2024 HONG KONG AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE



GUIDEBOOK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY SECTOR (for SMEs)

2024

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (the HKAEE) is led by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) alongside the Environment and Ecology Bureau and in conjunction with nine organisations, in alphabetical order, the Advisory Council on the Environment, the Business Environment Council, the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Hong Kong Chinese Importers' & Exporters' Association, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. The HKAEE is an annual award which aims to encourage companies and organisations to adopt green management, benchmark their performance with the best practices within their sectors, and recognise the achievements of the best-performing companies and organisations.

As an environmental award that aims for excellence, the **HKAEE** takes the pyramidal shape as the form of its logo to show the commitment of different sectors of society for reaching excellence in environmental performance. At the apex of the logo is a tender leaf that symbolises the growth of environmental awareness in the community. The white ribbon that wraps around the pyramid forms the letter "Q" to represent both quality and qualified environmental performance of the awarded organisations.



1.2 Overview of 2024 HKAEE

The HKAEE has been recognised by the community as one of the most prestigious and reputable award schemes in Hong Kong. Information of this award scheme is summarised in the table below and full details can be found in the individual Guidebooks.

Table 1: Awards category under 2024 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence



The Organisers reserve the final right to make the final decision in the event of dispute over the eligibility of an applicant.

- ^ The nominated construction project should have at least one-third of the project work completed (according to the contract period) at the time of assessment.
- @ Hong Kong based manufacturing companies with their factories in the Greater Bay Area will also be eligible to join the HKAEE under the Manufacturing and Industrial Services Sector (for non-SMEs), or Construction, Manufacturing and Industrial Services Sector (for SMEs).
- * Under the HKAEE, an SME is an organisation that (i) meets the definition of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) adopted by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; (ii) has substantive business operation in Hong Kong; and (iii) its parent company or its affiliated company (if applicable) or itself should not be a listed company (ownership of a 50% of interest or more will be classified as an affiliated company). An SME under the definition of HKSAR Government is a manufacturing business which employs fewer than 100 persons in Hong Kong; or a non-manufacturing business which employs fewer than 50 persons in Hong Kong. The "number of persons employed" includes individual proprietors, partners and shareholders actively engaged in the work of the organisation; and salaried employees of the organisation, including full-time or part-time salaried personnel directly paid by the organisation, both permanent and temporary, at the time of submitting applications.

2024 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence

Awards Category

The awards to be granted in each of the sector:





or a combination as deemed appropriate by the Final Adjudicating Panel(s).

1.3 Objectives of the HKAEE for SMEs

The HKAEE for SMEs aims to:

- Encourage SMEs to implement environmental management;
- Measure organisations' performance and their commitment to environmental management within the industry; and
- Recognise organisations with excellent performance on environmental management.

1.4 Eligibility for the HKAEE for SMEs

All businesses / organisations and their functional units that (i) meet the definition of SMEs as adopted by the Hong Kong SAR Government, (ii) have substantive business operation in Hong Kong and (iii) its parent company or its affiliated company* (if applicable) or itself should not be a listed company are eligible to apply for the *SME*s sectors in the HKAEE. Functional units within an organisation can enter the same or separate sectors but each functional unit is limited to enter into one sector only. If an organisation has multiple functional units intending to join the same sector, each functional unit should demonstrate that it has its own environmental initiatives within its operation before being considered admissible to the HKAEE.



Definition of SMEs

An SME under the definition of HKSAR Government is a manufacturing business which employs fewer than 100 persons in Hong Kong; or a non-manufacturing business which employs fewer than 50 persons in Hong Kong. The "number of persons employed" includes individual proprietors, partners and shareholders actively engaged in the work of the organisation; and salaried employees of the organisation, including full-time or part-time salaried personnel directly paid by the organisation, both permanent and temporary, at the time of submitting applications.

To encourage wider participation, the Gold Award winner of each sector / sub-sector of the previous year will not be eligible for entering the HKAEE within the next **two** years. In other words, Gold Award winners of 2022 and 2023 HKAEE will not be eligible for entering 2024 HKAEE, and Gold Award winners of 2024 HKAEE will not be eligible for entering 2025 and 2026 HKAEE.

The Organisers reserve the right to determine the eliqibility of any applicant.

^{*} Ownership of a 50% of interest or more will be classified as an affiliated company.

1.5 Eligibility for the Environmental Industry Sector for SMEs

All Environmental Industry companies in Hong Kong and / or based in Hong Kong with their factories located in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) are eligible to apply for this sector. Greater Bay Area covers the two Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao, and the nine municipalities Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing in Guangdong Province. The Environmental Industry Sector mainly cover the following business areas:

- Provision of wastewater treatment and water conservation solutions, including the supply and installation of related equipment such as monitoring, measurement, and analysis instruments, as well as pumping systems;
- Provision of air and odour pollution control solutions, including the supply and installation of related equipment such as monitoring and analysis tools, ventilation improvement systems, deodorisation, filtration, and sterilisation devices;
- Provision of energy management solutions, including the supply and installation of related equipment, with a focus on the adoption of alternative and renewable energy sources;
- Provision of noise control and mitigation solutions, including the supply and installation of related equipment such as sound barriers and vibration isolators;
- Waste treatment, disposal, recycling, and the import and wholesale of waste and scrap materials; and
- Environmental consultancy services to assist in pollution control, leveraging the latest technology and smart solutions to address environmental issues.

The Organisers reserve the right to determine the eligibility of any applicant.

1.6 Purpose of this Guidebook for Environmental Industry Sector for SMEs

The purpose of this Guidebook is to explain the application procedures and assessment criteria for the Environmental Industry Sector under the *HKAEE* for *SMEs*.

For reference, a general self-assessment checklist (Appendix 1) and sector best practices (Appendix 2) are provided to assist organisations in improving their environmental performance.

2. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The assessment process for Environmental Industry Sector is as follows:



Winners will be selected from a rigorous assessment process that comprises three stages:

Stage 1 - Initial Assessment

Upon receipt of the application form, eligible applicants will be invited to submit detailed information on their green policies and practices as well as environmental achievements via an online questionnaire. All information submitted by the applicants will be reviewed according to the assessment criteria of the awards. The Organisers may request additional documents for the purpose of information verification. The Organisers will then select applicants for detailed assessment in Stage 2.

All eligible applicants that have completed Stage 1 assessment and yet do not receive any award will receive a Participation Certificate after the completion of all assessment processes.

Stage 2 - Detailed Assessment

Organisations selected for detailed assessment will be visited by a team of assessors. The visit will include a tour of applicant's facilities and interviews with key representatives of the organisation including top management, department heads and general staff. The applicants should arrange the necessary permits and transportation between the Hong Kong-Shenzhen border and the premises in Mainland China, if necessary, for the assessment visit. During the site visit, applicants are encouraged to introduce their environmental performance to the assessors to provide them with an in-depth understanding of their environmental initiatives and the status of implementation.

The assessors will then prepare the assessment reports for submission to the Organisers for further short-listing into the final adjudication in Stage 3.

Applicants that have successfully completed Stage 2 assessment will receive a complimentary report on their environmental performance. The report will outline the organisation's strengths and highlight areas where improvements in environmental management could be made.

Stage 3 - Final Assessment

Adjudicating Panels will review the environmental performance of applicants. During the final assessment phase, the Adjudicating Panels may invite candidates to further present their achievements in a meeting. Each Adjudicating Panel will comprise representatives from various trade associations, government departments, professional bodies and the like.

3. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The assessment criteria for the **SME** – **Environmental Industry** sector is based on the well-established "Eco-Business Model". This model is designed to exemplify the strong relationship between the internal operation of a business and the surrounding environment. The key factors, including *Green Leadership, Programme and Performance* and *Partner Synergy*, are generally considered to be vital in the overall integration of environmental measures within an organisation.

