ESTABLISHING A HONG KONG BASED CARBON LABELLING FRAMEWORK FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Project Synopsis

While Hong Kong aims to be a sustainable low carbon economy city, the construction industry has a critical role to play. Commissioned by the Construction Industry Council (CIC), the research project attempts to develop a framework for classifying construction materials according to their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission level and so as to help building Hong Kong into a low carbon economy as envisaged by the Chief Executive in his 2009-10 Policy Address. By measuring and benchmarking the lifecycle carbon footprint of a building product, consumers or those responsible for sourcing can decide which product to order to meet their specific emission goal.

This research project marks a milestone in collaboration between the industry and academia for the promotion of sustainability in construction. It is anticipated that the carbon labelling framework for construction materials, once developed, will help achieve the target of emission reduction as proposed by the government. The findings should also put Hong Kong at the forefront of sustainable development as well as accreditation service and carbon auditing.

Review of Existing Carbon Labelling Schemes

- Relevant standards/ frameworks
- Benchmarking mechanism
- Databases

Examine Implications of Carbon Labelling in Construction

- Industry perceptions, concerns, obstacles
- Characteristics and supply chain of selected materials

Develop a Carbon Labelling Scheme for Construction Materials

- Carbon assessment methodology and framework
- Benchmarking mechanism

Formulate Strategies and Implementation Plans

- Voluntary / mandatory schemes
- Roles of various industry stakeholders

Desktop Study   *Interviews & Data Collection*   *Focus Group Meetings & Questionnaire Survey*

Research Activities