

Financial Services Branch Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau Environmental Report 2022

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 and China's Global Financial Centre.

Among our multifarious policy goals, green and sustainable finance is a new but rapidly expanding area of financial activities. In driving development in a responsible manner, we endeavour to take a multi-pronged strategy to promote green and sustainable finance. Under the Government Green Bond Programme, close to US\$24 billion equivalent of green bonds have been successfully issued. We have also launched a three-year Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme where support will be provided for the training and acquisition of relevant professional qualifications. Together with relevant Government bureaux and financial regulators, we have set up a Green and Sustainable Finance Cross-Agency Steering Group with a view to coordinating cross-sectoral efforts in capacity building, climate-related disclosures and sustainability reporting as well as carbon market opportunities, to achieve the goal of protecting the environment through multiple means.

Looking ahead, in the light of the International Sustainability Standards Board's publication of the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") Sustainability Disclosure Standards in June 2023, together with the regulators and major stakeholders, we have set up a working group to develop a roadmap on the appropriate adoption of the IFRS Standards to align with international standards, thereby contributing to global efforts in handling climate change and reinforcing sustainable development.

Commitment

Apart from our commitment in developing green and sustainable finance, in the pursuit of other policy objectives, we are also committed to providing our services in an environmental friendly manner and maintaining a green workplace for our staff members.

Environmental Principles

In 2022, we continued to embrace the following environmental principles in honouring 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

Guided by our environmental principles, we will continue to adopt the following green measures:

- Minimize the consumption of resources
 - Using e-mail extensively for internal and external communication.
 - Sharing of reference materials on the local area network.
 - 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.
 - Requesting minimum number of 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 double-sided copying and printing.
 - Using old sets of documents or electronic copies for re-circulation.
 - Replacing single-sided printers with duplex printers.
 - Adopting task-light design approach and energy efficient lighting control system such as occupancy sensor control and sunlight sensing device.
 - Switching off electrical appliances where operationally practicable.
 - Pooling the use of departmental transport resources whenever possible.
 - Avoiding the use of one-off disposable paper/plastic utensils and provision of bottled water in meetings/events as far as possible.
 - Where preparation of meeting folders is inevitable, reducing the printed items to the absolute minimum and avoiding the printing of bilingual version as far as practicable.
 - Embarking on the preparatory work for implementing the service-wide Electronic Recordkeeping System in our office by May 2024 to further reduce paper consumption.
- Promote waste reduction, as well as 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 and plastic 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 network printers.
- Seek continual improvement to the 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 have been awarded the “Good Class” of IAQ Certificate since 2008, while offices in Central Government Offices and Lippo Centre have been awarded the “Excellent Class” of IAQ Certificate since 2012 and 2015 respectively.
- Enhance the environmental awareness of staff
- Enhancing staff members’ environmental awareness through cultural change, with the Controlling Officer taking the lead in promoting green management in the daily office practices.
 - Displaying stickers and posters and re-circulating 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. Green Low Carbon Day.
 - Encouraging smart casual wear in summer months and holding “Dress Fit Day” every Friday, thereby contributing to reduction of electricity consumption.
 - Supporting the Government’s commitment under the Clean Air Charter to improve air quality, and to reduce energy consumption and emissions of air pollutants by means of:
 - ✧ Using Light Emitting Diode (LED) and Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) monitors that consume less power;
 - ✧ Using energy efficient office equipment, e.g. photocopiers and printers;
 - ✧ Providing “Energy Saving Tips” to colleagues and encouraging them to put them into daily practice; and



- ✧ Encouraging driver of departmental vehicle to switch off vehicle engine while waiting on top of legal requirement.

The Way Forward

Protecting the environment is an on-going process. We will continue to enhance our efforts in green management and promoting environmental awareness among our staff members in the coming years.

Suggestions and Enquiries

We welcome your suggestions and enquiries, which may be conveyed to us by email or telephone:

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Financial Services Branch
Financial Services and Treasury Bureau
December 2023

