

Buildings Department Environmental Report

2022



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We are pleased to introduce the Environmental Report 2022 of the Buildings Department (BD) which aims to share with stakeholders our vision, commitment, and achievements in supporting the development of a quality and sustainable built environment for Hong Kong.

Being a government department responsible for developing and enforcing building standards, BD is committed to facilitating the development and construction process while promoting building safety, health and environmental performance of private buildings. In 2022, BD spared no effort in discharging our duties soon after we gradually resumed our life back to pre-pandemic normalcy. During the year, we launched new systems and implemented new measures to enhance our public services in building control and promote sustainability of the built environment.

To facilitate preparation and processing of submissions under the Buildings Ordinance (BO) (Cap. 123) and to promote a more green environment, BD is developing an Electronic Submission Hub (ESH) which offers an alternative means to the paper-based submissions. ESH is a web-based collaborative platform for project team members to prepare, amend and submit plans online, round the clock (excluding scheduled maintenance and unexpected downtime) which is being implemented in three stages. Stage 1 of ESH was launched on 30 June 2022 to accept structural plan submissions for building works above ground not requiring cross-departmental referral (excluding alteration and addition works), and Stages 2 and 3 of ESH are targeted to be advanced to Q1 2023 and Q2 2024 respectively. In parallel with the development of ESH, BD is working with the Lands Department (LandsD) to develop a plug-in tool for automatic checking of floor areas against the requirements of the BO in order to promote wider and fuller adoption of Building Information Modelling (BIM) and encourage electronic submissions.

To promote high productivity construction and minimise construction and demolition wastes, more incentives were provided by granting gross floor area (GFA) and site coverage (SC) concessions to facilitate the industry in adopting modular integrated construction (MiC). The



enhanced facilitation measures were promulgated in Joint Practice Note (JPN) No. 8 jointly issued by BD, LandsD and the Planning Department (PlanD) in July 2022.

Regarding the safety of our existing buildings, to facilitate building owners to appoint suitable qualified persons (QP) for early compliance with the Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) notices, a new mobile application – “WIN SAFE” was launched in August 2022.

In view of the growing demand for recycling facilities, BD introduced an alternative approach for developers to provide refuse storage and material recovery facilities in new building developments. The new approach was introduced in December 2022.

To enhance the energy performance of residential buildings for a more environmentally friendly and sustainable built environment, the Residential Thermal Transfer Value (RTTV) standards were tightened up in February 2022 and came into effect by the end of the year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our staff and external partners for their contributions and support during the year. Together, we look forward to cultivating a sustainable building culture in Hong Kong.

Ms YU Po-mei, Clarice, JP
Director of Buildings

SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

1.1. Our Approach

Our Vision: To make the built environment safe and healthy for our community.

Our Mission: To set and enforce safety, health and environmental standards for private buildings.

Our Culture: To go the extra mile in serving our customers and the community in general.

BD is committed to promoting building safety, developing and enforcing safety, health and environmental standards for private buildings, striving to improve the quality and sustainability of our built environment. We firmly uphold core responsibilities under the remit of the BO, as well as playing an active role in supporting relevant initiatives and policies of the Government.

1.2. Management Commitment

BD endeavours to cultivate a sustainable culture within and beyond the organisation through a robust sustainability management mechanism with an aim to support the Government's sustainability agenda. The Director of Buildings and the senior management members of BD, including a Deputy Director and six Assistant Directors, are responsible for decision-making on important policies including those relating to economic, social, environmental and sustainability aspects.

The approach of collaboration and harmonisation is well embedded in BD's management mechanism which drives our implementation of sustainability-related programmes. The senior management regularly reviews existing policies as well as social and environmental performance to identify potential impacts on sustainability-related matters, through maintaining active communication with different stakeholders.

We have joined the Hong Kong Green Building Council as an Associate Member since 2010 and have been taking part in its Committee work to promote environmental performance assessment.

SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is our strategy to set out our statutory requirements as well as administrative guidelines to support the development of a sustainable built environment and to facilitate the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings with a view to providing a quality living and built environment for both the present and future generations of Hong Kong.

2.1 Modernising Building Design Standards

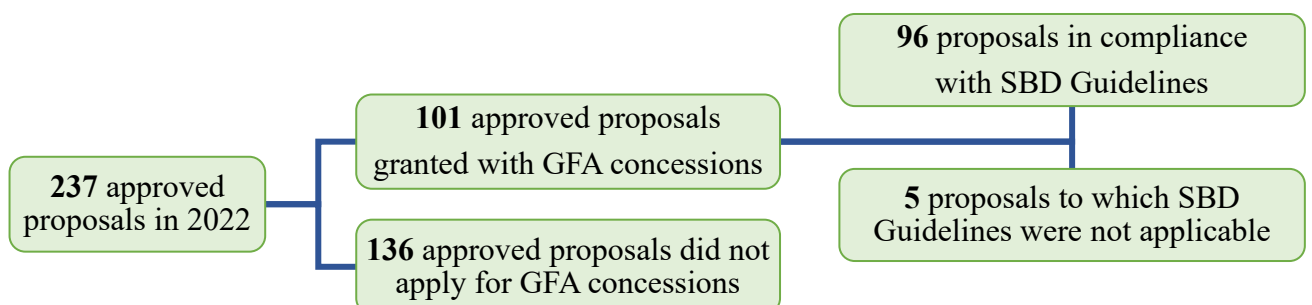
As an ongoing initiative of enhancing sustainable development, we continue to review and propose revisions of building standards when necessary to implement a performance-based building control system and enhance the standards on the design and construction of buildings and associated works under the BO.


Targets	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Review of the Building (Planning) Regulations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The review to convert the prescriptive requirements into performance based standards was ongoing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Review of the Building (Standards of Sanitary Fitments, Plumbing, Drainage Works and Latrines) Regulations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The second stage of legislative amendment arising from the review was targeted to be submitted to the Legislative Council in 2023.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Formulation of a Code of Practice on Seismic-resistant Design Standards for Buildings in Hong Kong (Seismic Code)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The formulation of the Seismic Code, which would provide technical guidance for the design and construction of seismic-resistant buildings, was underway. If necessary, legislative amendment would be proposed to support the implementation of the Code.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Review of Building Energy Efficiency requirements</i> <p>To review the RTTV and Overall Thermal Transfer Value (OTTV) in accordance with the “Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong’s Built Environment 2015~2025+”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The RTTV standards were reviewed and tightened up in February 2022 and the next review would be completed by 2030. ◆ The OTTV standards were reviewed and tightened up in August 2019 and we would complete the next review on OTTV before 2025.

2.2. Promoting Green and Sustainable Building Developments

Since 2001, BD has been working with PlanD and LandsD to offer incentives for developers to adopt green features in new building developments, with an aim to improving the environmental performance of buildings and promoting quality living environment.

Targets	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promulgating sustainable practices <p>To update current/issue new Practice Notes for Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers (PNAP) for promulgating building design guidelines to improve the standards of living environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Revised RTTV standards were promulgated via the revised PNAP APP-156 issued in February 2022. ◆ Enhanced facilitation measures for promoting new buildings adopting MiC were promulgated via the new JPN No. 8 issued by BD, PlanD and LandsD in July 2022. ◆ Catering for the increasing demand for recycling services and spaces, an alternative provision of a refuse storage room on each floor together with a centralised recycling corner, instead of the current requirement for a refuse storage and material recovery room on each floor in new building developments would be favourably considered by BD subject to compliance with the requirements set out in the revised PNAP APP-35 issued in December 2022.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promoting sustainable building design <p>To implement the GFA concession policy under PNAP APP-151 and the Sustainable Building Design Guidelines (SBD Guidelines) to promote building separation, building setback and SC of greenery of buildings as promulgated in PNAP APP-152.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Under the GFA concession policy, complying with the SBD Guidelines was one of the prerequisites for granting GFA concessions for green/amenity features and non-mandatory/non-essential plant rooms and services in building projects. A maximum concession is set at 10% of the total GFA of the development.