Eco-Business Model

Corporate Benefits

- Compliance with environmental requirements
- Cost savings
- Improved productivity and competitiveness
- Improved corporate image and customer recognition



Environmental and Community Benefits

- Increased environmental awareness
- Protection of finite resources
- Reduced pollution impacts
- Improved global environment
- Gained international recognition of Hong Kong's environmental efforts

The "Eco-Business Model" describes the key features that a green business should possess. It lists the criteria for becoming a successful "eco-business" and illustrates the benefits after fulfilling the criteria. If a commitment to environmental management is what you seek for your organisation, you should consider fulfilling the model criteria that are organised according to the following three key components.

On-going improvement is required to maintain high operational standards. Meeting the demands of clients while maintaining a commitment to environmental management can be made easy by following the three component criteria of the Eco-Business Model.

Each criterion focuses on a key aspect of environmental management. They explain to businesses the types of environmental measures that can be adopted, and how these measures can be put into practice. The following sections list the criteria of each component.

3.1 Green Leadership



The commitment from board of directors and senior management to environmental protection will steer the accomplishment of conservation measures taken within any business. This component of the Model suggests that management should demonstrate leadership in initiating the environmental measures to be taken. The efforts of senior management should involve formal definition of the corporate goals and policy on environmental management, allocation of resources to fulfil the requirements of the company policy, communication on policy goals and engagement of all levels of staff in the programme. Furthermore, it is important that the senior management establishes channels to train staff members on how to practise environmentally friendly measures.

3.1.1 Leadership

In order to drive green culture within an organisation, commitment and participation of the management would encourage more staff to participate in green actions, hence achieving a greater success in environmental excellence. The more commitments and participation senior management make on pursuing environmental management, the greater the success rate of the environmental measures. Senior management should take the leading role in demonstrating their commitment to the company's environmental programme by getting involved in various environmental programmes and activities. In order to foster green culture within an organisation, the management is also recommended to encourage all staff members to participant various green activities to drive for greater success in environmental excellence.

3.1.2 Policy and Commitment

Commitment to environmental protection can be formally declared through a written policy. Selecting premises with green building certifications (such as BEAM Plus and LEED certifications) when deciding the location of the office and signing environment-related charters launched / supported by the Government (e.g. Carbon Reduction Charter, Waste Reduction and Recycling Charter, Carbon Neutrality (Waste Reduction) Charter, Food Wise Charter, Energy Saving Charter on Indoor Temperature, Energy Saving Charter on "No ILB", Use Less, Waste Less in My Hands, Waste Check Charter, Charter on Proper Operation of Refuse Collection Vehicles, Charter on External Lighting, Energy Saving Charter, 4T Charter, Glass Container Recycling Charter and Bye Bye Microbeads Charter) can also demonstrate the company's commitment to environmental protection.

3.1.3 Organisation and Resources

Staff should be assigned with specific environmental responsibilities. Adequate human and financial resources should be allocated to ensure successful implementation of environmental initiatives.

3.1.4 Environmental Communication

Environmental measures to be undertaken internally and externally should be promoted among staff members. Effective promotion on the benefits of environmental management will encourage staff members to develop green initiatives and undertake measures themselves. The following approaches could further foster green culture among staff members:



- Establish incentives (e.g. certificates or gifts) to motivate staff members adopting environmental conservation measures through daily operations; and
- Nominate and encourage representatives to take part in Environmental Task Forces or environmental-related awards (e.g. HKAEE Outstanding Green Achiever Commendation Scheme).

3.1.5 Environmental Training

All relevant staff members should receive adequate training to implement environmental measures within the organisation.



3.1.6 Managing for Continual Improvement

Regular checks should be undertaken to monitor the progress and review the overall effectiveness of measures taken (e.g. monitor the organisation's performance through establishing management systems such as ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems). In addition, your company should benchmark your environmental performance with industrial / regional / global standards (e.g. obtain BEAM Plus and LEED certifications or benchmark your interior fit-out, renovation and refurbishment work with reference to the requirements of BEAM Plus Interiors) to manage for continual improvement.

3.2 Programme & Performance



3.2.1 Regulatory Compliance

Environmental Industry enterprises in Hong Kong are bound by a number of legal environmental requirements. In particular, Hong Kong-based Environmental Industry companies with their factories located in the Greater Bay Area are governed by the legal environmental requirements of Mainland China. These companies must comply with all relevant environmental legislation and set up an appropriate list of environmental requirements. Companies should establish suitable procedures to identify such requirements and should ensure that key staff know how to access this information.

3.2.2 Environmental Programme Implementation

Once the management has formalised its commitment to environmental conservation, establishing an environmental programme that defines the objectives, targets and time schedule of various environmental initiatives is a good way to demonstrate the corporate commitment. Setting up your own environmental programme makes good business sense as the tailor-made programme is able to meet specific needs of your organisation. Such programme can streamline operations, cut operating costs, and improve environmental performance, which in turn improve your corporate image and enhance your market competitiveness.

The following outlines the approach you can take to create your own environmental programme(s):

- ** Understand Your Needs Carry out an environmental review to determine the status of your organisation in relation to protection of the environment (Self-Assessment Checklist in Appendix I can be a starting point). The checklist is designed to help identify the strengths and weaknesses of your organisation and assist you in prioritising the actions that you need to take.
- **Define Your Objectives** Once you have identified the key areas that need improvement, you can prioritise the areas that you intend to make improvement and set objectives.
- **▶ Define Your Targets** According to the objectives, define specific, practicable and measurable targets for implementation.
- Formulate Your Action Plan Formulate in detail the measures that will be taken to achieve the targets and the implementation timeframe. At the same time determine the staff representatives for undertaking different measures.
- Monitor Your Programme Keep track of the progress of the programme defined.
- * Review the Results Review monitoring data to identify room for improvements.

Now you understand how to develop an environmental programme within your establishment, you can begin to determine the measures that suit yours.

3.2.3 Energy Conservation and Progressing towards Carbon Neutral

Manufacturing industry and some industrial services consume enormous amount of energy. A good energy management not only brings about the reduction in operation cost, but also significant environmental impact. Electricity and diesel are the major forms of energy used in most manufacturing processes and industrial services while coal and gas are substantially used in factories in Mainland China. In Hong Kong, electricity is primarily generated through the combustion of coal and gas. Both coal and gas are non-renewable energy resources that will eventually run out. Furthermore, coal burning results in undesirable air pollution. Reducing electricity consumption can preserve natural resources and alleviate air pollution.

You can implement several simple and effective measures within your organisation to reduce electricity consumption and move towards carbon neutrality. For example:

- Review electricity bills to determine annual and monthly electricity consumption;
- Identify the main sources of electricity usage and consumption (e.g. opening windows in air-conditioned buildings can lead to increased electricity consumption);
- Establish comprehensive energy-saving plans and targets for the entire organisation and individual electricity-consuming units (e.g. set a target to reduce overall electricity consumption by 10% within a year and reduce energy consumption of air conditioning systems by 30%);
- Utilise conference systems (if applicable) to reduce carbon emissions from overseas / local travel;
- Switch to hybrid / electric vehicles; and
- Purchase carbon offset plans to offset carbon emissions related to operations.

Ventilation and temperature control

- Maintain air conditioning temperature between 24 to 26 degrees Celsius;
- Post notices reminding staff to turn off unused lights / air conditioning;
- Establish a maintenance and inspection programme to ensure air conditioning or ventilation equipment operates efficiently and regularly clean dust filters;
- Install fans to reduce the load on air conditioning;
- Install curtains to block sunlight in summer, reducing the load on air conditioning, and to allow sunlight in winter, increasing room temperature; and
- Close all windows and doors when using air conditioning.

Lighting and equipment

- Use energy-efficient lighting, such as LED lights;
- Check and adjust the brightness of lights to avoid exceeding necessary levels. Encourage the use of natural light;
- When purchasing new appliances, inquire with suppliers whether the product has an energy efficiency label and choose those that save energy (e.g. products with Grade 1, Grade 2, or equivalent energy efficiency labels) whenever possible;
- Implement demand management measures, programming lighting and ventilation systems to avoid excessive use during non-operational hours;
- Install timers or sensors in low-usage areas to automatically turn off lights when not in use; and
- Consider turning off some office lights during lunch breaks, overtime, and after office hours.

