

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPH is committed to being a good corporate citizen that cares for the environment in which we operate in, and actively seeks to promote sustainable growth while achieving business excellence.

We ensure that our business operations comply with all applicable environmental, legal, health and safety requirements. We work closely with the Workplace Safety and Health Council, Singapore Civil Defence Force, Public Utilities Board, National Environment Agency, Building and Construction Authority, Energy Market Authority and other relevant authorities to ensure that we adopt the best practices for environment sustainability.

We are also constantly looking for ways to reduce the negative impact on the environment by lowering our carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency in our daily operations. We have set up a Green Steering Committee to establish and review environmental objectives, and to shape the green culture in SPH.



THE ESTIMATED SAVINGS
FROM ENERGY MONITORING
AND IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAMMES SINCE 2007

OVER
\$400,000
PER YEAR



One of SPH News Centre's many gardens



ENERGY

At News Centre and Media Centre, environmentally friendly practices are introduced to conserve energy.

High consumption lighting is gradually replaced with energy efficient ones to reduce energy consumption. Office lighting at vacated cubicle zones will be turned off by duty staff on inspection checks or patrol after office hours.

Old chillers will be overhauled periodically to optimise their performance. Currently, SPH is working with an energy consultant to carry out energy audits of the existing chiller plants at News Centre and Media Centre to explore ways to improve their energy efficiency.

We maintain the office temperature at a comfortable level, and review the air-conditioners' optimal operating hours regularly. Under the New Energy Conservation Act, Print Centre will attempt to reduce 5 per cent of our energy consumption over the next five years, with the energy consumption for 2013 as the base-line.

The Production Division, which is the key business unit responsible for ensuring that SPH meets the requirements of this Act, started energy monitoring and improvement programmes since 2007 to reduce energy utilisation. As a result, the company enjoys annual savings of over \$400,000.

We have been progressively embarking on energy-saving programmes in line with the green initiatives.

For Paragon, we have completed replacing all the car park ceiling lights in basement levels from fluorescent tubes to LED lights. The staircases lights have also been changed to LED and these are controlled by motion sensors which dim to 30 per cent when no motion is detected. With this initiative, the results are not only in energy saving and reduction in maintenance cost but also minimise routine replacement cost which is constantly required for fluorescent tubes. We are exploring to install more of these sensor control lights in the office tower block.

For The Clementi Mall, we are also progressively replacing the fluorescent tubes to LED lights. In March 2013, Paragon has completed an energy audit and we are looking into ways of improving the sustainability and efficiency of the building.

In addition, the mall continues to participate in Earth Hour this year by switching off its facade lightings. Its street-front tenants also supported this initiative by switching off their duplex window lightings.

WATER

At News Centre and Media Centre, SPH carries out regular maintenance checks on the water supply installation to ensure there is no water wastage caused by faulty fittings, equipment, pumps or damaged water pipes. High consumption water installation such as cooling towers and water tanks, are checked daily to ensure there is no water leakage or overflow. Water efficient fittings and PUB recommended flow rates for flushing systems are already in place to reduce the water consumption for the two premises.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

NEWSPRINT

At least 85 per cent of the newsprint used in our newspaper production is from mills using recycled fibre as raw materials. The balance of up to 15 per cent is from mills that use virgin fibre from certified forests.

GOING PAPERLESS

With the help of Information Technology Division, e-invoices are now being used by the Finance and Circulation divisions. The performance appraisal process and salary letters for staff are now all done electronically. Marketing Division (CATS Classified) will transit from sending advertisers hard copy documents to soft copies via an Internet portal.

REUSE AND RECYCLE

We reuse and recycle in the following ways:

- Internal transfer and reuse of old furniture which are still in good condition
- Ongoing collection and sales of disposed items – PCs, furniture and electrical items
- Ongoing collection and sales of drink cans and plastic bottles
- Ongoing collection and sales of toner and fax cartridges
- Ongoing collection and sale of printed waste, office scrap and used hand towels. Recycling bins are available at all the offices to encourage recycling efforts. Cleaners collect and bring all office waste and newspapers to the Refuse Centre for sorting. Those that have no recyclable value will be disposed. The remainder will be packed, bundled and weighed before collection by the scrap contractor
- Ongoing collection and sale of old carton boxes

OTHER GREEN EFFORTS

We adhere to the environmental recommendations made by the relevant authorities:

- All refrigerators in pantry rooms are energy efficient with NEA Energy labels

- All departments are advised to change to LCD TVs with NEA Energy Label to save energy
- All photocopiers are energy efficient with Energy Star labels
- Environmentally friendly fertilisers, pest sprays and soil treatment are used for the roof top garden, as well as for the other gardens within the SPH premises
- The lush planting on the roof top garden reduces heat, thus decreasing the need for more air-conditioning, which translates into cost saving for the company
- Auto dispensers for hand towels installed in all toilets help reduce wastage and save costs
- Auto foam dispensers installed in all toilets help reduce wastage and save water

GREEN JOURNALISM

Our editorial staff have been writing relevant articles to highlight environment issues or celebrate green efforts. Some have even won accolades for their work.

In August 2013, Grace Chua of The Straits Times emerged the country winner for the Siemens Green Technology Journalism Award. Her commentary piece, “Towards a robust clean air strategy”, covered a wide spectrum of causes and effects of air pollution, strategies proposed by academics, and measures taken by the government and private sector to manage air pollution.

WASTE

The types of waste generated at Print Centre fall under two categories:

- A) Trade effluents – All cleaning liquids used to clean the presses’ rollers are channelled to the waste treatment plant where it is treated before being discharged into the public sewers. The treated effluents meet all the requirements of NEA and PUB. The remaining sludge is collected and disposed by licensed waste disposal companies approved by NEA.

DEVELOPER WASTE (WASTE THAT IS GENERATED DURING THE PRINTING PROCESS)

73,000 litres

**WASTE CHEMICAL**

30 tonnes

**WASTE INK**

28 tonnes



The total quantity of trade effluents treated and discharged into the public sewers from Print Centre and Media Centre is 6,491 cubic metres for FY 2013, while the total quantity sludge disposed is 15 tonnes for the same period.

- B) Non-Treatable Waste – All non-treatable waste is collected and disposed by licensed waste disposal companies approved by NEA. The list of non-treatable waste and quantities disposed in FY 2013 is shown above.
- C) Recyclable Waste – All recyclable waste such as aluminium plates, carton boxes, metal drums, plastic containers and plastic core plugs are collected and sold to be recycled.

Since we adopted the Computer-to-Plate (CTP) process, we have reduced the use of raw materials and waste generated. Every month, we reduce the use of film by 11,000 square metres, film developer by 1,700 litres and fixer for film by 1,400 litres. This works out to an estimated savings of over \$14,000 per month.

Newsprint waste is generated as part of the printing process. To minimise newsprint waste, yearly targets are set so that all staff can work towards optimising the printing process and reducing wastage. In this financial year, newsprint waste is 4.11 per cent.

In our sustainability drive, SPH strives to recycle all of its production waste ranging from aluminium printing plates to newsprint waste by selling them to scrap vendors. In FY 2013, SPH sold 5,100 tonnes of newsprint waste and 321 tonnes of used aluminium printing plates.



Recycling old newspapers at SPH News Centre