Targets	Performance in 2022
<p>● <i>Participating in Building Environment Assessment</i></p> <p>(a) To support the adoption of Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus.</p> <p>(b) To review the GFA concession mechanism and consider possible measures to tighten the prerequisites for application for GFA concession.</p> 	<p>◆ There were 101 building proposals registered for the BEAM Plus certification in 2022, amounting to nearly 43% of the proposals approved in the year.</p> <p>◆ Following the Policy Address in January 2017, we commissioned a consultancy study to review the GFA concession mechanism. While maintaining the 10% for GFA concession for new private development projects, the Consultant recommended that new projects would have to achieve a specific rating under the BEAM Plus in order to apply for GFA concession. If a project could only achieve a lower rating, it had to demonstrate compliance with one or more new specific standards which could promote a quality built environment. We continued to communicate with stakeholders to prepare for implementing the new GFA concession mechanism.</p>

2.3. Facilitating Conservation of Built Heritage

Conservation of built heritage is of paramount importance to showcase the historical and cultural landscape of our city. With an aim to protecting and revitalising them, BD actively engages with various government departments and stakeholders in the community to revitalise and conserve heritage buildings.

Target	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Enhancing heritage conservation</i> (a) To support historic buildings conservation and revitalisation without compromising building safety and health requirements. (b) To provide professional technical advisory and pre-submission enquiry services by our Heritage Unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The 2021 Edition of the "Practice Guidebook for Adaptive Re-use of and Alteration and Addition Works to Heritage Buildings 2012" (the Practice Guidebook) was issued to provide guidance on reusing historic buildings and project highlights. ◆ To keep the Practice Guidebook up to date, the Technical Committee on Building Safety and Health Requirements for Historic Buildings under the BO organised regular meetings to collect users' feedback on the Practice Guidebook for future refinement and to share experience on successful revitalisation projects.



17 Yuk Sau Street



CLP Clock Tower

2.4. Reducing Construction and Demolition Wastes

BD remains steadfast in collaborating with stakeholders to reduce construction and demolition wastes by reviewing and promoting environmentally friendly construction methods. We made continuous effort to improve current building designs and construction practices by encouraging more extensive application of precast concrete construction.

Target	Performance in 2022
<p>● Minimising construction and demolition wastes</p> <p>To encourage wider adoption of MiC technology in Hong Kong.</p>  <p>Kong Ha Wai Transitional Housing Project</p>  <p>Luen Yan Street Transitional Housing Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The pre-acceptance mechanism for granting in-principle acceptance (IPA) to individual MiC systems or components had been in place since 2017. ◆ The GFA concession to allow certain percentage of the MiC floor area to be exempted from GFA of new building developments was reviewed and increased from 6% to 10% in July 2022. The granting of SC concession was announced in parallel that 10% of the MiC floor area at each floor level could be exempted from SC calculation. ◆ In view of the stepped-up cross-boundary control as one of the anti-epidemic measures against COVID-19, BD had been adopting a pragmatic and flexible approach to accept certain supervisory personnel to employ video telephony in conducting supervision for factory production of MiC modules instead of visiting the factory in the Mainland since February 2020. The arrangement was rationalised in the revised PNAP ADV-36 issued in April 2022 after conducting a review. ◆ By 31 December 2022, BD had received 149 IPA applications, with 72 IPA granted, including 45 steel and 27 concrete systems and involving 42 MiC manufacturers which had been included in BD’s List of Accepted MiC Systems. 8 private MiC development projects had been completed.

2.5. Proper Use and Timely Maintenance of Existing Buildings

Ensuring building safety and health is an important part of our services. We continue to promote the importance of environmental hygiene, reduce the risks brought about by unauthorised building works (UBWs), promote fire safety, proper maintenance of old buildings, drainage and slopes, as well as tackling problems relating to building neglect and dilapidation.

