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Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Session No. : 10

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)001****(Question Serial No. 0893)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Please advise this Committee of the following over the past 5 years:

- (1) the manpower and expenditure involved in handling wild pigs each year; its proportion in the total expenditure of the Department;
- (2) the number of wild pig capture operations conducted each year and the details of each operation, including the date and location of operation;
- (3) the number of wild pigs handled under the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme;
- (4) the number of wild pigs captured for humane dispatch each year;
- (5) the details and expenditure of appealing to the public to stop feeding wild animals; its proportion in the total expenditure of the Department; and
- (6) the number of reports received regarding suspected illegal feeding of wild animals and successful prosecutions; the number of persons arrested and convicted, and the penalties imposed.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)Reply:

- (1) The manpower and expenditure involved in the work in relation to wild pig management by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Manpower (number of staff)	Expenditure (\$ million)	Percentage of the overall departmental expenditure (%)
2019-20	26	14.5	0.9
2020-21	32	17.8	0.9
2021-22	32	19.2	1.0
2022-23	34	22.3	1.1
2023-24 (revised estimate)	33	21.8	1.1

- (2) The AFCD launched the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) in late 2017 to administer contraceptive vaccine or surgically sterilise wild pigs captured and relocate them to the countryside where condition permitted. However, the AFCD's investigations revealed that the progress of administering contraception and sterilisation was far from catching up with the reproduction rate of wild pigs. Moreover, once wild pigs are accustomed to being fed by people, they will return to the urban or residential areas relentlessly to seek food from people even after being relocated to the countryside. To exercise effective control over the wild pig nuisance in Hong Kong, safeguard public safety and maintain public hygiene, the AFCD has implemented new measures since November 2021 to conduct regular capture operations against wild pigs, which pose potential danger or cause nuisance to members of the public, at sites with large numbers of wild pig sightings, and those with past injury cases caused by wild pigs or with wild pigs posing risks to members of the public, as well as upon receiving reports about wild pig sightings in residential or public areas from members of the public or other government departments. During the capture operations, veterinary officers will use dart guns on wild pigs and dispatch them humanely by the injection of a drug.

The number of wild pig capture operations conducted by the AFCD over the past 5 years with a breakdown by month is tabulated as follows:

Month \ Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)
Apr	9	11	13	12	12
May	8	14	16	7	21
Jun	10	16	13	6	11
Jul	21	4	17	11	16
Aug	9	6	21	13	32
Sep	14	16	30	24	20
Oct	16	22	16	28	38
Nov	21	22	22	20	46
Dec	13	14	11	19	28
Jan	7	13	19	10	45
Feb	7	16	8	20	20
Mar	16	24	5	17	Data not yet available
Total	151	178	191	187	289

The number of wild pig capture operations conducted by the AFCD over the past 5 years with a breakdown by district is tabulated as follows:

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)
District					
Islands	0	0	1	0	0
Kwai Tsing	1	4	4	4	1
North	6	8	10	3	9
Sai Kung	21	27	23	28	39
Sha Tin	20	16	13	17	23
Tai Po	4	16	16	10	25
Tsuen Wan	9	4	7	6	18
Tuen Mun	4	2	1	3	18
Yuen Long	1	4	3	1	4
Kowloon City	1	2	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	1	1	0	6	4
Sham Shui Po	4	0	2	3	10
Wong Tai Sin	3	3	1	4	3
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	1	0	1
Central and Western	12	19	26	23	37
Eastern	5	24	31	31	24
Southern	50	39	45	40	47
Wan Chai	9	9	7	8	26
Total	151	178	191	187	289

(3) and (4) The number of wild pigs involved in the CCRP and humanely dispatched over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of wild pigs		
	Captured	Administered with contraceptive vaccine or surgically sterilised	Humanely dispatched*
2019-20	293	106	14
2020-21	344	165	26
2021-22	370	109	105
2022-23	378	The CCRP has ceased.	361
2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)	528		515

* Including wild pigs humanely dispatched due to injury.

(5) The AFCD has all along been striving to educate the public and appeal to them not to feed wild animals. It has commissioned the Hong Kong Ocean Park Conservation Foundation to provide eco-educational activities and guided tours at the place at which the feeding of any wild animal is prohibited (Feeding Ban Area) designated under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance) since 2018, and extended the publicity and educational activities to kindergartens, primary schools and communities near feeding black spots since

2019, with a view to educating public members of various age groups, especially students, on concepts about preventing wild animal nuisance and no-feeding of wild animals. Starting from November 2021, the AFCD has also rolled out a new round of public education and publicity campaign, which includes uploading promotional and educational information on social media, and putting up posters on public transport and at stations and stops, thereby strengthening public education on no-feeding of wild pigs and the risk associated with feeding wild pigs through diverse channels. The expenditure on publicity and education to the public on no-feeding of wild animals by the AFCD over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	Percentage of the overall departmental expenditure (%)
2019-20	2.1	0.1
2020-21	3.2	0.2
2021-22	5.0	0.3
2022-23	11.2	0.6
2023-24 (revised estimate)	10.9	0.5

- (6) The numbers of reports received regarding illegal feeding of wild animals, prosecutions instituted, successful prosecutions and the penalties imposed over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of reports	Number of prosecutions instituted^{*#}	Number of successful prosecutions[#]	Fine (\$)
2019-20	6	26	28	1,500-2,000
2020-21	32	50	31	300-2,000
2021-22	48	120	90	200-1,500
2022-23	109	106	79	300-1,500
2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)	187	153	133	250-3,000

* Some of the prosecutions instituted in the year might be processed in the following year.

Each prosecution involved 1 person.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)002****(Question Serial No. 2396)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department indicated that it would implement measures to enhance management and protection of wild animals in 2024-25, including enhancement in education and publicity and review on relevant legislation and codes, to enhance protection of marine animals. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of cetaceans stranding and death cases in Hong Kong waters over the past 3 years;
2. the expenditure of the Government on promoting the protection of marine animals over the past 3 years;
3. how to enhance education and publicity on the protection of marine animals in future and the expenditure to be involved; and
4. whether consideration has been given to adjusting the size of marine protected areas in Hong Kong to enhance protection of marine animals; if yes, the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)Reply:

1. The number of cetacean stranding and death cases in Hong Kong waters over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cetacean stranding and death cases		
	Local species*	Non-local species	Total
2021	26	6	32
2022	22	3	25
2023	24	1	25

* Local species refer to Chinese white dolphins and finless porpoises.

2. The recurrent expenditure of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involved in promoting marine life protection over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2021-22	5.78
2022-23	7.82
2023-24 (revised estimate)	7.04

3. The AFCD always attaches great importance to the education, promotion and publicity work on marine life protection. In future, the AFCD will continue to raise public awareness of marine life protection through various channels, including marine eco-tours and field trips, exhibitions and workshops on ecological conservation, public and school talks, loan services for marine ecology exhibition panels, school visits, Marine Parks Ambassador services and citizen scientist activities. Between January and March 2024, the AFCD launched the Marine Wildlife Appreciation Festival and conducted a series of activities including panel exhibition, education booths and workshops, education talks and video broadcast at Island House Conservation Studies Centre of World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong, Ocean Park Hong Kong, Hoi Ha Visitor Centre and shopping arcades with a view to disseminating the messages of respect, care and appreciation for marine wildlife to the public. The estimated expenditure to be involved in education and publicity on the protection of marine animals for 2024-25 is about \$7 million.

4. To further protect the important marine animals (including Chinese white dolphins and finless porpoises) in Hong Kong waters, the Government has in recent years designated a number of marine parks in the southwestern waters of Hong Kong to protect their habitats, including the designation of the Southwest Lantau Marine Park and the South Lantau Marine Park in April 2020 and June 2022 respectively. In addition, the Government is now going through the relevant statutory procedures for the designation of the new North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) and the relevant procedures are expected to be completed within 2024. The NLMP will be connected with the nearby Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park and The Brothers Marine Park to form an interconnected network of marine protected areas in the northern Lantau waters, thereby enhancing the protection of marine animals. Upon establishment of the NLMP, the total size of marine protected areas in Hong Kong (including marine parks and marine reserve) will increase from the existing 6 117 hectares to 8 517 hectares.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)003

(Question Serial No. 0979)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the conservation and management of the wetland, please advise of the following:

- (a) over the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), the number of complaints received by the Government about alleged illegal bird prevention measures taken by fish farmers and farmers, the average and longest time taken to handle such cases, the number of prosecutions instituted for the contravention of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), and the number of convictions thereof;
- (b) over the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), regarding farmers who have installed bird preventive netting or other measures, the number of applications for low-interest loans from loan funds and the Farm Improvement Scheme grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), and the amount so involved in the applications;
- (c) over the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), how the AFCD assisted farmers and fish farmers in reducing their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds;
- (d) over the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), the amount of subventions granted to the management agreement projects under the Environment and Conservation Fund and the number of participating fish farmers as well as the figure and percentage of the fish ponds taken up in the total area of fish ponds in the Ramsar Site; and
- (e) over the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), whether the Government has estimated the quantity of fish preyed on by birds in fish ponds and the production value involved; please list by fish ponds engaged and not engaged in the Nature Conservation Management Agreement Projects.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- (a) According to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance), no person shall, except in accordance with a special permit, wilfully disturb or hunt any protected wild animal, including all wild birds. Over the past 3 years (as at February 2024), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) instituted prosecution in a total of 551 cases for contravening the Ordinance and a total of 458

cases were convicted. During the same period, the AFCD received 20 complaints about suspected use of illegal bird prevention measures by farmers or fish farmers. It usually took 3 to 6 months to process these cases.

- (b) Over the past 3 years (as at February 2024), the AFCD received 12 applications for the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) related to installing bird preventive netting and bird repellents to protect their crops from birds. The amount requested was around \$400,000 in total. No applications for low-interest loans for installing bird preventive netting or other measures were received.
- (c) The AFCD understood the concern of farmers and fish farmers over their loss due to predation by wild birds in farmland and fish ponds. It aimed to strike a balance between supporting the agriculture and fisheries industries as well as conservation of wild birds, and assist farmers and fish farmers in taking appropriate measures to reduce predation by wild birds in their farmland and fish ponds without causing harm to them.

Regarding farmers, the AFCD regularly organised talks and farmland visits where technical advice on bird prevention was provided to assist farmers in taking appropriate measures to reduce bird predation in farmland. Farmers who were interested in installing bird preventive netting or other measures could apply for low-interest loans from loan funds administered by the AFCD or the FIS grants under the SADF to purchase the necessary materials.

Regarding fish farmers, the AFCD regularly organised talks and workshops on general fish farming guidelines and good aquaculture practices, including the methods on prevention of predation by wild birds, such as pond wiring and hanging of reflective materials, to reduce loss of fish produce. Fish farmers could also apply for low interest loans from fisheries loan funds administered by the AFCD should they need any financial assistance, or grants under the Equipment Improvement Project of the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund to purchase the necessary materials.

Besides, the AFCD published 2 pamphlets, namely “Methods of Preventing Bird Predation in Farmland” and “Methods of Preventing Bird Predation in Fish Ponds” for the reference of farmers and fish farmers respectively. According to the AFCD’s observation, many farmers and fish farmers adopted the AFCD’s recommendations to reduce the risk of wild bird predation in their farmland and fish ponds.

- (d) There were 2 Nature Conservation Management Agreement projects conducted during the period from March 2021 to February 2024 in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site respectively with funding from the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme. Details of these projects in the past 3 years (up to February 2024) are tabulated as follows:

Project period	Mar 2021 to Feb 2023	Mar 2023 to Feb 2025[#]
(1) Ramsar Site		
Total approved budget (\$)	9,706,158	10,685,870
Number of fish pond operators engaged	82	81
Area of fish ponds engaged (hectares)	268	267
Total area of eligible fish ponds (hectares)*	293	271
Percentage of area of fish ponds engaged in total area of eligible fish ponds (%)	91	99
(2) Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site		
Total approved budget (\$)	9,347,368	10,296,020
Number of fish pond operators engaged	107	86
Area of fish ponds engaged (hectares)	309	254
Total area of eligible fish ponds (hectares)*	403	308
Percentage of area of fish ponds engaged in total area of eligible fish ponds (%)	77	82

* Eligible fish ponds are, as per the basic criterion, those registered under the AFCD's Voluntary Registration Scheme, subject to their actual circumstances.

Since operators of fish ponds may join/withdraw from the project during the project period, the relevant figures may be subject to change.

- (e) The AFCD does not keep information on the quantity of fish preyed on by birds in fish ponds and the production value involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)004

(Question Serial No. 1382)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

As the pandemic subsided, the number of tourists in Hong Kong has been increasing. The remarkable achievements of the country parks in Hong Kong have attracted a large number of incoming visitors who wish to gain first-hand experience in exploring our country parks. But this also brings about challenges to ecological protection, and precautions must be taken to protect against various types of man-made disasters and address outdoor safety concerns. In this connection, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. whether precautionary efforts will be stepped up and the estimate for expenditure be increased, such as increasing the frequency of hiking trail patrols and staging educational activities at campsites on selected days as appropriate; and
2. given that quite a number of Level 2 mountain craft technicians have been trained up to grasp the concepts of protecting countryside environment and green camping through years of co-operation between the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Hong Kong Mountaineering Association, whether the Government will make the best use of these talents?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) monitors the use of country park facilities during regular inspection and flexibly deploys manpower to step up patrol and law enforcement at popular locations in country parks as necessary in the light of actual circumstances. In addition, the AFCD attaches great importance to the education, promotion and publicity programmes in relation to country parks. It continues to promote the messages of nature appreciation and care for nature to countryside visitors through various channels. In recent years, the AFCD has been promoting good outdoor behaviour under the theme of "Hiking Etiquette", as well as the messages of "Respect Nature", "Hike Safely", "Reduce Waste" and "Take Your Litter Home", etc., through social media and diversified nature education activities, including nature excursions and in-depth tours, with a view to encouraging countryside visitors to care for the nature. The estimated expenditure on patrol and enforcement

operations as well as publicity and education programmes by the AFCD for 2024-25 is comparable to those for 2023-24.

2. The AFCD has been maintaining communication with different stakeholders in the community on the management of and the publicity and education programmes in relation to country parks. It also organises volunteer services and country park trail clean-up programmes, etc., with a view to engaging interested members of the public to participate in the conservation work of the country parks. The AFCD will regularly explore the possibilities of strengthening co-operation with the relevant organisations in suitable projects, such as co-operation with local organisations in matters relating to hiking, camping, etc., so as to enhance its country park services and achieve the objectives of promotion and education.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)005

(Question Serial No. 1306)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will implement measures to enhance the education and recreation functions of country parks, repair and maintain facilities in country parks and reduce the amount of litter in the countryside. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the expenditure involved in the repair and maintenance of facilities in country parks in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) the total expenditure involved in providing basic recreational facilities in the newly designated Robin's Nest Country Park and the expenditure earmarked for its future management and operation; and
- (c) the volume of litter collected in the countryside and the manpower and expenditure involved in collecting litter in the countryside in each of the past 3 years; the specific details of work of the manpower involved; and whether they have enforcement powers?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) provides various visitor facilities in country parks, such as hiking trails, picnic sites, barbecue areas, rain shelters, viewing points, etc., and will regularly inspect, maintain and repair the facilities for public use. The recurrent expenditure on the relevant work over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2021-22	80.0
2022-23	76.7
2023-24 (revised estimate)	80.1

- (b) To prepare for the establishment of the Robin's Nest Country Park, the AFCD has progressively constructed some basic recreational facilities including hiking trails,

viewing points and other ancillary facilities in the past few years. Together with the revitalisation project at the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine site currently underway, the total expenditure involved is about \$43 million. Ongoing management and operation work are required for the Robin's Nest Country Park after its establishment, including construction and maintenance of recreational facilities, implementation of nature conservation measures, litter collection, patrol and enforcement, publicity and education, etc. The AFCD will carry out the work mentioned above by re-deploying its existing manpower and engaging service contractors. The operational expense for 2024-25 is about \$9.5 million.

- (c) The AFCD is responsible for daily cleansing work in country parks. Such work is executed by the AFCD staff members and cleansing service contractors, and mainly includes collecting litter from barbecue areas, campsites, picnic sites, hiking trails and toilets, etc., under the AFCD's management. It also includes classifying the litter collected into general waste and recyclables, for disposal at the landfills or follow-up treatment by the recycling service providers respectively. There are about 560 staff members in the various ranks of the AFCD's staff establishment whose duties involve the routine work of handling litter in country parks. As the duties of such departmental staff involve not only cleansing services, but also the construction and maintenance of hiking trails and recreational facilities, hill fire prevention and control, tree care, etc., the AFCD does not have a breakdown of the departmental staff establishment for handling litter in country parks only. On the other hand, there are about 150-180 cleansing workers engaged under service contracts and the number of workers may vary based on the manpower requirement in different seasons, and on weekdays or weekends. The total amount of litter collected in country park areas and the expenditure involved over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

Table 1: Total amount of litter collected in country park areas

Year	Total amount of litter (tonnes)
2021	1 808
2022	2 054
2023	2 700

Note: The significant increase in total amount of litter collected in 2023 compared to that in 2021 and 2022 is mainly due to the gradual resumption of normal services at barbecue sites and campsites in country parks from October to November 2022 after the epidemic.

Table 2: Expenditure involved in litter management and cleansing of country parks

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2021-22	77.8
2022-23	80.7
2023-24 (revised estimate)	80.5

Upon detection of littering when patrolling country parks, the AFCD staff will take enforcement actions under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)006

(Question Serial No. 1492)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will “take forward the development of Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (WCP)”. At present, the Government plans to carry out the construction works for Sam Po Shue WCP in phases and expects to commence the first phase of the construction works in 2026 to 2027 the earliest for completion in 2031 and completion of the entire Sam Po Shue WCP by 2039, so as to align with the development of the San Tin Technopole. In this connection, please advise of the following:

1. the estimated expenditure for the phased construction of Sam Po Shue WCP and a breakdown of it;
2. the expenditure involved in the environmental assessment of Sam Po Shue WCP; and
3. whether consideration will be given to integrating wetlands without conservation significance within Sam Po Shue WCP for other purposes; if yes, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is conducting the Strategic Feasibility Study on the Development of Wetland Conservation Parks System under the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy (the Strategic Feasibility Study) to determine the location, boundary, functions and management model, etc., of each of the proposed parks (including the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (WCP)). In January this year, the AFCD completed part 2 of the public engagement exercise on the preliminary recommendations of the Strategic Feasibility Study, including the establishment of the Sam Po Shue WCP as the first WCP to be developed. Upon analysis and consideration of public opinions received, the consultant is expected to submit the final recommendations of the Strategic Feasibility Study to the Government in the first half of this year. The Government will take into account the recommendations of the Strategic Feasibility Study to take forward the establishment of

the Sam Po Shue WCP, including conducting the next phase of the investigation study within this year.

Regarding the construction cost of the Sam Po Shue WCP, a more accurate estimate will be available upon completion of the investigation study and the detailed design.

2. The Government is drafting the scope of the investigation study on the Sam Po Shue WCP which will take into account the final recommendations of the Strategic Feasibility Study to be completed in the first half of this year. The investigation study will include the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the park, and the associated cost will be estimated after finalisation of the scope of the study.
3. It is preliminarily proposed in the Strategic Feasibility Study that the Sam Po Shue WCP will cover a total area of about 338 hectares, of which about 328 hectares will be used to enhance the function of its wetlands and fishponds through active conservation, as ecological and fisheries compensation in the statutory EIA report of the San Tin Technopole. Besides, an area of about 10 hectares is proposed to be reserved for other purposes, mainly for the provision of eco-education, recreation and ecotourism facilities, which include a visitor centre, outdoor classrooms, bird hides, visitor trails, restaurants, and open public spaces (e.g. picnic areas). Specific details will be planned and designed in detail in the next phase of the study.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)007

(Question Serial No. 2561)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, wild pigs have caused nuisance in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the number of cases received by the Government about wild pig sightings or nuisance in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts over the past 5 years;
- (2) the number of wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations conducted by the Government in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts and the number of wild pigs involved over the past 3 years;
- (3) the number of prosecutions instituted by the Government for illegal feeding of wild animals in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts since the expansion of the Feeding Ban Area to the entire territory of Hong Kong over the past 2 years and among which, the number of prosecutions involving wild pigs; and
- (4) specific actions taken in the past year to prevent wild pigs from wandering into housing estates and specific actions to be taken in the future.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (1) The number of cases received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) about wild pig sightings or nuisance in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts over the past 5 year is tabulated as follows:

District	Number of wild pig sightings or nuisance cases				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)
Sha Tin	111	107	119	140	147
Tai Po	82	90	99	119	184

- (2) The number of wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations conducted by the AFCD in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts and the number of wild pigs involved over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

District	Number of wild pig capture and humane dispatch operations (number of wild pigs involved)		
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)
Sha Tin	3 (3)	17 (40)	23 (45)
Tai Po	4 (9)	10 (21)	25 (43)

- (3) With effect from 31 December 2022, the area of “the place at which the feeding of any wild animal is prohibited” (Feeding Ban Area) under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) has been expanded to the entire territory of Hong Kong with a view to stepping up the efforts to curb the activities of feeding wild animals such as wild pigs. Since the expansion of the Feeding Ban Area to the entire territory of Hong Kong, as at February 2024, the AFCD has instituted 175 and 2 prosecutions for illegal feeding of wild animals in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts respectively, among which there were 4 and 2 cases involving illegal feeding of wild pigs in Sha Tin and Tai Po Districts respectively.
- (4) The AFCD further deployed resources in 2023 to increase wild pig capture operations and improved operational efficiency by installing Internet Protocol surveillance cameras and new animal traps (including foldable cage traps and fence traps). To step up the efforts to curb the feeding activities, the Government introduced the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Bill 2023 into the Legislative Council in November 2023, which proposed increasing the maximum penalty for feeding wild animals from a fine of \$10,000 to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 1 year, and introducing a fixed penalty system for illegal feeding, with the amount set at \$5,000. The relevant legislative amendments, if passed, will take effect on 1 August 2024. The AFCD will continue to curb illegal feeding activities through stepping up law enforcement, education and publicity. It will also engage wildlife management experts to review the local situation of local wild pig problems and enhance the management action plan for wild pigs by making reference to the experiences of other regions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)008

(Question Serial No. 2652)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will implement measures for enhanced management and protection of wild animals, including the legislative amendments to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) to effect the prohibition of feeding feral pigeons. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. over the past 3 years, the number of complaints received in relation to nuisances caused by wild animals, and the respective law enforcement situation;
2. over the past 3 years, the manpower and expenditure involved in combating illegal feeding of wild animals;
3. over the past 3 years, the expenditure and details involved in public education and promotion on the prohibition of feeding wild animals; and whether there is any plan to strengthen the relevant publicity and education work in future;
4. the compliances with the "key performance indicators" set by the Department for monitoring the effectiveness of the wild pig management measures; and
5. the manpower and expenditure involved in the "Trial Programme of Using Contraceptive Drug on Feral Pigeons" launched in 2021; and the specific effectiveness of such programme?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

1. Intentional feeding is one of the main causes of wild animal nuisance. To step up the efforts to curb feeding activities and resolve wild animal nuisance at source, the Government amended the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance) to expand the Feeding Ban Area to the entire territory of Hong Kong with effect from 31 December 2022. Any person illegally feeding wild animals shall be liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$10,000.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) arranges patrols at wild animal feeding black spots from time to time and takes prosecution actions against

anyone who is found to be illegally feeding wild animal, subject to sufficient evidence. The AFCD will also review and adjust from time to time the patrol and enforcement arrangements in the light of the actual circumstances, including stepping up blitz and enforcement operations where necessary, as well as collaborating with relevant departments to strengthen combating the activities.

The number of complaint cases received by the AFCD about nuisances caused by wild pigs, monkeys and wild birds over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Wild pigs	Monkeys	Wild birds	Total
2021-22	1 351	207	671	2 229
2022-23	1 183	279	699	2 161
2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)	926	298	573	1 797

The number of prosecutions instituted by the AFCD and successful prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of prosecutions instituted*#	Number of successful prosecutions#
2021-22	120	90
2022-23	106	79
2023-24 (as at Feb 2024)	153	133

* Some of the prosecutions instituted in the year might be processed in the following year.

Each enforcement case involved 1 person.

Note: Feral pigeons are not included in the above figures since they are classified as domestic animals instead of wild animals as defined under the Ordinance, and are thus not subject to the current feeding ban. Nevertheless, the AFCD received a total of about 2 500 complaints or enquiries in relation to feral pigeons between 2021 and January 2024.

To further combat illegal feeding, the Government introduced the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Bill 2023 to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in November 2023, which proposed expanding the scope of the feeding ban to cover feral pigeons, in addition to the current feeding ban on wild animals; increasing the maximum penalty for illegal feeding from a fine of \$10,000 to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for 1 year; and introducing a fixed penalty system for illegal feeding, with the amount set at \$5,000. The relevant legislative amendments, if passed by the LegCo, will take effect on 1 August 2024.

- Over the past 3 years, there were 64 staff members involved in wild animal conservation work of the AFCD, and the total expenditure on work in relation to wild animal conservation each year is tabulated below. As the investigation and law enforcement work in relation to illegal feeding of wild animals forms part of the wild animal conservation work, the AFCD does not keep the relevant breakdown.

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2021-22	64.6
2022-23	70.0
2023-24 (revised estimate)	77.1

3. The AFCD has been explaining to the public the adverse impact and hazard of feeding wild animals and publicising the prohibition of feeding wild animals through the organisation of various educational activities, such as ecological education exhibitions, guided tours and school talks, as well as various channels such as publicity materials, posters, social media and advertisements. In the future, the AFCD will strengthen the education and publicity programmes, including the extension of these programmes to elderly services centres and more schools, with a view to reaching out to public members of various age groups. In addition, the AFCD will launch new Announcements in the Public Interest to enhance public understanding of the adverse impact of feeding wild animal and the newly amended feeding ban requirements. The expenditure on publicity and education to the public regarding the feeding ban on wild animals by the AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2021-22	5.0
2022-23	11.2
2023-24 (revised estimate)	10.9

4. On the premises of safeguarding public safety and maintaining public hygiene, the AFCD aims to minimise the nuisances caused by wild pigs to the public in urban areas or the vicinity of residential areas, and review the number and location of wild pig nuisance black spots every year against the key performance indicator of reducing the number of black spots by half each year. The number of wild pig nuisance black spots has been reduced by half from 42 in early 2023 to 21 in early 2024.
5. In 2021, the AFCD launched the “Trial Programme of Using Contraceptive Drug on Feral Pigeons” (the Programme), which aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of feeding feral pigeons contraceptive-drug-coated feed in reducing the nuisances they caused. The AFCD implemented the Programme on a trial basis at 3 locations in the Central and Western District, Kowloon City District and Sai Kung District, where more feral pigeons are congregated, and appointed the City University of Hong Kong as the consultant of the Programme to undertake relevant work such as data collection, study and evaluation, which are expected to be completed in the first half of 2024. The AFCD will take into account various factors, including the analysis and recommendations of the consultant of the Programme, in formulating the next stage of work. Implementation of the Programme involved 4 staff members and an expenditure of about \$4.3 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)009

(Question Serial No. 2653)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the management and operation of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, would the Government inform of the following:

1. the number of visitors to the Geopark over the past 3 years; the percentage of non-local visitors to the Geopark in the total number of inbound visitors;
2. the expenditure involved in the repair and maintenance of the Geopark over the past 3 years;
3. the details of the plan on promotion, conservation and education, and the respective expenditure and manpower involved for the new fiscal year;
4. whether the public transport to the attractions and facilities of the Geopark will be reviewed and enhanced; if yes, the details and estimate; and
5. whether the quality of Hong Kong Geopark is subject to regular reviews to ensure fulfilment of the criteria for UNESCO's quadrennial revalidation process?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. The annual number of visitors to Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (Hong Kong Geopark) in the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of visitors (million)
2021	1.2
2022	1.5
2023	1.6

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) does not have the breakdown by the local and overseas visitors.

2. Since most of the area of Hong Kong Geopark overlaps with the existing country parks and special areas, the repair and maintenance of most of its facilities (such as walking trails, signage and recreational facilities) have been covered as part of the work for

management and operation of country parks. The AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure on the relevant work.

3. The AFCD's promotion, conservation and education work regarding Hong Kong Geopark in 2024-25 mainly include: (1) supporting the Tourism Commission to organise the Sai Kung Hoi Arts Festival to promote green tourism in the geopark community in Sai Kung; (2) supporting and promoting the development of sustainable tourism at Ap Chau, Kat O, Lai Chi Wo, etc., to tie in with the Government's gradual opening up of the Sha Tau Kok Frontier Closed Area for tourism; (3) launching the Hing Chun Alliance Heritage Trail, which centres at Lai Chi Wo and connects neighbouring villages, and erecting interpretation panels along the route to introduce the village culture and history; (4) preparing for the refurbishment of the exhibits in the Volcano Discovery Centre located in Sai Kung; (5) promoting the attractions of and code for visiting Hong Kong Geopark through social media platforms and the internet; (6) promoting green tourism of Hong Kong Geopark to other places through the Hong Kong Tourism Board; (7) upgrading the skills of geopark guides through implementing the Geopark Guide System in collaboration with non-governmental organisations; (8) training tour operators, local communities and other stakeholders of Hong Kong Geopark; (9) organising science popularisation activities for students through the Geopark School Programme; (10) collaborating with the relevant communities in conserving and promoting the local history, culture and tradition; and (11) promoting exchanges with other geoparks and organising geopark exchange activities and training courses.

In 2024-25, the manpower and estimated expenditure of the AFCD for carrying out the above work are 12 staff members and \$19 million respectively.

4. Over the years, the AFCD and the relevant departments have been striving to enhance the public transport services for accessing to the attractions and facilities of Hong Kong Geopark. The public transport services that have been strengthened in recent years mainly include: (1) kaito ferry services between Sai Kung and Kau Sai Village/High Island; (2) kaito ferry services between Sha Tau Kok/Ma Liu Shui/Tai Shui Hang and Lai Chi Wo/Ap Chau/Kat O; and (3) green minibus (GMB) between Pak Tam Chung and the East Dam (namely New Territories GMB Route No. 9A). The AFCD and the relevant departments will continue to review the usage of the public transport services and strengthen the relevant public transport services where necessary. Since the aforesaid work is part of the management of the Geopark, the AFCD does not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure on the relevant work.
5. Hong Kong Geopark, as a member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), needs to be managed in accordance with the GGN guidelines and achieve the relevant objectives (such as organising educational activities to promote earth science and geological conservation, promoting sustainable tourism, promoting the sustainable development of the geopark communities, and promoting exchanges with other global geoparks). The AFCD submits an annual report on Hong Kong Geopark to the UNESCO Global Geopark Secretariat on a yearly basis, and keeps in view if the relevant work follows the GGN guidelines to ensure the fulfilment of the criteria for UNESCO's quadrennial revalidation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)010

(Question Serial No. 0738)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) involves the promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation. In this connection, would the Government advise of the specific details of the work, the expenditure involved over the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) always attaches great importance to the education, promotion and publicity work on nature conservation, and continues to strengthen the promotion of the messages of nature appreciation and care for nature to members of the public. Through the organisation of different publicity and educational activities, such as nature and marine excursions, ecological conservation exhibitions and workshops, public and school talks, school visits, orienteering, BioBlitz, volunteer/marine parks ambassador services and country park hiking trail clean-up programmes, the AFCD aims to allow members of the public to enjoy nature and engage them to participate in the nature conservation work so as to foster an attitude of caring for nature.

In addition, the AFCD is committed to enforcing nature conservation legislation and stepping up efforts to combat illegal activities that damage the natural environment. The AFCD staff conduct patrols in various country parks, special areas, marine parks and the marine reserve to monitor the conditions of the environment and the use of related facilities by visitors, and take enforcement actions against offenders under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) and the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A). The offences involved mainly include unauthorised possession or riding of bicycles or driving of vehicles, damage of plants, use of fire or camping outside the designated sites, as well as illegal fishing and collection of marine life. At the same time, the AFCD will protect local wild animals and their important habitats by enforcing the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), and take enforcement actions against acts including illegal destruction

of trees on Government land, and illegal selling, offering for sale, or having in possession, custody or control of the protected plants, etc., under the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96). In 2023, the AFCD instituted a total of 689 prosecutions under the above legislation.

The AFCD's expenditure on promoting nature conservation and enforcing relevant legislation over the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure on enforcing relevant legislation[#] (\$ million)	Expenditure on promoting nature conservation (\$ million)
2021-22	87.9	28.7
2022-23	89.1	29.6
2023-24 (revised estimate)	91.9	38.8
2024-25 (estimate)	92.4	39.4

[#] Excluding expenditure on enforcing the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96) and the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170). The expenditure on enforcing the above legislation is absorbed by the provision for nature conservation. The AFCD does not keep a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)011

(Question Serial No. 0739)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In 2024-25, the work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will focus on strengthening the control of trade in endangered species and combatting their illegal trade and smuggling. In this connection, has the Government provided training and support to frontline enforcement staff of other participating law enforcement agencies, including the Customs and Excise Department and immigration control points, so that they can accurately identify items of endangered species? If yes, what are the details (including the manpower and expenditure involved in each of the past 3 years)? If not, how can one ensure the accurate and effective law enforcement by frontline staff?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) strives to protect endangered species, and has been working closely with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) to combat illegal trade of endangered species. Over the past 3 years, the AFCD provided a total of 14 sessions of training courses on enforcement and species identification for enforcement staff, including frontline enforcement staff of the C&ED and immigration control points. In addition, the AFCD and the C&ED have also jointly compiled a photo identification guide of commonly encountered endangered species and the content of which will be kept updated from time to time to help enforcement staff identify endangered species of animals and plants and their derivatives. Since the above training and support are part of the regular enforcement work of the AFCD to combat illegal trade of endangered species, the AFCD does not possess the breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in the relevant work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)012

(Question Serial No. 1963)

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. Has the Government completed the feasibility study for the setting up of open museums on wartime relics, tree top adventure facilities and eco-lodge in country parks? Does the Government have an implementation timetable and an estimate of the relevant expenditure?
2. Regarding Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre, Ngong Ping Nature Centre, Lions Nature Education Centre, Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre, Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre, Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre and Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre, please list out the estimated expenditure and manpower involved, the number of visitors in 2023 (and the proportion of tourists among them), the number of places and attendance of the guided tour services provided, if any.
3. What measures did the Government take to explore the tourism appeal of country parks and promote in-depth green tourism to tourists while enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) commissioned feasibility studies on projects such as the setting up of an open museum of historical relics and the provision of tree top adventure and new type of camping facilities in country parks in the second half of 2022. The feasibility studies aim to determine the site locations, design, modes of operation, fee levels and operation requirements, etc., of these facilities, and included the organisation of activities to collect the views of the public and relevant stakeholders. The AFCD anticipates to complete the 3 aforementioned studies and estimate expenditure by 2024, and will soon commence the pre-construction investigation and the detailed design of the relevant projects after taking into account the recommendations of the study reports. The Government has earmarked \$500 million in the 2021-22 Budget to carry out enhancement works for facilities in country parks, which include the aforementioned projects.

2. The AFCD manages and operates country park visitor centres to provide visitor information and nature education services to visitors, which is part of the regular education and publicity work of the AFCD in country parks. The expenditure and manpower involved in the relevant work in the revised estimate for 2023-24 were \$31.8 million and 39 staff members respectively. The AFCD does not keep a breakdown of the operational expenses and staff establishment of each visitor centre.

Regarding the guided tour services provided by the AFCD, there are usually about 20-30 places for each tour, and the number of places for the guided tours will be slightly adjusted subject to the actual enrolments on that day. In 2023, the number of visitors to each visitor/education centre in country parks and the attendance of guided tour services are tabulated as follows. The AFCD does not keep statistics on the proportion of tourists.

Visitor/education centre in country parks[#]	Number of visitors	Attendance of guided tour services
Woodside Biodiversity Education Centre	29 785	2 152
Ngong Ping Nature Centre	11 563	138
Lions Nature Education Centre	448 560	3 382
Clear Water Bay Country Park Visitor Centre	10 101	No guided tour services provided
Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre	38 710	No guided tour services provided
Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	9 000	238

[#] Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre was temporarily closed in 2023 for renovation works.

3. In order to promote green tourism, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, has implemented the “Enhancement of Hiking Trails” since 2018 to enhance tourism supporting facilities of 20 hiking trails in country parks which are popular and with tourism appeal. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to existing hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points, enrichment of visitor information, etc. The AFCD has completed the enhancement works of 12 hiking trails.

As regards the promotion work on hiking trails in Hong Kong, the AFCD enhanced the “Enjoy Hiking” thematic website in 2019 to provide detailed information on hiking trails and green attractions and provide locals and tourists with information on featured attractions in 4 languages, namely Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean. As at end-February 2024, there are more than 4.08 million pageviews at the enhanced thematic website.

In addition, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB)’s website (DiscoverHongKong), social media platforms, as well as visitor centres and visitor hotlines, etc., have been promoting to visitors itineraries and attractions with local characteristics.

In recent years, social media has emerged. In particular, the Mainland’s Xiaohongshu, bilibili, WeChat, etc., have huge traffic and their influence is getting more significant.

Therefore, the HKTB has invited key opinion leaders (KOLs) with a large fan base on the aforementioned social media platforms to visit Hong Kong and experience for themselves the itineraries on different themes, including visiting nature and participating in water activities, with a view to leveraging their online influence to create positive word-of-mouth for Hong Kong tourism.

Riding on the large-scale global promotional campaign “Hello Hong Kong”, the HKTB has invited travel trade partners, celebrities and KOLs to produce more than 330 videos featuring urban oases and other travel experiences to be broadcast on over 3 000 platforms worldwide, reaching out to 200 million viewers all over the world.

Through its year-round promotional platform “Hong Kong Great Outdoors”, the HKTB will continue to introduce in detail and promote Hong Kong’s unique natural scenery and countryside experiences under the themes such as hiking, beaches and outdoor activities, sightseeing and island hopping, and actively promote Hong Kong’s nature-based green tourism products and countryside, including the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, country parks, marine parks, hiking trails and itineraries featuring outlying islands, as well as guided tours and green tourism products organised by the travel trade or other organisations, so as to encourage visitors to appreciate Hong Kong’s mesmerising natural landscape.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)013****(Question Serial No. 3131)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding the construction works of the sewerage projects for some villages in Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan, please provide this Committee with information on the latest progress of the works; whether the design work has been completed; the commencement date(s) of the projects; the names of the villages (in Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan) involved and the works timetable; and the expenditure involved in the works.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)Reply:

Regarding the construction works of the sewerage projects for villages in Kwai Chung and Tsuen Wan, the details of the completed and ongoing projects in 2023-24 are tabulated below:

Completed Project in 2023-24

Project	Villages involved	Completion Year	Project Cost ^{Note 1}
West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan village sewerage - phase 1	Kwong Pan Tin Tsuen, San Tsuen Northeast, Fu Yung Shan, Wo Yi Hop Upper Village, Hon Man Squatter Area, Sam Tung Uk, Sheung Yat Chuen and Shek Lei Hang	2023	\$100 million

Note 1: The project costs stated are approved project estimates.

Ongoing Project

Project	Villages involved	Expected Completion Year	Project Cost ^{Note 2}
Sewerage to Lo Wai, Chuen Lung and Kau Wa Keng Old Village	Lo Wai, Chuen Lung and Kau Wa Keng Old Village	2025	\$170 million

Note 2: The project costs stated are approved project estimates.

The Government plans to seek funding approval in 2024 from the Legislative Council for the project “West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan village sewerage—Phase 2 (Package 1)”. It is expected that the project will be completed about 4.5 years after the relevant funding proposal is approved by the Finance Committee.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0775)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the appeals against sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge in 2021, 2022 and 2023, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the total number of appeals filed and the number of those lodged by the restaurant trade;
2. the total number of appeals allowed and the number of those won by the restaurant trade; and
3. the average time needed to complete the processing of an appeal?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

		2021	2022	2023
Reassessment of Trade Effluent Surcharge (TES) rate	Number of applications received			
	<i>All trades</i>	0	13	3
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	8	0
	Number of applications approved ^{Note}			
	<i>All trades</i>	3	0	0
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	3	0	0
Reassessment of Discharge Factor (DF)	Number of applications received			
	<i>All trades</i>	24	8	22
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved ^{Note}			
	<i>All trades</i>	14	16	9
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0

Note: As required by the law, applicants shall, after submitting their applications, gather and provide all necessary information for the Drainage Services Department (DSD)'s reassessment. Depending on the actual time required by the applicants to provide the DSD with the necessary information, the number of applications approved does not necessarily correspond to the number of applications received within the same year.

Normally, after the applicants have provided all the necessary information, it will take the DSD about 3 to 4 months to process a case of reassessment of TES rate, and about 1 to 2 months to process a case of reassessment of DF. Furthermore, with a view to supporting the commercial and industrial sectors, the Government waived TES for the period from 2020 to 2023. As a result, the number of applications received by the DSD for reassessment of TES rate dropped during this period.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2454)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) has earlier mentioned that Shing Mun River, San Tin Polder and Kai Tak Nullah will be selected as sites for trials of floating solar power systems. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the progress of the trials of floating solar power systems at the 3 sites; if the trials have ended, of the effectiveness of the 3 trials;
2. regarding the 3 trials of the floating solar power systems, of the capacity of the water surface for supporting the solar systems and their performance in adverse weather conditions;
3. of the respective installation costs and monthly operating costs of the 3 trials, and the average monthly rate of electricity production; and
4. whether DSD will commence installation of floating solar power systems in view of the trials; if so, of the details, including the location(s) being considered for installation; if not, of the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 146)

Reply:

- 1&4. The Drainage Services Department (DSD) successfully completed trials and related works of the floating solar power systems at two sites, namely, the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin and the San Tin Polder. The results showed that the power generation efficiency of the floating solar power systems at the two trial sites, which benefit from the cooling effect of water, was approximately 20% higher than that of land-based solar power systems of the same rating.

During the trial at the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin, the DSD not only successfully assessed the feasibility of installing a floating solar power system, but also successfully collected hydrological data, by which the objectives of the trial were achieved. However, in the light of the trial results, the DSD expected that the cost-effectiveness of a floating solar power system on the river would be relatively low on account of many challenges the installation may face, including difficulties with the transport of materials, the extreme water level and water flow velocity, as well as bird excrement. At present, the DSD does not have a plan to install any floating solar

power system on the Shing Mun River.

Drawing on its experience in the successful trial of a floating solar power system at the San Tin Polder, the DSD installed two small-scale floating solar power systems at the Ha Mei San Tsuen Polder and the Chau Tau Tsuen Polder with the installed capacities of 37 kW and 30 kW respectively. Meanwhile, the DSD is currently expanding the capacity of the floating solar power system at the San Tin Polder from 37 kW to 350 kW.

During the planning stage of the proposed trial of a floating solar power system in the Kai Tak Approach Channel, the DSD received some comments and encountered various site constraints and interfacing problems with the construction works nearby. Having taken into account various factors including energy efficiency, the DSD decided not to conduct the trial.

The DSD will continue to identify other suitable water bodies for installation of similar floating solar power systems subject to technical viability, energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

2. Despite several severe weather events after the floating solar power systems at the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin and the San Tin Polder came into operation in August 2022 and March 2022 respectively, these systems remain intact and are still in proper function.
3. For the trial of the floating solar power system at the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin, the installation and monthly operating costs are some \$2.3 million and \$50,000 respectively. As the system is relatively small in scale, the electricity so generated is only barely enough to support the electrical equipment on the floating platform.

For the trial of the floating solar power system at the San Tin Polder, the installation and monthly operating costs are some \$2.9 million and \$4,000 respectively. On average, the system can generate 3 600 kWh per month.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2155)

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (MOK Wing-cheong)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Budget that the harbourfront resources should be better used. Apart from the scenery, however, the smell of seawater will also have an impact on the impression the Victoria Harbour leaves on tourists and the general public. The quality of the coastal waters of the Victoria Harbour plays a pivotal role in developing the Victoria Harbour into a popular leisure destination. Regarding the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS), would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the details of the completed HATS projects related to the coastal waters of Kowloon West, including the locations, completion dates and expenditure involved;
2. the details of the ongoing HATS projects related to the coastal waters of Kowloon West, including the locations, anticipated completion dates and estimated expenditure involved;
3. the details of the pending HATS projects related to the coastal waters of Kowloon West, including the locations, anticipated completion dates and estimated expenditure involved; and
4. the annual Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) compliance rate of the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone (WCZ) in 2023?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Man-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Government has all along been attaching great importance to improving the water quality of Victoria Harbour, and is adopting a multi-pronged approach in implementing various pragmatic measures, having regard to the varying environment and conditions of individual districts, to endeavour to resolve the odour problems of coastal areas. Among the measures adopted, the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) is the largest in scale, the construction cost of which is some \$25.8 billion. Since the full commissioning of HATS, the water quality of Victoria Harbour has substantially improved. The annual Cross Harbour Race, which was suspended for years due to poor water quality, was resumed in 2011 and has returned to its traditional route in the central area of Victoria Harbour since 2017. The overall compliance rate of Water Quality Objectives for Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone reached 100% in 2023.

To further improve the water quality of Victoria Harbour, the Government has been

continuously implementing and planning other sewerage projects. The details of the completed and ongoing projects related to the coastal waters of Kowloon West are listed below:

Completed Projects

Project	Location	Completion Year	Project Cost ^{Note 1}
Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Sewerage - Phase 1	West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan	2022	\$280 million
Construction of Dry Weather Flow Interceptor at Cherry Street Box Culvert	Tai Kok Tsui	2022	\$660 million
West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Village Sewerage - Phase 1	Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung	2023	\$100 million

Note 1: The project costs stated are approved project estimates.

Ongoing Projects

Project	Location	Expected Completion Year	Project Cost ^{Note 2}
Sewerage to Lo Wai, Chuen Lung and Kau Wa Keng Old Village	Lo Wai, Chuen Lung and Kau Wa Keng Old Village	2025	\$170 million
Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Sewerage - Phase 2	Kowloon City, Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong, Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan	2026	\$2.29 billion

Note 2: The project costs stated are approved project estimates.

Furthermore, the Government plans to seek funding approval in 2024 from the Legislative Council for the project “West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan village sewerage—Phase 2 (Package 1)”. It is expected that the project will be completed about 4.5 years after the relevant funding proposal is approved by the Finance Committee.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)017

(Question Serial No. 0323)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 85 of the Budget Speech that a pilot scheme would be launched at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of the government buildings. According to reports, foreign and mainland companies introduced thin-film solar photovoltaic glass panels (PV glass panels) years ago for application on the exterior of buildings, and local companies have also developed coloured PV glass panels. Would the Government advise on the following:

- 1) Is there any assessment on the annual electricity generation and economic benefits of the pilot scheme? And what are the annual economic benefits of the renewable energy generated if the scheme is implemented in all government buildings in Hong Kong?
- 2) Has the Government compared the construction and maintenance costs of PV glass panels with those of traditional glass curtain walls?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Government will launch the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) (Pilot Scheme) at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of buildings as well as the supply of renewable energy to buildings. The objective is to assess the effectiveness and feasibility of BIPV from various aspects having regard to the relevant data collected from the Pilot Scheme, such as the actual power generation efficiency, performance in reducing indoor energy consumption, repair and maintenance requirements and expenditures, as well as the construction and maintenance costs of thin-film photovoltaic glass panels and those of traditional glass for application on the facades of buildings, etc., so as to evaluate whether to extend the Pilot Scheme to other public and private organisations in the future. The project is currently under planning. We will announce the details in due course.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)018

(Question Serial No. 3194)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The provision for 2024-25 is \$16.2 million (8.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for providing technical support to take forward the initiative of the use of hydrogen as fuel and other operational expenses. There will be a net decrease of two posts in 2024-25 under this programme. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

1. the specific details, timetable, staffing and estimated expenditure involved regarding the technical support provided for the Environmental and Ecology Bureau on the use of hydrogen as fuel;
2. the work details of and related expenditure (if any) on the posts proposed to be created; and
3. the work details of and related expenditure on the posts proposed to be deleted.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

1. The Government of the Special Administrative Region set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to coordinate the efforts of various policy bureaux and departments in preparation for the adoption of hydrogen fuel locally and to promote the local application of hydrogen energy through trial projects. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has actively participated in the Working Group, providing professional support in terms of technical and safety expertise and conducting relevant consultancy studies, to assist the Working Group in examining applications for trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology intended to be taken forward locally and to establish an operational safety framework for the use of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong. To cope with the use of hydrogen fuel in Hong Kong, the EMSD, after consulting the trade, has completed the formulation of safety guidelines for hydrogen-fuelled vehicles and maintenance workshops, safety guidelines for hydrogen refuelling stations, and guidance notes on quantitative risk assessment study for hydrogen installations. These guidelines have been applied in ongoing trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology currently conducted in Hong Kong. The EMSD will continue to update the guidelines having regard to the development of

hydrogen energy technology and the experience gained from implementing trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology, in order to keep pace with the times. To provide a legal framework applicable to the local use of hydrogen energy, the EMSD is studying about making amendments to the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), including incorporating the aforementioned guidelines into the legal framework. The EMSD conducted a month-long trade consultation from 20 February to 19 March this year, receiving a broadly positive response. The EMSD will continue to take forward the amendment work, with a view to introducing a bill into the Legislative Council in 2025. Regarding the manpower arrangement for promoting the development of hydrogen energy locally, the EMSD established the Hydrogen Team in 2023-24, including 9 professional grade posts. In 2024-25, the Hydrogen Team will continue to participate in promoting the development of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong, including engaging with the trade and advancing hydrogen energy trial projects, as well as continuing the work to amend the Gas Safety Ordinance to regulate the safety of hydrogen fuel. The estimated expenditure for the posts concerned is approximately \$10.983 million.

2.&3. In 2024-25, there will be a net deletion of 2 posts no longer required for operational need, including 1 professional grade post and 1 support grade post, involving a provision of approximately \$800,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)019

(Question Serial No. 1731)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): Not specified
Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Budget states that the Government will launch a Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (Pilot Scheme) at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of government buildings. The Government will also continue to support public and private organisations in further utilising renewable energy with a view to striving towards carbon neutrality in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the objectives and details of the Pilot Scheme, including the involved parties, whether technology enterprises and research institutes will be invited to join and the criteria for selecting suitable enterprises and institutes, the estimation of annual electricity generation, the savings of Government expenditure, the expenditure on and timetable for the Pilot Scheme, etc.;
- (2) the reasons for choosing the EMSD Headquarters as the site for the Pilot Scheme, and whether software or hardware modifications are required to be made at the EMSD Headquarters, as well as the costs involved; and
- (3) the measures in place to continuously support public and private organisations in further utilising renewable energy?

Asked by: Hon CHIU Duncan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (1) & (2) Through multi-disciplinary and inter-departmental collaboration (including the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Buildings Department, Architectural Services Department and Fire Services Department), the Government will launch the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) (Pilot Scheme) at the EMSD Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of buildings as

well as the supply of renewable energy (RE) to buildings. The project is currently under planning. We will announce the details in due course.

To formulate an appropriate proposal for the Pilot Scheme, the inter-departmental team will comprehensively take into consideration various factors of the existing EMSD Headquarters, including structural compatibility, appearance, insulation conditions at different facades of the building, operational situations, as well as repair and maintenance requirements, etc.

Apart from generating RE for the building, the Pilot Scheme can provide actual data for reference and evaluation. Based on the relevant data collected, the Government will assess the effectiveness and feasibility of BIPV from various aspects such as the actual power generation efficiency, performance in reducing indoor energy consumption as well as repair and maintenance requirements and expenditures, etc., so as to evaluate whether to extend the Pilot Scheme to other public and private organisations in the future.

- (3) The Government has been taking the lead in optimising the favourable conditions of premises and developing RE. In particular, the Government has earmarked a total of \$3 billion for installing RE facilities at government buildings and premises since 2017-18. As at December 2023, about \$2 billion has been approved for 226 projects, including installation of photovoltaic systems at government offices, government quarters, schools, recreation grounds-cum-rest gardens, reservoirs and pedestrian links, etc., as well as installation of waste-to-energy and hydro power systems at multiple sewage treatment plants. Among those 226 approved projects, 143 projects have been completed and the rest will be commenced as scheduled in the coming year. We expect that these projects will generate a total of about 25 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. In addition, to couple with the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, the EMSD provides relevant information, guidance notes and technical guidelines, etc. on RE through the “HK RE Net” (website: <https://re.emsd.gov.hk>), sets up an enquiry hotline for answering enquiries and offering technical advice about RE to private organisations and the general public, and regularly organises activities such as seminars and briefings to introduce to relevant stakeholders the installation of RE facilities and the FiT Scheme, so as to encourage different sectors to make optimum use of their premises for the development of RE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)020

(Question Serial No. 2089)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

- 1) With regard to the renewable energy (RE) projects implemented for government departments and public organisations, please provide information in the following format:

Year	Name of government departments/ public organisations	Buildings/ facilities involved	Actual electricity generation	Amount of electricity tariff saved	Reduction of energy consumption in indoor environment	Repair and maintenance costs
2023						
2022						
2021						

- 2) With regard to the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) (Pilot Scheme) launched at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters, what are the current progress and implementation timetable? What mechanism is in place to assess the effectiveness and feasibility of BIPV?
- 3) In the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24), what measures have been introduced to support the use of RE by public and private organisations? Please set out the manpower and actual expenditure involved in each measure.
- 4) In 2024-25, what are the plans of the Government for continuing to support the use of RE by public and private organisations? Please set out the manpower and estimated expenditure involved in each plan.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.:10)

Reply:

- (1), (3) and (4) The Government has earmarked a total of \$3 billion to install renewable energy (RE) facilities at government buildings and infrastructures since

2017-18. As at December 2023, about \$2 billion have been approved for 226 projects, including the installation of solar energy generation systems at government offices, government quarters, schools, recreational grounds-cum-rest gardens, reservoirs, pedestrian links, etc. as well as the installation of waste-to-energy and hydropower systems at multiple sewage treatment plants. 143 of 226 approved projects have been completed, and the rest of them will commence works as scheduled next year. We expect that these projects can generate a total of about 25 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually. The RE projects newly installed in government buildings and infrastructures supported by the above funding in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Government departments	Buildings/Infrastructures	Estimated annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
2023			
1	Hong Kong Police Force	Lantau North Divisional Police Station	18 480
2	Government Property Agency	North District Government Offices	25 675
3	Hong Kong Police Force	Police Tactical Unit Headquarters	9 750
4	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Tai Po Depot	24 700
5	Government Property Agency	Tai Po Government Offices	33 150
6	Marine Department	Western District Public Cargo Working Area	6 160
7	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Wo Hop Shek Crematorium & Columbarium	22 750
8	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Causeway Bay Sports Ground	650
9	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Central and Western District Promenade – Sheung Wan Section	925
10	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Hong Kong Park Children’s Playground	1 200
11	Government Property Agency	30 Plunkett’s Road	375
12	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Fanling Hong Lok Park	250
13	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Fanling Wai North Refuse Collection Point (N-31)	12
14	Correctional Services Department	Lai King Correctional Institution	1 050

	Government departments	Buildings/Infrastructures	Estimated annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
15	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Jockey Club Tak Wah Park	6 480
16	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Jordan Valley Park	810
17	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	King's Road Playground	625
18	Government Property Agency	Kowloon East Government Offices	3 600
19	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Kwok Shui Road Park	2 440
20	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Morse Park (Park No. 4)	9 880
21	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	North District Park	1 140
22	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Po Hong Park	3 200
23	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Kwu Tung Tung Fong Farm Refuse Collection Point (N-24)	12
24	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Sai Wan Ho Playground	900
25	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	San Tong Village	8
26	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Sha Tau Kok Children's Playground	1 175
27	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Sha Tau Kok Promenade Sitting-out Area	1 750
28	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Sha Tau Kok Recreation Ground	360
29	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Shek Wu Hui Jockey Club Playground	400
30	Government Property Agency	Shun Lee Disciplined Services Quarters	1 075
31	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Sok Kwu Wan Playground	350
32	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Shing Mun Valley Park (South Garden)	4 920
33	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Tin Sau Road Park	420
34	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Tin Yip Road Park	640
35	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Tunnel Approach Rest Garden	180

	Government departments	Buildings/Infrastructures	Estimated annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
36	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Wai Tau Village Refuse Collection Point (TP51)	8
37	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Yee Shing Lane Temporary Sitting Out Area	600
38	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Yuen Shin Park	150
39	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Yung Shue Wan Playground	600
40	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Po Wing Road Sports Centre	210
41	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Kowloon Park	3 406
42	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Lei King Wan Sitting-out Area	500
43	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Ma Ling Path Rest Garden	275
44	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Ngau Chi Wan Park	2 125
45	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	On Luk Street Park	3 075
46	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Tin Shui Wai Cycling Entry/Exit Hub	1 380
47	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Tsing Yi Sports Ground	480
48	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Wan Chai Park	1 320
2022			
49	Education Bureau	Jockey Club Government Secondary School	39 000
50	Education Bureau	Kowloon Tong Government Primary School	18 850
51	Government Property Agency	Mui Wo Government Offices	21 175
52	Correctional Services Department	Shek Pik Prison	100 100
53	Hong Kong Police Force	Border District Police Headquarters	19 500
54	Civil Aid Service	Civil Aid Service Headquarters	8 160
55	Home Affairs Department	Kowloon City Government Offices	6 500
56	Hong Kong Police Force	Lantau South Divisional (Mui Wo) Police Station	5 775

	Government departments	Buildings/Infrastructures	Estimated annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
57	Hong Kong Police Force	Stanley Sub-divisional Police Station	11 600
58	Transport Department	Yung Shue Wan Pier	9 240
59	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Central and Western District Promenade - Central Section	2 240
60	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Fuk Man Garden	700
61	Independent Commission Against Corruption	Independent Commission Against Corruption Headquarters Building	1 803
62	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Kowloon Bay Sports Ground	9 100
63	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Kwai Shing Circuit Garden	1 650
64	Correctional Services Department	Lo Wu Correctional Institution	630
65	Hong Kong Police Force	Marine Police East Divisional Police Station	26 250
66	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Po Kong Village Road Park	14 915
67	Marine Department	Stonecutters Island Public Cargo Working Area	9 100
68	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre	210
69	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Cheung Chau Sports Centre	600
70	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Ngan Shing Street Garden	350
71	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Peng Chau Waterfront Playground	1 440
72	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Tai Po Waterfront Park	2 100
73	Drainage Services Department	Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works	120 000
2021			
74	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Aberdeen Tree Centre	4 000
75	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Chai Wan Park	700
76	Hong Kong Observatory	Cheung Chau Aeronautical Meteorological Station	3 600

	Government departments	Buildings/Infrastructures	Estimated annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
77	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Cheung Chau Park	700
78	Hong Kong Police Force	Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force Headquarters	23 100
79	Education Bureau	Kowloon Technical School	9 240
80	Government Property Agency	Mongkok Government Offices	10 780
81	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Western Wholesale Food Market	77 000
82	Education Bureau	New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Yuen Long District Secondary School	31 200
83	Correctional Services Department	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution	9 240
84	Education Bureau	Queen Elizabeth School	6 930
85	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre	9 000
86	Education Bureau	Sha Tin Government Secondary School	18 480
87	Education Bureau	Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School	7 800
88	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Tsuen Wan Park	420
89	Government Property Agency	Tuen Mun Government Offices	61 000
90	Education Bureau	Tuen Mun Government Primary School	17 000
91	Department of Health	Fanling Health Centre	9 750
92	Correctional Services Department	Block M, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	6 930
93	Correctional Services Department	Block N, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	7 700
94	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	300
95	Home Affairs Department	Sai Kung Jockey Club Town Hall	500
96	Hong Kong Police Force	Sha Tin Divisional Police Station	9 240
97	Education Bureau	Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School	8 250
98	Education Bureau	Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School	9 900

	Government departments	Buildings/Infrastructures	Estimated annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
99	Highways Department	Tunnel KS57; across Cherry Street, near Oak Street	20 000
100	Water Supplies Department	Silvermine Bay Treatment Works	70 000
101	Drainage Services Department	Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works	573 000
102	Drainage Services Department	Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works	3 500 000

Note :

The above RE projects include solar panels, solar lamp posts, hydropower, biogas and biomass energy projects.

