

Judiciary

Controlling Officer's Environmental Report 2011

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Introduction

This is the 13th Environmental Report of the Judiciary. This report gives an updated account of the policies and management measures with respect to environmental issues and our environmental performance in 2011. It also sets out our green targets for 2012.



Mission and Functions of the Judiciary

2. 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.

3. 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 authorities and the legislature.

4. As at 31 December 2011, the Judiciary has around 150 Judges and Judicial Officers and 1,500 support staff. Our Courts, Tribunals, Magistrates' Courts and Offices are located in 12 different buildings (two of which are joint-user buildings managed by the Government Property Agency) throughout Hong Kong.

5. The Judiciary contributes to the protection of the environment mainly by office-based activities. The consumption of electricity and paper is 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 16 venue managers, 41 Green Executives as well as 62 section/sub-section heads. Through them, staff are consulted from time to time on the green measures for and feasibility of reducing electricity and paper consumption by reviewing their facilities and workflow.

Environmental Policy of the Judiciary

6. 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 5Rs – Replace, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink – we aim to minimize consumption of energy and 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 venue managers, Green Executives and section/sub-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 review practices regularly and seek continuous improvement in environmental protection. We invite Green Executives and section/sub-section heads to monitor the effectiveness of our green measures and put up new initiatives to enhance green practices and measures. We also mobilize venue managers to review the usage of natural resources and propose measures to cut down electricity and paper consumption.

Green Initiatives

7. In view of our office-based nature, we focused on the following areas in our green initiatives –

- (a) energy efficiency and conservation;
- (b) waste reduction and management;
- (c) water management;
- (d) indoor air quality (“IAQ”);
- (e) compliance with the Clean Air Charter and greenhouse gas (“GHG”) reduction;
- (f) paper consumption;
- (g) establishment of a green workplace/premises; and
- (h) staff awareness and participation.

8. Both housekeeping measures and retrofitting works had been conducted in order to enhance the environmental performance of Judiciary premises. The following paragraphs summarize some of the key initiatives carried out in 2011.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation

9. Air-conditioning and lighting constitute around 70% of energy consumption in the offices. We continued to adopt various practical housekeeping energy saving measures in 2011 to minimize and optimize the usage of air-conditioning and lighting in various Judiciary premises. Improvement works were carried out in consultation with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (“EMSD”). Efforts in promoting green buildings were also made in the design of a new Law Courts Building (“LCB”).

(a) Improvement works

- (i) Replacement of existing lightings by more energy efficient lightings, such as compact fluorescent downlights, T5 fluorescent light fittings, dual mode Light Emitting Diode (“LED”) sensor type light fittings, and LED floodlights in various LCBs.
- (ii) Replacement of aged chillers by more energy saving chillers in the High Court Building (“HCB”).

- (iii) Replacement of conventional “Exit” signs by LED type in the HCB.

LED “Exit”
sign



- (iv) Replacement and upgrading of the lift control systems by energy saving types in the HCB and Shatin LCB.

(b) *Housekeeping measures*

- (i) We continued to set the temperature for indoor areas other than courtrooms at 25.5°C during the summer months. In cooler months, ventilation (instead of chillers) would be turned on when the temperature and humidity outdoor were lower than those indoor to maximize fresh air intake.
- (ii) Air-conditioning in courtrooms and conference rooms was switched off immediately after use.
- (iii) Half of the lights in the office corridors in the Judiciary premises were switched off during non-office hours i.e. lunch time.
- (iv) We regulated the operating hours of the non-essential external lighting installations in the Judiciary premises to reduce energy consumption.
- (v) 7-day timer switches were used to switch off shared equipment such as water dispensers automatically after office hours.

Using a 7-day timer to
switch off shared
equipment after office
hours



- (vi) Colleagues were encouraged to reduce use of standby mode by turning off monitors, computers, printers and photocopying machines after office hours, and to unplug equipment chargers and adapters from socket outlets when not in use. Intelligent power bars were also used with a view to reducing the standby power of the office equipment.
- (vii) Monthly returns on electricity consumption of individual Judiciary premises were compiled for monitoring purposes. Venue managers were alerted when significant increase in electricity consumption was observed.
- (viii) Regular maintenance checking of the lighting and air-conditioning systems was conducted by the EMSD to ensure that the systems were operated in an energy efficient condition.
- (ix) Ways to optimize and minimize energy consumption were discussed between venue managers and EMSD during regular meetings. EMSD also facilitated venue managers to explore improvement areas on how best energy could be efficiently utilised.

