

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2019–20	\$6,959.2m
Establishment ceiling 2019–20 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 080 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2019 rising by 172 posts to 2 252 posts as at 31 March 2020.....	\$1,267.5m
In addition, there will be an estimated 40 directorate posts as at 31 March 2019 rising by four posts to 44 posts as at 31 March 2020.	
Commitment balance	\$4,015.4m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

<p>Programme (1) Waste Programme (2) Air Programme (3) Noise Programme (4) Water Programme (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning Programme (6) Nature Conservation</p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for the Environment).</p>
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Detail

Programme (1): Waste

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	2,641.7	3,664.0	3,170.1 (–13.5%)	4,107.1 (+29.6%)
				(or +12.1% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to develop and implement a waste-to-resources management strategy for Hong Kong to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, as well as to safeguard the health and welfare of the community from any adverse environmental effects associated with the improper handling and disposal of waste.

Brief Description

3 The Department is responsible for preparing plans at strategic and district levels for the provision of facilities for proper treatment and disposal of waste including municipal, construction, livestock, chemical and clinical wastes, sewage and water treatment works sludges and other special wastes. The Department enforces relevant legislation to control the illegal disposal of waste, develops new proposals to meet changing waste management needs and advises on the assessment and remediation of contaminated land. The Department also works with the community to promote and encourage waste reduction and recycling.

4 In *Hong Kong Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013–2022* published in May 2013, the Government set out a comprehensive strategy, with targets, policies and action plans for waste management for the coming ten years to tackle its imminent waste challenge. In February 2014, the Government also unveiled *A Food Waste & Yard Waste Plan for Hong Kong 2014–2022* to map out the comprehensive strategy, targets, policies and action plans for the management of food waste and yard waste in the coming nine years. In this connection, the Department has been implementing a Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign since December 2012 to nurture the culture of food waste reduction at source and food donation to the needy. The Department has also launched a new phase of the campaign to further promote the “Food Wise” culture with a view to reducing food waste at source and facilitating food waste source separation and recycling.

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5 On waste reduction, the Department continues to promote and implement the plastic shopping bag charging scheme, the producer responsibility schemes (PRSS) on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and glass beverage containers, and will press ahead with the introduction of the PRS on plastic beverage containers. On municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, the Department introduced the required legislation into the Legislative Council in November 2018. Meanwhile, the Department will continue to support voluntary recycling programmes and promote sustainable development of the recycling industry. Among other things, the Department set up the \$1 billion Recycling Fund in 2015 to facilitate the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiencies of the recycling industry. It has launched various targeted programmes to support the industry to cope with the challenges arising from the Mainland's tightened control for import recyclables which has commenced since January 2018. The Department is carrying out a mid-term review of the Recycling Fund with a view to strengthening its support for the recycling industry as well as other community stakeholders in practising recycling. A publicity campaign under the theme of "Dump Less, Save More" has been launched to promote waste reduction and recycling. The Department continues with the development of a network of Community Green Stations (CGSs) across the territory to strengthen recycling support and environmental education at the district level. The Department has been providing enhanced recycling support for low-value recyclables at the community level by, among other things, progressively introducing a pilot scheme involving three districts, to offer free collection service for all types of waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial sources. It will also carry out a pilot scheme to provide free collection of food waste generated from commercial and industrial sources. Subject to the outcome of these pilot schemes, the Department will progressively extend the free collection service for waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial sources to all other districts, and expand the free food waste collection service to cover all sectors including domestic and commercial/industrial sectors, as part of the Government's enhanced recycling measures to complement and support the MSW charging scheme in due course. In parallel, to better prepare the community for the MSW charging scheme, the Department is setting up outreaching teams which will gradually reach out to the community to disseminate updated information including that on MSW charging, and provide on-site guidance and support to residents and property management companies in practising proper waste source separation and clean recycling.

6 In 2018, about 5.87 million tonnes of solid waste were disposed of at the three landfills. Regarding waste infrastructure, with the funding approval for the South East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme and the North East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme by the Legislative Council in December 2014, the landfills are expected to cope with the local disposal need up to late 2020s. Apart from landfill extension schemes, the 2015 commissioning of T · PARK, the sludge treatment facility, and the 2018 commissioning of O · PARK1, the organic resources recovery centre (ORRC) Phase 1, the Department is taking forward a number of waste-to-energy projects, including the remaining phases of the ORRCs and the integrated waste management facility. For the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme (RLRFS), the Department has been working closely with the two non-profit-making organisations selected under batch 1 of the RLRFS to take forward the projects to revitalise the Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill and the Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill the soonest possible.