The management, operation, repair, maintenance, etc. of the above solar energy generation system projects are undertaken by individual departments. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has not kept information on the actual electricity generation, amount of electricity tariff saved, performance of energy reduction in indoor environment, as well as repair and maintenance costs.

The new solar photovoltaic system projects for government buildings and facilities expected to be supported by the above funding in 2024 and 2025 are tabulated below:

	Buildings/Infrastructures	Estimated annual power generation (kWh)
1	South East New Territories Landfill / Tseung Kwan O Preliminary Treatment Works	1 000 000
2	Sai Kung Market	107 000
3	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Kwai Chung Depot	89 000
4	Diamond Hill Crematorium	85 000
5	Kwai Chung Industrial Sewage Pumping Station	70 000
6	Sunny Bay Sewage Pumping Station	50 000
7	Penny's Bay Sewage Pumping Station	50 000
8	Tin Shui Wai Tin Wah Road Sewage Pumping Station	50 000
9	Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	31 000
10	Ho Man Tin Government Offices	13 000
11	To Kwa Wan Market and Government Offices	12 000

The Government has also endeavoured to create favourable conditions that are conducive to encouraging the private sector to develop RE on its land and properties. To couple with the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, the EMSD has launched a series of support measures, such as implementing Solar Harvest to install photovoltaic systems for eligible schools and welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) free of charge. About 500 photovoltaic systems were installed at participating schools and welfare NGOs under Solar Harvest over the past 3 years. It is estimated that the systems can generate about 4.5 million kWh of electricity each year, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of about 1 360 families.

The Environment and Ecology Bureau also continues the collaboration with the EMSD to regularly organise activities such as seminars and briefings etc. to introduce RE facilities and the FiT Scheme to relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage different sectors to make optimum use of their premises for the development of RE. Over the past 3 years, the EMSD organised and participated in nearly 80 public and industry briefings / seminars with about 10 000 participants in total.

Despite the cessation of Solar Harvest at the end of March 2024, the EMSD will continue to promote the above measures in 2024-25. The above measures will be implemented by relevant departments such as the EMSD etc. with their existing staff establishment.

- (2) Through multi-disciplinary and inter-departmental collaboration (including the EMSD, Buildings Department, Architectural Services Department and Fire Services Department), the Government will launch the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) (Pilot Scheme) at the EMSD Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of the buildings as well as the supply of RE to buildings. The project is currently under planning. We will announce the details in due course.

To formulate an appropriate proposal for the Pilot Scheme, the inter-departmental team will comprehensively take into consideration various factors of the existing EMSD Headquarters, including structural compatibility, appearance, insolation conditions at different facades of the building, operational situations, as well as repair and maintenance requirements, etc.

Apart from supplying RE to the building, the Pilot Scheme can provide actual data for reference and evaluation. Based on the relevant data collected, the Government will assess the effectiveness and feasibility of BIPV from various aspects, such as the actual power generation efficiency, performance in reducing indoor energy consumption as well as repair and maintenance requirements and expenditures, etc., so as to evaluate whether to extend the Pilot Scheme to other public and private organisations in the future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)021

(Question Serial No. 0009)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the launch of the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) (Pilot Scheme), the Government will launch the Pilot Scheme at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of government buildings. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the timetable and roadmap for the Pilot Scheme, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower involved;
2. whether the selection of the EMSD Headquarters for the installation of BIPV on its facades has taken into account its structural compatibility and sunlight conditions with a view to achieving optimal energy generation efficiency; and
3. the Government's specific objectives of promoting the Pilot Scheme, as well as the expected outcomes of energy efficiency and environmental improvement through the scheme?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. Through multi-disciplinary and inter-departmental collaboration (including the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Buildings Department, Architectural Services Department and Fire Services Department), the Government will launch the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) (Pilot Scheme) at the EMSD Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of buildings as well as the supply of renewable energy (RE) to buildings. The project is currently under planning. We will announce the details in due course.
2. To formulate an appropriate proposal for the Pilot Scheme, the inter-departmental team will comprehensively take into consideration various factors of the existing EMSD Headquarters, including structural compatibility, appearance, insulation conditions at different facades of the building, operational situations, as well as repair and maintenance requirements, etc.

3. Apart from supplying RE to the building, the Pilot Scheme can provide actual data for reference and evaluation. Based on the relevant data collected, the Government will assess the effectiveness and feasibility of BIPV from various aspects, such as the actual power generation efficiency, performance in reducing indoor energy consumption as well as repair and maintenance requirements and expenditures, etc., so as to evaluate whether to extend the Pilot Scheme to other public and private organisations in the future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)022

(Question Serial No. 0439)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to the key performance indicators of this Programme, the estimated number of product submissions under the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) to be processed in 2024 will be 1 400, which is considerably higher than the actual number of submissions processed in 2023 by 69%. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the manpower and resources allocated for 2024-25 to cope with the processing of product submissions under the MEELS?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The fourth phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) has come into effect in 2023 and will be fully implemented on 1 December 2024, with the coverage extended to light emitting diode lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters. Besides, the new energy efficiency grading standards for refrigerating appliances, washing machines and storage type electric water heaters under the MEELS will also come into effect in June 2024. In view of the above, we anticipate that there will be an upsurge in the number of product submissions to be processed in 2024-25. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department will flexibly deploy internal manpower resources and optimise work processes and other arrangements to cope with the short-term increase in application processing work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1456)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for monitoring the two power companies in Hong Kong. In January this year, there were two transient voltage dip incidents. It was mentioned that the EMSD provided technical support to the Environment and Ecology Bureau on matters relating to the future development in the electricity market and the implementation of the Scheme of Control Agreements. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the specific technical support provided;
- (b) What is the role of the EMSD in the monitoring process; what are the staff establishment and provision reserved for conducting follow-up investigation on incidents; what is the average processing time;
- (c) In each of the past 3 years, how many incidents involving the power supply systems of the respective power company occurred?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) provides support to the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) in the aspects of electrical technologies for monitoring the two power companies in Hong Kong (the power companies). The relevant tasks of the EMSD include assisting the EEB in the aspects of electrical technologies to conduct Auditing Reviews with regards to the technical, environmental and financial performance of the power companies, vetting the Development Plans of the power companies as well as carrying out interim reviews of the SCAs, in accordance with the Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs).
- (b) In accordance with the Electricity Ordinance (Cap. 406) (the Ordinance), the EMSD regulates the operation of the power companies, conducts inspections of the power supply facilities concerned, and monitors the performance on the supply reliability and the electrical safety of the power companies. As regards electrical incidents, the EMSD has established a reporting mechanism with the power companies, requiring the power companies to report the voltage dip and power interruption incidents of their

power supply facilities. After an electrical incident occurs, the EMSD will take immediate follow-up actions, including instantly deploying staff to the site to conduct investigation so as to follow up on the development of the incident, as well as urging the power companies to complete the repair work as soon as possible. In addition, the EMSD will require the power companies to submit, as per the Ordinance, within a specified timeframe (4 weeks in general) after the incident, a report explaining the cause of the incident and stating the necessary remedial measures to be taken. Upon receiving the incident report, the EMSD will review if the investigation result in the report is well founded, suggest further improvement measures, and follow up on the power companies' implementation of the various improvement measures put forward in the report to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident. As the follow-up investigation of the incidents is part of the overall duties of the EMSD and is being undertaken by the existing staff establishment, we do not have a separate breakdown.

- (c) According to the records of incidents reported by the power companies (namely the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP) and The Hong Kong Electric Company, Limited (HEC)) under the prevailing reporting mechanism, the numbers of voltage dip and power interruption incidents involving the power supply systems of the CLP and HEC over the past 3 years are as follows:

Nature of incidents	Number of incidents					
	2021		2022		2023	
	CLP	HEC	CLP	HEC	CLP	HEC
Voltage dip	2	0	8	0	9	1
Power interruption	8	0	11	1	7	3

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)024

(Question Serial No. 0490)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 85 of the Budget Speech that the Government would launch a Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (Pilot Scheme) at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of government buildings. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the details of the Pilot Scheme, including the expenditure, timetable, etc.;
2. the measures the Government will take to enhance the energy efficiency of the existing and new public and private buildings in Hong Kong in 2024-25. Please provide information in respect of the expenditures, work involved and performance indicators.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

1. Through multi-disciplinary and inter-departmental collaboration including the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Buildings Department, Architectural Services Department and Fire Services Department, the Government will launch the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) (Pilot Scheme) at the EMSD Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of buildings as well as the supply of renewable energy (RE) to buildings. The project is currently under planning. We will announce the details in due course.

Apart from generating RE for the building, the Pilot Scheme can provide actual data for reference and evaluation. Based on the relevant data collected, the Government will assess the effectiveness and feasibility of BIPV from various aspects such as the actual power generation efficiency, performance in reducing indoor energy consumption as well as repair and maintenance requirements and expenditures, etc., so as to evaluate whether to extend the Pilot Scheme to other public and private organisations in the future.

2. The Government's goal is to reduce the electricity consumption of commercial buildings by 30% to 40% and that of residential buildings by 20% to 30% from the 2015 level by

2050; and to achieve half of the above targets by 2035. In this connection, the Government has been endeavouring to enhance the energy efficiency of buildings through multi-pronged measures, including:

- (a) Planning to amend the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance to enhance the energy efficiency of building services installations of buildings;
- (b) Continuing to expand the coverage of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) and upgrade the energy efficiency grading standards of the products under the MEELS, so as to encourage the suppliers to make available more household electrical appliances with high energy efficiency while informing consumers of the energy efficiency performance of the products, thereby promoting energy conservation; and
- (c) Taking forward the implementation of the highly energy-efficient district cooling system to supply chilled water to non-domestic buildings for air-conditioning in new development areas.

The above measures, as well as the work in relation to energy efficiency and RE are part of the overall duties of the EMSD. We do not have the relevant breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)025

(Question Serial No. 0745)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (POON Kwok-ying)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (VEELS) has covered 22 types of household appliances and office equipment since its launch. In this connection, would the Government advise on the following:

1. What were the manpower and expenditure involved each year for taking forward the VEELS? Is provision earmarked for publicity work in 2024-25? If yes, what is the amount involved?
2. Does the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department have any plan to extend the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) to cover more products under the VEELS? If yes, is there any timetable? If not, what are the reasons?
3. Will the Government strengthen the publicity and education work among consumers on online purchase of related products, in particular the ways to identify product risks and whether the products concerned comply with the requirements of the energy efficiency labelling schemes?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The implementation of the Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, including its related publicity and public education work, is part of the daily duties of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to promote energy conservation and is undertaken by the existing staff establishment. We do not have a separate breakdown.
2. The fourth phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) has come into effect in 2023 and will be fully implemented on 1 December 2024, with the coverage extended to light emitting diode lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters. To date, the MEELS has covered a total of 11 types of prescribed products, accounting for about 80% of the total residential energy consumption. Moreover, the new energy efficiency grading standards for refrigerating appliances, washing machines and storage type electric water heaters will come into effect in June 2024. The EMSD will continue to review overseas experience, international testing standards, potential energy saving benefits, opinions of stakeholders, etc. to extend the

coverage of the MEELS and upgrade the grading standards of products under the MEELS, with a view to ensuring that the grading standards are abreast of the latest technological development.

3. According to the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (Cap. 598), energy labels are required to be affixed to the prescribed products supplied in Hong Kong to inform consumers of the energy efficiency performance of the products concerned.

The EMSD will take samples of the products in the market to check whether the actual energy efficiency performance of the products concerned is in line with the information shown on their energy labels. If a listed model is found to be non-compliant with the performance requirements, the EMSD will remove its reference number from the record of listed models, thereby prohibiting the supply of the model concerned on the market. The non-compliant products will also be publicised to consumers.

To step up publicity on the points to note for purchasing safe and highly energy-efficient household electrical and gas appliances through online shopping platforms, the EMSD has been disseminating the relevant information through various channels, such as promotional videos which are produced for uploading to various social media platforms and broadcasting through the MTR in-train TV, the social media platform page “Witty Bear” of the EMSD, publications such as EnergyWits and Energy Label Newsletter, and the mobile application “E&M Connect” of the EMSD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)026

(Question Serial No. 2473)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expense

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding food waste reduction, please inform this Committee of the following for the past 5 years:

- the expenditure and manpower involved each year;
- the quantities of food waste generated from commercial & industrial and domestic sectors and their recovery rates;
- the estimated recovery rates in the coming 5 years;
- the quantities of food waste disposed of at landfills each year and the trend of increase or decrease in the quantity;
- with municipal solid waste (MSW) charging soon to commence, the Government anticipates that the demand for food waste recycling will rise; whether the Government has set an annual target for the quantity of food waste to be reduced as a result of MSW charging; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons;
- the expenditure incurred by the Smart Food Waste Recycling Programme (Public Rental Housing) so far;
- the estimated expenditure for the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the statistics on food waste (including domestic and commercial & industrial food waste) disposed of at landfills and their recovery rates from 2018 to 2022 are tabulated below. The EPD does not have a breakdown of the generation and recovery rates of food waste from the domestic and commercial & industrial sectors. The relevant statistics for 2023 are under compilation (we estimate that the quantity of overall municipal food waste recovered was more than 230 tonnes per day).

Year	Domestic food waste	Commercial & industrial food waste	Overall municipal food waste			
	Disposal quantity (tonnes/day) (a)	Disposal quantity (tonnes/day) (b)	Disposal quantity (tonnes/day) ^{Note} (c)=(a)+(b)	Quantity generated (tonnes/day)	Quantity Recovered (tonnes/day)	Recovery rate
2018	2 418	1 147	3 565	3 639	74	2.0%
2019	2 286	1 067	3 353	3 479	126	3.6%
2020	2 477	778	3 255	3 405	150	4.4%
2021	2 342	1 095	3 437	3 618	181	5.0%
2022	2 312	991	3 302	3 499	197	5.6%

Note: The above figures may not add up to the total due to rounding

The Government has all along been attaching great importance to promoting food waste reduction at source and recycling. The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign has been promoting a “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture and encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste at source in the community through various schemes and activities since its launch in 2013. The major schemes and activities include: the “Food Wise Charter”, the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme, the “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages, and the publicity activities promoting food waste reduction and recycling to the public through online platforms and mobile applications, public transport network, television and radio stations, etc.

The EPD is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial & industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including, food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, and residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

To facilitate the recycling of food waste generated by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at refuse collection points (RCPs) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme. In addition, the EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po, and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme. Nearby restaurants can arrange to deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling as needed. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will be gradually increasing.

The EPD and its appointed contractors will conduct promotion on the different food waste recycling schemes for the commercial & industrial sectors and explain the details of each scheme to the trade, while extending invitations for their participation. Prior to the commencement of food waste collection, the EPD will also arrange contractors to provide guidance and training to the participants in need (including their management and frontline staff), such as areas to take note of and procedures involved when participating in food waste recycling to enhance the quality and amount of food waste collected.

Regarding domestic food waste, the EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule. The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these two funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of two years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the RF and the ECF. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides the traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at two Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and RCPs).

In the past 5 years, the manpower involved in the implementation of the above food waste recycling initiatives and the related publicity and promotion was absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD, and the expenditure involved is tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure involved (\$million) ^{Note 1}			
	Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign	Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection Notes 2, 3	Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates	Publicity and promotion and training programmes
2019-20	4.0	25.4	0	0.4
2020-21	3.5	35.1	0	0.5
2021-22	4.4	39.9	0	0.7
2022-23	3.8	65.7	3.5	1.2
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	3.4	107.1	33.0	2.8

Note 1: Projects funded by the Recycling Fund, the ECF and the ECC are not included.

Note 2: The food waste collection service contracts covering Hong Kong Island (also includes the Islands District) and Kowloon (also includes Tsuen Wan District, Kwai Tsing District and Tseung Kwan O) commenced in September 2021 and February 2022 respectively, while the remaining two contracts covering the New Territories commenced in April 2023. The above is the expenditure incurred by the entire Pilot Scheme.

Note 3: The expenditures for food waste recycling points set up in public places, and at RCPs of the FEHD and “food and beverage clusters” are covered by the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection.

Regarding food waste treatment, the Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK1) and the pre-treatment facilities for the Food Waste, Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme (the Trial Scheme) at the Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works came into operation in 2018, 2019 and 2023 respectively. The related supervision work is absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The expenditures of the facilities in the past 5 years is tabulated below:

Financial year	Operating expenditure (\$million)		
	O·PARK1	The Trial Scheme at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works	The Trial Scheme at the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works
2019-20	47	5	-
2020-21	58	10	-
2021-22	75	11	-
2022-23	75	11	-
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	84	10	3

With the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging in Hong Kong, coupled with enhanced publicity and promotion of food waste recycling and greater public participation, we are expecting a decrease in waste disposal and a gradual increase in the quantity of various types of recyclables (including food waste) recovered. We will closely monitor the quantity of food waste recovered and the public participation after the implementation of MSW charging, and timely review the direction and effectiveness of the measures introduced to align with the long-term planning and development of food waste treatment facilities. We recognise that the public will need to take an extra step in source separation and food waste recycling, but we believe that MSW charging will incentivise more people to actively participate in food waste recycling, ultimately reducing the burden on landfills.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2474)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to local recycling, please inform this Committee of the following in the past 3 years:

- What are the recovery rates of various types of recyclables, including waste electrical and electronic equipment, plastics, waste paper, etc.?
- What are the quantities of various types of recyclables, including waste electrical and electronic equipment, plastics, waste paper, etc. imported and exported?
- The Government mentioned that kerbside three-colour recycling bins will be removed from the urban area by batches. What is the number of kerbside three-colour recycling bins left at present?
- Further to the above, what are expenditures saved from the removal of three-colour recycling bins?
- What are the quantities of various types of recyclables treated locally at present?
- What is the expected treatment capacity of the local recycling facilities in the next 5 years?
- What enforcement actions have been taken against non-compliant cases relating to the import and export of waste?
- Have targets been set for recycling locally? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the quantities of the major types of recyclables recovered and their recovery rates from 2020 to 2022 are tabulated below. The relevant statistics for 2023 are still under compilation.

Major type of recyclables		2020	2021	2022
Paper	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)	450	603	584
	Recovery rate	32%	43%	42%
Plastics	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)	102	104	121
	Recovery rate	11%	11%	12%
Ferrous metals	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)	741	786	885
	Recovery rate	91%	92%	93%
Non-ferrous metals	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)	115	182	134
	Recovery rate	88%	88%	83%
Glass	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)	15	20	19
	Recovery rate	18%	20%	20%
Food waste	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)	55	66	72
	Recovery rate	4%	5%	6%
Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)	41	44	48
	Recovery rate	71%	74%	75%

According to the external merchandise trade statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department, the recyclables imported and exported in the past 3 years mainly involved ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, paper and plastics. Since WEEE does not have a corresponding commodity classification code under the current Hong Kong Harmonised System, the relevant information is not available. From 2021 to 2023, the quantities of ferrous metals imported were 100 000, 50 000 and 30 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of non-ferrous metals imported were 740 000, 690 000 and 650 000 tonnes respectively; and the quantities of plastics imported were 90 000, 50 000 and 30 000 tonnes respectively. Besides, the quantity of waste paper imported in 2020 was approximately 20 000 tonnes, with no records of relevant imports in 2021 and beyond available. From 2021 to 2023, the quantities of ferrous metals exported (including re-exports and domestic exports) were 1 060 000, 930 000 and 1 040 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of non-ferrous metals exported were 780 000, 840 000 and 680 000 tonnes respectively; and the quantities of plastics exported were 30 000, 20 000 and 10 000 tonnes respectively. According to the EPD's data, the quantities of waste paper delivered outside Hong Kong for recycling from 2021 to 2023 were approximately 600 000, 580 000 and 570 000 tonnes respectively.

Since 1 October 2020, the EPD has taken over the management of kerbside recycling bins in public places from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, and reviewed the policy positioning and the way forward of kerbside recycling bins in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman upon the completion of its direct investigation into the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins in April 2022. The findings of the review show that the amount of recyclables from kerbside recycling bins in urban areas accounts for only less than 0.1% of the total amount of recyclables in Hong

Kong. Moreover, these bins are prone to be misused by passers-by who mistakenly put in rubbish, litter, containers with leftover food or drinks, etc., thereby affecting the downstream recycling process of recyclables and causing environmental hygiene problems. With the development and continuous enhancement in the services of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, coupled with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of kerbside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas has gradually diminished. Therefore, the EPD had removed about 800 sets of kerbside recycling bins placed in urban areas in 2022. In view of the better quality of recyclables collected from kerbside recycling bins in rural areas, the EPD has retained about 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents there to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste paper and metals). In addition, the EPD is stepping up various measures on waste reduction and recycling support for rural areas on a trial basis, including setting up trial add-on recycling spots to extend the recycling services of GREEN@COMMUNITY to rural areas with relatively denser population, and installing smart recycling bins in 6 rural locations. The Environment and Conservation Fund has also provided funding to a non-profit-making organisation for conducting a project in 20 villages in the North East New Territories by recruiting local residents as Green Outreach Volunteers to carry out recycling, publicity and educational activities in the villages, thereby encouraging the residents in rural areas to practise waste reduction at source and recycling.

The EPD's contracts of recyclables collection service, which commenced in October 2020, covered both kerbside and school recyclables collection services. After the removal of kerbside recycling bins in urban areas, the EPD awarded new contracts of recyclables collection service in October 2023, separating the kerbside and school recyclables collection services into two contracts. Additionally, several enhancement measures have been included in the terms of the new contracts to improve the service quality. These measures include strengthening the arrangements for cleaning recycling bins, inspecting and reviewing the quality of recyclables collected, using a new system to record the collection time and the conditions of recycling bins, etc. These records are uploaded to a cloud system for verification by the EPD staff. The new contracts with enhanced services will result in an annual saving of approximately \$1.4 million compared to the integrated service contracts before the removal of kerbside recycling bins in urban areas.

Based on the information provided by various organisations and recyclers during recycling activities and surveys in recent years, it is estimated that the local waste plastic treatment capacity will be about 150 000 tonnes per year in the next few years. As for waste paper, the large-scale modern pulping facility currently under construction in EcoPark, Tuen Mun is expected to commence operation in 2025 tentatively. This facility will be able to process about 630 000 tonnes of local waste paper per year. Regarding WEEE, as at early March 2024, there are a total of 19 recycling facilities with valid waste disposal licences for e-waste across the territory (including the WEEE Treatment and Recycling Facility (WEEE·PARK) operator), with a capacity to process a total of about 128 000 tonnes of e-waste each year. As for glass containers, the 2 glass management contractors engaged by the EPD are holding valid waste disposal licences for waste glass containers. According to the permitted treatment capacity stipulated in the relevant licences, a total of about 76 500 tonnes of waste glass containers can be treated each year. Regarding food waste recycling, a total of 600 tonnes of food waste can be accepted and treated by the existing Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK1), Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2 (O·PARK2) and

the facilities under the food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion trial scheme at Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works each day.

Over the past 3 years (i.e. 2021 to 2023), the EPD inspected some 1 100 container shipments at various ports altogether and intercepted a total of 188 containers involving illegal waste shipments, with 84 prosecutions completed so far. The total fine meted out by the Court amounts to some \$900,000. The types of illegal waste involved were mainly disassembled printed circuit boards, waste flat panel display units, waste printer toner/ink cartridges, waste batteries, etc.

The medium-term goal set out in the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035 is to increase the recovery rate to about 55%. According to overseas experiences, it would take certain time for the public to gradually develop the habit of practicing waste reduction and recycling even upon the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. Therefore, our primary goal is to help the public establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling first, so as to minimise the amount of charges they will need to pay. The EPD estimates that after the implementation of MSW charging, as the public's habits change, the recovery rate of 32% in 2022 will gradually increase.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2475)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, please inform this Committee of the following:

- What is the expenditure involved in publicising MSW charging? Please set out by type of advertising.
- What is the effectiveness of the publicity? How many members of the public have been reached?
- What is the manpower and expenditures involved in the Green Outreach?
- Further to the above, how are the scopes of service of the Care Teams and the Green Outreach defined?
- How many briefings on MSW charging have been organised since early this year? How many members of the public have been reached?
- Will a target on waste reduction be set for MSW charging?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

To enhance public and related sectors' understanding and awareness of the municipal solid waste (MSW) charging scheme, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of extensive public education, publicity and stakeholder engagement activities. These initiatives include provision of first-hand experience on how MSW charging is implemented through the launches of community involvement projects as well as close partnership and collaboration with government departments and stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign Committee, village representatives, green groups, schools, etc. in organising activities. Starting from August 2023, the EPD has been publicising the implementation date and arrangements of MSW charging through various channels in phases under the theme of "Dump Less, Save More" for the general public, the commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors and public institutions. We will continue with these publicity efforts until the end of 2024. The EPD has also introduced new publicity initiatives, including producing simple and easy-to-understand infographics for different groups, addressing misconceptions about the MSW charging policy through feature stories and street interviews, and collaborating with representatives of various stakeholders and celebrities to produce short videos to encourage the public to practise waste reduction and

recycling and to share their experience in preparing for MSW charging. The Green Outreach was set up to complement the promotional activities and provide outreaching support to the community on waste reduction and recycling. Starting from 1 April 2024, the Government implements the Demonstration Scheme in phases to enable the public and the relevant sectors to have a clearer understanding of the operation and details of the MSW charging scheme through on-site demonstration.

In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure related to publicity and promotion work for the implementation of MSW charging is approximately \$33.2 million. As advertisement is part of the overall publicity work of MSW charging, we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure.

Since the passage of the legislation at the end of August 2021, the Government has organised briefings and thematic trainings on the operation for stakeholders from various sectors, including the property management and environmental hygiene trades, waste collection trade, C&I and retail trades, chambers of commerce, catering trade associations, hotel trade, recycling trade, owners' organisations, rural stakeholders, fishermen organisations, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, associations of the heads of primary and secondary schools, theme parks, etc. About 450 meetings and briefings have been held so far, reaching out to more than 36 000 stakeholders from different sectors, so as to enhance their participation and facilitate their understanding of MSW charging. After the establishment of the new-term District Councils (DCs) and the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams), the EPD has organised multiple briefing sessions for policy explanation and distributed leaflets and designated bags of MSW charging to all DC Members and Care Teams to facilitate their explanation of the MSW charging policy to the public in their daily district work. Staff members from the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the EPD have so far attended more than 40 briefings organised by Legislative Council Members, DC Members, District Offices and local personalities, reaching out to over 3 200 people.

To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the EPD set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists the housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the Programme on Source Separation of Waste to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of multi-media promotion such as the social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making

organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women's, foreign domestic helpers' and new immigrants' groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of MSW charging starting from mid-August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage public of different background (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging.

From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

The Green Outreach has an annual expenditure of about \$100 million.

Support at the district level is crucial for the successful implementation of MSW charging, a policy that involves every sector of Hong Kong. The EPD has conducted policy briefings for all DCs, and has organised 3 briefing sessions for Care Teams in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories, as well as an additional English briefing session for foreign domestic helpers' group, ethnic minorities and foreigners. Furthermore, the EPD has distributed leaflets on MSW charging and designated bags to all DC Members and Care Teams through the District Offices to facilitate their explanation of the MSW charging policy to the public in their daily district work.

The medium-term goal set out in the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035 is to increase the recovery rate to about 55%. According to overseas experiences, it would take certain time for the public to gradually develop the habit of practicing waste reduction and recycling even upon the implementation of MSW charging. Therefore, our primary goal is to help the public establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling first, so as to minimise the amount of charges they will need to pay. The EPD estimates that after the implementation of MSW charging, as the public's habits change, the recovery rate of 32% in 2022 will gradually increase.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)029

(Question Serial No. 2476)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding plastic reduction, please inform this Committee of the following:

- the average quantity of waste plastics generated and disposed of in Hong Kong in each of the past 5 years, the percentages of plastic tableware and plastic bags respectively, and their recovery rates;
- as the Environmental Protection Department intends to implement the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases from the second quarter of 2024, please inform this Committee of the expenditure on the relevant promotional programmes already launched and the number of people reached;
- the details and effectiveness of the collaboration between the Government and the retail trade in respect of the regulation on plastics;
- the details of and expenditure on the Pilot Scheme on Collection and Recycling Services of Plastic Recyclable Materials launched by the Government to collect waste plastics from domestic sources;
- the details of, expenditure on and effectiveness of the reverse vending machines set up by the Government across the territory.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- (1) According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the quantities of waste plastics generated, their recovery rates and quantities disposed of, as well as the percentages of plastic tableware (including polyfoam tableware) and plastic bags in the waste plastics disposed of in the past 5 years (i.e. from 2018 to 2022) are tabulated below. The EPD does not have a breakdown on the quantity of waste plastics by type and their recovery rates. The relevant statistics for 2023 are still under compilation.

Year	Overall waste plastics	
	Quantity generated (thousand tonnes)	Recovery rate
2018	919	7%
2019	924	8%
2020	948	11%
2021	955	11%
2022	985	12%

Year	Quantity of waste plastics disposed of (thousand tonnes)	Percentage in waste plastics disposed of	
		Plastic tableware (including polyfoam tableware)	Plastic bags
2018	855	9%	36%
2019	847	9%	33%
2020	846	12%	35%
2021	851	10%	36%
2022	865	10%	37%

(2)&(3) The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation) will be implemented on 22 April 2024. The EPD has launched a series of publicity and training programmes to increase awareness of the regulation among the public and the trades. The details are as follows.

The EPD launched the “Cut Plastic Use” thematic website (www.cuttheplastics.hk) in January this year, which provides one-stop information for the public and the trades, including information on the regulation and the various options of alternatives to plastic products. Furthermore, since 1 February this year, we have been progressively releasing promotional videos and audios, trade-specific promotional clips, posters and advertisements, etc. about the regulation through various channels (including television, radio, public transportation stations and vehicle exteriors, restaurant storefronts, building lobbies and external digital screens, news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, etc.) Besides, we have proactively and promptly cleared up misconceptions and concerns of the public via various government websites and social media platforms, created infographics to address common questions, and set up hotlines to answer enquiries.

We have been maintaining close communication with various trades and providing appropriate assistance and support to them. As different trades have various concerns about the details of the regulation, since January this year, the EPD has been organising a total of 50 online and offline training sessions targeting at different sectors. To assist the catering trade in procuring compliant alternatives, we have engaged the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency to establish a “Green Tableware Platform” (<https://www.greentableware.hk/>) early in January 2022. The EPD has been progressively conducting compliance surveys through visits to 20 000 small and medium-sized eateries, with a view to assisting them in understanding the regulation and adjusting their operation to comply with the regulatory requirements (the numbers of visits are tabulated below). Besides, since January this year, the EPD

has distributed trade-specific promotional leaflets to approximately 11 000 retail stores and 1 800 hotels and guesthouses to help them better understand the regulatory requirements.

The first 6 months following the implementation of the regulation on 22 April will be designated as an adaptation period. During this period, the EPD will arrange staff to proactively inspect the operation of relevant business premises, focusing on promotion and education, as well as providing appropriate advice and information to assist the trades in complying with the requirements under the new legislation. We will also continue, through different channels, to promote various “plastic-free” campaigns which aim at reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware and encouraging the use of reusable ones among the public and the trades.

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditure and estimated expenditure of the EPD for the publicity and educational work of the regulation are \$17.8 million and about \$25 million respectively. The EPD does not have the statistics on the number of people reached by various publicity programmes.

- (4) The EPD has commenced a two-year pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling progressively since January 2020 in 3 districts, namely Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin, and further extended the scheme progressively since late March 2022 to 6 additional districts, namely Tai Po, Sai Kung, Central and Western District, Sham Shui Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, to collect all types of non-commercial and non-industrial waste plastics from these districts for proper handling and recycling. The service coverage has doubled from about one quarter to half of the population in Hong Kong. The operating expenditure incurred by the scheme in the past 3 years are shown in the table below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$m)
2021-22 (actual)	9
2022-23 (actual)	15
2023-24 (revised estimate)	19

- (5) To pave way for the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the EPD launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021. A total of 60 RVMs have been set up in public places, government facilities and shopping centres with suitable foot traffic. The number of RVMs increased to 120 from the third quarter of 2022. Positive responses from the public have been received since the rollout of the Pilot Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, more than 92 million plastic beverage containers have been collected under the Pilot Scheme for recycling locally. The operating expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme in the past 3 years are shown in the table below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$m)
2021-22 (actual)	16
2022-23 (actual)	30
2023-24 (revised estimate)	31

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)030

(Question Serial No. 2477)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and electric public transport, please inform this Committee of the following:

- How many vehicle owners have enjoyed the first registration tax (FRT) concessions in the past 3 years? What is the amount of the concessions? Please set out the number of vehicles granted with the FRT concessions by make.
- How many vehicle owners have enjoyed the FRT concessions granted under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme in the past 3 years?
- How many vehicles are owned by government departments? What is the percentage share of EVs?
- How many vehicles will be procured by government departments this year? Among them, what is the percentage share of EVs? What is the average price of the vehicles?
- What is the percentage of Secretaries of Departments/Directors of Bureaux using EVs?
- What are the numbers of parking spaces in government car parks in various districts? What are the numbers of parking spaces for EVs and their percentage share?
- What is the effectiveness of the \$3.5 billion subsidy scheme for installation of EV charging facilities in private residential buildings?
- Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the EV charging facilities currently installed at petrol filling stations? In the future, how many petrol filling stations are the Government expecting to convert by adding EV chargers?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (1)&(2) Over the past 3 years (i.e. from 2021 to 2023), there were a total of 58 862 cases that first registration tax (FRT) concessions were granted for electric vehicles (EVs), involving a total amount of \$15.21 billion. Among them, 56 877 were cases under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme.

The number of EVs granted with the FRT concessions by make is tabulated below:

Make	Number of EVs granted with the FRT concessions
AIDEA	6
AUDI	311
B.M.W.	6 752
BAZN	1
BICOSE	5
BMW I	73
BYD	4 419
CARVER	10
CFMOTO	98
DAYANG	62
DFSK	60
DOFERN	1
ENERGICA	6
EVOKE	1
FAW	2
FELQ	3
FIAT	14
FORD	2
FOTON	2
GMI	2
HELI	4
HONDA	9
HORWIN	23
HUANGHAI BUS	1
HYUNDAI	1 301
JAC	24
JAGUAR	4
JOYLONG	80
KIA	1 433
KUMPAN ELECTRIC	1
LEXUS	446
LINDE	3
LONKING	1
MAXUS	942
MERCEDES BENZ	6 750
MG	1 517
MINI	420
MITSUBISHI	1
NEXT	1
NINEBOT	22
NISSAN	967
NIU	33
ORA	291
OTTOBIKE	2
PEUGEOT	59
POLESTAR	397
PORSCHE	1 347
RENAULT	2
RIEJU	7

Make	Number of EVs granted with the FRT concessions
SANY	1
SGMW	2
SHUI CHEONG	3
SILENCE	89
SMART	5
STILL	4
SUITONG	2
SUMITOMO	2
SUPER SOCO	3
SURRON	27
TAYLOR DUNN	5
TCM	1
TESLA	29 974
TOYOTA	10
TROMOX	16
UGBEST	2
VOLKSWAGEN	55
VOLVO	740
XDAO	1
YADEA	2
Total	58 862

- (3)&(5) Regarding government vehicles, the departments will have to take into account their actual operational needs and the availability of EVs in the market that meet the relevant requirements and specifications, and replace their conventional fossil fuel vehicles with EVs in accordance with the normal replacement cycle and the actual circumstances, so as to strike a balance between prudent use of public funds and taking the lead in using EVs. According to the information provided by the Government Logistics Department (GLD), there were a total of 7 158 vehicles (including 2 602 specialised vehicles) in the establishment of the government fleet as at December 2023, among which 179 were EVs (including 159 electric cars, 19 electric vans and 1 electric special purpose vehicle), accounting for 2.5% of the overall government fleet. In respect of cars (including multi-purpose vehicles), there were a total of 1 853 cars in the establishment of the government fleet, among which 159 were EVs, accounting for 8.6% of the total number of cars owned by the Government. In addition, among the 3 Secretaries of Departments and the 15 Directors of Bureaux, 3 are currently using EVs, accounting for about 17%.
- (4) At present, apart from private cars, the choices of EV models for other vehicle types available in the market are limited. The GLD will, in accordance with the green procurement practice as well as the operational needs of various bureaux/departments and subject to the availability of suitable models in the market, consider procuring EVs or more environmentally friendly vehicles. According to the information provided by the GLD, the Government procured a total of 426 general purpose vehicles in 2023, among which 60 were EVs, accounting for about 14.1% of the total number of vehicles procured. The average price of the EVs was \$311,000 each.

- (6) The numbers of public parking spaces for private cars in government car parks by the 18 districts of Hong Kong as at the end of December 2023, the numbers and percentage shares of parking spaces equipped with EV chargers among them are tabulated below:

District	No. of parking spaces for private cars	No. of parking spaces equipped with EV chargers*	The percentage of parking spaces equipped with EV chargers
Central and Western	1 797	304	16.9%
Wan Chai	762	195	25.6%
Eastern	815	180	22.1%
Southern	761	57	7.5%
Yau Tsim Mong	85	29	34.1%
Sham Shui Po	808	121	15.0%
Kowloon City	216	101	46.8%
Wong Tai Sin	808	96	11.9%
Kwun Tong	1 339	144	10.8%
Tsuen Wan	708	182	25.7%
Tuen Mun	357	59	16.5%
Yuen Long	460	105	22.8%
North	919	306	33.3%
Tai Po	640	116	18.1%
Sai Kung	246	49	19.9%
Sha Tin	843	247	29.3%
Kwai Tsing	986	127	12.9%
Islands	1 158	234	20.2%
Total	13 708	2 652	19.3%

* Some of the EV chargers installed in government car parks are provided by the 2 power companies or private operators.

- (7) The Government announced the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (the Roadmap) in 2021, aiming to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure (EVCEI) by or before 2025. To this end, the Government through: (1) the measure of gross floor area concessions to encourage the installation of EVCEI in parking spaces of newly built private buildings. The Government has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces, of which more than 30 800 parking spaces have been completed and equipped with EVCEI; and (2) the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to assist existing private residential buildings and housing estates in installing EVCEI in their parking spaces. With the relevant schemes and initiatives in place, we are confident in achieving the target of having at least 150 000 parking spaces equipped with EVCEI by 2025 as set out in the Roadmap and raise the number to over 200 000 parking spaces within this government term.

The EHSS was rolled out in October 2020, with a total funding of \$3.5 billion allocated in two phases. Since the funding earmarked for the applications received under the EHSS had reached the \$3.5 billion funding ceiling, the application period for the EHSS was closed on 31 December 2023, with a total of 788 applications received. As at the end of February 2024, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has completed processing 732 applications. The processing of the remaining 56 applications will be completed within the first quarter of 2024. Upon approval of the EHSS applications by the EPD, applicants are required to engage consultants and contractors to design and install EVCEI through open tendering. It takes time for the installation to complete as applicants will have to conduct the tendering exercise, resolve the technical issues related to the installation works, as well as liaising with parking space owners to reach consensus over the detailed design of the installation. As at the end of February 2024, 57 car parks of residential estates (over 8 500 parking spaces) have completed the installation works under the EHSS, whereas 33 car parks of residential estates (about 6 500 parking spaces) have commenced installation works. Based on the current progress, it is anticipated that about 25 000 parking spaces will have the installation of EVCEI completed in 2024, and the target of completing the installation of EVCEI for some 140 000 parking spaces in private residential estates can be achieved in 2027-28 as planned, involving over 700 car parks.

- (8) The Airport (Cargo Terminal) Gas and Charging Station at Chek Lap Kok South Road, which opened in August 2022, was the first existing petrol filling station (PFS) retrofitted with charging facilities in Hong Kong. As the station is overseen by the Airport Authority Hong Kong, the Government does not have the relevant operational data to evaluate its effectiveness.

Through the refining of the land lease conditions for PFSs, the Government is offering suitable incentives for PFS operators to retrofit EV charging facilities in the usable space of PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. The Government wrote to PFS operators in November 2023 to invite submission of preliminary proposals for retrofitting quick charging facilities at PFSs, and received 98 preliminary proposals in February 2024. Analysis and feasibility study of the proposals received are underway. We expect to provide about 100 chargers at the existing 40 PFSs or so in the 2024-25 financial year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)031****(Question Serial No. 2480)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (2) AirControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding the control on vehicle emissions, please advise this Committee of the following information over the past 3 years:

- What are the percentages of emissions from various types of vehicles in the total vehicle emissions?
- Please list in tabular form the types and numbers of buses owned by various franchised bus companies on a yearly basis.
- Please list out the average age of buses currently in operation.
- What is the effectiveness of Franchised Bus Low Emission Zones?
- With the progressive phasing out of Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles at end-2023, what is the reduction in roadside air pollution?
- Regarding the use of roadside remote sensing equipment to detect vehicle emissions, what was the monthly average number of vehicles issued with an Emission Testing Notice? Please provide a breakdown by vehicle type.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)Reply:

- The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) compiles the Hong Kong Air Pollutant Emission Inventory annually to analyse the distribution and trend of the major air pollution sources in Hong Kong. The vehicle emission inventory for 2022 is still under compilation. The percentages of emissions from various types of vehicles in the total vehicle emissions from 2019 to 2021 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Vehicle type	Percentage of air pollutant emissions from vehicles in the total vehicle emissions [#]					
		Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	Respirable suspended particulates (RSP /PM10)	Fine suspended particulates (FSP /PM2.5)	Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	Carbon monoxide (CO)
2019	Motorcycle	1%	1%	1%	1%	72%	10%
	Taxi	8%	0%	0%	16%	4%	34%
	Private car	29%	7%	7%	2%	13%	24%

Year	Vehicle type	Percentage of air pollutant emissions from vehicles in the total vehicle emissions [#]					
		Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	Respirable suspended particulates (RSP /PM10)	Fine suspended particulates (FSP /PM2.5)	Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	Carbon monoxide (CO)
	Light goods vehicle	11%	21%	21%	21%	1%	3%
	Medium & heavy goods vehicle	30%	33%	33%	28%	2%	4%
	Private light bus	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%
	Public light bus	3%	1%	1%	3%	5%	16%
	Non-franchised bus	5%	12%	12%	10%	1%	2%
	Franchised bus	11%	22%	22%	18%	1%	4%
Total in 2019		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2020	Motorcycle	1%	2%	1%	1%	75%	11%
	Taxi	10%	0%	0%	15%	3%	31%
	Private car	29%	8%	8%	3%	13%	25%
	Light goods vehicle	11%	25%	25%	24%	1%	4%
	Medium & heavy goods vehicle	30%	29%	29%	27%	1%	4%
	Private light bus	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
	Public light bus	4%	1%	1%	3%	5%	18%
	Non-franchised bus	3%	7%	7%	7%	1%	1%
	Franchised bus	11%	26%	26%	20%	1%	4%
Total in 2020		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2021	Motorcycle	1%	2%	1%	1%	74%	10%
	Taxi	12%	0%	0%	13%	3%	30%
	Private car	28%	8%	8%	3%	13%	23%
	Light goods vehicle	11%	23%	23%	24%	1%	4%
	Medium & heavy goods vehicle	30%	31%	31%	27%	1%	4%
	Private light bus	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	Public light bus	4%	2%	2%	4%	6%	23%

Year	Vehicle type	Percentage of air pollutant emissions from vehicles in the total vehicle emissions [#]					
		Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	Respirable suspended particulates (RSP /PM10)	Fine suspended particulates (FSP /PM2.5)	Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	Carbon monoxide (CO)
	Non-franchised bus	3%	7%	7%	7%	1%	1%
	Franchised bus	10%	27%	27%	20%	1%	4%
Total in 2021		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

May not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- The numbers and average ages of the licensed buses owned by each franchised bus company in Hong Kong in the past 3 years are tabulated by vehicle emission standard as follows:

Franchised Bus company	Bus Category	Number of licensed franchised buses		
		End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023
The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited	Euro III	368	161	97
	Euro IV	115	116	114
	Euro V	2 923	2 828	2 870
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	584	772	849
	Electric bus	11	24	49
	Sub-total	4 001	3 901	3 979
	Average age of vehicles (in years)	6.8	6.8	7.5
Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories Bus Network) (Note ¹)	Euro III	0	0	0
	Euro IV	28	0	0
	Euro V	633	585	1 065
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	106	121	232
	Electric bus	4	4	6 (Note ²)
	Sub-total	771	710	1 303
	Average age of vehicles (in years)	7.2	7.6	8.1
Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Airport and North Lantau Bus Network)	Euro III	0	0	0
	Euro IV	0	0	0
	Euro V	149	151	165
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	39	29	27
	Electric bus	0	0	0
	Sub-total	188	180	192
	Average age of vehicles (in years)	5.1	6.0	7.4

Franchised Bus company	Bus Category	Number of licensed franchised buses		
		End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023
New World First Services Limited (NWFB) (Note ¹)	Euro III	0	0	Not Applicable
	Euro IV	38	13	
	Euro V	533	514	
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	114	112	
	Electric bus	3	1	
	Sub-total	688	640	
	Average age of vehicles (in years)	6.1	6.9	
Long Win Bus Company Limited	Euro III	10	8	4
	Euro IV	6	5	5
	Euro V	118	115	112
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	119	132	156
	Electric bus	4	4	4
	Sub-total	257	264	281
	Average age of vehicles (in years)	3.3	4.0	4.4
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited	Euro III	9	6	3
	Euro IV	31	13	11
	Euro V	88	104	113
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	5	5	13
	Electric bus	2	4	4
	Sub-total	135	132	144
	Average age of vehicles (in years)	7.8	8.4	9.0

Note 1: The Citybus Limited (Franchise for Hong Kong Island and Cross-Harbour Bus Network) and NWFB merged as Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories Bus Network) on 1 July 2023. Meanwhile, the ownership of franchised buses of NWFB had also been transferred to Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories Bus Network).

Note 2: The 6 electric buses include 1 hydrogen fuel cell electric bus.

- Since 31 December 2015, the Government has set up Franchised Bus Low Emission Zones (FBLEZs) at 3 busy road sections in Central, Causeway Bay and Mong Kok, allowing only low emission buses to be deployed to the routes running through the FBLEZs.

To further improve the roadside air quality within the FBLEZs, the Government tightened the emission requirements of the low emission buses running through the 3 FBLEZs starting from 31 December 2019. Franchised bus companies are required to deploy low emission buses meeting Euro V or above emission standards to routes running through FBLEZs. According to the information provided by the franchised bus companies, nearly all (more than 99%) buses running through the FBLEZs are low emission buses (except in the case of traffic congestion, vehicle breakdowns, traffic accidents, special departures, etc., where non-low emission buses may have to be deployed to the FBLEZs occasionally in order to maintain normal bus services).

- The EPD launched in October 2020 an incentive-cum-regulatory programme to progressively phase out about 40 000 Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) (which include goods vehicles, light buses and non-franchised buses) by the end of 2027. As at the end of 2023, a total of about 22 000 Euro IV DCVs have been phased out. Coupled with a series of improvement measures implemented by the EPD such as the FBLEZs at busy road sections, the roadside air quality has improved significantly. The annual average concentration of respirable suspended particulates (PM10) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) recorded by roadside air quality monitoring stations in Hong Kong reduced by 16% and 18% respectively in 2023 as compared to 2019.
- The EPD has been using mobile roadside remote sensing equipment to identify petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles running on roads with excessive emissions since 1 September 2014. As at the end of January 2024, some 7.64 million vehicle counts have been monitored under the scheme and the monthly average number of Emission Testing Notices (ETNs) issued is tabulated by vehicle type as follows:

Vehicle type	Monthly average number of ETNs issued since the implementation of the scheme
Light goods vehicle	<1
Private car	About 77
Light bus	About 18
Taxi	About 189

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2481)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding local air pollution, please advise this Committee of the following:

- the major sources of the local air pollutants in the past 5 years;
- the air pollution measured at various local air quality monitoring stations in the past 5 years; whether the results met the standards of the World Health Organization;
- the number of days with low health risk in the Air Quality Health Index recorded locally in each of the past 5 years; whether the Government will set a key performance indicator in the future, aiming to increase the number of days with low health risk to a specific target;
- the number of deaths and the amount of medical expenditure caused by air pollution each year;
- the details of the pilot scheme for electric and hydrogen ferries proposed by the Government?
- whether the Government will consider constructing shoreside power supply facilities in Hong Kong to further reduce air pollution, and using the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal as a trial point; if so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) compiles the Hong Kong Air Pollutant Emission Inventory every year to analyse the distribution and trends of major air pollution sources in Hong Kong. The main emission sources of major air pollutants in Hong Kong (sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates (RSP), fine suspended particulates (FSP) and carbon monoxide) from 2017 to 2021 were vessels, power plants and vehicles, whereas the main sources of volatile organic compounds emissions were non-combustion sources (including the use of paints and consumer products such as hairspray, adhesives, etc.) The Emission Inventories for 2021 have been uploaded to the EPD website (the link is listed below). The Emission Inventories for 2022 and 2023 are still under compilation.

https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html

2. The World Health Organization's Air Quality Guidelines (WHO Guidelines) issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2021 have promulgated a set of "ultimate

targets” and “interim targets” for various key air pollutants which enable governments to, having regard to their local circumstances, progressively tighten their air quality standards through adopting the “interim targets”, and meet the WHO’s “ultimate targets” eventually. At present, no area has fully adopted the WHO’s “ultimate targets” as its statutory air quality standards. Currently, half of Hong Kong’s Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) have adopted the “ultimate targets” as specified in the WHO Guidelines, with the rest pitching at the WHO “interim targets”. With reference to the WHO Guidelines updated by the WHO in 2021, the Government has completed a new round of AQOs review in 2023 and will tighten the existing AQOs while adding new ones.

According to the preliminary data recorded at various air quality monitoring stations (AQMSs) by the EPD in 2023, the concentrations of RSP, FSP and SO₂ all met the relevant Hong Kong’s AQOs. Although the annual average concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) recorded at some AQMSs in 2023 exceeded the concentration limit of Hong Kong’s AQOs, the annual average concentrations of ambient and roadside NO₂ have dropped by about 40% respectively from 2011 to 2023, indicating that the emission control measures implemented in recent years are effective. As for ozone (O₃), apart from the influence of regional photochemical smog, the vehicle emission control measures implemented in recent years have led to a reduction of vehicular emission of nitric oxide (NO), so there is less NO to react with and titrate O₃, resulting in an increase of O₃ concentration level. The O₃ level at some general AQMSs in 2023 still exceeded the concentration limit.

The detailed data of air pollutants recorded at various AQMSs in Hong Kong have been uploaded to the EPD website. The link is as follows:
<https://cd.epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICDI/air/station/?lang=en>

3. The numbers of days on which the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) recorded at the general and roadside AQMSs of the EPD fell under the health risk category of “Low (1-3)” throughout the day in the past 5 years (2019 to 2023) are set out respectively in the following table:

Year	General AQMSs	Roadside AQMSs
2019	72	39
2020	105	85
2021	104	88
2022	114	122
2023	84	86

The AQHI primarily reflects the short-term health risks posed by air quality. Short-term air quality can fluctuate widely due to various factors (including meteorological conditions). Even if there is no significant change in the emission of air pollutants, the AQHI may still vary substantially under different meteorological conditions. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to set a key performance indicator for the AQHI. Instead, we should refer to the long-term trend of the annual average concentration of air pollutants to assess whether there has been any improvement in air quality.

4. The adverse health effects caused by air pollution mainly include hospital admissions, clinic visits as well as premature deaths in relation to respiratory and cardiovascular

diseases. According to the method adopted in the new round of AQOs review, based on the data of 2022, the projected number of premature deaths will be about 4 410, representing a decrease of about 32% as compared with the 6 510 cases in 2019; whereas the medical expenditure incurred due to hospital admissions and clinic visits will be about \$283 million, representing a decrease of about 18% as compared with the \$345 million incurred in 2019. The data of 2023 are still under compilation.

5. The pilot scheme to be launched by the Government focuses primarily on electric ferries (e-ferries) to test out the technical viability of their application in Hong Kong. The Government has earmarked \$350 million to provide full subsidies to ferry operators for constructing 4 e-ferries and the associated charging facilities. The Government has entered into subsidy agreements with 4 in-harbour ferry operators, among which 3 of them have completed the open tender exercise for the procurement of e-ferries and started the shipbuilding work progressively. It is expected that the remaining operator will also complete the procurement tendering exercise soon. The Pilot Scheme will commence in the second half of 2024 at the earliest. Hydrogen ferries are not included in this pilot scheme.
6. The Government has been closely monitoring the global development in the use of onshore power supply systems. In regard to cruise ships, we notice that individual international cruise lines have been installing onboard systems for accepting onshore power gradually for their existing cruise ships and new cruise ships to be completed in the next few years. In light of the development, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and Tourism Commission will commence a technical and implementation strategy study on the installation of onshore power supply facilities at the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)033****(Question Serial No. 2482)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

In the past 3 years, regarding local construction waste, please inform this Committee of the following:

- The quantity of public fill generated locally and the throughput of public fill reception facilities each year;
- The number of complaints received about illegal disposal of construction waste in public places or rural areas each year;
- The number of proactive inspections conducted to combat illegal disposal of construction waste;
- The number of prosecutions instituted against the persons concerned and the penalties imposed;
- Upon the implementation of municipal solid waste charging, the landfill charge for construction waste will be increased from \$200 per tonne to \$365 per tonne. In this connection, what is the number of trade representatives that the Government had communicated with during the consultation period? What are the impacts on the trade?
- The trade opined that with a substantial increase in landfill charge, the problem of illegal disposal of construction waste may aggravate. What measures does the Government have to tackle this problem?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)Reply:

- (1) The quantities of public fill generated locally and received by public fill reception facilities in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Quantity generated locally (million tonnes)	Quantity received by public fill reception facilities^{Note 1} (million tonnes)
2021	18	10
2022	16.7	12.3
2023	16.1 ^{Note 2}	10.9 ^{Note 2}

Note 1: The remaining public fill has been transferred to construction sites for direct reuse.

