

Environmental Report 2008

Food and Health Bureau

Profile of Key Responsibilities

The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) is responsible for policy areas of food and environmental hygiene, and health issues. It aims to formulate and coordinate policies and programmes:

- (i) to improve environmental hygiene and ensure food safety in the territory; and
- (ii) to safeguard and promote public health and to ensure that no one is prevented, though lack of means, from obtaining adequate medical treatment.

2. The Food and Health Bureau is organised into two branches for the following responsibilities:

Food and Environmental Hygiene matters

- Policy matters relating to food safety, environmental hygiene, agriculture, fisheries, animal welfare and management.

Health matters

- Policy matters relating to medical and health services, including provision of hospital services, fees and charges of public medical and health services, health promotion and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, regulation, self-regulation and development of medical nursing, dentistry and allied health professional and regulation of drugs.

- Policy matters relating to the development of primary health care services, long-term health care policies, regulation of medical technologies and research, development of Chinese medicine outpatient services, development of large-scale public health information systems, health policy research and anti-smoking and tobacco control policy.

3. The estimated expenditure of the Food and Health Bureau in 2008-09 was \$33,033.90 million. The Bureau had 15 directorate officers and 91 non-directorate staff as at 1 July 2008. Its establishment ceiling for 2008-09 was \$39.50 million.

Environmental Goal and Policy

4. The Food and Health Bureau supports the HKSAR Government's initiatives to improve the environment and is committed to helping improve our own environmental performance by:

- (i) compliance with relevant environmental protection ordinances;
- (ii) promotion of waste reduction;
- (iii) advising other bureaux on the impact of their policies on public health;
- (iv) minimising the production of environmental pollutants and/or nuisance;
- (v) improving the general environmental conditions; and
- (vi) saving of resources.

Environmental Aspects and Impacts

5. The policies under the purview of Food and Health Bureau may have environmental impact on various aspects, including waste disposal, air pollution and conservation of the environment. Such impacts would be taken into account when drawing up the policies.

Environmental Protection Measures

6. The following measures are relevant to environmental protection:

(A) Under policy areas

(i) Clinical waste

To map out with the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health the way forward in delivering Government's objective to dispose of clinical waste in an environmentally sound manner.

Performance

The Hospital Authority and the Department of Health will continue to provide input to drafting the Code of Practice and the Regulation under the Waste Disposal (Amendment) Ordinance which has been enacted in April 2006 to provide the legal framework for the control of clinical waste and its management in Hong Kong.

(ii) Smoking and tobacco control

The reduction of smoking prevalence and hence improvement on the air quality and public health was aimed to be achieved by discouraging smoking, educating the public, particularly the young, on the health risks involved, containing proliferation of tobacco use and protecting the public from passive smoking to the maximum possible extent. The Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Bill was passed in July 2008 to introduce a fixed penalty of HK\$1,500 for smoking or carrying a lighted cigarette or pipe in statutory no-smoking areas or transport carriers.

Performance

Hong Kong's smoking prevalence is among the lowest in the world. According to the Thematic Household Survey

(no.36) conducted by the Census & Statistics Department in 2008, the percentage of daily cigarette smokers out of the Hong Kong population aged 15 or above is 11.8%.

(B) Within the office

(i) Waste minimisation

- ✎ extended use of recycled paper, even for external communication
- ✎ collect papers used on one side only for drafting, photocopying or printing of single-sided file enclosures
- ✎ circulate posting notices, telephone lines, reports and consultation papers etc. through electronic means instead of using paper
- ✎ post internal circulars and other reference materials on internal bulletin board for access by staff
- ✎ send e-orientation folder, containing the soft copy of a bundle of circulars and papers, to new comers
- ✎ encourage the use of electronic means in both internal and external communication
- ✎ keep the number of paper publications and copies of circulars to the absolute minimum (e.g. by circulating a copy to staff only)
- ✎ use plain paper fax machines instead of thermal paper ones
- ✎ avoid sending original documents which have been sent by fax or email
- ✎ reduce the use of fax leader sheet
- ✎ extended use of virtual fax services
- ✎ use photocopiers enabled with double-sided copying functions and place notices near photocopiers to remind staff of double-sided copying
- ✎ set "double sided" and "print in grayscale" as default printing modes for all printers
- ✎ not to use envelopes for unclassified documents
- ✎ reuse envelopes, loose minutes jackets and action tags

- 🍃 use less paper cups
- 🍃 reduce use of greeting cards
- 🍃 reuse of decorative materials at festive seasons
- 🍃 recover waste paper, newspapers and outdated publication for recycling by placing collection boxes at convenient locations
- 🍃 collect used CDs for recycling
- 🍃 recover printer cartridges for recycling
- 🍃 use recycled printer cartridge
- 🍃 extended use of refillable ball pens
- 🍃 implement the online booking system of conference rooms instead of keeping paper records
- 🍃 review regularly the actual need against monthly supply items that have expiry dates
- 🍃 collect plastics, metals, waste paper and rechargeable batteries by setting up coloured recycling boxes at lift lobbies

