

Judiciary

Controlling Officer's Environmental Report 2007

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Introduction

This is the ninth 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 2007. 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 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 13 venue managers, 43 Green Executives as well as section heads. 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 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 on 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 2007, the Judiciary has, apart from continuing the 4R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycling, and Rethink) principles in our normal and routine housekeeping, also introduced the 5th 'R' principle – 'Replace'. We strived to replace existing installations with more energy-efficient devices to conserve energy and reduce consumption level.

In view of our office-based nature, we have focused on reduction of energy and paper consumption and promoting staff awareness. The following paragraphs summarize some of our green measures and initiatives carried out in 2007 –

(a) Energy Consumption

Air-conditioning represents almost 50% of total energy consumption. To introduce more energy-efficient Air Handling Units (AHUs) in various Court buildings would save energy consumption considerably. We also continued our green housekeeping measures to optimize the usage of air-conditioning and lighting as follows –

- All AHUs and Primary Air-handling Units (PAUs) with heat pipes were installed to cool down the fresh air drawn from outdoor in the High Court Building. The use of heat pipes is more efficient in reducing energy consumption.
- Air-cooled chillers for use at non-office hours were replaced with more efficient ones in the High Court Building.
- Installation of energy saving PAUs equipped with variable speed drives at Kowloon City and Kwun Tong Law Courts Buildings to adjust the inflow of fresh air according to the oxygen level, thereby improving both airflow and saving energy.
- Lighting motion sensors were installed in the High Court Building and other venues.

- Temperature for indoor areas other than courtrooms was set at 25.5°C during the summer months.



- Some lightings in the corridors were switched off during lunch time and after office hours.



- Replaced “fat” tubes (T8 fluorescent tubes) with “thin” tubes (T5 fluorescent tubes) at High Court Building, District Court and other Law Courts Buildings.
- Replaced non-LED lightings with energy efficient lightings, including LED and battery lightings in various law courts buildings.
- 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.
- Encourage colleagues to use stairs instead of elevators.
- Informal environmental audits were conducted at various court premises with the assistance of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (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 the printing requirement and paper consumption. The following are highlights of some of the new initiatives taken in 2007 to further contribute to the reduction in usage of papers –

- The Annual Report was no longer published in paper version starting from 2007 with a view to contributing to environmental protection. Instead, softcopy of the Annual Report was uploaded to the Judiciary's website.
- In addition to the Corporate Services Division, use of recycled paper has been extended to other divisions and offices.
- Lighter paper [75 grams per m² (gsm)] was introduced to replace 100 gsm papers for court-related documents like judgments, orders and general correspondence.

(c) Green Procurement

We support and promote the practice of environmentally responsible purchasing and the following measures were adopted –

- Purchased photocopiers, fax machines and other electronic office equipments with energy saving mode.
- Purchased 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 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.
- Returned used toners and inkjet cartridges to the contractor for reuse through the Government Logistics Department.

(d) Staff Awareness and Participation

To encourage staff to be conscious about environmental aspects, and to stimulate their awareness and knowledge of environmental concerns, green activities, workshops and trainings were held and provided to all members of the Judiciary. Some activities also welcomed participation of their family members. Tips on green measures were published on the Judiciary Staff Newsletter and circulated regularly to staff to reinforce the importance of environmental protection and sustainability.

- We participated in a community environmental programme “Green Delight in Estates” organized by the Housing Authority. The activity aimed to appeal for the support of public rental housing tenants to separate waste at source. Participating staff and their family members learned the importance and significance of waste separation and thus helped to develop a more conscious mind in protecting the environment both in the office and at home.



- We invited venue managers and Green Executives to attend green management seminars and experience sharing workshops organized by EMSD to facilitate colleagues in developing best practices on environmental measures for implementation at their respective court premises.