3.2.4 Water Conservation and Wastewater Control

Various construction activities such as dredging / filling, washing, and cleaning, and run-off discharge cause water pollution. Adequate wastewater treatment facilities should be installed at construction sites to alleviate adverse physical, chemical, and biological effects to our environment.



For factories and industrial services companies with effluent discharge, efforts should be made to reduce discharge by wastewater minimisation at source and installation of water treatment facilities if feasible. Also, organisations should explore the feasibility of using greywater during production and implement water audit and related water-saving measures.

Ways to conserve water and minimise water pollution inside your establishment include:

- Post reminder signs to remind staff members to turn off faucets when not in use;
- Select water-consuming devices with Grade 1 Water Efficiency Label;
- Consider using flow-control water fixture / installing flow controllers / automatic shut off systems to reduce wastage;
- Treat and reuse grey water for the manufacturing processes;
- Regularly monitor water usage to evaluate effectiveness of water reduction efforts;
- *Establish a monitoring and maintenance programme to ensure that pipes are in good working order and that leaks are repaired as soon as they are detected;
- Conduct water footprint audit and develop appropriate water-saving measures or use water-efficient equipment at major water consumption points; and
- Consider the use of environmentally preferable cleaning products (e.g. use eco enzyme to wash windows instead of astringent window cleaners, use biodegradable liquid soap in toilet and in the pantry for dish washing).

3.2.5 Waste Management

Waste materials including construction and demolition (C&D) waste, packaging waste, industrial waste, chemical waste, and general waste are generated during daily operations of construction, manufacturing, and industrial services sector. Improper waste management can lead to adverse environmental impact. In addition, with increasing costs for waste disposal, it makes good business sense to minimise waste generated. Besides, construction companies are encouraged to develop a Waste Management Plan to assist them in practicing possible measures on waste avoidance, reduction, treatment, and disposal in construction sites.



Reduce – General

- Reduce the use of sealed packaging to minimise the use of sealing tapes and shrink-wrap;
- Reduce/avoid the use of disposable items, e.g. single-use plastic packaging / wraps;
- Use reusable shipping crates in place of cartons;
- Choose proper sized packages to pack goods and avoid using excessive number of fillers;
- Handle and store materials carefully to reduce breakage and spillage;
- Encourage the use of staff bulletin board or e-mail for both internal and external communication, or if this is not possible, circulate material rather than making copies for individuals;
- Avoid printed marketing materials and encourage the use of digital marketing;
- Choose solar powered appliances (such as calculators) to avoid battery disposal;
- Memory Encourage staff to buy or bring their own lunch in reusable containers;
- Use reusable (not paper) cutlery, dishes, cups and coffee filters wherever possible;
- Use refillable containers for cleaning products;

- Encourage staff members to use hand towels instead of paper towel;
- Use electronic quotations and invoices;
- Adopt electronic platforms for internal training or conducting surveys;
- Make use of recycled, biodegradable, or compostable materials for production manufacturing; and
- Collect and recycle food waste.

Reuse

- Reuse the boxes and bags for delivering products;
- Offer unused boxes and pallets back to your suppliers for reuse;
- Use shredded wastepaper for packaging;
- Establish a collection bin for used packaging materials that can be reused;
- Reuse envelopes by attaching new labels on them; and
- Choose renewable resources and sustainable recycled materials.

Recycle / Upcycle

- Upcycle waste products into other useful products (e.g. upcycle plastic bottles as planters.);
- Donate old appliances to an appliance refurbishment organisation;
- Establish waste collection boxes for paper, plastics, metals and / or other recyclables to enhance source separation of waste for recycling;
- Y Keep record and review the amount of waste and recyclables generated during operations;
- Set a corner to collect unwanted but usable items to donate and share second-hand items with each other and / or charities;
- Liaise with cleaning staff and encourage them to help in the source separation of waste programme;
- Collaborate with suppliers on establishing a recycling programme for returning the used packaging materials (e.g. corrugated cardboard, paper boxes and shrink wrap) and appliances that are no longer in used; and
- Cooperate with suppliers to run take-back / trade-in programme for products which will cause significant environmental impacts (e.g. electrical and electronic equipment).

3.2.6 Housekeeping

In general, the work environment will determine the quality of employees' work and the public's impression of the company. Various raw materials and solvents, such as high pollutant level of paints and glues, drywall compounds, chemicals, and fuel, might cause harm to site workers and the environment if they are not handled and stored properly. In view of this, good cleaning, material storage and waste handling and removal procedures are important for maintaining a healthy and safe working environment and reducing the environmental impact of your business.

3.2.7 Noise and Vibration Control

Excessive noise and vibration can be an irritation to employees as well as the neighbourhood. Appropriate measures, such as installation of barriers and retrofit of machineries with insulating layers, shall be undertaken to minimise the noise.

3.2.8 Air Pollution / Indoor Air Quality / Odour Control

Control of air pollution from companies involved in manufacturing and industrial services can be achieved by choosing higher quality fuels, optimising operating practices and adopting suitable end-of-pipe emission controls. Your establishment should adopt the best combination of these measures in handling emissions.

Additionally, the air inside buildings may contain numerous airborne pollutants. Common pollutants in enclosed indoor environments include gases, dust, mites, bacteria, fungal spores, and viruses. Many offices in Hong Kong are located in enclosed buildings, relying mainly on air-conditioning systems to introduce outdoor air and circulate it within the organisation. Although air-conditioning systems can, in some cases, prevent the influence of outdoor air, if not properly maintained, they can also become a source of disease transmission.

Other sources of indoor air pollution in offices include new furniture, carpet fibres, renovation works, smoke, unclean furniture, dust from equipment, and pollutants generated by machines. In some cases, poor ventilation systems can lead to the accumulation of carbon dioxide, causing discomfort. Other air pollutants include smoke, dust, ozone, and airborne bacteria, which can cause a range of health problems when inhaled. Various measures can be adopted to reduce indoor air pollution in offices:

- Check with the property management company to ensure there is an adequate supply of fresh air within the building;
- Ensure that the inlet of fresh air is not located near sources of outdoor air pollution (e.g. the air intake should not be near the exhaust outlets of adjacent buildings);
- Ensure that the exhaust outlets, ducts, filters, and cooling coils within the air conditioning system are clean, and replace them regularly if necessary;
- Regularly clean carpets and upholstered furniture;
- Place photocopiers in well-ventilated areas, as they produce ozone during operation; and
- Use electric forklifts in warehouses (if applicable) to avoid the emission of pollutants.

3.2.9 Green Procurement

You can contribute to environmental protection by purchasing products that minimise pollution. Every product / raw material that you purchase, whether it is used by staff or for production / sale, has impact on environment. You can reduce waste produced by making careful decisions when you are purchasing goods and raw materials. Products that are biodegradable or reusable put less stress on landfills. You can refer to the green specifications published by the Environmental Protection Department or other green procurement guidelines when practising green procurement.

General rules for environmentally responsible product purchasing

When procuring products, the following guidelines should be followed as much as possible:

- Purchase items that are reusable or contain reusable components, such as refillable pen and rechargeable batteries;
- Purchase items that can be recycled;
- Purchase products that reduce the use of resources, for example, buy energy-saving light bulbs instead of low-energy-efficiency bulbs;
- Select more durable products to reduce the frequency of replacements;
- *Choose products that are non-toxic or have lower toxicity, such as low-pollution water-based paints. Using these products helps reduce safety issues in the work environment;
- Purchase eco-friendly products to provide your customers with more environmentally friendly options;
- Adopt eco-friendly menus for banquets or events; and
- Refer to the environmental specifications published by the Environmental Protection Department or other green procurement guidelines for eco-friendly purchasing.

