

# 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.

### ***Planning Department Management Committee***

- to provide directives on environmental policy of the Department

### ***Environmental Management Committee***

- 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**

- 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.

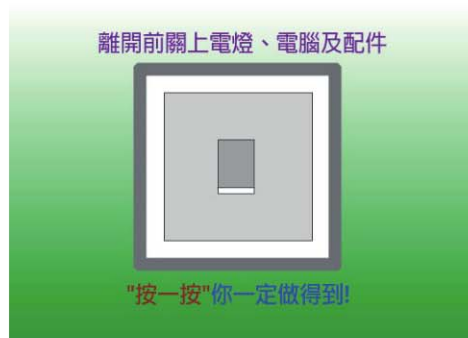
As in the past ten years, a Collect-for-Reuse Programme was organised in October 2012 to promote waste reduction and material reuse practices. Used clothes, toys, house ware, electrical appliances and computer equipment were collected from staff and sent to relevant charity and recycling agents. The active participation of staff in helping the needy through the green activities was encouraging.

The Committee organised a 'Green Pop-up Window' Design competition between September 24 and November 15, 2012. Funded as a Staff Motivation Scheme activity, the competition was successful in raising staff's environmental awareness and encouraging their participation in energy conservation. The prize-winning entries were promulgated to staff on December 6, 2012.

## Green Pop-up Window' Design Competition:



Winner



1st Runner-up



2nd Runner-up

The Green Housekeeping Committee closely monitored paper and envelope consumption and reminded colleagues 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 2012 is indicated below:

- an increase of 9.8% in paper consumption as compared to 2011. This was mainly due to the establishment of one new section in the Department and the increased printing volume of Town Planning Board and public engagement documents; and
- an increase of 14.6% in consumption of envelopes as compared to 2011. This was mainly due to the additional consumption of one newly established section as well as the public engagement exercises arising from the planning studies in the Department.

Other green measures include :

- 307 numbers of used toner cartridges disposed of by auction;
- 19 183 kg of paper collected for recycling. Recycling bins placed in offices to collect used aluminum cans and plastic bottles;
- 6 boxes of used clothes, handbags, shoes, toys and houseware, 29 electrical appliances, 3 computers, 4 laptop computers, 1 monitor, 18 keyboards 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 Hong Kong Wetland Park and Villages in Sha Tau Kok organised on December 1, 2012 to enhance staff's awareness in environmental protection.



Recycling bins at lift lobby



Day trip to Hong Kong Wetland Park and villages in Sha Tau Kok

## 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 2012, 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 Developments

Unauthorised developments (UDs) have led to environmental degradation in the rural New Territories. The unauthorised 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's are essential to help prevent further degradation of the rural environment (see Appendix 3 for summary of enforcement and prosecution actions undertaken by Planning Department in 2012). 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 and public locations to increase public awareness of planning enforcement.



*Unauthorised land/pond filling at Nam San Wai, Yuen Long 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 2012, a total of 22 sustainability assessments were conducted.