Note 2: Provisional actual figure subject to adjustment.

- (2) to (4) The numbers of public complaints on illegal disposal of construction waste handled by the relevant government departments, including the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Buildings Department, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Drainage Services Department, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Home Affairs Department, the Lands Department, the Planning Department and the Highways Department, as well as the numbers of inspections conducted (including proactive inspections and complaints-follow up inspections), the numbers of prosecutions instituted and the total fines imposed in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Fly-tipping of construction waste in public places (including rural areas)

Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of public complaints received ^{Note 1}	4 994	3 975	4 589
Number of inspections conducted	18 761	19 424	21 886
Number of prosecutions instituted			
(1) Number of summonses issued	66	47	25
(2) Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued	48	46	35
Total fine imposed ^{Note 2}	\$310,000	\$250,000	\$170,000

Note 1: Including multiple complaints which may arise from a single case.

Note 2: Total fine includes penalties for convictions by summonses and fixed penalties.

Illegal land filling of construction waste on private land (including rural areas)

Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of public complaints received ^{Note}	368	261	268
Number of inspections conducted	1 018	744	849
Number of prosecutions instituted			
Number of summonses issued	72	28	45
Total fine imposed	\$2,110,000	\$1,590,000	\$960,000

Note: Including multiple complaints which may arise from a single case.

- (5) The Secretary for Environment and Ecology published the Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation (Amendment of Schedules) Notice 2023 on 13 October 2023 to adjust the charges for disposal of construction waste, including (i) increasing the landfill charge from \$200 per tonne to \$365 per tonne to align with the charging level of municipal solid waste (MSW); (ii) increasing the sorting charge from \$175 per tonne to \$340 per tonne to maintain the current difference of \$25 between the landfill charge and the sorting charge; and (iii) increasing the public fill charge from \$71 per tonne to \$87 per tonne. The legal notice on the legislative amendments was gazetted on 13 October 2023 and tabled in the Legislative Council (LegCo) on 18 October 2023 for negative vetting. The vetting period expired on 6 December 2023, and the legislative amendments were passed by the LegCo.

We consulted Members on the proposal to raise the landfill charge for construction waste to align with the MSW gate fee (i.e. \$365 per tonne) at the meetings of the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Subcommittee to Study Policy Issues Relating to Municipal Solid Waste Charging, Recovery and Recycling on 25 April 2022 and 6 June 2022 respectively. From early 2023, we have also consulted key stakeholders of the construction trade, including trade organisations or associations that cover representatives from major and small to medium-sized contractors, real estate developers, waste haulers, etc. There was a broad consensus that the current charging level of disposal of construction waste should be adjusted to complement the implementation of MSW charging, and there were no objections to the proposed new charging levels. During the consultation with the trade, we have disseminated information on the new charging levels and the effective date to stakeholders of the trade and the government works departments, so that the trade could make early preparations for the implementation of the adjusted charges for disposal of construction waste. Moreover, as the proposed public fill charge will remain at a relatively low level, and approximately 90% of construction waste is currently received by public fill reception facilities, the increase in charges for disposal of construction waste would affect the trade to a relatively limited extent.

- (6) Apart from disseminating information on the new charges for disposal of construction waste to stakeholders of the trade, we have stepped up monitoring and enforcement actions against illegal disposal or depositing of construction waste.

The EPD has been maintaining close liaison with the relevant government departments through inter-departmental collaboration, including exchange of intelligence, sharing of information and holding joint meetings, to collectively monitor the overall illegal waste disposal situation and make concerted efforts to combat illegal disposal activities according to the departments' respective purview. Regarding enforcement against illegal disposal of construction waste, the EPD conducts proactive and regular inspections in different districts to closely monitor the locations where illegal disposal of construction waste is more frequently found, follows up complaint cases on-site as soon as possible, and analyses intelligence for the purpose of deploying and carrying out enforcement ambush operations.

In order to step up our efforts in combating illegal disposal of construction waste, the EPD has made use of technologies to facilitate law enforcement and enhance the deterrent effect. Surveillance camera systems have been installed across the territory at locations where illegal disposal of construction waste is more frequently found. The systems currently cover about 220 locations and operate round-the-clock under all weather conditions. The EPD also reviews the situation of illegal disposal of construction waste in different districts from time to time, and flexibly deploys resources and manpower in the light of the latest developments, so as to enhance the deterrent effect and enforcement effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)034

(Question Serial No. 2487)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste (2) Air (3) Noise (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to the fireworks shows in Hong Kong, please advise this Committee of the following:

- What is the chemical composition of the fireworks discharged locally?
- Please provide details on the air pollution caused by the discharge of fireworks. In terms of emission, how many vehicles will that be equivalent to?
- Will the residue from the discharge of fireworks cause any impacts to the environment (including the soil and the ocean)? If yes, what are the details?
- As the Department is responsible for routine monitoring of the water quality and sediment quality over the territory, has pollution been detected after the pyrotechnic shows earlier? If yes, please provide the details.
- Will the environmental impacts (including light pollution, air pollution, etc.) of monthly pyrotechnic shows be assessed?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The chemical composition of the locally discharged fireworks mainly includes potassium nitrate, potassium perchlorate, strontium carbonate, barium nitrate, sulphur, charcoal powder, magnesium-aluminium alloy, etc. The major air pollutants generated from the discharge of fireworks are particulate matter (PM), as well as sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from the combustion reaction of fireworks. Due to the differences in parameters of the fuel and their pollutants between fireworks and vehicles, as well as variations in their combustion processes, direct comparisons cannot be made between the emissions of fireworks and vehicles.

The air pollutants generated from burning of fireworks at high altitude in the open air will disperse in the atmosphere gradually with the wind. According to the real-time air quality data recorded by the Air Quality Monitoring Network of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), of the 18 fireworks shows held in Victoria Harbour over the past 10 years, there were only 7 occasions where a short-term increase in PM (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) concentration was recorded by the air quality monitoring stations near Victoria Harbour, which was returned to normal within two hours. According to the data recorded, the relevant

Air Quality Objectives were not exceeded on the days of fireworks shows. Other air pollutants (including SO₂, NO₂ and ozone (O₃)) and the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) did not show any abnormal variations. All the data indicated that fireworks shows held in Victoria Harbour do not have any impact on the overall air quality, the public health, water quality and soil environment of Hong Kong.

Pyrotechnic shows have also been held in Hong Kong many times in the past, including New Year's Eve Countdown, Harbour Chill Carnival, Winter Harbourfront Pyrotechnics, etc. As the scale of pyrotechnic shows is smaller than that of fireworks, their impact on air quality of the former is even lower. According to the real-time air quality data recorded by the Air Quality Monitoring Network of the EPD, of the 21 pyrotechnic shows held in Victoria Harbour over the past 5 years (since 2019), the concentration of various pollutants (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO₂ and O₃) did not have any significant changes, and the AQHI did not show any abnormal variations. The EPD's real-time monitoring data indicated that pyrotechnic shows do not have any impact on the overall air quality and the public health of Hong Kong. The EPD also monitors the water quality and marine sediment quality of Hong Kong waters on a regular basis. The routine monitoring data taken in Victoria Harbour in recent months after the pyrotechnic shows did not show any abnormal variations. No light pollution issues were observed at the scenes of pyrotechnic shows. All in all, short-duration pyrotechnic shows will not constitute an impact on the environment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)035

(Question Serial No. 0634)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme that the Department will “continue to develop a community recycling network across the territory, and strengthen the pilot programme on smart recycling systems to enhance the community recycling service”. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. In the past 3 years, what are the numbers of smart recycling bins installed in various districts across the territory under the pilot programme on smart recycling systems, the amount of recyclables collected by those recycling bins each year (please list out by type of recyclables), as well as the expenditure involved in installing smart recycling bins?
2. What are the number of smart recycling bins planned to be installed in the coming year and the estimated expenditure to be involved?
3. The Department stated that the quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins was better than that of the conventional recycling bins. With the gradual phasing out of conventional kerbside recycling bins, would the Department consider installing smart recycling bins at the locations of existing kerbside recycling bins? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. To support smart city development, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in the fourth quarter of 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and

Recycling Stores since end-2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins have been progressively set up in housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has been increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units. The numbers of smart recycling bins installed in various districts across the territory under the Pilot Programme as at end-2022 and end February 2024 are tabulated below:

District	No. of smart recycling bins (set) ^[Note 1]			
	End-2022	2024 (As at February)		
	Recycling Stations	Recycling Stations	Recycling Stores	Housing estates, shopping malls, villages, universities and government venues
Central & Western	0	0	0	3
Eastern	0	1	0	5
Southern	0	0	0	2
Wan Chai	0	0	0	1
Kowloon City	0	0	0	2
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	5
Sham Shui Po	1	1	0	3
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	0	2
Kwun Tong	1	1	1	8
Tai Po	1	1	0	3
Yuen Long	1	1	0	2
Tuen Mun	1	1	0	3
North	0	0	0	4
Sai Kung	2	0	1	4
Sha Tin	0	1	0	4
Tsuen Wan	0	0	0	3
Kwai Tsing	1	0	2	5
Islands	1	1	0	5
Total	9	76		

Note 1: Each set of smart recycling bin comprises 2 to 6 compartments, depending on the requirements of each location and the space available therein.

The quantities of recyclables collected by smart recycling bins at various application points each year since the launch of the Pilot Programme are tabulated below:

Recyclables	Quantity of recyclables collected each year (tonnes)			
	2021 ^[Note 2]	2022 ^[Note 3]	2023	2024 (As at February)
Paper	30.4	1.1	395.1	147.2
Metals	4.2	0.0	54.6	21.1
Plastic bottles	5.2	0.4	106.7	43.1
Other plastics ^[Note 1]	---	0.3	134.8	55.6
Glass bottles	16.9	0.6	69.3	23.9

Recyclables	Quantity of recyclables collected each year (tonnes)			
	2021 ^[Note 2]	2022 ^[Note 3]	2023	2024 (As at February)
Total quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)	56.7	2.4	760.5	290.9

Note 1: Compartments for “other plastics” were not available in the smart recycling bins during the initial phase of the trial.

Note 2: Technical trials on the smart recycling bins during the initial phase of the trial had been completed in January 2022.

Note 3: The installation of smart recycling bins for the current phase of the trial commenced progressively from November 2022.

The expenditure incurred for installing and operating smart recycling bins under the Pilot Programme is set out below:

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million)
2021-22	1.6
2022-23	6.7
2023-24	11.1

- Since the launch of the Pilot Programme, the EPD has been monitoring the usage and recycling data of the smart recycling systems at different locations. We are currently conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme, including the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, recycling effectiveness, the application scope, their role in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. Preliminary findings show that the operation of the smart recycling systems is generally smooth. The quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins is better than that of the conventional recycling bins and the public responses are also positive. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to fine-tune the Pilot Programme as appropriate, such as adjusting the locations and the number of smart recycling bins. In the financial year of 2024-25, we will earmark about \$12 million for installing and operating smart recycling bins.
- The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in

clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition. At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong.

The EPD reviewed the policy positioning and the way forward of kerbside recycling bins in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman upon the completion of its direct investigation into the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins in April 2022. The findings of the review show that the amount of recyclables from kerbside recycling bins in urban areas accounts for only less than 0.1% of the total amount of recyclables in Hong Kong. Moreover, these bins are prone to be misused by passers-by who mistakenly put in rubbish, litter, containers with leftover food or drinks, etc., thereby affecting the downstream recycling process of recyclables and causing environmental hygiene problems. With the development and continuous enhancement in the services of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, coupled with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of kerbside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas has gradually diminished. Therefore, the EPD had removed about 800 sets of kerbside recycling bins placed in urban areas in 2022. In view of the better quality of recyclables collected from kerbside recycling bins in rural areas, the EPD has retained about 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents in rural areas to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste papers and metals). In addition, 6 sets of smart recycling bins have been installed in rural areas under the Pilot Programme to test the application and effectiveness of smart recycling systems in rural areas.

The preliminary experience from the Pilot Programme shows that the smart recycling bins will be able to give full play to their edge in smart management and achieve better operation efficiency when they are installed in the premises with daily management and supporting facilities for recyclables collection. For instance, upon the issue of a signal to indicate full load by smart recycling bins, the management staff of the premises concerned need to collect the recyclables in a timely manner to free up the storage space for the smart recycling bins to maintain service. After being collected, the recyclables will need space for temporary storage until they accumulate to a certain amount for

further collection by recyclers and delivery to downstream recyclers for proper processing to enhance the efficiency of collecting and handling the recyclables. Given that the kerbside space is not well equipped to support a highly efficient operation of smart recycling bins, and the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY has been well developed to provide better recycling facilities as compared to kerbside recycling bins, the EPD does not have plans to replace kerbside recycling bins with smart recycling bins for the time being.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)036

(Question Serial No. 2911)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 as mentioned in the Programme, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to strengthen various food waste collection initiatives to support more public premises and commercial and industrial premises to conduct source-separation and collection of food waste, and gradually expand the service to collect more food waste from domestic sources including private residential buildings and all public rental housing (PRH) estates. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The respective number of food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) that have been put into service in PRH estates, the quantity of food waste collected by the FWSRBs each day and the expenditure involved as at 6 March 2024, with a breakdown by District Council district.
2. The details of the plan and the estimated expenditure regarding the continuation to strengthen various food waste collection initiatives to support more public premises and commercial and industrial premises to conduct source-separation and collection of food waste.
3. The food waste treatment facilities of the Government will only be capable of handling 1 500 tonnes of food waste each day in 2034, accounting for merely half of the current quantity of food waste generated in the territory. In view of promoting a green circular economy, what detailed plans and targets does the Administration have in terms of land supply, funding and support services in the future, so as to facilitate the development of the downstream food waste recycling industry?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD), in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in

mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. As at 6 March 2024, the distribution of FWSRBs installed in PRH estates and the corresponding quantity of food waste collected by district are tabulated below:

District	No. of PRH estates	No. of FWSRBs	Average quantity of food waste collected per day (tonnes)
Central & Western	1	3	0.4
Wan Chai	0 ^{Note 1}	0	0.0
Eastern	6	17	1.0
Southern	1	9	0.9
Yau Tsim Mong	0 ^{Note 2}	0	0.0
Sham Shui Po	8	27	1.6
Kowloon City	2	7	0.5
Wong Tai Sin	12	42	2.3
Kwun Tong	14	52	3.3
Kwai Tsing	10	37	2.1
Tsuen Wan	7	20	1.0
Tuen Mun	12	49	2.5
Yuen Long	16	62	3.3
North	8	24	1.4
Sha Tin	17	68	3.8
Tai Po	2	9	0.8
Sai Kung	4	20	1.4
Islands	1	5	0.5
Total	121	451	26.8

Note 1: Currently, there is 1 PRH estate under the HS in Wan Chai District (Lai Tak Tsuen) in which FWSRBs are expected to be installed in April 2024.

Note 2: Currently, there is 1 PRH estate under the HS in Yau Tsim Mong District (Prosperous Garden) in which FWSRBs have been installed on 13 March 2024.

The expenditures involved in the Food Waste Collection Scheme in PRH Estates over the past 2 years are tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure involved (\$ million)
2022-23	3.5
2023-24 (revised estimate)	33.0

2. The EPD is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

To facilitate the recycling of food waste generated by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at refuse collection points (RCPs) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme. In addition, the EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po, and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage (F&B) clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme. Nearby restaurants can arrange to deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling as needed. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will gradually increase.

The estimated expenditure involved in the Pilot Scheme in 2024-25 is about \$177 million, including the expenditure on setting up food waste collection points at RCPs under the FEHD and in “F&B clusters”.

3. To promote the sustainable development of the recycling industry, the EPD set up the Recycling Fund in 2015, which has so far received an allocation of about \$2 billion. Through various funding programmes, the Recycling Fund assists the local recycling industry in enhancing its overall operational capabilities and productivity, and helps enterprises to upgrade and expand their recycling operation. To encourage members of the public and housing estates to participate in domestic food waste recycling, the Recycling Fund launched a solicitation scheme on “Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste” under the Industry Support Programme in 2020, focusing on supporting and subsidising private residential buildings to collect food waste using smart recycling bins, with a view to further enhancing the effectiveness and raising public awareness of food waste recycling. We will closely monitor the food waste collection quantity and public participation in food waste recycling, and timely review the planning and development of food waste treatment facilities as well as the resources required.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2912)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme that the EPD will gradually expand the service to collect more food waste from domestic sources including private residential buildings and all public rental housing estates. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. As at 6 March, 2024, how many food waste smart recycling bin have been in service in private residential buildings? What are the daily recovery quantities and the expenditure involved? (Please provide a breakdown by District Council districts.)
2. What supporting programmes does the Administration have to encourage more private residential buildings (including single-block buildings, "three-nil" buildings and village houses) to collect domestic food waste in the future? Will the Government consider providing more funding support, streamlining the application and vetting procedures and setting up more large scale public food waste collection points? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. For private housing, the Government has been supporting the installation of food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages, with a daily average of around 3 tonnes of food waste collected. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs, with around 200 kg of food waste collected per day. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified

application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF.

The distribution of private residential buildings installed with FWSRBs in various districts as at February 2024 is set out in the table below.

District	Number of FWSRBs
Central & Western	0
Wan Chai	0
Eastern	16
Southern	0
Yau Tsim Mong	2
Sham Shui Po	0
Kowloon City	0
Wong Tai Sin	2
Kwun Tong	19
Kwai Tsing	7
Tsuen Wan	6
Tuen Mun	5
Yuen Long	2
North	3
Sha Tin	15
Tai Po	0
Sai Kung	27
Islands	5
Total	109

- In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides the traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public.

To promote food waste recycling in rural areas, the EPD is providing traditional covered recycling bins for food waste collection under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection, while the ECF is subsidising the installation of FWSRBs at villages. In November 2023, the EPD introduced to the Heung Yee Kuk New Territories the details of food waste collection services and called for the active participation from the rural committees and village representatives.

The expenditures of the above programmes are absorbed by that of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3098)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme that the Department will “continue reaching out to the community by the Green Outreach to provide on-site support and assistance to residents and property management companies in practising proper source separation of waste and clean recycling, as well as organising promotional activities on municipal solid waste (MSW) charging to educate the public to comply with the legal requirements”. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

2. What were the respective details of the Green Outreach’s promotional activities on source separation of waste, clean recycling and MSW charging (including the content and number of the activities, the number of participants and the overall expenditure involved) over the past 3 years?

3. Further to the above, what are the Green Outreach’s detailed promotional plan, target number of participants and the estimated expenditure in the coming year?

4. Does the Government have any innovative plans to enhance the effectiveness of the Green Outreach’s publicity work in the future? Will the Government consider inviting Internet influencers or celebrities to take part in the Green Outreach’s work and conducting multimedia publicity programmes through social media and the Internet? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and

recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that participated in the “Programme on Source Separation of Waste” to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women’s, foreign domestic helpers’ and new immigrants’ groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has conducted about 154 000 community visits, established connections with over 4 500 property management companies and residents’ organisations, and provided waste reduction and recycling support to about 70% of housing estates/residential buildings and villages over the territory. Besides, the Green Outreach has organised about 5 000 publicity and promotion activities in various forms, attracting over 410 000 participants.

The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging starting from mid-August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage the public of different backgrounds (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging.

From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

In 2024-25, apart from continuing with the work stated above, the Green Outreach will also collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise different types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and MSW charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), so as to raise the law-abiding awareness of the public. The Green Outreach will also offer assistance to the primary and secondary schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity launched in early March this year to encourage students and their family members to actively practise resources separation and recycling and to establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling in their daily lives. Upon implementation of MSW charging, the Green Outreach will further expand the scope of their outreaching services. Apart from continuing with their on-site

support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, promotional activities and hands-on demonstrations will be conducted at various locations to help the public gradually adapt to MSW charging and change their waste disposal habits by separating resources properly for recycling. Besides, the Green Outreach will also pay attention to any non-compliance during daily work, conduct preliminary investigations upon receipt of non-compliance reports, persuade the public, in the form of promotion, education and guidance, to comply with the legislative requirements and offer advice to property management companies/cleansing contractors to help them improve the situation.

The Green Outreach comprises 74 non-directorate professional staff (including Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Inspector grades) and 142 non-civil service contract staff. The annual expenditure incurred is about \$100 million.

In addition to disseminating information about waste reduction and recycling as well as GREEN@COMMUNITY services through the EPD's publicity ambassador Big Waster on social media from time to time, the Green Outreach also utilises public platforms such as public transport for promotion, so as to strengthen their publicity work. Besides inviting artists to take part in the music video "Please Clean Recycle" for the large-scale promotion campaign GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Month and asking different groups to perform in Wandering the Green, the EPD has recently invited artists to join the publicity programmes on MSW charging as well as waste reduction and recycling, for instance, the online videos on recycling and property management companies to further promote MSW charging as well as waste reduction at source and clean recycling to the public and property management companies. The Green Outreach will continue to conduct publicity programmes through various media in a lively manner to encourage more members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives in future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)039

(Question Serial No. 0890)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following for the past 3 years:

- (1) the effectiveness of the Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme;
- (2) the details and effectiveness of promoting the reduction of plastic packaging materials to the relevant trade and stakeholders; and
- (3) the number of staff involved in the inspections for enforcing the legislation related to the PSB Charging Scheme, the number of inspections conducted and the expenditure involved; the percentage in the overall expenditure of the Department; the numbers of warnings and fixed penalty notices issued, prosecutions instituted by summons, convictions, as well as the total fines imposed each year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- (1) In July 2009, the Government rolled out the first phase of the Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme which was fully implemented in April 2015. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been conducting surveys annually in order to monitor the disposal rates of PSBs. As estimated from the landfill disposal survey, the total number of PSBs disposed of in the first year of the full implementation of the Scheme (i.e. 2015) reduced significantly by about 25%. However, there was a rebound of PSB disposal in the following years. For example, the total number of PSBs disposed of in 2022 was about 4.83 billion, which is about 8% less than the disposal rate in the year before the full implementation of the Scheme (i.e. 2014), but about 3.9% more than the disposal rate in 2021, showing that the effectiveness of the Scheme had been gradually undermined. In this connection, we implemented the Enhanced Scheme on 31 December 2022 to increase the minimum charge per PSB from \$0.5 to \$1, remove the exemption for PSBs carrying frozen or chilled foodstuff items, and tighten the scope of exemption for PSBs carrying foodstuff items, subject to the basic principle of 1 free PSB per single transaction, so as to maintain the effectiveness of the Scheme.

Relevant statistics of the PSB disposal surveys (excluding flat-top bags) conducted from 2020 to 2022 are set out below. The statistics for 2023 are under preparation.

2020	2021	2022
4.18 billion	4.65 billion	4.83 billion

According to the information the EPD obtained from major retail groups (including major supermarket chains and convenience stores) in Hong Kong, the overall distribution of PSBs (excluding flat-top bags) dropped by more than 60% from January to February 2023 (i.e. the first 2 months of the implementation of the Enhanced Scheme) compared to the same period in 2022, and the distribution of flat-top bags by major supermarket chains even dropped by more than 80%.

- (2) Regarding the promotion of reducing the use of plastic packaging materials, we have been liaising with different sectors and other key stakeholders to jointly explore and implement some practical measures. At the same time, we will continue to promote simple packaging, waste reduction at source, green business and green consumption through publicity, education and other various means. In addition, the Government is formulating Practical Guides on Packaging Reduction and Management for specific sectors. The practical guides for the supermarket and grocery store sector, the logistics sector, the e-commerce sector, and the hotel and hospitality sector have been published and uploaded progressively to the Waste Reduction website of the EPD since 2022. We are also preparing practical guides for other sectors, including the electronics and electrical appliances sector, the beverage manufacturing sector, the food manufacturing sector, and the import trade sector, and will share them with the industry as soon as possible.
- (3) The Scheme was fully implemented on 1 April 2015 to cover all retailing businesses in the territory. The number of inspections conducted by the EPD and the enforcement statistics under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap. 603) in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	No. of inspections conducted	No. of warnings issued ^{Note}	No. of fixed penalty notices issued	No. of prosecutions instituted by summons	No. of convictions	Total fines imposed
2021	15 407	0	86	0	0	\$172,000
2022 (1 January- 30 December)	15 887	0	70	0	0	\$140,000
2023 (31 December 2022 - December 2023)	23 745	7	25	0	0	\$50,000
Total (2021-2023)	55 039	7	181	0	0	\$362,000

Note: The Enhanced Scheme was implemented on 31 December 2022. To familiarise the public and the retail trade with the Enhanced Scheme so as to adapt to the changes, the EPD focused on publicity and education in the first month of implementation, and give advice or warnings for non-compliant cases.

The relevant law enforcement is part of the integrated enforcement work of the EPD. We will arrange our law enforcement officers to conduct inspection and law enforcement work in accordance with the actual circumstances and deploy contract staff

to assist with inspections and spot checks. We do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)040

(Question Serial No. 0891)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the promotion of food waste reduction and recycling, please inform this Committee of:

(1) the disposal and recovery rates of commercial & industrial and domestic food waste in the past 3 years; and

(2) the progress of the “trial scheme on food waste collection in public rental housing estates” since its launch, the number of participating public rental housing estates, the manpower and expenditure involved, its effectiveness, as well as the specific initiatives to be implemented under the trial scheme in 2024-25 to promote food waste reduction at source and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

(1) According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the statistics on food waste (including domestic and commercial & industrial food waste) disposed of at landfills and their recovery rates from 2020 to 2022 are tabulated below. The EPD does not have a breakdown of the recovery rates of food waste from the domestic and commercial & industrial sectors. The relevant statistics for 2023 are under compilation (we estimate that the recovery quantity for overall municipal food waste was more than 230 tonnes per day).

Year	Domestic food waste	Commercial & industrial food waste	Overall municipal food waste		
	Disposal quantity (tonnes/day) (a)	Disposal quantity (tonnes/day) (b)	Disposal quantity (tonnes/day) ^{Note} (c)=(a)+(b)	Recovery quantity (tonnes/day)	Recovery rate
2020	2 477	778	3 255	150	4.4%
2021	2 342	1 095	3 437	181	5.0%
2022	2 312	991	3 302	197	5.6%

Note: The above figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- (2) The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. Since the commencement of the Trial Scheme in October 2022, more than 3 000 tonnes of food waste have been recycled, with an average daily collection quantity of about 26 tonnes. In terms of residents' participation, nearly 99 000 households had participated in food waste recycling (around 37 000 households per day on average). In some of these estates, more than 70% of the households have used the smart recycling bins. Both the quantity of food waste recovered and the participation rate of residents have been in line with our expectations.

On publicity and education, the EPD and the Environment and Conservation Fund provide promotional and educational activities through funding projects to PRH estates participating in the Trial Scheme. These activities include distributing promotional leaflets (containing information on food waste recycling and announcement of public interest) and domestic food waste buckets to households, displaying promotional posters in building lobbies, arranging green ambassadors to assist residents in downloading the GREEN\$ Mobile App or assist those in need in registering for the GREEN\$ physical cards, guiding residents to practise source separation of food waste at home and use the food waste smart recycling bins properly. We have also set up a customer service hotline to provide residents with immediate support and technical assistance on food waste recycling. The EPD will also liaise and co-operate with the relevant Members of the District Councils, local groups and organisations to introduce the Trial Scheme to the residents. With the implementation of municipal solid waste charging, the EPD will further step up the publicity and promotion to the public, and will closely monitor

the utilisation rate of the food waste smart recycling bins, proactively listen to the feedbacks from the residents, and provide more publicity and educational support to the PRH estates in need in a timely manner.

The expenditures incurred by the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates are tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure involved (\$ million)
2022-23	3.5
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	33.0
2024-25 (Estimate)	110.0

The manpower involved in the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates and publicity and educational work will be absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)041

(Question Serial No. 0892)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Please advise this Committee:

- (1) of the existing number of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong and its percentage in the total number of vehicles in Hong Kong;
- (2) of the quantities of waste EV batteries collected over the past 5 years, the measures for handling waste EV batteries and the financial commitments involved; and
- (3) whether the Administration has explored new measures to handle waste EV batteries; if yes, of the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (1) As at the end of December 2023, the total number of electric vehicles (EVs) registered in Hong Kong was 76 395, representing about 8.3% of the total number of vehicles.
- (2) Retired EV batteries (or waste EV batteries) are chemical waste, and have to be properly handled under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) (WDO) and its subsidiary legislation, Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354C). EV suppliers and designated maintenance workshops are required to register as chemical waste producers with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and arrange for proper packaging, labelling and storage of retired batteries that need to be handled. The retired batteries should then be sent to licensed chemical waste disposal facilities for preliminary treatment (including sorting, discharging and insulating) before being exported overseas for recycling. In Hong Kong, all the delivery and treatment processes should be handled by licensed chemical waste collectors and carried out at licensed disposal facilities. Besides, the export of retired batteries overseas for recycling is subject to waste import/export permit control under the WDO. The EPD will issue the permit provided that consent from the state of import and confirmation for the retired batteries to be recycled in an environmentally sound manner can be obtained. The disposal cost of retired batteries is borne by waste producers based on the “polluter-pays” principle, and the charging levels of individual collectors and disposal facilities are determined by supply and demand in the market.

In the past 5 years (2019-2023), a total of about 209 tonnes of retired lithium batteries from vehicles have been collected by local licensed disposal facilities for exporting to appropriate authorised treatment facilities overseas (such as South Korea and Belgium) for recycling. A breakdown is as follows:

Year	Total quantity (tonnes)
2019	16.3
2020	37.9
2021	32.4
2022	69.5
2023	53.0

- (3) The Government will establish a common legislative framework applicable to different products and look into gradually extending the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs) to 5 types of products, including EV batteries, based on a “market-led approach”. The EPD conducted consultations from June to October 2023 on the detailed proposal of the PRS on retired EV batteries, with about 50 companies or organisations participating, including EV suppliers, the Motor Traders Association of Hong Kong, EV maintenance workshops, EV owners associations, EV battery recyclers, etc. The EPD will continue to consult the trade and relevant stakeholders in order to fine tune the regulatory proposal. In addition, the EPD has conducted an open tender exercise for a site in the EcoPark to provide the industry with the land to develop recycling facilities for retired EV batteries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0906)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department has set up dozens of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores, and plans to continue expanding the community recycling network to strengthen support for recycling facilities at the district level, in order to encourage members of the public to actively participate in waste separation and recycling. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the actual expenditure, revised estimated expenditure or estimated expenditure for operating the Recycling Stations in each of the past 5 years and in 2024-25;
- (2) the actual expenditure, revised estimated expenditure or estimated expenditure for operating the Recycling Stores in each of the past 4 years and in 2024-25;
- (3) the names, addresses, respective districts (as in the 18 districts), operators and expected commissioning/opening dates of the Recycling Stations that have been and are being constructed; and
- (4) the names, addresses, respective districts (as in the 18 districts), operators and expected commissioning/opening dates of the Recycling Stores that have been and are being set up, as well as the public housing estates or MTR stations where the said Recycling Stores are located.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and

locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

The actual/estimated operating expenditures incurred by GREEN@COMMUNITY projects in the past 5 financial years and the financial year 2024-25 are set out below:

Project ^{Note 1}	Actual/estimated Operating Expenditure by Financial Year (\$Million)					
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Estimate)	2024-25 (Estimate) ^{Note 5}
Recycling Station ^{Note 2}	31	52	52	69	64	72
Recycling Store ^{Note 3}	N/A	110	174	201	218	250
Recycling Store set up in PRH estate ^{Note 4}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	91

Note 1: Recycling Spots are operated by Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores. The operating expenditures of Recycling Spots are included in the operating expenditures of Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores.

Note 2: The number of Recycling Stations increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2021.

Note 3: The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation progressively starting from the fourth quarter of 2020, and the other batch of 10 Recycling Stores have been gradually put into service since early 2022.

Note 4: 8 Recycling Stores in PRH estates have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The operators have also set up temporary collection booths until those Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

Note 5: The estimated operating expenditure incurred by GREEN@COMMUNITY project in 2024-25 is approximately \$413 million. Depending on the operational performance of each GREEN@COMMUNITY project and the arrangements for their follow-on contracts, there may be adjustments to the estimated expenditure for GREEN@COMMUNITY projects beyond 2024-25.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong. Besides, to encourage more members of the public to participate in waste separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participating Incentive Scheme (GREEN\$ ePIS) in 2020, and there are over 500,000 registered accounts as at end of February 2024. When carrying out recycling at GREEN@COMMUNITY or through smart recycling bins, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points for redemption of gift items or daily necessities.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year's Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year's Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to separate arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and "three-nil" buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network.

As at end of February 2024, the distribution of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores (including those Recycling Stores in PRH estates) in various districts is tabulated below:

Recycling Stations				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHA TIN	10 On Ping Street, Shek Mun	Christian Family Service Centre	May 2015
Eastern	GREEN@EASTERN	30 Oi Shun Road, Shau Kei Wan	Po Leung Kuk	Aug 2015
Kwun Tong	GREEN@KWUN TONG	27 Sheung Yee Road, Kowloon Bay	Christian Family Service Centre	Jan 2017
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG	65 Tin Wah Road, Tin Shui Wai	Hong Chi Association	Jan 2017
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO	339 Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po	Po Leung Kuk	Oct 2017
Tuen Mun	GREEN@TUEN MUN	9 Tuen Yee Street, Tuen Mun	Yan Oi Tong Limited	Sep 2018

Recycling Stations				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ KWAI TSING	12 Tam Kon Shan Road, Tsing Yi	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	Nov 2018
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO	25 Dai Wah Street, Tai Po	Hong Chi Association	Oct 2019
Islands	GREEN@ ISLANDS	1 Chung Mun Road, Tung Chung, Lantau	OIWA Limited	Oct 2019
Sai Kung	GREEN@ SAI KUNG	3 Po Lam Lane, Tseung Kwan O	Christian Family Service Centre	Aug 2021
Wan Chai	GREEN@ WAN CHAI	6 Wan Shing Street, Wan Chai	The Hong Kong Wan Chai District Association Limited	Aug 2021
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@ WONG TAI SIN	Po Kong Village Road, Wong Tai Sin (construction in progress)	Operating contract to be awarded	The fourth quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Central and Western	GREEN@SAI YING PUN ^{Note 1}	224 Queen's Road West	121C Society for Recycling Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@SHEUNG WAN ^{Note 1, Note 2}	Wing Hing Commercial Building, Sutherland Street	The Association of the Hong Kong Central and Western District Limited	Nov 2020
	GREEN@KENNEDY TOWN	Lexington Hill, Belcher's St, Kennedy Town	ECO Foundation Limited	Mar 2022
Eastern	GREEN@QUARRY BAY ^{Note 1}	East Pavilion, King's Road	Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Hong Kong Limited	Dec 2020
Southern	GREEN@ABERDEEN ^{Note 1}	1/F, Aberdeen Market	121C Society for Recycling Limited	May 2023
	GREEN@AP LEI CHAU	Happy View Building, Ap Lei Chau Main Street	Hong Kong Southern District Community Association Limited	Feb 2022
Wan Chai	GREEN@HAPPY VALLEY	Green Valley Mansion, Wong Nai Chung Road	Green Council	Mar 2022
	GREEN@TIN HAU ^{Note 1}	Triumph Court, Electric Road	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Nov 2020
Kowloon City	GREEN@WALLED CITY ^{Note 1}	48 Lion Rock Road	Christian Family Service Centre	Dec 2020

Recycling Stores				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
	GREEN@ TO KWA WAN Note 1	93 Pau Chung Street (San Shan Road Entrance)	Christian Family Service Centre	Dec 2020
	GREEN@ HUNG HOM Note 1	103 Wuhu Street	Christian Family Service Centre	Apr 2023
Yau Tsim Mong	GREEN@TAI KOK TSUI ^{Note 1}	117 Ivy Street	New Life Cycle Co., Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@ JORDAN	Wai Ching Court, Wai Ching Street	Yaumati Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association Limited	Apr 2022
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@ CHEUNG SHA WAN ^{Note 1}	188 Fuk Wa Street	Cheungshawan Kaifong Welfare Association Limited	Apr 2023
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@SAN PO KONG ^{Note 1}	San Po Kong Mansion, Choi Hung Road	East Kowloon District Residents' Committee Limited	Dec 2020
Kwun Tong	GREEN@YUE MAN SQUARE Note 1	Yan On Mansion, Ngau Tau Kok Road	Christian Family Service Centre	Apr 2023
Tai Po	GREEN@ TAI PO MARKET ^{Note 1}	Central Plaza, Kwong Fuk Road	Environmental Association Limited	Jan 2021
	GREEN@ TAI WO	Block C, Greenery Plaza, Chui Yi Street	Green Tai Po	Mar 2022
Yuen Long	GREEN@ YUEN LONG HUI ^{Note 1}	Chun Chu House, Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long	Action Health Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@ LONG PING	Hung Fat House, Kau Yuk Road	Pumen Foundation Limited	Mar 2022
Tuen Mun	GREEN@ SAN HUI ^{Note 1}	Ming Wai Building, Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road	Green Commune Education Charity Foundation Limited	Nov 2020
	GREEN@ KIN SANG	G/F, Ori, Leung Tak Street	New Territories West Power Eco Company	Apr 2022
North	GREEN@ SHEK WU HUI Note 1	80 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui	North District Residents Association Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@ FANLING ^{Note 1}	Flora Plaza, Pak Wo Road, Fanling	North District Residents Association Limited	Dec 2020
	GREEN@ LUEN WO HUI	Grand Tower Block A, Luen Wo Road, Fanling	Endeavour Environmental Education Foundation Limited	Mar 2022

Recycling Stores				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Sai Kung	GREEN@ PO LAM ^{Note 1}	MCP Central, Yan King Road, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	Dec 2020
	GREEN@ SAI KUNG TOWN	98 Man Nin Street	Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O Women's Association Limited	Apr 2022
	GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN - TIU KENG LENG BRANCH ^{Note 3}	Phase 3, Ocean Shores, O King Road	Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O Women's Association Limited	Jan 2023
Sha Tin	GREEN@ TAI WAI ^{Note 1}	Hey Yuet Building, Chik Shun Street	Shatin Women's Association Limited	Apr 2023
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LO TAK COURT ^{Note 1}	423-427 Castle Peak Road - Tsuen Wan	New Life Cycle Co., Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@ YI PEI SQUARE	71 Ho Pui Street	Association for Tsuen Wan Development	Apr 2022
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ TSING YI	Shop TSY 208 at Tsing Yi MTR Station	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	Feb 2024
Islands	GREEN@ MUI WO ^{Note 1}	Silver Centre Building, Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road	OIWA Limited	Feb 2021

Note 1: The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation from end-2020 to early 2021. The follow-on contracts for 20 Recycling Stores were awarded in November 2022. Due to tenancy reasons and technical considerations, 10 Recycling Stores had to be relocated and commenced operation on 1 April 2023. Temporary collection points were set up at or near the original locations of the Recycling Stores when renovation was carried out at new locations. GREEN@TIN WAN was renamed as GREEN@ABERDEEN after being relocated to the Aberdeen Market in May 2023. Besides, as the EPD has launched a pilot scheme in Kwai Tsing District to develop a network of small-scale Recycling Stores in PRH estates, the Recycling Store GREEN@KWAI CHUNG ceased operation on 31 March 2023 upon the expiry of the contract to avoid duplication of resources.

Note 2: Regarding GREEN@SHEUNG WAN, as there was no tender that conformed to the specifications laid down in the tender documents during the tendering process for the follow-on contract in 2022, the tender procedure concerned was cancelled. The EPD conducted a re-tendering exercise in December 2022 and awarded the follow-on contract in June 2023 for continuing with the services at the same location.

Note 3: GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN - TIU KENG LENG BRANCH is an affiliated facility of GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN.

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Eastern	GREEN@ HING TUNG	G/F, Hing Fung House, Hing Tung Estate, Sai Wan Ho	Hong Kong Youth Power Association	From the second quarter of 2024
Eastern	GREEN@ YIU TUNG	G/F, Yiu Hing House, Yiu Tung Estate, Shau Kei Wan	Hong Kong Youth Power Association	From the second quarter of 2024
Eastern	GREEN@ SIU SAI WAN	G/F, Sui Yick House, Siu Sai Wan Estate, Chai Wan	Youth Chain Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Eastern	GREEN@ WAN TSUI	G/F, Mei Tsui House, Wan Tsui Estate, Chai Wan	Youth Chain Limited	14 Feb 2024
Eastern	GREEN@ YUE WAN	G/F, Yue On House, Yue Wan Estate, Chai Wan	Youth Chain Limited	14 Feb 2024
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ CHEUNG HONG	G/F, Hong Fu House, Cheung Hong Estate, Tsing Yi	Kwai Tsing Women's Community Development Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ LAI KING	G/F, Yeung King House, Lai King Estate, Kwai Chung	Kwai Tsing Women's Community Development Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ KWAI SHING	6/F, Block 1, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung	CC Smile Charity Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ ON YAM	G/F, Chak Yam House, On Yam Estate, Kwai Chung	CC Smile Charity Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ KWAI FONG	Unit No. 13, G/F, Kwai On House, Kwai Fong Estate, Kwai Chung	Christian Family Service Centre	26 Jun 2023
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ TAI WO HAU	Unit No. 6, G/F, Fu Wah House, Tai Wo Hau Estate, Kwai Chung	Christian Family Service Centre	26 Jun 2023

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Kwun Tong	GREEN@KAI YIP	G/F, Kai Yue House, Kai Yip Estate, Kowloon Bay	Christian Family Service Centre	29 Dec 2023
Kwun Tong	GREEN@SHUN LEE	G/F, Lee Yip House, Shun Lee Estate, Kwun Tong	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwun Tong	GREEN@PING TIN	G/F, Ping Shun House, Ping Tin Estate, Lam Tin	Wegeneration Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwun Tong	GREEN@SAU MAU PING	G/F, Sau Sin House, Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate, Kwun Tong	Wegeneration Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwun Tong	GREEN@YAU LAI	G/F, Hong Lai House, Yau Lai Estate, Yau Tong	Wegeneration Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
North	GREEN@CHING HO	G/F, Ching Yu House, Ching Ho Estate, Sheung Shui	Luen Heep Social Service Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
North	GREEN@QUEENS HILL	G/F, Wong Sheng House, Queens Hill Estate, Fanling	Luen Heep Social Service Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sai Kung	GREEN@KIN MING	G/F, Ming Yu House, Kin Ming Estate, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sai Kung	GREEN@SHEUNG TAK	G/F, Sheung Chun House, Sheung Tak Estate, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sha Tin	GREEN@CHUN YEUNG	G/F, Chun Yi House, Chun Yeung Estate, Fo Tan	Shatin Inhabitants Association Limited	14 Feb 2024
Sha Tin	GREEN@YAN ON	G/F, Yan Yuet House, Yan On Estate, Ma On Shan	Shatin Inhabitants Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHA KOK	G/F, Skylark House, Sha Kok Estate, Sha Tin	Project Tomorrow Limited	From the second quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHUI CHUEN O	G/F, Mau Chuen House, Shui Chuen O Estate, Sha Tin	Project Tomorrow Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@PAK TIN	G/F, Yue Tin House, Pak Tin Estate, Sham Shui Po	Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@SO UK	G/F, Azalea House, So Uk Estate, Cheung Sha Wan	Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@UN CHAU	G/F, Un Wai House, Un Chau Estate, Cheung Sha Wan	Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tai Po	GREEN@KWONG FUK	G/F, Kwong Chi House, Kwong Fuk Estate, Tai Po	Joyteam Volunteers Alliance Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI YUEN	G/F, Tai Ling House, Tai Yuen Estate, Tai Po	Joyteam Volunteers Alliance Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LEI MUK SHUE	G/F, Pak Shue House, Lei Muk Shue (2) Estate, Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@SHEK WAI KOK	G/F, Shek To House, Shek Wai Kok Estate, Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tuen Mun	GREEN@FU TAI	G/F, Mei Tai House, Fu Tai Estate, Tuen Mun	Hong Kong Youth Affairs Development Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tuen Mun	GREEN@YAN TIN	G/F, Yuet Tin House, Yan Tin Estate, Tuen Mun	Hong Kong Youth Affairs Development Foundation Limited	14 Feb 2024
Tuen Mun	GREEN@ON TING	G/F, Ting Lung House, On Ting Estate, Tuen Mun	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	29 Jan 2024
Tuen Mun	GREEN@WU KING	G/F, Wu Pik House, Wu King Estate, Tuen Mun	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	From the second quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/Expected Commencement Date
Kowloon City	GREEN@ TAK LONG	G/F, Tak Shan House, Tak Long Estate, Kai Tak	Community Care Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@ CHOI WAN	G/F, King San House, Choi Wan (I) Estate, Ngau Chi Wan	Community Care Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@ CHUK YUEN	G/F, Fu Yuen House, Chuk Yuen South Estate, Wong Tai Sin	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	From the second quarter of 2024
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@ WANG TAU HOM	G/F, Wang Yip House, Wang Tau Hom Estate, Wong Tai Sin	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	From the second quarter of 2024
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@ TSZ CHING	G/F, Ching Yuk House, Tsz Ching Estate, Tsz Wan Shan	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@TSZ LOK	G/F, Lok Shing House, Tsz Lok Estate, Tsz Wan Shan	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@TSZ MAN	G/F, Man Tai House, Tsz Man Estate, Tsz Wan Shan	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
Yuen Long	GREEN@TIN HENG	G/F, Heng Fu House, Tin Heng Estate, Tin Shui Wai	Pumen Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Yuen Long	GREEN@TIN WAH	G/F, Wah Yau House, Tin Wah Estate, Tin Shui Wai	Pumen Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Yuen Long	GREEN@TIN YAN	G/F, Yan Fuk House, Tin Yan Estate, Tin Shui Wai	Pumen Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)043

(Question Serial No. 0907)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched an 18-month trial scheme on food waste collection in public rental housing estates (trial scheme) in October 2022, with the first phase involving 5 public rental housing (PRH) estates and the second phase commenced in March last year. As for private housing estates, the EPD is providing support to private residential buildings to install smart recycling bins (recycling bins) for food waste collection under the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). A total of 30 private housing estates and three rural villages were expected to be covered before the Lunar New Year this year. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the monthly average quantity of municipal solid waste generated across the territory and the proportion of food waste in it in each of the past 5 years;
- (2) the details of the PRH estates participating in the trial scheme, including the names of the PRH estates, the respective districts (as in the 18 districts), the commencement dates, the numbers of blocks, households and recycling bins involved, the accumulated number of participating households, the average number of participating households per day, and the average quantity of food waste collected per month;
- (3) the expenditures involved in the trial scheme in each of the past 2 years; and
- (4) the details of the projects under which private housing estates and rural villages have installed recycling bins with the support of the Recycling Fund and the ECF, including the names of the private housing estates and rural villages, the respective districts (as in the 18 districts), the dates that the recycling bins came into operation, the duration of the projects, the numbers of blocks, households and recycling bins involved, and the funding received.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (1) According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the proportions of food waste in municipal solid waste (MSW) from 2018 to 2022 are tabulated below. The relevant statistics for 2023 are under compilation.

Year	Disposal quantity of MSW (tonnes/day)^{Note}	Disposal quantity of food waste (tonnes/day)	Proportion of food waste in MSW
2018	11 428	3 565	31.2%
2019	11 057	3 353	30.3%
2020	10 809	3 255	30.1%
2021	11 358	3 437	30.3%
2022	11 128	3 302	29.7%

Note: As the disposal quantities vary with the number of days in each month, the analyses are based on the statistics of the average daily disposal quantity.

- (2)&(3) The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. Since the commencement of the Trial Scheme in October 2022, more than 3 000 tonnes of food waste have been recycled, with an average daily quantity of about 26 tonnes. In terms of residents' participation rate, nearly 99 000 households had participated in food waste recycling (around 37 000 households per day on average). In some of these estates, more than 70% of the households have used the FWSRBs. The quantity of food waste recovered and the participation rate of residents have been in line with our expectations.

For the name of the PRH estates, their respective districts, the numbers of FWSRBs provided, the service commencement dates and the location of the FWSRBs, the public may refer to the thematic website of the EPD: <https://www.foodwasterecycling.hk>. The number of blocks and households of the PRH estates had been uploaded onto the below websites: <https://www.housingauthority.gov.hk/en/global-elements/estate-locator/index.html?keyword> and <https://www.hkhs.com/en/our-business/property-detail/id/4/type/2/house/1>.

Besides, the expenditures involved in the Food Waste Collection Scheme in PRH Estates over the past 2 years are tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure Involved (\$ million)
2022-23	3.5
2023-24 (revised estimate)	33.0

- (4) For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023.

The Recycling Fund launched a solicitation scheme on “Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste Collection and Recycling” under the Industry Support Programme in 2020, focusing on supporting and subsidising private residential buildings to collect food waste using FWSRBs, with a view to further enhancing the effectiveness and raising public awareness of food waste recycling. As at February 2024, a total of 34 eligible applications have been received under this programme, of which 33 have been approved. Of the successful applicants, 20 have started using FWSRBs to collect food waste, with a total of about 205 tonnes of food waste collected. The approved projects involve a total funding of about \$31 million. Details are as follows:

Name of housing estate or rural village	District	No. of households (No. of blocks)	No. of FWSRBs	Commencement date	Project implementation period (months)
Noble Hill	North	764 (7)	2	13/1/2023	48
Allway Gardens	Tsuen Wan	3 419 (16)	3	16/1/2023	48
Handsome Court	Tuen Mun	856 (9)	3	15/5/2023	48
Wonderland Villas	Kwai Tsing	1 502 (22)	5	1/8/2023	48
Dragons Range	Sha Tin	973 (10)	2	15/8/2023	48
Castello	Sha Tin	1 744 (7)	4	16/8/2023	48
Ocean Pointe	Tsuen Wan	560 (3)	1	22/8/2023	48
New Town Plaza Phase III	Sha Tin	792 (5)	2	1/9/2023	48
The Beaumont	Sai Kung	1 777 (6)	3	11/9/2023	48
East Point City	Sai Kung	2 184 (7)	4	18/9/2023	48
Laguna City Phase 3	Kwun Tong	1 504 (7)	4	18/9/2023	48
Rhythm Garden	Wong Tai Sin	3 000 (12)	2	19/9/2023	48
Century Link	Islands	2 339 (13)	5	27/9/2023	48

Name of housing estate or rural village	District	No. of households (No. of blocks)	No. of FWSRBs	Commencement date	Project implementation period (months)
Lynwood Court, Kingswood Villas	Yuen Long	2 864 (10)	2	3/10/2023	48
The Bloomsway	Tuen Mun	1 100 (20)	2	21/10/2023	48
The Metropolis Residence	Yau Tsim Mong	662 (2)	2	24/10/2023	48
Laguna City Phase 1, 2 & 4	Kwun Tong	6 568 (31)	5	11/12/2023	48
Riviera Gardens	Tsuen Wan	5 636 (20)	2	12/12/2023	48
Tivoli Garden	Kwai Tsing	1 024 (4)	2	21/1/2024	48
Pacific Palisades	Eastern	809 (14)	1	5/2/2024	48
Oscar By The Sea	Sai Kung	1 959 (7)	2	4/3/2024	48
Floriant Rise	Yau Tsim Mong	522 (3)	2	To be confirmed	48
Kam Tai Court	Sha Tin	3 440 (12)	2	To be confirmed	48
Vision City	Tsuen Wan	1 466 (5)	2	To be confirmed	48
The Coronation	Yau Tsim Mong	740 (6)	1	To be confirmed	48
Hong Kong Gold Coast, Phase 2	Tuen Mun	1 340 (25)	2	To be confirmed	48
Park Signature	Yuen Long	1 620 (9)	2	To be confirmed	48
Aegean Coast	Tuen Mun	1 624 (7)	3	To be confirmed	48
Villa Esplanada	Kwai Tsing	2 824 (10)	7	To be confirmed	48
Chelsea Heights	Tuen Mun	1 600 (6)	1	To be confirmed	48
Artisan Garden	Kowloon City	294 (1)	1	To be confirmed	48
The Seanorama	Sha Tin	454 (6)	1	To be confirmed	48
Siu Hin Court	Tuen Mun	1 224 (2)	2	To be confirmed	48

In addition, the ECF subsidises private residential buildings, rural villages and transitional housing to install FWSRBs. As at February 2024, a total funding of about \$18 million^{Note 1} has been approved for these projects. Details are tabulated below:

Name of housing estate or rural village	District	No. of households (No. of blocks)	No. of FWSRBs	Commencement date	Project implementation period (months)
Sheung Shui Heung	North	About 9 500 residents (Not applicable)	2	8/7/2021	12
Sheung Shui Heung & Kam Tsin Tsuen	North	About 17 000 residents (Not applicable)	4	21/4/2022	24
Metro City Phase I	Sai Kung	About 2 500 (6)	6	16/5/2023	24
Ping Yeung Tsuen & Fanling Garden	North	About 400 (19)	1 ^{Note 2}	13/11/2023	12
Hung Tso Tin Tsuen, Tai Tong	Yuen Long	About 500 residents (Not applicable)	2	1/1/2024	24
Wang Toi Shan	Yuen Long	About 2 000 (Not applicable)	2	1/3/2024	24
Pok Oi Kong Ha Wai Village (Transitional Housing)	Yuen Long	About 2 000 (8)	2	1/4/2024	26
Tseng Tau Chung Tsuen, Leung Tin Tsuen, San Hui Village & Kau Hui Village	Tuen Mun	About 1 000 (Not applicable)	2	1/5/2024	24

Note 1: The ECF operates in accordance with the Environment and Conservation Fund Ordinance, and the funding support for relevant projects does not involve the expenditure under the General Revenue Account “Head 44 - Environmental Protection Department” in 2024-25.

Note 2: Installed in a truck to provide service.

In addition to the above funding programmes, the Environmental Campaign Committee has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs, with around 200 kg of food waste collected per day. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required,

proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. Details of the approved housing estates are tabulated as follows:

Name of housing estate or rural village	District	No. of households (No. of blocks)	No. of FWSRBs	Commencement date	Project duration (months)
Amoy Gardens	Kwun Tong	4 896 (19)	9 (Install progressively)	1/2/2024	24
Sceneway Garden	Kwun Tong	4 112 (17)	8	29/2/2024	24
Residence Oasis	Sai Kung	2 130 (6)	4	21/3/2024	24
The Metropolis	Sai Kung	1 376 (4)	2	30/3/2024	24
Richland Gardens	Kwun Tong	5 904 (22)	11	4/2024 (Tentative)	24
Hemera	Sai Kung	1 648 (4)	3	4/2024 (Tentative)	24
Ying Ming Court	Sai Kung	1 750 (5)	3	4/2024 (Tentative)	24
Ping Yan Court	Yuen Long	2 409 (3)	4	4/2024 (Tentative)	24
Greenfield Garden	Kwai Tsing	3 216 (11)	6	4/2024 (Tentative)	24
Jubilee Garden	Sha Tin	2 260 (9)	4	4/2024 (Tentative)	24

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)044

(Question Serial No. 3093)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department is inviting all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong to participate in the “We-recycle@School” activity to encourage students to actively practise waste reduction and recycling together with their family members in their daily life. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the existing list of primary and secondary schools which have committed to participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity;
- (2) the staff establishment responsible for the “We-recycle@School” activity, the estimated expenditure on the salary and the total estimated expenditure in 2024-25;
- (3) the planned duration of the “We-recycle@School” activity; and
- (4) the resources and details involved in organising the “We-recycle@School” activity in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kapui, Judy (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

Our consolidated reply in response to Questions (1) to (4) regarding the “We-recycle@School” activity is as follows:

To further strengthen the promotion and education of waste reduction and recycling, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) invited all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong in early March this year to participate in the “We-recycle@School” activity, thereby encouraging students through schools to share the latest information on source separation and recycling with their family members, and to participate in recycling together with their family members by using the recycling facilities available in their residential premises, the nearby GREEN@COMMUNITY collection points and the waste separation bins at schools, so as to actively practise resource separation and recycling in their daily life, thereby cultivate habits of waste reduction and recycling.

The “We-recycle@School” activity is an ongoing environmental education activity. The EPD will provide schools with the latest information on source separation and recycling (including posters, electronic promotional materials, publicity videos, etc.) from time to time according to their various needs, and support them in organising relevant promotional and

educational activities through the operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Stations and the GreenLink - Environmental Education Support Programme of the Environmental Campaign Committee to enrich the “We-recycle@School” activity. Besides, the EPD’s Green Outreach will organise different types of publicity and promotional activities on waste reduction and recycling in collaboration with schools and relevant stakeholders based on the needs of the community.

