

Promoting Sustainable Consumption

推廣可持續消費

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The Council promotes and supports sustainable consumption through comparative product testing and dissemination of information which enables consumers to make environmentally friendly choices, and also encourages them to help conservation of natural resources and waste reduction.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

In comparative product testing, environmental parameters such as energy efficiency, recyclability of products and packaging materials, durability and emissions of volatile organic compounds are often incorporated with a view to informing consumers about the use of products and their impacts on health and the environment. We also send submissions to the Government to support initiatives in establishing legislations for environmental protection.

Air Conditioner: High Price May not Translate into High Energy Efficiency

The Council tested 15 models of window-type room air conditioners with claimed cooling capacity of 5.0 kW to 5.3 kW. The results revealed that some models with the higher prices do not translate into higher energy efficiency.

Regarding cooling capacity, two thirds of the samples (10) were found to fall below their own claims, with the largest difference at about 5.1%. On energy efficiency, a difference of about 25% was found between the samples with the highest and lowest energy efficiency. In addition, three samples were found to have energy efficiency grades lower than that indicated on their energy labels. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department was notified of the test findings for follow-up.

Eco-designs of TVs

The Council joined consumer associations in Europe and published a research report on the eco-design of 12 models of television which included 32 inch or 42 inch CCFL (Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp) backlight LCD, LED (Light Emitting Diode) backlight LCD and plasma screen TV models.

推廣可持續消費的重要性

本會測試產品及發布資訊，推廣及支持可持續消費，幫助消費者選擇較環保的產品，以達到保護自然資源，減少廢物的目的。

我們完成的任務

我們的產品測試，也加進環境因素的評估，例如能源效率、產品及包裝的可循環再生性、耐用程度及會否釋出揮發性有機化合物等，藉以讓消費者知悉產品對環境及健康的影響。我們亦就政府的各種有關環境保護的提案發表意見以示支持。

冷氣機售價高未必反映能源效率佳

本會測試了15款窗口式冷氣機，它們聲稱的製冷量介乎5.0至5.3千瓦。測試結果顯示，部分價錢較貴的樣本未必有較佳的能源效率。

至於製冷量方面，有三分之二（十款）的樣本量得的製冷量數值，比其聲稱數值略低，其中差別最大的樣本，量得的製冷量比聲稱低約5.1%。能源效率最高的樣本與最低者比較，約節省25%電力。此外，根據本會的測試結果，三個樣本量得的能源效益級別，較其能源標籤上標示的級別為低。本會已將測試結果轉交機電工程署跟進。

電視機的環保設計

本會與歐洲消費者組織合作，刊登了12款32吋或42吋電視機的「環保設計」的研究及評估結果。當中樣本包括：熒光燈背光照明液晶電視機、LED背光照明液晶電視機及等離子電視機。

A television contains over 4 000 chemicals and some plasma TVs have a higher lead content. Chemical analysis conducted in the project also found that most of the models contained low level of phthalates and flame retardants. Manufacturers were urged to be wary of the use of these hazardous chemicals.

While most of the TVs were easy to dismantle, their screens contained hazardous substances and therefore the screen materials are seldom recycled or reused. Useful tips in protecting the environment were also included in the report.

Submission on the Restriction of Sale of Energy-inefficient Incandescent Light Bulbs

The Council supported the launch of a mandatory scheme to restrict the supply of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs (ILBs). Lamps of higher energy efficiency would become more widely used as replacement by restricting the supply of ILBs.

We supported restricting the supply of non-reflector type ILB by phases through legislation. Non-reflector type ILBs of 25 watt or above which operates at a single phase electricity supply of nominal voltage of 220 volts should be covered in the initial phase of the scheme.

Aside from requiring importers or manufacturers of ILBs to submit product test reports and updated information to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department at reasonable intervals, the Council suggested conducting surveillance checks/ tests to see if the energy efficiency of ILB products is as claimed.

Registered ILB products should carry appropriate labelling to enable consumers to identify them easily. An educational publicity drive should be launched before implementation of the scheme to raise awareness among the general public.

We also anticipated that more consumers would switch to use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Though reducing the power consumption might have beneficial effect, the capacity of the treatment facility for disposed CFLs in Hong Kong may not be sufficient to cope with the increasing usage of CFLs and corresponding expansion in the treatment capacity was urged.

With the shortage of treatment facility, if CFLs were handled as normal garbage, mercury vapour might leak out and the potential health risk to rubbish-processing workers should not be overlooked.