Purchasing procedures

- Strive to purchase environmentally friendly products if the company has a procurement department. If the department does not have any policies guiding procurement activities, it should consider establishing a green procurement policy and inform suppliers to ensure compliance;
- Conduct a simple survey on items heavily used within the company (such as paper products, plastic bags, etc.) to see if there are more environmentally friendly alternatives;
- Mecheck if damaged items can be repaired to avoid purchasing new ones whenever possible. Consider refurbishing furniture to reduce the cost of acquiring new furniture;
- Encourage colleagues to purchase more environmentally friendly products;
- Promote the concept of sustainable procurement and avoid purchasing products that harm the environment. For example, do not purchase products derived from tropical rainforests, as excessive destruction of rainforests leads to various environmental issues, including global warming, deforestation, and reduced biodiversity;
- Adopt bulk purchasing methods to avoid generating excessive packaging waste;
- Avoid purchasing disposable products;
- Purchase products with eco-labels; and
- As much as possible, procure local products to reduce carbon emissions generated during transportation.

3.3 Partner Synergy



3.3.1 Communication and Motivation

Once you have committed to environmental conservation measures within your organisation, you should share with others. Your suppliers, customers, workers, and other business partners deserve to learn about the positive actions that you are now taking. Knowledge of your environmental programme is valuable to others since seeing your environmental accomplishments can motivate them to establish their own programme. In some instances, your partners may not be aware of the benefits of establishing such a programme. In other instances, they may be interested in starting up their own programme, yet they need some initial guidance to kick off.

It is therefore important that your policy is made known to interested parties. By assuming a proactive stance, you will encourage others to learn about environmental protection and give your organisation more exposure within the business world. You can also report the company's environmental performance to your customers, seek their feedback, and take appropriate actions in response. You can refer to Appendix 2 to learn the best practices in your sector.

Influence your Suppliers

A sound environmental programme will encourage the purchase and use of environmentally friendly products whenever possible. Therefore, it is important that your suppliers and other relevant partners are made aware of your programme requirements and are capable of meeting your needs. There are a number of activities that you can undertake to clearly communicate your requirements to your suppliers.

- You should inform suppliers of your environmental policy and provide them with your mission statement.
- State environmental requirements in tender documents.
- Work with suppliers to capture the type of products that you seek at a competitive price. Ask your suppliers to identify environmentally friendly products that can substitute items that you are currently using (at a comparable price).

- Encourage suppliers to provide you with documentation that guarantees the 'Environmentally friendly' authenticity of the products while you are purchasing.
- Encourage suppliers to use recyclable / biodegradable packaging materials.
- Invite your suppliers / contractors to participate in any community support programme(s) or environmental partnership programme(s) with the public / private sector / NGOs.

Influence your Customers

Just as you appreciate your suppliers for providing you with various environmentally friendly products, your customers will appreciate your efforts in offering them with quality goods. In general, by communicating the message that you are environmentally responsible you can increase customer loyalty. It is therefore a good practice to supply your customers with information regarding the environmental measures that you are taking and the nature of products that they are purchasing.

- Post the environmental policy in prominent locations within the organisation;
- Listen to customers' feedback to identify areas for improvement and determine how the organisation can make enhancements;
- Y Encourage customers to choose products with minimal packaging;
- Encourage customers to share their opinions on eco-friendly products and suggest new green products;
- Encourage customers to select products that contain environmentally friendly elements; and
- Provide incentives (e.g. discounts, awards) to your customers who participate in environmental programmes or support your environmental initiatives.

Influence on the Community

Everyone in Hong Kong experiences the effects of pollution. Although some people would like to help to improve environmental quality, not everyone knows how to get involved. As a green business operator, you deal with environmental management issues on a daily basis, and you are in a strong position to help the community to implement green measures. It is important for you to understand the impact of your business and environmental actions and communicate your impact to the society. You should also act as a role model to demonstrate your effort in environmental protection. Taking simple initiatives such as sharing your experience in setting up your programme and providing useful information can raise community environmental awareness.

- Participate in and support local environmental activities, such as organising "beach clean-up" campaigns and funding environmental projects;
- Set up donation boxes and donate the collected funds to local environmental charities;
- Report on your environmental plans and achievements in communications, sustainability reports, and other published materials;
- Collaborate with other industry players to share experiences in implementing environmental programmes and activities; and
- Apply for awards or certifications to gain formal recognition for the company's environmental efforts.

4. WEIGHTINGS OF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

As mentioned in Section 3 above, the assessment of eligible entries under the Environmental Industry Sector comprises three criteria, namely, *Green Leadership, Programme and Performance* and *Partner Synergy*. Specific to this sector, the weighting of each of the assessment criteria is as follows:

Green Leadership	Programme and Performance	Partner Synergy
25%	45%	30%

In order to recognise applicants' efforts to promote in the *HKAEE* as well as their achievements in the Hong Kong Green Organisation Certification (HKGOC) and other recognised certification or award schemes, a maximum of 10 bonus points will be given to the applicants during Stage 2 assessment of the *HKAEE*, as follows:

Bonus Points Awarded for Efforts in Promoting HKAEE (maximum 3 bonus points)

- Applicants who have promoted HKAEE through their business network and / or promotional channels / platforms (e.g. display the awarded logos and stickers in premises, website and electronic screens, etc.; imprint the awarded logo in name cards, letterhead; and publish featured articles through media) will earn a maximum of 1 bonus point.
- Applicants who have successfully referred their business partners (e.g. suppliers) to join the HKAEE will earn a maximum of 2 bonus points.

Applicants who have promoted HKAEE through their business network and successfully referred their business partners may also be awarded with the title of "Outstanding HKAEE Promotional Partner" if they have fulfilled certain criteria, please refer to Section 2.6 of 2024 HKAEE Programme Booklet for details.

Bonus Points Awarded for Achievements in Hong Kong Green Organisation Certification (HKGOC) (maximum 4 bonus points)

Applicants who possess valid Wastewi\$e / Energywi\$e / IAQwi\$e / Carbon Reduction Certificate / recognition of Hong Kong Green Organisation will earn 1 bonus point per Certificate / recognition.

Bonus Points Awarded for Efforts in Other Schemes (maximum 3 bonus points)

Applicants who possess a valid certificate from environmental schemes such as ISO 14001, ISO 20121, ISO 50001, IECQ HSPM QC 080000, Hong Kong - Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners (Manufacturing) Recognition Scheme, Hong Kong Green Mark Certification Scheme, WWF-Hong Kong's Low-carbon Operation Programme (LOOP^{PLUS}) and Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme (LCMP), CLP Smart Energy Award, WGO's Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS), FHKI's BOCHK Corporate Low-Carbon Environmental Leadership Awards, BEAM Plus New Buildings / BEAM Plus Existing Buildings / BEAM Plus Interiors, Hong Kong Green Shop Alliance Award, EEB's Charter on External Lighting or other schemes recognised by the Organisers will earn 1 bonus point. The Organisers reserve the right to grant bonus points to any applicants.

*Note:

- 1. HKGOC consists of four Certificates, namely "Wastewi\$e Certificate", "Energywi\$e Certificate", "IAQwi\$e Certificate" and "Carbon Reduction Certificate". Participants can further obtain the recognition of "Hong Kong Green Organisation" by demonstrating the environmental practices in multiple aspects. Please refer to the HKGOC programme booklet for details.
- 2. ISO 14001 is an environmental management system standard published by the International Organization for Standardization.
- 3. ISO 50001 is an energy management system standard published by the International Organization for Standardization.
- 4. ISO 20121 is an event sustainability management system standard published by the International Organization for Standardization.
- 5. IECQ HSPM QC 080000 is a standard on hazardous substances process management published by the IEC Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components.
- 6. Hong Kong Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners (Manufacturing) Recognition Scheme is jointly operated by the Environment and Ecology Bureau of the Government of the HKSAR and the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Guangdong Province.
- 7. Hong Kong Green Mark Certification Scheme is a system certification scheme operated by the Hong Kong Q-Mark Council, Federation of the Hong Kong Industries
- 8. Low-carbon Operation Programme and Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme are schemes operated by WWF-Hong Kong. The bonus point will only be granted to applicants in applicable Sectors for their operations in Hong Kong or Greater Bay Area (only applicable to Manufacturing and Industrial Services sector (for non-SMEs) or Construction Manufacturing and Industrial Services sector (for SMEs)).
- 9. CLP Smart Energy Award is organised by CLP Power Hong Kong Limited which aims to recognise organisations who have implemented energy conservation measures and achieved outstanding energy saving results.
- 10. Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS) is a recognition scheme for offices organised by the World Green Organisation (WGO).
- 11. BOCHK Corporate Low-Carbon Environmental Leadership Awards is organised by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, which aims to promote environmental practices among the manufacturing and services enterprises in Hong Kong and the Pan Pearl River Delta (PRD) region.
- 12. BEAM Plus is an independent assessment of building sustainability performance. It is certified by Hong Kong Green Building Council Limited (HKGBC) while the assessment is handled by the BEAM Society Limited.
- 13. Hong Kong Green Shop Alliance Award is organised by the Hong Kong Green Building Council, which aims to foster green shopping environment in Hong Kong. Only winners of the main awards, i.e. "Best Green Practice in Malls", "Best Green Practice in Shops" and "Best Collaborative Effort of Malls and Shops" can earn bonus point in HKAEE.
- 14. Charter on External Lighting is a voluntary scheme implemented by EEB to invite owners and responsible persons of external lighting installations to switch off lighting installations of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes which affect the outdoor environment during the preset time (i.e. 10 p.m., 11 p.m. or midnight to 7 a.m. on the following day) to foster a better nighttime environment, which is conducive for the public to rest and energy saving.
- 15. The presentation of the award to any winning organisation is still subject to further consideration of non-compliance record of environmental regulations, if any, before the date of the Presentation Ceremony.

5. APPLICATION FORM (ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRY SECTOR - SMEs)

SECTION 1 - Organisation Profile

Application Deadline: 14 Jan 2025

(Please note that the Name of Organisation indicated below refers to "the entity of application", which will be used in the award and publicity and cannot be changed without justifiable reasons.)

Name of Organisation	on (holding a valid Hong Ko	ong Business Registration Certificate or other legal entities):
in English:		
in Chinese:		
Address:		
Telephone:		
Website:		
Description of		
	_	
BR Number:		
in English: in Chinese: Address: Name of Parent Com	npany / Affiliated Company	/, if applicable:
in English:	. ,	
in Chinese:		
Number of employe	es (under the Business Reg	gistration of the applicant organisation / nominated factory)
Hong Kong:	(Full time)	(Part time)
Greater Bay Area:	(Full time)	(Part time)
Parent Company:	(Full time)	(Part time)
		ted company (if applicable) a listed company?
□ Yes		□No

SECTION 2 - Contact Details and Declaration

Please provide the following information about the contact person of your organisation.				
Name of Contact Person:				
Designation:				
Telephone:				
E-mail:				
Postal Address:				
(If different from Section 1)				
Please read the consent statement b	elow before signing and submi	tting this application for	rm.	
Signature:				
(with Organisation Chop)		Date:		
Name of Signatory		Designation:		

The HKAEE Technical Consultant (Hong Kong Productivity Council, HKPC) has adopted a Personal Data (Privacy) Policy. You may contact HKAEE Technical Consultant to request access to, and amend your personal data provided by you. If needed, please send an email to: sec@hkaee.gov.hk. The personal data collected from you will be erased and destroyed after 24 months upon the completion of the assessment of HKAEE.

Consent Statement

I hereby declare that the information given above is accurate to the best of my knowledge, and agree that all decisions made by the Organisers (i.e. Environment and Ecology Bureau and Environmental Campaign Committee and its Secretariat) and adjudicating panels are final and binding in all aspects relating to the HKAEE. I understand that any false or misleading information may lead to disqualification of my application.

I agree that personal data (including name, phone number, correspondence address and email address) provided by me will be used for the purpose of the communication, administration, evaluation and management of my application. I understand if I cannot provide the relevant personal data, processing of my application by the Organisers and the Technical Consultant may be affected.

The HKAEE Technical Consultant (Hong Kong Productivity Council, HKPC) intends to use the personal data (including your name, phone number, correspondence address and email address) that you have provided to promote the latest development, consultancy services, events and training courses of HKPC. Should you find such use of your personal data unacceptable, please indicate your objection by ticking the box below.

I object to the proposed use of my personal data in any marketing activities arranged by HKAEE Technical Consultant (HKPC).

The Environment and Ecology Bureau and / or the Environmental Campaign Committee and its Secretariat also intend to use the personal data (including your name, phone number, correspondence address and email address) that you have provided to promote the latest development, policies, activities and schemes of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and / or the Environmental Campaign Committee. Should you find such use of your personal data unacceptable, please indicate your objection by ticking the box below.

□ I object to the proposed use of my personal data in any marketing activities arranged by the Environment and Ecology Bureau and / or the Environmental Campaign Committee and its Secretariat.

Is yo	our Company interested	in joir	ing the "Outstanding Promotional Partner Commendation Scheme"?
(The	HKAEE Technical Const	ultant	will further contact you on the details separately upon receiving this application)
□ Y	es 🗆 No		
ls/A	Are employee(s) of your	Comp	any interested in joining the "Outstanding Green Achiever Commendation Scheme"?
(The	HKAEE Technical Consu	ultant ı	will further contact you on the details separately upon receiving this application. Please
refe	r to the separate guidel	ine and	d dedicated application form for details of this commendation scheme.)
□ Y	es 🗆 No		
How	do you know about the	e Hon	g Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence? (Can select more than one)
	Mass media (e.g. TV a	nd nev	vspaper)
	Social Media (e.g. Face	ebook	LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram)
	Roving exhibitions		
	Through the Technica	l Cons	ultant
	Referral from another	comp	any / organisation
	(Please specify the nai	me of	the company / organisation:)
	Posters or advertisem	ent	
	Official website or eDI	Ms	
	Experience Sharing Se	eminar	s held by the Organiser
	Through participation	in Ho	ng Kong Green Innovations Awards (HKGIA) or Hong Kong Green Organisation
	Certification (HKGOC)		
	Through commerce ch	nambe	ers / trade associations
	(Please specify name of	of char	mber / association:)
	Others (Please specify	r:)
Plea	se complete the Applica	ation F	form and send it to the HKAEE Technical Consultant (Hong Kong Productivity Council)
by t	ne below channels. App	olicatio	ons can also be submitted directly online –
E	mail	:	awards@hkaee.gov.hk
N	Aailing Address	:	HKAEE Technical Consultant, Hong Kong Productivity Council,
(Online Application	:	HKPC Building, 78 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong https://aas.hkaee.gov.hk/HKAEE/applicationform/apply

Important Note:

Please immediately call the HKAEE Hotline (Tel: 2788 5903) if no acknowledgement of application is received within 7 working days from the date of application.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Organisers wish to thank the Environment and Conservation Fund for funding the HKAEE.

Funded by



Environment and Conservation Fund

Organisers



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府 環境及生態局

Environment and Ecology Bureau The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

Environment and Ecology Bureau



Advisory Council on the Environment



Federation of Hong Kong Industries



Hong Kong Productivity Council



The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong



The Hong Kong Council of Social Service



Environmental Campaign Committee



Business Environment Council



Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce



The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce



The Hong Kong Chinese Importers' and Exporters' Association

7. ENQUIRY

Tel: 2788 5903

E-mail: <u>awards@hkaee.gov.hk</u>

Website: www.hkaee.gov.hk

8. DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this guidebook has been produced for guidance only. While every precaution has been taken to ensure its accuracy, no responsibility for any claims, losses or expenses as a result of any material in this publication can be accepted by the Organisers or any organisations involved in this guidebook.

