

Harmony with nature enhanced with low carbon manufacturing

Initiated by WWF-Hong Kong in 2009, the Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme (LCMP) has been embraced by many manufacturing facilities committed to raising energy efficiency standards in the Pearl River Delta (PRD).



Eight manufacturers were awarded LCMP Labels for their efforts to help to build a PRD low carbon region. Representatives were photographed with officiating guests of the ceremony.

In a recent WWF LCMP labelling award ceremony (refer to panel for mechanism that leads to label awarding), eight manufacturers were accredited with LCMP labels for meeting different levels of annual reduction in their carbon intensity. Compared to the previous year's figures, the average annual reduction in the participating companies' carbon intensity was 7.2% in 2010. One of the awardees, Leedarson Lighting, achieved the highest annual carbon intensity reduction, 24%, in 2010.

The awards ceremony for 2011 was officiated by Dr Kitty Poon, Under Secretary for the Environment; Mr Jeremy Higgs, Managing Director of Environmental Investment Services Asia Limited (EISAL); Mr Kenneth Lo, Chairman of Crystal Group; and Dr Andy Cornish, Conservation Director of WWF-Hong Kong.

In her speech, Dr Poon acknowledged the LCMP as a "great programme to fight against

climate change", before sharing with the audience the plans for building a Quality Living Area in the PRD with concerted efforts from the Guangdong Provincial Government, as well as the governments of the HKSAR and Macau SAR.

"Attaching much importance to the issue of climate change, the HKSAR government is taking steps to control carbon emissions and to promote a low carbon economy," said Dr Poon, adding that the government has embarked upon

What is the LCMP and how is a label determined?

The LCMP aims at reducing carbon emissions generated by manufacturing facilities in the Pearl River Delta and developing environmental social governance for those manufacturers. First developed in 2008, the LCMP works as a tool to measure the carbon emissions generated by manufacturing facilities.

The LCMP is an initiative of WWF-Hong Kong with independent verification undertaken by a third-party verifier organisation. There are three evaluation criteria: carbon intensity-carbon footprint reduction, greenhouse gas (GHG) management practice, and technology process.

A report is then issued to the factory based on the scores attained in each criterion. The total scores will dictate the LCMP label to be awarded to a manufacturing facility. The LCMP labels are divided into Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

cooperation with Guangdong and Shenzhen in several areas, such as the promotion of electric vehicles and the development of green transportation, that will help reduce carbon emissions.

The LCMP is a result of a tripartite collaboration in its development phase, including a pilot scheme test of the system on three companies in the electronics, plastics and textiles/garments sectors in 2008. In addition to WWF-Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Productivity Council and Azure International Technology & Development (Beijing) Limited put in essential expertise to ignite the system. Today, there are 32 factories with over 40,000 staff participating in LCMP.

The programme had much to thank the Green Dragon Fund managed by EISAL, itself an independent environmental investment management company specialising in investment in the Asian environmental and low-carbon sector, for key financial support.

"The Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme represents a much needed programme for the PRD at a time when China has pledged ambitious environmental goals following the announcement of the 12th Five-Year-Plan earlier this year," said Mr Jeremy Higgs, Managing

TAL champions low carbon manufacturing

With 10 manufacturing facilities in five Asian countries, TAL Apparel Limited (TAL) ranks among the biggest companies in the textile and apparel sector in the world. It is also one of the most forward-looking companies when it comes to the efforts to drive down carbon emissions and GHG management.

TAL is a founding member of the Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium (SFBC), a group of Hong Kong based companies in the textile and apparel sector committed to promoting and increasing the use of sustainable practices across the fashion supply chain, launched in 2008.

"In 2009, many members of the SFBC



Dr Delman Lee of TAL Apparel Limited praised the simplicity of the LCMP.

expressed the wish to reduce carbon emissions and to reinforce GHG management," recalled Dr Delman Lee, President & Chief Technology Officer, TAL Apparel Limited. "But we faced a hurdle; we had no idea how to proceed."

Then, WWF-Hong Kong came along with the newly-developed LCMP and "carbon accounting was suddenly made easy to follow". According to Dr Lee, not only does WWF help a manufacturer design boundaries in concern, it also recommends the best practice action plan, while the carbon accounting software is easy to follow.

As a large-scale manufacturer in the sector, TAL has worked with different consultation companies in the past in order to contain carbon emissions as a result of its manufacturing activities. "Compared to other methods we have used, LCMP is simple to apply to a manufacturing facility and I am of the opinion that it causes much smaller disruption to the routine operation of a company."

While members of Dr Lee's team will likely find themselves occupied with comparing carbon emissions of different production processes, the company has been pushing the boundaries of recycling left over materials. "For sure there are problems knocking on the door for any new development, but we believe environmental solutions are worth our efforts."

Director of EISAL. He noted that China is set to lead the world in the transition towards low-carbon growth with its plans to reduce carbon intensity on the national level, as well as the promotion of the use of cars powered from renewable resources and the scheduled reforestation on the mainland.

As noted by many awardees, while there are hurdles to overcome in their drive towards low carbon manufacturing, the LCMP represents one of the most viable and simple to follow

environmental solutions. In addition, most awardees were pleased to share with the industry how to participate in the programme and how they would be rewarded after all their efforts.

For more information, please check out wwf.org.hk/lcmp.



Dr Kitty Poon, Under Secretary for the Environment, delivered a speech at the ceremony.



Mr Jeremy Higgs said that the LCMP represented an important programme when China pledged ambitious environmental goals.