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Green Is Here To Stay

SEC’s Eco-Office Certification Programme Helps Management and Workers Alike In Greening Efforts

Singapore, 16 February 2011 – Every business has an office and while they come in different shapes, sizes and layouts, all are ideal places for management to implement green initiatives to decrease harmful impact on the environment and to lower operating costs. It is also not a coincidence that the success and longevity of any initiative implemented is closely linked to management involvement. The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) understands the need to help not only the management but also the workers in office greening efforts.

“On one hand, you have management considering environmental-related issues like efficient energy and resource consumption to effectively and efficiently run a business; and on the other, you know that employee involvement and conviction are necessary in achieving significant environmental performance improvements,” said Mr Howard Shaw, Executive Director of Singapore Environment Council.

Therefore SEC has made management involvement an inherent requirement for the attainment of the Eco-Office Label; and also provided the necessary information on how to green one’s office easily available to workers.

Mr Shaw also shared at the Eco-Office Label Presentation Ceremony that environmental-related issues are like the common denominator that cut across all businesses and industries so much so that businesses usually not associated by most to anything green, like Gammon Private Limited and the Changi Women’s Prison, are also part of the diverse range of offices applying for the Eco-Office Label.

At the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Guest-of-Honour, Dr John Keung, Chief Executive Officer, Building and Construction Authority, presented 25 offices with the Eco-Office certificates.

The cumulative number of offices that have received the Eco-Office Label has more than doubled to 73 this year from less than a handful of offices that were awarded the label (initially known as Green Office label) when it was first launched in 2005.

The Eco-Office Label is an initiative of Project: Eco-Office, jointly established by SEC and City Developments Limited (CDL) in 2002. This project was developed for office workers by bringing the environmental message to offices in Singapore by incorporating environmental practices into their daily lives. In addition, the project also made information on how to green one’s office readily available to workers in order to promote a basic level of environmental awareness and responsibility. Such information is available from www.ecooffice.com.sg a website which also features a DIY (do-it-yourself) online office rating system where organisations can self-audit their office operations.

As opposed to offices which have just started their green journey, experienced ones that achieved good ratings through the online office rating system are eligible to apply for the Eco-Office Label. The difference for the two groups would be the requirement to pass an independent third-party audit for the attainment of the Eco-Office Label.

The Eco-Office Label is one of SEC’s eco certification programmes that promotes and raises the environmental standard of businesses by sectors. SEC had just launched the Eco-Foodcourt certification in January, and has two other certifications in the pipeline for the retail and community club sectors.

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About Project Eco-Office

The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) and City Developments Limited (CDL) launched the Project Eco-office programme in June 2002 to mark World Environment Day. This project was created to encourage more companies in Singapore to implement eco-friendly initiatives and practices in the offices. One of the key programmes in this Project is the online Eco-Office Rating System which enables offices to perform a self-audit and gauge their own performances. Offices which receive good ratings can apply for the Eco-Office Label.



About SEC

Established in 1995, the Singapore Environment Council (SEC) is an independently managed, non-government organisation that nurtures, facilitates and co-ordinates environmental causes in Singapore. SEC's work is founded on three pillars of action – Firstly, partnership with the people, private and public sectors of Singaporean society, to nurture a culture aligned with sustainable development concepts. Secondly, SEC rewards environmental excellence through awards schemes and product endorsement programmes, such as the Singapore Green Labelling Scheme. Thirdly, the SEC collaborates with partners to develop and implement training and learning programmes to build competencies in environmental sustainability within companies, thus keeping our business leaders ahead of the curve. Visit SEC website: <http://www.sec.org.sg>

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