Targets	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tackling UBWs and rectifying building dilapidation <p>To continue the clearance of UBWs, including unauthorised signboards, structures on rooftops, podiums, lanes and yards and those in New Territories Exempted Houses (NTEH), in target buildings by taking enforcement actions through large scale operations (LSO); and to rectify identified building dilapidations, to improve building safety.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ No. of removal orders issued in 2022: 16 308 ◆ No. of UBWs removed and irregularities rectified: 25 239 ◆ No. of repair/investigation orders issued: 5 702 ◆ No. of buildings/premises repaired: 4 164

UBWs Clearance Operations in 2022

Unauthorised Signboards

- 2 255 unauthorised signboards removed/validated
- 1 750 abandoned/dangerous signboards removed/repaired
- 25 signboards validated under the Signboard Validation Scheme

Unauthorised Structures on Rooftops

- 87 target domestic/composite buildings selected
- 2 112 removal orders and 9 repair/investigation orders issued
- 505 removal orders and 1 repair order complied with

UBWs in NTEHs

- 1 264 removal orders and 2 repair/investigation orders issued
- 1 027 UBWs removed/irregularities rectified
- 2 buildings/premises repaired

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inspection of subdivided flats (SDF) <p>To take enforcement actions against building irregularities associated with SDF in domestic, composite and industrial buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 100 target buildings selected under LSO ◆ 1 656 SDF inspected in response to reports and through LSO ◆ 501 SDF rectified of irregularities
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Targets	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Tackling water seepage problems in buildings</i> <p>To continue the operation of the Joint Office with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department in handling public reports on water seepage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The application of new testing methods including infrared thermography and microwave tomography in carrying out professional investigations for water seepage cases was extended to 12 pilot districts. ◆ With the use of new testing methods in pilot districts, the success rate in identifying water source of cases was about 62%, which was higher than the success rate of around 41% for cases using the conventional methods.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Mandatory Building and Window Inspection Schemes</i> <p>To continue the implementation of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) and enhance support to the owners and stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 560 buildings were selected for both MBIS and MWIS, while 47 buildings were selected for MBIS only and 77 buildings were selected for MWIS only. ◆ 16 briefing sessions were conducted for building owners, owners' corporations and the industry. ◆ 11 briefing sessions were conducted for the "Central Platform on Building Management" organised by the Home Affairs Department.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Building fire safety</i> <p>To improve the existing fire safety measures in prescribed commercial premises, as well as pre-1987 commercial buildings, composite buildings and industrial buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ BD carried out inspections and took necessary enforcement actions in accordance with the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and Fire Safety (Industrial Buildings) Ordinance. ◆ In 2022, BD inspected 536 premises and buildings, and issued 5 757 fire safety directions or fire safety improvement directions.


Targets	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Special scheme to inspect external drainage system</i> <p>To inspect external drainage systems of some 18 000 private residential and composite buildings exceeding three storeys and to take enforcement actions to require repair of the defective drainage systems in view of the heightening concern about the condition of drainage pipes under the COVID-19 epidemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All target buildings had been inspected by the end of 2022.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Stepping up clearance of outstanding drainage repair orders covering misconnection of drain pipes causing hygiene and environmental pollution problems</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dedicated teams were set up for the operation. ◆ All advisory letters had been dealt with by the end of 2021. ◆ 125 orders complied with in 2022.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Commission of pilot project for drainage inspection using advanced technologies</i> <p>To carry out site inspections for external drainage systems by cable robot and drone with the application of artificial intelligence (AI) by consultant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inspection on external drainage system for 5 buildings were completed and inspection reports were endorsed in March 2022. Experience and performance of AI on identifying defective drains through examining images were consolidated for future reference.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL STRATEGY


It is our belief that the success of moving towards sustainability depends upon the firm commitment and participation across the community.

