Hong Kong Green Label Scheme
Effective Tool for Green Purchasing

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Presentation Outline:

I. About the Green Council
II. What is Green Purchasing?
III. What is Green/Eco Labelling?
IV. Why Green/Eco Labelling?
V. Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS)
VI. How HKGLS can be an effective tool in green purchasing?
I. About the Green Council
Green Council

- Established in 2000
- Non-Government Organisation (NGO)
- Non-Profit-Making Organisation
- Non-Partisan Environmental Organisation
Major Objectives

▪ To enhance the environmental awareness of the general public
▪ To assist local and international enterprises in improving their environmental performance
▪ To help Hong Kong establish a greener image worldwide
II. What is Green Purchasing?
What is Green Purchasing?

Quality + Cost + Delivery + Environment

II Green Purchasing
Target Fields of Green Purchasing

Products

- Paper
- Office Supply
- Printer
- PC
- Furniture
- Work wear
- Lighting
- Food
- Electrical Appliance
- Integrated chip
- Construction

Services

- Motorcar
- Printing
- Hotel & Meeting
- Distribution
- Cleaning
- Banking
- Electricity Energy
- Canteen Catering

Parts and Materials
Green Purchasing Encompasses

- Raw materials and component used by the buyer organization for manufacturing products or services
- Finished products or services for their own use

- Examples
  - Recycled content products
  - Environmentally preferable products
  - Bio-based products
  - Energy- and water-efficient products
  - Alternative fuel vehicles/alternative fuels
  - Non-ozone depleting substances
  - Other environmentally innovative alternative products
Green Purchasing/Procurement Becomes One of the HKSAR Government’s Policies
Promotion of Green Purchasing for Hong Kong Industries by Green Council

Key Initiatives:
- Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS)
- China Environmental Label Program (CELP)
- Cyber Green Centre (CGC)
- Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter (HKGPC)
III. What is Green/Ecolabelling?
What is Green/Ecolabelling?

ISO Standards
environmental labelling within the ISO 14000 series guidance, not certification standards
- 14020 - guidance for all types of ecolabels
- 14021 - guidance for self declared claims (Type II)
- 14024 - guidance for leadership certification (Type I)
  - life cycle, selective, 3rd party verified,
- 14025 - guidance for information (Type III)
  - life cycle, information
What is Green/Ecolabelling?

ISO Eco-labelling Standards identifies 3 types
However, not limited to Types I, II and III
Main elements to help differentiate ecolabels
- voluntary or mandatory?

Operation - self or third party?
- information, comparison or leadership?
- Verification?
- single / multiple sectors?
- single / multiple issues?
What is Green/Ecolabelling?

Type I - Primary aspects

- voluntary
- leadership, differentiation
- life cycle based
- multi-sectoral (multiple issue)
- third party operated, and 3rd party verified
IV. Why Green/Ecolabelling?
Why Green/Ecolabelling?

research market
- potential for improvement
- industry interest
- consumer orientation
  • identify product categories
  • develop criteria
  • accept applications
  • verify against criteria
  • certify products (license)
Why Green/Ecolabelling?

- To promote green purchasing/consumerism
- To promote sustainable development by assisting purchasing officers/consumers to select products that cause less adverse environmental impacts
- To encourage companies to design, manufacture and market "truly" green products
- To stimulate lower production costs through wise use of resources, recycling and reduction of the amount of wastes
Ecolabelling and Climate Change

- products and services contribute directly and indirectly to climate change across their respective life cycles
- some products are less impacting than others
- Type I ecolabels help identify environmental leaders
- climate change benefits (avoided impacts through choices made) can be quantified (relatively)
- examples:
  - household appliances - potential avoidance of 50%
  - automobiles even more significant potential
  - paper products - potential 30% avoidance

Why Green/Ecolabelling?
V. Hong Kong Green Label Scheme
Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS)
Hong Kong Green Label Scheme

1. The first green label scheme for the certification of green products in Hong Kong
2. Independent and voluntary
3. Open to all local & overseas businesses and industries
Objectives of HKGLS

• Provide a clear, credible and independent guide for “green” consumers
• Encourage consumers to purchase commodities that have lower environmental impacts
• Provide incentives for manufacturers and importers to reduce the environmental impacts of their products
• Improve the quality of the environment and encourage sustainable management of resources
HKGLS Compliance

Green Council adopted ISO 14024 guiding principles as the basis for a “code of good practice” for Green/eco-labelling

International Standards
- ISO 14020 General Principles
- ISO 14024 Principles and Procedures (Type I)
Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) is a non-profit association of environmental label organizations from around the world.