As at mid-March 2024, about 170 primary, secondary and special schools have committed to participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity. The list is provided at **Annex**.

The EPD’s Green Outreach is responsible for taking forward the “We-recycle@School” activity. The estimated expenditure of the Green Outreach in 2024-25 is about \$100 million, which is mainly for the expenditure on manpower. As the “We-recycle@School” activity is part of the Green Outreach’s publicity and educational work to promote waste reduction and recycling, there is no separate breakdown of the estimated expenditure on the manpower involved in this activity.

Schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity
(as at mid-March 2024)

(1) Secondary schools with commitment of participation

Number	Name of school
1	Lok Sin Tong Yu Kan Hing Secondary School
2	Lok Sin Tong Ku Chiu Man Secondary School
3	Lok Sin Tong Wong Chung Ming Secondary School
4	Lok Sin Tong Leung Chik Wai Memorial School
5	Lok Sin Tong Young Ko Hsiao Lin Secondary School
6	Lok Sin Tong Leung Kau Kui College
7	Po Leung Kuk Yao Ling Sun College
8	Po Leung Kuk Celine Ho Yam Tong College
9	Po Leung Kuk Tong Nai Kan Junior Secondary College
10	Belilios Public School
11	Cheung Chau Government Secondary School
12	Chiu Lut Sau Memorial Secondary School
13	Clementi Secondary School
14	Fanling Government Secondary School
15	Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School (Shatin)
16	Homantin Government Secondary School
17	Hotung Secondary School
18	Jockey Club Government Secondary School
19	King’s College
20	Kowloon Technical School
21	Kwun Tong Government Secondary School
22	Kwun Tong Kung Lok Government Secondary School
23	Lung Cheung Government Secondary School
24	NTHYK Tai Po District Secondary School
25	NTHYK Yuen Long District Secondary School
26	Queen Elizabeth School
27	Queen’s College
28	Sha Tin Government Secondary School
29	Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School
30	Shau Kei Wan East Government Secondary School
31	Sheung Shui Government Secondary School
32	Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon)
33	South Tuen Mun Government Secondary School
34	Tang Shiu Kin Victoria Government Secondary School
35	Tin Shui Wai Government Secondary School
36	Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School
37	Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School
38	Tuen Mun Government Secondary School
39	Yuen Long Public Secondary School
40	Arts & Technology Education Centre
41	TWGHs Wong Fut Nam College
42	TWGHs Lee Ching Dea Memorial College

43	TWGHs Chang Ming Thien College
44	TWGHs Chen Zao Men College
45	TWGHs Sun Hoi Directors' College
46	TWGHs Mrs Wu York Yu Memorial College
47	TWGHs Mrs Fung Wong Fung Ting College
48	TWGHs Wong Fung Ling College
49	TWGHs Yow Kam Yuen College
50	TWGHs Yau Tze Tin Memorial College
51	TWGHs Kap Yan Directors' College
52	TWGHs Li Ka Shing College
53	TWGHs S. C. Gaw Memorial College
54	TWGHs Kwok Yat Wai College
55	TWGHs Lo Kon Ting Memorial College
56	TWGHs Lui Yun Choy Memorial College
57	TWGHs C. Y. Ma Memorial College
58	TWGHs Mr & Mrs Kwong Sik Kwan College
59	St. Peter's Secondary School
60	SKH Tang Shiu Kin Secondary School
61	Lui Cheung Kwong Lutheran College
62	St. Stephen's Girls' College
63	Caritas Ma On Shan Secondary School
64	China Holiness Church Living Spirit College
65	Hong Kong Teachers' Association Lee Heng Kwei Secondary School
66	CCC Yenching College
67	Chong Gene Hang College
68	CCC Ming Yin College
69	Buddhist Tai Kwong Chi Hong College
70	Tai Po Sam Yuk Secondary School
71	Holy Family Canossian College
72	Shatin Pui Ying College
73	La Salle College
74	Wah Yan College, Hong Kong
75	Gertrude Simon Lutheran College
76	Ho Lap College (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)
77	Diocesan Girls' School
78	St. Antonius Girls' College
79	Pentecostal Lam Hon Kwong School
80	Caritas Wu Cheng-Chung Secondary School
81	Pui Kiu Middle School
82	Carmel Alison Lam Foundation Secondary School
83	Jockey Club Ti-I College

(2) Primary schools with commitment of participation

Number	Name of school
84	Lok Sin Tong Leung Wong Wai Fong Memorial School
85	Lok Sin Tong Yeung Chung Ming Primary School
86	Lok Sin Tong Lau Tak Primary School
87	Lok Sin Tong Leung Kau Kui Primary School

88	Lok Sin Tong Leung Kau Kui Primary School (Branch)
89	Po Leung Kuk Lam Man Chan English Primary School
90	Po Leung Kuk Riverain Primary School
91	Po Leung Kuk Castar Primary School
92	Po Leung Kuk Chee Jing Yin Primary School
93	Po Leung Kuk Dr. Jimmy Wong Chi-Ho (Tin Sum Valley) Primary School
94	Po Leung Kuk Tin Ka Ping Millennium Primary School
95	Po Leung Kuk Luk Hing Too Primary School
96	Po Leung Kuk Fong Wong Kam Chuen Primary School
97	Aldrich Bay Government Primary School
98	Bonham Road Government Primary School
99	Canton Road Government Primary School
100	Fanling Government Primary School
101	Farm Road Government Primary School
102	Fuk Wing Street Government Primary School
103	Hennessy Road Government Primary School
104	Hennessy Road Government Primary School (Causeway Bay)
105	Hoi Pa Street Government Primary School
106	Hong Kong Southern District Government Primary School
107	Island Road Government Primary School
108	Jordan Road Government Primary School
109	Kowloon Tong Government Primary School
110	Kwun Tong Government Primary School
111	Kwun Tong Government Primary School (Sau Ming Road)
112	Li Cheng Uk Government Primary School
113	Li Sing Primary School
114	Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School
115	Ma Tau Chung Government Primary School (Hung Hom Bay)
116	North Point Government Primary School
117	North Point Government Primary School (Cloud View Road)
118	Sha Tin Government Primary School
119	Sham Shui Po Government Primary School
120	Shau Kei Wan Government Primary School
121	Sir Ellis Kadoorie (Sookunpo) Primary School
122	South Yuen Long Government Primary School
123	Tai Po Government Primary School
124	Tin Shui Wai Government Primary School
125	Tong Mei Road Government Primary School
126	Tseung Kwan O Government Primary School
127	Tsuen Wan Government Primary School
128	Tuen Mun Government Primary School
129	Wong Tai Sin Government Primary School
130	Yuen Long Government Primary School
131	TWGHs Li Chi Ho Primary School
132	TWGHs Hok Shan School
133	TWGHs Lo Yu Chik Primary School
134	TWGHs Ko Ho Ning Memorial Primary School
135	TWGHs Tang Shiu Kin Primary School

136	TWGHs Sin Chu Wan Primary School
137	TWGHs Wong See Sum Primary School
138	TWGHs Hong Kong and Kowloon Electrical Appliances Merchants Association Limited School
139	TWGHs Yiu Dak Chi Memorial Primary School (Yuen Long)
140	TWGHs Wong Yee Jar Jat Memorial Primary School
141	TWGHs Leo Tung-Hai LEE Primary School
142	TWGHs Chow Yin Sum Primary School
143	TWGHs Ma Kam Chan Memorial Primary School
144	TWGHs Tsoi Wing Sing Primary School
145	TWGHs Tseng Hin Pei Primary School
146	Pun U Association Wah Yan Primary School
147	Leung Kui Kau Lutheran Primary School
148	Yuen Long Public Middle School Alumni Association Primary School
149	St. Margaret's Co-educational English Secondary and Primary School
150	SKH Ka Fuk Wing Chun Primary School
151	Kwong Ming School
152	Sung Tak Wong Kin Sheung Memorial School
153	Meng Tak Catholic School
154	Heep Yunn Primary School
155	CCC Mong Wong Far Yok Memorial Primary School
156	The Hong Kong Eng Clansman Association Wu Si Chong Memorial School
157	Ho Yu College and Primary School (Sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen)
158	Po Kok Primary School
159	HKMLC Wong Chan Sook Ying Memorial School
160	Fung Kai Liu Yun Sum Memorial School
161	SKH Tin Wan Chi Nam Primary School
162	Kowloon Tong Bishop Walsh Catholic School
163	LKWFS Lau Tak Yung Memorial Primary School
164	Immaculate Heart of Mary School
165	HHCKLA Buddhist Ching Kok Lin Association School
166	Shun Tak Fraternal Association Lee Kam Primary School
167	Baptist (Sha Tin Wai) Lui Ming Choi Primary School
168	Fanling Assembly of God Church Primary School
169	Tung Koon School (Sheung Shui)
170	Yan Chai Hospital Ho Sik Nam Primary School
171	Good Counsel Catholic Primary School

(3) Special school with commitment of participation

Number	Name of school
172	CCC Kei Shun Special School

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)045

(Question Serial No. 0931)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in Programme (1) that the Department will continue to develop a community recycling network across the territory, and strengthen the pilot programme on smart recycling systems (the pilot programme) to enhance the community recycling service. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) the work progress and effectiveness of the pilot programme in 2023-24;
- 2) the distribution and utilisation rates of the community recycling network across the territory;
- 3) the specific details of the pilot programme in the coming year; and
- 4) whether the Department will consider stepping up the publicity and education efforts so as to enhance the community recycling services. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

1&3) To support smart city development, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in the fourth quarter of 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores since end-2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins have been progressively set up in housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has been increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been

gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units.

Since the launch of the Pilot Programme, the EPD has been monitoring the usage and recycling data of the smart recycling systems at different locations. We are currently conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme, including the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, recycling effectiveness, the application scope, their role in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. Preliminary findings show that the operation of the smart recycling systems is generally smooth. The quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins is better than that of the conventional recycling bins and the public responses are also positive. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to fine-tune the Pilot Programme as appropriate, such as adjusting the locations and number of smart recycling bins.

- 2) The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76

sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling System.

The recycling network formed by aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year's Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year's Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to separate arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and "three-nil" buildings and extending their service hours, etc. We anticipate the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the services of the community recycling network.

The current distribution of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores in the 18 districts is tabulated below.

Hong Kong Island

Eastern	GREEN@EASTERN*, GREEN@QUARRY BAY, GREEN@WAN TSUI, GREEN@YUE WAN
Central and Western	GREEN@SHEUNG WAN, GREEN@SAI YING PUN, GREEN@KENNEDY TOWN
Southern	GREEN@ABERDEEN, GREEN@AP LEI CHAU
Wan Chai	GREEN@WAN CHAI*, GREEN@TIN HAU, GREEN@HAPPY VALLEY

Kowloon

Kowloon City	GREEN@WALLED CITY, GREEN@TO KWA WAN, GREEN@HUNG HOM
Kwun Tong	GREEN@KWUN TONG*, GREEN@YUE MAN SQUARE, GREEN@KAI YIP
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO*, GREEN@CHEUNG SHA WAN
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@SAN PO KONG
Yau Tsim Mong	GREEN@TAI KOK TSUI, GREEN@JORDAN

New Territories

Islands	GREEN@ISLANDS*, GREEN@MUI WO
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@KWAI TSING*, GREEN@TSING YI, GREEN@KWAI FONG, GREEN@TAI WO HAU
North	GREEN@FANLING, GREEN@SHEK WU HUI, GREEN@LUEN WO HUI

Sai Kung	GREEN@SAI KUNG*, GREEN@PO LAM, GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN, GREEN@SAI KUNG MARKET (TIU KENG LENG BRANCH)
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHA TIN*, GREEN@TAI WAI, GREEN@CHUN YEUNG
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO* GREEN@TAI PO MARKET, GREEN@TAI WO
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LO TAK COURT, GREEN@YI PEI SQUARE
Tuen Mun	GREEN@TUEN MUN*, GREEN@SAN HUI, GREEN@KIN SANG, GREEN@ON TING, GREEN@YAN TIN
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG*, GREEN@YUEN LONG HUI, GREEN@LONG PING

*Recycling Station

In 2023, the Recycling Stores received about 4.5 million visitors and collected about 18 000 tonnes of recyclables in total; the Recycling Stations collected about 8 000 tonnes of recyclables in total and received about 910 000 visitors; the facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY collected a total of about 26 000 tonnes of recyclables and organised around 2 100 environmental education activities. The total quantity of recyclables collected in 2023 increased by 28% when compared to that in 2022.

- 4) To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the EPD set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the Programme on Source Separation of Waste to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women's, foreign domestic helpers' and new immigrants' groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

The Green Outreach reviews its work focus and scope of the outreaching services from time to time, and adjust them as necessary to support and facilitate the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling policies and initiatives. To facilitate the

expansion of various waste reduction and recycling programmes of the EPD (e.g. GREEN@COMMUNITY and the food waste recycling network), the Green Outreach has been stepping up the relevant publicity and promotion, including promoting the new facilities and services of GREEN@COMMUNITY in districts where Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots have recently come into service, planning and organising community participation activities at Recycling Stations to engage the public in exploring the green community and strengthen the role of Recycling Stations in public education, as well as promoting the new food waste smart recycling bin (FWSRB) services under the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates and demonstrating the use of FWSRBs, etc.

As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has conducted about 154 000 community visits, established connections with more than 4 500 property management companies and residents' organisations, which altogether provided waste reduction and recycling support for about 70% of housing estates/residential buildings and villages in Hong Kong. In addition, the Green Outreach has organised about 5 000 publicity and promotional activities in various forms, attracting over 410 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

In 2024-25, apart from continuing with the work stated above, the Green Outreach will also collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise various types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and municipal solid waste (MSW) charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), so as to raise the law-abiding awareness of the public. The Green Outreach will also offer assistance to the primary and secondary schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity launched in early March this year to encourage students and their family members to actively practise resources separation for recycling and cultivate habits of waste reduction and recycling in their daily lives to get prepared for the implementation of MSW charging. Upon implementation of MSW charging, the Green Outreach will further expand the scope of their outreaching services. Apart from continuing with their on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, promotional activities and hands-on demonstrations will be conducted at various locations to help the public gradually adapt to MSW charging and change their waste disposal habits by separating resources properly for recycling. Besides, the Green Outreach will also pay attention to any non-compliance during daily work, conduct preliminary investigations upon receipt of non-compliance reports, persuade the public, in the form of promotion, education and guidance, to comply with the legislative requirements and offer advice to property management companies/cleansing contractors to help them improve the situation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)046

(Question Serial No. 0932)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in Programme (1) that the Environmental Protection Department will continue to strengthen various food waste collection initiatives to support more public premises and commercial and industrial premises to conduct source-separation and collection of food waste, and gradually expand the service to collect more food waste from domestic sources including private residential buildings and all public rental housing estates. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- 1) the progress and effectiveness of source-separation and collection of food waste in public premises and commercial and industrial premises;
- 2) the effectiveness of food waste collection in public rental housing estates in 2023-24; and
- 3) the specific details and timetable for expanding the programme to collect food waste from domestic sources (including private residential buildings and all public rental housing estates) in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

To facilitate the recycling of food waste generated by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at refuse collection points (RCPs) under

the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme, with a daily average of around 2 tonnes of food waste collected. In addition, the EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme, and the daily average amount of food waste collected is around 1.4 tonnes. Nearby restaurants can arrange to deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling as needed. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will gradually increase.

Regarding domestic food waste, the EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste for better environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents’ participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (i.e. 115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. Since the launch of the Trial Scheme in October 2022, more than 3 000 tonnes of food waste have been collected, with an average daily collection quantity of about 26 tonnes. In terms of residents’ participation, nearly 99 000 households had participated in food waste recycling (around 37 000 households per day on average). The participation rate has exceeded 70% in certain housing estates. The quantity of food waste recovered and the participation rate of residents are in line with our expectations.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages, with a cumulative usage of about 800 000 times and approximately 3 tonnes of food waste collected per day. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs, with around 200 kg of food waste collected per day. When launching the Pilot

Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering optimising the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection, with a daily average of around 1.2 tonnes of food waste collected. Unlike PRH estates, relevant stakeholders of private residential buildings (e.g. owners' corporations/owners' committees and property management companies) need to discuss and reach a consensus to participate in the food waste recycling schemes before submitting their applications to the relevant government funding schemes.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and "three-nil" buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. As at February 2024, these FWSRBs have been used for more than 41 300 times. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and RCPs).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public. As at February 2024, the Recycling Spots in Sha Tin District have been used for more than 2 100 times for food waste recycling.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)047

(Question Serial No. 2385)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Administration stated that it will continue to develop a community recycling network across the territory and strengthen the pilot programme on smart recycling systems to enhance the community recycling service. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please set out in tabular form the operator, contract period and value of the operating contract awarded as well as the actual annual expenditure incurred for the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores under the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY in the past 3 years.
2. What are the quantities of the 9 common types of recyclables collected by the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores under GREEN@COMMUNITY in the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown on the respective quantities collected by Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores under GREEN@COMMUNITY.
3. Are the aforementioned operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY able to fulfil the contractual requirements of collecting the specified quantities of various types of recyclables? If certain contractors fail to fulfil the contractual requirements, how many are there and what are the details? What is the punishment mechanism?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) awarded a total of 69 contracts for provision of services related to the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY from 2021 to February 2024. The contract value and contract period of each contract are given in the Annex.

The actual/estimated operating expenditures incurred by GREEN@COMMUNITY in the past 3 financial years are as follow:

Project ^{Note 1}	Actual/estimated operating expenditure by financial year		
	2021-22 (Actual) (\$m)	2022-23 (Actual) (\$m)	2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$m)
Recycling Stations ^{Note 2}	52	69	64
Recycling Stores ^{Note 3}	174	201	218
Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates ^{Note 4}	N/A	N/A	11

Note 1: Recycling Spots are operated by Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores. The operating expenditures of Recycling Spots are included in the operating expenditures of Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores.

Note 2: The number of Recycling Stations increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2021.

Note 3: The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation progressively starting from the fourth quarter of 2020, and the other batch of 10 Recycling Stores have been gradually put into service since early 2022.

Note 4: 8 Recycling Stores in PRH estates have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The operators have also set up temporary collection booths until those Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

2. The quantities of each type of recyclables collected by Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and their Recycling Spots in the past 3 years are as follows:

Recyclables	Recycling Stations Approximate quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)		
	2021	2022 ^{Note 1}	2023 ^{Note 2}
Regulated electrical equipment	364	326	370
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)	336	385	500
Glass containers	3 146	3 628	3 520
Rechargeable batteries	14	13	15
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	25	26	26
Waste paper	753	1 024	1 690
Waste plastics	677	973	1 600
Waste metals	125	156	230
Beverage cartons	34	43	57

Note 1: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2022 are revised data.

Note 2: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2023 are preliminary data and the actual figures are still being verified.

Recyclables	Recycling Stores Approximate quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)		
	2021	2022 ^{Note 1}	2023 ^{Note 2}
Regulated electrical equipment	262	360	430
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)	528	740	920
Glass containers	1 522	2 290	3 020
Rechargeable batteries	6	17	24
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	7	29	30
Waste paper	2 432	3 870	5 380
Waste plastics	3 776	5 950	8 040
Waste metals	385	660	810
Beverage cartons	90	130	160

Note 1: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2022 are revised data.

Note 2: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2023 are preliminary data and the actual figures are still being verified.

3. The operators of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores are required to provide the specified services during the contract period and meet the pre-determined performance targets. From the commencement of the relevant operation contracts till end-2023, the operational performances of all the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores were able to meet the pre-determined targets. The operators are subject to deduction of operational fees if they fail to meet the targets as required by the contracts.

**69 operating contracts regarding Community Recycling Network
GREEN@COMMUNITY**

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
Recycling Stations					
1.	Provision of Services for GREEN@SHA TIN	Christian Family Service Centre	11 March 2021	10 March 2024	18.5
2.	Provision of Services for GREEN@EASTERN	Po Leung Kuk	28 April 2021	27 April 2024	17.0
3.	Provision of Services for GREEN@SAI KUNG	Christian Family Service Centre	3 May 2021	2 May 2024	17.2
4.	Provision of Services for GREEN@WAN CHAI	The Hong Kong Wan Chai District Association Limited	3 May 2021	2 May 2024	20.1
5.	Provision of Services for GREEN@KWAI TSING	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	1 June 2021	31 May 2024	17.0
6.	Provision of Services for GREEN@TUEN MUN	Yan Oi Tong Limited	1 June 2021	29 February 2024	17.0
7.	Provision of Services for GREEN@TAI PO	Hong Chi Association	1 October 2022	30 September 2025	19.2
8.	Provision of Services for GREEN@ISLANDS	OIWA Limited	1 October 2022	30 September 2025	22.0
9.	Provision of Services for GREEN@KWUN TONG	Christian Family Service Centre	1 February 2023	30 November 2025	20.5
10.	Provision of Services for GREEN@YUEN LONG	Hong Chi Association	1 February 2023	31 October 2025	20.4
11.	Provision of Services for GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO	Po Leung Kuk	1 July 2023	30 September 2025	13.4
12.	Provision of Services for GREEN@EASTERN	Po Leung Kuk	28 April 2024	30 November 2026	21.3

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
13.	Provision of Services for GREEN@KWAI TSING	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	1 June 2024	30 November 2026	20.4
14.	Provision of Services for GREEN@SAI KUNG	Christian Family Service Centre	3 May 2024	30 November 2026	18.0
15.	Provision of Services for GREEN@SHA TIN	Christian Family Service Centre	11 March 2024	30 November 2026	22.6
16.	Provision of Services for GREEN@TUEN MUN	Yan Oi Tong Limited	1 March 2024	30 November 2026	21.7
17.	Provision of Services for GREEN@WAN CHAI	The Hong Kong Wan Chai District Association Limited	3 May 2024	30 November 2026	24.7
Recycling Stores					
18.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Yuen Long District	Pumen Foundation Limited	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	18.1
19.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Sai Kung District	Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O Women's Association Limited	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	15.7
20.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Tuen Mun District	New Territories West Power Eco Company	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	24.2
21.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Tsuen Wan District	Association for Tsuen Wan Development	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	18.4

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
22.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Yau Tsim Mong District	Yaumati Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association Limited	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	16.0
23.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Central and Western District	ECO Foundation Limited	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	22.4
24.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Wan Chai District	Green Council	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	17.9
25.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – North District	Endeavour Environmental Education Foundation Limited	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	25.9
26.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Southern District	Hong Kong Southern District Community Association Limited	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	22.4
27.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 2) – Tai Po District	Green Tai Po	1 December 2021	31 March 2025	23.3
28.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Eastern District	Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Hong Kong Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	24.8

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
29.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Southern District	121C Society for Recycling Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	22.9
30.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Wan Chai District	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	28.0
31.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Central & Western District (Mid-level)	121C Society for Recycling Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	23.5
32.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Kowloon City District (To Kwa Wan)	Christian Family Service Centre	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	19.0
33.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Kowloon City District (Hung Hom)	Christian Family Service Centre	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	18.6
34.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Kowloon City District (Ho Man Tin)	Christian Family Service Centre	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	22.2
35.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Kwun Tong District	Christian Family Service Centre	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	20.4

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
36.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Sham Shui Po District	Cheungshawan Kaifong Welfare Association Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	16.8
37.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Yau Tsim Mong District	New Life Cycle Co., Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	17.3
38.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Wong Tai Sin District	East Kowloon District Residents' Committee Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	31.2
39.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Islands District	OIWA Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	24.3
40.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – North District (Fanling)	North District Residents Association Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	26.5
41.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – North District (Sheung Shui)	North District Residents Association Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	26.0
42.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Sai Kung District	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	20.0

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
43.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Sha Tin District	Shatin Women's Association Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	27.0
44.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Tai Po District	Environmental Association Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	21.5
45.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Tsuen Wan District	New Life Cycle Co., Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	18.1
46.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Tuen Mun District	Green Commune Education Charity Foundation Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	21.5
47.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on) – Yuen Long District	Action Health Limited	1 January 2023	30 September 2025	23.8
48.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store (Phase 1 Follow-on Contract) – Central & Western District (area other than Mid-level)	The Association of the Hong Kong Central and Western District Limited	1 July 2023	30 September 2025	22.5
49.	Provision of Services for Setting Up and Operation of Recycling Store at Tsing Yi Station	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	1 August 2023	30 September 2025	18.8

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
50.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates – Kwai Fong Estate and Tai Wo Hau Estate	Christian Family Service Centre	26 November 2023	25 January 2026	13.5
51.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Yiu Tung Estate and Hing Tung Estate	Hong Kong Youth Power Association	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	13.5
52.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Yue Wan Estate, Siu Sai Wan Estate and Wan Tsui Estate	Youth Chain Limited	14 January 2024	13 May 2026	15.8
53.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Tak Long Estate and Choi Wan (I) Estate	Community Care Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	12.6
54.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Wang Tau Hom Estate and Chuk Yuen South Estate	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	9.8
55.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Tsz Ching Estate, Tsz Man Estate and Tsz Lok Estate	Christian Family Service Centre	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	16.2

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
56.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Shun Lee Estate and Kai Yip Estate	Christian Family Service Centre	14 January 2024	13 May 2026	11.8
57.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Yau Lai Estate, Ping Tin Estate and Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate	Wegeneration Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	12.9
58.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Queens Hill Estate and Ching Ho Estate	Luen Heep Social Service Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	13.5
59.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Tai Yuen Estate and Kwong Fuk Estate	Joyteam Volunteers Alliance Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	12.0
60.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Kin Ming Estate and Sheung Tak Estate	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	11.9
61.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Sha Kok Estate and Shui Chuen O Estate	Project Tomorrow Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	9.5

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
62.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Chun Yeung Estate and Yan On Estate	Shatin Inhabitants Association Limited	14 January 2024	13 May 2026	11.9
63.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Un Chau Estate, So Uk Estate and Pak Tin Estate	Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	18.6
64.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Shek Wai Kok Estate and Lei Muk Shue (2) Estate	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	13.9
65.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – On Ting Estate and Wu King Estate	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	14 January 2024	13 May 2026	9.5
66.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Yan Tin Estate and Fu Tai Estate	Hong Kong Youth Affairs Development Foundation	14 January 2024	13 May 2026	13.4
67.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Tin Wah Estate, Tin Yan Estate and Tin Heng Estate	Pumen Foundation Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	17.2

	Project	Operator	Contract Commence -ment Date	Contract End Date	Contract Value (\$m)
68.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – Cheung Hong Estate and Lai King Estate	Kwai Tsing Women’s Community Development Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	13.8
69.	Provision of Services for Setting up and Operation of Recycling Stores in PRH Estates – On Yam Estate and Kwai Shing West Estate	CC Smile Charity Foundation Limited	1 February 2024	31 May 2026	12.1

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2386)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government pointed out that regarding the development of a community recycling network across the territory, it would strengthen the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme). The Pilot Programme was launched in mid-November 2020, mainly to test the application of smart recycling system devices, including smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the expenditure involved in the Pilot Programme each year since its launch?
2. Smart recycling system devices comprise smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units. What is the repair rate for these devices? What is the repair cost involved?
3. What is the expected duration of the Pilot Programme? Based on the testing results, will the Pilot Programme be formalised, with smart recycling bins being installed throughout the territory?
4. There were plenty of kerb-side recycling bins in the past, but the Environmental Protection Department has reduced their number in urban areas in recent years. Does the Administration have any plan to install more smart recycling bins in urban areas to facilitate the public to recycle? If yes, what are the details and the estimated expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. To support smart city development, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in the fourth quarter of 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under

GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores since end 2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins have been progressively set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has been increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units.

The expenditures incurred in the Pilot Programme (including smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units) are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure for service contracts of individual types of smart recycling device (\$ million)			Total expenditure of the Pilot Programme (\$ million)
	Smart recycling bin	Gift redemption unit	Smart balance	
2021-22	1.6	0.5	0.6	2.7
2022-23	6.7	1.9	5.5	14.1
2023-24	11.1	2.8	2.6	16.5

Under the Pilot Programme, the smart recycling devices are procured from suppliers through leasing service. Services fees for transportation, installation, inspection, repairs and maintenance, wireless network, software updates and replacement of consumables are included in the expenditures above.

2. The main causes of smart recycling device malfunction are network instability, damaged parts, display screen malfunction, etc. There are occasional failures for the gift redemption units to deliver gifts at the machine outlet. According to the service contracts for smart recycling devices, the contractors are required to complete the maintenance services within 3 working days upon receipt of a report concerning the problems associated with the devices. Over the past year, the duration of service disruption due to device malfunction accounted for less than 3% of the total operating time, and on average each maintenance case was completed within 48 hours. If the contractor fails to meet the relevant contract requirements, the EPD will deduct the relevant service fees in accordance with the contract terms.

In 2023, the number of cases in which the smart recycling systems required maintenance due to service disruption and the duration of service disruption are tabulated below.

Item	No. of items	Maintenance cases (no.)	Total no. of hours of service disruption (hour)	Percentage of service disruption to the total no. of operating hours
Smart recycling bin	76 sets (with a total of 296 compartments) [Note 1]	489	About 17 200	1.6%
Gift redemption unit	55 units	188	About 12 600	3.0%
Smart balance	271 units	81	About 3 800	0.3%

Note 1: Each set of smart recycling bin comprises 2 to 6 compartments, depending on the requirements of each location and the space available therein.

3. Since the launch of the Pilot Programme, the EPD has been monitoring the usage and recycling data of the smart recycling systems at different locations. We are currently conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme, including the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, recycling effectiveness, the application scope, their role in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. Preliminary findings show that the operation of the smart recycling systems is generally smooth. The quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins is better than that of the conventional recycling bins and the public responses are also positive. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to fine-tune the Pilot Programme as appropriate, such as adjusting the locations and number of smart recycling bins. In the financial year of 2024-25, we will earmark about \$12 million for installing and operating smart recycling bins.

4. The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to

provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition. At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong.

The EPD reviewed the policy positioning and the way forward of kerbside recycling bins in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman upon the completion of its direct investigation into the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins in April 2022. The findings of the review show that the amount of recyclables from kerbside recycling bins in urban areas accounts for only less than 0.1% of the total amount of recyclables in Hong Kong. Moreover, these bins are prone to be misused by passers-by who mistakenly put in rubbish, litter, containers with leftover food or drinks, etc., thereby affecting the downstream recycling process of recyclables and causing environmental hygiene problems. With the development and continuous enhancement in the services of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, coupled with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of kerbside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas has gradually diminished. Therefore, the EPD had removed about 800 sets of kerbside recycling bins placed in urban areas in 2022. In view of the better quality of recyclables collected from kerbside recycling bins in rural areas, the EPD has retained about 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents in rural areas to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste papers and metals). In addition, 6 sets of smart recycling bins have been installed in rural areas under the Pilot Programme to test the application and effectiveness of smart recycling systems in rural areas.

The preliminary experience from the Pilot Programme shows that the smart recycling bins will be able to give full play to their edge in smart management and achieve better operation efficiency when they are installed in the premises with daily management and supporting facilities for recyclables collection. For instance, upon the issue of a signal to indicate full load by smart recycling bins, the management staff of the premises concerned need to collect the recyclables in a timely manner to free up the storage space for the smart recycling bins to maintain service. After being collected, the recyclables will need space for temporary storage until they accumulate to a certain amount for further collection by the recyclers and delivery to downstream recyclers for proper processing to enhance the efficiency of collecting and handling the recyclables. Given that the kerbside space is not well equipped to support a highly efficient operation of smart recycling bins, and the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY has been well developed to provide better recycling facilities as compared to kerbside

recycling bins, the EPD does not have plans to replace kerbside recycling bins with smart recycling bins for the time being.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)049

(Question Serial No. 2387)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government stated that it would strengthen the support for more public premises and commercial and industrial premises to collect food waste. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Food waste pre-treatment facilities will be used in places with larger amount of food waste and those situated in relatively remote area. Please set out in tabular form the number of food waste pre-treatment facilities currently in use and the premises in which they are located across the territory by district, as well as the expenditures involved.
2. Does the Department plan to promote the use of food waste pre-treatment facilities in other places? If yes, what are the details?
3. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) uses Refuse Collection Points (RCPs) to collect food waste generated from street-level restaurants nearby. How many RCPs are currently involved in the scheme? How many restaurants have registered for participation? What is the quantity of food waste collected?
4. The EPD has been operating a food waste collection scheme for “food and beverage clusters” at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tai Po and Yuen Long districts. Please list out the quantity of food waste collected under the scheme and the expenditure involved. Does the Administration have any plan to extend the scheme to other districts? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- 1 & 2. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been paying attention to the development of food waste treatment technologies to enhance the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of food waste collection. The EPD has been collaborating with various government departments to install a locally developed food waste pre-treatment system “Food TranSmarter” at suitable premises to convert food waste into slurry, which is then stored in sealed odour-controlled tanks before being delivered to the EPD’s food waste treatment facilities for conversion into energy. This system allows for a reduction in the frequency of door-to-door food waste collection to once or twice a week, leading to a significant reduction in transportation costs. At present, the food waste pre-treatment systems have been or will be put into operation

in 5 government premises, involving an expenditure of about \$6.6 million. Besides, to encourage all sectors of the community to actively participate in food waste recycling and apply innovative technologies/methods in food waste source separation, temporary storage, pre-treatment and recycling to handle food waste more efficiently and cost effectively, the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) also provides funding support to individual projects to facilitate the application of new technologies in recycling. For instance, as at February 2024, about \$17.9 million has been approved under the ECF to subsidise 3 projects to install the “Food TranSmarter” in 7 premises (including private housing estates, hotels and shopping malls), thereby significantly reducing the logistics cost in converting food waste to energy. The funding is allocated for the expenditures on project management, installation and maintenance of the “Food TranSmarter”, setting up of food waste recycling supporting facilities (such as Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins), publicity and educational activities, etc.

The food waste pre-treatment facility projects funded by the EPD or through the ECF are tabulated below:

	Government department / Project	Premises
1.	Correctional Services Department	Lo Wu Correctional Institution (In operation)
2.	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Cheung Sha Wan Wholesale Food Market (In operation)
3.	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	Western Wholesale Food Market (Under testing)
4.	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Tai Po Hui Market and Cooked Food Centre (In operation)
5.	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	Tai Kok Tsui Market and Cooked Food Centre (Preparing for installation)
6.	ECF Village Smart Food Waste Recycling Trial Programme Phase II	Kam Tsin Tsuen, Sheung Shui (The project will be completed in April 2024)
7.	ECF Residential Food Waste Recycling Pilot Trial - Metro City Phase 1	Metro City Phase 1, Tseung Kwan O (In operation)
8.	ECF Pilot Project for Food Waste Recycling in Different Sectors through the use of the “Food TranSmarter”	Mira Place and The Mira Hong Kong (Under testing)
9.		Rosewood Hong Kong and K11 Musea (Under testing)
10.		Olympian City 2 (Preparing for installation)
11.		Elements (Preparing for installation)
12.		Sceneway Garden (Preparing for installation)

The EPD will continue to identify more suitable public and private premises to install food waste pre-treatment systems to enhance food waste treatment efficiency. The Government will also consider introducing innovative and more cost-effective food waste treatment technologies in planning food waste recycling supporting facilities in the future.

3 & 4. The EPD is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, located at food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, and residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

To facilitate the recycling of food waste generated by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at refuse collection points (RCPs) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme, with a daily average of around 2 tonnes of food waste collected. In addition, the EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme, and the daily average amount of food waste collected is around 1.4 tonnes. Nearby restaurants can arrange to deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling as needed. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will be gradually increasing. The implementation of food waste collection scheme for “food and beverage clusters” is part of the food waste collection contracts under the Pilot Scheme, and the expenditure involved has been included in the service fees of the contracts. We do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2388)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department mentioned that they would enhance various food waste collection measures, among which include expanding the scale of domestic food waste recycling at private residential buildings. At present, the Government is assisting private residential buildings with food waste recycling through the “Solicitation Theme: Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste Collection and Recycling” of the Recycling Fund and the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates of the Environmental Campaign Committee. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Since the “Solicitation Theme: Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste Collection and Recycling” of the Recycling Fund was launched, how many applications have been received? How many are approved and what is the funding amount involved?
2. Of the private residential buildings with applications approved under the “Solicitation Theme: Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste Collection and Recycling”, what are the quantities of food waste collected?
3. Since the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates was launched, how many applications have been received? How many are approved and what is the number of households involved?
4. The Administration said that they would consolidate the procurement of the food waste recycling bins under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates and bear the rental cost, contractors’ service fee for food waste collection, etc. What are the expenditures involved?
5. Would the Administration consider loosening the restriction of “private housing estates with a total household number of no less than 1 000 units” under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates, so that more private housing estates can participate in the Scheme? If yes, what are the details? If no, how will the Administration promote food waste recycling to private housing estates with less households?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- 1&2. To encourage members of the public and housing estates to participate in domestic food waste recycling, the Recycling Fund launched a solicitation scheme on “Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste” under the Industry Support Programme in 2020, focusing on supporting and subsidising private residential buildings to collect food waste using smart recycling bins, with a view to further enhancing the effectiveness and raising public awareness of food waste recycling. As at February 2024, a total of 34 eligible applications have been received, of which 33 have been approved, involving a total funding amount of about \$31 million. Of the successful applicants, 20 have started using food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) to collect food waste, with a total of about 205 tonnes of food waste collected.
- 3,4&5. The Environmental Campaign Committee has been providing funding support through the Environment and Conservation Fund and collaborating with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant maintenance services for a period of 2 years, involving an estimated expenditure of \$13 million. The food waste collection contractors of the EPD are responsible for collecting food waste from the participating housing estates on a daily basis, and the expenditures involved are covered by the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far. As at 8 March 2024, 17 applications have been approved, involving about 48 800 households. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)051

(Question Serial No. 2389)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department will implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging on 1 August and will commence the Demonstration Scheme on 1 April in government buildings for on-site demonstration. Different types of buildings will also be identified to participate in the Demonstration Scheme. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What kinds of buildings will be selected to join the Demonstration Scheme on the implementation of MSW charging? How many will be involved?
2. What is the estimated expenditure involved in the Demonstration Scheme? What are the expenditures involved in the distribution of designated bags and designated labels, publicity and promotion respectively?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The Demonstration Scheme aims at pragmatically examining the problems that may arise during the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, reviewing the processes and actual practices of different stakeholders, including waste producers, frontline cleansing staff, waste collectors, etc., in disposal of waste under different settings with MSW charging in place, collecting their views, observing their readiness for the implementation of MSW charging and the problems they may encounter, as well as consolidating and analysing relevant data. The first group of premises under the Demonstration Scheme includes government buildings, public and private residential buildings, "three-nil" buildings, shopping malls, restaurants and residential care homes, totalling 14 premises.
2. Implementation of the Demonstration Scheme forms an integral part of the Environmental Protection Department's work, and a breakdown of the expenditure is not available. The distribution of designated bags/designated labels is conducted by the warehouse and logistics service contractors for achieving cost-effectiveness. As such work is part of the contract requirements, a breakdown of the expenditure is not available. The publicity work for the Demonstration Scheme is part of the overall

publicity work on MSW charging. We do not have a breakdown for the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)052

(Question Serial No. 2390)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In 2024-25, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to implement the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme to assist in recovery of suitable beverage containers. It is noted that Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme has commenced in December 2023. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

1. The number of plastic beverage containers collected under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme respectively. Please provide a breakdown by the 18 districts.
2. The expenditures incurred by the rebates under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme. What is the total amount of rebates redeemed by the public through different means and for donating to charities respectively?
3. The maintenance frequency of the RVMs under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme?
4. Whether the Administration has verified if the plastic beverage containers recovered under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme were properly handed over to qualified recyclers for processing?
5. The number of RVMs to be installed under Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme. Please provide a breakdown by the 18 districts.
6. It is noted that the contractor for Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme is different from those of Stage 1 and Stage 2. Are the RVMs of the new contractor equipped with enhanced functions?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. To pave way for the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021. A total of 60 RVMs have been set up in public places, government facilities and shopping centres with suitable foot traffic. The number of RVMs increased to 120 from the third quarter of 2022. Positive responses from the public have been received since the rollout of the Pilot Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, over 88 million plastic beverage containers have been collected under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme for recycling locally. The numbers

of plastic beverage containers collected under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme by district are as follows:

District	Stage 1 (from end-January 2021 to end-August 2022)(no.)	Stage 2 (from end-June 2022 to end-February 2024)(no.)
Central & Western	1 090 000	2 149 000
Eastern	2 017 000	5 320 000
Islands	521 000	1 241 000
Kowloon City	577 000	1 998 000
Kwai Tsing	1 172 000	2 476 000
Kwun Tong	3 700 000	4 608 000
North	1 362 000	3 288 000
Sai Kung	776 000	4 172 000
Sha Tin	2 231 000	7 156 000
Sham Shui Po	1 914 000	3 871 000
Southern	204 000	1 354 000
Tai Po	1 203 000	3 008 000
Tsuen Wan	2 130 000	3 833 000
Tuen Mun	862 000	4 902 000
Wan Chai	803 000	1 213 000
Wong Tai Sin	1 729 000	5 377 000
Yau Tsim Mong	949 000	2 664 000
Yuen Long	1 815 000	4 567 000
Total	25 055 000	63 197 000

2. The amounts of rebates redeemed under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme are set out below:

Pilot Scheme	Amount of rebates redeemed (\$m)		
	By Octopus	By Alipay HK	For Donation
Stage 1	2.31	0.13	0.05
Stage 2	5.82	0.38	0.12
Total^{Note}	8.14	0.51	0.17

Note: Due to rounding, the sum of the two stages may not add up to the total.

3. Based on the calculation method stipulated in the contract, the monthly average service suspension of RVMs under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme are about 4 034 hours and 5 861 hours respectively (the figures for each stage are set out in the table below). The causes for service suspension included factors such as machine malfunction and the maximum capacity of RVMs being reached. However, the monthly routine inspection of RVMs is not counted according to the contract terms.

Pilot Scheme ^{Note 1}	Monthly average service suspension of RVMs	
	Time (number of hours) ^{Note 2}	Percentage ^{Note 3}
Stage 1	4 034	9.6%
Stage 2 (as at 24 December 2023)	5 861	6.8%

Note 1: The number of RVMs installed under Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Pilot Scheme were 60 and 120 respectively.

Note 2: According to the contract terms, the out-of-service hours have already excluded the first out-of-service hour of RVM, the period between 12:00 midnight to 8:00 am on the following day, factors that are beyond the control of contractors (such as closure of venues), etc.

Note 3: The total operating hours of RVMs are calculated on a 24-hour basis.

4. According to the contractual requirements, the contractor is required to submit to the EPD statistics on the plastic beverage containers collected by RVMs and quantities of the plastic beverage containers delivered to recyclers, together with relevant documents for verification. The EPD will also deploy staff to carry out inspections at the facilities concerned from time to time to ensure that the plastic beverage containers collected under the Pilot Scheme are properly treated and recycled, thereby turning waste into resources.

5. The number of RVMs under Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme (from end-December 2023 to end-February 2024) is maintained at 120. A breakdown by the 18 districts is set out below:

District	Number of RVMs
Central & Western	5
Eastern	9
Islands	2
Kowloon City	5
Kwai Tsing	6
Kwun Tong	9
North	6
Sai Kung	8
Sha Tin	12
Sham Shui Po	6
Southern	4
Tai Po	5
Tsuen Wan	8
Tuen Mun	9
Wan Chai	3
Wong Tai Sin	9
Yau Tsim Mong	6
Yuen Long	8
Total	120

6. More stringent service requirements for RVM contractors have been imposed under Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme. The differences in contract requirements under Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme are tabulated below:

Item	Contract requirements of the Pilot Scheme	
	Stage 2	Stage 3
Processing speed of RVM	10 plastic beverage containers per minute	15 plastic beverage containers per minute
Frequency of collection and handling of plastic beverage containers	No less than 3 times a week	Daily
Maintenance frequency	Once per month	Twice per month
Cleaning frequency	No less than 3 times a week	Daily
Urgent repair completion time	repair RVM malfunctions within 4 hours	repair RVM malfunctions within 3 hours

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)053

(Question Serial No. 2391)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department has a pilot plant at the yard waste recycling centre Y·PARK to convert yard waste into biochar, so as to turn waste into energy and resources. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has the pilot plant for converting yard waste into biochar officially come into operation yet? Or is it still on trial?
2. The Administration has awarded the construction and operation contracts of the pilot plant to the same contractor. What is the contractual amount of the operation contract?
3. If the pilot plant is still on trial, is the Government responsible for the operational expenditures, etc. during this period? If yes, what are the expenditures involved?
4. If the pilot plant has come into operation, what is the quantity of biochar produced so far? Where are these biochars eventually delivered to and for what purposes?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department's Pilot Biochar Production Plant (PBPP) came into trial and operation in May 2023 to convert wood materials produced from the yard waste of Y·PARK into biochar using the pyrolysis technology. The objective of current stage of the PBPP is to conduct pyrolysis tests with different temperatures, duration and wood materials, in order to identify the optimal operating conditions for future production of premium biochar and increase the biochar productivity. The total value for the design-build-operate contract of the PBPP is about \$146.5 million and the operating cost in 2023-24 was about \$14 million.

The PBPP is at the initial operational stage which has not yet been put into mass production. The Environmental Protection Department is working with relevant government departments, research institutes and other organisations to trial the biochar produced by the pilot plant to promote a wider use of biochar in the local market.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)054****(Question Serial No. 2392)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) AirControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

To bring forward the marketisation of the public electric vehicle (EV) charging services, the Government has outsourced the EV charging services in over 70 government car parks to collect charging fees progressively starting from the end of 2023. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the operating expenditure to be reduced after the marketisation of EV charging services in government car parks?
2. the current number of public EV charging facilities in Hong Kong, the numbers of such facilities in car parks managed by the Government and other organisations respectively, as well as their charging speed. Please provide a breakdown by the 18 districts of Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)Reply:

1. Based on the usage of EV chargers in the 74 government car parks in 2023, it is estimated that upon completion of the marketisation of EV charging services in mid-2024, the operating expenditure to be incurred will reduce by about \$24 million per annum.
2. As at the end of December 2023, over 7 410 public EV chargers had been provided by the Government and the private sector in the 18 districts of the territory, of which about 2 550 were government chargers and the remaining of about 4 860 were provided by the private sector. The numbers of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector by the 18 districts is set out in the table below:

District	Number of chargers			
	Standard	Medium	Quick	Sub-total
Central and Western	10	366	49	425
Eastern	16	278	87	381
Southern	6	227	48	281
Wan Chai	70	277	57	404
Kowloon City	100	59	39	198

District	Number of chargers			Sub-total
	Standard	Medium	Quick	
Kwun Tong	562	506	135	1 203
Sham Shui Po	29	168	58	255
Wong Tai Sin	18	173	37	228
Yau Tsim Mong	50	210	115	375
Kwai Tsing	9	162	54	225
Tsuen Wan	21	223	39	283
Sai Kung	118	144	96	358
North	172	263	31	466
Tai Po	30	116	17	163
Sha Tin	663	455	122	1 240
Yuen Long	53	222	67	342
Tuen Mun	12	77	40	129
Islands	100	299	60	459
Total	2 039	4 225	1 151	7 415

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)055

(Question Serial No. 2393)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The provision for the Air Programme of the Environmental Protection Department in 2024-25 is \$747.5 million (38%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 9 posts in 2024-25. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the detailed breakdown of expenditure for the increased cash flow requirement for non-concurrent projects;
2. the list of 9 posts to be deleted by rank and the salary expenditure involved;
3. whether the Administration has taken forward new policies and initiatives through re-prioritisation, internal re-deployment, streamlining of work processes and enhancing efficiency, so as to reduce operational and non-recurrent expenses; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The estimate for the Air Programme in 2024-25 is \$747.5 million (38%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly attributed to the enhancement of the 3 priority tasks listed below. The manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). There is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 9 posts in 2024-25 under the provision for the Air Programme, involving 1 Environmental Protection Officer, 5 Environmental Protection Inspectors and 3 Workmen. These posts are mainly responsible for conducting investigations and enforcement work related to air pollution, involving annual salaries of about \$4.1 million. The EPD will cope with the impacts brought about by the deletion of posts through appropriate staff deployment and optimisation of workflows.

Major item	2023-24 Revised Estimate (\$ million)	2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Increase in 2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Reason
EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS)	220.0	800.0	580.0	Note (1)
Ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles	1,028.9	1,122.0	93.1	Note (2)
Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	39.2	110.6	71.4	Note (3)

Note (1): As for the expenditure incurred by the EHSS, it is expected that the installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure will be completed progressively in 2024-25 for many of the approved applications, and the estimated amount of subsidies to be disbursed for the completion of installation will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.

Note (2): As for the expenditure incurred by the ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles, the relevant figures show that the number of eligible vehicles reaching the statutory retirement age by 31 December 2024 is higher than that of 2023. Hence, the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is higher than that of 2023-24 to meet the funding needs of these applications.

Note (3): As for the expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries, the construction of electric ferries and the associated charging facilities has commenced progressively in 2023-24. According to the current progress, the estimated amount of subsidies to be disbursed for the above construction works will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)056

(Question Serial No. 2401)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Transport Department will continue to review the operating conditions of public light buses and support the Environmental Protection Department in carrying out the pilot scheme of electric public light buses (the Pilot Scheme). In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The details of the work in support of carrying out the Pilot Scheme and the latest progress, as well as the expenditure and manpower involved.
2. Under the Pilot Scheme, there are a total of 6 prequalified suppliers of electric public light buses (e-PLBs), but only e-PLB models from 3 suppliers are available for selection. Why are the e-PLB models from other prequalified suppliers not available for selection? When are they expected to be available for selection by the operators?
3. The total number of green public light bus (PLB) operators participating in the Pilot Scheme in the first phase which closed for application on 17 November 2023, and a breakdown on the quantities of PLBs acquired by model.
4. What measures are in place to encourage more operators to participate in the Pilot Scheme? Will the Government consider increasing the subsidy rate from 80% to 90% or even 100%, so as to encourage more operators to participate in the Pilot Scheme?
5. What measures are in place to improve the quick charging network for e-PLBs? What is the timetable for having charging facilities set up and operated by charging service providers? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1&3. The Government has earmarked \$80 million for the Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses (the Pilot Scheme) to promote the application of electric public light buses (e-PLBs) locally. Under the Pilot Scheme, the participating e-PLB operators will be subsidised to purchase e-PLBs for trials. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is implementing the Pilot Scheme in phases. The first trial points are the Kwun Tong Yue Man Square and Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road) Public Transport Interchanges.

The EPD completed the approval process in December 2023 for the first round of applications submitted by PLB operators and signed the agreements with 2 operators for purchase of an e-PLB each for participating in the trial. The 2 e-PLBs concerned are the THOR model provided by the supplier Green Mobility Innovations Limited (GMI). The first phase of operational trials is expected to commence in March 2024. The EPD will subsidise successful operators with 80% of the vehicle price for each e-PLB joining the Pilot Scheme. The total amount of subsidy for the 2 e-PLBs above is \$2.21 million.

To support the EPD in carrying out the Pilot Scheme, the Transport Department (TD) will continue to actively work alongside with the relevant departments in taking forward the Pilot Scheme, including participating in the inter-departmental Task Force on the Pilot Scheme, providing advice to the EPD from the operation perspective regarding the selection of PLB termini or public transport interchanges (PTIs) as trial points, and carrying out site inspections together with the EPD and relevant departments on green minibus termini and PTIs that have potential for installing charging facilities and conducting trials to confirm whether the concerned venues have sufficient power supply and are suitable for setting up quick charging facilities.

Moreover, the EPD engaged the Hong Kong Productivity Council to study and develop the basic technical requirements and specifications for e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities that are suitable for application in the local environment. Based on the recommendations of the study, the EPD has issued the Technical Guidelines for Electric Public Light Buses and the Associated Charging Facilities (the Technical Guidelines). The EPD has entered into agreements with the suppliers complying with the requirements set out in the Technical Guidelines, who have become “prequalified suppliers” (the suppliers) for supplying e-PLBs for trials under the Pilot Scheme, thereby ensuring that the e-PLBs supplied by them meet the relevant technical requirements and specifications. It is also stipulated in the agreements that the suppliers are required to provide a warranty of 5 years for the basic vehicle and 8 years for the battery in terms of the daily operation and maintenance of e-PLBs.

The manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work are absorbed by the existing resources of the EPD and the TD. The Government does not have a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

2. Currently, there are a total of 6 suppliers supplying e-PLBs under the Pilot Scheme, of which 3 suppliers provide models with low-floor feature. The e-PLBs provided by the suppliers must have passed the type approval from the TD and specification verification by an independent assessor engaged by the EPD before they will be made available for selection by the operators participating in the Pilot Scheme. The e-PLB models of 3 suppliers, including one with low-floor feature, have fulfilled the above specified requirements and are available for purchase by the operators. There are currently 2 suppliers who have applied for type approval from the TD, while the remaining supplier has yet to submit an application for type approval.

4. The prices of the 3 models of e-PLBs currently offered to PLB operators for selection under the Pilot Scheme range from \$1.38 million to \$2 million. The EPD will subsidise successful operators with 80% of the vehicle price for each e-PLB joining the Pilot Scheme, and the operators will only need to pay 20% of the vehicle price (i.e. from

\$280,000 to \$400,000), which is much lower than the current price of about \$700,000 for a new diesel PLB. Therefore, the current subsidy level is already rather attractive to operators, and the Government has no plan to further increase the subsidy level.

5. The Government recognises the importance of charging network in promoting popularisation of electric vehicles, and will examine the demand for dedicated charging facilities for e-PLBs based on the results of the Pilot Scheme. In addition, the Government is planning to gradually convert some existing petrol filling stations (PFSs) to quick charging stations serving different types of vehicles in the medium to long term, and offer appropriate incentives to PFS operators to install quick chargers in the existing PFSs and provide priority charging services for public transport such as electric taxis, e-PLBs, etc. The above measures are still under planning and hence no specific estimate is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)057

(Question Serial No. 2407)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In 2024-25, the Environmental Protection Department will follow up on the initiatives as set out in the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including EVs, and enhance the charging network for EVs. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the staff establishment and expenditures involved in promoting the popularisation of EVs in the past and the coming financial years;
2. the plan, target and budget of government departments for acquiring new energy vehicles in the next financial year in tabular form;
3. the latest numbers of private cars and EVs in Hong Kong, and the latest proportion of the number of EVs in the number of private cars in Hong Kong;
4. the respective (i) total numbers of vehicles, (ii) numbers of EVs (and their proportions in the total numbers of vehicles), and (iii) numbers of hybrid vehicles (and their proportions in the total numbers of vehicles) owned by various policy bureaux/government departments in each of the past 3 years;
5. As the major policy bureaux for promoting popularisation of EVs, the fleets of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Transport and Logistics Bureau comprise of 8 and 2 vehicles respectively, among which 2 and 0 were EVs (percentage of EVs as 25% and 0%). Whereas the fleets of the Environmental Protection Department and the Transport Department comprise of 47 and 241 vehicles respectively, among which 1 and 2 were EVs (percentage of EVs as 2.1% and 0.8%). Does the Administration consider that such percentage share can set a good example for popularisation of EVs? If no, what specific measures are in place?
6. In replying to a Member of this Council, the Government indicated that some government departments were not able to switch to EVs in accordance with the green procurement practice when they procured new government private cars and when government private cars were due to be replaced, and it was mainly because the models of EVs available on the market were unable to meet the actual operational needs of the departments concerned (such as the need to attend to service calls at any time or travel long distances and engage in outside operations for a long time, thereby making it difficult to have enough time to recharge EVs). Later on, Members asked about the Government's proposals to address the relevant problems, so as to increase the usage of EVs among government departments. The latest reply given by the Government in January 2024 was "As quick charging support is required for the daily

operation of some government vehicles, relevant government departments have started installing quick chargers progressively for quick top-ups with a view to expediting the transition of their fleets to EVs.” Has the Government assessed whether such measures are effective in encouraging government departments to use EVs? If yes, how effective are they? If no, will the Administration consider (including but not limited to) setting performance indicators to promote the use of EVs in government departments to set a good example of popularisation of EVs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The promotion of electric vehicles (EV) involves various government departments, with some of the work and services under different projects being outsourced to different operators. The Government does not have a breakdown on the staff establishment and expenditures involved.
2. Apart from special purpose vehicles^{Note 1}, the procurement of general purpose vehicles is co-ordinated by the Government Logistics Department (GLD). The GLD will, in accordance with the green procurement practice as well as the operational needs of various bureaux/departments and subject to the availability of suitable models in the market, consider procuring EVs or more environmentally friendly vehicles, and decide on the numbers and models of vehicles to be procured each year. The number of EVs to be procured in 2024-25 is still being worked out.
3. As at end-December 2023, the total numbers of private cars and electric private cars (e-PCs) in Hong Kong were 647 204 and 75 051 respectively, with e-PCs accounting for about 11.6% of the total number of private cars.
4. Regarding government vehicles, the departments will have to take into account their actual operational needs and the availability of new energy vehicles in the market that meet the relevant requirements and specifications, and replace their conventional fossil fuel vehicles with new energy vehicles in accordance with the normal replacement cycle and the actual circumstances, so as to strike a balance between prudent use of public funds and taking the lead in using EVs. According to the information provided by the GLD, (i) the total number of vehicles, (ii) the number of EVs, (iii) the number of hybrid vehicles, (iv) the percentage of EVs, and (v) the percentage of hybrid vehicles, in the fleet owned by various departments in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Note 1: The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department is responsible for the procurement of special purpose vehicles for the departments concerned.