3.1. Educating and Engaging the Public on Sustainability

Engaging stakeholders and the public is an indispensable part of enhancing awareness of building safety and fostering a building care culture. To this end, we are committed to raising public awareness by launching different community educational activities.

Targets	Performance in 2022
<p>(a) To promote and publicise initiatives of the department to the public and educate the general public and the stakeholders in the building/construction fields on the importance of building safety and timely maintenance of buildings.</p>	<p>Building Safety Week</p> <p>◆ The Building Safety Week 2022 was successfully held from 22 to 28 October that comprised a series of public webinars to help members of the public better understand building safety messages and foster a building care culture. The Building Safety Symposium themed “Innovation and Technologies for Building Safety” provided a good opportunity for the industry to exchange ideas and their views on building safety issues.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Building Safety Symposium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of guests for Building Safety Symposium: 607 • No. of participants for Open day cum Public Seminars: 864

Targets	Performance in 2022
	<p>Building Safety Advanced Certificate Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The two-day Building Safety Advanced Certificate Course which was tailor-made for those who had completed the Building Safety Certificate Course, was held on 3 and 10 December. Participants had an in-depth exploration of building safety on the related topics to reinforce their building care awareness. <p>No. of attendees: 112 Overall satisfaction rate: 100%</p>
	<p>Building Safety Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A total of 11 sessions of Building Safety Webinar and 6 Building Safety Talks were organised for the general public, educational sector, building owners and the industry throughout the year.
	<p>Building Safety Pioneer Programme and Video-making Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promoted building safety to students of 15 secondary schools through online activities. ◆ Students were invited to participate in the video-making competition by making a 30-second short video to present and incorporate what they had learnt about the subject of healthy drainage, UBWs or MBIS and MWIS.
	<p>Online Video</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A series of “Flat Check” online videos had been launched in BD’s social media platforms since 23 August 2022 to promote building safety by drawing public awareness on Minor Works Control System, alteration of drainage works and illegal structures on rooftops, podium and in yards and lanes.

Targets	Performance in 2022
	<p>Banners and posters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To enhance public awareness of the importance of regular inspection and maintenance of private buildings, we displayed banners of the theme on various digital and outdoor advertising platforms. ◆ To promote the launch of mobile application “WIN SAFE”, which would facilitate building owners to search for and appoint suitable QP, banners and posters of the theme were displayed on various digital and outdoor advertising platforms. ◆ We continued to promote BD’s enforcement actions against UBWs in NTEH, regular building inspection and window safety and voluntary inspection of windows through minibus banners.
	<p>Periodic Publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Building Safety Quarterly Newsletters covering topics on building safety, with reminders for practitioners and updates of building safety activities were published. ◆ Monthly Digest provided statistical data on BD’s building control output under the BO.
<p>(b) To promote and publicise building safety information to the public and younger people through electronic means to reduce the printing of pamphlets and leaflets.</p>	<p>Broadcasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A new TV Announcement in the Public Interest (API) to enhance public awareness of the implementation of MBIS was launched in May 2022. The API would enable the general public to better understand the operation of MBIS and encourage owners to arrange voluntary regular inspection and repair of their buildings in accordance with the standards and procedures of MBIS even in the absence of any statutory notice served by BD. The API was played at Mass Transit Railway stations and train compartments, bus stops and online media platforms. A corresponding radio API was broadcasted on local radio channels.

Targets	Performance in 2022
	<p>E-Learning Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Our digital learning platform, the E-Learning Centre, continued to disseminate useful information to enhance building safety awareness among property owners, owners' corporations, representatives of property management companies and the public. In 2022, a total of 55 videos were uploaded to the E-Learning Centre.
	<p>Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ BD maintained a Facebook page, an Instagram account and a YouTube channel, in order to share the latest event updates and safety tips in a more efficient way. ◆ Annual Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of Facebook followers: 22 269 • No. of Instagram followers: 3 598 • No. of YouTube subscribers: 2 513 • No. of posts on Facebook: 170 • No. of posts on Instagram: 154 • No. of videos on YouTube: 81 • No. of likes on Facebook: 17 926 • No. of likes on Instagram: 13 763 • No. of likes on YouTube: 1 156 • No. of views on YouTube: 2 357 721

3.2. Training our Staff

Our training and development programmes place great emphasis on equipping our staff to understand and actively play their roles in promoting and facilitating sustainable building developments.