<u>Appendix 1 – Self Assessment Checklist for the Environmental Industry</u> Sector (for SMEs)

GREEN LEADERSHIP

		Yes	No
Lea	adership		
>	Demonstrate commitment from management.		
>	Involve management in the environmental programme and activities.		
>	Communicate with employees in a two-way manner.		
>	Establish incentives by management to encourage the employees to practise		
	green measures.		
Po	licy and Commitment		-
>	Establish an environmental / sustainability / ESG policy.		
\	Include commitment to environmental conservation in environmental /		
	sustainability / ESG policy.		
>	Apply the environmental / sustainability / ESG policy company-wide.		
	Direct the stated aims and objectives of the policy towards the organisation's		
	activities and procedures.		
\triangleright	Select premises with green building certifications (such as BEAM Plus and		
	LEED certifications) when deciding the location of your office.		
	Sign environment-related charters launched / supported by the Hong Kong		
	SAR Government. (e.g. Carbon Reduction Charter, Waste Reduction and		
	Recycling Charter, Carbon Neutrality (Waste Reduction) Charter, Food Wise		
	Charter, Energy Saving Charter on Indoor Temperature, Energy Saving		
	Charter on "No ILB", Use Less, Waste Less in My Hands, Waste Check Charter,		
	Charter on Proper Operation of Refuse Collection Vehicles, Charter on		
	External Lighting, Energy Saving Charter, 4T Charter, Glass Container		
	Recycling Charter and Bye Bye Microbeads Charter).		
Or	ganisation and Resources		
>	Appoint a "Green Manager" to coordinate the environmental programme.		
	Establish an Environmental Task Force to steer and facilitate the		
	environmental programme implementation.		
	Allocate sufficient resources for environmental programme implementation.		
	Encourage staff involvement in the environmental programme.		
>	Establish and operate a sound environmental management system.		
En	vironmental Communication		
>	Publicise the environmental / sustainability / ESG policy, initiatives and		
	accomplishments from time to time.		

		Yes	No
>	Encourage staff to give suggestions or feedback on the environmental programme.		
>	Collect ideas from staff members and answer their questions or concerns.		
>	Offer incentives or rewards to staff members and workers for their environmental initiatives.		
Env	vironmental Training		
>	Define environmental training needs and provide appropriate environmental training for individual staff.		
>	Maintain environmental training records.		
Managing for Continual Improvement			
A	Devise a simple plan to schedule regular checks of the organisation's environmental programme.		
>	Document the findings of the checking properly and implement any corrective actions arising from the checking.		
A	Monitor if appropriate corrective actions are taken and to address any lapses or inadequacies.		
	Benchmark environmental performance with industrial / regional / global standards (e.g. obtain BEAM Plus, LEED certifications or benchmark your interior fit-out, renovation and refurbishment work with reference to the requirements of BEAM Plus Interiors).		

PROGRAMME AND PERFORMANCE

_		Yes	No
Reg	gulatory Compliance		
>	Identify and collect legal information from competent sources, relevant		
	government authorities and industry associations.		
\triangleright	Establish a register of environmental requirements relevant to your		
	operation.		
>	Establish a procedure to ensure that staff members concerned have		
	continuous access to the legal requirements.		
>	Establish a procedure to ensure relevant information on legal requirements		
	is communicated to employees effectively.		
\triangleright	Establish a procedure to keep track of changes of environmental		
	requirements and to update the environmental requirements accordingly.		
>	Regularly monitor compliance with environmental requirements.		
>	Implement corrective and preventive measures for areas that frequently,		
	repeatedly, or seriously fail to meet the regulations.		

		Yes	No
Env	vironmental Programme Implementation		
\triangleright	Define your environmental objectives and targets and formulate measures		
	to achieve these.		
>	Appoint responsible staff for undertaking different measures.		
>	Review the outcome of environmental programme and find ways for		
	improvement.		
A	Conduct environmental audit (e.g. carbon and energy audit) or		
	environmental assessment to identify room for improvement.		
Ene	ergy Conservation and Progressing towards Carbon Neutral		
Gei	neral		
>	Review energy consumption (electricity / fuel) regularly.		
>	Conduct energy and / or carbon audit to find out the main sources of energy		
	usage and carbon emissions and identify the improvement areas.		
>	Establish reduction targets on energy consumption and / or carbon		
	emissions.		
\triangleright	Set up and implement procedures to reduce energy consumption and		
	carbon footprint.		
>	Adopt online conference systems (where applicable) to reduce carbon		
	emissions from overseas / local travel.		
\triangleright	Provide energy-saving guidelines for staff members / workers and check if		
	they follow or encourage them to follow.		
\triangleright	Set benchmarks or goals for energy conservation and carbon reduction.		
λ	Purchase carbon offsets to offset the carbon emissions related to business		
	operations		
λ	Encourage staff to use public transportation or walk to work whenever		
	possible.		
λ	Encourage all company drivers to use the most efficient travel routes.		
\triangleright	Switch to hybrid / electric vehicles		
λ	Use of renewable energy whenever possible.		
Lig	hting System		
λ	Employ high luminous efficacy lamp and accessories such as high efficiency		
	lamp, electronic ballast, high reflectance reflector and high transparent		
	diffuser.		
\triangleright	Use energy-efficient lighting (e.g. LED lights).		
\triangleright	Turn off some office lights during lunch breaks, overtime work, and after		
	office hours.		_
\triangleright	Employ control system (e.g. occupancy sensor, dimming system) for lighting		
	control.		

		Yes	No
>	Utilise daylight (e.g. louver, glass window) within the premises as far as		
	practicable.		
>	Adjust lighting to appropriate brightness levels.		
Ele	ctrical System		
>	Select more energy-efficient products when purchasing new appliances.		
>	Maintain proper operating condition and use of equipment / facilities (e.g.		
	transformers, L.V. switchboard, VAR control, generators).		
>	Run preventive maintenance programmes for machines / equipment.		
>	Employ power electronics devices such as inverter and soft starter for		
	optimisation of the electrical system.		
>	Replace electromagnetic ballasts with electronic ballasts whenever possible.		
>	Maintain voltage / phase loading balance for the electrical system.		
>	Maintain proper power factor of the electrical system within the premises.		
>	Employ high efficiency motors for the electrical system.		
>	Turn off some escalators or elevators during non-peak hours and encourage		
	employees to use stairs whenever feasible.		
>	Turn off electronic devices that are not in use.		
>	Install timers on office electronic devices to ensure they automatically shut		
	down after office hours.		
>	Post notices on appliances to remind employees to turn off electronic		
	devices when not in use.		
HV	'AC System		
>	Install timers or use computer programs to control the switches in the air		
	conditioning system.		
>	Ensure fan speed optimisation for the system.		
>	Locate the exhaust of HVAC system in proper locations.		
>	Optimise pump speed of the HVAC system.		
>	Provide effective maintenance schedule for air side equipment.		
>	Optimise equipment control for chiller plants.		
>	Use curtains to reflect the sun's heat in summer and open them to receive		
	heat in winter.		
>	Keep doors and windows closed in areas where the air conditioning is on.		
>	Ensure that air conditioning equipment is turned off after using meeting		
	rooms.		
>	Regularly check indoor temperatures to ensure that the air conditioning		
	system is appropriately controlled.		
Coi	mpressed Air System (if applicable)		
>	Install properly sized air receivers to minimise pressure demand fluctuations.		

		Yes	No
>	Properly distribute pipework arrangement (proper sizing and good		
	positioning of compressors) for the compressed air system.		
>	Employ high efficiency motors for compressors.		
>	Install heat recovery system for compressors (e.g. heat exchanger at		
	lubricant cooler to produce hot water).		
Ste	eam System (If applicable)		
>	Use clean fuel such as LPG or petroleum.		
>	Employ computer control system to optimise boiler usage.		
>	Install sequential boiler control (if more than one boiler is used in the		
	premises)		
>	Install feed-water treatment devices to reduce scale deposits and minimise		
	boiler blowdown (e.g. softeners, decarbonation, demineralisation and de-		
	aeration)		
>	Install automated blowdown control system with Total Dissolved Solids		
	(TDS) monitoring and control for boiler to minimise boiler blowdown.		
>	Recover heat from the boiler blowdown.		
>	Pre-heating feedwater using waste heat / economiser.		
Wa	ter Conservation and Wastewater Control		
>	Monitor water usage to identify unnecessary waste and abuse, then reduce		
	resource consumption and cost.		
\	Collect rainwater for irrigation / cleaning.		
\triangleright	Provide information and / or training to staff on wastewater management		
	facilities.		
	Collect and treat wastewater for reuse.		
	Install flow restrictors and automatic shut-off systems to reduce water use.		
	Select plumbing fixtures and water-consuming devices with Grade 1 Water		
	Efficiency Label		
	Remind employees to always turn off faucets completely after use and report		
	any leakage.		
>	Establish a monitoring and maintenance programme to ensure that water		
	pipes are in good working condition.		
>	Irrigate plants in the morning or evening.		
>	Use environmentally friendly cleaning products.		
>	Treat wastewater regularly to ensure compliance with legal requirements.		
>	Maintain and monitor wastewater treatment facilities (if any) regularly.		
	Conduct water footprint audit.		
Wa	aste Management		
>	Adopt reusable carriers for goods distribution.		