Policy Bureau / Department / Organisation	(i)			(ii)			(iii)			(iv)			(v)		
	Total no. of vehicles in the fleet			No. of EVs in the fleet			No. of hybrid vehicles in the fleet			Percentage of EVs			Percentage of hybrid vehicles		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Administration Wing	28	27	29	3	3	4	4	4	3	10.7%	11.1%	13.8%	14.3%	14.8%	10.3%
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	211	212	212	9	9	10	0	0	0	4.3%	4.2%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Auxiliary Medical Service	19	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Architectural Services Department	9	9	9	1	1	1	0	0	0	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Audit Commission	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Buildings Department	40	40	40	9	9	10	1	1	1	22.5%	22.5%	25.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Customs and Excise Department	215	217	225	7	7	15	6	6	4	3.3%	3.2%	6.7%	2.8%	2.8%	1.8%
Census and Statistics Department	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Civil Aviation Department	15	15	15	5	5	6	0	0	0	33.3%	33.3%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Civil Aid Service	40	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau	6	4	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	16.7%	25.0%	25.0%	33.3%	25.0%	25.0%
Civil Engineering and Development Department	41	41	41	2	2	2	0	0	0	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Chief Executive's Office	8	8	8	1	1	1	2	0	0	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Companies Registry	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Civil Service Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Correctional Services Department	127	131	131	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau	N/A	5	5	N/A	0	0	N/A	4	4	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	80.0%	80.0%
Development Bureau	6	6	6	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	16.7%
Department of Health	57	57	57	1	1	2	0	0	0	1.8%	1.8%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Department of Justice	8	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Drainage Services Department	45	45	45	6	6	5	0	0	0	13.3%	13.3%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Education Bureau	6	5	6	0	0	1	2	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	33.3%	20.0%	16.7%
Environment Bureau*	2	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	50.0%	N/A	N/A	50.0%	N/A	N/A
Environment and Ecology Bureau	N/A	4	8	N/A	1	2	N/A	1	1	N/A	25.0%	25.0%	N/A	25.0%	12.5%
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	202	202	202	17	17	17	5	5	1	8.4%	8.4%	8.4%	2.5%	2.5%	0.5%
Environmental Protection Department	52	52	47	2	2	1	0	0	0	3.8%	3.8%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	718	718	718	5	4	4	2	2	2	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Fire Services Department	741	804	819	5	5	4	18	18	7	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	2.4%	2.2%	0.9%
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	1	2	2	1	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	66.7%	33.3%
Government Flying Service	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Government Logistics Department	61	62	63	3	3	6	5	4	3	4.9%	4.8%	9.5%	8.2%	6.5%	4.8%
Government Laboratory	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Government Property Agency	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Home Affairs Department	28	29	29	0	0	0	6	4	4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%	13.8%	13.8%

Policy Bureau / Department / Organisation	(i)			(ii)			(iii)			(iv)			(v)		
	Total no. of vehicles in the fleet			No. of EVs in the fleet			No. of hybrid vehicles in the fleet			Percentage of EVs			Percentage of hybrid vehicles		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Housing Bureau	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Food and Health Bureau*	6	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A	16.7%	N/A	N/A
Health Bureau	N/A	4	4	N/A	0	0	N/A	1	1	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	25.0%	25.0%
Hong Kong Monetary Authority	5	5	5	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Hong Kong Observatory	8	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hong Kong Police Force	2707	2877	2892	35	29	34	107	109	59	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%	4.0%	3.8%	2.0%
Hongkong Post	271	267	254	9	7	7	33	12	12	3.3%	2.6%	2.8%	12.2%	4.5%	4.7%
Housing Department	51	51	51	4	4	4	1	1	1	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Home Affairs Bureau*	7	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	14.3%	N/A	N/A	42.9%	N/A	N/A
Home and Youth Affairs Bureau	N/A	6	6	N/A	1	1	N/A	1	1	N/A	16.7%	16.7%	N/A	16.7%	16.7%
Highways Department	46	47	47	2	2	2	0	0	0	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Independent Commission Against Corruption	38	38	38	0	0	2	2	2	0	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	0.0%
Immigration Department	36	36	36	1	1	1	0	0	0	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Invest Hong Kong	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Intellectual Property Department	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Inland Revenue Department	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Information Services Department	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Innovation and Technology Commission	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Innovation and Technology Bureau*	2	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A	50.0%	N/A	N/A
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau	N/A	2	2	N/A	0	0	N/A	1	1	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	50.0%	50.0%
Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Judiciary	24	24	24	0	0	0	13	9	6	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	54.2%	37.5%	25.0%
Legal Aid Department	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Lands Department	172	172	172	5	4	4	0	0	0	2.9%	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	152	151	150	4	3	2	1	1	1	2.6%	2.0%	1.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Labour Department	27	27	27	2	2	4	0	0	0	7.4%	7.4%	14.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Land Registry	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Labour and Welfare Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Marine Department	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Office of the Communications Authority	21	21	21	2	2	2	0	0	0	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Official Receiver's Office	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Planning Department	12	12	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Public Service Commission	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %

Policy Bureau / Department / Organisation	(i)			(ii)			(iii)			(iv)			(v)		
	Total no. of vehicles in the fleet			No. of EVs in the fleet			No. of hybrid vehicles in the fleet			Percentage of EVs			Percentage of hybrid vehicles		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Registration and Electoral Office	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Radio Television Hong Kong	24	24	24	1	1	1	0	0	0	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rating and Valuation Department	7	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Security Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	2	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%
Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Social Welfare Department	29	29	30	3	3	5	0	0	0	10.3%	10.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Transport Department	213	219	241	1	1	2	0	0	0	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Trade and Industry Department	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Transport and Housing Bureau*	2	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A	50.0%	N/A	N/A
Transport and Logistics Bureau	N/A	2	2	N/A	0	0	N/A	1	1	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A	50.0%	50.0%
Treasury	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
University Grants Committee Secretariat	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Water Supplies Department	249	249	248	12	12	11	2	1	1	4.8%	4.8%	4.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%
Total	6861	7108	7158	164	153	179	230	201	126	2.4%	2.2%	2.5%	3.4%	2.8%	1.8%

* The policy bureaux concerned have been reorganised and replaced in the restructuring of the Government in July 2022.

5&6. To demonstrate the Government's commitment in pushing forward Hong Kong's transition to EVs, we updated the green procurement practice for government vehicles in July 2021, setting out the use of EVs as the standard when procuring or replacing government private cars with 5 seats or less, unless circumstances such as operational needs that render the use of EVs infeasible. The procurement practice was further revised in February 2024 to raise the requirement and set EVs as the standard for the procurement or replacement of all government private cars^{Note 2}. Statistics of the GLD showed that 55 (about 63.2%) of the 87 government private cars with 5 seats or less (including both new and replacement vehicles) procured by the Government in 2023 were EVs. The main reason for not switching to EVs is that current models of e-PCs available on the market are unable to meet the actual operational needs, such as long hours of outdoor operations, thereby making it difficult to have sufficient time for recharging. In this connection, the Government has installed more than 20 quick chargers for departments with specific practical operational needs, and plans to install another 70 quick chargers in the next 4 financial years, with a view to expediting the transition of their fleets to EVs.

Note 2: Departments or bureaux that cannot switch to EVs due to special operational needs will have to obtain consent from their heads of department or senior directorate officers and consult the EPD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)058

(Question Serial No. 1589)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill

Regarding the captioned issue, please inform this Committee of the following:

1 The NENT Landfill is located close to the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and the Hong Kong-Shenzhen ecological corridor. This has been a concern to the local and Shenzhen residents in the vicinity. Has the Government set any work performance indicator for the landfill and evaluated the effectiveness of the improvement measures adopted last year?

2 As the NENT Landfill is under extension, what are the service life and closure schedule of the extended area?

3 Upon the commissioning of I-PARK1, coupled with the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, will the amount of MSW to be delivered to the NENT Landfill decrease? What is the estimated amount?

4 How will the Government coordinate internally the impacts of continuous long-term operation of the NENT Landfill on the development of the Northern Metropolis?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had progressively introduced a number of improvement measures at the NENT Landfill since mid-2021, with full implementation by mid-2022, including stepping up the application of Posi-Shell covers to safeguard environmental hygiene and reduce odour emission, advancing the process of covering the landfill operational areas with clean soil cappings to reduce the size of such areas by 40% to 50% as far as practicable, shortening the time for waste reception at the landfill site by 1 hour by advancing the closing time of waste reception from 7 pm to 6 pm, installing additional deodourisers, covering the leachate storage lagoons and enhancing the monitoring of odour emission, etc.

To expedite the environmental improvements to the NENT Landfill and minimise the visual and odour impacts on nearby residents arising from the landfill, the EPD has already advanced the final restoration and greening works of the NENT Landfill, originally scheduled for 2026 upon completion of its landfilling operation, to end-2021,

with a view to minimising odour emission and improving the appearance of the landfill as soon as possible, thereby minimising the “Not In My Backyard” effect and the associated visual impact. In addition, the EPD carried out, as scheduled in end-2023, the restoration and greening works for 80% of the operational areas where landfilling is completed. In 2024, we will continue to advance the restoration and greening of the remaining operational areas where landfilling is completed.

Besides, we draw on the successful experience of landfill sites in the Mainland to enhance the overall extraction volume of landfill gas (LFG) at the NENT Landfill. We will progressively extend the use of impermeable plastic liners for capping the landfill operational areas and install gas extraction facilities underneath the liners or additional extraction pipes at suitable locations. This will speed up the connection of gas extraction facilities to the existing LFG collection system, resulting in better odour control at the NENT Landfill.

Apart from the aforementioned measures, we have been transferring pig waste to other sites for treatment by using anaerobic digestion technology in 2023, on a trial basis, to minimise the potential odour problem arising from livestock waste treatment at the NENT Landfill. Our target is to gradually transfer livestock waste for treatment with anaerobic digestion technology at the Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2 (O·PARK2), after its commissioning in 2024. Moreover, we have made reference to the experience in Mainland’s landfill sites, and have been spraying biological agents in the livestock waste pits during their operation at the NENT Landfill. In this regard, odour from disposal of livestock waste is either absorbed or dissolved by the micro-organisms in the biological agents. We have also installed openable metal covers on the livestock waste pits that are in operation. The metal covers will be opened only when disposal of livestock waste is required, for the purpose of minimising the possibility of odour emission.

Following the implementation of the various improvement measures, data obtained from independent monitoring exercises carried out at the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai areas and the nearby local villages by an independent professional body commissioned by the EPD revealed that the levels of hydrogen sulphide measured in 2023 in areas close to the Hong Kong-Shenzhen boundary and villages in the vicinity of the landfill remained low and complied with the national standard. The number of complaints concerning the NENT Landfill received by the EPD in 2023 has decreased by about 80% when compared with the same period in the preceding year.

2&3. Currently, about 11 100 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) are generated in Hong Kong per day. In addition to promoting waste reduction and clean recycling, the Government is working full steam on developing a network of waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities to move away from the reliance on landfills for MSW disposal. The Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 (I · PARK1) currently under construction near Shek Kwu Chau, is expected to commence operation in 2025, with a MSW handling capacity of 3 000 tonnes per day. The EPD will have room for reducing the amount of MSW to be transported to the NENT Landfill. We are also actively planning for the development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I · PARK2), with an expected MSW handling capacity of about 6 000 tonnes per day. Before the commissioning of these 2 WtE facilities, we still need the West

New Territories Landfill and the NENT/X for handling MSW in Hong Kong. At present, the remaining capacity of these 2 landfills is less than 20%. Based on the current daily waste intake, it is projected that both landfills will be exhausted in 2026. We are actively taking forward relevant extension works to cope with the ultimate waste disposal needs of the territory in the short to medium term.

4. As mentioned above, the EPD has taken various improvement measures, including advancing the final restoration and greening works of the NENT Landfill, originally scheduled for 2026 upon completion of its landfilling operation, with a view to improving the environment of the NENT Landfill and minimising the visual and odour impacts on nearby residents arising from the landfill. Furthermore, to ensure the construction, operation and restoration works of the landfill extension project will not cause any impact to the surrounding area and the environment, including air quality, water quality, noise, landscape and visual impacts, etc., the NENT Landfill Extension (NENTX) contract has included a series of environmental mitigation measures and environmental monitoring and audit (EM&A) requirements and a dedicated website has been set up by the contractor to facilitate the public to access the EM&A data and results.

To dovetail the landfill extension works with the overall planning and development of the Northern Metropolis, the EPD will continue to maintain close liaison and communication with relevant departments. Meanwhile, the EPD will strengthen the management of the landfill extension project and adopt a series of necessary mitigation measures to minimise the impacts of the landfill extension on the surrounding areas and environment as far as possible. Upon the commissioning of I·PARK2, the NENT/X will completely cease receiving MSW and will be transformed to receive construction waste only, which will not decay and be odourless, thus eliminating the odour problem arising from MSW reception. Besides, it is anticipated that a substantial amount of construction waste will potentially be produced during the development of the Northern Metropolis, which will require disposal at the NENT/X.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)059

(Question Serial No. 1590)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Waste management in Hong Kong

The Government is developing I-PARK1 at full steam and actively planning for the development of I-PARK2, with the former expected to be completed in 2025 and the latter after 2030. As the landfills are also mainly located in the New Territories, with one of them even located in the Northern Metropolis, please inform this Committee of the following:

1 Please give a brief account of the progress of the development of I-PARK2 in the coming year. Will measures be taken to expedite the progress?

2 In the future, 3 landfills in the New Territories will be closed one after another, and the incineration facilities will commence operation. How will the Government address the need for landfills for construction waste and incineration residue?

3 It is learnt that I-PARK1 cannot be further extended and I-PARK2 cannot be completed in the near future. Will the Government consider consulting the Central Authorities to jointly explore the possibilities of making reasonable use of the solid waste disposal facilities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and making good use of the spare capacity of the disposal facilities in the GBA, so as to deal with the existing municipal solid waste problem more quickly?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

Currently, about 11 100 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) are generated in Hong Kong per day. Apart from promoting waste reduction and clean recycling, the Government is working full steam on developing a network of waste-to-energy facilities to move away from the reliance on landfills for disposal of MSW.

Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 (I-PARK1), which is currently under construction near Shek Kwu Chau, is expected to commence operation in 2025 for handling 3 000 tonnes of MSW per day. We are also working on the investigation, design and environmental impact assessment study for Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I-PARK2) at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun, with an expected MSW handling capacity of about 6 000 tonnes per day. At the same time, we are drawing on the abundant experience of the

Mainland in developing waste incineration facilities to proceed with the development of I·PARK2.

In addition, we are taking forward the West New Territories Landfill Extension (WENTX) and the North East New Territories Landfill Extension (NENTX), with a view to commencing the waste intake in 2026 to dovetail with the projected exhaustion of the WENT Landfill and the NENT Landfill in 2026, and to cope with the ultimate waste disposal need of the territory in the short to medium term. Our plan is that, upon commissioning of the proposed I·PARK2, the NENT/X will completely cease receiving MSW and will be transformed to receive construction waste only. Construction waste will not decay and are odourless, thus eliminating the odour problem arising from waste reception. Besides, it is anticipated that a substantial amount of construction waste will potentially be produced during the development of the Northern Metropolis, which will require disposal at the NENT/X.

Grasping the opportunities brought by building a “Zero Waste Bay Area”, Hong Kong continues to work with the Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities to deepen exchanges and co-operation on “Zero-waste City” and resources circulation, and explores developing the GBA’s capacity and pattern of regional circular economy, in order to elevate regional capability in handling emissions and carbon reduction of solid waste as well as safety storage. Waste reduction and circular economy are part of the GBA’s significant development. Hong Kong can proactively participate in the GBA’s development on circular economy, further strengthen mutually beneficial co-operation in the GBA’s environmental industry and give impetus to green transformation in the area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)060

(Question Serial No. 0772)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding waste separation, food waste source separation, collection and recycling:

1) Please provide the amount of the funding allocated for and the number of projects applied for encouraging households to participate in waste separation, food waste collection and recycling in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023).

2) Regarding waste separation projects, please tabulate the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings participated in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023).

3) Regarding food waste collection projects, please tabulate the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings participated in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023).

4) Regarding recycling projects, please tabulate the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings participated in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2021, 2022 and 2023).

5) How will the Administration plan to further promote and encourage the use of the Environment and Conservation Fund by the community to promote environmental protection activities?

6) How will the Administration encourage the public to recycle food waste and plastic bottles, etc.? Please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1 - 4 & 6. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes, including the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste (the Programme), to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) provides recycling bins for free to residential buildings which have participated in the Programme directly through the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC). Hence, it does not involve the EPD's funding or budget estimate. As at the end of February 2024, there are over 2 700 housing estates / residential buildings participating in the Programme. Over the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24),

the numbers of premises newly participated in the Programme are tabulated below:

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (As at end-February 2024)
Number of new participants ^{Note 1}	Around 110 housing estates / residential buildings, covering 18 000 households	Around 130 housing estates / residential buildings, covering 87 000 households	Around 110 housing estates / residential buildings, covering 73 000 households

Note 1: Household numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand. As there are 16 and 14 large-scale public and private housing estates joining the Programme in 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively, the number of households covered in these years are larger.

The Green Outreach of the EPD assists housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the Programme to improve their recycling practices, and to arrange trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. As the aforesaid support from the Green Outreach is an integral part of the EPD’s daily work, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved. Regarding the above programme, as the ECF currently provides free recycling bins directly to the participating estates through the ECC, the concerned funding does not involve the EPD’s funding or budget estimate^{Note 2}.

Note 2: The ECF operates under the Environment and Conservation Fund Ordinance (Cap. 450), its funding support provided to non-profit-making organisations do not involve the expenditures in the government’s General Revenue Account “Head 44 - Environmental Protection Department” in the 2024-25 financial year.

Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment, and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling.

The actual/estimated operating expenditures incurred by GREEN@COMMUNITY in the past 3 financial years (2021-22 to 2023-24) are set out below:

Project ^{Note 1}	Actual/Estimated Operating Expenditure by Financial Year (\$M)		
	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)
Recycling Station ^{Note 2}	52	69	64
Recycling Store ^{Note 3}	174	201	218
Recycling Store set up in PRH estate ^{Note 4}	N/A	N/A	11

Note 1: Recycling Spots are operated by Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores. The operating expenditures of Recycling Spots are included in the operating expenditures of Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores.

Note 2: The number of Recycling Stations increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2021.

Note 3: The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation progressively starting from the fourth quarter of 2020, and the other batch of 10 Recycling Stores have been gradually put into service since early 2022.

Note 4: 8 Recycling Stores in PRH estates have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The operators have also set up temporary collection booths until those Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed six months ahead of the original target schedule. The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the ECF before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages, with a cumulative

usage of nearly 800 000 times. Besides the ECC has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of the housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering optimising the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. We anticipate that in the financial year 2024-25, with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF, over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates.

With the GREEN\$ points rewarded by the FWSRBs, members of the public can redeem gifts through the gift redemption machines or any recycling points of GREEN@COMMUNITY, thereby providing incentives to encourage residents to actively participate in food waste recycling. In addition, the EPD has placed public GREEN\$ cards at the information counter of the lobbies of PRH estates and private residential buildings for those in need to borrow, so that they can activate the FWSRBs. We are now arranging with the public and private housing estates concerned to attach the public GREEN\$ cards onto the FWSRBs for the convenience of non-GREEN\$ members to recycle food waste.

Apart from FWSRBs, the EPD also provides the traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at two Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active participation. As at February 2024, there were over 41 300 visits for food waste recycling. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or

single-block residential buildings, and clusters or restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public. As at February 2024, the Recycling Spots in Sha Tin District have been used for more than 2 100 times for food waste recycling.

The expenditure incurred under the food waste recycling initiatives is tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure (\$ million) ^{Note 1}	
	Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection ^{Note 2}	Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates
2021-22	39.9	0
2022-23	65.7	3.5
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	107.1	33.0
2024-25 (Estimate)	177.6	110.0

Note 1: Projects funded by the Recycling Fund, the ECF and the ECC are not included.

Note 2: The food waste collection service contracts covering Hong Kong Island (also includes the Islands District) and Kowloon (also includes Tsuen Wan District, Kwai Tsing District and Tseung Kwan O) commenced in September 2021 and February 2022 respectively, while the remaining two contracts covering the New Territories commenced in April 2023. The above is the expenditure incurred by the entire Pilot Scheme, including the setting up of public food waste collection points.

The distribution of FWSRBs by districts from 2021 to 2024 are as follow:

District	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as at end-February 2024)
Eastern	15	16	30 ^{Note}	34 ^{Note}
Central and Western	0	3	3	3
Southern	0	9	9	9
Wan Chai	0	0	0	0
Kowloon City	0	0	6	7
Kwun Tong	0	8	49	68
Sham Shui Po	0	0	20 ^{Note}	28 ^{Note}
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	32	42
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	2	2
Islands	0	0	10	10
Kwai Tsing	0	0	34	39
North	0	4	25	27

District	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as at end- February 2024)
Sai Kung	0	8	41	41
Sha Tin	0	0	53	83
Tai Po	0	0	9	9
Tsuen Wan	0	0	20	26
Tuen Mun	0	0	32	54
Yuen Long	0	0	26	64
Total	15	48	401	546

Note: Including 2 FWSRBs installed at the public collection point at GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN Recycling Stations.

To manage waste plastic beverage containers properly and effectively, the Government is preparing to launch the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons. We have consulted the stakeholders of the trade, and will continue to refine the regulatory proposals.

Furthermore, to pave way for the implementation of the PRS on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the EPD launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021 to assess the application of RVMs for recovering plastic beverage containers in Hong Kong. A total of 60 RVMs have been set up in public places, government facilities or shopping centres with suitable foot traffic. The number of RVMs increased to 120 from the third quarter of 2022. RVM provides an instant rebate (\$0.1 per plastic beverage container) via e-payment platforms to encourage the public to return used plastic beverage containers. Positive responses from the public have been received since the rollout of the RVM Pilot Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, over 92 million plastic beverage containers have been collected for local recycling.

5. The ECF provides funding support to local non-profit-making organisations to launch educational, research and other projects and activities in relation to environmental protection. To encourage the community to better utilise the ECF, we organise seminars, sharing sessions and workshops, and upload information on projects funded by the ECF to the relevant webpage for reference. Besides, we also collaborate closely with district organisations to enhance the promotion on waste reduction and resources recycling and encourage the public to practise green living. In addition, we will use the social media as a platform to further promote green messages and facilitate public participation in environmental protection and nature conservation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0773)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products starting from this April, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the details of the education and publicity programmes to be carried out this year to publicise this legislation and the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (2) the details of monitoring the enforcement of the legislation and the staff establishment and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation) will be implemented on 22 April 2024. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of publicity and training programmes to increase awareness of the regulation among the public and the trades. The details are as follows.

The EPD launched the “Cut Plastic Use” thematic website (www.cuttheplastics.hk) in January this year, which provides one-stop information for the public and the trades, including information on the regulation and the various options of alternatives to plastic products. Furthermore, since 1 February this year, we have been progressively releasing promotional videos and audios, trade-specific promotional clips, posters and advertisements, etc. about the regulation through various channels (including television, radio, public transportation stations and vehicle exteriors, restaurant storefronts, building lobbies and external digital screens, news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, etc.) Besides, we have proactively and promptly cleared up misconceptions and concerns of the public via various government websites and social media platforms, created infographics to address common questions, and set up hotlines to answer enquiries.

We have been maintaining close communication with various trades and providing appropriate assistance and support to them. As different trades have various concerns about the details of the regulation, since January this year, the EPD has been organising a total of 50 online and offline training sessions targeting at different sectors. To assist the catering trade in procuring compliant alternatives, we have engaged the Hong Kong Quality Assurance

Agency to establish a “Green Tableware Platform” (<https://www.greentableware.hk/>) early in January 2022. The EPD has been progressively conducting compliance surveys through visits to 20 000 small and medium-sized eateries, with a view to assisting them in understanding the regulation and adjusting their operation to comply with the regulatory requirements. Besides, since January this year, the EPD has distributed trade-specific promotional leaflets to approximately 11 000 retail stores and 1 800 hotels and guesthouses to help them better understand the regulatory requirements.

The first 6 months following the implementation of the regulation on 22 April will be designated as an adaptation period. During this period, the EPD will arrange staff to proactively inspect the operation of relevant business premises, focusing on promotion and education, as well as providing appropriate advice and information to assist the trades in complying with the requirements under the new legislation. We will also continue, through different channels, to promote various “plastic-free” campaigns which aim at reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware and encouraging the use of reusable ones among the public and the trades.

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditure and estimated expenditure of the EPD for the publicity and educational work of the regulation are \$17.8 million and about \$25 million respectively. The EPD will monitor the implementation of the regulation with the existing staff establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0774)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme), please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the numbers of application points and the related facilities under the Pilot Programme each year since its launch in 2020;
- (2) the quantities of recyclables collected each year since the launch of the Pilot Programme by type;
- (3) how does the Administration assess the effectiveness of the Pilot Programme? How will the implementation of the Pilot Programme be enhanced this year?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (1) To support smart city development, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in the fourth quarter of 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores since end-2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins have been progressively set up in housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has been increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units.

The numbers of application points and the related smart recycling devices under the Pilot Programme each year since its launch are tabulated below:

Year	No. of application points of smart recycling devices under the Pilot Programme ^{Note 1}	No. of smart recycling devices by type (set/unit)			
		Smart recycling bin (set) ^{Note 2}	Smart balance (unit)	Gift redemption unit (unit)	Total (set/unit)
2021	4	4	0	3	7
2022	175	9	171	38	218
2023	254	76	271	55	402
2024 (as at February)	296	76	271	60	407

Note 1: The application points under the Pilot Programme include the regular collection points of GREEN@COMMUNITY (i.e. Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots) and other premises installed with smart recycling bins and/or gift redemption units (such as housing estates, shopping malls, etc.) Some application points (such as collection points of GREEN@COMMUNITY) are installed with more than one type of smart recycling device.

Note 2: Each set of smart recycling bin comprises 2 to 6 compartments, depending on the requirements of each location and the space available therein.

- (2) The quantities of recyclables collected by smart recycling bins and smart balances at various application points each year since the launch of the Pilot Programme are tabulated below:

Recyclables	Quantity of recyclables collected by smart recycling bins each year (tonnes)			
	2021 ^{Note 2}	2022 ^{Note 3}	2023	2024 (as at February)
Paper	30.4	1.1	395.1	147.2
Metals	4.2	0.0	54.6	21.1
Plastic bottles	5.2	0.4	106.7	43.1
Other plastics ^{Note 1}	---	0.3	134.8	55.6
Glass bottles	16.9	0.6	69.3	23.9
Total quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)	56.7	2.4	760.5	290.9

Note 1: Compartments for “other plastics” were not available in the smart recycling bins during the initial phase of the trial.

Note 2: Technical trials on the smart recycling bins during the initial phase of the trial had been completed in January 2022.

Note 3: The installation of smart recycling bins for the current phase of the trial commenced progressively from November 2022.

Recyclables	Quantity of recyclables collected by smart balances each year (tonnes)		
	2022 ^{Note 1}	2023	2024 (as at February)
Paper	1 506.1	4 434.6	1 227.9
Metals	227.2	636.1	161.7
Plastic bottles	598.4	1 899.3	416.5
Other plastics	839.7	2 331.6	632.0
Glass bottles	953.7	2 550.0	598.3
Small electrical appliances	258.4	718.0	247.0
Fluorescent lamps and tubes	8.6	22.8	5.7
Rechargeable batteries	6.1	16.8	3.8
Beverage cartons ^{Note 2}	---	25.8	16.3
Total quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)	4 398.2	12 635.0	3 309.2

Note 1: Smart balances have been gradually set up in the recycling points of GREEN@COMMUNITY since May 2022

Note 2: Separate figures for beverage cartons have been recorded since September 2023.

- (3) Since the launch of the Pilot Programme, the EPD has been monitoring the usage and recycling data of the smart recycling systems at different locations. We are currently conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme, including the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, recycling effectiveness, the application scope, their role in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. Preliminary findings show that the operation of the smart recycling systems is generally smooth. The quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins is better than that of the conventional recycling bins and the public responses are also positive. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to fine-tune the Pilot Programme as appropriate, such as adjusting the locations and number of smart recycling bins.

To encourage more members of the public to participate in resources separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme (GREEN\$ ePIS) in October 2020. When depositing recyclables through smart balances and smart recycling bins in the community recycling network, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points and redeem daily necessities and groceries, as well as environmentally friendly products. As at the end of February 2024, the GREEN\$ ePIS had over 500 000 registered accounts. To further promote the GREEN\$ ePIS and increase its attractiveness, a pilot program was launched in collaboration with the MTR's carbon emission reduction reward platform Carbon Wallet in February this year. The pilot collaboration program allows GREEN\$ mobile app users to convert GREEN\$ points to Carbon Wallet points to redeem new rewards, including free single journey MTR tickets and local eco-tours, thereby providing more diversified reward options to GREEN\$ ePIS users. In addition, we are working on the inclusion of designated bags for municipal solid waste charging as a GREEN\$ reward option. We will continue to

explore other reward arrangements with more potential partners to encourage members of the public to integrate the habit of waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)063

(Question Serial No. 0787)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the amount of waste paper recovered through local waste recovery systems in the past 3 years (2021, 2022 and 2023);
- (2) the implementation details of further processing of waste paper for selling to various markets for recycling;
- (3) the progress of developing a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun and the expected waste paper treatment capacity.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

(1)&(2) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched a territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services in September 2020 by engaging multiple service contractors to collect 3 types of waste paper, including cardboard, newspaper and office paper, across the territory. The waste paper will undergo the processes of screening, sorting, baling, etc. locally before being delivered to various markets for recycling to paper products, thus turning waste into resources. This can ensure a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper while facilitating the steady development of the local waste paper recycling industry. Since the launch of the services, the response from the recycling market has been positive and the operation is running smoothly in general. The services not only ensure a stable outlet for local waste paper, but also facilitate the steady development of the local waste paper recycling industry. The quantity of waste paper recovered from 2021 to 2023 is tabulated below:

Year	Quantity of waste paper recovered (thousand tonnes)
2021	599
2022	580
2023 ^{Note}	571

Note: The amount recovered in 2023 is a preliminary figure and is pending verification.

- (3) The EPD has awarded a tenancy agreement for the development of a large-scale modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun in 2022. The construction work for the facility began in 2023 to commence operation in 2025 tentatively to process about 630 000 tonnes of local waste paper per year. There will then be more diversified outlets for local waste paper.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)064

(Question Serial No. 0788)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government will implement municipal solid waste charging on 1 August 2024. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

(1) the number of venues provided for the food and beverage industry to participate in food waste recycling, the number of restaurants participated, the quantity of food waste collected, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved in the past 3 years under the free Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection;

(2) the initiatives to be implemented this year to increase the number of restaurants participating in food waste recycling and the quantity of food waste to be collected, as well as the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including venues with restaurants, such as hotels, shopping malls, hospitals, club houses and tertiary institutions, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

To facilitate the recycling of food waste generated by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste recycling points at refuse collection points (RCPs) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme. In addition, the EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with

restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage (F&B) clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to other districts on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme. Nearby restaurants can arrange to deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling as needed. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will gradually increase.

The manpower involved in the Pilot Scheme is absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The expenditure incurred in the past 3 years and the estimated expenditure of this year, the number of venues in the F&B industry to participate in food waste recycling and the quantity of food waste recovered are set out in the tables below:

Expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme

Financial year	Expenditure (\$ million) ^{Note 1}
2021-22	39.9
2022-23	65.7
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	107.1
2024-25 (Estimate)	177.6

Note 1: The food waste collection service contracts covering Hong Kong Island (also includes the Islands District) and Kowloon (also includes Tsuen Wan District, Kwai Tsing District and Tseung Kwan O) commenced in September 2021 and February 2022 respectively, while the remaining two contracts covering the New Territories commenced in April 2023. The above is the expenditure incurred by the entire Pilot Scheme. The EPD does not have a breakdown on the expenditure involved for treating food waste from restaurants.

The number of venues in the F&B industry to participate in food waste recycling ^{Note 2}

Year	Number of venues in the F&B industry to participate in food waste recycling (e.g. hotels, shopping malls, club houses, RCPs, food waste recycling spots, etc.)
2021	134
2022	195
2023	413

Note 2: Venues participating in source separation and collection of food waste through Government funding and at their own cost have been covered. The EPD does not have the number of participating restaurants for each venue.

Quantity of food waste recovered from public and commercial & industrial premises ^{Notes 3 and 4}

Year	Quantity of food waste recovered (tonnes per year)
2021	48 986
2022	48 648
2023	58 260

Note 3: Quantity of food waste recovered refers to the total amount of food waste treated by Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O-PARK1) and the “Food Waste,

Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme” at the Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works in the respective year. Organisations/premises delivering food waste to the above facilities through Government funding and at their own cost have been covered.

Note 4: As the venues collecting food waste from the restaurants also receive food waste generated by other businesses within the same venue, such as supermarkets and market stalls inside shopping malls, it is therefore unable to separately measure the amount of food waste recovered from restaurants.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1552)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department proposed to continue reaching out to the community by the Green Outreach to provide on-site support to residents and property management companies, as well as organising promotional activities on municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, etc. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the expenditure and manpower involved in providing the Green Outreach service in the last fiscal year;
2. the number of promotional activities on MSW charging organised by the Green Outreach last year, the target audience and the number of participants;
3. whether a review of the Green Outreach service last year has been conducted; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons; and
4. the Green Outreach service and partnership programme in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The Green Outreach currently comprises 74 non-directorate professional staff (including Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Inspector grades) and 142 non-civil service contract staff. The annual expenditure incurred is about \$100 million.
2. To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that have

participated in the “Programme on Source Separation of Waste” to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to the community groups of women, foreign domestic helpers and new immigrants, etc. to educate and encourage them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has conducted about 154 000 community visits, established connections with more than 4 500 property management companies and residents’ organisations, which altogether provided waste reduction and recycling support for about 70% of housing estates/residential buildings and villages in Hong Kong. In addition, the Green Outreach has organised about 5 000 publicity and promotional activities in various forms, attracting over 410 000 participants.

The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging starting from August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage the public of different backgrounds (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging.

From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

3. The Green Outreach would review its work focus and scope of outreaching service from time to time, and make adjustment as necessary to support and facilitate the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling policies and initiatives. To facilitate the expansion of various waste reduction and recycling initiatives (e.g. the GREEN@COMMUNITY and food waste recycling network), the Green Outreach will strengthen the relevant publicity and promotional work, including promoting the new facilities and services of GREEN@COMMUNITY in districts where Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots have recently come into service, planning and organising community participation activities at Recycling Stations to engage the public in exploring the green community and strengthen the role of Recycling Stations in public

education, as well as promoting the new food waste smart recycling bin (FWSRB) services and demonstrating the use of FWSRBs in public rental housing (PRH) estates under the Food Waste Collection Trial Scheme in PRH Estates, etc.

4. In 2024-25, apart from continuing with the work stated above, the Green Outreach will also collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise various types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and MSW charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), so as to raise the law-abiding awareness of the public. The Green Outreach will also offer assistance to the primary and secondary schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity launched in early March this year to encourage students and their family members to actively practise resources separation for recycling and cultivate habits of waste reduction and recycling in their daily lives. Upon implementation of MSW charging, the Green Outreach will further expand the scope of their outreaching services. Apart from continuing with their on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, promotional activities and hands-on demonstrations will be conducted at various locations to help the public gradually adapt to MSW charging and change their waste disposal habits by separating resources properly for recycling. Besides, the Green Outreach will also pay attention to any non-compliance during daily work, conduct preliminary investigations upon receipt of non-compliance reports, persuade the public, in the form of promotion, education and guidance, to comply with the legislative requirements and offer advice to property management companies/cleansing contractors to help them improve the situation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)066

(Question Serial No. 1564)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With the implementation of municipal solid waste charging soon to commence, recycling will play an increasingly important role. However, many members of the public consider that the locations of GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities are too remote, making it inconvenient for them to recycle. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. In overseeing the waste-to-resources management strategies and projects, how many additional GREEN@COMMUNITY collection points will be provided for the convenience of the public to recycle?
2. Regarding food waste recycling, apart from the provision of food waste recycling bins, will there be more GREEN@COMMUNITY operators specialising in collecting food waste (including but not limited to food waste from residential and business areas, schools, etc.)? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-

block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024 until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong. Besides, to encourage more members of the public to participate in waste separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participating Incentive Scheme in 2020, and there are over 500 000 registered users as at the end of February 2024. When carrying out recycling at GREEN@COMMUNITY or through smart recycling bins, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points for redemption of gift items or daily necessities.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year’s Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year’s Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to special arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual districts for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and “three-nil” buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network to help the public practise waste separation and recycling properly.

2. The EPD is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme

on Food Waste Collection in 2021 by rolling out food waste collection contracts in phases. All interested food waste collection contractors may submit a tender, and it is not confined to GREEN@COMMUNITY operators. Through this pilot scheme, we progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

To facilitate the recycling of food waste produced by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at refuse collection points (RCPs) under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme. In addition, the EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po, and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme. Nearby restaurants can arrange to deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling as needed. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will gradually increase.

Regarding domestic food waste, the EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents’ participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages, with a cumulative usage of

about 800 000 times. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has commenced gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering optimising the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF.

In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. As at February 2024, these FWSRBs have been used for more than 41 300 times. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and RCPs).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public. As at February 2024, the Recycling Spots in Sha Tin District have been used for more than 2 100 times for food waste recycling.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)067

(Question Serial No. 1570)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With the increasing popularity of electric vehicles (EVs), it is expected that waste EV batteries will become a common problem for us all to tackle in the near future. Please inform this Committee of the specific details of the work in the treatment of EV batteries. What practical measures and plans are in place to treat waste EV batteries in both the private and public sectors?

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

Retired electric vehicle (EV) batteries (or waste EV batteries) are chemical waste, and have to be properly handled under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) (WDO) and its subsidiary legislation, Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354C). EV suppliers and designated maintenance workshops are required to register as chemical waste producers with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and arrange for proper packaging, labelling and storage of retired batteries that need to be handled. The retired batteries should then be sent to licensed chemical waste disposal facilities for preliminary treatment (including sorting, discharging and insulating) before being exported overseas for recycling. In Hong Kong, all the delivery and treatment processes should be handled by licensed chemical waste collectors and carried out at licensed disposal facilities. Besides, the export of retired batteries overseas for recycling is subject to waste import/export permit control under the WDO. The EPD will issue the permit provided that consent from the state of import and confirmation for the retired batteries to be recycled in an environmentally sound manner can be obtained. The disposal cost of retired batteries is borne by waste producers based on the "polluter-pays" principle, and the charging levels of individual collectors and disposal facilities are determined by supply and demand in the market.

In the past 5 years (2019-2023), a total of about 209 tonnes of retired lithium batteries from vehicles have been collected by local licensed disposal facilities for exporting to appropriate authorised treatment facilities overseas (such as South Korea and Belgium) for recycling. The breakdown is as follows:

Year	Total quantity (tonnes)
2019	16.3
2020	37.9
2021	32.4
2022	69.5
2023	53.0

The Government will establish a common legislative framework applicable to different products and look into gradually extending the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs) to 5 types of products, including EV batteries, based on a “market-led approach”. The EPD conducted consultations from June to October 2023 on the detailed proposal of the PRS on retired EV batteries, with about 50 companies or organisations participating, including EV suppliers, the Motor Traders Association of Hong Kong, EV maintenance workshops, EV owners associations, EV battery recyclers, etc. The EPD will continue to consult the trade and relevant stakeholders in order to fine tune the regulatory proposal. In addition, the EPD has conducted an open tender exercise for a site in the EcoPark to provide the industry with the land to develop recycling facilities for retired EV batteries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)068

(Question Serial No. 1571)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the popularisation of electric vehicles (EVs) and the enhancement of EV charging network, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please list in tabular form the respective utilisation rates of the charging facilities in government car parks when they were free and when charging fees are collected;
2. Please list out, among the car parks of subsidised housing projects (Public Rental Housing, Home Ownership Scheme and Green Form Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme projects) built in the past 2 years, the average percentage of parking spaces with charging facilities in the total number of parking spaces and the proportion of other parking spaces with space and infrastructure readily available for the installation of chargers;
3. What specific measures does the Administration have to promote the installation of EV charging posts in government buildings (including subsidised housing projects)? What specific measures will be used to set a reasonable fee?

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. In order to promote market participation in providing electric vehicle (EV) charging services, the Government has been progressively marketising the EV charging services in existing government car parks from the end of 2023 with the operators starting charging the users of the EV charging services. It is anticipated that the marketisation of the EV charging services will be completed by mid-2024. The average utilisation rates of the charging facilities in government car parks in the month before and after the introduction of fee-paying EV charging services are tabulated below:

Car park	Fee-paying EV charging services		
	Implementation date	Average utilisation rate in the month before the implementation	Average utilisation rate in the month after the implementation*
Kwai Fong Car Park	28-12-2023	18.5%	4.6%
Kennedy Town Car Park	29-12-2023	7.4%	2.9%
City Hall Car Park	23-01-2024	15.7%	4.7%

Star Ferry Car Park	23-01-2024	8.2%	6.8%
Aberdeen Car Park	25-01-2024	4.5%	2.7%
Lai Chi Kok Park	26-01-2024	29.0%	7.0%
Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	26-01-2024	31.0%	13.1%
Cornwall Street Park	29-01-2024	9.5%	3.9%
Lung Cheung Road Lookout	29-01-2024	22.2%	3.6%
Sheung Fung Street Car Park	30-01-2024	5.4%	2.5%
	Average	15.1%	5.2%

*Note: Data provided by EV charging service operators

As the marketisation of the EV charging services has just commenced, some of the government car parks are yet to implement the EV charging fee. Together with the fact that the EV drivers are still adapting to the changes brought about by the marketisation of the EV charging services, the data collected at this stage merely reflects the short-term changes in the utilisation rates of the relevant charging facilities. The actual usage can only be reflected in the figures after the fee-paying EV charging services have been introduced for a certain period of time.

2. As a financially autonomous public body, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) funds its public housing programmes with its own resources. Although the car parking facilities of the HKHA are not government buildings, all newly built car parks of the HKHA will be equipped with EV chargers. In the past 2 years, there have been no newly built subsidised housing project and Starter Homes project under the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority respectively.
3. As promulgated in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address, the Government would provide an additional 7 000 parking spaces with EV chargers in government buildings by 2025, taking the lead in providing charging facilities in government buildings to dovetail with the development of green transport.

To this end, the Government updated the Joint Circular on Green Government Buildings in March 2023, stipulating that all parking spaces for private cars, motorcycles and light goods vehicles (whether indoors or outdoors) within the boundaries of newly built government buildings with tender documents issued on or after 1 April 2023 must be fully equipped with medium EV chargers. As for existing government buildings, where technically feasible, efforts would be taken to provide EV charging facilities for all parking spaces for private cars, motorcycles and light goods vehicles.

To support government departments in marketising the EV charging services in their buildings, the Environment and Ecology Bureau plans to promulgate a relevant circular in 2024 for reference by government departments, which will include the proposed fee level for the EV charging services in government buildings.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)069

(Question Serial No. 2000)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

To promote high quality development in Hong Kong, the concept of green living has been embedded in various policy objectives and development strategies. In response to the spirit of the Paris Agreement, the HKSAR Government has included “waste reduction” as one of the four major target areas in both blueprints of “Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050” and “Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2030+”, among which include the municipal solid waste (MSW) charging scheme which has been postponed repeatedly. Some people cast doubt about whether the targets set out in the blueprints can be achieved. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Regarding further postponing MSW charging to 1 August 2024, what are the manpower and expenditures involved in strengthening the recycling support, publicity and education at community level? Have further work plans been drawn up?
2. Please provide details about the specific plan for providing waste-to-energy facilities in various districts. Have the expenditures involved been estimated? Regarding the waste-to-energy facilities currently in use, do they meet the expected targets? What is the effectiveness of these facilities in achieving the goal of “waste reduction”?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The work plans of the Government on strengthening the recycling support as well as publicity and education at community level and the relevant information are as follows:

Strengthening Recycling Support at Community Level

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. In 2024-25, the Government has earmarked about \$18 million for the collection of recyclables from recycling bins. Besides, the EPD is

continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and “three-nil” buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network to help the public practise waste separation and recycling properly.

The operating expenditures of GREEN@COMMUNITY include the manpower employed by the operating organisations, purchase or hire of vehicles for transporting recyclables, rental expenses (if applicable), etc., with rental expenses accounting for about 20% of the operating expenditures of Recycling Stores. The actual/estimated operating expenditures incurred by GREEN@COMMUNITY in the past 5 financial years and the financial year 2024-25 are set out below:

Project ^{Note 1}	Actual/estimated operating expenditure by financial year (\$m)					
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised estimate)	2024-25 (Estimate) ^{Note 6}
Recycling Stations ^{Note 2}	31	52	52	69	64	72
Recycling Stores ^{Note 3 & Note 4}	N/A	110 (21)	174 (35)	201 (41)	218 (46)	250 (47)
Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates ^{Note 5}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	91

Note:

1. Recycling Spots are operated by Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores. The operating expenditures of Recycling Spots are included in the operating expenditures of Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores.
2. The number of Recycling Stations increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2021.
3. The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation progressively starting from the fourth quarter of 2020, and the other batch of 10 Recycling Stores have been gradually put into service since early 2022.
4. The amount in the brackets are the rental expenses by financial year.
5. 8 Recycling Stores in PRH estates have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The operators have also set up temporary collection booths until those Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.
6. The estimated operational expenditure for GREEN@COMMUNITY projects in 2024-25 is approximately \$413 million. Depending on the operational performance of each GREEN@COMMUNITY project and the arrangements for their follow-on contracts, there may be adjustments to the estimated expenditure for GREEN@COMMUNITY projects beyond 2024-25.

Publicity and Education

To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the EPD set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging starting from mid-August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage the public of different backgrounds (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging. From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential

buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

The Green Outreach was set up in 2018 and its strength has been progressively enhanced to over 200 staff at present, comprising 74 non-directorate professional staff (including Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Inspector grades) and 142 non-civil service contract staff. The annual expenditure incurred is about \$100 million.

2. Apart from promoting waste reduction and clean recycling, the Government is working full steam on developing a network of waste-to-energy facilities to move away from the reliance on landfills for disposal of MSW. Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 (I-PARK1), which is currently under construction near Shek Kwu Chau, is expected to commence operation in 2025 for handling 3 000 tonnes of MSW per day. We are also working on, inter alia, the investigation, design and environmental impact assessment study for Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I-PARK2) at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun, with an expected MSW handling capacity of about 6 000 tonnes per day.

The Waste Infrastructure Division of the EPD is responsible for handling various waste infrastructure projects, including overseeing the management and operation of existing waste treatment facilities, overseeing the construction of waste facilities, as well as planning for new infrastructures, etc. We do not have a breakdown of the expenditures and manpower resources involved in the above projects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)070

(Question Serial No. 0967)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding Water Quality Objectives, please advise: how many cases of non-compliance with the Water Quality Objectives were there in the past 3 years (2021-22 to 2023-24) and what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Hong Kong is divided into a total of 10 Water Control Zones, each covering marine and inland waters and having a set of specific Water Quality Objectives (WQOs). "Marine waters" refer to all the waters connected to the sea, while "inland waters" refer to the environmental water bodies on land, including rivers, streams, watercourses, lakes, etc.

The WQOs are composed of a series of physical, chemical and biological parameters, and are used as the scientific benchmarks for measuring the state of health of the water environment and ecosystem to protect different beneficial uses of various waters. The key WQOs for marine waters include dissolved oxygen, unionised ammonia nitrogen, total inorganic nitrogen and *E. coli.*, while the key WQOs for inland waters include pH, suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, chemical oxygen demand and five-day biochemical oxygen demand. The Environmental Protection Department assesses WQO compliance rates every year based on data recorded at routine monitoring stations located within various waters of Hong Kong, making reference to relevant parameter limits and calculation methods as set out in the WQOs. The data are incorporated into the annual water quality reports.

In the past 3 years (2021 to 2023), the overall average WQO compliance rates for marine and inland waters in Hong Kong were 88% and 87% respectively, which were within the range of normal fluctuations. The non-compliance of WQOs for marine waters in Hong Kong was mainly observed in the land-locked waters with limited water exchange. The natural phenomenon of seasonal water column stratification could have resulted in changes in dissolved oxygen levels in the waters. The marine WQO compliance was also affected by the regional inorganic nitrogen background levels. Parts of certain rivers and watercourses in hinterlands were affected by discharges from livestock farms and surface runoffs from unsewered villages. In this connection, the Government will continue to strengthen its

efforts in implementing various pollution control measures and extending public sewer networks to unsewered villages progressively so as to improve the overall WQO compliance rates.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)071

(Question Serial No. 1066)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government promulgated the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” (the Blueprint) to advocate the vision of “Waste Reduction · Resources Circulation · Zero Landfill”, while municipal solid waste (MSW) charging will come into effect on 1 August this year. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Regarding the Blueprint, what are the respective work plan, manpower and expenditure for the 6 target areas, namely waste reduction, waste separation, resources circulation, industry support, innovation and co-operation, education and publicity?
2. Revenue will be generated from the implementation of MSW charging. In respect of the uses of such revenue by then, are there any plans and budget to promote the development of environmental facilities and the recycling industry, as well as to support and assist the community in enhancing waste reduction and separation at source? If yes, what are the plans?
3. At present, the EcoPark provides long-term sites for lease by the recycling industry at an affordable cost. The Government has also set aside short-term tenancy sites for use by the recycling industry. However, tenants of short-term tenancy sites have to deal with the problems of unstable business environments. As the Government is promoting waste reduction and separation in various aspects, how is the search for more long-term sites for use by the recycling industry?
4. What are the Government's long-term goals and strategies for the development of the recycling industry, as well as the plans and budget to assist the industry in upgrading and restructuring operations in the next 3 years?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. To implement the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” (the Blueprint), the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) have adopted a multi-pronged approach by following the strategies set out in the Blueprint, and have proactively taken forward the work on the promotion of waste reduction at source, waste separation and development of waste-to-energy facilities.

The EPD will allocate more resources for waste reduction and recycling work, and continues to operate and expand the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY (including setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 public rental housing (PRH) estates progressively), expand the food waste recycling network to cover the whole territory (including installation of food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in PRH estates and private residential buildings), as well as promote municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and clean recycling with the assistance from the Green Outreach, etc. To reduce waste plastics, the EPD will regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases starting from 22 April 2024.

Furthermore, the Government is implementing in full the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme as well as the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on waste electrical and electronic equipment and glass beverage containers, and will expand the coverage of the PRS on waste electrical and electronic equipment on 1 July 2024 to include refrigerators and washing machines with larger capacities as well as stand-alone clothes dryers and dehumidifiers. The Government will establish a common legislative framework applicable to different products and consider gradually extending the PRSs to 5 types of products, namely plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, electric vehicle batteries, vehicle tyres and lead acid batteries.

Meanwhile, the Government is working full steam on developing waste-to-energy/resources facilities, to reduce reliance on landfills for disposal of MSW.

Implementing the initiatives and work under various target areas of the Blueprint is an integral part of the work of the EEB (Environment Branch) and the EPD. We do not have a separate breakdown of the manpower resources. The estimated provision under the Waste Programme in the financial year 2024-25 is about \$6.3 billion.

2. The purpose of MSW charging is to encourage different sectors of the community to cherish resources and practise waste reduction and recycling in a more proactive manner. The Government has undertaken to allocate an amount of provision that will be commensurate with the revenue to be generated from MSW charging to promote waste reduction and recycling. The actual revenue generated from MSW charging will be used for continuously expanding the community recycling network, and implementing the Producer Responsibility Schemes and various resources circulation initiatives. In fact, about \$900 million had been allocated for carrying out waste reduction and recycling work in the financial year 2023-24 prior to the implementation of MSW charging.

Currently under the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY of the EPD, there are about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations. Besides, there are approximately 900 food waste collection points across the territory. In 2024-25, the EPD will continue to expand the community recycling network, including setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates progressively, to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8

of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN is expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024. The EPD will also expand the food waste recycling network to cover more public and private premises and progressively install more FWSRBs in the 200 or so PRH estates as well as private residential buildings of larger scale across the territory.

We will also put in additional resources in the future to enhance publicity and education work. The Green Outreach will continue with their on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise different types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and MSW charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), with a view to assisting various stakeholders in promoting waste reduction and recycling in the community and encouraging the public to incorporate source separation of waste and clean recycling in their daily lives.

3. Regarding the long-term land supply for the recycling industry, the EPD has been liaising with relevant departments to explore reserving land in different new development areas (including San Tin/Lok Ma Chau, Lam Tei, Artificial Islands in the Central Waters, Hung Shui Kiu, Lung Kwu Tan, Tuen Mun West, etc.) for use by environmental facilities or green industries, and to explore ways to improve land use efficiency through “single site, multiple use” model. We are also discussing with relevant departments on the feasibility of reserving land for the expansion of EcoPark in the “New Territories North New Town and Man Kam To Development” and the proposal has already been included in the concerned consultancy study.

Moreover, the Government is committed to supporting the recycling industry by identifying suitable sites exclusively used for recycling. Apart from the 20-hectare EcoPark at Tuen Mun, the Government has currently allocated 20 sites totalling 4.8 hectares to the recycling industry through short-term tenancies designated exclusively for waste recycling uses, as well as 4 berthing spaces at Public Cargo Working Areas for exclusive use by the waste paper recycling industry.

4. In support of the sustainable development of the recycling industry, the EPD set up the Recycling Fund in 2015, which has so far received an allocation of about \$2 billion. Through various funding programmes, the Recycling Fund assists the local recycling industry in enhancing its overall operational capabilities and productivity, and helps enterprises to upgrade and expand their recycling operation. The EPD and the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund have been reviewing the operation of the Recycling Fund from time to time so as to timely introduce different enhancement measures to meet the needs of the recycling industry in its operation, upgrading and transformation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)072

(Question Serial No. 1067)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government has been striving to expand the food waste collection network and has successively launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates and the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins (FWSRBs) in Private Housing Estates. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. At present, which PRH estates have been included in the list for installing FWSRBs? What is the schedule for completing the installation? Upon completion, what will the numbers and distribution of FWSRBs be in the PRH estates of Hong Kong respectively?
2. Some people pointed out that hygiene problems such as odour will occur after the FWSRBs come into operation. What are the numbers of relevant complaints received and FWSRB malfunctions reported respectively?
3. Regarding the complaints and malfunctions involving FWSRBs, which government department is responsible for handling and following up? What are the handling procedures and time required?
4. How are the private housing estates responding to the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates? As at February 2024, what are the number of applications received, the distribution of those housing estates by district and the progress of vetting and approval?
5. How many households are allocated with a FWSRB on average under the 2 trial schemes? What are the manpower, expenditure and estimated expenditure (including the cost for installation, maintenance and repair and management services) involved respectively?
6. What criteria will be used to assess the effectiveness of the implementation and trial run of the 2 schemes? Will the Government draw up a schedule for enhancing, allocating additional resources for and expanding the schemes? Will the Government study the feasibility of developing them into an emerging industry?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD), in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental

hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule. The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (i.e. 115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. For the name of the PRH estates, their respective districts, the numbers of FWSRBs provided, the service commencement dates and the location of the FWSRBs, please refer to the EPD's dedicated website at <https://www.foodwasterecycling.hk>.

