

Financial Services Branch Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau Environmental Report 2019

Introduction

Financial stability, efficiency and openness under a level playing field are core strengths of Hong Kong's financial markets. The Financial Services Branch is committed to upholding and promoting such core strengths, as we seek to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre, a premier asset and wealth management centre and offshore RMB business centre as well as an international insurance hub. While frontline market regulation is performed by independent statutory regulators, it is the Financial Services Branch's policy responsibility to drive, facilitate and co-ordinate initiatives to ensure that the overarching framework would enhance protection for investors and promote market development in the face of global needs and local circumstances.

Commitment

We are committed to providing services in an environmental friendly manner and providing a green workplace to our staff and clients.

Environmental Principles

In 2019, we adopted the following environmental principles and also took various initiatives to meet our commitment -

- Minimize the consumption of resources;
- Promote waste reduction, as well as reuse and recycling of resources;
- Seek continual improvement to the upkeep of the workplace; and
- Enhance the environmental awareness of staff.

Green Measures

The green measures taken include:

- Minimizing the Consumption of Resources
 - Extensive use of e-mail for internal and external communication.
 - Sharing of reference materials on the local area network.
 - Using plain paper fax machines.
 - Transferring documents through e-mails for editing and review.
 - Uploading reports and consultation papers for public access through the internet to reduce the number of printed copies.
 - Sending festive greetings via electronic mail and homepage to minimize the number of printed cards.



- Requesting minimum hard copies of government newsletters/publications.
- Procuring electronic copy of publications.
- Procuring electronic newspapers to reduce the number of copies of newspaper cuttings as far as possible.
- Using both sides of paper for copying and printing.
- Avoiding use of fax leader pages.
- Minimizing copies of flimsies.
- Using old sets of documents or electronic copies for re-circulation.
- Using duplex printers instead of single-sided printers.
- Adoption of task-light design approach and energy efficient lighting control system such as occupancy sensor control and sunlight sensing.
- Switching off electrical appliances where operationally practicable.
- Pooling the use of departmental transport resources whenever possible.
- Avoid using one-off disposable paper/plastic utensils and provision of bottled water in meetings/events as far as possible.

➤ Reuse and Recycling of Resources

- Reusing envelopes, file jackets and carton boxes.
- Providing green bags to collect used paper, newspapers and publications.
- Providing recycle bins to collect aluminium cans, plastic and glass bottles.
- Reusing office stationery, e.g. USB flash drives, smart cards and plastic folders, etc.
- Reusing decorative materials for festive decoration.
- Collecting used printer cartridges and fax machine cartridges for recycling.
- Providing green trays with blank-sided used paper for use near photocopiers and LAN laser printers.

➤ Upkeep of the Workplace

- Regular cleaning and maintenance of office facilities, including air-conditioning system, furniture and equipment, carpet, distilled water dispensers and tap water purifiers.
- Displaying green plants in the office.
- Adopting a smoke-free workplace policy.
- Participating in the “Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places”. Our offices in Queensway Government Offices and Immigration Tower had been awarded the “Good Class” of IAQ Certificate since 2008, while offices in Central Government Offices and Lippo Centre had been awarded the “Excellent Class” of IAQ Certificate since 2012 and 2015 respectively.



➤ Promoting Green Culture

- Displaying stickers and posters and recirculating circulars to remind colleagues of green office practices.
- Using green products, such as clutch pencils, refillable ball pens, non-chlorinated correction fluid, recycled paper, environmental friendly batteries, etc.
- Promoting and participating in green activities, e.g. Earth Hour 2019 and The Community Chest Green Day 2019.
- Encouraging smart casual wear in summer months.

To support the Government's commitment under the Clean Air Charter to improve air quality, the following measures are being taken to reduce energy consumption and emissions of air pollutants:

- Using Light Emitting Diode (LED) and Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) monitors, as they will consume less power;
- Using energy efficient office equipment, e.g. photocopiers, printers and fax machines;
- Providing "Energy Saving Tips" to colleagues and encouraging them to put them into daily practice;
- Using unleaded fuel for departmental vehicle; and
- Requiring driver of departmental vehicle to switch off vehicle engine while waiting.

By adopting the above green measures, we have raised the environmental awareness of our staff.

The Way Forward

Protecting the environment is an on-going process. We will continue with our efforts in green office management and enhancing the environmental awareness of staff in the coming years.

Enquiries

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