

Judiciary

Controlling Officer's Environmental Report 2006-07

Introduction

This is the eighth Environmental Report of the Judiciary. This report gives an updated account of the green measures taken and our environmental performance in 2006-07 and sets out our future green targets and challenges ahead.

Mission and Functions of the Judiciary

- ❖ The mission of the Judiciary is to maintain an independent and effective judicial system which upholds the rule of law, safeguards the rights and freedoms of the individual, and commands confidence within and outside Hong Kong.
- ❖ The Judiciary is responsible for the administration of justice in Hong Kong. It has unlimited jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters and is completely independent of the executive and legislative branches of the Government.
- ❖ As at 31 March 2007, the Judiciary has around 160 Judges, Judicial Officers and 1,500 support staff. Our Courts, Tribunals and Magistrates' Courts are located in 13 different buildings (two of which are joint-user buildings managed by the Government Property Agency and one is a commercial building) throughout Hong Kong.
- ❖ The Judiciary contributes to the protection of the environment mainly by office-based activities. The consumption of electricity and paper has been our major concern.
- ❖ To put in place an effective green management framework, the Judiciary Administrator has appointed a directorate officer - Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Corporate Services) as the Green Manager to oversee environmental issues. Two other officers have been appointed to implement day-to-day environmental management with the assistance of 43 Green Executives and a Work Improvement Team. Through venue managers and section heads, staff are consulted from time to time

on measures and feasibilities of reducing electricity and paper consumption by reviewing their workflow.

Environmental Policy

The Judiciary is committed to ensuring that our operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. To realize this, we have adopted the following principles –

(a) Minimization of Consumption –

By exercising the 4Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink – we aim to minimize consumption of paper and make efficient use of natural resources and energy.

(b) Green Purchase –

We support and promote the practice of environmentally responsible purchasing.

(c) Promoting Staff Awareness –

Through periodical circulation of green notices by e-mail, holding green activities and dissemination of green messages through our Green Executives and section heads, we invite direct participation of staff in protecting the environment, and appeal for their support and contribution to achieve the environmental targets together.


(d) Regular Reviews –


We regularly review practices and seek continuous improvement on environmental protection. We invite Green Executives to monitor the effectiveness of our green measures and suggest other green measures. We also mobilize venue managers to review the usage of natural resources and propose measures to cut down electricity and paper consumption.

Green Measures and Initiatives

In 2006-07, the Judiciary has continued to upkeep the housekeeping measures in line with the “4Rs” (Reduce, Reuse, Recycling, and Rethink) principles. In view of our office-based nature, we have focused on reduction of energy and paper consumption and promoting staff awareness. The following table summarizes some of our green measures and initiatives carried out in 2006-07 –

Measures	Initiatives
A. Energy Consumption	
<p>Minimizing the usage of air-conditioning and lighting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Separate air-conditioning switches for individual courtrooms were installed at the High Court Building so that court staff could switch off air-conditioning immediately after hearings. ▪ Lighting motion sensors were installed at the High Court Building. ▪ Arrangements were made for temperature for indoor areas be set at 25.5°C. <div data-bbox="906 1256 1121 1570" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monthly returns on electricity consumption of individual court buildings were compiled for monitoring purposes. Venue managers were alerted when significant increase in electricity consumption was observed.

Measures	Initiatives
B. Paper Consumption	
Provision of e-services and publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-services are to be made available via our official website. This includes e-Hearing Date Enquiry Service, Labour Tribunal Appointment Booking Service and e-Pamphlets. There are also numerous forms available for downloading on our website. All these have reduced the printing requirement and paper consumption.
Provision of internet facilities for members of the Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continued to provide full coverage of e-mail accounts and internet access for all members of the Judiciary so that they could use electronic means instead of paper for dissemination of/sharing information and communication.
Use of recycled paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of recycled paper in the Corporate Services Division.
C. Promote Staff Awareness and Staff Participation	
Green activity	<p>To encourage staff to directly participate in environmental protection, we organized a Judiciary-wide recycling activity to collect usable items for donating to a non-profit making organization for reuse and recycling in December 2006.</p>  <p>司法機構義工活動 物品回收</p> <p>任何性態良好的物品，例如： <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 舊電視機 電腦設備（電腦、印表機、覆印機、掃描器、數據機、傳真機、電話機、錄音機、錄影機、音響設備、電器及傢俬） </p> <p>日期：2006年12月1日及4至8日</p> <p>地點：高等法院 - 3樓 305室 區域法院 - 6樓 605室 沙田裁判法院 - 2樓 221室 九龍城裁判法院 - 3樓 313室 屯門裁判法院 - 2樓 222室 觀塘裁判法院 - 2樓 211室 玉環裁判法院 - G1樓 行政樓樓 葵春裁判法院 - 2樓 209室 勞資關係處 - (培訓中心) 19樓 1921室</p> <p>時間：下午1時至2時 下午5時至6時</p>