Performance

Generally effective

(ii) Energy conservation

- 🍃 remind staff to switch off lights, air-conditioners and personal computers outside office hours
- 🍃 affix "Energy Saving" stickers at all switches in the office to remind staff the importance of energy saving
- 🍃 encourage staff to use staircase for interfloor traffic
- 🍃 use energy-saving fluorescent lights
- 🍃 re-arrange the switch control of light troughs to maintain sufficient yet minimum lighting during lunch hours and outside office hours
- 🍃 remove unnecessary lightings at the reception area and office area
- 🍃 turn off lights during lunch hours and when part of office is not in use
- 🍃 arrange late-duty officers to conduct checking after

office hours to ensure lights, air-conditioners in offices and conference rooms and communal facilities, such as photocopiers are switched off

- 🍃 use energy efficient equipment, such as power-saving photocopiers, printers and computers
- 🍃 set all photocopiers to energy saving mode when they are not in use for over five minutes
- 🍃 keep room temperature at a reasonable level to avoid excessive air-conditioning
- 🍃 affix stickers at all air-conditioning switches to remind staff to maintain indoor temperature at 25.5°C

Performance

Generally effective

(iii) Others

- 🍃 remind drivers to switch off vehicle engines whilst awaiting in order to avoid idling emissions and achieve fuel saving
- 🍃 implement the Government's "Smoke-free Workplace Policy"
- 🍃 organise competition to collect waste papers for recycling; a total of 556kg of waste papers was collected on one single occasion
- 🍃 use unleaded fuel for departmental cars
- 🍃 encourage officer to dress light, casual and smart
- 🍃 re-circulate "Energy Saving Tips" to all staff members at regular intervals
- 🍃 explore usage of other energy saving devices, such as timer switch for commonly used office equipment

Performance

Generally effective

Environmental Awareness within the Bureau

7. To improve the environmental awareness within the Bureau, a directorate officer has been appointed as the green manager of the Bureau since 1993. The officer has provided a focal point for introducing and reviewing environmental protection initiatives. Staff of the Bureau would be encouraged to attend training/workshops on green management and will continue to identify measures, both under policy areas or within the office, to protect our environment.

Commitments under the Clean Air Charter

8. The Food and Health Bureau supports the Government's determination of improving air quality by meeting the commitments of the Clean Air Charter. The progresses of commitments under the Charter that are relevant to our operations are reported below:

(A) Information publication

(i) Electricity

The electricity consumed by Food and Health Bureau from January to December 2008 was estimated to be 783,121kWh*. The estimated emission of air pollutant was thus as follows:

| Pollutants | Jan - Dec |
|-----------------|-----------|
| SO ₂ | 1496kg |
| NO _x | 1260kg |
| RSP | 47kg |

* Please refer to the Annex for details.

(ii) Fuel

There were 5 vehicles under our Bureau from January to August 2008 while 6 vehicles from September 2008 to December 2008. The total mileage travelled in 2008 was

126154 km. The estimated emission of NO_x was 113.5 kg.

(B) Enhancing energy efficiency

A number of measures have been adopted for enhancing energy efficiency. The details are reported under Part 6B (ii).

(C) Controlling air pollution on high pollution days

The Bureau has already adopted several measures in reducing electricity consumption. We will continue to identify measures that would help to further reduce emission on high pollution days.

(D) Experience sharing

Our staff have attended workshops relating to the Charter and we will continue to participate in experience sharing workshops and seminars in future.

Food and Health Bureau

August 2009

Estimated electricity consumed in 2008

Jan - Jul 2008

| | Electricity consumed by Murray Building (kWh) | Percentage of FHB (based on floor area) | Estimated electricity consumed by FHB (kWh) |
|-----|---|---|---|
| Jan | 465,930 | 11.77% | 54,840.00 |
| Feb | 439,160 | 11.77% | 51,689.13 |
| Mar | 477,570 | 11.77% | 56,210.00 |
| Apr | 526,330 | 11.77% | 61,949.04 |
| May | 539,110 | 11.77% | 63,453.25 |
| Jun | 636,940 | 11.77% | 74,967.84 |
| Jul | 559,440 | 11.77% | 65,846.09 |
| | 3,644,480 | 11.77% | 428,955.35 |

Aug - Oct 2008

| | Electricity consumed by Murray Building (kWh) | Percentage of FHB (based on floor area) | Estimated electricity consumed by FHB (kWh) |
|-----|---|---|---|
| Aug | 628,500 | 12.23% | 76,865.55 |
| Sep | 637,280 | 12.23% | 77,939.34 |
| Oct | 590,220 | 12.23% | 72,183.91 |
| | 1,856,000 | 12.23% | 226,988.80 |

Nov - Dec 2008

| | Electricity consumed by Murray Building (kWh) | Percentage of FHB (based on floor area) | Estimated electricity consumed by FHB (kWh) |
|-----|---|---|---|
| Nov | 586,280 | 12.40% | 72,698.72 |
| Dec | 439,340 | 12.40% | 54,478.16 |
| | 1,025,620 | 12.40% | 127,176.88 |

Grand Total for Estimated Electricity consumed in 2008 by FHB:

783,121.03 (kWh)