7 The key performance measures in respect of the waste programme are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
operation hours of strategic landfills.....	13 870	13 858	13 982	13 870
processing marine dumping permits within 18 days (%).....	90	98	95	95
initial response to waste complaints within three days (%).....	95	96	97	95

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
strategic landfills			
no. of capital works milestone payments	3	5	6
tonnage of waste received annually	5 663 279	5 874 884	5 838 000
total solid waste disposed of (%)	100	100	100
refuse transfer stations			
tonnage of waste received annually	3 283 030	3 392 486	3 400 000
special wastes			
tonnage of waste treated annually at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	17 647	16 657	16 700
tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at the T · PARK	386 208	392 221	392 000
livestock waste			
total quantity produced (thousand tonnes)	65	65	65
disposed of by environmentally-acceptable means (%).....	90	90	90

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	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
WEEE			
tonnage of WEEE treated annually at the WEEE • PARK [^]	930	10 830	18 000
O • PARK1			
tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O • PARK1#	—	14 508	55 000
marine dumping permits issued	134	115	110
waste import/export permits issued	22	32	34
chemical waste trip tickets recorded	35 100	37 600	36 000
chemical waste collector licences issued	7	17	30
chemical waste disposal licences issued	7	15	15
prosecutions for			
chemical waste control offences	190	233	230
clinical waste control offences	4	4	4
livestock waste control offences	3	14	7
marine dumping offences	4	12	4
waste import/export offences	66	43	48
illegal deposit of waste offences	198	184	185
complaints handled	3 855	3 994	3 800
enquiries handled by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service	3 855	5 155	5 200

[^] Indicator introduced following the commencement of operation of the WEEE • PARK from end 2017.

[#] New indicator introduced following the O • PARK1's commencement to receive food waste since July 2018 for conducting the Commissioning Tests.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

8 During 2019–20, the Department will:

- continue to implement in phases the PRSs on WEEE and glass beverage containers;
- press ahead with the introduction of a PRS on plastic beverage containers, including launching a pilot scheme on the application of reverse vending machine for collection of such containers;
- conduct a review of the plastic shopping bag charging scheme;
- continue to monitor and enhance the operation of the Recycling Fund to facilitate the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiencies of the recycling industry as well as to support other stakeholders to practise recycling at different levels;
- continue to implement voluntary PRSs;
- continue to take forward the legislative proposal of MSW charging and undertake other preparatory work for the implementation of MSW charging;
- continue with the development of the network of CGSs across the territory;
- continue to pursue the adoption of Global Positioning System on construction waste collection vehicles under suitable public works contracts to enhance management of construction waste;
- continue to promote reduction of food waste at source and on-site/off-site recycling of unavoidable food waste under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign;
- continue to support the Steering Committee to Promote Sustainable Development of Recycling Industry;
- continue to monitor the operation of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 and pursue the development of manufacturing industries involving local recyclables by leveraging on the land and other infrastructural support provided by the EcoPark;
- continue to raise public awareness of and enhance community participation in clean recycling and proper source separation of waste;
- continue to expand outreaching teams with a view to gradually reaching out to the community to provide on-site support and assistance to residents and property management companies in practising proper waste source separation and clean recycling, as well as making preparation for implementing MSW charging;
- introduce a pilot scheme in three districts to provide free collection service for all types of waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial sources;
- introduce a pilot scheme to collect food waste generated from commercial and industrial sources;

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- continue to take forward the development of ORRCs and food waste/sewage sludge co-digestion facilities for the treatment of source-separated food waste, as well as the development of an Integrated Waste Management Facility to achieve bulk reduction of MSW;
- continue to implement the South East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme and the North East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme, and to carry out the design and site investigation study as well as consult local stakeholders on the West New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme;
- continue to promote green procurement in the Government and the community;
- continue to implement the RLRFS to expedite the development of gainful facilities at restored landfills;
- keep in view the operational experience of the administrative control scheme on Waste Cooking Oil (WCO), in particular after the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department's relevant licensing conditions imposed on food premises have taken effect, in preparation of the legislative work to amend the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) to introduce a licensing system for strengthening the control of WCO; and
- continue to promote the "Waste Reduction Guidebook for Large Scale Event Organisers" to improve the environmental performance of community events of different scales through adopting waste reduction and recovery measures.