- Colleagues were encouraged to support the central recycling centres for collecting single-side used paper and envelopes for reuse, as well as used ink cartridges for recycling. Recycling bins have been put in place for a few years to collect recyclable materials.



- Green tips on how to reduce electricity and paper consumption were re-circulated to Judges, Judicial Officers and support staff on a regular basis to reinforce green messages.



New Initiatives Meeting New Challenge



The Chief Executive kicked off a massive publicity campaign entitled Action Blue Sky on 25 July 2006 to stimulate the community's awareness of improving the air quality in Hong Kong. Moreover, the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, signed the Clean Air Charter on 27 November 2006 to demonstrate the Administration's strong commitment to environmental protection and concern about the well-being of our future generations.

To respond to the Clean Air Charter, to save energy and improve air quality in the long run, we have, apart from the full enforcement of no smoking policy, implemented various measures and initiatives to reduce energy and thus air emissions including sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), respirable suspended particulates (RSP) and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

- While venue managers in respective court buildings will hold regular meetings with representatives of EMSD and its contractors, the meeting also performed the functions and roles of the Energy and Emission Management (EEM) Teams to discuss and identify ways to optimize and minimize energy consumption in their offices having regard to their unique requirements.
- We ensured that all the paints used by the contractor in renovation works were with low VOC and within the limit stipulated in the VOC Regulation under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance.
- We continued to ensure proper maintenance of our car fleet and required our drivers to develop good driving practices including turn off the engines while waiting and observe eco-driving practices etc.
- We arranged, in consultation with the Government Logistics Department, to replace our existing saloon cars with environmental-friendly patrol saloon cars with lower emission and more fuel-efficient engines.
- We arranged regular cleaning of the air-conditioning vents to maintain good air quality in the offices.

Key Environmental Performance in 2007

Apart from the green initiatives implemented, quantitative targets were set to measure the environmental performance in 2007. With the concerted efforts of our colleagues, the following are highlights on some of our achievements made in 2007 –

(a) Electricity Consumption

- The electricity consumption in 2007 was 122.8 kWh/m², which was within our target of 125 kWh/m².
- The emission of major air pollutants, namely SO₂, NO_x and RSP in 2007 were 28, 17 and 0.88 tonnes respectively¹.

(b) Paper Consumption

- The use of recycled papers had been extended to cover all other Divisions.
- The procurement of recycled paper has recorded a four-fold increase as compared with 2006. This accounted for about 7% of the total procurement in 2007.

**GREENER MINDS
GREENER ACTS
GREENER EARTH**

¹ Consumption of electricity will emit different air pollutants, the major ones, according to information provided by Environmental Protection Department, 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 the significance of 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 2008 –

- To maintain the electricity consumption for existing facilities at existing level i.e. within 125kWh/m².
- To achieve 10% consumption of recycled paper.
- To extend the use of lighter papers (75 gsm) to cover transcripts produced through the Digital Audio Recording and Transcription Services (DARTS).
- To explore installation of environmental friendly devices to reduce energy consumption at offices in the law courts buildings in consultation with the Architectural Services Department and EMSD.
- To replace all our saloon cars with environmental-friendly patrol saloon cars with lower emission and more fuel-efficient engines.
- To organize sharing sessions and workshops to reinforce staff awareness on green management.
- To arrange green activities to promote staff awareness.

Challenge Ahead

With continuous efforts in reducing energy and paper consumption, the Judiciary has attained the energy saving targets set previously. We need to maintain the momentum in the green drive to contribute to the sustainable development of Hong Kong. With the anticipated expansion of use of space of the Judiciary and the relocation of the Labour Tribunal to the former South Kowloon Magistrates' Courts Building on 2 January 2008, we foresee that the total electricity consumption in 2008 will be inevitably higher than that in 2007. Having regard to the operational

requirements, we will strive to maintain a reasonable level of electricity consumption and air emission. In addition, we will also extend the use of recycled paper and promote our staff awareness of the importance of green management.

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
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