

Judiciary

Controlling Officer's Environmental Report 2008

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Introduction

This is the 10th 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 2008. It also 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 authorities and the legislature.
- ❖ As at 31 December 2008, the Judiciary has around 160 Judges and 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) throughout Hong Kong.
- ❖ 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 13 venue managers, 43 Green Executives as well as section heads. Through them, staff are consulted from time to time on the measures for and feasibility of reducing electricity and paper consumption by reviewing their facilities and workflow.

Environmental Policy of the Judiciary

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 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 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.

In-House Housekeeping Initiatives

In 2008, the Judiciary has continued to carry out the 5R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, and Replace) principles in our daily and routine housekeeping.

In view of our office-based nature, we have focused on reduction of energy and paper consumption, practising green procurement, promoting staff awareness, complying with the Clean Air Charter and establishing green premises. The following paragraphs summarize some of our green measures and initiatives carried out in 2008.

(a) Energy Consumption

Air-conditioning and lighting constitute around 70% of energy consumption in the offices. We continued to adopt various energy saving measures in 2008 to minimize and optimize the usage of air-conditioning and lighting in various court premises. Some were adopted on the advice of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) as our advisor on energy saving and some were administrative measures.

Improvement works carried out by EMSD –

- (i) Replacement of more efficient air-cooled chillers in the Court of Final Appeal (CFA).
- (ii) Installation of timers to control the time of lighting in Kwun Tong (KT) and Shatin (S) Law Courts Buildings (LCBs).
- (iii) Replacement of conventional “Exit” signs with LED “Exit” signs in Kowloon City (KC) LCB.



LED ‘Exit’ sign
to replace
conventional signs

- (iv) Phased replacement of “fat” tubes with “thin” tubes in CFA, High Court Building, District Court and KCLCB; and high efficient bulbs with traditional roof lamps in SLCB.

- (v) Removal of one of the three fluorescent tubes in each lighting panel at staff corridors of Fanling LCB.
- (vi) Installation of motion sensors in the office areas and staircases of the High Court Building and the public and office areas of KCLCB and the Labour Tribunal.



Motion sensor

- (vii) Installation of light sensors in the waiting areas of the Labour Tribunal to make better use of daylight.
- (viii) During cooler days, ventilation instead of air-conditioning was provided to the public areas in SLCB to reduce the electricity consumption; and fewer Primary Air-handling Units were switched on in KTLCB.

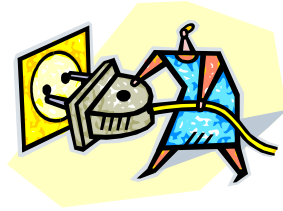
Administrative measures –

- (i) Temperature for indoor areas other than courtrooms was set 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 are lower than those indoor to maximize fresh air intake.
- (ii) Half of the lights in the office corridors in the High Court were switched off during lunch time.

Half of the lights were turned off at lunch time



- (iii) Air-conditioning in courtrooms and conference rooms was switched off immediately after use.
- (iv) 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.



Unplug

- (v) As a trial, 7-day timer switches were introduced with a view 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) 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.
- (vii) Regular meetings of the Energy and Emission Management Teams comprising representatives of EMSD and venue managers were held to identify ways to optimize and minimize energy consumption. Informal environmental audits were also conducted at various court premises with the assistance of EMSD to identify improvement areas.

(b) Paper Consumption

We continued to minimize paper consumption by introducing e-services and publications, providing internet and intranet facilities for members of the Judiciary, extending the use of recycled paper and introducing lighter papers for court-related documents. All these have reduced paper procurement, printing requirement and paper consumption. The following are highlights of some of the initiatives taken in 2008 to further contribute to the reduction in usage of papers –

- The use of lighter paper [75 grams per m² (gsm)] to replace 100 gsm papers was extended to the printing of transcripts produced through the Digital Audio Recording and Transcription Services (DARTS).
- Invitations to the Legal Year Opening ceremony were issued to guests by electronic means.

(c) Green Procurement

We support and promote the practice of environmentally responsible purchasing and we continue to adopt the following measures –

- Purchased photocopiers, fax machines and other electronic office equipment with energy saving mode.
- Procured printers and photocopiers with built-in duplex printing units.
- Procured computers and LCD monitors with international energy efficient standards and environmental criteria.
- Purchased energy saving light bulbs.
- Arranged printing of publications such as reports and booklets by outsourced service providers with environmental friendly ink.
- Recommended items with residual value for public auction for reuse or recycling at the Board of Condemnation for unserviceable inventory items.
- Returned used toners and inkjet cartridges to the contractor for reuse through the Government Logistics Department.

- Procured in an environmentally friendly manner e.g. procurement of CD-roms with minimum package (i.e. without disk containers).
- Included 'trade-in option' in quotations when procuring fax machines, photocopying machines, water dispensers and refrigerators.

(d) Staff Awareness and Participation

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

司法機構政務處義工活動

物品回收

所收集之物品包括：

- 新舊衣物
- 性能良好的電器及家庭用品（如風扇、熨斗、電腦及電視機）
- 玩具、文具、禮品及書籍

日期：2008年12月15至19日

地點： 高等法院－低層3樓305室 區域法院－12樓1224室
 沙田裁判法院－地下職員電梯大堂 九龍城裁判法院－7樓712室
 屯門裁判法院－2樓224室 觀塘裁判法院－2樓211室
 荃灣裁判法院－地下及1樓後樓梯 粉嶺裁判法院－6樓606室
 勞資審裁處－1樓130室

時間：下午1時至2時
下午5時至6時



- To encourage and inspire colleagues and their family members to directly participate in green activity, a weed removal activity was organised jointly with the Hong Kong Wetland Park.



