

# The Standard



## MTR under fire over energy 'waste'

Green group criticises MTRC for being environmentally unfriendly by lighting its advertising boxes for long hours

**T**HE energy used by advertisement **light boxes** (燈箱) at Mass Transit Railway (地鐵公司) stations is enough to light up 76,000 homes a night, an environmental group has found.

Green Sense (環保觸覺) said it checked 51 of the 53 MTR stations across the territory in July. It found about 48,000 **fluorescent tubes** (光管) were used for more than 6,500 advertising boxes.

There were 35,000 fluorescent tubes in advertising light boxes that are about 3.7 metres in length, and 13,000 tubes in 1.2m boxes. A 3.7m light box is lit up by about 10 fluorescent tubes, while a 1.2m box is lit by four tubes, according to the group.

It also checked 29 Kowloon-Canton Railway stations and found 16,400 fluorescent tubes were used to light up advertising boxes.

The group said some advertisements at MTR stations are also heavily lit by stage lights.

The group said having the advertising boxes at

MTR stations switched on from 6am to 1am every day is wasteful as the energy **consumption** (消耗) is **enormous** (龐大的). The same amount of energy could be used to light up 76,000 homes a night, assuming that every family switches on two fluorescent tubes for six hours a day.

"Using fluorescent tubes is an energy-saving measure, but having them switched on for such long hours daily is not environmentally friendly."

Green Sense criticised The MTR Corporation for claiming to be the "greenest" among public transport companies. It said the greenhouse gas emissions – from the generation of electricity for the advertising boxes – are unacceptable.

A MTRC spokesman said the company will look into the possibility of using energy-saving fluorescent tubes for the advertising light boxes.

Staff reporter

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### Lightbulb activists tackle Disney

GREEN campaigners invaded Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel last month in an attempt to change the lobby lightbulbs. They were trying to highlight what they say is the theme park's energy inefficiency.

Greenpeace (綠色和平) activists **unfurled** (展開) a banner reading "Mickey Cooks the Climate". They replaced two lightbulbs with energy-efficient versions before they were stopped by Disney employees.

The group said there are 200 **incandescent** (白熱的) bulbs in the lobby's **chandeliers** (吊燈) alone. A switch to energy-efficient bulbs would save the equivalent carbon dioxide emissions of 1,400 double-decker bus trips around the territory.

Greenpeace called on the government to **phase out** (逐步淘汰) traditional lightbulbs to reduce energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. The gas is blamed for fuelling climate change.

Hong Kong Disneyland said it was dedicated to running its operations in an energy-efficient manner while offering the best quality of entertainment and services to its guests.

Staff reporter and Agence France-Presse  
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### Glossary

consumption	消耗
enormous	龐大的
unfurl	展開
incandescent	白熱的
chandeliers	吊燈



### Classroom activities



#### Research

1. Visit different MTRC stations and comment on the lighting facilities there.
2. Compare the advertising boxes in MTRC stations with those found elsewhere in Hong Kong.
3. Study the changes in Hong Kong's electricity consumption pattern in the past 10 years.



#### Letter

1. Write a letter to the Editor to express your views about whether the lighting of advertising boxes in MTRC stations is an energy waste.
2. Take a street poll to find out if people think the railway companies are wasting electricity by lighting advertising boxes for long hours.



#### Poster

1. Design a poster to remind young people not to waste electricity.
2. Prepare a pamphlet on how to save electricity.