

The Clean Air Charter

A Business Guidebook



HKGCC 

Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
香港總商會 1861



The Clean Air Charter

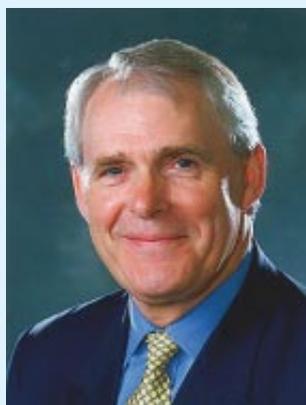
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Quality environment is an issue close to the heart of the whole community. None of us tolerate foul air. As Asia's world city, Hong Kong should show the world our commitment to protecting the environment. The Government will take vigorous measures to make sustained improvement to air quality, hand in hand with the community. We are pleased to see the business sector stepping forward with the Clean Air Charter and publishing this Business Guidebook, which gives practical advice on how enterprises may help implement environment-friendly measures in their daily operations. We fully support this meaningful initiative.

We all live under the same sky. Let us work together with determination and shared responsibility for a cleaner and bluer sky.

The Honourable Donald Tsang
The Chief Executive, HKSAR



Through Project CLEAN AIR we have successfully brought together Government, business and the community, united in the common goal of supporting a collective clean air effort. The Clean Air Charter reflects the strong and growing commitment on the part of the business sector to contribute to cleaner air for all, but we can always do more. I encourage all members of the business community to implement clean production, operation and practice, and to work together so we can restore blue skies to Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

David Eldon
Chairman, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce



Many local and international companies in Hong Kong have a shared common goal – we must foster economic growth in ways that also protect our environment. Therefore, it is time for us to go beyond signing the Clean Air Charter to put these commitments into practice. I believe that businesses will find this Guidebook useful in formulating their own clean air programmes.

James Graham
Convenor, Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment

Preface



Tackling air pollution requires the collective effort of the whole community. This is why the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce (HKGCC) and the Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment (BCE) launched Project CLEAN AIR, to engage the Government, the business sector and the community together in promoting the clean air message.

The Clean Air Charter is the focus of Project CLEAN AIR. The Charter comprises six statements, representing the business sector's voluntary commitment to reducing air pollution. The HKGCC and BCE regularly organise educational and outreach programmes to support Charter signatories and to help promote the Charter. This Business Guidebook is a general reference to provide advice on implementing the Charter commitments through air quality management.

Air pollutants come from many sources, and it is not the intention of this Guidebook to cover every aspect of air pollution in every industry. Instead, we focus on ways of reducing emissions from businesses in common situations. The guide provides information on management measures that can be adopted for energy consumption, transport and general manufacturing processes. While not everything in this document may be applicable to all, we believe that every company can find a way to get started immediately, whether it is an energy-saving measure in the office or a comprehensive emissions reduction plan.

Please sign the Clean Air Charter if you have not already done so, and put the guidelines and recommendations of this Guidebook into practice. A blue sky for Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta is possible. Together, we can make a difference!

27 November 2006



www.cleanair.hk

HONG KONG-GUANGDONG BUSINESS COALITION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Clean Air Charter

We recognise that improving air quality will require emissions reductions in the business community, and many of these reductions will result in additional business capital and/or operating costs. We support the development of fair, practical and cost-effective air quality management policy, and in addition:

Statement of Commitment	Implementation
We will voluntarily:	Signatories to this Charter undertake to implement appropriate measures to put their commitment into effect.
① Operate to a recognized world class standard, or the standards established by the Hong Kong / Guangdong governments on emissions of air pollutants, even if it is not a requirement to do so here.	Each participant can identify the relevant standard, and if not meeting it today, make plans to meet it. Participants with significant emissions should state which standard they are operating by, and how they are performing relative to that standard. Participants that are working towards a better standard can also disclose differences between their performance today and the better standards, as well as their plans and schedule for meeting it.
② Use continuous emissions monitors (CEMs) at significant sources, e.g. large and medium plants.	Each participant can identify their own significant sources, and if not monitoring today, make plans to do so. These participants should state their intentions.
③ Publish information on energy and fuel use, as well as total emissions of air pollutants annually and timely, if emissions are significant.	Each participant can determine whether they have significant emissions, and if so, determine how to quantify them. They should publish information on their energy and fuel use, as well as air pollution emissions, as part of their regular environmental reporting, or as a special environmental report on air quality.
④ Undertake to adopt energy-efficient measures in their operations.	Each participant can identify energy-efficient measures and formulate a plan to implement these measures in their business operations.
⑤ Identify and encourage business-relevant measures to be taken on days when air pollution is high.	Each participant can determine how they can reduce emissions on days of high pollution, such as promoting use of public transportation, by working with their customers or vendors to reduce emissions elsewhere in the value chain, by substituting a different process, material or equipment at their own facilities, or by re-scheduling things that could be done at another time.
⑥ Share air quality expertise in business with others.	Participants that have expertise, particularly on any of the above items, can host visits or make other arrangements for their staff to share what is relevant to others.

In support of the implementation of this Charter, the Hong Kong – Guangdong Business Coalition on the Environment will help identify general measures for item 5 above, and facilitate or coordinate sharing of relevant expertise for item 6 above. The Coalition would also collect information that participants wish to make public under items 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, and share it in an organised way with the community. In helping private enterprises comply with this Charter, the Coalition recognises the specific needs of small and medium enterprises for support in technology and capacity building.

ENDORSEMENT

Signature: _____ Name: (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr) _____

Title: _____ Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____

Company: (English) _____ (Chinese) _____

Address: _____

Please sign and return a copy to:

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(Guangdong) China Council for the Promotion of International Trade - Guangdong Sub-Council
Room 969, Central Hotel Office Building, Jichang Rd, Guangzhou, China Tel: 8620-86597060 Fax: 8620-86577278

Executive Summary

Protecting our air is the responsibility of every business!

The Clean Air Charter is a campaign that seeks the business community's involvement on a wholly voluntary, best effort basis. As businesses vary from sector to sector, the Charter is a statement of general principles to encourage the implementation of an energy and emissions reduction programme in accordance with the individual nature of each company.

Charter's Commitments	Relevant to Business Sectors
1. Operate to a recognised world class standard, or the standards established by the Hong Kong / Guangdong governments on emissions of air pollutants, even if it is not a requirement to do so here.	Industrial operations, power plants and businesses with direct emissions
2. Use continuous emissions monitors (CEMs) at significant sources, e.g. large and medium plants.	Large/medium industrial operations and power plants
3. Publish information on energy and fuel use, as well as total emissions of air pollutants annually and timely, if emissions are significant.	All businesses
4. Undertake to adopt energy-efficient measures in their operations.	All businesses
5. Identify and encourage business-relevant measures to be taken on days when air pollution is high.	All businesses
6. Share air quality expertise in business with others.	All businesses

Air emissions reduction and energy conservation measures can be easily implemented and incorporated into daily business operations. To help businesses get started, this Guidebook introduces an Energy/Emissions Management (EEM) System that provides step-by-step guidance on how to reduce air emissions and energy consumption.

Specifically, the Guidebook provides:

- An approach, and associated references, to enable readers to identify their companies' contributions to air emissions and energy consumption;
- A strategy for establishing corporate emissions reduction or energy saving targets with the support of senior management;
- Examples of energy saving and air emissions control measures; and
- A system for monitoring and reporting performance.

An overview of the EEM Strategy is illustrated in the following flowchart. The EEM Strategy can be implemented on its own or as part of a company's Environmental Management System (EMS).

Taking Action to Save Our Air

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Continual Improvement