

Clean Air Charter

“Every small step taken by each individual to support the clean-air initiatives in our daily lives can help reduce air pollution.”

The Chief Executive, Mr. Donald Tsang





Energy Saving and Air Emission Reduction

The Chief Executive Mr. Donald Tsang launched the Action Blue Sky Campaign on 25 July 2006, reinforcing the Government's determination to improve Hong Kong's air quality. Mr. Tsang signed the Clean Air Charter (the Charter) on behalf of the Government of the HKSAR on 27 November 2006. To show our support to the Campaign and our commitments under the Charter, we have implemented the following measures relevant to the course of our operations to help improve Hong Kong's air quality.

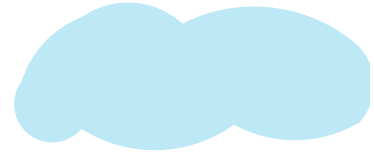
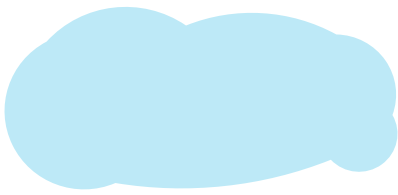
Energy Saving Measures Done in the Offices of Highways Department

We continue to minimize the use of energy and other resources in our offices. We have replaced all T-12 florescent tubes in our offices with T-5 tubes, and maximized the use of natural lighting and creating openness in designing our offices. We have maintained air-conditioning not lower than 25.5°C in summer. We achieve savings through the 3-R principles "Reduce, Ruse and Recylce" in our day-to-day office management.

To enable better control of electricity usage by office equipment and lighting in individual floors of Homantin Government Offices where the Department's Headquarters are located, we will install separate electricity meters in individual floors in 2007. This will provide very useful data to enable floor occupants to review their consumption pattern and take appropriate measures in case of upsurges.

To reduce vehicle emission, our driving staff, and those of our contractors have been instructed or appealed to switch off vehicle engines while waiting. Surprise inspections to ensure strict compliance with the instruction are conducted by the supervising staff.





Energy Saving for Public Transport Interchange Ventilation

Mechanical ventilation of electric fans is provided in covered public transport interchanges (PTI) to improve the ventilation to avoid excessive accumulation of air pollutants in PTI. The situation of air pollutants in PTI is monitored by regular air quality measurements. If necessary, the ventilation can be increased or decreased by adjusting the operation of the ventilation fans so as to ensure that the concentration of air pollutants is within the acceptable limits. This is to minimise the consumption of energy for provision of mechanical ventilation in the PTI.



Fan schedule of the PTI at Nan Fung Centre has already been adjusted to achieve energy saving

Energy Saving for Public Lighting

In view of significant consumption of electricity by the Public Lighting System, we continued our effort in 2006 to improve the efficiency of the appliances. In 2006, we have replaced 2,800 lamps and lanterns by those with lower wattage and higher efficiency. The annual savings in electricity consumption are about 620,000 kWh. As a trial scheme, we have introduced 1,500 electronic ballasts to replace the existing electromagnetic ballasts in the public road lights. The annual savings in electricity consumption are 214,000 kWh. The total savings in electricity consumption arising from the above initiatives amount to 834,000 kWh.



Pedestrian Schemes

Creating a better pedestrian environment with streetscape works is one way to enhance the quality of life. By encouraging walking, non-essential traffic is reduced and air quality is improved. Since 2000, in working together with Transport Department, we have implemented pedestrian schemes in a number of busy districts, including Causeway Bay, Mong Kok, Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan and Sham Shui Po.



Tree planting of *Grevillea robusta*, the theme street tree in Nanking Street, Jordan Pedestrian Scheme

We are continuing our efforts to implement pedestrian schemes, together with streetscape and greening works where feasible. As at the end of 2006 we have implemented a total of 6 full-time pedestrian streets, 23 part-time schemes and over 32 traffic calming or footpath widening schemes. In 2006 Elgin Street, Peel Street, and Staunton Street in So Ho were completed as well as Fuk Wa Street and Pei Ho Street in Sham Shui Po, and Nanking Street and Pilkem Street in Jordan.

Although the streets are congested, with the footpath widening measures street tree planting has been achieved, which provide shade and a touch of nature in the city.



Tree planting of *Tabebuia chrysostricha*, Golden Trumpet Tree in So Ho Pedestrian Scheme



Greening in the Urban Environment

In support of Government's green policy, Highways Department strives to maximize greening opportunities, even in congested urban areas.

Central medians under flyovers are often hostile areas for greening - dark without sufficient sunlight, covered with little rainfall, often dusty and windy, but highly visible to passing traffic.

As a first phase, over 35,000 plants of palms, shrubs and ground covers, which can survive in such difficult growing environment, have been retrofitted in the central median of Connaught Road, Sheung Wan to green this strategic corridor.

Narrow central medians that were once considered to be not suitable for planting have also been reviewed by the Department for introduction of greening. With the support of Transport Department, railing in some of these medians are now replaced by planting that helps to improve the roadside air quality as well as street environment. The hard-paved area of the central median along Tong Ming Street in Tseung Kwan O is now home of 17,000 of trees, shrubs and groundcovers.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER