

Environmental Performance

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

We are committed to contributing to environmental sustainability and promoting a better environment for the community of Hong Kong through the formulation of planning policies and standards,

the preparation and implementation of town plans as well as the promotion of green office practices in the Department. To maintain a high standard of environmental performance, we will:

- ↪ take full account of the environmental implications of all planning activities;
- ↪ facilitate the achievement of a quality-built environment and the protection of natural environment; and encourage environmentally responsible development;
- ↪ enforce the Town Planning Ordinance against unauthorised developments which result in adverse environmental impacts;
- ↪ comply with the requirements of relevant environmental protection ordinances;
- ↪ promote public awareness on environmental sustainability issues;
- ↪ cultivate a clean, tidy, healthy and safe office environment; promote and implement green housekeeping measures; and raise staff awareness of their environmental responsibilities through training and publicity programmes; and
- ↪ regularly review the environmental aspects and impacts of our planning activities and office practices; and build up the Department's environmental management system.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Department applies an Environmental Management System to undertake the planning, implementation and monitoring of

the Department's environmental initiatives and programme in a co-ordinated way.

Environmental Management System of the Planning Department

Planning Department Management Committee (Chaired by Director of Planning)

- ↪ to provide directives on environmental policy of the Department

Environmental Management Committee

(Chaired by Assistant Director, i.e. the Green Manager of the Department)

- ↪ to assist in building up the Department's environmental management system by reviewing the environmental policy for approval by the Planning Department Management Committee; and reviewing, implementing and monitoring environmental actions including environmental objectives, targets and programmes;
- ↪ to monitor and undertake management review on the performance of the Department's environmental actions in the aspects of its business and office operations;
- ↪ to assess and advise on training requirement on environmental awareness and practices;
- ↪ to report the environmental performance of the Department; and
- ↪ to oversee the work of the Green Housekeeping Committee of the Department

Green Housekeeping Committee (Chaired by Chief Town Planner)

- ↪ to introduce and oversee the implementation of green housekeeping measures of the Department; and
- ↪ to disseminate environmental information of the Environmental Management Committee

GREEN HOUSEKEEPING MEASURES

The Planning Department Green Housekeeping Committee continued its efforts in promoting and introducing new green initiatives in the office and enhancing staff's environmental awareness.

As in the past nine years, a Collect-for-Reuse Programme was organised in October 2011 to promote waste reduction and material reuse practices. Used clothes, toys, house ware, electrical appliances and computer

equipment were collected from staff and sent to relevant charity and recycling agents. The active participation of staff in helping the needy through the green activities was encouraging.

The Committee organised a 'Green Office Inter-sectional Competition between October 10 and November 30, 2011. Funded as a Staff Motivation Scheme activity, the competition was successful in raising staff's awareness in green issues and encouraging their participation

in green office management practice. The assessment panel conducted an inspection to each section for their performance in practice

of saving paper and energy consumption. The winners of the competition were:

Award	Winning Office
Best Green Office Award	Sai Kung & Islands District Planning Office
Green Office Award of Merit (Three Winners)	Central Enforcement and Prosecution Section
	New Territories District Planning Division Headquarters
	District Urban Renewal Forum Section, New Plans Team, Outline Zoning Plan Review Section



The Green Housekeeping Committee has closely monitored paper and envelope consumption and reminded colleagues to continue to be environmentally conscious and minimise paper and envelope use as far as

practicable. The green office management of the Department in terms of consumption of paper and envelopes in 2011 is indicated below:

- ↪ an increase of 36.2% in paper consumption as compared to 2010 (an increase of 15.3% in 2011 if compared to 2009). This was mainly due to the establishment of two new sections in the Department and the increased printing volume of Town Planning Board documents; and
- ↪ a slight increase of 3.5% in consumption of envelopes as compared to 2010. This was mainly due to the additional consumption of two newly established sections as well as the public engagement exercises arising from the planning studies in the Department.

Other green measures include :

- ↪ 250 numbers of toner cartridges disposed;
- ↪ 18 391 kg of paper collected for recycling. Recycling bins placed in offices to collect used aluminum cans and plastic bottles;
- ↪ 16 boxes of used clothes, handbags, shoes, toys and houseware, 21 electrical appliances, 1 computer, 3 laptop computers, 1 monitor, 2 printers, 2 scanners and other accessories collected for reuse by charitable organisations;
- ↪ An ongoing improvement project to replace the existing light tubes (T8) in offices by T5 by phase to achieve further energy conservation;
- ↪ guidelines circulated to staff regularly to remind them that shark fins and other endangered species should be avoided as cuisines for official banquets or departmental staff activities as an endeavor of environmental protection;
- ↪ government/departmental forms uploaded onto the Intranet for staff's easy retrieval; and
- ↪ a day trip to Lavender Garden in Fanling and Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden in Tai Po organised on December 3, 2011 to enhance staff's awareness in environmental protection.



Waste Recycling



Day trip to Lavender Garden and Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden

CONSERVATION-RELATED ZONES

The scarcity of land and increasing development pressure impose threats to our natural environment. Through zoning designation, we help safeguard our natural environment against undesirable development in areas of high conservation value.

As at end of 2011, about 9 250 hectares (or 21%) of land in the New Territories fall within the following conservation-related zones on the

relevant statutory plans : 'Conservation Area', 'Site of Special Scientific Interests', 'Country Park', 'Coastal Protection Area', and 'Other Specified Uses' annotated 'Comprehensive Development to include Wetland Restoration Area'; 'Comprehensive Development and Wetland Enhancement Area'; and 'Comprehensive Development and Wetland Protection Area'.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT AGAINST UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT

Unauthorised developments (UDs) have led to environmental degradation in the rural New Territories. The UD, such as land/pond filling, open storage of vehicles, containers, construction machineries and materials, as well as container trailer parks and workshops, have caused nuisance to the local communities, incurred problems like flooding, environmental pollution, traffic congestion and may also pose a threat to public safety. Enforcement and prosecution against the UD are essential to help prevent further degradation of the rural

environment. Appendix 3 is a summary of the enforcement and prosecution actions undertaken by Planning Department in 2011. There were also publicity campaign relating to planning enforcement including television and radio announcements of public interest, promulgation of pamphlets and posters, and undertaking outreach education programmes at secondary schools to increase public's awareness, e.g. UD are subject to enforcement and prosecution actions.



Unauthorised land filling before enforcement action



Site cleared and reinstated after taking enforcement action

COMPUTER AIDED SUSTAINABILITY EVALUATION TOOL (CASET)

A computerised decision support system known as CASET has been developed to assist the Government's evaluation of sustainability implications of major strategic policies and projects. The outputs of CASET would provide information on the effects of policies or projects across a number of sectors for decision makers to consider. CASET has also

been employed by the Planning Department as one of the means to conduct sustainability assessment of town plans and major planning studies that may bring about significant or prolonged implications on the economic, social and environmental conditions of Hong Kong. In 2011, a total of 30 sustainability assessments were conducted.