-		Yes	No
A	Conduct waste audits to review the types and quantities of waste generated		
	and define waste reduction target(s).		
>	Use boxes provided by suppliers to store items or transport goods to		
	customers.		
>	Encourage staff to recycle and reuse if possible.		
>	Use products and materials with reduced packaging and / or encourage		
	manufacturers to reuse or recycle their original packaging materials.		
\triangleright	Ensure that general refuse is stored in waste skips and garbage bins with		
	proper covers.		
\triangleright	Provide recycling bins for paper, metals and plastics if the volumes are large		
	enough to warrant such collection.		
>	Streamline operation procedures and eliminate unnecessary forms and		
	records.		
	Promote the use of electronic receipts instead of printed receipts.		
>	Avoid distributing excessive promotional leaflets.		
>	Avoid photocopying received fax documents unless necessary.		
>	Use double-sided photocopying.		
>	Reuse envelopes by affixing new labels or using other methods.		
>	Use shredded paper for packaging purposes.		
>	Purchase refillable pens and rechargeable batteries to reduce waste.		
>	Encourage the use of E-mail for both internal and external communication.		
	Use of e-filing, e-tendering, e-fax system, and paper-less purchasing.		
\triangleright	Minimise the use of tape and strapping when sealing packages.		
\triangleright	Choose properly-sized packages and avoid fillers in packaging.		
>	Avoid breakage or spillage of materials to minimise wastage.		
>	Keep reusable cloth rags on hand to wipe up spills.		
>	Choose solar-powered appliances to avoid battery disposal.		
>	Encourage employee to use reusable containers, dishes, cups and coffee		
	filters in the pantry / canteen if available.		
>	Reduce leftovers or install proper food waste handling facilities		
>	Use refillable containers for cleaning products.		
>	Replace raw materials by eco-friendly (recycled or non-toxic or less toxic		
	than existing) materials with longer service time.		
>	Modify working procedures, process record keeping, machine-operating		
	instructions of production equipment and utilities in order to run the		
	processes at higher efficiency with less waste generated.		

_		Yes	No
\wedge	Modify the waste generation process so that the waste produced can be		
	transformed to a material that can be reused or recycled for other		
	applications within or outside the premises.		
A	Return used products, corrugated cardboard, paper boxes, plastic		
	containers, wooden pallets and shrink-wrap to suppliers if possible.		
A	Educate cleaning staff on waste sorting as well as proper and clean recycling.		
A	Reduce the use / reuse festive or promotional decorations.		
A	Avoid the use of bottled water and unnecessary decorations / souvenirs at		
	official events.		
Но	usekeeping		
	Establish an orderly and clean working environment.		
>	Use the 'First-In-First-Out' principle to avoid expiry of materials.		
>	Post signs to inform site workers about good practices for handling and		
	storage materials.		
	Assign dedicated areas on site for storage of materials. Signage indicating		
	the storage of potentially harmful materials should also be displayed in		
	these areas.		
\wedge	Employ a licensed chemical waste collector to collect and dispose of		
	chemical wastes.		
λ	Ensure that chemical wastes generated are properly labelled, packaged and		
	temporarily stored in a designated chemical waste storage area.		
A	List items that have potential environmental impacts.		
\triangleright	Ensure that storage is in accordance with the Environmental Protection		
	Department's Code of Practice on the Packaging, Handling and Storage of		
	Chemicals.		
>	Store potentially harmful materials in containment to avoid spillage and		
	minimise contaminated rainwater run-off.		
	Keep an inventory of all products stored on-site. This is particularly		
	important for products with potential harm to people and the environment.		
	Exercise procedures during the handling and storage of potentially harmful		
	substances to prevent leakage to the environment.		
No	ise and Vibration Control		
>	Avoid noisy activities at restricted hours (weekdays: 19:00-07:00 and		
	holidays: whole day).		
>	Avoid simultaneous operation of several noisy activities close to a receiver		
	to reduce cumulative impacts.		
>	Use appropriate noise propagation measures (e.g. noise barriers, partial		
	enclosures at sources, full enclosures with sufficient ventilation).		

_		Yes	No
	Maintain noise barriers and enclosures properly to ensure that they are free		
	of gaps.		
	Reduce noise by modification of workflow.		
\triangleright	Isolate noisy work facilities.		
\triangleright	Schedule noisy activities at appropriate times to minimise nuisance.		
>	Maintain equipment and machinery regularly to reduce noise.		
>	Mount vibrating machinery on vibration isolators or on separate		
	foundations.		
>	Isolate or reduce the vibration of vibrating surfaces or apply damping		
	materials to machinery.		
Air	Pollution / Indoor Air Quality / Odour Control		-
>	Cover materials transported by vehicles, with the cover properly secured and		
	extended over the edges of the side and tailboards.		
>	Inspect vehicles regularly to ensure that exhaust emissions are not causing		
	nuisance, such as dark smoke emission.		
>	Ensure that vehicle engines are turned off when they are not in use.		
>	Consider the use of low emission products and materials.		
>	Conduct regular inspection to ensure that there is sufficient fresh air within		
	the premises / office / warehouse.		
	Ensure that the source of fresh air intake for the office/warehouse is not		
	located near outdoor air pollution sources.		
	Clean air outlets, ducts, filters and cooling coils in the air-conditioning		
	system regularly.		
>	Place air emitting processes / equipment / machineries in properly		
	ventilated areas and provide treatment to the exhaust if necessary.		
>	Locate odour generating sources (e.g. wastewater treatment facilities) away		
	from employees or install odour control devices.		
	Instruct contractors to use materials with low volatile organic compound		
	(VOCs) content.		
	Use eco-friendly / ozone-friendly refrigerators, air-conditioners and chiller		
	equipment.		
	Use electric forklifts in the warehouse (where applicable) to avoid emissions		
	of pollutants.		
	Grow plants in the office.		
	Regularly clean carpets and upholstered furniture.		
>	Place photocopiers and laser printers in well-ventilated areas.		
	Encourage the transportation of goods during off-peak hours.		

 Report any external air pollution sources that cause nuisances to the Environmental Protection Department. Purchase products that are reusable, recyclable and contain fewer toxins (e.g recycled paper, recycled toner cartridges). Establish a guiding policy that favours staff to purchase environmentally friendly products. Encourage staff to conduct simple research on items that are used frequently or in large quantities to find more environmentally friendly alternatives. Encourage staff to examine the possibility of repairing items instead or purchasing new ones. 	<u> </u>	
 Green Procurement ➤ Purchase products that are reusable, recyclable and contain fewer toxins (e.g recycled paper, recycled toner cartridges). ➤ Establish a guiding policy that favours staff to purchase environmentally friendly products. ➤ Encourage staff to conduct simple research on items that are used frequently or in large quantities to find more environmentally friendly alternatives. ➤ Encourage staff to examine the possibility of repairing items instead or 	<i>=</i>	
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Encourage staff to examine the possibility of repairing items instead or	у	
purchasing new ones.	of \Box	
Encourage staff to suggest products that are known to be more	e 🗖	
environmentally friendly.		
Encourage ethical purchasing (the practice of avoiding products that would	d 🗖	
bring adverse effect to the ecosystem).		
Buy goods in bulk quantities to avoid wastage.		
Avoid purchasing disposable items.		
Support the purchase of products with environmentally friendly logos or	r 🗆	
eco-labels.		
Adopt green menus at official events.		

