastewater plumes from major sewage outfalls. Our aircraft are also used to take aerial photographs for conducting site inspections and survey of existing waste facilities such as landfills and transfer stations as well as planning of special waste projects in the territories.

### **6.4 Energy Use and Energy Savings Measures**

The 'Green Personnel' of the GFS are constantly looking for opportunities and the latest products that can bring about savings in energy or electricity consumption. The following measures were taken in 2006 -

#### (a) Installing Occupancy Sensors

Occupancy sensor is a modern-day invention contributing to the saving of electricity. Through detecting movements within an area, it controls the lighting in the room automatically. It functions best in places that

are not constantly occupied by people. GFS completed a programme of installing occupancy sensors in areas such as toilets and car park in 2006. The sensors have been proved to be effective in saving energy.

(b) Use of energy-saving light bulbs in Hangar

Due to the large floor area of the hangar, the number of light bulbs installed there is significant and hence a high consumption on electricity. In 2006, the GFS replaced 125 sets of ordinary light bulbs with energy-saving light bulbs at the hangar without compromising the light intensity for the officers working there. It is estimated that about 54,750kW of electricity (about \$52,560 on electricity cost) could be saved annually.

(c) Other measures

The GFS implemented a number of simple but effective measures in 2006 to avoid unnecessary electricity consumption. They include reducing the number of fluorescent lamps in the corridors of the GFS premises to half, suspending the operation of the lifts except for special situations, setting the temperature for offices at 25.5°C and activating the "energy-saving" mode in all computer terminals.

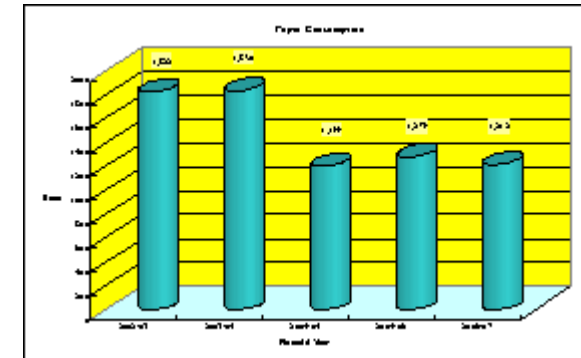
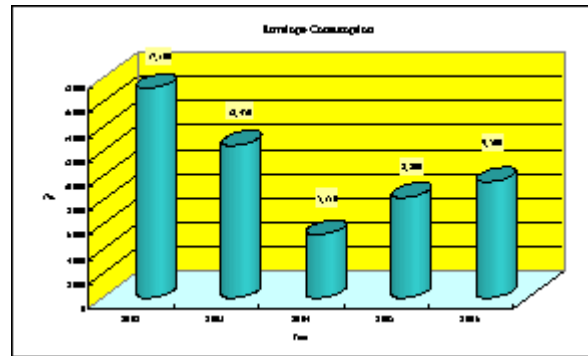
We understand that good practices and house keeping rules help towards energy conservation. From time to time, the GFS management reminds officers through emails or circulars of the importance of saving energy and also of the various means for achieving this.

## **6.5 Office Resource Consumption**

(a) Paper and Envelope Consumption

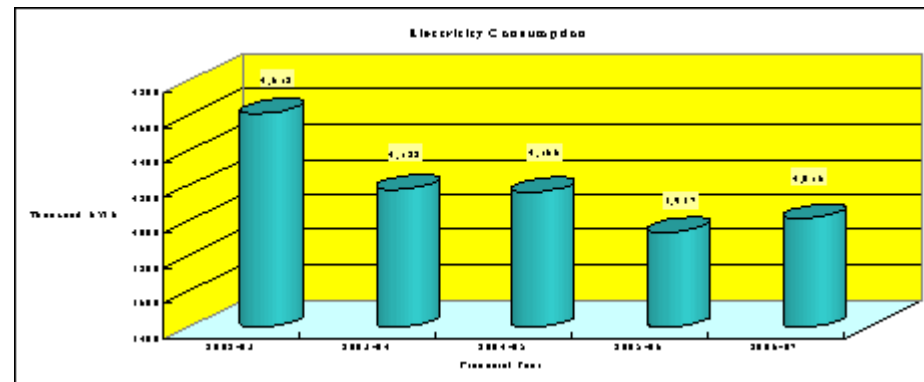
The overall policy of the Government on paper consumption for departments is to reduce the consumption progressively by 2.5%, 5%, 7.5% and ultimately 10% over four years by 2006-07, using the Financial Year of 2002-03 as the base year. In 2006-07, the paper consumption in the GFS has reduced by 33.5% when compared with that of 2002-03. The target of reduction in paper consumption was met.





### (b) Electricity Consumption

It is the government's policy for each department to cut down the electricity consumption by 1.5%, 3%, 4.5% and 6% over four years by 2006-07, using the Financial Year of 2002-03 as the base year. The consumption graph below indicates that our electricity consumption drops progressively over the past few years. In 2006-07, the electricity consumption has reduced by 12.9% when compared with that of 2002-03. The target of reduction in electricity consumption was met.



## 6.6 Green Housekeeping Measures

The green housekeeping measures we have continued to implement in 2006 can be broadly grouped into the following categories:

- reducing paper and energy consumption;
- using environmentally friendly stationery, office equipment and lighting equipment;
- collecting recyclable material;
- implementing the smoke-free workplace policy;
- conducting regular indoor air quality checks; and
- encouraging staff to contribute ideas on green practices.

## **7. Aims for 2007**

We will continue to encourage and remind our staff to practise and implement the various measures/programmes initiated in 2006 to help protect the environment. Our targets in 2007 are:

- to maintain the electricity consumption at current level despite the anticipated increase in the number of electrical and electronic equipment in the coming year;
- to work closely with the EMSD in implementing more energy-saving measures to reduce electricity consumption and identifying new source of renewable energy. In 2006 EMSD completed a feasibility of installing a solar energy power system at the GFS Headquarters. They will install 60 solar panels at the rooftop of GFS in September 2007 to convert solar energy into alternating current and produce renewable energy for providing lighting to the corridors of GFS ; and
- to continue educate our officers on the awareness and importance of environmental protection. We will invite officers from the Environmental Protection Department to be guest speakers of the crew's training days on environmental protection topics.

We will continue to monitor progress in the above areas.

## **8. Information and Suggestions**

For further information required or any suggestions, you may contact the Departmental Secretary of the GFS through:

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18 South Perimeter Road  
Hong Kong International Airport

Lantau  
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