- A visit to the Island West Refuse Transfer Station of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) at Kennedy Town was arranged for staff and their family members to learn more about the operation of the refuse transfer station and concept of 'Green Living'.



- To raise green awareness among staff, a representative from the EPD was invited to share knowledge on environmental protection issues and sustainable development with venue managers and Green Executives.
- Venue managers and Green Executives were invited to attend seminars and experience sharing workshops on energy saving measures organised by EMSD to facilitate colleagues in developing best practices on environmental measures for implementation at their respective court premises.
- Venue managers attended the workshop organized by EPD on achieving Clean Air Charter Commitments for implementation of various measures and initiatives to reduce energy and thus air emissions at the venues under their purview.

- Recycling bins were placed at various places in court premises to collect recyclable materials.



- Green tips were published on the Judiciary Staff Newsletter and circulated regularly to staff to reinforce the importance of environmental protection and sustainability.

(e) Compliance with Clean Air Charter

Apart from the full enforcement of no smoking policy since 2007, various measures and initiatives have been implemented to reduce fuel consumption and air emissions –

- All our saloon cars were replaced with environmental-friendly petrol saloon cars with lower emission and more fuel-efficient engines.
- Our drivers continued to comply with the requirement to turn off the engines while waiting and observe eco-driving practices.



- 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.



- Air-conditioning vents were cleaned regularly to maintain good indoor air quality in the offices and efficient operation of the air-conditioning and ventilation systems.
- The Judiciary participated in the “Lights Out” event organised by “Friends of the Earth” by switching off the lights for an hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm on 21 June 2008.

(f) Establishment of a Green Workplace/Premises

The flowerbeds at the forecourt of the High Court Library were beautified with plants since 2008.



New Initiatives Meeting New Challenge



Quality Living Environment

To create a quality working and living environment, a green urban environment is indispensable. To this end, we would take on board the following greening proposals –

- Greening on the top of the covered walkway from the G/F main entrance of High Court Building to Queensway Government Offices.
- Greening on the rooftop of the low block of the High Court Building.
- Extension of the flowerbed at the podium of the Labour Tribunal.

Key Environmental Performance in 2008

Apart from the green initiatives implemented, quantitative targets were set to measure the environmental performance in 2008. With the concerted efforts of our colleagues, the following are highlights of some of our achievements in 2008 –

Electricity Consumption

- ✓ Overall electricity consumption for existing facilities maintained at existing level¹ i.e. 125kWh/m².
- ✓ The emission of major air pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and respirable suspended particulates (RSP) in 2008 were 28, 17 and 0.89 tonnes respectively².

Paper Consumption

- ✓ The procurement of recycled papers reached 10% of total procurement.
- ✓ The use of lighter paper (75 gsm) was extended to cover transcripts produced through DARTS.

Replacement of cars

- ✓ All our saloon cars were replaced with environmental friendly petrol saloon cars with lower emission and more fuel-efficient engines.

Although no quantitative savings target was set for the procurement of paper, there was a 17% reduction in paper procurement in 2008 compared with 2007. This shows that colleagues have greater awareness in applying the 5R principles in practice.

¹ This was the electricity consumption level after normalization. For the purpose of measuring the performance in 2008, the electricity consumption by Labour Tribunal, after its relocation to the South Kowloon Magistracy from commercial premises in January 2008, was not taken into account due to differences in calculation of electricity consumption.

² Consumption of electricity will emit different air pollutants. The major ones, according to information provided by EPD, are SO₂, NO_x and RSP. The emission of these pollutants are calculated as follows –
SO₂ = electricity consumed (in kWh) x 0.00191 (kg/kWh) / 1,000 tonnes
NO_x = electricity consumed (in kWh) x 0.00116 (kg/kWh) / 1,000 tonnes
RSP = electricity consumed (in kWh) x 0.00006 (kg/kWh) / 1,000 tonnes

Way Forward and Challenges

We fully recognize the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development. To this end, we will continue to maintain good practices on green management and develop new initiatives in contributing to the betterment of the community and the world as a whole.

Way Forward

We have set the following targets for 2009 –

- To keep the electricity consumption for existing facilities no higher than existing level.
- To achieve 15% procurement of recycled paper of the total procurement of paper.
- To explore and further the installation of environmental friendly devices to reduce energy consumption at offices in the law courts buildings in consultation with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) and EMSD.
- To green our workplace/premises in consultation with ArchSD.
- To organize sharing sessions and workshops to reinforce staff awareness on green management.
- To arrange green activities to promote staff awareness.

Challenges Ahead

We will continue to promote and encourage the implementation of green measures and housekeeping practices. We would be more creative and liaise more closely with both EMSD and ArchSD in working out other energy efficient measures to optimize the usage of electricity. Having regard to operational requirements, we will strive to make more economical use of paper to reduce paper procurement. In addition, we will continue to promote the awareness of members of the Judiciary on the importance of green living and help Hong Kong achieve a more sustainable environment.

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
March 2009