

The consideration of environmental issues is becoming increasingly important in development and architecture. A program for sustainable development in the 21st century, Agenda 21, was agreed at the United Nations Conference on "The Environment and Development" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, to consider actions for improving the environmental situation. Environmental issues such as ozone depletion, green house effect, climate change and global warming have been raised hence the construction industry is under increasing pressure to consider more environmentally sustainable developments.

The generation of construction and demolition (C&D) waste is also a major issue that received little attention in sustainable design. The construction industry in Hong Kong generates a huge quantity of C&D waste that is either transferred to public fill areas for reclamation and site formation use, or disposed of at landfills. This quantity needs to be reduced, as Hong Kong will soon be running out of both reclamation sites and landfill space. Waste minimization needs to become a goal in project development and design to consider seriously the issues of waste.

This Guideline is produced as a result of a research study by the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, on construction and demolition waste minimization.

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