



ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT 2024



Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
of the People's Republic of China





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Scope of the Report

This Environmental Report covers the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 unless otherwise specified. It provides an overview of the efforts of the Education Bureau (EDB) to maintain an environmentally friendly surrounding and create a sustainable environment.

This report is published in English and Chinese on our website to reduce paper consumption. Internet version can be accessed by scanning the following QR Codes.

English



繁體中文版



簡體中文版



Cover photo (up): Gardening Club activities of Fanling Government Secondary School in April 2024
Cover photo (down): Participation in Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign by Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School (Shatin) in April 2024

I. Profile and Environmental Policy of Education Bureau



School Campus of Queen Elizabeth School

Vision and Mission

1.1 Our vision is to provide quality school education for our students, develop their potential to the full, and prepare them for the challenges in life.

1.2 Our mission is to –

- deliver professional services and ensure effective use of resources; and
- forge partnerships to promote excellence in school education.

Our Work

1.3 Our major responsibilities are –

- formulating, developing and reviewing policies, programmes and legislation in respect of education from pre-primary to tertiary levels; and
- overseeing the effective implementation of educational programmes.

1.4 We are also the School Sponsoring Body for 33 government primary schools and 30 government secondary schools.



Environmental Goal and Policy

1.5 Our environmental goal is to maintain an environmentally friendly surrounding and create a sustainable environment for our future generations.

1.6 In meeting our goal, we are committed to –

- promoting environmental education;
- adopting green designs and construction works for schools;
- implementing environmentally friendly housekeeping measures; and
- enhancing environmental awareness and compliance with relevant legislation and codes of practices amongst colleagues.





II. Key Environmental Performance in 2024

Participation in "Sustainable Ecology in my Campus Contest 2024" by Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School

(A) ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



2.1 Our mission is to enhance students’ environmental awareness through education and enlist their participation in conserving the environment. To take this forward, we adopt a cross-curricular approach in the promotion of environmental education and promote school-based and action-oriented activities. We also collaborate with green groups, such as the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) and the Education Committee of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Hong Kong to provide advice on organisation of school activities and production of resources materials to schools.

2.2 To fulfil the goal of promoting environmental education, various initiatives were undertaken in 2024.



Green Activities Organised by Schools

2.3 Government schools continued to promote environmental education by organising green activities for their students in 2024.



Campus Farming in Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School (Shatin)



Food Angel Workshop organised by Queen Elizabeth School



Visit to WEEE · PARK by Tsuen Wan Government Primary School

Learning Resources for Schools

Professional Development Programmes

11 professional development programmes

(PDP) related to education on **sustainable development**, covering achieving carbon neutrality, natural conservation, sustainable land use planning, climate change mitigation, forest, waste reduction, energy saving, etc., were organised for all school teachers in 2024. Among them, four PDPs were held in collaboration with the **ECC, Environmental Protection Department (EPD), Education Committee of the WWF Hong Kong** and **CLP Power Hong Kong Limited** respectively; three PDPs were co-organised with **Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB)**. A PDP related to sustainable development and environmental protection was co-organised with EPD for primary school teachers in April 2024.



Talk on "Sustainable Land Use Planning" for school teachers in 2024

Visits to Educational Facilities

Visits to **Po Shan Drainage Tunnel – Landslide Sci-Tech Chamber, CIC-Zero Carbon Park, Kwun Tong Recycling Station, Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change, Yuen Long Bypass Floodway, Controlled Environment Hydroponic Research and Development Centre, Vegetable Marketing Organisation, O Park, CLP Power Low Carbon Energy Education Centre** and **Towngas Headquarters** were organised in 2024 for secondary school teachers to enhance their knowledge on sustainable development, climate change mitigation measures and the importance of green building in combating climate change.

Learning and Teaching Resources

In 2024, two learning and teaching resources of **4Rs** (reducing, re-using, recycling and replacing disposable products) and **environmental protection** were developed for reference of primary school teachers. Two worksheets on **cycling** and a case study on the practical experiences of **environment conservation of our country** have been developed, and a "life event" exemplar of **water conservation** was developed for reference of teachers in primary and secondary schools.



Winning School Visits cum Environmental Training Activities of the "2024 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (Schools Sector)"

Educational Multimedia Resources

An educational multimedia resource (EMM) series namely "**Energy and Use of Solar Energy**" introducing the relationship between energy, work, power and the development of solar energy technology was developed and made available on the EMM Website (click [here](#) to visit the EMM Website).