- 28 members
- All use ISO 14024
- Green Council became the Hong Kong member in 2002
Members of GEN

www.gen.gr.jp
Management of HKGLS

Organizer / Operator

Technical Panel

Advisory Committee
HKGLS
Product Approval and Validity for Certification and Labelling

1. Meet product-specific, pre-set environmental criteria – mostly performance-based criteria
2. Approved by Operator (Green Council) in consultation with Advisory Committee
3. Approved product will be issued a certificate authorizing use of the Hong Kong Green Label
4. Validity of certification is 2 years
Product Criteria Development

- Benchmarking with other well-established schemes
- Life Cycle Considerations Approach (covering stages of raw material acquisition, manufacturing, distribution, product use, and disposal)
- Reference to local applicable standards e.g. EMSD Energy Efficiency Label Scheme.
Target User Groups of HKGLS

• Product Supply Side (Potential Applicants)
  – all local and overseas manufacturers, suppliers, wholesalers, distributors, importers & exporters, etc.

• Product Demand Side
  – government departments, commercial firms, utilities, public / private developers, construction firms, commercial firms, public institutions (e.g. schools), households, etc.
HKGLS Accomplishments

• Ecolabelling criteria has been developed to cover 11 product categories. A number of products have been awarded the Green Label

• Participation in international efforts on green consumerism e.g. “Forum on Development of Common Core Criteria for Paints & Toner Cartridges” -- to serve as a basis for mutual recognition of different labelling schemes

• Criteria of Degradable Food/Drink Containers and Bags adopted by other Eco-label e.g. Canada – Environmental Choice
Recent Developments

- Green Council is currently applying ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 status
  - International Standard which sets out criteria of bodies operating certification of products, services and processes
  - First in Hong Kong with such status under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme
- ISO/IEC Guide 65 Product Categories
  - Construction Materials e.g. Door
  - Low VOCs Emission Products e.g. Paint
  - Consumer Products e.g. Degradable Food/Drink Containers and Bags
- An important step towards mutual recognition of accreditation
Future Development

• Continue to develop criteria for commonly-used products to expand HKGLS coverage
• Align local standards with regional Common Core Criteria, while monitoring/referencing developments in global standards
• Promote green procurement in all sectors, including government, the public sector and institutions, and encourage it to become a prerequisite category for government tendering requirements
• Develop Type II product categories which cover wide-range products
• Promote the Cyber Green Centre to attract more applications
## Construction Materials

1. Building material made of fly ash
2. Flooring materials
3. Wall coverings
4. Windows
5. Carpeting Modular
6. Fibre Reinforced Home Décor Product
7. Ceramic Tile
8. Adhesive
9. Building Products using Recycled Materials
10. Paint

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VI. How HKGLS can be an effective tool in green purchasing
HKGLS – Dual Assurance During Green Purchasing

Quality + Cost + Delivery

+ Environment

ISO/IEC Guide 65 Certification

Green Purchasing
Merits of adopting HKGLS certified products as core criteria during green purchasing

• Third-party verification by internationally recognized certification body
• Elimination of resources in benchmarking and determining green specifications of environmentally preferable products, instead purchasing officers can concentrate their effort on other aspects of green purchasing such as surveillance and supply chain management
• Easy to identify and verify (through HKGLS Operator)
• Factory production inspections included under the ISO/IEC Guide 65 status
  → A practical and sustainable means to implement green purchasing!!!!
How HKGLS can incorporated into green purchasing

• Committed to the purchase of certified environmentally preferable products (e.g. HKGLS certified products) in green purchasing policies and strategies
• Adopt HKGLS technical criteria as green specifications in tender for purchase of products
• Promote to relevant stakeholders of the inclusion of HKGLS criteria as green purchasing criteria
Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter
Launch on October 4, 2007
Green Council’s Role in Green Purchasing on International Level

- Hong Kong–based participant in international meetings, discussions and initiatives regarding green purchasing and environmentally preferable product development, production and marketing
- Have provided input and comments on green purchasing and environmentally preferable product development when and as invited by international organizations – e.g. United Nations, overseas government departments and institutions
- IGPN observer
Challenges of Establishing HKGPN

• Commitment [support and participation] from HKSAR Government
• Support from public utilities and large corporations ➔ bulk purchasing
• Support from Large number of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) ➔ they are both suppliers and consumers
• Appropriate and useful definition of ‘environmentally preferable products’ ➔ based on scientific methodology and an open/credible/fair process
HKGPN Features Required for Success

• Commitment and support from top-level officials and purchasing department personnel
• Enough quality, alternative green products in the market to enable competitive procurement
• Good information dissemination
• Task force to direct the establishment and promotion of appropriate objectives, targets and programs
• Identification and confirmation of “green” products based on scientific methodology and open/credible/fair process
Thank you

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