Target	Performance in 2022
To provide trainings related to green building and sustainability to staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 75 seminars and conferences and 12 site visits on building sustainability were arranged for 1 446 staff. ◆ 141 staff attended BEAM Pro Training to support green building developments. ◆ 20 BIM lessons were arranged for 315 staff to get prepared for wider use of BIM in building industry.

GREEN OFFICE

It is our continuous target to ensure effective implementation of in-house green measures in all our offices, and to increase the awareness of our staff on green office management. We take a proactive approach in resource conservation and energy saving to achieve sustainable development. In recognition of our excellence in environmental management, we clinched a Certificate of Merit under the Public and Community Services Sector in the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence.

4.1 Improving Air Quality

In November 2006, the Government signed the Clean Air Charter launched by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment, to join forces with the business sector and the community to foster the improvement of air quality in Hong Kong.




Commitments	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To actively fulfil our commitment under the “Clean Air Charter”</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ BD had joined the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme since 2011. ◆ Our Headquarters at West Kowloon Government Offices (WKGO) was certified with “Excellent” IAQ Class. ◆ Our outstation offices in Taikoo Shing and Kwun Tong were certified with “Good” IAQ Class.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To adopt energy-efficient measures in our operations</i> 	<p>Reducing Carbon Emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The source of energy and fuel consumption related to our operation included the use of electricity and vehicle fleet which generated direct and indirect greenhouse gas. ◆ The electricity consumption of WKGO and BD outstation offices including storerooms were 3 030 216 kWh and 1 108 189 kWh respectively. ◆ We had been adopting a multi-faceted approach to minimise fuel consumption by encouraging online communication, planning business trips, and replacing traditional vehicles with electric vehicles (EVs). BD operated a fleet of 39 vehicles, out of which 7 were EVs, and 1 was hybrid electric car.

Commitments	Performance in 2022
	<p style="color: #0070C0;">Increasing Energy Efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintained air-conditioning at 25.5°C ◆ Adopted multi-zone lighting control ◆ Chose electrical devices and equipment with higher rating energy saving labels ◆ Maintained installation of motion sensors if applicable <p style="color: #0070C0;">Minimising Energy Wastage and Loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Set time control and stand-by-mode for appliances ◆ Appointed 61 Energy Wardens to arrange for the last-man-out to switch off lighting and devices at the end of the day and conduct walk-through quarterly <p style="color: #0070C0;">Building Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Displayed “Energy Saving” stickers to remind staff to turn off unnecessary appliances when not in use ◆ Encouraged using staircases instead of elevators for inter-floor traffic within offices


4.2 Moving towards a Paperless Office

We are taking advantage of the information technology to move towards a paperless office by introducing computerised management systems and encouraging communication within the workplace and with our stakeholders and public via electronic means.

Targets	Performance in 2022
<p><u>On public front</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>To disseminate information to the public via the BD’s website and other electronic means</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The BD’s website continued to provide information on the functions and services of the Department. ◆ We launched e-search for public to identify the issuance and compliance status of statutory orders and set up Corner for AP, RSE, RGE, RI and RC in BD’s website to facilitate them to keep abreast of the updated requirements. ◆ Legal/Validated Signboards Database was established in Government’s GeoInfo Map for identification of legal or validated signboards. BD continued to update the information of such signboards in the database regularly.

