

Introduction

Green management has been one of the major commitments of Information Services Department. In this sixth environmental report, we shall review the effectiveness of the various environmental initiatives and measures taken in 2004 and sets out our green targets in 2005.

Environmental Goal & Policy

2. Same as in previous years, the Information Services Department is committed to ensuring that government's Public Relations and Information policies, both locally and overseas, are implemented in an environmentally responsible manner. Throughout the year of 2004, we adopted the following policies in meeting our environmental goal: -

(a) implementing government's PR policies in an environmentally responsible manner such as issuing press releases and photographs electronically to all news organisations; promoting the use of the Internet for dissemination of information; uploading the Hong Kong Annual Report onto the Internet and reducing hard copies of publications produced;

(b) promoting communication within the department through electronic means via GCN and the Intranet; working towards the concept of paperless office to reduce the use and dispatch of paper; adopting the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in the consumption of materials and seeking continuous improvement in the efficient use of natural resources and energy, e.g. by re-engineering of work processes;

(c) complying with the relevant environmental protection ordinances;

(d) providing training for staff to develop an environmentally responsible culture and increasing their awareness of continuous improvement in protecting the environment; and

(e) recommending to clients the use of environmental friendly paper and ink for printing publicity items and publications.

Environmental Management and Performance

3. With the green commitments in mind, we went through another year of green management in 2004 with the following fruitful results:

Environmental Aspects	Measures	Performance in 2004
A. Use of Energy and Material		
Energy	(a) All officers to comply with the energy conservation policy of switching off lights, air-conditioners, computers and photocopiers whenever offices are not in use. Routine checks are conducted.	Effective compliance.
	(b) Reduce fuel consumption by rationalising the trips run by departmental vehicles.	Effective compliance.
	(c) Replace CRT based monitors with LCD monitors	Reduce the consumption of power and dissipation of radiation.
	(d) Reduce energy consumption by adjusting the air-conditioning system and keeping the room temperature at 25.5 °C in the summer months.	Effective compliance.

Material	(a) Adopt measures to economise the use of paper. This includes using the blank side of used paper for drafting, printing on both sides of paper, sticking large press cuttings on paper already printed on both sides and re-using envelopes, etc.	Effective compliance. As a result of our continuous efforts, we have not only met the voluntary saving target for A4 size photocopying paper set by the Policy Committee, i.e. 5% (600 reams) in 2004 but also achieved extra saving of 0.3% (39 reams).
	(b) All officers to maximise the use of the Internet and e-mail facilities for communication.	Effective compliance.
	(c) ISD Intranet was set up in May 2001 to facilitate communication among officers in the department and to reduce the need for hard-copy circulation and facsimile transmission of paper and documents. More than 15 categories with over 1,500 items are posted on the Intranet.	All staff can log into the Intranet and gain access to departmental information, thus minimising the need for hard-copy circulation. The on-line booking of conference rooms and departmental transport available on the Intranet was particularly useful in reducing paper forms required for processing these bookings.
	(d) Use of computerised office equipment, e.g. high-speed scanners, digital senders and fax servers improved office efficiency and minimised paper consumption.	Effective Compliance.

	<p>(e) An Occurrence Log System set up in 2003 replaced the hardcopy log books of the ISD News Enquiry Desk. In addition to logging incidents, the system serves to record, update, and allow for retrieval of press enquiry records, emergency operations manuals, contact lists, records of exercises and operation of the Combined Information Centre. Linking the system to the ISD Intranet facilitates information sharing among ISD officers.</p>	<p>The Occurrence Log System has eliminated the need for keeping hard copies of these records.</p>
	<p>(f) Introduction of environmental initiatives in respect of the production and sales of Government publications minimised paper consumption:</p>	

	<p>i) Uploading of full set of the E-Gazette onto the Government website for public viewing since December 2000.</p>	<p>The number of printed copies of Government Gazette was reduced from 3,500 in 2000 to 1,050 in 2004.</p>
	<p>ii) Hard copies of the "Hong Kong Background Facts" have ceased to be produced since October 2003.</p>	<p>Saved about 3,700 sheets of paper annually since then.</p>
	<p>iii) Hard copies of the "Hong Kong Information Notes" have ceased to be produced since October 2003.</p>	<p>Saved about 38,000 sheets of paper annually since then.</p>
	<p>(g) Officers of the TV/radio monitoring team have been re-using audio and video tapes for recording purposes.</p>	<p>Effective compliance.</p>

	<p>(h) The e-Bulletin launched in December 2002 has served as an additional channel for the Government to communicate directly with the public through the Internet.</p>	<p>Publicising Government policies electronically reduces the need for printed publicity materials. The public can express their views to the Government by sending e-mails instead of letters.</p>
	<p>(i) Setting up of the Bulletin Board System (BBS) for 11 overseas offices in December 2002 enabled the posting of the latest information such as list of visitors to Hong Kong to facilitate access by overseas staff electronically.</p>	<p>A substantial quantity of paper was saved as information need not be sent through fax to overseas offices.</p>
	<p>(j) The News Services Support System (NSSS), which originally carried only English dispatches from news agencies, was enhanced to incorporate Chinese news dispatches. With the new web interface, the system has also been linked to the ISD Intranet for easy information sharing among ISD officers.</p>	<p>The enhanced system eliminated the need for hard copy printouts. Useful news dispatches selected are now distributed mainly by e-mail and computer fax; or shared among ISD officers via the ISD Intranet.</p>