A video on "Energy and Use of Solar Energy" on the EMM website promoting students' understanding of the latest solar energy technology

To call on everyone to take action on low carbon living through energy saving, green transport and waste reduction, three promotional videos about carbon neutrality produced by ECC were made available on the EMM website and the EDB Values Education Website (Click [here](#) to visit the EDB Values Education Website).

Promoting Students' Environmental Awareness

Visits to Mai Po Nature Reserve

Funding was provided for 353 school visits to Mai Po Nature Reserve in 2024.

Achieving Carbon Neutrality Student Ambassador Training Scheme 2024/25

EDB launched the Ambassador Scheme in 2024/25 to broaden secondary school students' horizons, enhance their understanding of climate change and carbon neutrality and encourage them to practise and promote a low carbon lifestyle through energy saving as well as waste reduction and recycling. In collaboration with different government bureaux / departments, an array of learning activities, including online seminars, visits and field trips, was organised for student ambassadors from 43 secondary schools to nurture them to become informed and responsible citizens with a sense of responsibility and commitment to environmental protection.



Student Environmental Protection Ambassador (SEPA) Scheme 2024/25

SEPA Scheme was organised in collaboration with the EEB and ECC to promote environmental protection in schools. The main theme in 2024/25 was "**Carbon Neutrality**", which promoted low-carbon lifestyle and enabled students to better understand the environmental initiatives in Hong Kong.

A total of **204 primary and secondary schools** participated in the SEPA Scheme 2024/25. As at December 2024, **4 865 student ambassadors** were appointed to assist teachers in organising environmental education activities. Schools, families and student ambassadors were encouraged to adopt a greener lifestyle and improve the environment. Knowledge on reducing carbon emissions in their daily lives, thereby promoting behavioural change towards low-carbon living were also introduced through a series of environmental training and activities.



SEPA Scheme activity in 2024

Outdoor Education Camp Scheme

EDB supports schools in organising Outdoor Education Camp Scheme (OECS), in which enhancing students' awareness of environmental protection is one of the learning elements. Related themes and activities include "**Nature and I**", "**Science and Ecology Trips**", "**Climatology, Geography and Ecology Study Camps**", "**Green Living**" and "**Saving Energy**", etc. Schools organised over 640 outdoor education camps under OECS for over **62 500 students** in the 2023/24 school year.

Student Educational Activities

In 2024, "**People, Trees, Amity - Trees and Our Stories**" Photography-cum-Writing Competition was organised for secondary schools and "**Beauty of Nature in Our Neighbourhood – In Harmony with Nature**" Drawing Competition was organised for primary schools, with a view to raising students' awareness of environmental conservation, enabling them to appreciate, respect and love the nature, and joining hands for protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development.

Waste Separation and Recycling Scheme in Schools

Under the Scheme, we worked together with ECC to promote the concept of **4Rs**.

Performance in 2024:

As at the end of 2024, the participating schools recycled about -

311 165 kg of waste paper;

93 484 kg of plastic materials; and

15 643 kg of metal containers.

(B) BUILDING GREENER SCHOOLS

2.4 We introduced various environmentally friendly measures in the design and construction of new school buildings.

Green Design and Construction

- (i) increased **landscaping** in school playgrounds, upper levels and roof floors (including **vertical greening**);
- (ii) provision of varied plant species and designated **green areas** in schools to foster students' interest in natural science and enable students to develop horticultural skills;
- (iii) provision of adequate space and **waste separation bins** to facilitate separation, collection and storage of recyclable materials for recycling;
- (iv) use of shared facilities among schools to enable a **greener and more spacious environment therein**;
- (v) provision of **Central Food Portioning Area** to facilitate the use of re-usable cutlery and food containers and to reduce food wastage;



Design of new school premises using Building Information Modelling



- (vi) reduction in noise, air and water pollution during construction through implementing mitigation measures, such as **provision of noise barrier to noise sensitive area, spraying water on the surface of dusty materials and provision of traps and sediment basins to remove sand/silt particles**;
- (vii) reduction in construction waste by using **Modular Integrated Construction (MIC), Multi-trade Integrated Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MIMEP)**, and more precast and prefabricated building elements; and
- (viii) use of **Building Information Modelling (BIM)** to enhance the design, construction and project management as well as reduce construction waste.