- 2&3. The EPD attaches great importance to the operational conditions of FWSRBs, and regularly deploys staff to inspect the FWSRBs in place. The contractors also conduct routine inspections and maintenance for the FWSRBs. As at February 2024, we have received a total of 7 and 22 complaints regarding hygiene problems (such as odour) and machine malfunctions respectively under the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates and the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates respectively. The EPD immediately requested the contractors concerned to carry out on-site inspection to the operation of the FWSRBs and provide maintenance work. Upon inspection and maintenance by the contractor, the services could normally be resumed within 48 hours.
4. The Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Generally, the EPD will inform the applicants of the results within 2 months upon receipt of all the required application documents. As at February 2024, the EPD had received 94 applications from private housing estates (please see the table below for the distribution), and has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs.

District	No. of Housing Estates
Central & Western	2
Eastern	7
Southern	1
Wan Chai	0
Kowloon City	0
Kwun Tong	9
Sham Shui Po	1
Wong Tai Sin	7
Yau Tsim Mong	2
Islands	2
Kwai Tsing	2
North	9
Sai Kung	13

District	No. of Housing Estates
Sha Tin	15
Tai Po	2
Tsuen Wan	6
Tuen Mun	8
Yuen Long	8
Total	94

5. The estimated expenditure involved in the Food Waste Collection Scheme in PRH Estates is about \$110 million in 2024-25. Besides, there is an estimated allocation of \$13 million for the 2-year Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. At present, the Government mainly rents the FWSRBs from suppliers. The average monthly rental fee for each FWSRB is about \$2,000, which includes services fees for transportation, installation, inspection, repairs and maintenance, wireless network, software updates and replacement of consumables. On average, 500 to 900 households are allocated with a FWSRB. The manpower required for the above work is absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD.

6. To further enhance the operational stability of the FWSRBs, the contractors engaged by the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates have optimised and upgraded the hardware equipment and software system according to the instructions of the EPD. All maintenance work was completed in September 2023. The EPD will step up its publicity and promotion efforts for the public, closely monitor the usage of FWSRBs, proactively listen to the views of residents, and timely review the relevant schemes and the resources required. Unlike PRH estates, relevant stakeholders of private residential buildings (e.g. owners' corporations/owners' committees, property management companies) need to discuss and reach a consensus to participate in the Pilot Scheme before submitting their applications to the relevant government funding schemes. Whether the EPD will require additional resources to expand the schemes depends on the number of applications received.

The EPD has been paying attention to the development of food waste treatment technologies to enhance the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of food waste collection. The EPD has been collaborating with various government departments to install a locally developed food waste pre-treatment system ("Food TranSmarter") at suitable premises to convert food waste into slurry, which can be stored in sealed odour-controlled tanks for a few days before being delivered to the EPD's food waste treatment facilities for conversion into energy. Therefore, this system can help reduce the frequency of door-to-door food waste collection to once or twice a week, leading to a significant reduction in transportation costs.

In addition, to encourage all sectors of the community to actively participate in food waste recycling and apply innovative technologies/methods in food waste source separation, temporary storage, pre-treatment and recycling to handle food waste more efficiently and cost effectively, the ECF also provides funding support to individual projects to facilitate the application of new technologies in recycling. The Government will consider incorporating innovative and more cost-effective food waste treatment technologies in planning food waste treatment projects in the future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)073

(Question Serial No. 1373)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government promulgated in March 2021 the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles regarding the long-term policy objectives and plans to promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and their associated supporting facilities in Hong Kong in the future. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1- the number of registered EVs since the implementation of the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles;
- 2- the numbers of commissioned buses and light buses and their percentages in the existing buses and light buses in respect of public transport;
- 3- the number of commissioned taxis and their percentage in the existing taxis;
- 4- the number of existing EVs and their percentage in the existing vehicles;
- 5- whether the Government has adequately communicated with bus, light bus and taxi groups to promote EVs to them; if yes, of the meeting details since 2021, including the dates, groups involved and number of meetings.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- (1) & (4) According to the statistics of the Transport Department (TD), from March 2021 to the end of December 2023, the number of newly registered electric vehicles (EVs) was 58 219. As at the end of December 2023, the total number of EVs registered in Hong Kong was 76 395, representing about 8.3% of the total number of vehicles.
- (2) & (3) According to the statistics of the TD, as at the end of December 2023, the numbers of electric taxis, buses and light buses registered in Hong Kong and their percentages to the total number of registered vehicles of the same type are set out in the table below:

Vehicle type	No. of registered EVs	Total no. of registered vehicles	Percentage of registered EVs to the total no. of vehicles of the same type
Taxi	18	18 163	0.10%
Bus	94	14 004	0.67%
Light bus	6	7 765	0.08%

Note: Government vehicles are not included in the figures as government vehicles need not be registered.

- (5) The Government has been actively promoting the use of new energy vehicles to the transport trade, sharing the benefits of using new energy transport and encouraging the trade to apply for the New Energy Transport (NET) Fund to trial new energy transport technologies. On promoting the use of EVs, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department have maintained close communication and liaison with relevant stakeholders of the transport trade (including franchised bus, coach, light bus and taxi groups), and organised more than 100 briefings, workshops, seminars, etc. since 2021. Briefings were also held jointly with the TD to promote the NET Fund and the use of EVs to the transport trade.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)074

(Question Serial No. 1374)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to the Government's website, the funding earmarked for the applications received under the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) had reached the \$3.5 billion funding ceiling, and the application period for the EHSS was closed on 31 December 2023. All applications received afterwards will not be processed.

In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1- the amount of funding allocated for the EHSS in 2024-2025 and the expected number of applications to be approved;
- 2- the timetable to reopen the application in 2024.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The Government announced the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (the Roadmap) in 2021, aiming to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure (EVCEI) by or before 2025. To this end, the Government through: (1) the measure of gross floor area concessions to encourage the installation of EVCEI in parking spaces of newly built private buildings. The Government has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces, of which more than 30 800 parking spaces have been completed and equipped with EVCEI; and (2) the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to assist existing private residential buildings and housing estates in installing EVCEI in their parking spaces. With the relevant schemes and initiatives in place, we are confident in achieving the target of having at least 150 000 parking spaces equipped with EVCEI by 2025 as set out in the Roadmap and raise the number to over 200 000 parking spaces within this government term.

The EHSS was rolled out in October 2020, with a total funding of \$3.5 billion allocated in two phases. Since the funding earmarked for the applications received under the EHSS had reached the \$3.5 billion funding ceiling, the application period for the EHSS was closed on 31 December 2023, with a total of 788 applications received. It is anticipated that by the end of the 2027-28 financial year, the EHSS will be able to achieve the target of completing the installation of EVCEI for some 140 000 parking spaces in car parks of existing private residential buildings and housing estates.

As at the end of February 2024, the Environmental Protection Department has completed processing 732 applications, with 674 approved and 58 rejected. The processing of the remaining 56 applications will be completed within the first quarter of 2024. Based on the current progress, we expect that about 25 000 parking spaces will have the installation of EVCEI completed in 2024, and the estimated expenditure required for disbursing subsidies for the completion of installation in 2024-25 will be about \$800 million.

The EHSS has successfully promoted the installation of EVCEI in car parks of many private residential buildings and housing estates, while stimulating the market demand for charging facilities for electric private cars. In the future, the provision of charging facilities for car parks in private residential buildings and housing estates will be driven by the market, thereby further enhancing the charging network for electric private cars. The Government has no plan to inject additional funding into the EHSS or reopen the application at this stage.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)075****(Question Serial No. 1159)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

In order to reduce the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecology and human health and to mitigate climate change, the Government has been promoting recycling through various means. Regarding waste plastics recycling, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the total amount of waste plastics collected and recovered across the territory over the past 5 years by type of plastics (codes 1 to 7);
2. the amount of waste plastics collected through various means, such as the three-colour recycling bins, GREEN@COMMUNITY, the pilot scheme on collection of waste plastics, the Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Scheme, etc., over the past 5 years by type of plastics (codes 1 to 7);
3. the expenditure involved in the publicity and public education on waste plastics recycling and clean recycling over the past 5 years; and
4. the expenditure to be involved in the publicity and public education on waste plastics recycling and clean recycling in 2024-25.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)Reply:

1. According to the reports on "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong" compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the quantities of waste plastics recovered locally from 2018 to 2022 are tabulated below. The EPD does not have a breakdown of the quantities recovered by type of plastics (codes 1 to 7). The relevant figures for 2023 are still under compilation.

Year	Quantity of waste plastics recovered (thousand tonnes) ^[Note 1]		
	Quantity delivered outside Hong Kong for recycling (a)	Quantity recycled locally (b)	Total quantity (c)=(a)+(b)
2018	8	56	64
2019	3	74	77
2020	7	95	102
2021	0.4	104	104
2022	1	120	121

Note 1: Figures may not add up to the respective totals due to rounding.

2. The quantities of waste plastics collected through kerbside waste separation bins (kerbside recycling bins), GREEN@COMMUNITY and the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme over the past 5 years are tabulated below. The EPD does not have the detailed figures by type of plastics (codes 1 to 7).

Waste reduction and recycling programme	Quantity of waste plastics collected (tonnes)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Kerbside recycling bins	821 [Note 1]	896 [Note 1]	842	779 [Note 2]	339 ^[Note 2]
Community recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY ^[Note 3]	126	758	4 453	6 923	9 640 ^[Note 4]
RVM Pilot Scheme ^[Note 5]	N/A	N/A	400	640	1 120

Note 1: The EPD has taken over the management of kerbside recycling bins in public spaces from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department since 1 October 2020.

Note 2: The EPD reviewed the policy positioning and the way forward of kerbside recycling bins in public places in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman following the completion of its direct investigation into the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins in April 2022. The findings of the review show that the amount of recyclables from kerbside recycling bins in urban areas accounts for only less than 0.1% of the total amount of recyclables in Hong Kong. Moreover, these bins are prone to be misused by passers-by who mistakenly put in rubbish, litter, containers with leftover food or drinks, etc., thereby affecting the downstream recycling process of recyclables and causing environmental hygiene problems. With the development and continuous enhancement in the services of GREEN@COMMUNITY, coupled with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of kerbside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas has gradually diminished. Therefore, the EPD had progressively removed about 800 sets of kerbside recycling bins placed in urban areas in 2022. In view of the better quality of recyclables collected from kerbside recycling bins in rural areas, the EPD has retained about 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents in rural areas to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste papers and metals).

Note 3: The EPD has commenced a two-year pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling progressively since January 2020 in 3 districts, namely Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin, and further extended the scheme progressively since late March 2022 to 6 additional districts, namely Tai Po, Sai Kung, Central and Western District, Sham Shui Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun. The pilot scheme mainly collects non-commercial and non-industrial waste plastics from the community recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY in these districts for proper handling and recycling. The relevant quantities recovered have been included in the figures.

Note 4: The quantity of waste plastics collected in 2023 is preliminary data and the actual figure is still being verified.

Note 5: The EPD launched the RVM Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021.

3&4. GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Stations organise educational activities, workshops, carnivals, exchanges of second-hand items, etc. in respective districts from time to time to encourage the public to make good use of resources and educate the public on waste reduction as well as source separation and clean recycling. In 2023, GREEN@COMMUNITY held about 2 100 environmental education activities. To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the EPD set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the Programme on Source Separation of Waste to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women's, foreign domestic helpers' and new immigrants' groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling. As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has conducted about 154 000 community visits, established connections with more than 4 500 property management companies and residents' organisations, which altogether provided waste reduction and recycling support for about 70% of housing estates/residential buildings and villages in Hong Kong. In addition, the Green Outreach has organised about 5 000 publicity and promotional activities in various forms, attracting over 410 000 participants. In 2024-25, the Green Outreach will further strengthen the publicity and education work on waste reduction and recycling.

Publicity and public education on source separation (including plastics) and clean recycling are part of the daily work of the Green Outreach and GREEN@COMMUNITY. We do not have a breakdown of expenditures in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)076

(Question Serial No. 1160)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The quantities of plastic beverage containers collected under each stage of the Pilot Scheme by the 18 districts of Hong Kong;
2. The use of the donation of \$175,000 accrued since the launch of the Pilot Scheme; and
3. While Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme was launched in December 2023, the new contract was the most expensive among those of the 3 stages and the contractor had undertaken to provide enhanced RVM service. What is the processing speed, maintenance and cleaning frequency as well as urgent repair completion time of the new batch of RVMs?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. To pave way for the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the Environmental Protection Department launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021. A total of 60 RVMs have been set up in public places, government facilities and shopping centres with suitable foot traffic. The number of RVMs increased to 120 from the third quarter of 2022. Positive responses from the public have been received since the rollout of the Pilot Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, over 92 million plastic beverage containers have been collected under the Pilot Scheme for recycling locally. The numbers of plastic beverage containers collected in various districts during the 3 stages of the Pilot Scheme are tabulated below:

District	Stage 1 (from end-January 2021 to end-August 2022)(no.)	Stage 2 (from end-June 2022 to end-February 2024)(no.)	Stage 3 (from end-December 2023 to end-February 2024)(no.)
Central & Western	1 090 000	2 149 000	195 000
Eastern	2 017 000	5 320 000	398 000
Islands	521 000	1 241 000	66 000
Kowloon City	577 000	1 998 000	236 000
Kwai Tsing	1 172 000	2 476 000	169 000
Kwun Tong	3 700 000	4 608 000	616 000
North	1 362 000	3 288 000	32 000
Sai Kung	776 000	4 172 000	558 000
Sha Tin	2 231 000	7 156 000	147 000
Sham Shui Po	1 914 000	3 871 000	563 000
Southern	204 000	1 354 000	110 000
Tai Po	1 203 000	3 008 000	33 000
Tsuen Wan	2 130 000	3 833 000	268 000
Tuen Mun	862 000	4 902 000	67 000
Wan Chai	803 000	1 213 000	96 000
Wong Tai Sin	1 729 000	5 377 000	741 000
Yau Tsim Mong	949 000	2 664 000	346 000
Yuen Long	1 815 000	4 567 000	59 000
Total	25 055 000	63 197 000	4 700 000

2. There were 3 charitable organisations of different natures for members of the public to choose from during each stage of the Pilot Scheme. Besides caring for the environment, they may also choose to donate the rebate to designated charities. With more resources, the charities will be able to take care of people of different nationalities and strata with diverse needs in the community, thereby expanding the scope of beneficiaries and enabling the provision of more diversified assistance services. The beneficiary organisations concerned are tabulated below:

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
The Community Chest of Hong Kong	Yan Oi Tong	St. James' Settlement
The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Hong Chi Association	The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation
The Scout Association of Hong Kong	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	Agency for Volunteer Service

3. The contract sum for Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme (approximately \$87.8 million) is higher than that of Stage 2 (approximately \$40 million), mainly attributable to the extension of operation period for each RVM from 12 months to 24 months, and the introduction of a bonus scheme to boost contactors' performance under Stage 3. In addition, more stringent service requirements for RVM contractors have been imposed under Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme. The differences in contract requirements under Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Pilot Scheme are tabulated below:

Item	Contract requirements of the Pilot Scheme	
	Stage 2	Stage 3
Processing speed of RVM	10 plastic beverage containers per minute	15 plastic beverage containers per minute
Frequency of collection and handling of plastic beverage containers	No less than 3 times a week	Daily
Maintenance frequency	Once per month	Twice per month
Cleaning frequency	No less than 3 times a week	Daily
Urgent repair completion time	repair RVM malfunctions within 4 hours	repair RVM malfunctions within 3 hours

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1161)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

On 22 April 2024, the Government will put in place the newly amended Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance to regulate disposable plastic tableware. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The allocation of the estimated expenditure (including publicity for the public and the catering industry) and the staff establishment involved in taking forward the work;
2. The number of applications for registration from tableware suppliers received by the Secretariat of the Green Tableware Platform as well as the numbers of applications approved and rejected since its launch in January 2022;
3. The assessment details and criteria for inclusion to the list of qualified suppliers; and
4. The Department stated that the prices for non-plastic disposable tableware and the existing plastic disposable tableware are similar as shown in market surveys. However, the catering industry pointed out that the prices for the alternatives available in the market are still high. Please provide the details of the surveys and list out the highest, lowest and average prices of non-plastic disposable tableware in the surveys over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation) will be implemented on 22 April 2024. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of publicity and training programmes to increase awareness of the regulation among the public and the trades. The details are as follows.

The EPD launched the “Cut Plastic Use” thematic website (www.cuttheplastics.hk) in January this year, which provides one-stop information for the public and the trades, including information on the regulation and the various options of alternatives to plastic products. Furthermore, since 1 February this year, we have been progressively releasing promotional videos and audios, trade-specific promotional clips, posters and advertisements, etc. about the regulation through various channels (including television, radio, public transportation stations and vehicle exteriors, restaurant storefronts, building lobbies and external digital screens, news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, etc.) Besides, we have proactively and promptly cleared up misconceptions and concerns of the public via various government

websites and social media platforms, created infographics to address common questions, and set up hotlines to answer enquiries.

We have been maintaining close communication with various trades and providing appropriate assistance and support to them. As different trades have various concerns about the details of the regulation, since January this year, the EPD has been organising a total of 50 online and offline training sessions targeting at different sectors. To assist the catering trade in procuring compliant alternatives, we have engaged the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) to establish a “Green Tableware Platform” (the Platform) (<https://www.greentableware.hk/>) early in January 2022.

As the contractor of the Platform, the HKQAA will assess the information submitted by the suppliers, including material testing reports, certifications, product samples, etc., for each application of disposable non-plastic tableware products to be placed on the platform to ensure that the relevant products meet the non-plastic requirement under the regulation. If the application is approved, the information of the supplier concerned will be displayed in the List of Suppliers on the Platform. As at 10 March 2024, the Secretariat of the Platform has received applications for enrollment of non-plastic disposable tableware products from 132 tableware suppliers in total, of which applications from 64 suppliers have been approved, while the remaining applications are still subject to the submission of further supporting documents by the applicants. No applications have been rejected so far. Currently, the Platform has enlisted more than 720 compliant non-plastic tableware products verified by the Secretariat of the Platform.

The EPD has been progressively conducting compliance surveys through visits to 20 000 small and medium-sized eateries, with a view to assisting them in understanding the regulation and adjusting their operation to comply with the regulatory requirements. Besides, since January this year, the EPD has distributed trade-specific promotional leaflets to approximately 11 000 retail stores and 1 800 hotels and guesthouses to help them better understand the regulatory requirements.

The first 6 months following the implementation of the regulation on 22 April will be designated as an adaptation period. During this period, the EPD will arrange staff to proactively inspect the operation of relevant business premises, focusing on promotion and education, as well as providing appropriate advice and information to assist the trades in complying with the requirements under the new legislation. We will also continue, through different channels, to promote various “plastic-free” campaigns which aim at reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware and encouraging the use of reusable ones among the public and the trades.

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditure and estimated expenditure of the EPD for the publicity and educational work of the regulation are \$17.8 million and about \$25 million respectively. The EPD will monitor the implementation of the regulation with the existing staff establishment.

We have conducted 2 market researches over the past 3 years, in 2022 and early 2024 respectively, to enquire about the prices of disposable non-plastic tableware or the corresponding plastic tableware for takeaway from about 50 Mainland and local tableware suppliers. The relevant market research results for January 2024 are tabulated below:

Unit price of disposable plastic tableware (\$)				Unit price of disposable non-plastic tableware (\$)			
Tableware	Lowest	Highest	Average price ^{Note 1}	Tableware	Lowest	Highest	Average price ^{Note 1}
Plastic straws	0.02	0.14	0.06	Paper straws	0.07	0.13	0.10
Plastic stirrers	0.02	0.14	0.06	Wooden stirrers	0.03	0.13	0.07
Plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons)	0.06	0.34	0.20	Wooden cutlery (forks, knives, spoons)	0.1	0.37	0.25
Expanded polystyrene (EPS) plates	0.3	0.48	0.37	Paper/plant-fibre plates	0.29	0.55	0.44
Plastic plates	0.32	1.2	0.87				
Plastic cups ^{Note 2}	0.4	1.0	0.55	Not applicable (Plastic cups/containers for takeaway can still be used after implementation of the regulation, but not EPS containers)			
EPS containers ^{Note 2}	0.34	0.52	0.45				
Plastic containers ^{Note 2}	0.48	0.66	0.58				

Note 1: Calculated by averaging the prices of all products of the same type collected in the market research

Note 2: Including cup lids/container covers

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)078

(Question Serial No. 1163)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Since 2019, the Government has launched the “EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme” to increase the number of electric vehicle charging infrastructure available in Hong Kong. Will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the total number of applications received by the scheme since its inception, the number of applications placed on the waiting list because the funding could not be covered, the number of applications rejected, and the reasons for their rejection;
- (2) the number of private parking spaces that have successfully installed electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure, and the number of the private parking spaces that have had their applications approved but have yet to begin construction, listed out by year and by the 18 districts;
- (3) the average subsidy provided to applicants by year since the inception of the scheme; and
- (4) the average time taken from the approval of the funding application to the completion of the installation works.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

- (1) The Government announced the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (the Roadmap) in 2021, aiming to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure (EVCEI) by or before 2025. To this end, the Government through: (1) the measure of gross floor area concessions to encourage the installation of EVCEI in parking spaces of newly built private buildings. The Government has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces, of which more than 30 800 parking spaces have been completed and equipped with EVCEI; and (2) the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to assist existing private residential buildings and housing estates in installing EVCEI in their parking spaces. With the relevant schemes and initiatives in place, we are confident in achieving the target of having at least 150 000 parking spaces equipped with EVCEI by 2025 as set out in the Roadmap and raise the number to over 200 000 parking spaces within this government term.

The EHSS was rolled out in October 2020, with a total funding of \$3.5 billion allocated in two phases. Since the funding earmarked for the applications received under the EHSS had reached the \$3.5 billion funding ceiling, the application period for the EHSS was closed on 31 December 2023, with a total of 788 applications received. As at the end of February 2024, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has completed processing 732 applications, with 674 approved and 58 rejected (including 37 applications failed to submit the required documents, 16 applications failed to meet the eligibility criteria and 5 applications withdrawn by applicants). The processing of the remaining 56 applications will be completed within the first quarter of 2024. Based on the current progress, we expect that about 25 000 parking spaces will have the installation of EVCEI completed in 2024, and the estimated expenditure required for disbursing subsidies for the completion of installation in 2024-25 will be about \$800 million. It is anticipated that by the end of the 2027-28 financial year, the EHSS will be able to achieve the target of completing the installation of EVCEI for some 140 000 parking spaces in car parks of existing private residential buildings and housing estates.

- (2) As at the end of February 2024, among the approved cases, the numbers of parking spaces with EVCEI installation works (i) not yet commenced, (ii) commenced but not yet completed, and (iii) completed are tabulated below by year and by the 18 districts:

Year	(i) No. of parking spaces of approved applications with installation works not yet commenced	(ii) No. of parking spaces with installation works commenced but not yet completed	(iii) No. of parking spaces with installation works completed
2021	53 030	0	0
2022	74 223	752	85
2023	115 352	6 581	7 009
2024 (as at the end of February)	124 294	6 579	8 514

District	(i) No. of parking spaces of approved applications with installation works not yet commenced	(ii) No. of parking spaces with installation works commenced but not yet completed	(iii) No. of parking spaces with installation works completed
Central & Western	6 904	1 665	1 673
Eastern	9 332	158	574
Southern	8 307	0	98
Wan Chai	8 098	798	955
Kowloon City	12 889	205	411
Kwun Tong	2 287	0	0
Sham Shui Po	3 059	14	0
Yau Tsim Mong	9 255	1 133	302
Wong Tai Sin	493	0	574
Islands	2 331	0	0

District	(i) No. of parking spaces of approved applications with installation works not yet commenced	(ii) No. of parking spaces with installation works commenced but not yet completed	(iii) No. of parking spaces with installation works completed
Kwai Tsing	1 866	321	0
North	2 126	0	0
Sai Kung	5 779	356	929
Sha Tin	16 697	880	884
Tai Po	5 221	71	513
Tsuen Wan	12 265	468	315
Tuen Mun	8 720	379	775
Yuen Long	8 665	131	511
Total	124 294	6 579	8 514

- (3) Under the EHSS, the total subsidy for each successful application depends on factors such as the size of the carpark, the scale and complexity of the installation works, etc., with the ceiling of subsidy set at \$30,000 per eligible parking space, or \$15 million for the entire project (whichever is lower). The approved applications have started completing the installation of EVCEI progressively from 2022 onwards. The average amount of subsidy disbursed to applications with installation works completed in 2022 and 2023 were about \$25,000 and \$28,000 per eligible parking space respectively.
- (4) Upon approval of the EHSS applications, applicants are required to engage consultants and contractors to design and install EVCEI through open tendering. It takes time for the applicants to conduct the tendering exercise, resolve the technical issues related to the installation works, as well as liaising with parking space owners to reach consensus over the detailed design of the installation. The time required depends on the actual circumstances of each case. During the process, the EPD will provide advice and technical support in the works design and installation of EVCEI with a view to facilitating engagement of contractors by applicants to commence the installation works as soon as possible. Among the cases approved by the EPD with the installation works successfully completed, the time between approval of the EHSS applications and completion of the installation works ranges from around 18 to 30 months.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)079

(Question Serial No. 1178)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department has established a community recycling network over the territory through the GREEN@COMMUNITY initiative. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The respective numbers of visits and operating expenditures of the Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots over the past 3 years;
2. The estimated operating expenditures of the Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots in 2024-25;
3. The quantity of recyclables collected by the Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots over the past 3 years by type (such as paper, glass, regulated electrical equipment, etc.);
4. Does the Administration have any plan to expand the network of Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots in the coming 3 years? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

(1)&(2)

The respective numbers of visitors to the Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots in the past 3 years are set out below:

Project	Number of visitors (million)		
	2021	2022	2023 ^{Note 2}
Recycling Stations	About 0.8	About 0.89	About 0.91
Recycling Stores	About 3	About 4.4	About 4.5
Recycling Spots ^{Note 1}	-	About 0.4	About 1.1

Note 1: The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) does not have the number of visitors to the Recycling Spots in 2021.

Note 2: The numbers of visitors in 2023 are preliminary data and the actual figures are still being verified.

The actual/estimated operating expenditures incurred by various GREEN@COMMUNITY projects in the past 3 financial years and the financial year 2024-25 are set out below:

Project ^{Note 1}	Actual/Estimated Operating Expenditure by Financial Year (\$Million)			
	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	2024-25 (Estimate)
Recycling Station ^{Note 2}	52	69	64	72
Recycling Store ^{Note 3}	174	201	218	250
Recycling Store set up in public rental housing (PRH) estate ^{Note 4}	N/A	N/A	11	91

Note 1: Recycling Spots are operated by Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores. The operating expenditures of Recycling Spots are included in the operating expenditures of Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores.

Note 2: The number of Recycling Stations increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2021.

Note 3: The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation progressively starting from the fourth quarter of 2020, and the other batch of 10 Recycling Stores have been gradually put into service since early 2022.

Note 4: 8 Recycling Stores in PRH estates have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The operators have also set up temporary collection booths until those Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

(3)

The quantities of each type of recyclables collected by Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and their Recycling Spots in the past 3 years are set out below:

Recyclables	Recycling Stations Approximate Quantity of Recyclables Collected (tonnes)		
	2021	2022 ^{Note 1}	2023 ^{Note 2}
Regulated electrical equipment	364	326	370
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)	336	385	500
Glass containers	3 146	3 628	3 520
Rechargeable batteries	14	13	15
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	25	26	26
Waste paper	753	1 024	1 690
Waste plastics	677	973	1 600
Waste metals	125	156	230
Beverage carton	34	43	57

Note 1: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2022 are revised data.

Note 2: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2023 are preliminary data and the actual figures are still being verified.

Recyclables	Recycling Stores Approximate Quantity of Recyclables Collected (tonnes)		
	2021	2022 ^{Note 1}	2023 ^{Note 2}
Regulated electrical equipment	262	360	430
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)	528	740	920
Glass containers	1 522	2 290	3 020
Rechargeable batteries	6	17	24
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	7	29	30
Waste paper	2 432	3 870	5 380
Waste plastics	3 776	5 950	8 040
Waste metals	385	660	810
Beverage carton	90	130	160

Note 1: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2022 are revised data.

Note 2: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2023 are preliminary data and the actual figures are still being verified.

(4)

The EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling.

The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and

“three-nil” buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network.

Furthermore, in the planning of new refuse collection points (RCPs), the EPD will include recycling facilities or set up Recycling Stores at these RCPs as far as practicable to facilitate the public in carrying out clean recycling simultaneously during waste disposal. Recycling Stores under GREEN@COMMUNITY will be set up in the RCPs at Hung Yuen Road, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long and Anderson Road, Sai Kung, both of which are currently under construction and the construction works are expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and the end of 2025 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)080

(Question Serial No. 1180)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the explanatory and publicity work on the implementation of municipal solid waste charging, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide the details of the Government's publicity works (including any form of advertisement, briefing, thematic training for frontline staff of the relevant sectors) since the relevant legislation was passed at the end of August 2021, and the expenditure and staff establishment involved with a detailed breakdown; and
2. Please provide the details of the publicity work planned to be carried out in the coming 6 months, and the estimated expenditure and staff establishment to be involved with a detailed breakdown.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

Since the legislation was passed at the end of August 2021, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been conducting various explanatory and publicity work on the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging to enhance the public and related sectors' understanding and awareness of the scheme. The details are as follows:

- (1) The EPD has publicised the Best Practice Guides and tutorial videos and organised briefings and thematic trainings on the operation for stakeholders from various sectors, including the property management and environmental hygiene trades, waste collection trade, commercial and retail trades, chambers of commerce, catering trade, hotel trade, recycling trade, owners' organisations, rural stakeholders, fishermen organisations, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, associations of the heads of primary and secondary schools, theme parks, etc. About 450 meetings and briefings have been held so far, reaching out to more than 36 000 stakeholders from different sectors, so as to enhance their participation and facilitate their understanding of MSW charging.
- (2) The EPD has produced training videos for different trades such as the catering and hotel trades (including large-, medium- and small-sized restaurants, food courts, food processing factories, hotels, etc.), other commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors

(including C&I buildings, shopping malls, markets, hospitals, secondary and primary schools, universities, residential care homes for the elderly, private waste collectors, etc), foreign domestic helpers and property management trade on domestic oversized waste. The training videos have been promulgated on the MSW charging thematic website progressively since February 2024.

- (3) The EPD, together with other government departments and organisations, has launched trial projects on MSW charging in different sectors (including public rental housing (PRH) estates, rural villages, shopping malls, catering trade and government premises) to allow participants to get first-hand experience of the quantity-based charging arrangements.
- (4) The EPD has launched the “Waste Separation Projects to Pave the Path for MSW Charging” (Community Involvement Projects) with the support of the Environment and Conservation Fund. These projects allow non-profit making organisations and bodies to gain first-hand experience of implementing MSW charging in different types of premises (including “three-nil” building, C&I premises, single-block buildings, public institutions, residential estates with property management companies, rural areas and other low-density premises). To date, 347 projects have been carried out, involving a total of approximately 1 820 premises.
- (5) Starting from August 2023, the EPD has been publicising the implementation date and arrangements of MSW charging through the media in phases under the theme of “Recycle More, Dump Less, Save More” for the general public, C&I sectors and public institutions.
- (6) The EPD has engaged actors Louis Cheung, “Isabella-kwan” and Maria Cordero to participate in the production of Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), posters, leaflets, banners, online short videos, etc.
- (7) The EPD has broadcast APIs on television and radio for about 4 000 times.
- (8) The EPD has broadcast promotional videos on over 9 000 display monitors at public transport stations, on vehicles, at shopfronts of restaurants and at lift lobbies.
- (9) The EPD has displayed about 4 000 promotional banners and posters at roadsides, government facilities, PRH estates and public transport such as buses, public light buses, ferries and stations in various districts, and displayed online advertisements on about 100 mobile applications and websites relating to news and everyday matters.
- (10) After the establishment of the new-term District Councils (DCs) and the District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams), the EPD has organised a number of briefing sessions for policy explanation and distributed leaflets and designated bags of MSW charging to all DC Members and Care Teams to facilitate their explanation of the MSW charging policy to the public in their daily district work. Staff members from the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the EPD have so far attended more than 40 briefings organised by Legislative Council Members, DC Members, District Offices and local personalities, reaching out to over 3 200 people.

- (11) The EPD's Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in support of waste reduction and recycling work in the districts. The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of MSW charging starting from August 2023 through promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets, etc.) to engage different groups (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to enhance public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging. As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has held about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were held covered almost 80% of the local population.

In addition to the publicity and education initiatives mentioned above, the EPD will strengthen its publicity efforts in 2024-25 on the complementary initiatives and measures that the Government has put in place for the implementation of MSW charging, and will also continue to publicise the operational arrangements and details of MSW charging as well as the retail network of designated bags and designated labels, encourage the public to comply with legislative requirements, and step up the publicity for specific groups (such as foreign domestic helpers, the elderly, ethnic minorities and students). The details of new publicity and promotional initiatives are as follows:

- (1) The MSW charging Demonstration Scheme has been implemented on 1 April. The Demonstration Scheme aims at pragmatically examining the problems that may arise during the implementation of MSW charging, reviewing the processes and actual practices of different stakeholders including waste producers, frontline cleansing staff, waste collectors, etc., in disposal of waste under different settings with MSW charging in place, as well as collecting their views, observing their preparedness on MSW charging implementation and possible problems they may encounter, and consolidating and evaluating relevant data. It is believed that the experience and outcome of the Demonstration Scheme will assist the Government in better grasping the overall situation.
- (2) The EPD will explain the MSW charging policy to all DCs, and organise briefing sessions for Care Teams, foreign domestic helper groups, ethnic minorities and foreigners. The EPD will also provide publicity materials on MSW charging and 15-litre designated bags to all DC Members and Care Teams through the District Offices, so as to facilitate their mobilisation of district forces to explain the policy to the public at the community level, such as setting up street booths and distributing leaflets.
- (3) The EPD is collaborating with television and radio media, as well as other platforms, to publicise different waste reduction policies, including food waste disposal, the recycling network and the enforcement of MSW charging, and address misconceptions about MSW charging from various sectors through news features and street interviews.

- (4) The EPD is collaborating with representatives of various stakeholders and celebrities to produce short videos to encourage the public to practise waste reduction and recycling and to share their experience in preparing for MSW charging.
- (5) The EPD is preparing simple and easily comprehensible infographics targeting various groups (e.g. residents in different types of residential buildings, various trades such as restaurants, shopping malls, property management companies and cleansing contractors). The infographics for different types of residential buildings will be available in 8 languages in addition to Chinese and English, and the relevant publications will be disseminated through various channels.
- (6) The EPD is distributing promotional leaflets and 15-litre designated bags to the elderly through elderly centres in the territory to enable them to have a better understanding of the specific practices of MSW charging. Additionally, the EPD is arranging seminars and broadcasting APIs in elderly centres.
- (7) The EPD will design comics for primary and secondary school students and disseminate information on MSW charging to them to promote waste reduction at source and clean recycling. The department will distribute 1 15-litre pre-paid designated bag to each of the around 350 000 primary school students, thereby bringing the message of MSW charging from schools to homes for more effective penetration to every household.
- (8) The EPD will invite columnists to write commentaries to disseminate the details of MSW charging to various groups.
- (9) The EPD will have the information on MSW charging included in utility bills (e.g. water, electricity and gas bills).
- (10) The EPD will employ 102 temporary agency workers to undertake publicity, education and advisory work during the phasing-in period after the implementation of MSW charging, in order to further enhance the publicity effect.

The expenditure involved in the promotion, publicity and education work completed so far since the financial year in which the relevant legislation was passed at the end of August 2021 is approximately \$30.3 million.

The estimated expenditure related to publicity work for the implementation of MSW charging in 2024-25 is approximately \$33.2 million.

The implementation of MSW charging involves 72 civil service posts, of which the publicity and promotion work is an integral part of the EPD's work and is undertaken by the existing staff. We do not have a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)081

(Question Serial No. 3282)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the applications processed under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance, please advise:

- 1) The titles of projects under different types of application and the respective assessment progress over the past 3 years (from 2021-22 to 2023-24);
- 2) What are the estimated expenditure and staff establishment for processing such applications in 2024-25?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The titles of projects under different statutory applications of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) as handled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the respective assessment progress in the past 3 years (from 2021-22 to 2023-24) are set out in Annex 1.

As processing the statutory applications under the EIAO is an integral part of the EPD's routine work on managing designated projects, we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Annex 1 — Projects with applications under different processes of the EIAO as handled by the EPD and the respective progress in the past 3 years (from 2021-22 to 2023-24) (as at 13 March 2024)

Type	Title of project	Year	Status
EIA Study Brief	Traffic Improvement Scheme in Tuen Mun – Widening and Addition of slip roads at Lung Fu Road / Tuen Mun Road / Wong Chu Road / Hoi Wing Road	2021-22	Issued
	San Tin / Lok Ma Chau Development Node	2021-22	Issued
	Remaining Phase Development of the New Territories North (NTN) - NTN New Town and Man Kam To	2021-22	Issued
	Airport Tung Chung Link Project	2021-22	Issued
	Widening of Tsuen Wan Road and the associated junction improvement works	2021-22	Issued
	Proposed Residential Development at Lot No. 2 in D.D.228 near Pak Fa Lam Road, Sai Kung	2021-22	Issued
	Hudson Environmental Waste Disposal Center (Waste Mineral Oil)	2021-22	Issued
	Northern Link	2021-22	Issued
	Construction of Annex Block at Hong Kong Observatory Headquarters, Tsim Sha Tsui	2021-22	Issued
	Tuen Mun Bypass	2021-22	Issued
	Reclamation for Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands	2021-22	Issued
	Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands Development	2021-22	Issued
	Hong Kong Island – Northeast Lantau Link	2021-22	Issued
	Route 11 (Section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)	2021-22	Issued
	Development of Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2	2021-22	Issued
	Development at Lam Tei North East	2022-23	Issued
	Underground Quarrying at Lam Tei, Tuen Mun	2022-23	Issued
	Widening of Yuen Long Highway (Section between Lam Tei Quarry and Tong Yan San Tsuen Interchange)	2022-23	Issued
	Expansion of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter	2022-23	Issued
	Relocation of Yau Tong Group Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs to Caverns	2022-23	Issued
	Tsing Yi – Lantau Link	2023-24	Issued
	Development of Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Associated Reclamation Sites	2023-24	Issued

Type	Title of project	Year	Status
	Ma Liu Shui Reclamation	2023-24	Issued
	Provision of Crematorium at Wo Hop Shek Cemetery	2023-24	Issued
	Development at Ngau Tam Mei Area	2023-24	Issued
	Development of Lok Ma Chau Loop - Eastern Connection Road	2023-24	Under consideration
	Development of Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I • PARK2)	2023-24	Under consideration
Permission to apply directly for an Environment Permit	Installation of the Proposed 132kV Cable Circuits Connecting with Ho To West Substation and Existing 132kV Fanling to Mai Po Cable Circuits	2021-22	Issued
	Asia Direct Cable System – Hong Kong Segment (ADC-HK) – Chung Hom Kok	2021-22	Issued
	Desilting Works at Pui O River	2021-22	Issued
	Removal of 132kV Overhead Line and Pylons for P-Line	2021-22	Issued
	Peng Chau Cable System	2021-22	Issued
	Lamma Island Cable System	2021-22	Issued
	Installation of Proposed Cable Route from Cheung Sha to Tung Chung Town	2022-23	Issued
	Cheung Chau Submarine Cable System	2022-23	Issued
	Development of a Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility and Minor Modifications and Enhancement Works at North Lantau Transfer Station	2022-23	Withdrawn by applicant
	Development of a Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility and Minor Modifications and Enhancement Works at North Lantau Transfer Station	2022-23	Issued
	Decommissioning of Remaining Portion of Middle Ash Lagoon in Tsang Tsui	2022-23	Issued
	Ground Investigation Works within Tai Lam Country Park for Route 11 (Section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)	2022-23	Issued
	Light Public Housing at Yau Pok Road, Yuen Long	2023-24	Issued
	Airport Railway Extended Overrun Tunnel	2023-24	Issued
	Relocation of Tsuen Wan No. 2 Fresh Water Service Reservoir to Caverns	2023-24	Issued
	Removal of 132kV Overhead Line and Pylons for B-Line and W-Line	2023-24	Issued
Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Works at Ng Tung Chai Along Lam Kam Road, Tai Po	2023-24	Under consideration	

Type	Title of project	Year	Status
	Integrated Wheelset Maintenance Centre at Ho Man Tin Siding	2023-24	Under consideration
	Ground Investigation Works for Northern Link within Lam Tsuen Country Park and Conservation Area	2023-24	Under consideration
Approval of EIA Report	Relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs to Caverns	2021-22	Issued
	Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel	2021-22	Withdrawn by applicant
	Revised Trunk Road T4 in Sha Tin	2021-22	Issued
	Mai Po Nature Reserve Infrastructure Upgrade Project	2021-22	Issued
	Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat)	2021-22	Withdrawn by applicant
	Re-provision of Open Cycle Gas Turbines at Lamma Power Station	2021-22	Issued
	Tung Chung Line Extension	2021-22	Issued
	Yuen Long South Effluent Polishing Plant	2021-22	Issued
	Tuen Mun South Extension	2021-22	Issued
	Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat)	2021-22	Issued
	Hung Shui Kiu Effluent Polishing Plant	2022-23	Issued
	Technical Study on Partial Development of Fanling Golf Course Site – Feasibility Study	2022-23	Issued
	Drainage Improvement Works in Ta Kwu Ling	2022-23	Issued
	New Contaminated Sediment Disposal Facility to the West of Lamma Island	2022-23	Issued
	Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel	2022-23	Issued
	Upgrading of Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works	2022-23	Issued
	Revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah	2022-23	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi	2022-23	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Outer Tap Mun	2022-23	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Mirs Bay	2022-23	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Po Toi (Southeast)	2022-23	Issued
	Revitalisation of Tai Wai Nullah	2022-23	Issued
Traffic Improvement Scheme in Tuen Mun – Widening and Addition of slip roads at Lung Fu Road / Tuen Mun Road / Wong Chu Road / Hoi Wing Road	2022-23	Issued	

Type	Title of project	Year	Status
	Drainage Improvement Works in Mui Wo	2023-24	Issued
	Airport Tung Chung Link Project	2023-24	Issued
	Widening of Tsuen Wan Road and the Associated Junction Improvement Works	2023-24	Issued
	Route 11 (Section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)	2023-24	Issued
	Tuen Mun Bypass	2023-24	Issued
	Improvement to So Kwun Po Interchange	2023-24	Issued
	Widening of Yuen Long Highway (Section between Lam Tei and Tong Yan San Tsuen)	2023-24	Issued
	Northern Link	2023-24	Issued
	San Tin / Lok Ma Chau Development Node	2023-24	Under consideration
	Construction of Annex Block at Hong Kong Observatory Headquarters, Tsim Sha Tsui	2023-24	Under consideration
Environmental Permit	Rock Cavern Development for Relocation of Public Works Central Laboratory Building	2021-22	Issued
	Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel	2021-22	Withdrawn by applicant
	Revised Trunk Road T4 in Sha Tin	2021-22	Issued
	Installation of the Proposed 132kV Cable Circuits Connecting with Ho To West Substation and Existing 132kV Fanling to Mai Po Cable Circuits	2021-22	Issued
	Asia Direct Cable System – Hong Kong Segment (ADC-HK) – Chung Hom Kok	2021-22	Issued
	Drainage Improvement Works Near Four Villages in Yuen Long - Sung Shan New Village, Tai Wo, Lin Fa Tei and Ha Che	2021-22	Issued
	Sai O Trunk Sewer Sewage Pumping Station	2021-22	Issued
	Mai Po Nature Reserve Infrastructure Upgrade Project	2021-22	Issued
	Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat)	2021-22	Withdrawn by applicant
	Re-provision of Open Cycle Gas Turbines at Lamma Power Station	2021-22	Issued
	Desilting Works at Pui O River	2021-22	Issued
	Relocation of Diamond Hill Fresh Water and Salt Water Service Reservoirs to Caverns	2021-22	Issued
	Removal of 132kV Overhead Line and Pylons for P-Line	2021-22	Issued
	Yuen Long Barrage Scheme	2021-22	Issued

Type	Title of project	Year	Status
	Yuen Long South Effluent Polishing Plant	2021-22	Issued
	Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Tuen Mun to So Kwun Wat)	2021-22	Issued
	Agreement no. CE47/2014(GE) – Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme near Bride’s Pool Road, Tai Po – 3SE-D/SA2	2022-23	Issued
	Hung Shui Kiu Effluent Polishing Plant	2022-23	Issued
	Lamma Island Cable System	2022-23	Issued
	Peng Chau Cable System	2022-23	Issued
	Installation of Proposed Cable Route from Cheung Sha to Tung Chung Town	2022-23	Issued
	Cheung Chau Submarine Cable System	2022-23	Issued
	Development of a Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility and Minor Modifications and Enhancement Works at North Lantau Transfer Station	2022-23	Issued
	Tung Chung Line Extension	2022-23	Issued
	Tuen Mun South Extension	2022-23	Issued
	Revitalisation of Fo Tan Nullah	2022-23	Issued
	Drainage Improvement Works in Ta Kwu Ling	2022-23	Issued
	Decommissioning of Remaining Portion of Middle Ash Lagoon in Tsang Tsui	2022-23	Issued
	New Contaminated Sediment Disposal Facility to the West of Lamma Island	2022-23	Issued
	Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel	2022-23	Issued
	Revitalisation of Tai Wai Nullah	2022-23	Issued
	Ground Investigation Works within Tai Lam Country Park for Route 11 (Section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)	2022-23	Issued
	Proposed Comprehensive Residential and Commercial Development atop Siu Ho Wan Depot	2022-23	Issued
	Upgrading of Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works	2022-23	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi	2023-24	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Outer Tap Mun	2023-24	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Mirs Bay	2023-24	Issued
	Establishment of Fish Culture Zone at Po Toi (Southeast)	2023-24	Issued
	Light Public Housing at Yau Pok Road, Yuen Long	2023-24	Issued
	Airport Tung Chung Link Project	2023-24	Issued

Type	Title of project	Year	Status
	Widening of Tsuen Wan Road and the Associated Junction Improvement Works	2023-24	Issued
	Airport Railway Extended Overrun Tunnel	2023-24	Issued
	Route 11 (Section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)	2023-24	Issued
	Tuen Mun Bypass	2023-24	Issued
	Improvement to So Kwun Po Interchange	2023-24	Issued
	Drainage Improvement Works in Mui Wo	2023-24	Issued
	Widening of Yuen Long Highway (Section between Lam Tei and Tong Yan San Tsuen)	2023-24	Issued
	Northern Link	2023-24	Issued
	Relocation of Tsuen Wan No. 2 Fresh Water Service Reservoir to Caverns	2023-24	Issued
	Removal of 132kV Overhead Line and Pylons for B-Line and W-Line	2023-24	Issued
	Traffic Improvement Scheme in Tuen Mun – Widening and Addition of Slip Roads at Lung Fu Road / Tuen Mun Road / Wong Chu Road / Hoi Wing Road	2023-24	Issued
	San Tin / Lok Ma Chau Water Reclamation Plant	2023-24	Under consideration
	San Tin / Lok Ma Chau Effluent Polishing Plant	2023-24	Under consideration

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)082

(Question Serial No. 1300)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the slight increase of about \$520 million in the 2024-25 estimate of the Environmental Protection Department over that of last year, please inform this Committee of:

(a) the specific details of the increase, such as increase in staff establishment, publicity, planning, etc.;

(b) the expenditure involved and the expected effectiveness of relevant work.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The estimate for operational expenses of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for 2024-25 is higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24 by \$523.4 million (14.2%), mainly due to increased provision for waste management initiatives. These initiatives cover the provision of more supporting facilities for waste reduction and recycling at the community level (which includes expanding the GREEN@COMMUNITY network to 50 public rental housing (PRH) estates and the food waste recycling network to all districts and PRH estates in Hong Kong), and the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. As for EPD establishment, it is expected that there will be a net decrease of 22 posts in 2024-25.

In expanding the supporting facilities for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works, covering about 1.2 million residents. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024 until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition. In addition, the EPD is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection in 2021 to progressively provides point-to-point collection services for public and private

premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost. Besides, the EPD is working with the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society to expand the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (i.e. 115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

After the implementation of MSW charging, members of the public will be required to use designated bags (DBs) and designated labels (DLs) when disposing of waste. The EPD has awarded various contracts to ensure a stable and sufficient supply of DBs and DLs in the market. The DBs and DLs suppliers have commenced production since late November 2023. The logistics contractor has set up warehouses and logistics fleets, and has been receiving and storing DBs and DLs progressively since early December 2023. At the same time, it has started delivering DBs and DLs to authorised retailers, wholesalers and bulk purchasers, for further distribution to retail outlets by the authorised retailers and wholesalers, and then for sale to the public. In addition, a territory-wide retail network for the sales of DBs and DLs has been established, covering approximately 3 000 retail outlets including supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies and online platforms, for the convenience of the public in purchasing DBs and DLs after the implementation of MSW charging.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1302)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Recycling Fund is a funding scheme that aims to provide support to the recycling industry and promote sustainable development of the industry. It is mentioned that the Administration will continue to monitor the operation of the Recycling Fund. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) There are views from the industry that the scopes of the existing Recycling Fund overlap considerably. What specific measures will be taken to enhance the scope of funding in the future?
- (b) What are the specific details of the support to the industry? What is the staff establishment involved?
- (c) How many enterprises have been successful in their funding application under the Recycling Fund in the past 3 years? What was the funding amount for each enterprise?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) In support of the sustainable development of the recycling industry, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up the Recycling Fund (the Fund) in 2015, aiming to assist the local recycling industry through various funding programmes. These include the "Industry Support Programme" that subsidises non-profit distributing organisations registered in Hong Kong, such as professional bodies, trade and industry organisations, research institutes and other industry support organisations, to undertake non-profit making projects for enhancing the overall operational capabilities and productivity of the local recycling industry, and the "Enterprise Support Programme (ESP)" that provides enterprises with matching funds for projects to enhance and expand the recycling operation. Enterprises can also implement standard projects through simplified application procedures in the Standard Project under the ESP, including purchase / installation of equipment for enhancement of recycling capability, capacity, operation efficiency, skills, etc. In addition, the Projects from New and Start-up Enterprises under the ESP supports new and start-up enterprises in adopting innovative ideas to facilitate recycling operations. The funding objectives and target recipients of the above programmes vary and complement each other.

The EPD and the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund have been reviewing the operation of the Recycling Fund from time to time so as to timely introduce different enhancement measures and to expand the scope of subsidy to meet the needs of the recycling industry in its operation, upgrading and transformation. For example, the scope of rental expenses subsidy under the ESP was extended in 2023, and the funding ceiling for Projects from New and Start-up Enterprises was raised.

Monitoring the implementation of the Fund, as well as enhancing its operation, are part of the work of the Environmental Infrastructure Division of the EPD, and are undertaken by the existing manpower resources. In addition, the Secretariat of the Fund (i.e. the Hong Kong Productivity Council) has a dedicated team for project management and technical assessment to offer inputs on general application procedures to applicant organisations, accept and process applications, monitor the progress of approved projects, check on compliance with the funding conditions, etc.

- (c) In the past 3 years (i.e. the financial years from 2021-22 to 2023-24 (as at 29 February 2024)), about 780 organisations have been successful in their funding applications. The total amount of funding was about \$220 million, with different funding ceilings set for various programmes.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)084

(Question Serial No. 1303)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department will continue to strengthen various food waste collection initiatives and has undertaken to gradually expand the service to private residential buildings and all public rental housing (PRH) estates. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) What specific measures are available for supporting more premises to conduct source-separation and collection of food waste? What is the staff establishment involved?
- (b) On strengthening the support for waste reduction and food waste recycling, what is the additional funding allocated to the development of the community recycling network and other waste reduction measures?
- (c) What are the expenditures involved in the repair and maintenance of food waste smart recycling bins in the past 3 years? What specific measures are available to ensure the sustainability of food waste treatment?
- (d) What are the quantities of food waste collected from the PRH estates, public and commercial & industrial premises covered by the pilot scheme in the past 3 years? Does the response meet the expectations of the Administration? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

- (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, and residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste

collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

Regarding domestic food waste, the EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule. The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (i.e. 115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the installation of 10 FWSRBs has been completed under the Scheme. When launching the Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides the traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in

old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public.

The manpower required for implementing the above food waste initiatives is absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD.

- (b) The Government will continue to introduce initiatives to progressively improve the recycling network, aiming to help the public to reduce waste at source and recycle food waste. The major initiatives and their estimated expenditures in 2024-25 are as follows:
- (1) In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection and the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates is approximately \$288 million. In addition, as at February 2024, 33 theme-based projects under the solicitation scheme on “Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste” launched by the Recycling Fund have been approved, involving a total funding of about \$31 million.
 - (2) The ECC has been providing funding support through the ECF for the EPD to roll out the 2-year Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates, with an estimated allocation of \$13 million. The ECF has also provided funding for the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings, rural villages and transitional housing, with a total of about \$18 million granted for relevant projects as at February 2024. The ECF operates in accordance with the Environment and Conservation Fund Ordinance, and the funding support for relevant projects does not involve the expenditure under the General Revenue Account “Head 44 - Environmental Protection Department” in 2024-25.
 - (3) The EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents

living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition. The estimated operational expenditure for GREEN@COMMUNITY projects in the financial year 2024-25 is approximately \$413 million. Depending on the operational performance of each GREEN@COMMUNITY project and the arrangements for their follow-on contracts, there may be adjustments to the estimated expenditure for GREEN@COMMUNITY projects beyond 2024-25.

- (4) A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins, 271 smart balances and 60 gift redemption units have been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc., under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems. The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. In the financial year of 2024-25, we will earmark about \$20 million to continue implementing the Pilot Programme.
- (c) At present, the Government mainly rents FWSRBs from suppliers through rental arrangements. The average monthly rental fee for each FWSRB is about \$2,000, which includes services fees for transportation, installation, inspection, repairs and maintenance, wireless network, software updates and replacement of consumables, etc. Apart from utilising FWSRBs, the EPD has been paying attention to the development of food waste treatment technologies to enhance the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of food waste collection. The EPD has been collaborating with various government departments to install a locally developed food waste pre-treatment system “Food TranSmarter” at suitable premises to convert food waste into slurry, which is then stored in sealed odour-controlled tanks for a few days before being delivered to the EPD’s food waste treatment facilities for conversion into energy. This system allows for a reduction in the frequency of door-to-door food waste collection to once or twice a week, leading to a significant reduction in transportation costs. We have also provided funding support through the ECF to subsidise the installation of food waste pre-treatment systems in commercial & industrial premises and private housing estates to facilitate food waste collection. Currently, there are 10 food waste pre-treatment systems installed and put into use in premises such as wholesale food market, public market, correctional institution, shopping malls, private housing estate and university,

with 8 other private and government premises preparing for the installation. There are also 13 premises which have applied for funding from the ECF for the installation of the system. The EPD will continue to identify more suitable public and private premises to install food waste pre-treatment systems to enhance food waste treatment efficiency. The Government will also consider introducing innovative and more cost-effective food waste treatment technologies in planning food waste recycling supporting facilities in the future.

- (d) The manpower required for implementing the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection is absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The quantities of food waste recovered from PRH estates, public and commercial & industrial premises over the past 3 years, along with the associated expenditure, are tabulated below:

Quantity of food waste recovered ^{Note 1}

Year	Quantity of food waste recovered (tonnes per year)	
	PRH estates	Public and commercial & industrial premises
2021	3	48 986
2022	125	48 648
2023	1 657	58 260

Note 1: Quantity of food waste recovered refers to the total amount of food waste treated by Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O-PARK1) and the “Food Waste, Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme” at the Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works in the respective year. Organisations/premises delivering food waste to the above facilities through Government funding and at their own cost have been covered.

Expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection

Year	Expenditure (\$ million) ^{Note 2}
2021-22	39.9
2022-23	65.7
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	107.1

Note 2: The food waste collection service contracts covering Hong Kong Island (also including the Islands District) and Kowloon (also including Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Tseung Kwan O) commenced in September 2021 and February 2022 respectively, while the remaining 2 contracts covering the New Territories commenced in April 2023.

At present, the quantity of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, and the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection has been well received by the public and the trades. With the implementation of municipal solid waste charging in Hong Kong, coupled with enhanced publicity and promotion of food waste recycling and greater public participation, we are expecting a gradual increase in the quantity of food waste recovered.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1305)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Municipal solid waste (MSW) charging will be implemented on 1 August 2024. Regarding the full implementation of MSW charging, please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) What mechanism is used to calculate the affordability of the public? Has the Administration estimated how much revenue will be generated from the implementation of MSW charging?

