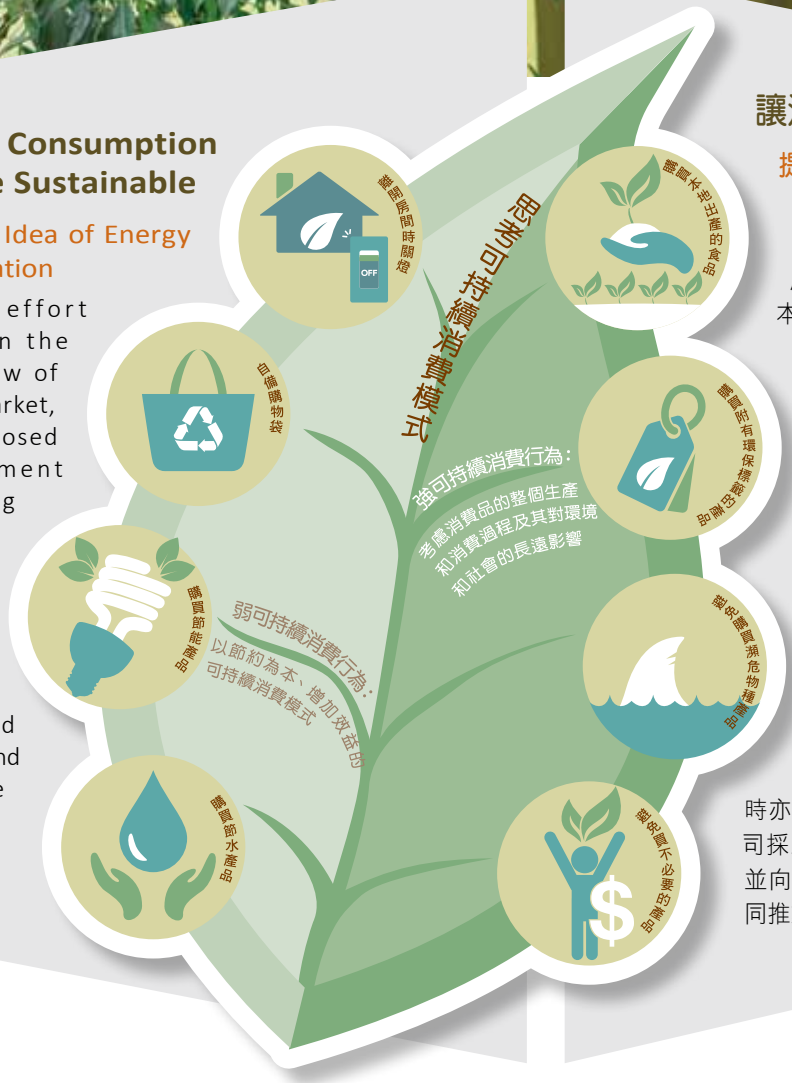
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION
推廣可持續消費

Making Consumption More Sustainable

Introducing the Idea of Energy Efficiency Obligation

As continuous effort to capitalise on the regulatory review of the Electricity Market, the Council proposed to the Government on introducing Energy Efficiency Obligation (EEO) in Hong Kong as an alternative strategy to drive energy conservation instead of sparing public fund in infrastructure development.



讓消費更具可持續性

提倡能源效益責任制

為繼續推進電力市場規管的檢討工作，本會向政府提交意見文件，建議於本港推行「能源效益責任制」，作為推動節約能源的策略，以取代使用公帑開展相關基礎建設。

意見書討論了若干需考慮的事項，包括如何量度及驗證以達致更佳的能源效益、提供誘因和罰則以鼓勵履行責任，及容許自由開放有關市場可帶來的成本效益。整體而言，本會同意消費者應盡力節能，同時亦促請政府積極要求電力公司採立「能源效益責任制」，並向相關持分者提供誘因，共同推動以取得成果。

The Council promotes and supports sustainable consumption through comparative product testing and dissemination of information which enables consumers to make green choices that can preserve our environment for the next generation.

本會一直推廣及支持可持續消費，透過可供比較的產品測試及訊息發放，讓消費者得以作出更環保的選擇，致力為我們的下一代保護現有的環境。

In the Council's proposal to the Government, considerations of measurement and verification to achieve better energy efficiency, to provide incentives and penalties to help meet obligations, and the cost and benefit of allowing free access to the market were discussed. Overall, while agreeing that consumers should work towards energy efficiency, the Council urged the Government to take proactive measures to impose EEO on energy companies and introduce incentives for stakeholders, to achieve a positive outcome collectively.

Product Comparative Test on Appliances with High Energy Consumption

In these testing, environmental parameters are often included to gauge their performance and their subsequent impact on health and the environment. In the year, the Council's sustainable consumption efforts focused on increasing the efficiency of Hong Kong in energy consumption, to achieve better quality of living without compromising the environment.

Air-conditioners

In tests on 14 models of small cooling capacity (around 2.5kW), split-type air conditioners, results showed that inverter type models (10 models), consumed approximately 40% less energy annually than fixed-capacity type. The difference in the costs of electricity consumption could be up to 48%.

高耗電量產品比較測試

在本會的產品測試中，經常會加入環境因素的表現評估，以及產品最終對環境及健康的影響。年內，本會重點提升本港的能源效益，務求讓我們得以在沒有破壞環境下享受優質的生活。

冷氣機

本會測試了14款較低製冷量（約2.5千瓦）的分體式冷氣機，結果顯示10款變頻式型號較定頻式每年可節省電力約4成，而電費開支可相差達48%。

這是由於變頻式冷氣機的壓縮機在室溫達到預設溫度後，便會自動調節轉速，以減少浪費能源。

按「強制性能源效益標籤計劃」的新評級標準，以及本會的測試結果計算，所有變頻式型號可評定為1級，而4款定頻式型號則為3級或4級。

It is due to the design of the compressors of the inverter type adjusts speed once it reaches the room temperature set, minimising wastage in energy consumption.