Green Technologies, Materials and Devices

- (i) **Renewable energy systems** (e.g. photovoltaic system, solar hot water system, light tubes) and alternative source of water (e.g. rainwater harvesting system);
- (ii) increased application of **re-usable materials**, in particular metal framework, site hoarding and recycled products;
- (iii) improvement to indoor air quality and energy efficiency by installing **centralised primary air handling units** with high efficiency filter and demand control ventilation system and using low volatile organic compound-emitting building materials;
- (iv) use of **environmentally friendly refrigerant** for air-conditioners and chlorofluorocarbon free thermal insulating materials;
- (v) use of **energy saving devices** (e.g. sun shading on external elevations, occupancy sensors, photo-sensor controlled lighting, LED general light fittings, LED exit signs, variable refrigerant volume air-conditioning system, direct current motor ceiling fans, demand control system for fresh air system, smart lighting control and variable speed drive system for lifts / pumps / air handling units);
- (vi) use of **building energy management system** to monitor and analyse energy consumption; and
- (vii) use of **water saving devices** such as dual-flush cisterns and sensor-taps for wash basins.



*Smart Classroom and Smart Lighting Control
in new school buildings*

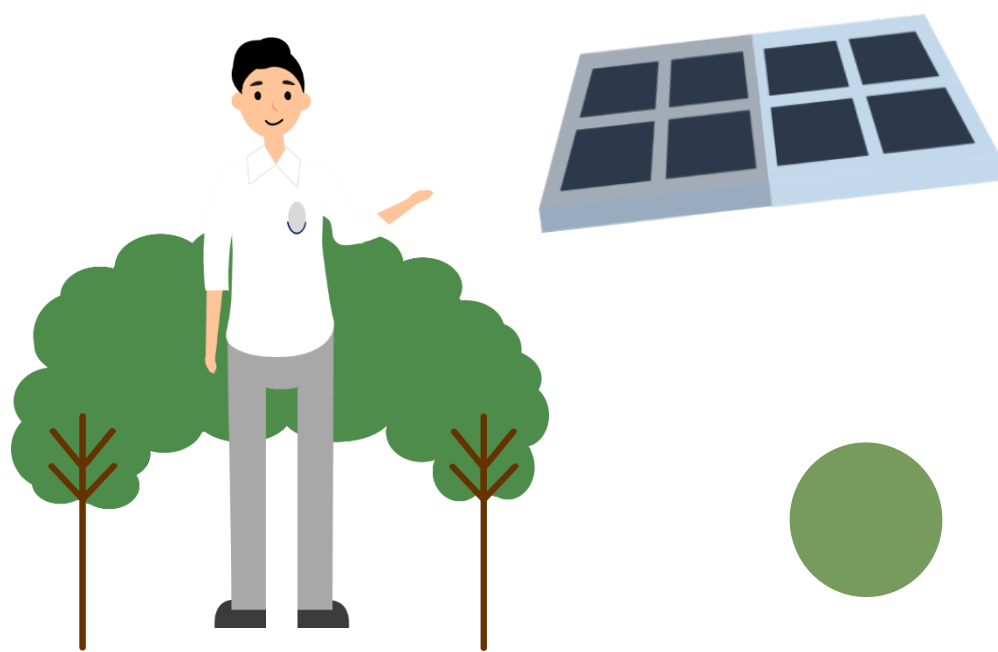


Greener and spacious environment for new school buildings

(C) ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HOUSEKEEPING MEASURES

Green Management Framework

2.5 A cross-divisional Green Management Working Group chaired by our Bureau's Green Manager at directorate level (i.e. Principal Assistant Secretary (Administration)) with representatives from all divisions has been set up since 1999. It oversees the implementation of green housekeeping programmes; initiating and monitoring the progress of green measures; reviewing the overall strategy for green management in the Bureau; and monitoring energy and paper consumption.



Energy and Carbon Audit

2.6 EDB works with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to identify new energy saving opportunities. Since 2017, we have been carrying out carbon audits for our offices and government schools each year. In 2024, carbon audits were carried out for 15 government schools and EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre. The total carbon emission for these 16 premises (with total floor area of 160 634 m² and 2 073 employees) was **5 328 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e)**.



Reminder labels to promote stair climbing at schools



New solar PV system installed at Kowloon Tong Government Primary School

We have carried out energy saving projects (such as installing solar PV system, using water sensor tap, shortening operation hours of central air-conditioning systems, etc.) and taken various measures to take forward the recommendations of the audits.