(c) New building design

The new LCB to be constructed in West Kowloon would adopt various forms of energy efficient features, such as water-cooled chiller, service-on-demand control for escalators, LED down light and spot light, etc.

Waste Reduction and Management

10. To reduce the generation of waste, we continue to adopt green procurement by supporting and promoting the practice of environmentally responsible purchasing –

- (a) Purchased recycled paper with forestry certifications or green labels for printing and photocopying purposes.
- (b) Procured printers and photocopiers with built-in duplex printing units.
- (c) Purchased office equipment and electrical appliances, e.g. photocopiers, fax machines, computer items, water

dispensers, etc. with Recognition Type Energy Label under the Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme of EMSD.



- (d) Purchased energy saving fluorescent tubes/compact fluorescent lamps instead of tungsten filament lamps for general lighting purposes.
- (e) Adopted the green specifications in the purchases of products promulgated by the Environmental Protection Department whenever practicable.
- (f) Recommended items with residual value for public auction for reuse or recycling at the Board of Condemnation for unserviceable inventory items.
- (g) Included 'trade-in option' in quotations when procuring fax machines, photocopying machines, water dispensers and refrigerators.
- (h) Used the green stationery items supplied by the Government Logistics Department ("GLD"), such as refillable ball pens and recycled pencils.
- (i) Returned used toners and inkjet cartridges to the contractor for reuse through the GLD.
- (j) Procured in an environmentally friendly manner e.g. procurement of CD-roms with minimum package (i.e. without disk containers).
- (k) Procured uniform made of materials free of Azo dyes.

11. To promote awareness on waste management, we placed waste separation bins in various Judiciary premises to collect recyclable materials.



12. We included environmental friendly measures in the cleansing contract by requiring our cleansing contractors to use garbage bags made of degradable or recycled materials.

13. To minimize the consumption of disposable foam and plastic cups, we encouraged our colleagues to bring their own cups to meetings.



Water Management

14. Fresh water is a precious resource and we have tried to preserve it by adopting the following measures –

- (a) Installation of various kinds of water conservation devices, such as dual flush cistern, urinal bowls with sensors, sensor water taps in HCB and Kwun Tong LCB.

Dual flush
cistern



- (b) Remind colleagues to reduce water consumption and prevent water wastage.



- (c) Remind cleansing contractors, canteen and kiosk operators to conserve water usage.
- (d) Place posters and other publicity materials in prominent places (e.g. pantries and washrooms) to encourage water conservation.

Indoor Air Quality

辦公室及公眾場所 室內空氣質素檢定計劃 Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places

15. We aimed to achieve good IAQ, which safeguards the health of our colleagues and court users and contributes to their comfort and well-being. Apart from the full implementation of no smoking policy, air-conditioning vents and carpets were cleaned regularly to maintain good IAQ in the offices. “IAQ Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places” (“IAQ Certification Scheme”) assessment and regular IAQ inspections were conducted in various Judiciary premises by phases.

Compliance with the Clean Air Charter and GHG Reduction

16. We adhered to the commitments stated in the Clean Air Charter through implementation of various measures and initiatives to reduce fuel consumption and GHG emissions.

- (a) All our saloon cars were environmental-friendly petrol saloon cars with low emission and fuel-efficient engines.

- (b) We included desirable vehicle emission standard in the hiring of transport services whenever practicable.
- (c) Our drivers continued to comply with the requirement to switch off idling engines and observe eco-driving practices.



- (d) Colleagues were encouraged to support the “Carfree Day” by using public transport instead of private vehicles on 22 September 2011.
- (e) We ensured that all the paints used by the contractor in renovation works were with low volatile organic compounds (“VOC”) and within the limit stipulated in the VOC Regulation under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance.
- (f) The Judiciary participated in the “2011 Earth Hour” (i.e. Lights Out Campaign) organised by the “World Wide Fund for Nature” by switching off the non-essential lighting from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm on 26 March 2011.