Measures	Initiatives
Training for staff	We invited venue managers to attend green management seminars and experience sharing workshops organized by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to facilitate them in developing effective green measures for implementation at their respective court premises.
Reminders on green measures	Green tips on how to reduce electricity and paper consumption were re-circulated to venue managers on a regular basis and reminder was issued to appeal to colleagues for their continue support on the central recycling centres for collecting single-side used paper and envelopes for reuse, and the recycling bins, which were put in place for a few years.
D. Cleaner Air Quality	
Anti-smoking policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Posters were put up at conspicuous places to remind users and staff to refrain from smoking both in public and office areas. ▪ Letters were issued to frequent court users organizations appealing to their members' support on a smoke-free environment.
No-smoking policy  <p>The image shows a standard 'No Smoking' sign. It features a blue background with a white circle containing a black silhouette of a lit cigarette with smoke rising from it. A red diagonal slash is superimposed over the circle. Below the graphic, the text '嚴禁吸煙' (Strictly Prohibited Smoking) is written in large black Chinese characters, followed by 'NO SMOKING' in smaller black English characters. At the bottom, it states '最高罰款 MAXIMUM PENALTY \$5,000' in red and black, and '衛生署 控煙辦公室' (Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health) in small black text.</p>	With the implementation of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance effective from 1 January 2007, – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-ordinator and managers-in-charge were assigned to implement the policy; ▪ Venue managers were arranged to attend workshops organized by the then Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and in-house briefings were conducted to management staff and managers in charge;

Measures	Initiatives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E-mails and letters were issued to members of the Judiciary and relevant parties to promulgate the policy. Promotional items were delivered to venue managers for posting up at prominent areas; and ▪ Regular returns would be called from venue managers to closely monitor the implementation situation.
E. Green Procurement	
Green purchase	<p>We support and promote the practice of environmentally responsible purchasing and the following measures were adopted –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchased photocopiers with energy saving mode. ▪ Purchased energy saving light bulbs. ▪ Arranged outsourcing of printing publications such as reports and booklets by environmental friendly ink. ▪ Recommended items with residual value for public auction for reuse or recycling at the Board of Condemnation for unserviceable inventory items. ▪ Through the Government Logistics Department, to return used toners and inkjet cartridges to the contractor for reuse.

Environmental Targets and Performance in 2006-07

Apart from the green initiatives implemented, quantitative targets were set to assess the environmental performance in 2006-07. With the concerted efforts of our colleagues, the following achievements were made in 2006-07 –

(a) Electricity Consumption

- 👍 The target yardstick in maintaining the electricity consumption within 125 kWh/m² was fully met. In 2006-07, the average electricity consumption was 123 kWh/m².
- 👍 Consumption was reduced by more than 14% in 2006-07, taking 2002-03 as the base year.
- 👍 A reduction of 1.1% on total consumption from January to December 2006 as compared with the same period in 2005.

(b) Paper Consumption

- 🌍 In 2006-07, the paper consumption (in reams) was reduced by 10% as compared with 2002-03.
- 🌍 On balancing the need to preserve court-related documents and protecting the environment, recycled papers were used in the Corporate Services Division, a division mainly providing support services to members of the Judiciary, starting from 2006-07. The procurement of recycled paper represented about 4.5% of the total procurement in 2006-07.

(c) Recycling Activity

- A Judiciary-wide recycling activity was launched in December 2006 to collect usable items for donation to the Salvation Army for reuse and recycling.

Environmental Targets for 2007

To tie in with the revised reporting cycle from a financial year basis to calendar year basis, we have set out the following targets for 2007 –

- Maintaining electricity consumption for existing facilities not exceeding 125 kWh / m².
- To extend the use of recycled paper to other divisions.
- 10% of total paper procurement for 2007 being recycled papers.

- To further explore installation of environmental friendly devices at law courts buildings in consultation with ArchSD and EMSD.
- To liaise with EMSD on the formation of Energy and Emission Management Teams in court buildings with a view to minimizing energy consumption.
- To organize sharing sessions to reinforce staff awareness on green management.

Challenge Ahead

Clean Air Charter

We would continue to implement standard measures and initiatives to reduce energy/emissions by strictly ensuring proper maintenance of our car fleet and requiring our drivers to turn off the engines whilst waiting. In parallel, we would appoint Energy and Emission Management Teams in various courts buildings with representatives from EMSD to minimize energy consumption for respective offices having regard to their unique requirements.

Comments

Your comments on this report are welcome. Please write to us at enquiry@judiciary.gov.hk. This report is also available on our website <http://www.judiciary.gov.hk>.

Judiciary Administration
November 2007