PARTNER SYNERGY

		Yes	No
Co	mmunication and Motivation		
Inf	luence your Suppliers / Contractors		_
\triangleright	Encourage suppliers to use recyclable / biodegradable packaging materials.		
>	Inform suppliers of your environmental / sustainability / ESG policy and		
	provide them with a mission statement.		
>	Work with suppliers to identify environmentally friendly products to		
	substitute those less eco-friendly items.		
	Encourage suppliers to provide documentation that guarantees the		
	"environmentally friendly" authenticity of the products.		
\triangleright	Work with suppliers to identify environmentally friendly products to		
	substitute those less friendly in the operations.		
>	Encourage suppliers to use alternative fuel vehicles or low carbon route for		
	the transportation of products.		
	Adopt green specification in tendering to select suppliers offering		
	sustainable green products.		

_		Yes	No
λ	Give preference to environmentally friendly products or environmentally		
	responsible suppliers / contractors.		
	Invite suppliers to participate in community support programmes or		
	environmental partnership programme(s).		
Infi	luence your Customers		
>	Work with customers to deliver products together, rather than in smaller		
	quantities.		
>	Label products that are made of recycled / reusable materials or are not		
	harmful to the environment.		
>	Provide customers with incentives to purchase environmentally friendly		
	products by offering discounts.		
>	Encourage customers to share their comments and suggest them to		
	purchase products that are more environmentally friendly.		
>	Encourage customers to choose products / materials that have incorporated		
	green considerations.		
>	Organise environmental activities for customers.		
Infi	luence on the Community		
>	Share experiences in setting up environmental programme with the		
	community.		
>	Identify your impact to the society and communicate the impact with the		
	community.		
>	Get involved in and support local environmental initiatives (e.g. community		
	recycling programmes).		
>	Set up donation boxes and give proceeds to local environmental charities.		
>	Report your environmental achievements in newsletters, magazines and		
	other publications.		
>	Apply for relevant awards or labels to gain formalised recognition for your		
	efforts.		
>	Publish environmental / sustainability / ESG report to communicate your		
	performance with stakeholders.		
>	Collaborate with other parties to promote environmental protection.		
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<u>Appendix 2 – Highlights of Best Practices for the Environmental</u> Industry Sector (for SMEs)

- Secure top management (e.g. Board of Directors) commitment and involvement in environmental protection as they are vital for the successful implementation of environmental initiatives.
- Establish Environmental Management System (e.g. ISO 14001) to effectively manage the significant environmental aspects in the operation and reduce the impact to the environment.
- Implement the concept of a "Green Office" and align business strategies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, systematically managing the company's environmental affairs.
- Establish Energy Management System (e.g. ISO 50001) to effectively manage the energy consumption and energy efficiency.
- Allocate sufficient resources (e.g. budget for donations and sponsorships) for environmental programme implementation and establish environmental communication channels both internally and externally.
- Establish an Environmental Management Taskforce to have regular meetings and coordinate environmental programmes and respond to environmental issues within operation.
- Set annual targets for energy saving, water conservation, and waste reduction to conserve resources and minimize waste. Record relevant data for analysis to facilitate improvements.
- Develop environmental initiatives and use electronic means to plan and promote corresponding projects and activities, with regular reviews of progress.
- Assign designated personnel to conduct site inspections on a regular basis to ensure the implementation of environmental measures, and review environmental performance including consumption of electricity, water and paper and recyclables collected.
- Establish an incentive programme to encourage staff to propose environmental initiatives, participate in environmental activities, or achieve environmental goals (e.g. reducing energy use).
- Provide appropriate levels of environmental training for all employees, such as seminars, conferences, workshops, and field trips. Topics include but are not limited to waste management, energy efficiency, green office practices, and green leadership in order to enhance their environmental awareness.

- Participate in international / regional green recognition schemes such as the Wastewi\$e, Energywi\$e, IAQwi\$e, and Carbon Reduction Certificates of the Hong Kong Green Organisation Certification. In particular, manufacturing and industrial services companies may also participate in cross-boundary schemes such as Hong Kong Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners Recognition Scheme, Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme, BOCHK Corporate Low-Carbon Environmental Leadership Awards Programme, etc. In addition, they may participate in some sector specific schemes such as the Considerate Contractor Site Award Scheme, Green Contractor Award Scheme.
- Encourage staff to participate in green activities to develop green lifestyle habits (e.g. avoid using single-use plastics).
- Establish a green corner or green notice board in the office / on the site and in the warehouse to post various topics related to environmental protection.
- Carry out energy and carbon audit to identify areas for improvement and implement practical energy saving measures in the operations.
- Control the use of raw materials at the source to reduce waste generation, such as strictly controlling the use of packaging materials.
- Y Set up collection points to collect recyclables and facilitate waste separation at source.
- Develop solutions to reuse or upcycle materials generated within daily operation (e.g. reuse wastepaper for packaging fillers, upcycle packing from received goods as storage containers, upcycle plastic bottles into flowerpots).
- Adopt the following measures to reduce paper consumption:
 - Use electronic quotations and invoices;
 - o Implement "paperless meetings", encouraging employees to use personal computers or other electronic devices for presentations and discussions during daily meetings; and
 - Use electronic platforms for training or surveys.
- ▼ Implement the following energy-saving measures:
 - Use energy-efficient lighting (e.g. LED lights);
 - Remove unnecessary lighting fixtures;
 - Use equipment with Grade 1 or 2 energy labels from the Electrical and Mechanical Services
 Department or equivalent energy efficiency; and
 - Adopt a demand management system, programming control for lighting and air conditioning systems to avoid excessive use during non-business hours.

- Adopt the following energy saving measures for machinery operation where possible:
 - Install energy saving devices in some existing motor driven equipment and machines, such as frequency inverter for air compressors or plastic injection machines, variable speed drive for water pumps;
 - o install timers to reduce standby power consumption;
 - Use electrical appliances with Energy Efficiency Labels; and
 - o Install a heat exchange system for boilers or dryers to recover excess heat for reuse.
- Prioritise the use of local materials to reduce carbon emissions during transportation.
- Treat and reuse grey water for the manufacturing processes such as cleaning and cooling.
- Recycle wastewater from any washing or cleaning activities to enhance water saving.
- Install rainwater harvesting tank to collect rainwater for gardening, machine cooling or floor washing.
- Purchase air purifiers to maintain indoor air quality level and install filters on air vents and clean them regularly for particle control.
- Install shock absorbing pads for large scale machineries to reduce vibration as well as noise generated during operation.
- Publish and share company's green initiatives and achievements in website, annual report, sustainability report, corporate responsibility report and public forum.
- Establish effective channels to communicate site environmental issues with the community.
- Deploy vehicles with lower greenhouse gases emission (e.g. Euro-VI or above). Adopt electric vehicle or hybrid vehicle to reduce direct emission (if applicable).
- Y Stop providing bottled water and use reusable cups and utensils at events / meetings.
- Provide incentives or rewards to customers / business partners who participate in the company's environmental activities.
- Work closely with clients to plan and implement environmental initiatives during the design stage of the projects or products. For example, incorporate environmentally friendly materials into the design of projects or products.

- Require potential suppliers / sub-contractors to fill in evaluation forms with the purpose to review their environmental performance during the vendor selection process.
- Communicate the company's environmental policy and missions to suppliers, working with them to select suitable environmentally friendly products to replace existing ones and prioritise environmentally friendly products or suppliers / contractors with excellent environmental performance.
- Regularly communicate with customers and suppliers about the company's environmental measures and plans and seek their feedback.
- Liaise with suppliers / contractors to develop environmental initiatives in pursuit of best practices (e.g. reduce and reuse packaging materials for product delivery) as well as provide support for up-stream suppliers to improve their overall environmental performance.
- Collaborate and share experience with other industry players or trade associations on the implementation of environmental programmes and activities.
- Motivate staff members and stakeholders to support and participate in various community activities (e.g. tree planting, beach clean-up, barters, carbon reduction programmes and biodiversity conservation programmes, etc.).