	(k) Implementation of the e-Leave system in August 2004 obviated the need for application on paper.	Saves 5,000 sheets of paper per annum.
B. Pollution Prevention		
Air-quality	(a) Conducting random checks to ensure the implementation of Government's Smoke-free Workplace Policy.	Full compliance.
	(b) Regularly reminding all drivers of the need to switch off engines of cars while waiting.	Full compliance.
Waste	(a) Collecting used printer cartridges for re-cycling.	Used printer cartridges totalling 443 were collected in 2004 and a donation of \$6,645 went to Sowers Action under the Recycling Campaign.
	(b) News photographs generated by digital cameras are distributed by Digital Photo System to news organisations and other users in digital format.	No recycling of used plastic film containers was required since 2003.
	(c) Collecting old Beta video tapes for a re-use purpose.	A total of 400 used Beta video tapes was collected in 2004 and sent to respective film contractors for re-use purpose.

Hazardous waste management	(a) Properly containing and storing chemical waste emitted in the course of photo-processing.	Arrangement has been made to comply with the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation.
	(b) EPD's contractor collects the waste for disposal.	The contractor has been requested to dispose of chemical waste in an environmentally safe manner.
	(c) Conducting regular site inspections to ensure proper handling of hazardous waste.	Full compliance.
Purchasing	(a) Wider use of green products, eg. recycled photocopying paper, alkaline batteries, energy-saving light bulbs and refillable ball-pens, etc.	Green products are widely accepted by all users.
	(b) Purchase of stores items made of durable materials (e.g. protective clothing made of Gortex), new equipment of low voltage (e.g. LCD monitors) and energy efficient models (for electrical appliances).	Conscious assessment and judgment on environmental friendliness are made on all procurement.

	(c) Purchase of environmentally sound products such as fax machines using plain paper and photocopiers with double-side photocopying feature.	Environmentally sound model of fax machines and photocopiers will replace the old equipment in phases.
	(d) Purchase of HDD-DVD video recorder equipped with rewritable harddisks and DVD drives for recording TV news round-the-clock, thus reducing the use of video tapes.	The video tapes are replaced by rewritable harddisks and DVD.
C. Management Action/Initiatives on Environmental Improvement		
Green Management Initiatives Implemented		
Green management scheme	Each Division has nominated an officer to be the Green Management Co-ordinator who is responsible for gauging staff's views on environmental improvement, relaying views to management and conducting regular checks and reviews on progress of green housekeeping measures implemented.	The management maintains close liaison with the green management co-ordinators. Progress of green housekeeping action plans was highly satisfactory in 2004.
Environmental policy	Departmental management, in consultation with staff, has developed an	The environmental policy was first introduced in December 1999. The Policy Statement is circulated regularly and made available on the Intranet for colleagues' information.

	environmental policy. The policy has been implemented smoothly and is kept under regular review.	
Support of green activities	Staff members are encouraged to participate in the green activities organised in the community.	Colleagues participated in the World Environment Day and Green Trail Walk in June 2004.
D. Education and Training		
Training	Arranging environmental audit training for staff in the Photographic Section to equip them with knowledge on the handling of chemical waste discharged in the course of photo-processing.	All technicians handling chemical waste attended related training.
Green practice guideline/ information for staff	Departmental circulars on energy conservation, economy in the use of paper and other environmental protection matters are circulated to all staff periodically and placed on the Lotus Notes Bulletin Board for easy access and re-circulation.	Continuous effort is made on dissemination of information to enhance environmental consciousness.

Environmental Initiatives in 2005

4. The department will make continuous efforts to implement green management in our workplace and further improve the housekeeping green measures. With the expected full operation of the new Government News and Media Information System (GNMIS) in 2005, press releases and other attachments in multimedia format will be disseminated through electronic channels. This will help achieve our objective of minimising the use of paper, fax transmission and photocopying equipment. In line with the Government's Economy Drive to economise on the use of resources, we will work closely with all Green Management Coordinators to work towards the goal of environmental protection within the office and achieve further saving targets in the coming years.

Your suggestions are welcome

5. If you have any suggestions or points to make on this report, you can telephone, call at or write to the Deputy Departmental Secretary (Telephone No. 2842 8626, Fax No. 2525 6584, internet e-mail address hywong@isd.gov.hk)

Previous Environmental Reports

- [Environmental Report 2003](#)
- [Environmental Report 2002](#)
- [Environmental Report 2001](#)
- [Environmental Report 2000](#)
- [Environmental Report 1999](#)

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