Programme (2): Air

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	2,065.9	1,888.6	1,515.0 (–19.8%)	2,141.1 (+41.3%)
				(or +13.4% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

9 The aim is to formulate and oversee emission reduction measures to enable the ambient air quality to broadly comply with the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) by 2020; to enforce the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) (APCO), the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403) (OLPO) and other statutory requirements; to co-ordinate Government's efforts in combating climate change; and to promote the use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong.

Brief Description

10 The work carried out by the Department in seeking to achieve and maintain satisfactory air quality includes:

- development of AQOs, standards and guidelines;
- enforcement of APCO to control air pollution from factories, polluting processes and products, motor vehicles, vessels, non-road mobile machinery, asbestos and other sources;
- enforcement of OLPO to control ozone depleting substances and products containing these substances;
- implementation of the voluntary Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for offices and public places;
- operation of an air quality monitoring network and laboratories to provide the air quality information needed for checking the effectiveness of existing programmes and development of new policies;
- provision of air quality information and Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) to the public;
- collaboration with authorities in Guangdong to carry out the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme and implement measures to improve regional air quality; and
- co-ordination of strategies and measures for combating climate change.

11 Compared with 1999, the ambient concentrations of respirable suspended particulates (RSP), fine suspended particulates (FSP), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) dropped by 37 per cent, 39 per cent, 32 per cent and 67 per cent respectively in 2018. Ozone was the only pollutant that showed an increase in concentration by 53 per cent, owing to regional photochemical smog problem and reduction in local nitric oxide (NO) emissions from vehicles resulting in less NO to react with and titrate ozone. At the roadside, the concentrations of RSP, FSP, NO₂ and SO₂ fell by 57 per cent, 54 per cent, 17 per cent and 74 per cent respectively between 1999 and 2018. However, roadside NO₂ remains a challenge as it stayed at a high level due to excessive emissions from vehicles. To further improve air quality, a wide range of emission reduction measures are being implemented in respect of motor vehicles and vessels locally while joint efforts are being made with the Guangdong Provincial Government to tackle regional air pollution by attaining emission reduction targets for 2020 in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region.

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12 The current AQOs took effect on 1 January 2014. The Department embarked on a review of the AQOs in 2016 through intensive engagement with stakeholders to identify possible new air quality improvement measures and assess the potential scope for further tightening the AQOs. The review was completed in 2018. A consultation will be launched to solicit public views on the review findings in 2019. The Department is implementing an ex-gratia payment scheme, which was launched on 1 March 2014, for assisting vehicle owners to progressively phase out their pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles by the end of 2019. It has also introduced legislative control to mandate the use of compliant fuel for vessels within Hong Kong waters and tightened the emission standards of non-road vehicles starting from 1 January 2019. To continue to improve regional air quality and protect public health, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Guangdong Governments are discussing the regional air pollution reduction collaboration beyond 2020, including the launch of a study on post-2020 air pollutant emission reduction targets and concentration levels for Hong Kong and Guangdong. At the end of December 2018, a total of 140 trials had been approved under the Pilot Green Transport Fund (PGTF) to test out green innovative transport technologies.

13 Recognising the need to step up climate actions and to draw up long-term strategies, an inter-departmental committee, namely the Steering Committee on Climate Change, was established under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for Administration to steer and co-ordinate the climate actions of various bureaux and departments. The Government released in January 2017 Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+, setting out in detail the key measures on mitigation, adaptation and resilience to combat climate change, and the target to reduce Hong Kong's carbon intensity by 65 per cent to 70 per cent by 2030, using 2005 as the base level. This is equivalent to an absolute reduction of 26 to 36 per cent, resulting in per capita emissions of 3.3 to 3.8 tonnes in 2030. Hong Kong has been actively involved in international co-operation and exchanges on climate actions, including the events organised by the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the C40 Cities Climate Change Leadership Group. Starting from April 2017, bureaux and departments are required to start conducting regular carbon audits on major government buildings with a view to exploring room for carbon reduction and to disclose their carbon emissions information.