(b) Publicity and education is the key for behavioral change in the implementation of MSW charging. Please provide the details on the resources to be set aside for briefings and publicity as well as the staff establishment involved.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

- (a) The revenue from municipal solid waste (MSW) charging will arise from the sale of designated bags (DBs)/designated labels and the collection of “gate-fee”, estimated at \$1.79 billion in 2024-25. The actual revenue will be subject to various factors, such as the compliance rate, public adaptation, level of public participation in waste reduction and recycling, etc. The current estimated revenue is only a preliminary estimate, the actual amount of which can only be confirmed after the implementation of MSW charging. Making reference to past local data, the average daily waste disposal volume of a 3-member household is about 13 litres. Assuming that on average each family uses a 10-litre DB for waste disposal per day, the average monthly cost will be about \$33. As the public will gradually adapt to MSW charging and practise waste reduction and recycling more proactively so as to reduce the amount of MSW charge to be paid, the number of DBs and the sizes of bags required by them will gradually decrease. Hence, the revenue to be generated from MSW charging will decline progressively in the long term.
- (b) The implementation of MSW charging involves 72 civil service posts, of which the publicity and promotion work is an integral part of the Environmental Protection Department’s work and is undertaken by the existing staff. We do not have a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1308)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expense

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Since the launch of the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign on 18 May 2013, various publicity activities have been held over the past 10 years. Best practices are disseminated to the commercial and industrial sector so that they can play a leading role in food waste avoidance and reduction amongst the public. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the staff establishment and expenditure involved in the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign Steering Committee in each of the past 5 years;
- (b) the details of expenditure on advertising, online publicity and outreach activities for the following 3 projects of the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign in each of the past 5 years: "Food Wise" talks; "Food Wise Eateries"; and "Big Waster";
- (c) the details of estimated expenditure on promoting food waste reduction in the next 2 years to tie in with the implementation of municipal solid waste charging.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign) has been promoting a "Food Wise and Waste Less" culture and encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste at source in the community through various schemes and activities since its launch in 2013. The Campaign mainly includes "Food Wise Charter", "Food Wise Eateries" Scheme, the "Big Waster" Facebook and Instagram pages, and the publicity activities promoting food waste reduction at source through online platforms and mobile applications, public transport network, television and radio stations, etc.

The Food Wise Hong Kong Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) was set up on 3 December 2012 and tasked to formulate and oversee the implementation strategy to accomplish the objectives of the Campaign. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology with members from various sectors including catering, hotels, property management, environmental hygiene services, education, advertising, green groups and relevant government departments. The latest term of the Steering Committee comprises a chairman, 19 non-official members and 7 departmental representatives. Participation in the Steering Committee is voluntary and members are not

remunerated, and the secretariat service for the Steering Committee is provided by the existing staff establishment, hence no additional expenditure was involved.

The manpower involved in the schemes under the Campaign was provided by the existing staff establishment of the Environmental Protection Department. The participation statistics of the Campaign and the expenditures involved are tabulated below:

Participation statistics of the Campaign

Accumulated number of participants					
Year	No. of signees of the “Food Wise Charter”	No. of eateries participating in the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme	No. of “Food Wise” talks organised and no. of attendees	No. of followers on the “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages	
				Facebook	Instagram
2019	862	872	118 (11 126 attendees)	65 605	9 229
2020	965	1 124	126 (11 627 attendees)	69 589	10 350
2021	1 080	1 176	136 (12 257 attendees)	74 657	13 000
2022	1 142	1 305	142 (12 594 attendees)	93 904	16 680
2023	1 189	1 529	162 (15 149 attendees)	100 161	19 671

Expenditures involved in the Campaign

Item	Expenditure involved (\$million) ^{Note}				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (estimate)
Promoting the “Food Wise Charter” and the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme, and organising “Food Wise” talks	1.24	1.54	0.86	0.47	0.38
The “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages	0.93	0.84	1.41	1.39	1.24
Publicity activities	1.84	1.07	2.13	1.89	1.74
Total	4.01	3.45	4.40	3.75	3.36

Note : After the COVID-19 epidemic, the community resumed normalcy in full. We reduced the use of television and online platforms and deployed our existing manpower to organise more promotional visits to eateries to promote the “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture.

The Campaign will continue to promote food waste reduction and recycling to various sectors of the community through the above schemes and activities. The estimated expenditure in 2024-25 and 2025-26 is about \$4 million in each fiscal year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)087

(Question Serial No. 1320)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Government will oversee the legislative amendment exercises to establish a common legislative framework for producer responsibility schemes, and regulate the proper collection and handling of recyclables in major housing estates and single-block residential buildings with relatively large numbers of flats. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) The estimated staff establishment and total expenditure involved in the legislative amendment exercises;
- (b) Whether the above work includes the support for individual drivers of environmentally-friendly vehicles? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) With the implementation of municipal solid waste charging, individual drivers of environmentally-friendly vehicles responsible for refuse collection and delivery may have to bear costs that cannot be passed on, or the room for them to operate may be undermined by large companies. In this regard, will the Government consider allocating provision to set up a dedicated fund for these affected drivers to apply for subsidies? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (a) The Government plans to establish a common legislative framework applicable to different products and look into gradually extending the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs) to 5 types of products, namely plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, electric vehicle batteries, vehicle tyres and lead acid batteries, based on a "market-led approach". In addition, to ensure that sufficient recycling facilities are set up in residential buildings and the recyclables collected are properly handled so as to strengthen the public's confidence towards the recycling system, the Government plans to require by legislation the property management companies and owners' organisations of major housing estates and single-block buildings with relatively large number of flats to separately collect common types of recyclables and pass them to recyclers for proper processing.

The Waste Management Division of the Environmental Protection Department is responsible for handling relevant projects and the PRSs. We do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower resources involved in the work concerned.

- (b) The above 2 legislative proposals to implement the PRSs for various products and regulate proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings will have no direct impact on drivers of individual waste collectors or recyclers, and hence the above work will not include providing support to them.
- (c) Under the municipal solid waste (MSW) charging scheme, MSW charges will be levied by dual modes of “charging through purchasing and using designated bags or designated labels” (charging by DBs/DLs) and “charging by weight-based gate-fee”.

Under the mode of charging by DBs/DLs, as members of the public have already paid for their MSW charges when they purchased DBs/DLs, private waste collectors (PWCs) do not have to bear any additional cost when collecting waste wrapped in DBs or affixed with DLs. Under the mode of charging by weight, we have set up accounts for large-scale waste producers (i.e. premises that generate a large amount of waste on daily basis, such as large-scale facilities, factories, shopping malls, etc.), and these account holders can hire PWCs to dispose of their waste at the waste disposal facilities. Such arrangement allows the “gate-fee” be recorded directly under the accounts of the waste producers, so that the account holders do not need to separately verify the relevant “gate-fee” amount with the PWCs and arrange for subsequent payment. It also helps reduce the cash flow and bad debt problems which the PWCs would otherwise be facing as they have to pay the “gate-fee” in advance. This arrangement is conducive to creating a fair business environment for both individual PWCs’ drivers and large-scale PWCs for the provision of waste collection services. In terms of waste producers of a smaller scale, under charging by weight arrangement, PWCs use refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) without rear compactors to collect waste from these clients are mostly on ad hoc basis instead of a regular arrangement. In most cases, their clients payment will be settled at the time of the provision of service. Therefore, we anticipate that PWCs using RCVs without rear compactors to provide the services will not face serious problems in terms of advance payments or bad debts.

Based on the above considerations, we have no plan to allocate provision to set up a dedicated fund or provide subsidies to individual PWCs’ drivers within the applicable scope of the existing Recycling Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)088

(Question Serial No. 1321)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, it is stated that the Government will oversee the implementation of the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Phase one of the regulation will be implemented on 22 April 2024. What are the arrangements and timetable for implementing phase two of the regulation?
- (b) What are the estimated manpower establishment and total expenditures involved in the project?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation) will be implemented on 22 April 2024. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of publicity and training programmes to increase awareness of the regulation among the public and the trades. The details are as follows.

The EPD launched the "Cut Plastic Use" thematic website (www.cuttheplastics.hk) in January this year, which provides one-stop information for the public and the trades, including information on the regulation and the various options of alternatives to plastic products. Furthermore, since 1 February this year, we have been progressively releasing promotional videos and audios, trade-specific promotional clips, posters and advertisements, etc. about the regulation through various channels (including television, radio, public transportation stations and vehicle exteriors, restaurant storefronts, building lobbies and external digital screens, news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, etc.) Besides, we have proactively and promptly cleared up misconceptions and concerns of the public via various government websites and social media platforms, created infographics to address common questions, and set up hotlines to answer enquiries.

We have been maintaining close communication with various trades and providing appropriate assistance and support to them. As different trades have various concerns about the details of the regulation, since January this year, the EPD has been organising a total of 50 online and offline training sessions targeting at different sectors. To assist the catering

trade in procuring compliant alternatives, we have engaged the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency to establish a “Green Tableware Platform” (<https://www.greentableware.hk/>) early in January 2022. The EPD has been progressively conducting compliance surveys through visits to 20 000 small and medium-sized eateries, with a view to assisting them in understanding the regulation and adjusting their operation to comply with the regulatory requirements (the numbers of visits are tabulated below). Besides, since January this year, the EPD has distributed trade-specific promotional leaflets to approximately 11 000 retail stores and 1 800 hotels and guesthouses to help them better understand the regulatory requirements.

The first 6 months following the implementation of the regulation on 22 April will be designated as an adaptation period. During this period, the EPD will arrange staff to proactively inspect the operation of relevant business premises, focusing on promotion and education, as well as providing appropriate advice and information to assist the trades in complying with the requirements under the new legislation. We will also continue, through different channels, to promote various “plastic-free” campaigns which aim at reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware and encouraging the use of reusable ones among the public and the trades.

“Plastic reduction” and “plastic-free” have become an international consensus in recent years. Our goal is to reduce gradually or even ban plastic products that have non-plastic alternatives. The first phase of the regulation will be implemented on 22 April this year. The regulated plastic products either have established non-plastic alternatives (such as plastic straws, tableware, etc.) or are not necessities (such as inflatable cheer sticks, glow sticks, etc.) We will keep in view the effectiveness of the implementation of the first phase, adaptability of the public, the availability and affordability of the alternatives, etc. and maintain close communication with various stakeholders in advance, so as to allow ample time for the trade and the public to get prepared before deliberating the implementation timeline for the next phase. At this stage, we do not have an implementation timetable set for the second phase of the regulation.

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditure and estimated expenditure of the EPD for the publicity and educational work of the regulation are \$17.8 million and about \$25 million respectively. The EPD will monitor the implementation of the regulation with the existing staff establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)089

(Question Serial No. 0139)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

To promote a “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture, the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign) was launched in 2013. In addition, the Administration has provided funding to local non-profit making organisations through the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to recover food from the commercial sector and redistribute it to the needy in the community since 2014. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) a breakdown of the expenditures involved in the projects under the Campaign in each of the past 3 years;
- (2) the participation statistics of the projects under the Campaign in each of the past 3 years;
- (3) the respective numbers of projects applied and approved under the ECF in relation to the redistribution of recovered food in each of the past 3 years; and
- (4) the details of the projects approved under the ECF in relation to the redistribution of recovered food, including the name, brief description, the funded organisation and the total amount of approved funding for each project, in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAI Tung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign) has been promoting a “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture and encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste at source in the community through various schemes and activities since its launch in 2013. The major schemes and activities of the Campaign include: the “Food Wise Charter”, the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme, the “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages, and the publicity activities promoting food waste reduction at source through online platforms and mobile applications, public transport network, television and radio stations, etc.

The Food Wise Hong Kong Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) was set up on 3 December 2012 and tasked to formulate and oversee the implementation strategy to accomplish the objectives of the Campaign. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Secretary for Environment and Ecology with members from various sectors including catering, hotels, property management, environmental hygiene services, education, advertising, green groups and relevant government departments. The latest term of the Steering Committee comprises a Chairman, 19 non-official members and 7 departmental

representatives. Participation in the Steering Committee is voluntary and members are not remunerated, and the secretariat service for the Steering Committee is provided by the existing staff establishment, hence no additional expenditure was involved.

The manpower involved in the schemes under the Campaign was provided by the existing staff establishment of the Environmental Protection Department. The participation statistics of the Campaign and the expenditures involved are tabulated below:

Table 1 Participation statistics of the Campaign

Accumulated number of participants					
Year	No. of signees of the “Food Wise Charter”	No. of eateries participating in the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme	No. of “Food Wise” talks organised and no. of attendees	No. of followers on the “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages	
				Facebook	Instagram
2019	862	872	118 (11 126 attendees)	65 605	9 229
2020	965	1 124	126 (11 627 attendees)	69 589	10 350
2021	1 080	1 176	136 (12 257 attendees)	74 657	13 000
2022	1 142	1 305	142 (12 594 attendees)	93 904	16 680
2023	1 189	1 529	162 (15 149 attendees)	100 161	19 671

Table 2 Expenditures involved in the Campaign

Item	Expenditure involved (\$million) [Note 1]				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (estimate)
Promoting the “Food Wise Charter” and the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme, and organising “Food Wise” talks	1.24	1.54	0.86	0.47	0.38
The “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages	0.93	0.84	1.41	1.39	1.24
Publicity activities	1.84	1.07	2.13	1.89	1.74
Total	4.01	3.45	4.40	3.75	3.36

Note 1: After the COVID-19 epidemic, the community resumed normalcy in full. We reduced the use of television and online platforms, and deployed our existing manpower to organise more promotional visits to eateries to promote the “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture.

The Campaign will continue to promote food waste reduction and recycling to various sectors of the community through the above schemes and activities. The estimated expenditure in 2024-25 is about \$4 million.

Information on the surplus food recovery projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) in the past 3 years (i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24) is set out below:

Table 3 Surplus food recovery projects funded by the ECF

Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as at February 2024)
Number of applications	17	31	14
Number of applications approved	13	10	1 [Note 1]

Note 1: The last round of application of 2023-24 is still being processed and the number of applications approved may increase.

In the past 3 years (as at February 2024), the ECF had funded 24 surplus food recovery projects, involving a total approved grant of about \$55 million. The details are at [Annex](#).

Project Title	Project Brief	Recipient Organisation
Save and Share, Reduce To Produce	To recover surplus food mainly from fresh markets in districts and vendors/suppliers over the territories. To process and redistribute the surplus food to people in need and community organisations so as to reduce food waste generation.	Environ Dragon
Food Sharing Project	To collect surplus food mainly from fresh markets and food donors in the community, and redistribute them to people in need so as to reduce food waste generation. It also promotes the message of food-wise and waste-less to the schools and the general public in the districts through organising the activities like seminars and workshops.	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
“Food Friend Action” Project	To collect surplus food mainly from markets and vendors in districts, redistribute them to people in need so as to reduce food waste generation. It also aims to promote the concept of food-wise and waste reduction.	People Service Centre
Save and Share, Reduce to Produce	To recover surplus food mainly from fresh markets and vendors/suppliers in districts. To turn the surplus food collected into meal boxes for redistribution to people in need and community organisations so as to reduce food waste generation.	Food For Good
Food Commons@Shatin	To collect surplus food mainly from fresh markets and vendors in districts. To sort the surplus food collected and redistribute them to people in need so as to reduce food waste. It also aims to promote the concept of food-wise and waste reduction.	Food Commons
Food Angel City Food Rescue and Sharing, and Education Workshops	To recover safe-to-eat surplus food mainly from enrolled supermarkets, fresh markets and chain stores over the territories, and distribute the meal boxes to people in need after central processing and cooking. Also, to setup smart food donation machines in 50 supermarkets to collect surplus food with intact package before expiry from the general public so as to reduce food waste generation. The project also promotes waste reduction at source, so the public can understand how to cherish resources and deepen their understanding of food wise.	Bo Charity Foundation
Foodlink Operations Sustainability Project	To collect safe-to-eat surplus cooked food directly from hotels, food and beverage outlets and redistribute them to people in need.	Foodlink Foundation
Food Donation Project (Cheung Sha Wan)	To collect surplus food from different retailers in districts and donate to the needy.	Greeners Action

Food Resources Recycling Centre (FRRC)	To collect surplus food from markets and vendors in districts, redistribute them to people in need in the same areas with the aim to reduce food waste and promote waste reduction in the community.	The Conservancy Association
North District Food Collection Centre	To collect surplus food from wholesalers, vendors and markets in districts, redistribute them to people in need with the aim to reduce food waste and educate the public on it.	Action Health
Food Grace Recycling & Food Cherishing Shopping Mall Award Scheme	To collect surplus food from markets and vendors in districts and donate them to the needy to prevent wastage. To convey food waste reduction concept and encourage donation by organising education and promotion activities and incentive scheme.	Community Leap

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)090

(Question Serial No. 0460)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will continue to promote reduction of food waste at source under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign. Please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) the expenditure involved for the "Big Waster" Campaign in the last 3 years, including online publicity, advertising production, on-site events, etc.; and
- 2) the estimated expenditure of the Campaign in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign) has been promoting a "Food Wise and Waste Less" culture and encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste at source in the community through various schemes and activities since its launch in 2013. The Campaign mainly includes "Food Wise Charter", "Food Wise Eateries" Scheme, the "Big Waster" Facebook and Instagram pages, and publicity activities promoting food waste reduction at source through online platforms and mobile applications, public transport network, television and radio stations, etc.

The manpower involved in the schemes under the Campaign was provided by the existing staff establishment of the Environmental Protection Department. The participation statistics of the Campaign and the expenditures involved are tabulated below:

Participation statistics of the Campaign

Accumulated number of participants					
Year	No. of signees of the “Food Wise Charter”	No. of eateries participating in the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme	No. of “Food Wise” talks organised and no. of attendees	No. of followers on the “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages	
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2021	1 080	1 176	136 (12 257 attendees)	74 657	13 000
2022	1 142	1 305	142 (12 594 attendees)	93 904	16 680
2023	1 189	1 529	162 (15 149 attendees)	100 161	19 671

Expenditures involved in the Campaign

Item	Expenditure involved (\$million) ^{Note}		
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Estimate)
Promoting the “Food Wise Charter” and the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme Organising “Food Wise” talks	0.86	0.47	0.38
The “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages	1.41	1.39	1.24
Publicity activities	2.13	1.89	1.74
Total	4.40	3.75	3.36

Note: After the COVID-19 epidemic, the community resumed normalcy in full. We reduced the use of television and online platforms and deployed our existing manpower to organise more promotional visits to eateries to promote the “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture.

The Campaign will continue to promote food waste reduction and recycling to various sectors of the community through the above schemes and activities. The estimated expenditure in 2024-2025 is about \$4 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)091

(Question Serial No. 1767)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expense

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is estimated in the Budget for the new year that the municipal solid waste charging will generate a revenue of nearly \$1.8 billion in the first year after its implementation in August. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the amount of resources to be allocated in 2024-25 for enhancing public education on waste recovery and separation.

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the Programme on Source Separation of Waste to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women's, foreign domestic helpers' and new immigrants' groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has conducted about 154 000 community visits, established connections with more than 4 500 property management companies and residents' organisations, which altogether provided waste reduction and recycling support for about 70% of housing estates/residential buildings and villages in Hong Kong. In addition, the Green Outreach has organised about 5 000 publicity and promotional activities in various forms, attracting over 410 000 participants.

The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging starting from August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage the public of different backgrounds (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging.

From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

In 2024-25, apart from continuing with the work stated above, the Green Outreach will also collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise different types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and MSW charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), so as to raise the law-abiding awareness of the public. The Green Outreach will also offer assistance to the primary and secondary schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity launched in early March this year to encourage students and their family members to actively practise resources separation for recycling and to establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling in their daily lives. Upon implementation of MSW charging, the Green Outreach will further expand the scope of their outreaching services. Apart from continuing with their on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, promotional activities and hands-on demonstrations will be conducted at various locations to help the public gradually adapt to MSW charging and change their waste disposal habits by separating resources properly for recycling. Besides, the Green Outreach will also pay attention to any non-compliance during daily work, conduct preliminary investigations upon receipt of non-compliance reports, persuade the public, in the form of promotion, education and guidance, to comply with the legislative requirements and offer advice to property management companies/cleansing contractors to help them improve the situation.

The Green Outreach comprises of 74 non-directorate professional staff (including Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Inspector grades) and 142 non-civil service contract staff. The annual expenditure incurred is about \$100 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0613)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, it is stated that municipal solid waste charging will be implemented.

Please inform this Committee:

1. of the progress of concurrent provision of complementary facilities in details to tie in with the implementation of this policy; and
2. if corresponding complementary facilities are arranged to deal with different waste disposal practices of the public, such as residents of three-nil buildings or subdivided units; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

To implement and put into practice municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has provided various complementary facilities and has special measures in place for the residents of “three-nil” buildings. The details are as follows:

1. The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided to rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in the

clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong. Besides, to encourage more members of the public to participate in waste separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme in 2020. When carrying out recycling at GREEN@COMMUNITY or through smart recycling bins, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points for redemption of gift items or daily necessities.

The distribution of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores in each district is tabulated below.

Hong Kong Island

Eastern	GREEN@EASTERN*, GREEN@QUARRY BAY, GREEN@WAN TSUI, GREEN@YUE WAN, GREEN@HING TUNG, GREEN@SIU SAI WAN, GREEN@YIU TUNG
Central and Western	GREEN@SHEUNG WAN, GREEN@SAI YING PUN, GREEN@KENNEDY TOWN
Southern	GREEN@ABERDEEN, GREEN@AP LEI CHAU
Wan Chai	GREEN@WAN CHAI*, GREEN@TIN HAU, GREEN@HAPPY VALLEY

Kowloon

Kowloon City	GREEN@WALLED CITY, GREEN@TO KWA WAN, GREEN@HUNG HOM, GREEN@TAK LONG
Kwun Tong	GREEN@KWUN TONG*, GREEN@YUE MAN SQUARE, GREEN@KAI YIP, GREEN@SHUN LEE, GREEN@PING TIN, GREEN@SAU MAU PING, GREEN@YAU LAI

Sham Shui Po	GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO*, GREEN@CHEUNG SHA WAN, GREEN@UN CHAU, GREEN@SO UK, GREEN@PAK TIN
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@SAN PO KONG, GREEN@CHOI WAN, GREEN@CHUK YUEN, GREEN@TSZ CHING, GREEN@TSZ LOK, GREEN@TSZ MAN, GREEN@WANG TAU HOM
Yau Tsim Mong	GREEN@TAI KOK TSUI, GREEN@JORDAN

New Territories

Islands	GREEN@ISLANDS*, GREEN@MUI WO
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@KWAI TSING*, GREEN@TSING YI, GREEN@KWAI FONG, GREEN@TAI WO HAU, GREEN@CHEUNG HONG, GREEN@LAI KING, GREEN@ON YAM, GREEN@KWAI SHING
North	GREEN@FANLING, GREEN@SHEK WU HUI, GREEN@LUEN WO HUI, GREEN@CHING HO, GREEN@QUEENS HILL
Sai Kung	GREEN@SAI KUNG*, GREEN@PO LAM, GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN, GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN – TIU KENG LENG BRANCH, GREEN@SHEUNG TAK, GREEN@KIN MING
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHA TIN*, GREEN@TAI WAI, GREEN@CHUN YEUNG, GREEN@YAN ON, GREEN@SHUI CHUEN O, GREEN@SHA KOK
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO* GREEN@TAI PO MARKET, GREEN@TAI WO, GREEN@KWONG FUK, GREEN@TAI YUEN
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LO TAK COURT, GREEN@YI PEI SQUARE, GREEN@SHEK WAI KOK, GREEN@LEI MUK SHUE
Tuen Mun	GREEN@TUEN MUN*, GREEN@SAN HUI, GREEN@KIN SANG, GREEN@ON TING, GREEN@YAN TIN, GREEN@WU KING, GREEN@FU TAI
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG*, GREEN@YUEN LONG HUI, GREEN@LONG PING, GREEN@TIN WAH, GREEN@TIN HENG, GREEN@TIN YAN

*Recycling Station

Regarding food waste recycling, the EPD is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost. The EPD is expanding the food waste recycling network mainly through the following means:

- (1) The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society, is expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong;
- (2) The EPD has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages through the Recycling Fund, the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates launched by Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC). In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides traditional food waste recycling bins with cover for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection;
- (3) For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and Refuse Collection Points (RCPs));
- (4) To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public;
- (5) To facilitate the recycling of food waste produced by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at RCPs under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024; and
- (6) The EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024.

2. As mentioned above, to tie in with the implementation of MSW charging, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY and set up Recycling Spots operated in the form of kerb-side collection booths in densely populated areas to provide the public with more convenient means for recycling, so as to specifically support residents living in the clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings with relatively more subdivided units) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling.

In respect of publicity and education, since December 2023, the EPD has been visiting “three-nil” buildings over the territory based on the list provided by the Home Affairs Department to collect information on the number of households in the buildings and distribute publicity leaflets on MSW charging to the residents. The EPD’s Green Outreach will also continue to provide support for waste reduction and recycling in the community and educate the public to comply with the legislative requirements for MSW charging through promotional activities and on-site demonstrations.

To enhance the support for residents of “three-nil” buildings, the FEHD currently places large waste collection bins on the street of different districts during specified time slots every day for the convenience of “three-nil” building residents (which may include residents of subdivided units, bedspace apartments and cubicle apartments) to properly dispose of their domestic waste. To tie in with the implementation of MSW charging, we are discussing with the FEHD on how to enhance the relevant complementary facilities. This includes placing more large waste collection bins during specified time slots every day in areas concentrated with “three-nil” buildings where circumstances allow. These large waste collection bins will become “specified bins” under the legislation upon the implementation of MSW charging, which means that members of the public will have to wrap their waste in DBs before disposing of them in the “specified bins”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)093

(Question Serial No. 0614)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Government will continue to develop a community recycling network across the territory, and strengthen the pilot programme on smart recycling systems to enhance the community recycling service. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. At present, given the insufficient number and density of GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling stations, as well as the inconvenient service hours of recycling spots, the recycling facilities can hardly meet the public's demand for recycling service. In this connection, what specific measures has the Government formulated to expand the coverage of the recycling network?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and "three-nil" buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just

commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024 until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong. Besides, to encourage more members of the public to participate in resources separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participating Incentive Scheme (GREEN\$ ePIS) in 2020 and there are over 500 000 registered accounts as at the end of February 2024. When carrying out recycling at GREEN@COMMUNITY or through smart recycling bins, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points for redemption of gift items or daily necessities.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year's Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year's Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to special arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and "three-nil" buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0616)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will continue to strengthen various food waste collection initiatives to support more public premises and commercial and industrial premises to conduct source-separation and collection of food waste, and gradually expand the service to collect more food waste from domestic sources including private residential buildings and all public rental housing (PRH) estates. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Is there a specific timeframe for extending the provision of food waste collection facilities to all PRH estates? If yes, what are the details?
2. How will the Government assist the residents of transitional housing, three-nil buildings and subdivided units in food waste collection?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD), in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule. The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private housing, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund

and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

2. For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at two Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. As at February 2024, these FWSRBs have been used for more than 41 300 times. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public. As at February 2024, the Recycling Spots in Sha Tin District have been used for more than 2 100 times for food waste recycling.

In addition, food waste recycling facilities will become available at Pok Oi Kong Ha Wai Village, the largest transitional housing development of Hong Kong, in April 2024, with the installation of FWSRBs and the related publicity and education activities being funded by the ECF. Apart from applying for funding from the ECF to install FWSRBs,

the operators of transitional housing development can also apply for the provision of traditional covered food waste recycling bins through the EPD.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)095

(Question Serial No. 3077)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products will be implemented in phases starting from the second quarter of 2024. Please advise this Committee:

1. whether the Government will consider promoting reusable systems on a large scale; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation) will be implemented on 22 April 2024. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of publicity and training programmes to increase awareness of the regulation among the public and the trades. The details are as follows.

The EPD launched the “Cut Plastic Use” thematic website (www.cuttheplastics.hk) in January this year, which provides one-stop information for the public and the trades, including information on the regulation and the various options of alternatives to plastic products. Furthermore, since 1 February this year, we have been progressively releasing promotional videos and audios, trade-specific promotional clips, posters and advertisements, etc. about the regulation through various channels (including television, radio, public transportation stations and vehicle exteriors, restaurant storefronts, building lobbies and external digital screens, news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, etc.) Besides, we have proactively and promptly cleared up misconceptions and concerns of the public via various government websites and social media platforms, created infographics to address common questions, and set up hotlines to answer enquiries.

We have been maintaining close communication with various trades and providing appropriate assistance and support to them. As different trades have various concerns about the details of the regulation, since January this year, the EPD has been organising a total of about 50 online and offline training sessions targeting at different sectors. To assist the catering trade in procuring compliant alternatives, we have engaged the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency to establish a “Green Tableware Platform”

(<https://www.greentableware.hk/>) early in January 2022. The EPD has been progressively conducting compliance surveys through visits to 20 000 small and medium-sized eateries, with a view to assisting them in understanding the regulation and adjusting their operation to comply with the regulatory requirements. Besides, since January this year, the EPD has distributed trade-specific promotional leaflets to approximately 11 000 retail stores and 1 800 hotels and guesthouses to help them better understand the regulatory requirements.

The EPD has all along endeavoured to encourage the public to reduce waste at source by using reusable tableware as far as possible and avoid using disposable tableware. If the use of disposable tableware is unavoidable, more environmentally friendly tableware made of non-plastic materials should be used.

The EPD and the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) jointly launched the “Reusable Tableware Lending Programme for Large-scale Events” in December 2018 to provide free delivery, collection and cleaning services of reusable tableware to large-scale event organisers. The EPD and the ECC also launched a free meal container lending programme in 2 phases in 2021 and 2022 respectively, with the pilot scheme of the second phase covering 7 local universities. By lending meal containers to the public in a convenient way under the pilot scheme, we encourage them to build a good habit of bringing their own reusable meal containers when buying takeaways. The pilot scheme also serves as a demonstration for organisations such as private companies and schools. Furthermore, we launched the Bring Your Own Containers (BYOC) Eateries Scheme in September 2023 to further encourage the public to bring their own containers when ordering takeaways. Eateries participating in the scheme are required to accept customers to use their own containers (i.e. food containers or beverage cups) when ordering takeaways, or provide customers with reusable container lending services. The participating eateries will be given the BYOC Eateries stickers for easy identification by customers. Currently, over 470 eateries have joined the scheme.

The first 6 months following the implementation of the regulation on 22 April will be designated as an adaptation period. During this period, the EPD will arrange staff to proactively inspect the operation of relevant business premises, focusing on promotion and education, as well as providing appropriate advice and information to assist the trades in complying with the requirements under the new legislation. We will also continue, through different channels, to promote various “plastic-free” campaigns which aim at reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware and encouraging the use of reusable ones among the public and the trades.

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditure and estimated expenditure of the EPD for the publicity and educational work of the regulation are \$17.8 million and about \$25 million respectively. The EPD will monitor the implementation of the regulation with the existing staff establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)096

(Question Serial No. 2573)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Municipal solid waste (MSW) charging will come into effect on 1 August 2024 and the Government will commence the Demonstration Scheme on 1 April in government departments and some other buildings for on-site demonstration. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) Upon the third reading and passage of the bill for MSW charging by the Legislative Council on 26 August 2021, what publicity and education programmes have been launched by the Government? What are the expenditure and manpower involved in policy implementation?
- 2) What is the current progress of the Demonstration Scheme to be commenced in April? Please set out by District Council district the number and names of (i) government departments, (ii) other commercial and industrial buildings and (iii) other residential or housing estates (including the number of households involved), as well as (iv) the number of designated bags (DBs) to be distributed under the Demonstration Scheme.
- 3) The first 6 months following the enactment of the legislation in August will be the phasing-in period. The Government will supply free DBs to the households of public housing rental estates under the Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society, "three-nil" buildings and rural village houses. What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved? As "three-nil" buildings and rural village houses do not have owners' corporations or property management offices to facilitate the distribution work, what effective plans does the Government have to provide relevant households with DBs?
- 4) Please set out by District Council district the details and number of recycling facilities in each district over the past 3 years. Please provide the details of recycling facilities in each district after the enactment of the legislation. Will the number of recycling facilities increase? If yes, what are the details and the number respectively?
- 5) Will the Government formulate a timetable of implementing waste reduction measures at different stages and set relevant indicators subsequent to the enactment of the legislation?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- 1) The policy objective of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging is to encourage the community to reduce waste at source by creating financial disincentives through quantity-based charging, with a view to reducing the overall waste disposal

amount. The expenditure and staff establishment of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for implementing MSW charging since the financial year in which the amendment bill for MSW charging was passed by the Legislative Council are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure involved (\$ million)	Staff establishment
2021-22	21.3	55
2022-23	34.8	55
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	120.6	65
2024-25 (Estimate)	581.3	72

- 2) (i) - (iii) The MSW charging Demonstration Scheme has been implemented on 1 April 2024. The Demonstration Scheme aims at pragmatically examining the problems that may arise during the implementation of MSW charging, reviewing the processes and actual practices of different stakeholders including waste producers, frontline cleansing staff, waste collectors, etc., in disposal of waste under different settings with MSW charging in place, as well as collecting their views, observing their preparedness on MSW charging implementation and possible problems they may encounter, and consolidating and evaluating relevant data. It is believed that the experience and outcome of the Demonstration Scheme will assist the Government in better grasping the overall situation.

The first group of premises to be covered under the Demonstration Scheme includes government buildings, public and private residential buildings, “three-nil” buildings, shopping malls, restaurants and residential care homes, with a total of 14 premises:

Premises	Remarks	District Council District
Government Buildings		
1. West Kowloon Government Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offices of Government Departments ● 2 buildings, comprised of the South Tower and the North Tower, involving about 2 500 employees 	Yau Tsim Mong
Public Housing		
2. On Ning House, Moon Lok Dai Ha, Tsuen Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Managed by the Hong Kong Housing Society ● There are 4 blocks in Moon Lok Dai Ha, of which On Ning House is included in the Demonstration Scheme, involving about 450 households 	Tsuen Wan
3. Lin Tsui Estate, Chai Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Managed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority ● Single-block housing estate, involving about 300 households 	Eastern

Premises	Remarks	District Council District
Private Residential Buildings		
4. Genius Court, Kowloon City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Owners' corporation established ● Single-block residential building, involving about 140 households 	Kowloon City
5. 15 & 17 Pei Ho Street, Sham Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seven-storey "three-nil" building ● Without cleansing staff 	Sham Shui Po
6. 58 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five-storey "three-nil" building ● With cleansing staff 	Sham Shui Po
Shopping Malls		
7. Uptown Plaza, Tai Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A shopping mall connected to Tai Po Market MTR Station, accommodating about 100 shops and restaurants 	Tai Po
8. Chelsea Heights Plaza, Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A shopping mall close to Tuen Mun MTR Station and Choy Yee Bridge Light Rail Station, accommodating about 55 shops and restaurants 	Tuen Mun
Residential Care Homes		
9. New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Tuen Mun Long Stay Care Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subsidised residential care home for persons with disabilities ● Providing 210 intensive care units, with approximately 90 staff members 	Tuen Mun
10. Kato Home for the Elderly, Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private residential care home for the elderly ● Providing 180 care units for the elderly, with approximately 72 staff members 	Tuen Mun
Restaurants		
11. SC Cuisine, Mong Kok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chinese restaurant ● With approximately 90 seats 	Yau Tsim Mong
12. Hsin Kuang Banquet Hall, San Po Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chinese restaurant ● With approximately 600 seats 	Wong Tai Sin
13. Café de Coral (Admiralty Centre branch), Admiralty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fast food restaurant ● With approximately 200 seats 	Central and Western
14. Hong Lin Restaurant, Tai Wai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hong Kong-style tea restaurant ● With approximately 40 seats 	Sha Tin

- 2) (iv) The Demonstration Scheme has been implemented on 1 April 2024. During the demonstration period, the EPD provides designated bags (DBs) free of charge to all selected premises. At present, the EPD does not have the final number of DBs to be distributed.
- 3) To facilitate members of the public in adapting to MSW charging and changing their waste disposal habits, the EPD will distribute free DBs of 15-litre (20 DBs per household each month to encourage waste reduction, i.e. a total of 120 DBs for each household in 6 months) to households that require more support (including households of “three-nil” buildings, PRH and rural village houses) during the initial stage of implementation of MSW charging. The distribution arrangements are as follows:
- Households of “three-nil” buildings (approximately about 150 000 households, involving 18 million free DBs): The EPD will arrange for the logistics service contractor to provide door-to-door delivery of free DBs for every household of “three-nil buildings”. If no one answers the door at the time of delivery, the contractor will leave behind a notification card. Households with notification cards may scan the QR code on their notification cards to register and select the smart locker or self-collection point for collecting DBs. They may also call the hotline for free DBs and seek assistance for registration.
 - Households of public rental housing (PRH) (approximately about 860 000 households, involving 132 million free DBs): The EPD will arrange for the delivery of free DBs to locations designated by the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society and non-governmental organisations that operate transitional housing so that they may directly distribute the free DBs to their tenants. Details of the distribution arrangements and timetable will be announced by the respective property management companies or management offices of the PRH estates.
 - Households of rural village houses (approximately about 50 000 households, involving 6 million free DBs): The EPD will arrange for the delivery of free DBs to Village Offices or offices of Rural Committees so that the respective village representative or Rural Committee may directly distribute the free DBs to the households in their rural villages. The distribution arrangements, such as the method, frequency, location, date, time, etc. of collection, will be decided by the respective village representative or Rural Committee in accordance with the circumstances of each village.

To tie in with the implementation of MSW charging, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY and set up Recycling Spots operated in the form of kerb-side collection booths in densely populated areas to provide the public with more convenient means for recycling, so as to specifically support residents living in the clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings with relatively more subdivided units) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling.

In respect of publicity and education, since December 2023, the EPD has been visiting “three-nil” buildings over the territory based on the list provided by the Home Affairs Department to collect information on the number of households in the buildings and distribute publicity leaflets on MSW charging to the residents. The EPD’s Green Outreach will also continue to provide support for waste reduction and recycling in the community and educate the public to comply with the legislative requirements for MSW charging through promotional activities and on-site demonstrations.

To enhance the support for residents of “three-nil” buildings, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) currently places large waste collection bins on the street of different districts during specified time slots every day for the convenience of “three-nil” building residents (which may include residents of subdivided units, bedspace apartments and cubicle apartments) to properly dispose of their domestic waste. To tie in with the implementation of MSW charging, we are discussing with the FEHD on how to enhance the relevant complementary facilities. This includes placing more large waste collection bins during specified time slots every day in areas concentrated with “three-nil” buildings where circumstances allow. These large waste collection bins will become “specified bins” under the legislation upon the implementation of MSW charging, which means that members of the public will have to wrap their waste in DBs before disposing of them in the “specified bins”.

- 4) The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and about 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already

commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024 until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong. Besides, to encourage more members of the public to participate in waste separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participating Incentive Scheme in 2020, and there are over 500 000 registered users as at the end of February 2024. When carrying out recycling at GREEN@COMMUNITY or through smart recycling bins, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points for redemption of gift items or daily necessities.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year's Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year's Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to special arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and "three-nil" buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network to help the public practise waste separation and recycling properly.

The distribution of GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities in the 18 districts from 2021 to 2024 (as at end-February) is shown in the table below:

	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as at end- February)
Eastern	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)	4(3)
Central & Western	2(2)	3(3)	3(3)	3(3)

	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as at end- February)
Southern	1(1)	2(2)	2(2)	2(2)
Wan Chai	2(1)	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)
Kowloon City	3(3)	3(3)	3(3)	3(3)
Kwun Tong	2(1)	2(1)	3(2)	3(2)
Sham Shui Po	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)
Wong Tai Sin	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)
Yau Tsim Mong	1(1)	2(2)	2(2)	2(2)
Islands	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)
Kwai Tsing	2(1)	2(1)	3(2)	4(3)
North	2(2)	3(3)	3(3)	3(3)
Sai Kung	2(1)	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)
Sha Tin	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)	3(2)
Tai Po	2(1)	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)
Tsuen Wan	1(1)	2(2)	2(2)	2(2)
Tuen Mun	2(1)	3(2)	3(2)	5(4)
Yuen Long	2(1)	3(2)	3(2)	3(2)
Total	33(22)	43(32)	45(34)	51(40)

Note: The above figures are the total number of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores, and those in the brackets are the number of Recycling Stores.

The details of various Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores are tabulated below:

Recycling Stations				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/ Expected Commence- ment Date
Eastern	GREEN@ EASTERN	30 Oi Shun Road, Shau Kei Wan	Po Leung Kuk	Aug 2015
Wan Chai	GREEN@ WAN CHAI	6 Wan Shing Street, Wan Chai	The Hong Kong Wan Chai District Association Limited	Aug 2021
Kwun Tong	GREEN@ KWUN TONG	27 Sheung Yee Road, Kowloon Bay	Christian Family Service Centre	Jan 2017
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@ SHAM SHUI PO	339 Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po	Po Leung Kuk	Oct 2017

Islands	GREEN@ ISLANDS	1 Chung Mun Road, Tung Chung, Lantau	OIWA Limited	Oct 2019
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ KWAI TSING	12 Tam Kon Shan Road, Tsing Yi	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	Nov 2018
Sai Kung	GREEN@ SAI KUNG	3 Po Lam Lane, Tseung Kwan O	Christian Family Service Centre	Aug 2021
Sha Tin	GREEN@ SHA TIN	10 On Ping Street, Shek Mun	Christian Family Service Centre	May 2015
Tai Po	GREEN@ TAI PO	25 Dai Wah Street, Tai Po	Hong Chi Association	Oct 2019
Tuen Mun	GREEN@ TUEN MUN	9 Tuen Yee Street, Tuen Mun	Yan Oi Tong Limited	Sep 2018
Yuen Long	GREEN@ YUEN LONG	65 Tin Wah Road, Tin Shui Wai	Hong Chi Association	Jan 2017
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@ WONG TAI SIN	Po Kong Village Road, Wong Tai Sin (construction in progress)	Operating contract to be awarded soon	The fourth quarter of 2024
Recycling Stores				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Actual/ Expected Commencement Date
Eastern	GREEN@ QUARRY BAY ^{Note 1}	East Pavilion, King's Road	Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Hong Kong Limited	Dec 2020
Central and Western	GREEN@ SAI YING PUN ^{Note 1}	224 Queen's Road West	121C Society for Recycling Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@ SHEUNG WAN ^{Note 1, Note 2}	Wing Hing Commercial Building, Sutherland Street	The Association of the Hong Kong Central and Western District Limited	Nov 2020

	GREEN@ KENNEDY TOWN	Lexington Hill, Belcher's Street, Kennedy Town	ECO Foundation Limited	Mar 2022
Southern	GREEN@ ABERDEEN <small>Note 1</small>	1/F, Aberdeen Market	121C Society for Recycling Limited	May 2023
	GREEN@ AP LEI CHAU	Happy View Building, Ap Lei Chau Main Street	Hong Kong Southern District Community Association Limited	Feb 2022
Wan Chai	GREEN@ HAPPY VALLEY	Green Valley Mansion, Wong Nai Chung Road	Green Council	Mar 2022
	GREEN@ TIN HAU ^{Note 1}	Triumph Court, Electric Road	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Nov 2020
Kowloon City	GREEN@ WALLED CITY ^{Note 1}	48 Lion Rock Road	Christian Family Service Centre	Dec 2020
	GREEN@ TO KWA WAN ^{Note 1}	93 Pau Chung Street (San Shan Road Entrance)	Christian Family Service Centre	Dec 2020
	GREEN@ HUNG HOM <small>Note 1</small>	103 Wuhu Street	Christian Family Service Centre	Apr 2023
Kwun Tong	GREEN@YUE MAN SQUARE ^{Note 1}	Yan On Mansion, Ngau Tau Kok Road	Christian Family Service Centre	Apr 2023
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@ CHEUNG SHA WAN ^{Note 1}	188 Fuk Wa Street	Cheungshawan Kaifong Welfare Association Limited	Apr 2023
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@SAN PO KONG ^{Note 1}	San Po Kong Mansion, Choi Hung Road	East Kowloon District Residents' Committee Limited	Dec 2020

Yau Tsim Mong	GREEN@TAI KOK TSUI ^{Note 1}	117 Ivy Street	New Life Cycle Co., Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@JORDAN	Wai Ching Court, Wai Ching Street	Yaumati Kai Fong Welfare Advancement Association Limited	Apr 2022
Islands	GREEN@MUI WO ^{Note 1}	Silver Centre Building, Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road	OIWA Limited	Feb 2021
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@TSING YI	Shop TSY 208 at Tsing Yi MTR Station	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	Feb 2024
North	GREEN@SHEK WU HUI ^{Note 1}	80 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui	North District Residents Association Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@FANLING ^{Note 1}	Flora Plaza, Pak Wo Road, Fanling	North District Residents Association Limited	Dec 2020
	GREEN@LUEN WO HUI	Grand Tower Block A, Luen Wo Road, Fanling	Endeavour Environmental Education Foundation Limited	Mar 2022
Sai Kung	GREEN@PO LAM ^{Note 1}	MCP Central, Yan King Road, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	Dec 2020
	GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN	98 Man Nin Street	Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O Women's Association Limited	Apr 2022
	GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN - TIU KENG LENG BRANCH ^{Note 3}	Phase 3, Ocean Shores, O King Road	Sai Kung and Tseung Kwan O Women's Association Limited	Jan 2023
Sha Tin	GREEN@TAI WAI ^{Note 1}	Hey Yuet Building, Chik Shun Street	Shatin Women's Association Limited	Apr 2023
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO MARKET ^{Note 1}	Central Plaza, Kwong Fuk Road	Environmental Association Limited	Jan 2021

	GREEN@ TAI WO	Block C, Greenery Plaza, Chui Yi Street	Green Tai Po	Mar 2022
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LO TAK COURT ^{Note 1}	423-427 Castle Peak Road - Tsuen Wan	New Life Cycle Co., Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@ YI PEI SQUARE	71 Ho Pui Street	Association for Tsuen Wan Development	Apr 2022
Tuen Mun	GREEN@ SAN HUI ^{Note 1}	Ming Wai Building, Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road	Green Commune Education Charity Foundation Limited	Nov 2020
	GREEN@ KIN SANG	G/F, Ori, Leung Tak Street	New Territories West Power Eco Company	Apr 2022
Yuen Long	GREEN@ YUEN LONG HUI ^{Note 1}	Chun Chu House, Castle Peak Road - Yuen Long	Action Health Limited	Apr 2023
	GREEN@ LONG PING	Hung Fat House, Kau Yuk Road	Pumen Foundation Limited	Mar 2022

Note 1: The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation between end-2020 and early 2021. The follow-on contracts for 20 Recycling Stores were awarded in November 2022. Due to tenancy reasons and technical considerations, 10 Recycling Stores had to be relocated and commenced operation on 1 April 2023. Temporary collection points were set up at or near the original locations of the Recycling Stores when refurbishment was carried out at new locations. GREEN@TIN WAN was renamed as GREEN@ABERDEEN after being relocated to the Aberdeen Market in May 2023. Besides, as the EPD has launched a pilot scheme in Kwai Tsing District to develop a network of small-scale Recycling Stores in PRH estates, the Recycling Store GREEN@KWAI CHUNG ceased operation on 31 March 2023 after the expiry of the contract to avoid duplication of resources.

Note 2: Regarding GREEN@SHEUNG WAN, as no conforming tender was received during the tendering process for the follow-on contract in 2022, the tender procedure concerned was cancelled. The EPD then conducted a re-tendering exercise in December 2022 and awarded a follow-on contract in June 2023 for continuing with the services at the original location.

Note 3: GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN - TIU KENG LENG BRANCH is an affiliated facility of GREEN@SAI KUNG TOWN.

The Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates are tabulated below:

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Expected/Actual Commencement Date
Eastern	GREEN@ WAN TSUI	G/F, Mei Tsui House, Wan Tsui Estate, Chai Wan	Youth Chain Limited	14 Feb 2024
	GREEN@ YUE WAN	G/F, Yue On House, Yue Wan Estate, Chai Wan	Youth Chain Limited	14 Feb 2024
	GREEN@ HING TUNG ^{Note}	G/F, Hing Fung House, Hing Tung Estate, Sai Wan Ho	Hong Kong Youth Power Association	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ YIU TUNG ^{Note}	G/F, Yiu Hing House, Yiu Tung Estate, Shau Kei Wan	Hong Kong Youth Power Association	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ SIU SAI WAN ^{Note}	G/F, Sui Yick House, Siu Sai Wan Estate, Chai Wan	Youth Chain Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kowloon City	GREEN@ TAK LONG ^{Note}	G/F, Tak Shan House, Tak Long Estate, Kai Tak	Community Care Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwun Tong	GREEN@ KAI YIP	G/F, Kai Yue House, Kai Yip Estate, Kowloon Bay	Christian Family Service Centre	29 Dec 2023
	GREEN@ SHUN LEE ^{Note}	G/F, Lee Yip House, Shun Lee Estate, Kwun Tong	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ PING TIN ^{Note}	G/F, Ping Shun House, Ping Tin Estate, Lam Tin	Wegeneration Limited	From the second quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Expected/Actual Commencement Date
	GREEN@ SAU MAU PING ^{Note}	G/F, Sau Sin House, Sau Mau Ping (South) Estate, Kwun Tong	Wegeneration Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ YAU LAI ^{Note}	G/F, Hong Lai House, Yau Lai Estate, Yau Tong	Wegeneration Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@ PAK TIN ^{Note}	G/F, Yue Tin House, Pak Tin Estate, Sham Shui Po	Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ SO UK ^{Note}	G/F, Azalea House, So Uk Estate, Cheung Sha Wan	Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ UN CHAU ^{Note}	G/F, Un Wai House, Un Chau Estate, Cheung Sha Wan	Sham Ching Youth Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@ CHOI WAN ^{Note}	G/F, King San House, Choi Wan (I) Estate, Ngau Chi Wan	Community Care Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ CHUK YUEN ^{Note}	G/F, Fu Yuen House, Chuk Yuen South Estate, Wong Tai Sin	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ WANG TAU HOM ^{Note}	G/F, Wang Yip House, Wang Tau Hom Estate, Wong Tai Sin	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	From the second quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Expected/Actual Commencement Date
	GREEN@ TSZ CHING ^{Note}	G/F, Ching Yuk House, Tsz Ching Estate, Tsz Wan Shan	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@TSZ LOK ^{Note}	G/F, Lok Shing House, Tsz Lok Estate, Tsz Wan Shan	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@TSZ MAN ^{Note}	G/F, Man Tai House, Tsz Man Estate, Tsz Wan Shan	Christian Family Service Centre	From the second quarter of 2024
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@ KWAI FONG	Unit No. 13, G/F, Kwai On House, Kwai Fong Estate, Kwai Chung	Christian Family Service Centre	26 Jun 2023
	GREEN@ TAI WO HAU	Unit No. 6, G/F, Fu Wah House, Tai Wo Hau Estate, Kwai Chung	Christian Family Service Centre	26 Jun 2023
	GREEN@ CHEUNG HONG ^{Note}	G/F, Hong Fu House, Cheung Hong Estate, Tsing Yi	Kwai Tsing Women's Community Development Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ LAI KING ^{Note}	G/F, Yeung King House, Lai King Estate, Kwai Chung	Kwai Tsing Women's Community Development Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ KWAI SHING ^{Note}	6/F, Block 1, Kwai Shing West Estate, Kwai Chung	CC Smile Charity Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ ON YAM ^{Note}	G/F, Chak Yam House, On Yam	CC Smile Charity	From the second quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Expected/Actual Commencement Date
		Estate, Kwai Chung	Foundation Limited	
North	GREEN@ CHING HO ^{Note}	G/F, Ching Yu House, Ching Ho Estate, Sheung Shui	Luen Heep Social Service Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ QUEENS HILL ^{Note}	G/F, Wong Sheng House, Queens Hill Estate, Fanling	Luen Heep Social Service Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sai Kung	GREEN@ KIN MING ^{Note}	G/F, Ming Yu House, Kin Ming Estate, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ SHEUNG TAK ^{Note}	G/F, Sheung Chun House, Sheung Tak Estate, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O Kai Fong Joint Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Sha Tin	GREEN@ CHUN YEUNG	G/F, Chun Yi House, Chun Yeung Estate, Fo Tan	Shatin Inhabitants Association Limited	14 Feb 2024
	GREEN@ YAN ON ^{Note}	G/F, Yan Yuet House, Yan On Estate, Ma On Shan	Shatin Inhabitants Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ SHA KOK ^{Note}	G/F, Skylark House, Sha Kok Estate, Sha Tin	Project Tomorrow Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ SHUI CHUEN O ^{Note}	G/F, Mau Chuen House, Shui Chuen O	Project Tomorrow Limited	From the second quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Expected/Actual Commencement Date
		Estate, Sha Tin		
Tai Po	GREEN@ KWONG FUK ^{Note}	G/F, Kwong Chi House, Kwong Fuk Estate, Tai Po	Joyteam Volunteers Alliance Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ TAI YUEN ^{Note}	G/F, Tai Ling House, Tai Yuen Estate, Tai Po	Joyteam Volunteers Alliance Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@ LEI MUK SHUE ^{Note}	G/F, Pak Shue House, Lei Muk Shue (2) Estate, Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ SHEK WAI KOK ^{Note}	G/F, Shek To House, Shek Wai Kok Estate, Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan Development Association Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
Tuen Mun	GREEN@ ON TING	G/F, Ting Lung House, On Ting Estate, Tuen Mun	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	29 Jan 2024
	GREEN@ YAN TIN	G/F, Yuet Tin House, Yan Tin Estate, Tuen Mun	Hong Kong Youth Affairs Development Foundation Limited	14 Feb 2024
	GREEN@ FU TAI ^{Note}	G/F, Mei Tai House, Fu Tai Estate, Tuen Mun	Hong Kong Youth Affairs Development Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@ WU KING ^{Note}	G/F, Wu Pik House, Wu King Estate, Tuen Mun	New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association	From the second quarter of 2024

Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates				
District	Project	Address	Operator	Expected/Actual Commencement Date
Yuen Long	GREEN@TIN HENG ^{Note}	G/F, Heng Fu House, Tin Heng Estate, Tin Shui Wai	Pumen Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@TIN WAH ^{Note}	G/F, Wah Yau House, Tin Wah Estate, Tin Shui Wai	Pumen Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024
	GREEN@TIN YAN ^{Note}	G/F, Yan Fuk House, Tin Yan Estate, Tin Shui Wai	Pumen Foundation Limited	From the second quarter of 2024

Note: 37 Recycling Stores set up in PRH estates will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The relevant operators have set up temporary collection booths in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024.

- 5) The medium-term goal set out in the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035 is to increase the recovery rate to about 55%. According to overseas experiences, it would take certain time for the public to gradually develop the habit of practising waste reduction and recycling even upon the implementation of MSW charging. Therefore, our primary goal is to help the public establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling first, so as to minimise the amount of charges they will need to pay. The EPD estimates that after the implementation of MSW charging, as the public's habits change, the recovery rate of 32% in 2022 will gradually increase.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)097

(Question Serial No. 2574)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under this Programme that the Department will continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles (EVs), and enhance the charging network for EVs. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) Please set out in tabular form the information about the implementation of the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme for EVs in the past 3 financial years, including: (i) the number of applications received, (ii) the number of applications approved, and (iii) the amount of first registration tax (FRT) concessions granted, with a breakdown by vehicle makes.
- 2) The respective numbers of first registrations of fuel-driven vehicles and EVs in Hong Kong and their percentage increase in the past 3 years.
- 3) The respective numbers of slow, medium and quick charging facilities in the 18 districts.
- 4) The ratio of EV charging facilities to EVs in Hong Kong in the past 3 years.
- 5) The situation and progress in taking forward and monitoring the installation of EV charging facilities in petrol filling stations in the past year; the manpower and expenditures involved; and the number of petrol filling stations to be equipped with EV charging facilities in the coming year.
- 6) It is put forward in the Budget that the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme for EVs will be adjusted and EVs sold at \$500,000 or above will no longer be entitled to the FRT concessions. This will undermine the public's desire to purchase EVs to a large extent. Is this not in line with the Government's policy objective of promoting the use of EVs?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- 1) In the past 3 financial years, the number of applications received by the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme, the number of applications approved and the amount of first registration tax (FRT) concessions granted are set out below:

2021-22 financial year

Make	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Amount of FRT concessions granted (\$million)
AUDI	42	42	12
BMW I	26	26	6
BYD	6	6	1
FIAT	1	1	0.2
HYUNDAI	247	237	45
KIA	159	161	40
LEXUS	7	5	1
MERCEDES BENZ	615	602	164
MG	55	53	8
MINI	46	38	8
NISSAN	217	211	51
PORSCHE	336	317	89
SMART	1	1	0.1
TESLA	9 680	9 577	2,520
VOLKSWAGEN	41	42	8
VOLVO	55	53	15

2022-23 financial year

Make	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Amount of FRT concessions granted (\$million)
AUDI	158	157	45
B.M.W	2 766	2 697	771
BMW I	37	37	8
BYD	1 264	1 186	201
FIAT	5	5	1
FORD	2	2	0.6
HYUNDAI	404	409	83
KIA	841	819	232
LEXUS	10	11	3
MERCEDES BENZ	3 136	3 077	871
MG	595	566	115
MINI	162	168	46
NISSAN	259	259	49
PEUGEOT	4	3	0.6
POLESTAR	223	213	58
PORSCHE	541	539	155
TESLA	12 403	12 067	3,366
VOLKSWAGEN	1	1	0.2
VOLVO	477	446	128

2023-24 financial year (as at 31 January 2024)

Make	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Amount of FRT concessions granted (\$million)
AUDI	122	120	34
B.M.W	4 404	4 301	1,239
BYD	4 040	3 834	693
DFSK	64	62	9
FIAT	8	8	2
HONDA	59	37	7
HYUNDAI	653	641	173
JAGUAR	2	2	0.6
KIA	579	553	153
LEXUS	459	451	129
MAXUS	1 197	1 111	312
MERCEDES BENZ	3 403	3 295	955
MG	1 139	1 077	227
MINI	219	217	50
NISSAN	331	324	62
ORA	318	305	54
PEUGEOT	44	41	12
POLESTAR	196	201	59
PORSCHE	438	437	126
TESLA	8 461	8 002	2,086
TOYOTA	22	2	0.3
VOLKSWAGEN	1	1	0
VOLVO	297	274	75

Note 1: As there is a time lag for processing the applications, the number of applications approved and the amount of FRT concessions granted may not correspond to the number of applications received within the same financial year.

