

HKGCC's efforts to reduce
energy usage paying dividends
總商會節約能源措施漸見成效

Green Up Office Profits 綠化辦公室助提高收益

As office workers, we like to think that our jobs have nothing to do with pumping greenhouse gases into the air. But consider the typical business office. It is packed with computers, printers, copiers, fax machines, and a water cooler or two. Staff toil away under artificial light and breathe conditioned air from morning to night.

All of those appliances contribute to our impact on the environment, our carbon footprint, and ultimately global warming. And they all add up. Offices produce millions of tonnes of greenhouse gasses per year in Hong Kong. According to the Environmental Protection Department, buildings account for around 89% of the city's electricity consumption.

But businesses and employees are not helpless. They can make many changes to reduce their impact on the environment, mostly by using energy more efficiently. This is exactly what the Chamber is advocating with Phase II of Project Clean Air. And to walk the talk, it has implemented in its head office the recommendations in the Clean Air Charter to qualify for the scheme's certification program.

"We looked at our energy usage to see if there was wastage that we could save," says Yanny Lee, Assistant Manager for Operations at the Chamber, who oversaw measures recommended by the Business Environment Council to reduce energy and resources usage. "Some steps were complex, such as fitting energy efficient ballasts in lighting, but many

were remarkably simple and quick, such as asking staff to switch off equipment and lights when they leave the office."

As a result, the Chamber's energy audit revealed that energy consumption in 2007 was around 10% less than in 2006. Work in early 2008 to reduce the number of fluorescent tubes in the office, as well as replace old office equipment with more energy efficient models are expected to reap more savings this year. The government's website lists energy-efficient office equipment (www.energyland.emsd.gov.hk).

"It was important to get the senior management's backing for this effort to drive it forward. Now that staff are aware of the resources that they are consuming, everybody habitually turns off their lights when they go out for lunch, reuses paper whenever possible if they need to print, and other little measures," Ms Lee said. "As a result, our stationary use is down, we replace the printer toner cartridges less often, etc., so we are not only saving resources, but also money." ❀

Energy Audit

Companies who have signed the Clean Air Charter can apply to have an energy audit by the Business Environment Council, which will look at their businesses' total energy usage and suggest steps to cut it. Visit www.bec.org.hk for more details.

在辦公室工作的文職人員或會認為，他們的工作與溫室氣體排放無關。然而，典型的商業辦公室內都放滿電腦、列印機、影印機、傳真機及一至兩部食水冷卻器，而員工也由早到晚在人工光線和冷氣環境下工作。

所有辦公室設備都會對環境造成影響，留下碳足跡，最終導致全球暖化。此等設備帶來的累積影響，令香港每年產生數以百萬噸的溫室氣體。根據環境保護署的資料顯示，建築物佔本地電力消耗量約達89%。

不過，企業和僱員也不是無計可施。事實上，他們可以採取很多措施，特別是透過更有效地使用能源，以減少對環境的影響，這正是總商會「清新空氣計劃」第二階段所提倡的工作。為了身體力行實踐環保，本會在其總辦事處實施了《清新空氣約章》所提出的建議，並取得資格參與計劃下的審核認證計劃。

總商會營運副經理李詠欣負責監督商界環保協會建議實施的節約能源和資源措施，她表示：「我們會監察辦公室的能源使用情況，查看有否地方可以減少浪費。有些步驟比較複雜，例如安裝燈光節能鎮流器，而有些卻很簡單快捷，例如要求員工離開時關掉設備和燈光。」

結果，本會的能源審核報告顯示，2007年的能源使用較2006年少約一成。在2008年年初，本會亦減少了辦公室內的光管數目，並更具能源效益的型號取代舊有的辦公室設備，



Dr Andrew Thomson (left), CEO, Business Environment Council, presents Hkgcc CEO Alex Fong with a Clean Air Charter Certificate of Compliance. The Chamber has reduced its electricity consumption by 10% since implementing energy-saving measures in its head office.

商界環保協會行政總裁譚安德博士（左）向香港總商會總裁方志偉頒發《清新空氣約章》合格證書。本會總辦事處自推行能源節約措施後，用電量已減少一成。

這些措施預期可進一步節省今年的能源使用量。有關節能辦公室設備資料，可瀏覽政府網頁www.energyland.emsd.gov.hk。

李小姐說：「要推動這項計劃，必須得到高級管理層的支持。現在，員工已提高了對資源使用的關注，他們會在外出午餐時把房燈關掉，列印文件時也盡可能使用循環再用紙張，以及採用其他的簡易措施。結果，本會的文具用量得以減少，而我們亦不用經常更換列印機的油墨盒等，既可節約資源，也可減省金錢。」

能源審核

《清新空氣約章》的簽署企業可向商界環保協會申請參與能源審核。在有關計劃下，該會將審核參與企業在業務過程中使用的能源總量，並提供節省能源的建議。

詳情請瀏覽www.bec.org.hk。



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