14 The key performance measures in respect of air-related activities are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
processing of chimney/furnace applications within 16 days (%)	90	93	93	90
percentage of hourly AQHI below 7 (i.e. low or moderate "health risk" category) (%)				
general	98‡	97	98	98
roadside	96‡	96	97	97

‡ Targets when ambient air quality broadly meets AQO limits by 2020.

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
chimney/furnace applications processed	508	396	400
asbestos management plans processed	152	197	190
specified processes under licence (%)	100	100	100
premises and plants inspected	14 997	15 635	15 000
complaints handled	4 500	4 712	4 500
technical advice offered	2 163	2 004	2 000
legal notices issued	193	188	190
prosecutions under the APCO and OLPO	100	115	110
reduction of scheduled ozone depleting substance consumption (tonnage)	5 519	5 519	5 520
planning advice issued	960	946	950
smoky vehicle reports processed	3 122	2 923	2 900
smoky vehicles tested	2 055	1 829	1 800
enquiries/complaints on vehicle matters handled	7 279	7 744	7 500
indoor air quality certifications registered	1 494	1 638	1 650

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

15 During 2019–20, the Department will:

- continue to implement various air quality improvement measures outlined in *A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong* as well as introduce new initiatives for further improving air quality with a view to enabling ambient air quality to broadly meet the AQOs by 2020;
- consult the public on the findings of the AQOs review;
- continue to encourage the transport trade to make use of the PGTF to try out green innovative transport technologies, and review the current scope of the PGTF with a view to further facilitating wider use of green innovative transport technologies by the transport sectors;
- continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles;
- continue to explore the feasibility of a pilot scheme on green ferry and promote green government vessels;
- review the Seventh Technical Memorandum for Allocation of Emission Allowances in Respect of Specified Licences for further tightening the emission caps on power plants;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities on air quality improvements, including the implementation of coastal emission control areas in Mainland waters, the conducting of a joint study on post-2020 air pollutant emission reduction targets, and air quality forecasting;
- continue to collaborate with the Guangdong and Macao authorities to include routine volatile organic compounds monitoring in the PRD regional air quality monitoring network;
- continue to collaborate with the Guangdong authorities to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in Guangdong Province;
- continue to co-ordinate the implementation of measures to combat climate change, step up educational and publicity efforts to promote awareness of climate change, and co-operate with the Guangdong authorities to address the challenge;
- continue to support bureaux and departments in enhancing carbon management by carrying out carbon audits on major government buildings so as to identify room for carbon reduction;
- develop a long-term decarbonisation strategy for Hong Kong up to 2050, taking into account the recommendations to be submitted by the Council for Sustainable Development after conducting a public engagement exercise with a bottom-up approach and active participation by stakeholders;
- prepare to tighten the emission standards for newly registered motor cycles to Euro IV in 2020 and newly registered light buses with design weight more than 3.5 tonnes and buses with design weight not exceeding nine tonnes to Euro VI in 2021;
- prepare to launch an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to progressively phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles by the end of 2023; and
- prepare to conduct the trial of retrofitting Euro IV and Euro V franchised buses with enhanced selective catalytic reduction systems to reduce emission of nitrogen oxides.

Programme (3): Noise

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	130.8	138.6	132.4 (–4.5%)	148.9 (+12.5%)
				(or +7.4% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

16 The aim is to prevent, minimise and resolve environmental noise problems through intervention in the planning process, implementation of noise abatement measures and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) (NCO).

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Brief Description

17 To achieve this aim, the Department carries out the following main tasks:

- provision of professional input in relation to planning and development proposals to pre-empt and mitigate noise problems;
- development of practicable proposals to address existing traffic noise problems;
- promoting the use of quieter construction equipment; and
- enforcement of the NCO.

18 The key performance measures in respect of noise-related activities are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
processing of applications for construction noise permits within 18 days (%)	90	95	96	90
processing of applications for noise emission labels for breakers and air compressors within 15 days (%).....	90	93	93	90

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
comments given in planning stage	1 418	1 456	1 450
prosecutions under the NCO	102	154	150
construction noise permits processed.....	4 368	4 108	4 100
noise emission labels issued for breakers and air compressors	1 388	1 197	1 200
noise abatement notices served	42	38	40
complaints handled.....	4 785	5 017	5 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

19 During 2019–20, the Department will continue to:

- tackle noise impact of existing roads through the retrofitting programme; and
- promote good practices to prevent or minimise road traffic noise problems at the planning stage.

