



Innovation and Technology Commission

Environmental Report 2024



1. Introduction

This is the twenty-fifth Environmental Report published by the Innovation and Technology Commission, covering the Commission's environmental policy, targets and achievements in 2024.

The mission of the Innovation and Technology Commission is to spearhead Hong Kong's drive to become a world-class, knowledge-based economy. We strive to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and develop our city into an innovation and technology (I&T) hub. We have been working on the following initiatives:

- Promoting and supporting applied research and development (R&D) and technology transfer and application which can contribute to I&T upgrading in industry;
- Promoting technological entrepreneurship in Hong Kong and providing essential support to technology-based entrepreneurial activities;
- Supporting the formulation and coordination of I&T policies, and fostering an I&T culture in the community;
- Fostering the development of world-class support infrastructure and nurturing of I&T talent to facilitate technological upgrading and development of the industry, as well as to promote I&T;
- Promoting internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services to underpin technological development and international trade; and
- Promoting the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong.

2. Environmental Policy

I&T development cuts across different fields, one of which is environmental management. We aim to support Hong Kong industries to develop and implement advanced technologies for environmental management.

This Commission is also committed to providing a green office environment at the workplace, so as to ensure that our operation is conducted in a green conscious and responsible manner. We also educate our colleagues to ensure that they are aware of our departmental environmental policy and initiatives as well as their responsibilities such that they can participate actively in protecting the environment.

3. Support Measures for the Industry on Environmental Matters

Local industries and the society at large are more green-conscious than before. Industries recognise the need to adopt cleaner and more environmentally friendly technologies. The Commission continues to provide funding support to the development and adoption of clean environmental technologies and processes in Hong Kong. Funding is available for environmental technology-related projects under the Innovation and Technology Fund (the Fund). The assessment panels for the respective programmes under the Fund would vet environment-related applications. The panels also monitor the implementation of these funded R&D projects.

In 2024, the Fund provided funding support to the following 11 environment-related R&D projects with a total commitment of about \$32.98 million:

- Green Hydrogen-Powered Off-Grid Energy-Water Station (Micro-Grid);
- EC Flow System for Decentralized Municipal Toxic Waste Upgrading into Valorized Fertilizer;
- Development of a UV/Perorganic Acid Technology to Produce High-quality and Safe Reclaimed Water for Non-potable Reuse;
- Development of a Microbial Formulation for Degrading Cellulose-related Materials in Foodwaste;
- Tackling Dry Weather Flows Through Smart Sensing;
- E-nose for Food Waste Management;

- An Acousto-Cyclonic Particles Separator In High Speed Flow Application;
- Development of Bio-based Plastic Alloys of Polylactic Acid (PLA) / Polycarbonate (PC) and Polylactic Acid (PLA) / Polyethylene Terephthalate Glycol (PETG) for Smart Card Application;
- Development of Polyethylene Cargo Films with Enhanced Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) Content;
- Microalgae Beads for Efficient Harvesting in Greenwall Application; and
- NAMI Bio-based Elastomeric Rubber and Foam for Silicone Replacement.

4. Green Housekeeping Measures

In support of the Government's efforts to protect the environment, this Commission is committed to ensuring that our internal operations are conforming to environmental protection principles and practices. In 2024, we continued to adopt the following green practices:

Paper Consumption

- We continued the use of the electronic modes for internal and external communications, official correspondences and circulation of information.
- We provided all colleagues with an individual e-mail account and access to computer terminals connected to the departmental network.
- We continued to use the electronic Admin Bulletin board to disseminate information including telephone directories, training activities, newsletters, circulars, etc.
- We sent festive greetings electronically.
- We put commonly-used circulars, statistics, directories etc. on the shared drive.
- We issued press releases and distributed application forms for funding support to members of the public through our website.
- We continued to review the subscription of newspapers and periodicals and, where possible, replace them by e-version of magazines and periodicals.

- We provided divisional Green Executives with regular reports on paper consumption to facilitate monitoring at divisional level.
- We used recycled paper in place of white paper. In 2024, we utilised 4 940 reams of recycled printing paper in A4 size and 80 reams in A3 size.
- We no longer used fax cover sheets.
- We avoided delivering unclassified documents in envelopes.
- We used photocopiers and network printers capable of producing double-sided printouts.
- We regularly reminded colleagues to keep the number of paper printouts to the minimum and to use both sides of paper.
- We placed boxes holding single-side used paper beside photocopiers and printers to encourage the use of the blank side of used paper.

Energy Consumption

- We used energy saving fluorescent lamps in our offices. Task lighting approach was adopted for our offices as necessary and there was a lower ambient lighting level (300 lux) in general. The task areas which required a higher luminance level for reading purposes were supplemented with localised lighting by means of desk lamps.
- Automatic sensors were installed and widely used in our office areas including open plan office, cellular offices, meeting rooms and store rooms. Lights would be automatically switched off when nobody was in the area.
- We kept reminding colleagues to switch off electrical appliances while not in use and a staff member was designated to turn off all unnecessary electrical appliances after normal office hours.
- We enabled the energy saving feature of computers and office equipment.
- Room temperature was set at 25.5°C to reduce energy consumption.
- Computer servers were consolidated via the latest virtualisation technology for better server utilisation rate and reduction of energy consumption.

In 2024, the total electricity consumption of ITC offices¹ amounted to 301 113 kWh. This figure includes electricity usage from offices located at Shui On Centre, Kowloonbay International Trade & Exhibition Centre², Rykadan Capital Tower, and The Hub.

Water Conservation

- Automatic sensor water taps were used in washrooms at our offices as far as possible to reduce water consumption.

Waste Minimisation and Recycling

- We continued to provide green bags in the office to collect waste paper for recycling.
- We collected used printer toner cartridges for recycling.
- We reused envelopes, loose minute file jackets and tags as far as practicable.
- We placed boxes holding used envelopes in common areas to facilitate re-use.
- We reused decorative and festive materials during celebration occasions.
- We used porcelain utensils/glasses instead of disposable ones during meetings.
- We did not serve bottled water or use paper coasters/cup covers during meetings.
- We adhered to the government guidelines on reducing food waste and ordered no more than six main dishes to avoid excessive food and unnecessary wastage when hosting Chinese cuisine in restaurants.
- In support of green living, we did not consume shark fin, bluefin tuna and black moss in official entertainment functions.
- In line with the Government's green policy, we refrained from bestowing gifts / souvenirs to others during official activities as far as possible.

¹ Excluding electricity consumptions in joint-user government buildings, which are reported by the Government Property Agency.

² The Kowloonbay International Trade & Exhibition Centre Office was relocated to the Revenue Tower in February 2024. Electricity consumption for this office was accounted for up to February 2024.

Compliance with Clean Air Charter

- We adhered to the commitments stated in the Clean Air Charter to help improve Hong Kong's air quality.
- Our departmental cars run on petrol instead of diesel fuel.
- We were conscious of the need to reduce energy consumption and implemented energy-efficient measures in our offices.

Indoor Air Quality

- We participated in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme launched by the Environmental Protection Department. Our offices at Shui On Centre, Immigration Tower, Revenue Tower, Rykadan Capital Tower, The Hub and Queensway Government Offices were certified complying with the "Good Class" of the IAQ Objectives.



- We installed air purifiers in the office to degrade pollutants and kill bacteria in the air.

Green Procurement

- We took into account environmental considerations when procuring goods and services.
- We purchased office equipment with Grade 1 energy label as far as possible.

- We procured environmentally friendly products such as recycled paper and clutch pencils.

In 2024, we procured products and services under 11 categories with green specifications, amounting to a total commitment of approximately \$1.36 million. Major items included purchase of toner cartridges and cleansing services, as well as hiring of light goods vehicles.

Environmental Education

- We issued e-mails to colleagues regularly to solicit their support for our green initiatives and provide tips on environmental protection and energy saving, thereby promoting their green consciousness.
- We reminded colleagues of our green measures regularly through internal circulars.

5. The Way Forward

In 2025, the Commission will continue to promote and implement green measures and housekeeping practices. To ensure that the green efforts will be maintained and further improved, we are committed to:

- providing funding support to environment-related R&D projects;
- promoting and encouraging the adoption of effective green measures to provide a green working environment;
- encouraging and promoting colleagues' participation through various channels, such as dissemination of green messages and organisation of environmental seminars;
- implementing various energy saving measures;
- adhering to the commitments stated in the Clean Air Charter;
- encouraging wider use of information technology to minimise paper and energy consumption;
- adopting a green IT approach in planning future computer projects; and
- equipping our colleagues with adequate computer facility to facilitate the efficient transaction of departmental business by electronic means.

6. Feedback

We always value your feedback on this Environmental Report. Please contact the Green Manager of the Commission by:

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This report is also available on the homepage of the Commission at <http://www.itc.gov.hk>.

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