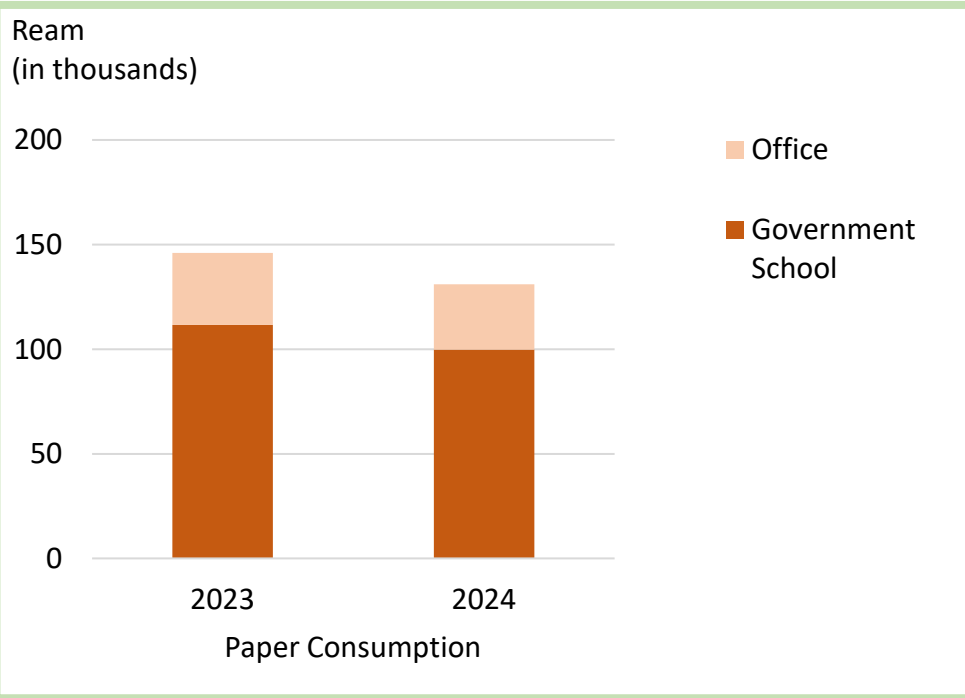


Economical Consumption of Resources

2.7 We have been striving for economy in the use of resources for environmental protection.

Paper Saving

EDB consumed about 131 000 reams of paper in 2024, reduced by 10.3% compared with 2023. We continued to adopt various paper-saving measures such as dissemination of documents / publications / reports through electronic means (e.g. website, hyperlink and QR codes), promotion of paperless meetings, implementation of electronic classroom arrangements and digitising existing forms / returns through IT-enabled solutions, etc.

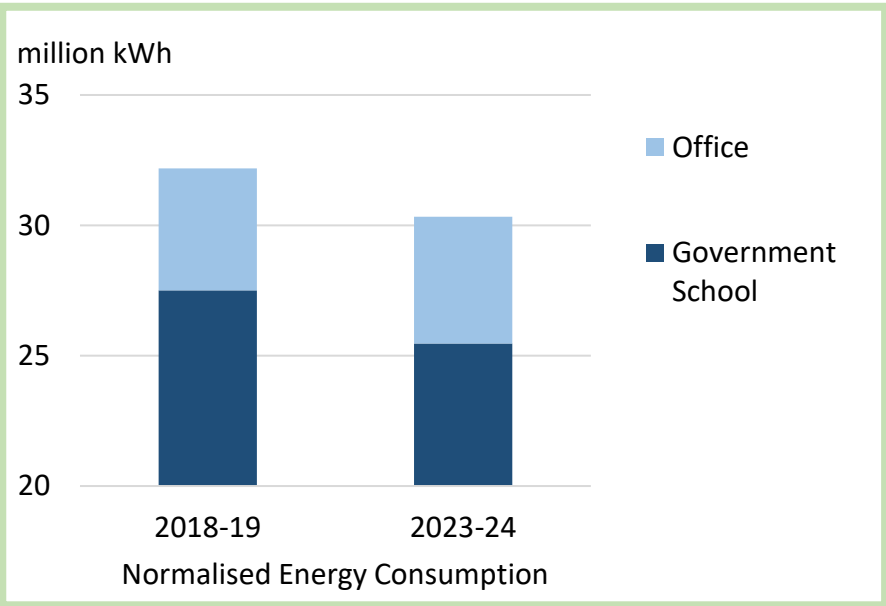


Paper Consumption of EDB

Energy Conservation

EDB constantly monitors energy consumption and seeks to achieve savings in electricity consumption. As set out in the table below, energy consumption of office premises and government schools in financial year (FY) ^{Note 1} 2023-24 **reduced by 2.0%** compared to the baseline year FY 2018-19. Under comparable operating conditions in FY 2018-19, EDB **achieved the Green Energy Target of 6%** in FY 2023-24 after carrying out several energy saving projects and implementing environmentally friendly housekeeping measures.

