



Hong Kong Fire Services Department Environmental Report 2020



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Introduction

The Fire Services Department (FSD) provides firefighting, rescue and emergency ambulance services as well as advice on fire protection to the public. Despite resource constraints, we remain committed to protecting the environment by delivering our services in an environmental-friendly manner on the premise that the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of our core functions will not be compromised, and strive for continuous improvement on this front. We endeavor to comply with all relevant green legislations; to monitor and control the significant environmental impacts associated with our activities and operations; and to render vigorous support to environmental programmes and activities.

Environmental Management System

Environmental Auditing Committee

Our Environmental Auditing Committee (EAC) has been working hard to take forward and coordinate the development and implementation of green initiatives, with an aim to enhancing energy efficiency, energy conservation and resources recycling.

Staff Awareness Training

Our staff's willingness to participate in green initiatives is crucial to the success in building a green culture in the Department. From time to time, the EAC advises our staff through e-mails on green tips and best practices in housekeeping. They are also encouraged to make joint efforts towards building a greener workplace. To foster the culture of environmental management in the Department, we nominate our staff to attend briefings and experience-sharing workshops on the relevant legislative initiatives and green management measures organised by relevant government departments and organisations.

Environmental Performances

Energy Conservation

We strive to control electricity consumption despite our ever-expanding scope of service. Fully aware of the importance of energy saving, our staff are keen to play a part in this regard.

Energy Saving Measures

In order to reduce energy consumption, we have put in place a number of energy saving measures in Fire Services premises (“FS premises”) such as using more energy-efficient T5 fluorescent lights, switching off electrical equipment when they are not in use, replacing aged elevators and air-conditioners to ramp up energy efficiency, switching off some elevators during off-peak hours, and installing facilities which generate renewable energy to reduce electricity supply from the power company.

Carbon Audit

As part of our efforts to help combat climate change, we compiled Carbon Audit Reports for 8 FS premises in 2020. It was found that greenhouse gas emissions from these buildings were on average 0.14 tonnes of carbon dioxide per square metre of floor area.

Economy in the Use of Paper

In alignment with the E-Government strategy, we have rolled out computer-aided systems and IT Programmes in a bid to reduce paper records and transactions. We encourage our staff to reduce the consumption of papers, print only when necessary, issue emails instead of hard copies of memos and use recycled envelopes in day-to-day administrative communications. We will adhere to such practices under the principles of reduction, reuse and recycling, so as to minimise the impact on the environment.

Consumption of Fuel

Staff of our Workshops & Transport Division and the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department conduct regular maintenance for our fire appliances and ambulances in order to keep them working at optimum mechanical efficiency, which in turn will avoid excessive fuel consumption.

Improving Air Quality

Staff of the Workshops & Transport Division conduct Vehicle Emission (Gases Analysis) tests / Diesel Vehicle Emission (Smoke Density) tests in routine maintenance and servicing of our vehicles to ensure that their emission is in full compliance with the legal requirements. Besides, all new fire stations and ambulance depots are fitted with fume exhaust systems to extract exhaust from engines of the fire appliances and ambulances therein, and this could help improve air quality in these workplaces.

Management of Wastes

Recycling

We encourage all of our staff to take part in recycling. Apart from collecting used papers that can be recycled from our workplaces, we also place waste separation bins in Fire Services Headquarters Building, Cheung Sha Wan Fire Station and the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy (FASA) to facilitate our staff to separate the wastes for recycling.

Chemical Wastes

We have made proper arrangements with registered chemical waste collecting contractors for them to collect chemical waste produced in our operational units in compliance with the requirements pertaining to registered chemical waste producers in the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Chapter 354).

Clinical Waste

We have made arrangements for having clinical waste generated during the delivery of ambulance and paramedic services by ambulance personnel temporarily stored in ambulance depots installed with Clinical Waste Storage Cupboard before being collected by designated contractors for proper disposal.

Major Environmental Initiatives

Green Procurement Policy

In support of the Government's green procurement policy, we have incorporated environmental requirements as far as practicable when it comes to the preparation of quotation / tender specifications. In addition, to ensure sustained emission reduction, most Fire Services vehicles in commission have met Euro V or above emission standards. We are also in the process of procuring fire appliances of Euro VI emission standards to replace the aged ones.

Indoor Air Quality Improvement

To tie in with the Government's policy on improving indoor air quality control, we have explored various options to enhance indoor air quality of our office premises. We have participated in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme since 2006. As at 2020, a total of 21 FS premises have been certified with Excellent Class or Good Class. We will continue to arrange IAQ certification for other eligible premises so as to provide a more pleasant indoor working environment for our staff.

Green Roofing of Fire Stations and Ambulance Depots

We have put in place a green roofing system in suitable fire stations and ambulance depots, supplemented by green planting at their balconies and entrances. Apart from beautifying the environment, the substrate soil and vegetation of the green roof can help reduce energy demand of these premises by providing direct shading and better insulation. This will bring positive effect to urban climate change mitigation.



Green Roof at Kai Tak Fire Station



Green Roof at Kwun Tong Fire Station

Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign

To support the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign launched by the Environment Bureau, we have signed the Food Wise Charter as an undertaking to reduce food waste. For effective monitoring of our performance in this regard, fire stations/ambulance depots are required to record the amount of food waste regularly. We also send email messages frequently to our staff to remind them to cut food waste.

Waste Reduction at Source

Avoidance of Use of Disposable Tableware

We encourage our staff to adopt a straw-less, plastic-free lifestyle, and cut down the use of disposable tableware where possible. We have stopped providing plastic straws and poly-foam food containers in the canteen of FASA. In addition, disposable tableware will not be provided for dine-in food and drinks, neither will it be provided by default or in sets for take-away meals.

No Straw Campaign

We have participated in the No Straw Campaign organised by the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation and undertaken not to give out disposable plastic straws in the canteen of FASA. We have also suspended the provision of these straws through all automatic vending machines on FS premises.

Avoidance of Use and Sales of Plastic Bottled Water

As another step in promoting waste reduction at source, we have avoided the use of plastic bottled water in our events and meetings. Furthermore, we have ceased the sales of plastic bottled water through all automatic vending machines on FS premises.

Way Forward

We have made sustained efforts to initiate a number of energy-saving projects. Good progress has been achieved in meeting the Government's environmental management targets. To make further strides in environmental management and to promote a green culture, we will continue to put in place energy saving measures and identify potential energy management opportunities.

Views and Suggestions

To save paper, we do not provide hard copy of this report. An electronic copy of this report is available at our website (https://www.hkfsd.gov.hk/eng/publications/environmental_report/). Your valuable comments on this report are most welcome. Please send them to us by email at hkfsdenq@hkfsd.gov.hk.