Targets	Performance in 2022
<p data-bbox="331 315 528 443">Know more about building/window inspection</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A Chatbot - “Ah Build” continued to answer general enquiries from the public about the MBIS and MWIS. ◆ We continued to send notifications to all registered professionals and contractors via email and/or Short Message Service to reduce the use of paper and enhance the effectiveness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>To develop and launch mobile applications for the general public to have a quick and easy communication platform to access information</i>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ With the use of two mobile applications, “Quick Guide for Minor Works” and “Quick Guide for MBIS/MWIS”, which provided a quick and easy means for the public to view useful information, users could carry out minor works under MWCS, inspection and repair works under MBIS and MWIS easily and effectively. ◆ A new mobile application – “WIN SAFE” was launched in August 2022 to facilitate property owners to appoint QPs for early compliance of the MWIS notices so as to ensure building safety.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>To simplify the viewing and copying of building records through the implementation of Buildings Records Access and Viewing On-line (BRAVO) system over the Internet</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In 2022, we handled 87 682 applications for viewing electronic records (include minor works records), out of which 84 178 were processed by the BRAVO system over the Internet. ◆ Registration for BRAVO Company Account became available on 29 December 2022. ◆ Annual Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of BRAVO Individual Accounts: 8 514

Targets	Performance in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>To issue certificates of registration under the BO in electronic form (e-Certificate)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ BD issued e-Certificates of registration under the BO to the applicants via email to replace paper certificates. ◆ e-Certificate reduced the use of paper and ink and reduced the risk of damaging or misplacing the paper certificate by the applicant (which would be troublesome as the applicant would need to re-apply for a certified true copy of the paper certificate).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>To accept submission of documents in electronic format</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In 2022, around 14 610 forms were processed through the Electronic Form Submission System. ◆ To promote the wider and fuller adoption of BIM for statutory submissions in the private building projects, a roadmap on the use of BIM for statutory plan submissions was being formulated. Guidelines for using BIM in Statutory Plan Submissions (other than General Building Plan) being jointly developed with Construction Industry Council, were scheduled for issue in 2023. Besides, BIM plug-in tools for two BIM native softwares were being jointly developed with LandsD to facilitate both departments as well as building professionals in checking area calculations on building plan submissions under the BO and lease conditions. The one for checking area calculations under the BO was planned to be launched in the first quarter of 2024.

Targets	Performance in 2022
 <p>The top image is a screenshot of the 'Electronic Submission Hub' user login page. It features a 'User Login' section with fields for 'Login Name' and 'Password', and a 'Log in' button. A QR code labeled 'SCAN ME' is visible on the left. The bottom image is a promotional graphic for the 'Electronic Submission Hub' (電子資料呈交及處理系統). It includes three icons representing benefits: '提升成本效益' (Improve cost-effectiveness), '減省時間' (Save time), and '減少紙張浪費' (Reduce paper waste). A cartoon character is shown sitting at a desk with a laptop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An ESH was being developed for receiving and processing of electronic plans and documents as well as other applications under the BO. Implementation of the ESH would bring many environmental benefits including saving paper, and reducing the need for printing and transporting paper documents. ESH was being implemented in three stages. Stage 1 of ESH was launched on 30 June 2022 to accept structural plan submissions for building works above ground not requiring cross-departmental referral (excluding alteration and addition works). Stage 2 of ESH was targeted to be launched in the first quarter of 2023 to accept more types of plan submissions covering the following types of works (excluding alteration and addition works): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) hoarding, covered walkway and gantry; (2) demolition works; (3) drainage works; (4) excavation and lateral support works; (5) ground investigation works; (6) foundation works; (7) site formation works; and (8) all structural works. ◆ 16 government departments and organisations including BD would make use of the ESH to receive and process plans in Stage 2 of ESH. Stage 3 of ESH was targeted to be advanced to Q2 2024 to accept all types of plans including general building plans and plans for alteration and addition works, as well as related applications.