Energy Performance of EDB in FY 2023-24			
(in million kWh)	Energy consumption		Renewable energy generation
	Before normalisation	After normalisation ^{Note 2}	
FY 2023-24	31.608	30.330	0.123
Net change from FY 2018-19 ^{Note 3}	-0.661 (2.0% saving)	-1.820 (5.7% saving)	0.123 (0.4% contribution)



Energy Consumption of EDB

Note 1: A financial year starts from 1 April of a year and ends on 31 March of the following year.

Note 2: Normalisation processes are conducted to adjust the energy consumption by using the operating conditions in FY 2018-19 to facilitate comparison under comparable operating conditions.

Note 3: The net change in energy consumption is computed by comparing with the energy consumption in FY 2018-19 (baseline year) (i.e. 32.269 million kWh before and 32.150 million kWh after normalisation). The renewable energy generation of 123 000 kWh in FY 2023-24 accounted for 0.4% of the energy consumption in FY 2018-19 (baseline year).

Energy Saving Measures

In 2024, we continued to reduce energy consumption by implementing the following housekeeping measures –

- ✓ Using time switches to switch off printers and fax machines outside office hours;
- ✓ shortening the operating time of central air-conditioning systems;
- ✓ shortening operation hours of lifts and escalators;
- ✓ switching off air-conditioning and providing only fresh air supply in corridors and common areas;
- ✓ switching off air-conditioning in offices / rooms and facilities right after use;
- ✓ using LED energy-saving tubes in our premises as far as possible;
- ✓ strictly following the Government’s policy to maintain the ambient office temperature at 25.5°C;
- ✓ monitoring energy consumption by regular checking and compilation of electricity consumption reports; and
- ✓ deploying server virtualisation technology and cloud services to replace traditional servers for further reductions in energy consumption and heat emissions.

Waste Reduction

2.8 EDB has all along adhered to the concept of 4Rs to minimise waste and implement various green measures.

Waste Collection and Recycling

To encourage waste recycling, we continued to provide green boxes to offices and schools for collection of waste papers, waste plastics and aluminum wastes for recycling in 2024. EDB’s offices in Wu Chung House (WCH) also participated in EPD’s “Commendation Scheme on Source Separation of Commercial and Industrial Waste 2023/2024” and a Certificate of Merit was awarded to the government offices in WCH including EDB.



Certificate of Merit in “Commendation Scheme on Source Separation of Commercial and Industrial Waste 2023/2024” obtained by government offices in Wu Chung House

Performance in 2024:

- Collected **169 256 kilogrammes of waste paper** for recycling;
- Consumed **136 373 reams of recycled papers**;
- A total of **340 used cartridges were returned to the suppliers** concerned for recycling; and
- Collected a total of **1 226 pieces of computer waste for recycling** by contractors.

Electronic Communication

We encourage staff to communicate through electronic means, and use the intranet and internet and QR codes to disseminate the Bureau’s information (statistics, training activities, newsletters, etc), and process administrative and personnel matters electronically (e.g. leave applications, bookings of conference rooms and applications for training courses).

Green Purchasing

- In products procurement, we continued to take into account environmental factors such as recyclability and energy efficiency. We also continued to purchase green products such as computer monitors and photocopiers in compliance with EPD’s green specifications.
- Trade-in arrangement for supply of toner cartridges was arranged.
- Measures have been put in place to require the cleansing contractors of our offices and government schools to use recycled / degradable plastic bags and approved cleansing chemical and materials.

Improvement in Air Quality

2.9 On improving air quality, we have deployed different strategies –

Improvement in Indoor Air Quality

Under the EPD’s Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme, offices in Central Government Offices in Tamar and Kindergarten Education Division in WCH obtained the “Excellent Class” IAQ Certificate while other offices in WCH and EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre obtained the “Good Class” IAQ Certificate in 2024.