電視機內含多達4 000種化學物，而部分等離子電視機樣本含鉛量較高。測試中對電視機內化學物的分析顯示大部分樣本含少量鄰苯二甲酸鹽及阻燃劑。本會呼籲業界繼續關注這些化學物的應用。

雖然大部分電視機都容易拆解，但由於屏幕部分大多含有毒物質，因此屏幕物料很少會循環再造或再用。報告亦提供了環保小貼士供消費者參考。

就《限制銷售能源效益較低的鎢絲燈泡》提出意見

本會支持政府推行強制計劃以限制能源效益較低的鎢絲燈泡的供應。當鎢絲燈泡的供應受到限制，更具能源效益的燈泡會更普及並廣泛地使用。

本會亦支持通過立法方式，分階段限制鎢絲燈泡的供應。強制計劃的首階段應涵蓋適用於標稱電壓伏特(220伏特)單相電源的25瓦特或以上的非反射型鎢絲燈泡。

除了要求鎢絲燈泡的供應商或生產商向機電工程署提供產品測試報告及最新資訊外，本會建議政府定期抽查及測試已註冊的產品，以確保已註冊的產品的能源效益符合標準要求。

已註冊的鎢絲燈泡型號須貼上標籤以便市民識別。在計劃實施前，應推行教育宣傳活動加強消費者的認知。

本會預料更多消費者會考慮轉用慳電膽，雖然能源效益會有所提升，但化學廢物處理中心的處理容量未必足以處理所有棄置的舊慳電膽，因此，須提升化學廢物處理的設施以應付需求。

在未有足夠化學廢物處理設施的情況下，舊慳電膽可能會被當作普通垃圾棄置，一旦碎裂便會釋出有毒的水銀，對處理垃圾的工人的健康影響不容忽視。

The Council called for promotion of alternative forms of energy-efficient lighting (for instance LED lamps) to enable consumers to make informed choices.

Submission on Extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags

The Council provided views in response to the Public Consultation on Extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags (PSBs). If the Levy scheme was to be extended to cover all retailers regardless of their business scale, any adverse effect to small and medium enterprises in terms of increase in operational and administrative cost could be offset if the proposed 'retention by retailers' approach was adopted.

We cautioned against the possibility of retailers resorting to distribution of shopping bags of other materials (e.g. paper) to get around the requirement to collect the charge.

To ensure there would be no abuse of plastic bags, monitoring the distribution and use of plastic bags is desirable. It might be necessary to require some form of reporting by retailers so that the effect of the Levy Scheme in terms of money charged or reduction in the number of PSBs distributed can be tracked.

There was health ground to support having non-prepackaged food separately contained and the proposal to exempt PSBs that are directly and solely used for food hygiene purpose was reasonable. There might be misconceptions and confusions about the PSBs that would fit the criteria. Therefore, the exemption should be clearly defined.

Education in environmental protection needs have to be strengthened and the public should be made aware of the scope of the Levy Scheme and the long-term adverse effect of disposal of PSBs.

Green Housekeeping

At the Consumer Council Office, every endeavour has been made to reduce energy and paper consumption through minimising copying, reusing paper, electronic transfer of information, the use of energy efficient and environmentally friendly office equipment and refraining from the use of materials which are harmful to the environment.

本會建議政府推廣高能源效益的照明替代產品，例如發光二極管(LED)燈，讓消費者能作出明智的選擇。

對《擴大塑膠購物袋環保徵費計劃》提出意見

本會就擴大《塑膠購物袋環保徵費計劃》公眾諮詢提供意見。如將塑膠購物袋徵費計劃擴展至所有零售商，不論其業務規模大小，若收集得來的徵費由零售商保留得到接納，將可抵銷對中小企在增加營運和行政開支方面帶來的負面影響。

本會指出須留意零售商有可能會派發其他物料的購物袋(例如紙造的購物袋)，以避開向消費者收取徵費的要求。

為確保塑膠購物袋不被濫用，有需要監察塑膠購物袋的派發和使用，或需要零售商作出某些記錄，例如以徵得的費用或減少派發塑膠購物袋的數量來追蹤徵費計劃的成效。

基於健康理由，本會認同沒有預先包裝的食物應分開裝載，而有關建議豁免直接盛載及基於食物衛生而用的塑膠購物袋屬可理解。為免引致誤解或混淆哪些塑膠購物袋適用於豁免範圍，有關方面必須清晰界定豁免的範圍。

當局也須加強環境保護的教育，讓公眾知曉徵費計劃的範疇及棄置塑膠購物袋所帶來的長遠不良影響。

環保辦公室

為求節省能源及減低紙張的消耗量，本會辦事處盡量減少影印、鼓勵員工雙面用紙、利用電子郵件傳達訊息，及使用慳電及環保的文儀器材，亦避免採用有害環境的物料。