Programme (4): Water

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	299.0	319.9	304.4 (–4.8%)	356.9 (+17.2%)

(or +11.6% on
2018–19 Original)

Aim

20 The aim is to ensure that the quality of Hong Kong's marine and fresh waters promotes the conservation and best use of those waters in the public interest, and that plans are formulated and implemented such that Hong Kong's sewerage systems can operate safely and effectively to cope with our current needs and needs of Hong Kong's further development.

Brief Description

21 The Department seeks to attain and maintain Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) by enforcing relevant legislation; by ensuring the provision of an adequate sewerage infrastructure; by assessing the possible impact of strategic and local developments on water quality and requiring this to be taken into account in development plans; and by proposing revisions to existing legislations aimed at preventing water pollution, if necessary. Water and sediment quality is monitored extensively, and special investigations are conducted to provide the basis for policy development and preventive planning.

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22 The Department continues to pursue the phased implementation of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS). HATS Stage 2A has been fully commissioned since December 2015. A study on enhancing the quality of the coastal waters of Victoria Harbour was commissioned in January 2016, with a long-term objective of enhancing the Harbour's leisure and recreational value.

23 The sewerage master plans for Central and East Kowloon, West Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung, Tuen Mun, Tsing Yi, the Outlying Islands, Hong Kong Island, North District and Tolo Harbour areas have been reviewed and proposals for sewerage upgrading works are being pursued in accordance with the identified priority.

24 The key performance measures in respect of the water programme are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
inspection of major discharges in every Water Control Zone at least four times a year (%).....	100	100	100	100
provision of weekly beach water quality grading to the public during bathing season (%).....	100	100	100	100
initial response to water pollution complaints within three days (%).....	95	97	98	95

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
compliance with WQOs for marine waters (%).....	84	84	84
inland water sampling points	82	82	82
no. of the sampling points classified as (%)			
excellent	59	57	59
good.....	25	26	26
fair.....	9	9	9
bad.....	7	6	6
very bad.....	0	2	0
compliance with WQOs for inland waters (%).....	90	90	90
enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)			
licences granted.....	1 444	1 066	1 100
licences renewed	1 455	1 241	1 200
prosecutions for water pollution control offences.....	49	43	45
detailed investigations and inspections	13 551	13 114	13 000
complaints handled	2 684	2 731	2 700
drainage plans vetted (under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)).....	79	73	75
responses to planning cases.....	1 035	967	960

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

25 During 2019–20, the Department will continue to:

- co-operate with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary water quality management issues and protection of the marine environment;
- pursue various sewage treatment and sewerage projects; and
- improve the water quality of Victoria Harbour.

Programme (5): Environmental Assessment and Planning

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	106.2	115.5	111.2 (–3.7%)	126.2 (+13.5%)
				(or +9.3% on 2018–19 Original)

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Aim

26 The aim is to pre-empt environmental problems associated with projects, plans, policies and strategies by reviewing proponents' assessment of their environmental implications and ensuring that effective preventive and mitigatory measures are implemented where potential problems are identified.

Brief Description

27 The Department seeks to prevent environmental problems through reviewing the environmental findings of projects, planning proposals and development strategies which may have significant environmental implications. It oversees strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies, and processes Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) (EIAO) applications to ensure that the environmental impacts of designated projects are properly assessed and that measures to control them to acceptable levels are properly implemented.

28 The key performance measures in respect of environmental assessment and planning are:

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
plans reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on outline zoning plans, layout plans, etc.).....	97	72	70
miscellaneous district planning or housing proposals reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on housing proposals, applications under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131)) ...	1 546	1 739	1 700
major planning studies and strategic planning studies	72	78	75
applications processed under the EIAO.....	83	77	79
major projects undergoing environmental monitoring and audit.....	111	103	105
EIA with technical advice provided	49	50	52
cases where environmental implications paragraphs in funding and policy proposals vetted	281	303	300

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

29 During 2019–20, the Department will continue to:

- pre-empt environmental problems through processing EIAO applications and enforcement of permit conditions;
- promote the incorporation of environmental considerations into major policies and strategies at the earliest possible stage; and
- promote environmental good practices and early engagement with stakeholders in the planning and design of new developments.

Programme (6): Nature Conservation

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	8.1	40.6	36.5 (–10.1%)	79.0 (+116.4%)
				(or +94.6% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

30 The aim is to regulate, protect and manage natural resources that are important for the conservation of biological diversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner, taking into account social and economic considerations, for the benefit and enjoyment of the community and their future generations.

Brief Description

31 The Department's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate policies and to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of programmes on nature and countryside conservation.

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32 In accordance with the New Nature Conservation Policy, the Department will continue to support management agreement projects with landowners/tenants and the public-private partnership scheme to enhance conservation efforts in collaboration with the relevant departments and stakeholders. Nature conservation measures will continue to be implemented and, where appropriate, enhanced. Promotion and public education of nature conservation in the community across sectors will be conducted, to be supplemented by publicity initiatives to reinforce the message.

33 The Department established the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) in July 2018 to co-ordinate conservation and revitalisation projects in the countryside for the long-term sustainable development of remote countryside areas. The CCO will implement minor improvement works in countryside areas, as well as support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to interact and co-operate with villagers in organising diverse and innovative conservation activities and revitalisation projects under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) which is expected to be launched in 2019.

34 The CCO has been liaising and co-ordinating with relevant government departments, NGOs and stakeholders to work on some minor works proposals for improving public facilities in remote countryside areas. The Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC) will be established in 2019 to examine applications on conservation and revitalisation projects submitted by NGOs and to monitor the implementation of approved projects.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

35 During 2019–20, the Department will:

- plan and co-ordinate minor improvement works in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as priority areas;
- roll out the CCFS to support conservation and revitalisation projects to be carried out by NGOs, and to set up the ACCC to examine applications for CCFS and monitor approved projects;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of marine parks, and the work on designating new marine parks, including the new Southwest Lantau Marine Park;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of country parks, and the work on designating the Robin's Nest in Sha Tau Kok as a new country park;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the measures to better protect country park enclaves, in particular those found suitable for being included as part of country parks;
- continue to oversee the operation and management of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark;
- oversee the preparatory work for the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on the Lamma Island to include waters off the beach with a view to strengthening the protection of endangered green turtles; and
- continue to oversee the implementation of the first Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2017–18 (Actual) (\$m)	2018–19 (Original) (\$m)	2018–19 (Revised) (\$m)	2019–20 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Waste.....	2,641.7	3,664.0	3,170.1	4,107.1
(2) Air	2,065.9	1,888.6	1,515.0	2,141.1
(3) Noise	130.8	138.6	132.4	148.9
(4) Water.....	299.0	319.9	304.4	356.9
(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning.....	106.2	115.5	111.2	126.2
(6) Nature Conservation.....	8.1	40.6	36.5	79.0
	5,251.7	6,167.2	5,269.6 (–14.6%)	6,959.2 (+32.1%)
				(or +12.8% on 2018–19 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$937.0 million (29.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased provision for waste management initiatives, increased contract payments for the operation of waste management facilities and increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net increase of 148 posts in 2019–20.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$626.1 million (41.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net increase of 21 posts in 2019–20.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$16.5 million (12.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net increase of two posts in 2019–20.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$52.5 million (17.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses and increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent project. In addition, there will be a net increase of three posts in 2019–20.

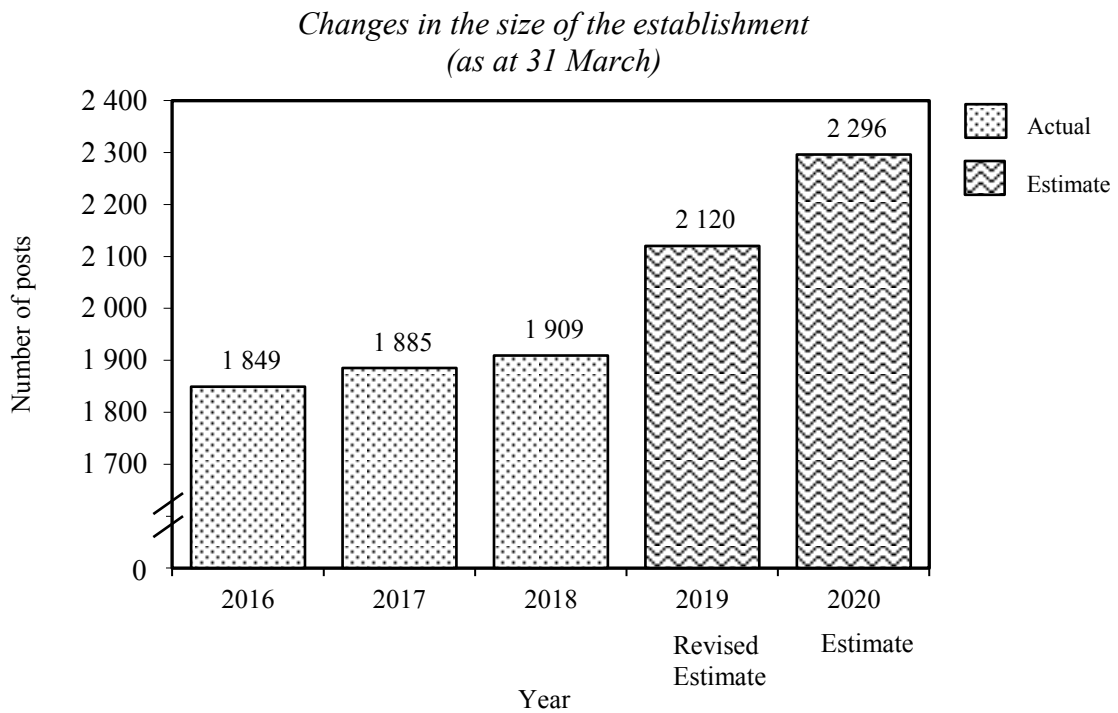
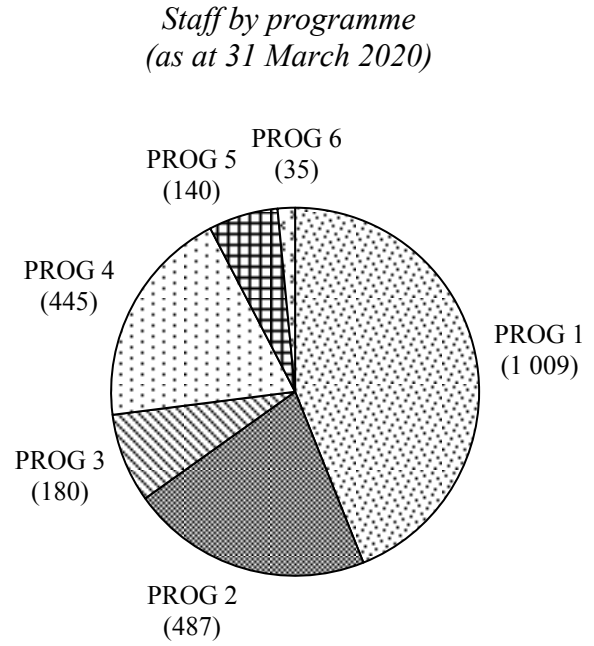
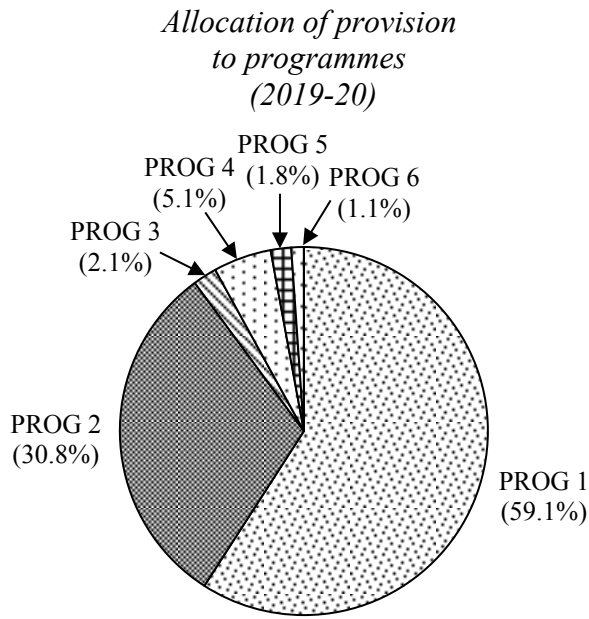
Programme (5)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$15.0 million (13.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net increase of two posts in 2019–20.