When measured against the latest grading standard of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme and calculated on the basis of our test results, all inverter type models were rated Grade 1, while the 4 fixed-capacity models were rated Grade 3 to 4.

The Council also urged manufacturers or their agents to offer longer warranty periods and to lower the annual renewal fees and maintenance charges, to help extend the lifespan of air conditioners.

Electric Fans

The Council and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) jointly tested 14 pedestal fans for both safety and performance. 8 models were traditional, alternating current (AC) fans and 6 models used relatively newer, direct current (DC) motors that rely on an external transformer for low voltage operation.

The average energy efficacy of DC models was found to be 1.2 times higher than that of traditional AC models. And the overall results also showed that DC electric fans performed better in terms of air delivery. Manufacturers' claims of performance also showed greater accuracy and the devices were less noisy.

Most traditional AC electric fans used induction motors. These result in greater heat loss while spinning, particularly at high speeds, therefore lowering their energy efficiency. DC models, by contrast, used inverter-type motors. Their speed was adjusted electronically, thus delivering higher energy efficiency and finer speed control.

Electric Hot Water Pots

The Council and the EMSD conducted joint testing, to evaluate the performance of 11 models of electric hot water pot. 8 models were regular pots, priced from HK$258 to HK$798, while 3 claimed to have vacuum insulation, and were sold at prices between HK$1,098 and HK$2,298.

The tests confirmed that models claiming to be equipped with vacuum insulation did consume less energy than the regular models.

Since electric hot water pots have to be powered all the time to maintain the hot water temperature, energy consumption inevitably will be high. The Council suggested that consumers consider using electric kettles instead, which boil small amounts of water quickly.

本會另呼籲廠商或代理商提供較長的保用期，及降低續保年費與維修費，以助延長冷氣機的壽命。

電風扇

本會聯同機電工程署（機電署）合作測試了14款座地式電風扇的效能及安全表現。當中8款為傳統式交流式設計，其餘6款採用直流電摩打、依靠外置火牛提供低電壓操作的較新款型號。

測試發現直流式型號的平均能源效益較交流式型號高1.2倍。此外，送風量、寧靜程度及生產商聲稱的表現，都以直流式型號表現較佳。

傳統交流式電風扇普遍採用感應摩打，高速轉動時熱能散失較大，影響能源效率；而直流式型號的採用變頻式摩打，以電子電路操控轉速，能源效率較佳，風速調節亦較細緻。

電熱水瓶

本會與機電署合作測試了11款電熱水瓶，其中8款為普通保溫型號，價錢由港幣258至798元不等；3款聲稱有真空保溫技術，價錢由港幣1,098至2,298元不等。

測試結果顯示，聲稱備有真空保溫設計的型號，其耗電量較普通型號少。

由於電熱水瓶需要全日接駁電源才可將水保持一定溫度，因此耗電量無可避免較高。本會建議消費者考慮使用可以快速煲滾少量食水的電熱水煲。

連鎖服裝店換貨退款政策

本會向本地連鎖時裝店發出問卷，查詢它們的換貨、退款、改衣和衣物回收服務政策。

在11間回覆本會的連鎖時裝店中，5間表示不會退換減價貨品。其餘6間表示正價或減價貨品都可更換，不過當中1間註明「特別減價優惠」的貨品則不能換貨。

消費者需留意，即使部分連鎖店容許更換貨品，但限期的差別頗大，由最短7日至最長35日不等。

本會建議消費者在購買衣物時，除了要留意衣物的用料和耐用程度，亦可注意商店會否提供衣物回收的服務。本會亦鼓勵商舖為客戶提供退換服務和回收舊衣，從而減少浪費，為可持續消費作出貢獻。

Exchange and Refund Policies of Fashion Chain Stores

The Council sent out questionnaires to local fashion chain stores to enquire about their exchange, refund, alteration and recycling service policies.

Among the 11 surveyed chain stores, 5 stated that they did not exchange discounted items. The remaining 6 chain stores responded that they would offer exchange for both regular-priced and discounted items with 1 specifying that "Special Discount Offers" were excluded.

Though some chains entertain exchange requests, consumers must be aware that the exchange period may vary significantly from the shortest period of only 7 days, to the longest, 35 days.

Consumers were advised to pay attention to fabrics and their durability, and to learn whether the shops offered recycling services for clothing. The Council also encouraged retailers to offer exchange and recycling service for used clothing to reduce waste and contribute to sustainable consumption.

Where have all the Tested Products gone?

The products used for testing by the Council were put to further use with a number of items donated to environmental bodies, charity groups and non-profit organisations for further consumption and recycling.

During the year, a total of 596 items were sent to 8 recipient organisations, including electrical appliances, household consumables, health products, books as well as food and beverages. The recipient organisations were: Caritas Hong Kong, Caritas Mutual Aid Centre for Single Parent Families (Fortress Hill), Christian Family Service Centre, Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service, Ladder Mission, The Salvation Army, Shatin Women's Association and World Vision Hong Kong.

產品測試完畢後的去向

部分經消委會測試的產品會捐贈予環保團體、慈善組織及非牟利機構使用及回收。

本年度，共轉贈596件物品至8間機構，當中包括電器、家庭消耗品、健康產品、書本及食品飲料等。相關受惠機構為：香港明愛、明愛單親家庭互助中心(炮台山)、基督教家庭服務中心、循道衛理觀塘社會務處、天梯使團、救世軍、沙田婦女會，及香港世界宣明會。