Economical Pool Car Resources

We have been practising car pooling and task combination, i.e. to achieve multiple objectives in one journey in lieu of separate trips. Whenever circumstances permit, car pooling arrangement would be made to reduce the use of vehicles and meet transport demands of multiple users at the same time.

Promotion of Green Driving

To reduce idling emissions and achieve fuel saving, we regularly remind our drivers to strictly comply with the requirements set out in the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Ordinance against idling of vehicle engines. Surprise inspections are conducted regularly to ensure compliance.

Use of Fuel-efficient Types of Vehicles

Reducing vehicular emissions is an effective way to improve air quality. In accordance with the relevant guidelines on Green Procurement in the Government, one of our six vehicles had been replaced with an electric vehicle, and the remaining five vehicles had been replaced with environmentally friendly petrol saloon cars with a “hybrid system” (combining a gasoline engine and electric motor power to improve fuel economy and minimise emission of polluting particles) or with lower emissions and more fuel-efficient engines over the past years. It is our plan to replace our vehicles with electric models upon expiry of their life span.

(D) Promotional Green Activities

2.10 We organised a series of activities in 2024 to raise awareness and compliance with green practices amongst colleagues –

Green Christmas 2024

In “Green Christmas 2024”, we encouraged colleagues to donate second-hand items, including clothing, small electrical appliances and toys for donation to the Salvation Army for recycling and distribution to people in need. We also encouraged staff to use e-Christmas cards to share their Christmas blessings with a view to promoting paper saving.



Items donated by EDB staff in Green Christmas 2024



2024 EDB e-Christmas card

The 25th Paper Saving Competition

We organised the 25th Paper Saving Competition to promote paper saving in daily operation among colleagues working in government schools and offices.



Prize Presentation Ceremony in February 2025

Result of the 25th Paper Saving Competition

Group	Prize	Winning Teams
Government Schools	Best Performance Award in Paper Saving	Yuen Long Government Primary School
	Best Progress Award in Paper Saving	Farm Road Government Primary School
Offices	Best Performance Award in Paper Saving	School Development Division
	Best Progress Award in Paper Saving	Information Technology Management Division

Promotional Messages on Newsletter and Intranet

We disseminated green messages, notices and tips through the Bureau’s quarterly newsletter “EDB Pulse” and other internal publications on our intranet.



“EDB Pulse” (April 2024 Issue)

Green Events joined by EDB Volunteer Team

The EDB Volunteer Team accompanied the elderlies from Southern District Integrated Elderly Service Centre to visit the Green Education and Resource Centre which promotes the importance of greening.



Visit to the Green Education and Resource Centre in April 2024

III. Looking Forward



Sky Garden at Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road)

Marching into a Green Future

Learn Green, Act Green, Go Green

3.1 EDB fully recognises the importance of environmental protection and green management. We will step up efforts in this regard.

Environmental Education

3.2 To support schools in environmental education, we will continue to provide a broad range of services including school visits, teacher education programmes, territory-wide green activities, and learning and teaching resources.

Planned Activities in 2025

- ✓ EDB will continue to provide subsidies to students and eligible teachers to participate in education camps under the **Outdoor Education Camp Scheme** in the 2025/26 school year;
- ✓ EDB will develop **life event exemplars** to nurture students' sense of responsibility in environmental protection, cherishing resources and waste reduction at source; and
- ✓ A **stamp design competition** for primary and secondary schools is planned to be organised in 2025 to enhance students' awareness of nature conservation and low carbon living.



Visit to Sharp Island by
Yuen Long Public Secondary School in March 2024

Green Projects

3.3 We will strive to further reduce electricity consumption and implement green designs / proposals / projects based on the recommendations of energy / carbon audits.

Green Projects in the Pipeline

- ✓ Replacement of **aged variable refrigerant volume (VRV) air conditioners** in government schools to lower energy consumption;
- ✓ Installation of **solar photovoltaic (PV) system** in government schools to adopt Renewable Energy; and
- ✓ Installation of **motion sensors** for corridors, toilets and lift lobbies in government schools to achieve energy saving.

Stepping Up Green Promotion

3.4 We will continue to economise by introducing more effective measures to promote the use of renewable energy, paper saving and staff's awareness and participation in green practices in 2025.

Contact Us

If you have any comments / suggestions, please contact our Bureau Green Manager through any of the following means –

Mail: Room E301, East Block, Education Bureau
Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre,
19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong

Email: edbinfo@edb.gov.hk

Fax: 2117 0081

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