Programme (6)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$42.5 million (116.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent project.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT



Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2017-18	Approved estimate 2018-19	Revised estimate 2018-19	Estimate 2019-20
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	1,678,166	2,146,833	1,915,449	2,725,273
297	Fees for operation of waste management facilities§	1,946,342	2,380,756	2,285,437	2,431,649
	Total, Recurrent.....	3,624,508	4,527,589	4,200,886	5,156,922
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	1,619,721	1,611,525	1,055,187	1,778,393
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	1,619,721	1,611,525	1,055,187	1,778,393
	Total, Operating Account	5,244,229	6,139,114	5,256,073	6,935,315
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
605	Minor capital works (block vote).....	1,537	1,748	1,694	2,670
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	5,911	26,336	11,854	21,176
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	7,448	28,084	13,548	23,846
	Total, Capital Account.....	7,448	28,084	13,548	23,846
	Total Expenditure	5,251,677	6,167,198	5,269,621	6,959,161

§ Revision of the previous subhead description “Fees for operation of waste facilities” as from 2019-20.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2019–20 for the salaries and expenses of the Environmental Protection Department is \$6,959,161,000. This represents an increase of \$1,689,540,000 over the revised estimate for 2018–19 and \$1,707,484,000 over the actual expenditure in 2017–18.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$2,725,273,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Department. This represents an increase of \$809,824,000 (42.3%) over the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased provision for filling of vacancies and new posts in 2019–20, and increased requirement for departmental expenses in connection with measures on waste reduction, air quality monitoring, and environmental protection and conservation.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2019 will be 2 120 posts including four supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 176 posts including two supernumerary posts in 2019–20. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2019–20, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,267,537,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2017–18 (Actual) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Original) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Revised) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	1,179,394	1,319,407	1,259,754	1,455,410
- Allowances.....	29,954	36,393	33,005	36,757
- Job-related allowances.....	918	900	860	980
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	4,416	6,330	5,581	9,565
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	38,496	51,310	53,855	66,757
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	10,905	14,357	15,505	16,652
- General departmental expenses.....	414,083	718,136	546,889	1,139,152
	1,678,166	2,146,833	1,915,449	2,725,273

5 Provision of \$2,431,649,000 under *Subhead 297 Fees for operation of waste management facilities* is for contract payments for the operation of waste management facilities including the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre, refuse transfer stations, landfills, T · PARK, WEEE · PARK, O · PARK1, etc.

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

6 Provision of \$2,670,000 under *Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote)* represents funding for renovation of Island West Transfer Station Administration Building. This represents an increase of \$976,000 (57.6%) over the revised estimate for 2018–19 mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for the renovation.

7 Provision of \$21,176,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$9,322,000 (78.6%) over the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased requirement for new equipment.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2018	Revised estimated expenditure for 2018–19	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	801	Countryside Conservation Office.....	500,000	—	6,000	494,000
	802	Preparation for a Pilot Scheme on Electric Public Light Bus.....	1,400	—	—	1,400
	803	Trial of retrofitting Euro IV and V double-deck franchised buses with enhanced selective catalytic reduction systems¶.....	38,180¶	—	—	38,180
	804	Study on the Control of Disposable Plastic Tableware.....	5,000	—	—	5,000
	807	Pilot Scheme on Application of Reverse Vending Machines.....	5,000	—	—	5,000
	808	Study on the total pollution load control regime and online water quality monitoring system.....	9,200	—	—	9,200
	810	Ex-gratia payment for phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles.....	11,444,000	8,213,612	955,000	2,275,388
	827	Recycling Fund.....	1,000,000	89,573	10,500	899,927
	840	Pilot Green Transport Fund.....	300,000	49,342	26,920	223,738
	850	Trial of Electric Buses by Franchised Bus Companies.....	180,000	129,642	7,700	42,658
	880	Enhancement and Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme.....	150,000	92,993	43,969	13,038
	915	Review of the Air Quality Objectives for Hong Kong.....	8,000	3,456	2,000	2,544
	931	Establishment of the Manufacturing, Inventory and Distribution System for Designated Garbage Bags and Designated Labels under the Municipal Solid Waste Charging – Feasibility Study.....	7,000	—	1,700	5,300
		Total.....	13,647,780	8,578,618	1,053,789	4,015,373

¶ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2019.