Paper Consumption

- 17. We continued to minimize paper consumption by –
 - (a) introducing e-services and publications;
 - (b) providing internet and intranet facilities for members of the Judiciary;
 - (c) disseminating information through intranet;
 - (d) extending the use of recycled paper;

- (e) photocopying limited to the absolute minimum;
- (f) making full use of the blank side of used paper;
- (g) reusing envelopes and loose minutes jackets;
- (h) using e-invitations for various ceremonies; and
- (i) using lighter papers for court-related documents [100 grams per m² (gsm) paper was replaced by 75 gsm type].

Establishment of Green Workplace/Premises

18. Greening plays an important role in building an environmentally friendly and quality working environment. We aimed to establish a green workplace for both our colleagues and court users.

19. The following greening works were carried out by the Architectural Services Department (“ArchSD”) –

- (a) Greening on the top of the covered walkway from the G/F main entrance of HCB to Queensway Government Offices.
- (b) Greening on the rooftop of the low block of HCB.



20. Green features, such as green roof and vertical greening on building facades, would be incorporated in the building design of the new LCB to be constructed in West Kowloon.

Staff Awareness and Participation

21. To encourage staff to be more conscious about environmental protection and to stimulate their awareness and knowledge of environmental concerns, green activities, workshops and training sessions were held and provided to all members of the Judiciary. Family members were also invited to participate in some of the activities.

- (a) A recycling activity was organised to collect usable items for donation to a non-profit making organization for reuse and

recycling. In addition, a site visit to a waste electrical and electronic equipment recycling centre operated by a non-profit making organization was arranged for staff and family members to enhance their awareness of recycling.



- (b) To encourage and inspire colleagues and their family members to directly participate in green activity, a weed removal activity was organized jointly with the Hong Kong Wetland Park. Through such experience, staff and family members developed a better understanding of green living and sustainable development of the environment.



- (c) Venue managers, Green Executives and colleagues were invited to attend seminars on energy efficiency and conservation organised by EMSD and in-house green management sharing session to facilitate them in developing best green practices for implementation in their respective Judiciary premises.
- (d) Green tips were published on the intranet to reinforce the importance of environmental protection and sustainability.
- (e) Colleagues were encouraged to bring their own lunch boxes for take-away meals from the staff canteen. Recyclable lunch boxes were also provided in the staff canteen.

Key Environmental Performance in 2011

22. We are committed to ensuring that our operations are conducted in a sustainable manner. To align with our green initiatives on reducing electricity and paper consumption, and promote sustainable development, quantitative targets for electricity and paper consumption levels were set to measure our environmental performance in 2011. With the support from members of the Judiciary, we have been able to achieve the following in 2011 –

- (a) A 1% saving on overall electricity consumption for existing facilities after discounting activity changes (using the electricity consumption in 2010 as the baseline).
- (b) The procurement of recycled papers reached 29% of total procurement, which is 5% higher than our set target.
- (c) The achievement of a “Good Class” grading under the IAQ Certification Scheme assessment for Lands Tribunal and Labour Tribunal, and the successful renewal of “Good Class” IAQ Certificates for Wanchai Tower, Eastern, Kwun Tong and Kowloon City LCBs.
- (d) Additional waste separation bins were placed in various Judiciary premises, with the number increased by around 60%.

23. Comparing to 2010, there was a 1% drop in the emission of major air pollutants, namely, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and respirable suspended particulates in 2011.

Key Environmental Performance Targets in 2012

24. We fully recognize the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development. We will continue to maintain good practices on green management and develop new initiatives to reduce the overall impact on the environment.

25. To measure the environmental performance in 2012, the following key targets are set –

- (a) To maintain the electricity consumption for existing facilities no higher than the existing level after discounting activity changes.

- (b) To achieve 30% recycled paper procurement of the total paper procurement.
- (c) To achieve “Good Class” grading in the renewal of IAQ Certificates and to carry out regular IAQ inspections for various Judiciary premises.
- (d) To continue implementing energy saving projects and exploring the installation of environmental friendly devices to reduce energy consumption in various Judiciary premises in consultation with the ArchSD and EMSD.
- (e) To organize sharing sessions, workshops and activities to promote staff awareness of green management.

Comments

26. 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>.



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