Targets	Performance in 2022
<p><u><i>In our work place</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>To disseminate information electronically and to introduce more green measures</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We utilised the eDKMS, a central repository for document and knowledge management facilitating information sharing and collaboration within and across different divisions or sections in BD. In addition, the development of the Electronic Recordkeeping System was underway, in order to further reduce paper consumption. ◆ Mobile devices with the add-on feature “Pulse Secure” app were made available for staff to access internal manuals and electronic forms and process documents for site inspection and meetings when necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Green Management of Data Centre and Green IT Measures</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Both cloud computing and server virtualisation technology were used to optimise the number of physical servers required thereby cutting down electricity power consumption. ◆ All new printers were equipped with EcoPrint or Energy Saving Mode with Duplex Printing feature. ◆ All servers, printers and desktop personal computers were Energy Star and Restriction of Hazardous Substances Compliant. ◆ Network backup had been used to gradually replace manual backup thereby reducing transportation and storage of tapes.

4.3 Saving Resources

The best approach to manage waste is “reduction” at source. We adhere to the principles of “Reduction, Reuse and Recycling” in the Department to minimise waste produced from our office operation. BD Administration Circular No. 1/2022 on “Green Practices and Waste Avoidance” has reminded all staff to set a green example by adopting green practices and waste avoidance measures and reducing the consumption of energy and paper.

Targets	Performance in 2022
Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Our total paper consumption in 2022 was 28 193 reams, which was 1.39% higher than that in 2021, mainly due to the launch of some new operations and more publicity activities. ◆ Recycled paper in lieu of virgin paper had continuously been used in the Department. In 2022, 32.93% of the total amount of paper consumed was recycled paper. The proportion had decreased by 8.89% when compared to the year 2021. A total of 100 000 nos. of envelopes were consumed in 2022 which was 21.68% fewer than that consumed in 2021. ◆ We would continue our efforts to minimise the use of paper by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using emails instead of paper memos and faxes for internal and external communications. • Minimising the production of hardcopies of documents. • Sending e-cards. <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We continued to adopt “No bottled water” policy at our Headquarters to avoid use of plastic bottles.
Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We promoted the reuse of resources by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reusing old furniture during office refurbishment or renovation. • Encouraging our staff to use the blank side of used paper for drafting, filing and printing. • Reusing envelopes for internal circulation. • Using ball pens with refills. • Placing used paper with a blank side near high paper usage equipment e.g. photocopier, to facilitate reuse. • Encouraging staff to use their own cups instead of paper cups.
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We collected recyclable waste materials by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing collection bags near high paper usage equipment for recycling of waste paper. • Providing waste sorting and recycle bins at breakout spaces. ◆ With the support from our staff, in 2022, we collected a total of 45 889 kg waste paper for recycling which had decreased 16.62 % when compared to the figure in 2021.

4.4 Procuring Green Products

We purchased green products to show our responsibility to save the Earth and support for the recycling industry by sourcing applicable green products for office use making reference to the green specifications published by the Environmental Protection Department. Following are some examples of the green products we procured.



Pencils made of recycled materials



T5 Fluorescent tube



Recycled paper



Rechargeable batteries

Feedback

Thank you for reading the Buildings Department Environmental Report 2022. Your views and suggestions are most welcome. It will help sustain our policies and support our continuous improvement. Please take a few minutes to give us your views by completing the following feedback form.

1. Which of the following best describes you?

- Government Departments or Agencies Building Professionals NGO
 Legislators and Local District Councillors General Public Media
 Staff of Buildings Department Academic Sector Student

2. Please rate our environmental report and performance.

Buildings Department Environmental Report 2022

- Fair Good Very Good Excellent

Buildings Department Environmental Performance

- Fair Good Very Good Excellent

3. Which aspect of the report did you find most useful?

- Economic Environmental Social Governance Others (please specify:____)

4. Which aspect of the Buildings Department would you like to have more information?

- Economic Environmental Social Governance Others (please specify:____)

Please return the completed feedback form to the Buildings Department by:

Email: enquiry@bd.gov.hk

Hotline: 2626 1616 (Handled by “1823”)

Fax: 2537 4992

Post: Buildings Department Headquarters, North Tower, West Kowloon
Government Offices, 11 Hoi Ting Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE FEEDBACK!