Note 2: Figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

- 2) The numbers of first registrations of fuel-driven vehicles and electric vehicles (EVs) and their percentage increase or decrease in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of first registered vehicles		Percentage increase (+)/decrease(-)	
	Fuel-driven vehicle (petrol and diesel)	EV	Fuel-driven vehicle (petrol and diesel)	EV
2020	47 850	4 664	-	-
2021	46 581	9 730	-3%	+109%
2022	32 870	20 073	-29%	+106%
2023	25 817	29 125	-21%	+45%

Note: Government vehicles are not included in the figures as government vehicles need not be registered. Besides, hybrid vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel type.

- 3) The numbers of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector by the 18 districts as at the end of December 2021 are set out in the table below:

District	Number of chargers			
	Standard	Medium	Quick	Sub-total
Central & Western	57	218	47	322
Eastern	19	132	58	209
Southern	6	28	34	68
Wan Chai	67	258	35	360
Kowloon City	95	45	30	170
Kwun Tong	575	298	89	962
Sham Shui Po	35	135	97	267
Wong Tai Sin	23	62	20	105
Yau Tsim Mong	59	127	67	253
Kwai Tsing	9	117	48	174
Tsuen Wan	22	185	34	241
Sai Kung	88	70	43	201
North	96	144	21	261
Tai Po	27	23	8	58
Sha Tin	137	315	84	536
Yuen Long	56	109	37	202
Tuen Mun	16	51	22	89
Islands	23	160	35	218
Total	1 410	2 477	809	4 696

The numbers of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector by the 18 districts as at the end of December 2022 are set out in the table below:

District	Number of chargers			
	Standard	Medium	Quick	Sub-total
Central & Western	46	299	47	392
Eastern	21	227	69	317
Southern	6	192	42	240
Wan Chai	67	266	47	380
Kowloon City	95	45	36	176
Kwun Tong	561	322	108	991
Sham Shui Po	29	182	97	308
Wong Tai Sin	23	59	25	107
Yau Tsim Mong	54	180	100	334
Kwai Tsing	9	129	53	191
Tsuen Wan	20	201	25	246
Sai Kung	121	83	71	275
North	169	136	31	336
Tai Po	30	20	17	67
Sha Tin	118	314	94	526
Yuen Long	54	114	60	228
Tuen Mun	14	52	30	96
Islands	16	162	46	224
Total	1 453	2 983	998	5 434

The numbers of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector by the 18 districts as at the end of December 2023 are set out in the table below:

District	Number of chargers			
	Standard	Medium	Quick	Sub-total
Central & Western	10	366	49	425
Eastern	16	278	87	381
Southern	6	227	48	281
Wan Chai	70	277	57	404
Kowloon City	100	59	39	198
Kwun Tong	562	506	135	1 203
Sham Shui Po	29	168	58	255
Wong Tai Sin	18	173	37	228
Yau Tsim Mong	50	210	115	375
Kwai Tsing	9	162	54	225
Tsuen Wan	21	223	39	283
Sai Kung	118	144	96	358
North	172	263	31	466
Tai Po	30	116	17	163
Sha Tin	663	455	122	1 240
Yuen Long	53	222	67	342
Tuen Mun	12	77	40	129
Islands	100	299	60	459
Total	2 039	4 225	1 151	7 415

- 4) The Government announced the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (the Roadmap) in 2021, aiming to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure (EVCEI) by or before 2025. To this end, the Government through: (1) the measure of gross floor area (GFA) concessions to encourage the installation of EVCEI in parking spaces of newly built private buildings. The Government has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces, of which more than 30 800 parking spaces have been completed and equipped with EVCEI; and (2) the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to assist existing private residential buildings and housing estates in installing EVCEI in their parking spaces. With the relevant schemes and initiatives in place, we are confident in achieving the target of having at least 150 000 parking spaces equipped with EVCEI by 2025 as set out in the Roadmap and raise the number to over 200 000 parking spaces within this government term.

It has been the Government's policy direction that drivers of electric private cars (e-PCs) should mainly charge their e-PCs at the parking spaces of their homes and workplaces. As for public charging facilities, they should mainly serve as supplementary charging facilities for EVs, providing opportunity charging where necessary during the course of driving. The ratios of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector to EVs in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Year	Number of public EV chargers	Number of e-PCs in Hong Kong	Ratio of public EV chargers to e-PCs
2021	4 696	27 494	1:6
2022	5 434	46 682	1:9
2023	7 415	75 051	1:10

- 5) Through the refining of the land lease conditions for petrol filling stations (PFSs), the Government is offering suitable incentives for PFS operators to retrofit EV charging facilities in the usable space of PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. The Government wrote to PFS operators in November 2023 to invite submission of preliminary proposals for retrofitting quick charging facilities at PFSs, and received 98 preliminary proposals in February 2024. Analysis and feasibility study of the proposals received are underway. We expect to provide about 100 chargers at the existing PFSs in the 2024-25 financial year.

The aforementioned work is part of the overall duties of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and is absorbed by its existing resources.

- 6) The Government has been striving to promote the use of EVs, including the provision of financial incentives, in order to reduce roadside air pollutant emissions and attain the target of carbon neutrality in transport sector by 2050. Nevertheless, to ensure the prudent use of public funds, the Government will only provide subsidies under sufficient justification upon considering relevant factors such as technological and market development. Therefore, the Government announced in the latest Budget that the FRT concession arrangement for EVs will be extended to 31 March 2026 to encourage a wider use of EVs, and the arrangement for e-PCs will be adjusted starting from 1 April 2024.

Apart from financial incentives, the Government has introduced a number of initiatives to further expand the EV charging network to meet the growing demand for EV charging, including the EHSS and granting GFA concessions, to substantially increase the EV charging infrastructure in car parks of existing housing estates and new buildings. Meanwhile, the Government has also been expediting the marketisation of EV charging services. For instance, fee-paying EV charging services have been progressively introduced at government car parks since end-2023 to drive the participation of the private sector in providing more charging facilities for EV drivers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)098

(Question Serial No. 1494)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding waste separation for recycling, the Environmental Protection Department has been enhancing and expanding the community recycling network (comprising Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots) over the territory. In this connection, please advise:

1. The estimated expenditure for 2024-25 under the Waste Programme is higher than the original estimate for 2023-24 by 3.9%. Please provide the specific details of the estimate for waste separation and the other 5 target areas.

2. Please list out the average annual expenditure for the Recycling Stations of GREEN@COMMUNITY by year since its launch.

3. Further to the above, what are the administrative costs involved respectively?

4. What are the quantities recovered since the waste collection and recycling services of food waste and waste plastics came into service? What are the costs involved? Please provide the details of expenditure to be involved in the continuous expansion of waste collection and recycling services.

5. Will the Administration review the recovery rate and effectiveness of each Recycling Station on a regular basis? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- 1-4. Regarding waste separation for recycling (including the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection, Pilot Scheme on Waste Plastics Collection and Recycling, and Waste Paper Collection and Recycling Services), the expenditures of the relevant projects over the past 2 years and the estimated expenditures for 2024-25 are as follows:

Project	Operating expenditure(\$million)		
	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised estimate)	2024-25 (Estimate)
Community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY (comprising Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and their Recycling Spots ⁽¹⁾)	Recycling Stations ⁽²⁾		
	69	64	72
	Recycling Stores ⁽³⁾		
	201	218	250
	Recycling Stores in public rental housing (PRH) estates ⁽⁴⁾		
	N/A	11	91
Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection ⁽⁵⁾	65.7	107.1	177.6
Pilot Scheme on Waste Plastics Collection and Recycling ⁽⁶⁾	15	19	30
Waste Paper Collection and Recycling Services ⁽⁷⁾	326	237	240

Notes:

- (1) Recycling Spots are operated by Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores. The operating expenditures of Recycling Spots are included in the operating expenditures of Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores.
- (2) The number of Recycling Stations increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2021.
- (3) The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation progressively starting from the fourth quarter of 2020, and the other batch of 10 Recycling Stores have been gradually put into service since early 2022.
- (4) 8 Recycling Stores in PRH estates have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The operators have also set up temporary collection booths until those Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.
- (5) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.
- (6) The EPD has commenced a two-year Pilot Scheme on Waste Plastics Collection and Recycling since January 2020 progressively in 3 districts, namely Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin, and further extended the scheme progressively since late March 2022 to 6 additional districts, namely Tai Po, Sai Kung, Central and Western District, Sham Shui Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, to collect all types of non-commercial and non-industrial waste plastics from these districts for proper

handling and recycling. The extended pilot scheme in 9 districts is expected to complete in 2024-25. We are reviewing the actual operational experience and effectiveness of the pilot scheme in order to decide on the way forward.

- (7) The waste paper collection and recycling services were launched in September 2020. The follow-on contracts commenced in January 2023 and the operation rates of these contracts are lower than that of the first batch of contracts.

The quantities of recyclables recovered under the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection and the Pilot Scheme on Waste Plastics Collection and Recycling in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Quantity of recyclables recovered (tonnes)		
	2021	2022	2023
Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection ⁽¹⁾	49 030	49 250	60 790
Pilot Scheme on Waste Plastics Collection and Recycling	2 280	4 850	6 480

Notes:

- (1) Quantity of food waste recovered refers to the total amount of food waste treated by Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK1) and the “Food Waste, Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme” at the Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works in the respective year. Organisations/premises delivering food waste to the above facilities through Government funding and at their own cost have been covered.

5. The operators of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores are required to provide the specified services during the contract period and meet the pre-determined performance targets. From the commencement of the relevant operation contracts till end-2023, the operational performances of all the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores were able to meet the pre-determined targets. All the operating contracts of Recycling Stores (except those set up in PRH estates) will expire in 2025 successively. The EPD will continue to monitor and review the operation of various GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities and, based on the overall recycling situation during the current contract period, comprehensively review the contractual clauses on operational arrangements and recyclable collection targets, etc. when preparing the tender documents of the follow-on operating contracts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)099

(Question Serial No. 1618)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The municipal solid waste (MSW) charging scheme introduced by the Government earlier has aroused discussions and concerns among different sectors of the community. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. In view of the comments and discussions in the community on the enforcement of MSW charging, has the Administration devised better enforcement approaches? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Regarding the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products, it is noted that the relevant trades are actively looking for alternatives. Does the Administration have any plan to fund local universities in conducting relevant researches while fostering diversification of our industries?
3. Further to the above, what mechanism will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme and its impact on the community?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. Experiences outside Hong Kong show that public awareness and participation in the early stages of implementation of MSW charging are critical to its smooth implementation. A six-month phasing-in period will be put in place after the commencement of MSW charging, during which we will focus on publicity and education, giving advice and warnings as far as possible. We will act against cases where the nature or magnitude of the offence calls for action. Regarding the publicity and education, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is preparing to step up publicity, education, and advisory work during the phasing-in period. This includes inspections on individual floors or the ground floor of waste reception points in residential, commercial and industrial premises, and conducting publicity, education and advisory work against non-compliant cases (i.e. disposal of waste without wrapping in DBs or oversized waste without affixing DLs) at the waste reception points.

On the other hand, the EPD has upgraded the customer service centre and set up a dedicated hotline to handle public enquiries and receive reports on non-compliant cases upon the implementation of MSW charging. Since the dedicated hotline commenced

operation in July 2023, the customer service centre has handled more than 12 000 enquiries.

2. To provide better and more focused funding support to research and development (R&D) projects which can help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection, the Government established the Green Tech Fund (GTF) in 2020, and has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF since then. “Waste Reduction” is one of the priority themes under the GTF to encourage the trades to develop environmental technologies with commercialisation and application value, thereby facilitating the regulation on disposable plastics. Besides, the Government supports the development of green technology. For example, the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) managed by the Innovation and Technology Commission has been actively supporting R&D in different technology areas, including green development. Various funding schemes which support R&D under the ITF have approved about 140 R&D projects related to green technology so far, involving a total subsidy of about \$433 million.
3. The quantity of plastics (including disposable and reusable) and expanded polystyrene tableware disposed of in 2022 was 227 tonnes per day, accounting for about 10% of the total quantity of plastics disposed of. We will monitor the changes in the quantity of plastic and expanded polystyrene tableware disposed of and the overall quantity of plastics disposed of, and keep in view the adaptation level of the trades and the public to the regulation, so as to evaluate the effectiveness of the regulation and its impact on the community.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)100

(Question Serial No. 2547)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Starting from the end of 2023, the Government has progressively proceeded with the marketisation of electric vehicle (EV) charging services in existing government car parks, with a view to promoting market participation in the provision of EV charging services. The marketisation plan is expected to complete by mid-2024. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please set out in tabular form the implementation details of the fee-paying EV charging services in all the 74 government car parks, including the names and addresses of the government car parks, the numbers of medium chargers provided, the ending date and time of the free EV charging services, the starting date and time of the fee-paying EV charging services, as well as the charging fee.
- (2) The estimated expenditure for upgrading the charging system of EV chargers.
- (3) Are standard and quick chargers provided in government car parks? If yes, what are the details? Does the Administration have any plan to marketise them?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.:15)

Reply:

- (1) Starting from the end of 2023, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has progressively marketised its EV charging services in public government car parks. It is anticipated that the marketisation of the EV charging services will be completed by mid-2024. The implementation schedule and fee level of the fee-paying EV charging services in the 74 government car parks as at the end of February 2024 are set out in the table below. The EPD will release the latest information to the public in a timely manner through different channels, including the EPD's webpage on Promotion of EV, the "EV-Charging Easy" mobile application and notices posted at the relevant car parks.

No.	Government car park	Number of chargers	Date & time for ending free charging service	Date & time for starting fee-paying charging service	Charging rate HK\$/hour
1	Kwai Fong Car Park	94	28-12-2023 8 AM	28-12-2023 8 PM	19
2	Kennedy Town Car Park	59	29-12-2023 8 AM	29-12-2023 8 PM	21
3	City Hall Car Park	30	23-01-2024 8 AM	23-01-2024 6 PM	20
4	Star Ferry Car Park	35	23-01-2024 8 AM	23-01-2024 6 PM	20
5	Aberdeen Car Park	44	25-01-2024 8 AM	25-01-2024 6 PM	20
6	Lai Chi Kok Park	8	26-01-2024 8 AM	26-01-2024 6 PM	19
7	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	2	26-01-2024 8 AM	26-01-2024 6 PM	19
8	Cornwall Street Park	2	29-01-2024 8 AM	29-01-2024 6 PM	19
9	Lung Cheung Road Lookout	4	29-01-2024 8 AM	29-01-2024 6 PM	19
10	Sheung Fung Street Car Park	82	30-01-2024 8 AM	30-01-2024 6 PM	20
11	Lei Yue Mun Municipal Service Building	6	01-02-2024 8 AM	01-02-2024 6 PM	19
12	Shun Lee Tsuen Park	4	01-02-2024 8 AM	01-02-2024 6 PM	19
13	Kwong Fuk Park	5	02-02-2024 8 AM	02-02-2024 6 PM	19
14	Tai Po Sports Ground	3	02-02-2024 8 AM	02-02-2024 6 PM	19
15	Tuen Mun Government Office	22	07-02-2024 8 AM	07-02-2024 6 PM	20
16	Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	3	07-02-2024 8 AM	07-02-2024 6 PM	20
17	Yau Oi Sport Centre	3	07-02-2024 8 AM	07-02-2024 6 PM	20
18	Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground	3	08-02-2024 8 AM	08-02-2024 6 PM	20
19	Tsing Yi Sports Ground and Swimming Pool	3	08-02-2024 8 AM	08-02-2024 6 PM	20
20	Ap Lei Chau Waterfront Promenade	6	19-02-2024 8 AM	19-02-2024 6 PM	21
21	Deep Water Bay Beach	3	19-02-2024 8 AM	19-02-2024 6 PM	21
22	Wong Nai Chung Gap Children's Playground	3	19-02-2024 8 AM	19-02-2024 6 PM	21
23	Sai Kung Government Offices	27	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	20
24	Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre	2	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	20

No.	Government car park	Number of chargers	Date & time for ending free charging service	Date & time for starting fee-paying charging service	Charging rate HK\$/hour
25	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	2	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	20
26	Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	4	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	20
27	Fanling Swimming Pool	5	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	19
28	North District Sports Ground	8	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	19
29	Po Wing Road Sports Centre	3	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	19
30	Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	3	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	19
31	Wo Hing Sports Centre	4	20-02-2024 8 AM	20-02-2024 6 PM	19
32	Hong Kong Heritage Museum	11	22-02-2024 8 AM	22-02-2024 6 PM	20
33	Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool & Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre	6	22-02-2024 8 AM	22-02-2024 6 PM	20
34	Sha Tin Town Hall	5	22-02-2024 8 AM	22-02-2024 6 PM	20
35	Kowloon Bay Park	11	22-02-2024 8 AM	22-02-2024 6 PM	19
36	Ping Shek Playground	10	22-02-2024 8 AM	22-02-2024 6 PM	19
37	Island East Sports Centre	19	23-02-2024 8 AM	23-02-2024 6 PM	21
38	North District Government Offices	26	27-02-2024 8 AM	27-02-2024 6 PM	20
39	Shatin Government Offices	74	28-02-2024 8 AM	28-02-2024 6 PM	20
40	Trade and Industry Tower	20	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
41	Kowloon Park	9	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
42	North Point Government Offices	29	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
43	Queensway Government Offices	48	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
44	Yuen Long Swimming Pool	17	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
45	Shau Kei Wan Car Park	116	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
46	Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices	71	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
47	Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	6	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon

No.	Government car park	Number of chargers	Date & time for ending free charging service	Date & time for starting fee-paying charging service	Charging rate HK\$/hour
48	Siu Lek Yuen Road Playground	3	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
49	Yuen Wo Road Playground	6	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
50	Yuen Chau Kok Complex	10	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
51	Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground	15	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
52	Po Kong Village Road Park	3	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
53	Tai Po Complex	5	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
54	Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground	18	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
55	Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road Open Space Carpark	9	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
56	Rumsey Street Car Park	110	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
57	Tai O Public Car Park	9	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
58	Tin Hau Car Park	159	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
59	Tsuen Wan Car Park	162	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
60	Immigration Tower / Wanchai Tower	30	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
61	Fung Kam Street Sports Centre	17	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
62	Hing Fong Road Playground	3	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
63	Kwai Chung Sports Ground Car Park	3	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
64	Ma On Shan Sports Ground	15	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
65	Shing Mun Valley Sports Ground	6	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
66	Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	2	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
67	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre	6	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
68	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	12	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
69	Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool & Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre	11	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
70	Tin Yip Road Park	12	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
71	Tsing Yi Northeast Park	6	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon

No.	Government car park	Number of chargers	Date & time for ending free charging service	Date & time for starting fee-paying charging service	Charging rate HK\$/hour
72	Tsing Yi Southwest Leisure Building	3	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
73	Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool	9	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon
74	Tung Chung Municipal Services Building	10	to be announced soon	to be announced soon	to be announced soon

- (2) According to the fee-paying charging service contract signed between the EPD and the operators, the operators are responsible for all repair, maintenance and operational expenses incurred in the provision of EV charging service, including electricity tariffs, installation of payment systems, etc.
- (3) As at the end of February 2024, various government departments (including the EPD) were responsible for the management and operation of a total of 2 550 public EV chargers, including 560 standard chargers, 1 986 medium chargers and 4 quick chargers. The EPD has progressively started collecting charging fees for the charging services provided by its 1 614 medium chargers since end-2023. Other relevant government departments are also in the process of or considering progressively marketising their EV charging services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)101

(Question Serial No. 2549)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The village sewerage programme (the Programme) was launched in the 1990s to provide public sewerage facilities and improve the environmental hygiene in rural areas. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (1) the number of villages in Hong Kong, the number of villages covered by the Programme as well as those with sewerage works completed and in progress respectively;
- (2) the details of the projects planned in each of the past 4 years, including the districts, the names of the villages covered, the number of village houses involved and the planned population;
- (3) the actual expenditure or revised estimated expenditure involved in the projects in each of the past 4 years; and
- (4) the Administration's plan to complete the sewerage works for all villages in Hong Kong, and the total expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- (1) The Government strives to take forward the village sewerage programme (the Programme) to progressively provide public sewerage facilities in village areas for improving the rural environment, while enhancing the water quality of rivers and coastal waters. As at end-2023, the Programme has covered 583 villages, of which the sewerage systems for 271 villages with relatively large de jure population and in close proximity to public sewerage works have been completed, serving a population of about 200 000. In addition, public sewerage works for another 56 villages are currently under construction.
- (2) Details of the sewerage projects planned in each of the past 4 years, including districts concerned, village names, village house numbers and planned population involved are tabulated below:

Project title	District	Name of village	No. of village house (approx.)	Planned population (approx.)
Year 2023-24				
North District sewerage, stage 1 phase 2C and stage 2 phase 1 – village sewerage in Sheung Shui Heung	North	- Sheung Shui Heung (including Wai Loi Tsuen, Mun Hau Tsuen, Chung Sum Tsuen, Ha Pak Tsuen, Sheung Pak Tsuen, Tai Yuen Tsuen, Hing Yan Tsuen and Po Sheung Tsuen)	1360	14 270
Year 2022-23				
Sewerage to Lo Wai, Chuen Lung and Kau Wa Keng Old Village	Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing	- Lo Wai - Chuen Lung - Kau Wa Keng Old Village	1 060	7 900
North District sewerage stage 2 part 2A – village sewerage in Muk Wu, New Territories	North	- Muk Wu	140	1 060
Year 2021-22				
Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 – extension of sewerage system to other unsewered villages in Mui Wo	Islands	- Luk Tei Tong - Ma Po Tsuen	200	1 020
Outlying Islands sewerage stage 2 – Lamma village sewerage phase 2, package 2	Islands	- Tai Yuen Village (Part 2) - Tai Wan To - Tai Wan San Tsuen - Tai Wan Kau Tsuen - Hung Shing Ye - Ko Long (Part 3) - Wang Long	370	1 830
Year 2020-21				
Tseung Kwan O sewerage for villages	Tseung Kwan O	- Shui Bin Village - Au Tau Village - Boon Kin Village - Wo Tong Kong (Part) - Hang Hau Lower Old Village - Ming Oi New Village - Mau Wu Tsai Village - Tseung Kwan O Village - Tseung Kwan O Upper Old Village - Sun Tei Village	400	3 190

Project title	District	Name of village	No. of village house (approx.)	Planned population (approx.)
Sewerage for Ma Yau Tong Village, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O	- Ma Yau Tong Village	250	2 320
Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 2 – phase 2	Tai Po and Sha Tin	- Ha Wong Yi Au - Cheung Kang - CARE Village - Ma Niu	370	3 060
Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2, package 3	Sai Kung	- Wong Chuk Wan - Wo Mei - Heung Chung	330	2 100
Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3, package 2	Sai Kung	- Tai Po Tsai - Tseng Lan Shue - Sam Long - Po Toi O	900	6 770
Construction of San Shek Wan Sewage Treatment Works and Pui O village sewerage	Islands	- Pui O Lo Uk Tsuen	160	480
Village sewerage in Fanling Wai, So Kwun Po and Leng Pei Tsuen, Fanling	North	- Fan Leng Pak Wai - Fan Leng Ching Wai - Fan Leng Nam Wai - So Kwun Po - Leng Pei Tsuen	960	9 880
Village Sewerage in Northern Tuen Mun	Tuen Mun	- Siu Hang Tsuen - Tsz Tin Tsuen - Fuk Hang Tsuen (Lower) - Po Tong Ha	1 260	7 630
Village sewerage at Kam Tin Shi, Kam Tin	Yuen Long	- Kam Tin Shi	40	300
Provision of trunk sewer to three villages in Tai Po including Ta Tit Yan, Yuen Tun Ha and Lo Lau Uk	Tai Po	- Yuen Tun Ha - Ta Tit Yan - Lo Lau Uk	120	1 000
Village sewerage at Tai Tei Tong and Pak Ngan Heung	Islands	- Pak Ngan Heung - Tai Tei Tong	220	580

(3) The expenditure for the projects planned in each of the past 4 years is set out below:

Year	2020-21 (actual)	2021-22 (actual)	2022-23 (actual)	2023-24 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$m)	78.7	355.3	763.5	927.1

- (4) The Government will take into account various factors, including level of environmental improvement associated with the Programme, density of village population, preference of residents, technical feasibility, cost effectiveness, etc. in taking forward the planning of relevant works to cover the remaining unsewered village areas. Residents in some remote and sparsely populated villages yet to be included in the Programme can continue to use septic tanks and soakaway systems to treat their sewage. At present, the Government does not have a timetable nor an estimation of the total expenditure required to complete the sewerage works for all villages in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)102

(Question Serial No. 2560)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, the Government has been striving to expand the electric vehicle (EV) charging network, and even sets a target to increase the total number of public and private parking spaces with charging infrastructure to about 200 000 by mid-2027. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the total numbers of public and private parking spaces with charging infrastructure in the past 3 years and at present respectively? Before reaching the target of 200 000 by 2027, has a schedule been devised for the yearly increase in the total number of charging infrastructure? If yes, what are the details?
- (2) What are the current number of public chargers provided by the Government and the private sector in Hong Kong respectively?
- (3) What were the number of public chargers provided by the Government in each of the past 3 years? What are the respective numbers of public chargers managed by various departments and the expenditures incurred?
- (4) Please set out by the 18 districts the numbers of different types of public chargers, including standard, medium and quick chargers, in each of the past 3 years.
- (5) What is the current number of EVs in Hong Kong and its percentage share in the total number of vehicles?
- (6) What is the current ratio of public chargers to the number of EVs in Hong Kong? Is there a plan to enhance the ratio? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (1) As at the end of February 2024, there were a total of about 47 000 public or private parking spaces with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure (EVCEI) in Hong Kong.

The Government announced the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles in 2021, aiming to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with EVCEI by or before 2025. To this end, the Government through: (1) the measure of gross floor area (GFA) concessions to encourage the installation of EVCEI in parking spaces of newly built private buildings.

The Government has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces, of which more than 30 800 parking spaces have been completed and equipped with EVCEI; and (2) the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to assist existing private residential buildings and housing estates in installing EVCEI in their parking spaces. Meanwhile, the Government has been progressively marketising the EV charging services in government car parks since end-2023 to further provide impetus for the sustainable development of the whole public charging service market in the long run. Through the aforementioned initiatives, we anticipate that the number of EV charging facilities will continue to increase in the future and the target of having 200 000 parking spaces with charging infrastructure can be achieved before mid-2027.

- (2) As at December 2023, over 7 410 public EV chargers had been provided by the Government and the private sector across the territory, of which about 2 550 were government chargers and the remaining of about 4 860 were provided by the private sector.
- (3) The major operating expenditure incurred by the public EV chargers provided by the Government is electricity tariff. In the past 3 years, the total numbers of public chargers provided by all government departments, the numbers of which managed by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the electricity tariff incurred are set out in the below table. With the growth in the number of EVs in Hong Kong in recent years, the demand for public EV charging services has increased accordingly. The usage of public EV chargers managed by the EPD has continued to grow in recent years, with an increase of 1.4 times in 2023 as compared to 2022, resulting in an increase in the associated electricity tariff.

Year	No. of public chargers provided by all government departments	Public chargers managed by the EPD	
		No. of chargers	Electricity tariff incurred(\$ million)
2021	1 789	1 303	3.2
2022	2 210	1 615	8.9
2023	2 550	1 643	21.7

Note: The EPD does not have information on the electricity tariff incurred by the public chargers provided by other government departments.

- (4) As at the end of December 2023, the number of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector in the 18 districts is set out in the below table:

District	Number of chargers			
	Standard	Medium	Quick	Sub-total
Central & Western	10	366	49	425
Eastern	16	278	87	381
Southern	6	227	48	281
Wan Chai	70	277	57	404
Kowloon City	100	59	39	198
Kwun Tong	562	506	135	1 203
Sham Shui Po	29	168	58	255
Wong Tai Sin	18	173	37	228
Yau Tsim Mong	50	210	115	375
Kwai Tsing	9	162	54	225

District	Number of chargers			Sub-total
	Standard	Medium	Quick	
Tsuen Wan	21	223	39	283
Sai Kung	118	144	96	358
North	172	263	31	466
Tai Po	30	116	17	163
Sha Tin	663	455	122	1 240
Yuen Long	53	222	67	342
Tuen Mun	12	77	40	129
Islands	100	299	60	459
Total	2 039	4 225	1 151	7 415

Please visit the following EPD website to browse or download the locations and details of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector across the territory.

(https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/promotion_ev/locations_ev_chargers.html)

- (5) As at the end of December 2023, the total number of EVs in Hong Kong was 76 395, representing about 8.3% of the total number of vehicles.
- (6) As at the end of December 2023, the total number of electric private cars (e-PCs) in Hong Kong was 75 051 and the ratio of public chargers to e-PCs in Hong Kong was about 1:10.

It has been the Government's policy direction that drivers of e-PCs should mainly charge their e-PCs at the parking spaces of their homes and workplaces. In this regard, the Government will continue to encourage the installation of EVCEI in car parks of existing residential buildings and new private buildings through the \$3.5 billion EHSS and granting of GFA concessions respectively.

Regarding public charging network, with the progressive marketisation of EV charging services in government car parks since end-2023, the whole charging service market will be provided with the impetus in its development to increase the total number of public charging facilities. Furthermore, the Government is planning to convert gradually some of the existing petrol filling stations (PFSs) to quick charging stations in the medium to long term to provide charging services for various types of vehicles, as well as offering suitable incentives for PFS operators to retrofit quick chargers in the existing PFSs, so as to support a more diversified development of charging facilities to cope with the needs of different EVs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1120)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environment and Ecology Bureau has postponed the effective date of the Charging for Municipal Solid Waste (Amendment) Ordinance (the charging scheme) to 1 August 2024 to further enhance the complementary arrangements. Please provide details on the work plans and budget for the provision of recycling facilities (including food waste recycling bins, three-colour recycling bins, GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling stations/stores and recycling spots, etc.) in various district in 2024-25. In addition, will the service hours of recycling vehicles and mobile collection booths that operate weekly at fixed locations be extended for the convenience of the working population to practise recycling outside working hours and during holidays? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD), in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in public rental housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages, with a cumulative usage of about 800 000 times.

Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has commenced gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering optimising the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households.

In 2024-25, the estimated expenditure incurred by the Food Waste Collection Scheme in PRH Estates is about \$110 million. In addition, as at February 2024, 33 theme-based projects under the solicitation scheme on “Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste Collection and Recycling” launched under the Industry Support Programme by the Recycling Fund in 2020 have been approved, involving a total of about \$31 million. The ECC has been providing funding support through the ECF for the EPD to roll out the 2-year Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates, with an estimated allocation of \$13 million. The ECF has also provided funding for the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings, rural villages and transitional housing, with a total of about \$18 million granted for relevant projects as at February 2024. The ECF operates in accordance with the Environment and Conservation Fund Ordinance, and the funding support for relevant projects does not involve expenditure under the General Revenue Account “Head 44 - Environmental Protection Department” in 2024-25.

The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in

clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024 until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year’s Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year’s Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to special arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and “three-nil” buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network to help the public practise waste separation and recycling properly.

The operating expenditures of GREEN@COMMUNITY include the manpower employed by the operators, purchase or hire of vehicles for transporting recyclables and rental expenses (if applicable), etc., with rental expenses accounting for about 20% of the operating expenditures of Recycling Stores. The estimated operational expenditure for GREEN@COMMUNITY projects in 2024-25 is approximately \$413 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)104

(Question Serial No. 1128)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Charging for Municipal Solid Waste (Amendment) Ordinance (the charging scheme) will come into effect on 1 August 2024, and the community is concerned about the implementation of the charging scheme in old buildings and old districts.

(1) The Administration stated that during the phasing-in period before the implementation of the charging scheme, free designated bags (DBs) will be distributed to the households of three-nil buildings, public rental housing estates and village houses. Please provide the detailed plan, the number of DBs and the budget involved;

(2) Regarding the old buildings not belonging to the aforesaid groups, for instance those with owners' corporation but no property management office, will the Administration consider distributing DBs to them as well to make it easier for them to adapt to the new policy? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

(3) Will support be provided to the owners' corporations of old buildings to monitor and take enforcement actions against the non-compliant cases? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

(4) Will the Administration discuss with the operators to deploy different types of mobile waste vehicles to provide services for different timeslots, to actively help members of the public dispose of their waste in a compliant manner and practise waste separation for recycling? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

(1) To facilitate the public that require more support in adapting to municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and modifying their waste disposal habits, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will distribute free designated bags (DBs) (each household will receive 20 DBs of 15-litre for each month to encourage waste reduction) to the households of public rental housing (PRH) (including transitional housing), "three-nil" buildings and rural village houses during the initial stage of implementation of MSW charging for a period of 6 months. Based on preliminary estimation, a total of about 1.06 million households will be supplied with free DBs.

To achieve cost effectiveness, the warehouse and logistics service contractor of DBs/designated labels will also be responsible for door-to-door delivery of free DBs to the households of “three-nil” buildings. As such work is part of the contract requirements, a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available. Regarding the households of PRH and rural village houses, the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society, non-governmental organisations that operate transitional housing, village representatives or Rural Committees will directly distribute free DBs to their residents or villagers. The EPD does not have to provide additional funding for such service.

Besides, the arrangement of distributing free DBs and the relevant publicity work are part of the work of the EPD and we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure.

- (2) The policy objective of MSW charging is to encourage the community to reduce waste at source by creating financial disincentives through quantity-based charging, with a view to reducing the overall waste disposal amount. The purpose of distributing free DBs to households requiring additional support during the initial stages of implementation of MSW charging is to help them adapt to the charging arrangements. We are also mindful of calls in the community that the Government should be prudent in the use of public resources and should focus on assisting households that genuinely require additional support in adapting to MSW charging. Therefore, the distribution arrangement should be targeted, otherwise it would go against the “polluter-pays” principle of MSW charging.

We only distribute free DBs to households in “three-nil” buildings, PRH and rural village houses. This is mainly because “three-nil” buildings and rural village houses typically lack owners’ corporations (OCs), residents’ organisations of any form or property management companies (PMCs), and subdivided units probably also exist amongst them. Without proper building management, residents in these buildings may require more time and support to adapt to MSW charging. As for residents of PRH, they account for about 30% of Hong Kong’s population with grassroots as the majority, and many of them are elderly. All these 3 types of households require more support to adapt to MSW charging and modify their habits.

- (3) For aged single-block buildings with OCs only but without PMCs, it may be more difficult to monitor whether their residents use DBs for waste disposal. To assist residents of private residential buildings in developing a new habit of using DBs for waste disposal, OCs may apply to the EPD for bulk purchase of DBs for distribution to residents. This arrangement will help enhance compliance rates in residential premises and reduce possible confrontation between cleansing workers and households in case of non-compliance or complaints from households.

Experiences outside Hong Kong show that public awareness and participation in the early stages of implementation of MSW charging are crucial to its smooth implementation. A six-month phasing-in period will be put in place after the commencement of MSW charging, during which we will focus on publicity and education, and give advices and warnings as far as possible. We will act against cases where the nature or magnitude of the offence calls for action. The EPD is also preparing to step up publicity, education, and advisory work during the phasing-in

period. This includes inspections on individual floors or the ground floor of waste reception points in residential, commercial and industrial premises, and conducting publicity, education and advisory work against non-compliant cases (i.e. disposal of waste without wrapping in DBs or oversized waste without affixing designated labels) at the waste reception points.

On the other hand, the EPD has upgraded the customer service centre and set up a dedicated hotline to handle public enquiries and receive reports on non-compliant cases upon the implementation of MSW charging. Since the dedicated hotline commenced operation in July 2023, the customer service centre has handled more than 12 000 enquiries.

- (4) The EPD has rolled out a number of waste reduction and recycling schemes to enhance the community recycling network progressively, thereby facilitating the public practise waste reduction at source. Among these schemes include the Programme on Source Separation of Waste, under which free waste separation bins have been provided to over 2 700 housing estates/residential buildings and 1 200 commercial and industrial buildings, and 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins have also been provided in rural areas for recycling plastics, waste paper and metals. Besides, the EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024 until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

At present, GREEN@COMMUNITY also supports collection-at-door service for the aforementioned 9 types of common recyclables to a total of about 200 PRH estates and over 1 800 private housing estates/single-block buildings/villages/etc. A total of 76 sets of smart recycling bins have also been set up at various application points including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores, PRH estates, private housing estates, villages,

shopping malls, tertiary institutions, government premises, etc. for trial use by the public under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems.

The recycling network formed by the aforementioned programmes has covered over 80% of the population in various districts of Hong Kong. Besides, to encourage more members of the public to participate in waste separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participating Incentive Scheme in 2020, and there are over 500 000 registered users as at the end of February 2024. When carrying out recycling at GREEN@COMMUNITY or through smart recycling bins, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points for redemption of gift items or daily necessities.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year's Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year's Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to special arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and "three-nil" buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network to help the public practise waste separation and recycling properly.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)105

(Question Serial No. 1142)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environment and Ecology Bureau stated that the demonstration of the implementation of municipal solid waste charging will be carried out in April at selected locations such as government buildings, in which government departments will be required to purchase designated bags (DBs) and designated labels (DLs). In addition, other buildings will be identified to participate in the on-site demonstration and will be supplied with free DBs and DLs by the Government. Please provide the details of the above work plan, the estimated expenditure and the estimated reduction in waste volume.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Demonstration Scheme aims at pragmatically examining the problems that may arise during the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, reviewing the processes and actual practices of different stakeholders including waste producers, frontline cleansing staff, waste collectors, etc., in disposal of waste under different settings with MSW charging in place, collecting their views, observing their readiness for the implementation of MSW charging and the problems they may encounter, as well as consolidating and analysing relevant data. The first group of premises under the Demonstration Scheme includes government buildings, public and private residential buildings, "three-nil" buildings, shopping malls, restaurants and residential care homes, totalling 14 premises. The Demonstration Scheme has been implemented on 1 April. During the demonstration period, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) provides designated bags (DBs) and designated labels (DLs) free of charge to all selected premises.

Implementation of the Demonstration Scheme forms an integral part of the EPD's work, and a breakdown of the expenditure is not available. The distribution of DBs/DLs is conducted by the warehouse and logistics service contractors for achieving cost-effectiveness. As such work is part of the contract requirements, a breakdown of the expenditure is not available.

Overseas experiences have shown that it takes time for the public to adapt to the actual operation of MSW charging and understand how to practise waste reduction and recycling. We will record relevant data on the quantity of waste generated during the demonstration

period. At this stage, there is insufficient information to estimate the quantity of waste to be reduced.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)106

(Question Serial No. 1147)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The long-term objective of the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” is to develop adequate waste-to-energy facilities to move away from the reliance on landfills in the long run. Hong Kong generates more than 15 000 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) per day, which includes about 4 200 tonnes of waste paper, 2 500 tonnes of waste plastics and 3 500 tonnes of food waste.

(1) What were details, expenditures and deliverables of the Government’s work regarding this objective over the past 3 years respectively?

(2) Will the Government consider exploring with the Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities the utilisation of solid waste treatment facilities in the GBA to readily address the existing problems of MSW, so that the cities with surplus solid waste treatment capacity may help other GBA cities to “digest” their solid waste which they are temporarily unable to treat with their own capacity, thereby making more effective use of the GBA resources while providing additional renewable energy for the cities concerned? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

(3) Will the Government consider discussing with the Mainland cities of the GBA (such as Jiangmen, Zhuhai, etc.) on building a green recycling ecosystem and developing various recycling industries, such as the recycling of retired electric vehicle batteries, dismantling of vehicles and vessels, etc., to serve the whole GBA? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

(1) Currently, about 11 100 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) are generated in Hong Kong per day. Apart from promoting waste reduction and clean recycling, the Government is working full steam on developing a network of waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities to move away from the reliance on landfills for disposal of MSW. Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 (I-PARK1), which is currently under construction near Shek Kwu Chau, is expected to commence operation in 2025 for handling 3 000 tonnes of MSW per day. We are also working on the investigation, design and environmental impact assessment study for Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I-PARK2), with an expected MSW

handling capacity of about 6 000 tonnes per day. As for food waste recycling, the Government is adopting advanced technologies to convert unavoidable food waste into renewable energy and organic composting material. Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK1) commenced operation in 2018 and can handle 200 tonnes of food waste each day, while Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2 (O·PARK2) commenced operation in March 2024 and can handle 300 tonnes of food waste each day. Besides, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), in collaboration with the Drainage Services Department, is implementing the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme (the Trial Scheme) at the Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to utilise the anaerobic digestion facilities in the sewage treatment works, which can handle 100 tonnes of food waste in total each day.

As the development of WtE facilities mentioned above is an integral part of the work of the Waste Infrastructure Division under the EPD, there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

The annual operating expenditure of the above food waste recycling facilities over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Facilities ^{Note}	Operating expenditure (\$ million)		
	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)
Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK1)	75	75	84
Pre-treatment facilities for the Trial Scheme in Tai Po	11	11	10
Pre-treatment facilities for the Trial Scheme in Sha Tin	-	-	3

Note: As the pre-treatment facilities for the Trial Scheme in Sha Tin commenced operation in November 2023, no operating expenditure was incurred in 2021-22 and 2022-23. O·PARK2 commenced operation in March 2024 and Integrated Waste Management Facilities (I·PARKs) are still under construction or study, hence the EPD has not incurred any operating expenditure on these 2 facilities over the past 3 years.

- (2)&(3) Apart from the above-mentioned work on developing a network of WtE facilities, grasping the opportunities brought by building a “Zero Waste Bay Area”, Hong Kong continues to work with the Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities to deepen exchanges and co-operation on “Zero-waste City” and resources circulation, and explores developing the GBA’s capacity and pattern of regional circular economy, in order to elevate regional capability in handling emissions and carbon reduction of solid waste as well as safety storage. Waste reduction and circular economy are part of the GBA’s significant development. Hong Kong can proactively participate in the GBA’s development on circular economy, further strengthen

mutually beneficial co-operation in the GBA's environmental industry and give impetus to green transformation in the area.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3064)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 under Head 186 that the Transport Department will continue to support the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in the trial and application of electric buses (e-buses). In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

In the past 3 years, what are the amount incurred by the EPD to support the trial and application of public e-buses and the effectiveness of the work?

How many public e-buses are currently in operation? Has the Authority set any target to increase the number of e-buses and its percentage share in the overall number of buses within a specific timeframe? If yes, what is the schedule? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-wang, Robert (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Government has been striving to promote the use of new energy vehicles and encouraging the transport trade or charitable/non-profit making organisations to trial new energy transport technologies through the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund). In the past 3 years, trials of 37 non-franchised single-deck electric buses (e-buses) have been subsidised under the NET Fund, involving a total sum of about \$80 million. Of these e-buses, 1 has completed the trial, 2 are on trial, and the remaining 34 are in the process of progressively procuring single-deck e-buses in accordance with the terms of the Subsidy Agreements signed with the NET Fund, with a view to commencing the trials as soon as possible. In the past 3 years, the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited and Citybus Limited had each applied and been approved to trial 2 double-deck e-buses under the NET Fund. Both companies withdrew from the trials in 2023.

To assess whether the mode of daytime charging can cope with the high operation frequency of franchised bus service in Hong Kong, the Government has been working with franchised bus companies (FBCs) to install new charging facilities at suitable bus termini and depots for single-deck e-buses to conduct top-up charging during their daytime operation. In the past 3 years, the total amount of subsidies for these initiatives was about \$11 million, which was mainly used for procurement of 2 franchised single-deck e-buses and installation of charging

facilities. The Government will closely monitor the progress and effectiveness of the trial scheme.

As at end-December 2023, there were 82 licensed public e-buses (including franchised and non-franchised buses) in Hong Kong (56 were single-deck e-buses, 26 were double-deck e-buses). Since the Government's promulgation of the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles in 2021, some FBCs have already announced their timelines towards a full zero-emission bus fleet. A new generation of single- and double-deck e-buses has begun to provide services. The Government will formulate the citywide green transformation roadmap and timetable for public buses in 2024 to set out further policy measures and directions, with a view to striving towards the goal of introducing about 700 e-buses by end-2027.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)108

(Question Serial No. 2425)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In recent years, the Environmental Protection Department launched the GREEN\$ mobile app to allow the public register as members of the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme (GREEN\$ ePIS) to earn GREEN\$ points when recycling for redeeming gifts. The number of GREEN\$ ePIS members and the usage of the mobile app is also one of the important indicators of the public's involvement in source separation and recycling. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the number of registered members and the usage of the GREEN\$ mobile app as at March 2024?
2. What are the staff establishment and monthly operating expenditure involved in the GREEN\$ mobile app?
3. Has the Administration counted the penetration rate of the GREEN\$ mobile app? Are there any measures or plans to attract more people to register as member and use the GREEN\$ mobile app to achieve the target of encouraging recycling? Have performance indicators been set for those measures or plans? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Has big data analytics been adopted when registered members of GREEN\$ mobile app practise recycling, including but not limited to the time of recycling, types and weight of recyclables, etc. to help formulate a better recycling policy? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

To encourage more members of the public to participate in resources separation for recycling, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participating Incentive Scheme (GREEN\$ ePIS) in October 2020. When depositing recyclables with smart balances and smart recycling bins in the community recycling network, members of the public can earn GREEN\$ points and redeem daily necessities and groceries, as well as environmentally friendly products, thereby integrating the habit of waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives.

1. As at end of February 2024, there were over 500 000 registered accounts under the GREEN\$ ePIS. Among which, approximately 75% are mobile app users. There are about 60 000 accounts using GREEN\$ to carry out recycling or to redeem gift items every day.
2. In 2022, the operating expenses of the GREEN\$ ePIS were about \$400,000, which was mainly used for maintenance of the GREEN\$ mobile app and cloud hosting services. In 2023, the expenditure on the development of new functions, maintenance and cloud hosting services for the GREEN\$ mobile app totalled around \$470,000. In 2024-25, we will earmark approximately \$500,000 for the GREEN\$ ePIS, covering expenses for function updates, maintenance, cloud hosting services, etc. The manpower required for the operation of the GREEN\$ mobile app is absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD.
3. To encourage more members of the public to register for and use the GREEN\$ mobile app, we have arranged publicity and promotion through various channels, including on-site promotion and demonstration by GREEN@COMMUNITY operators, face-to-face promotion at events organised by the Green Outreach, advertisements on public transport (such as the MTR and buses), and utilising social media and online platforms, etc. to encourage members of the public to join the GREEN\$ ePIS and practise recycling.

To further promote the GREEN\$ ePIS and increase its attractiveness, a pilot programme was launched in collaboration with the MTR's carbon emission reduction reward platform Carbon Wallet in February this year. GREEN\$ mobile app users can convert GREEN\$ points to Carbon Wallet points to redeem new rewards, including free single journey MTR tickets and local eco-tours, thereby providing more diversified reward options to GREEN\$ ePIS users. In addition, we are working on the inclusion of designated bags for municipal solid waste charging as a GREEN\$ reward option. We will continue to explore other reward arrangements with more potential partners to encourage members of the public to integrate the habit of waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives.

4. The EPD regularly conduct statistical analyses on data of the recycling behaviour of GREEN\$ ePIS users to gain in-depth understanding of the habits of the public on recycling, with a view to optimising the planning for recycling and enhancing the recycling efficiency.

Meanwhile, we are conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems. This review includes analysing the recycling behaviour of GREEN\$ ePIS users, the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, effectiveness of recycling, scopes of applications, the role of smart recycling system in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to formulate more comprehensive recycling measures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)109

(Question Serial No. 2437)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In respect of regulating the proper collection and handling of recyclables in major housing estates and single-block residential buildings with relatively large numbers of flats, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the expenditure earmarked for the relevant legislation work and the manpower involved?
2. Is there any timetable drawn up for the legislation? Will the legislative proposal be submitted to the Legislative Council for scrutiny this year?
3. Regarding the relevant legislation work, has the Government planned to conduct public consultation to collect views? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. What is the Government's definition of single-block residential buildings with relatively large numbers of flats? What are the criteria adopted for the underlying rationale?
5. Given the general lack of communal space in single-block residential buildings, how will the Government ensure that the enactment of the legislation would bring convenience to the residents instead of causing distress?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 83)

Reply:

1. The Waste Management Division of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for handling various policies, including the legislative proposal to regulate the proper collection and handling of recyclables in residential buildings. We do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower resources involved in the work concerned.
2. The Environment and Ecology Bureau and the EPD are drafting the relevant bill for timely submission to the Legislative Council subject to the drafting progress and the discussion with different stakeholders.
3. The legislative proposal aims to require the property management companies and owners' organisations of major housing estates and single-block residential buildings with relatively large number of flats to provide facilities to separately collect common types of recyclables and pass them to downstream recyclers for proper processing.

Since January 2023, we have consulted the relevant stakeholders (including the Housing Department, the property management service sector, cleansing contractors and the district councils) on the proposal and inspected some single-block residential buildings which expressed that they encountered difficulties in waste separation and recycling. We will continue to listen to the views of the stakeholders on the legislative proposal.

4. We are currently reviewing the data (including the number of residential units, the size of communal space, etc.) of about 1 500 housing estates and about 1 000 single-block residential buildings across the territory. Our preliminary proposal is to include all housing estates and single-block residential buildings with 100 flats or above as regulated residential buildings. Given that some single-block residential buildings have limited common areas, we will consider whether the threshold for the number of flats needs to be relaxed, taking into account the views of stakeholders.
5. To facilitate the residents in recycling, we will formulate practical guidelines in the future, listing out the factors and various operation modes for relevant stakeholders' consideration when setting up a recycling system, so as to help them practise waste separation and recycling properly.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)110

(Question Serial No. 2438)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the monitoring of the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation), please advise this Committee of:

1. the manpower and expenditure involved for the relevant monitoring work in this fiscal year;
2. the details of the publicity of the regulation since the legislation has been passed, including the expenditure involved and number of meetings held with various sectors;
3. the number of visits to small and medium-sized eateries for explaining the regulation by month; whether the Department has any plans to publicise and explain the regulation to tourists in view of the impacts on them; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons;
4. the resources and manpower to be involved for enforcing the regulation in this fiscal year, and the estimated time required for follow-up actions upon receipt of complaints.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 84)

Reply:

The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation) will be implemented on 22 April 2024. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of publicity and training programmes to increase awareness of the regulation among the public and the trades. The details are as follows.

The EPD launched the “Cut Plastic Use” thematic website (www.cuttheplastics.hk) in January this year, which provides one-stop information for the public and the trades, including information on the regulation and the various options of alternatives to plastic products. Furthermore, since 1 February this year, we have been progressively releasing promotional videos and audios, trade-specific promotional clips, posters and advertisements, etc. about the regulation through various channels (including television, radio, public transportation stations and vehicle exteriors, restaurant storefronts, building lobbies and external digital screens, news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, etc.) Besides, we have proactively and promptly cleared up misconceptions and concerns of the public via various government websites and social media platforms, created infographics to address common questions, and set up hotlines to answer enquiries.

We have been maintaining close communication with various trades and providing appropriate assistance and support to them. To assist the catering trade in procuring compliant alternatives, we have engaged the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency to establish a “Green Tableware Platform” (<https://www.greentableware.hk/>) early in January 2022. After the legislation was passed by the Legislative Council in October 2023, we have been having close communication and meetings with various trades, including the catering, retail, and hotel industries. As at 10 March 2024, the number of meetings and briefings held are tabulated below:

Sector	Number of meetings and briefings held
Catering	22
Retail	11
Hotel	13

As different trades have various concerns about the details of the regulation, since January this year, the EPD has been organising a total of about 50 online and offline training sessions targeting at different sectors. The EPD has been progressively conducting compliance surveys through visits to 20 000 small and medium-sized eateries, with a view to assisting them in understanding the regulation and adjusting their operation to comply with the regulatory requirements (the numbers of visits are tabulated below). Since January this year, the EPD has also distributed trade-specific promotional leaflets to approximately 11 000 retail stores and 1 800 hotels and guesthouses to help them better understand the regulatory requirements.

Month	Number of visits to small and medium-sized eateries for compliance survey (by month)
December 2023	About 170
January 2024	About 5 480
February 2024	About 7 270
March 2024 (as at 7 March)	About 1 300

Moreover, the EPD took the initiative to visit local companies with sales of disposable plastic products as their major business to brief them on the content of the regulation and answer their questions on the regulation. A dedicated page has been added to our thematic website “Cut Plastic Use” to provide the hotel trade with information on the suppliers of reusable/non-plastic hotel toiletries. To publicise the regulation to tourists visiting Hong Kong, we have arranged screening of promotional videos at major land borders, and in mid-April this year, promotional videos and posters will be screened/displayed at the arrival halls of the Hong Kong International Airport.

The first 6 months following the implementation of the regulation on 22 April will be designated as an adaptation period. During this period, the EPD will arrange staff to proactively inspect the operation of relevant business premises, focusing on promotion and education, as well as providing appropriate advice and information to assist the trades in complying with the requirements under the new legislation. We will also continue, through different channels, to promote various “plastic-free” campaigns which aim at reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware and encouraging the use of reusable ones among the public and the trades.

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditure and estimated expenditure of the EPD for the publicity and educational work of the regulation are \$17.8 million and about \$25 million respectively. The EPD will implement the regulation with the existing staff establishment. We will keep in view the enforcement of the regulation and handle the complaints through the existing mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)111

(Question Serial No. 2439)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding motivating ethnic minorities to participate in municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Administration organised dedicated briefing sessions for ethnic minorities, especially foreign domestic helpers, since last year to explain the relevant policy? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

2. It has been noted that some ethnic minorities are not proficient in Chinese or English. Has the Administration developed a special publicity package for ethnic minorities? For example, similar to the Social Welfare Department's practice, providing them with publicity materials in multiple languages such as Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Tagalog, Thai and Urdu.

3. In reply to my written question (LCQ12) at the Legislative Council meeting on 28 February this year, the Administration stated that "the users of the GREEN\$ mobile app comprise many ethnic minorities. They are generally able to complete the recycling process smoothly". Does this mean that ethnic minorities' needs can be met under all circumstances, or is it simply a case of survivor bias, assuming that ethnic minorities lack the desire to participate due to language barriers with the staff members?

4. Has the Administration proactively distributed leaflets to promote MSW charging at hotspots where foreign domestic helpers gather on holidays, based on their gathering preferences? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

5. Has the Administration planned to set up additional recycling facilities at hotspots where foreign domestic helpers gather on holidays to facilitate and enhance their participation, based on their gathering preferences? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)

Reply:

1&2. To help different sectors better understand the actual operation and details of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been producing various promotional materials (including leaflets, easy-to-understand infographics and educational videos) specifically tailored for ethnic minorities/foreign domestic helpers who are not proficient in Chinese and English. These promotional materials have been translated into 8 common ethnic minority languages (including

Bahasa Indonesia, Hindi, Nepali, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Punjabi and Urdu) and shared in their popular social media groups through non-profit organisations that serve ethnic minorities.

We have also started organising briefing sessions for foreign domestic helper groups, ethnic minorities and foreigners to explain the MSW charging mechanism and how to participate in waste reduction and recycling. On 6 March 2024, the EPD held an English briefing on MSW charging at Henry G Leong Yaumatei Community Centre, which was attended by foreign members of the District Services and Community Care Teams, representatives of foreign domestic helper groups invited through the Labour Department and other foreigners, so as to help them better understand the details of the implementation of MSW charging. We will organise more English briefing sessions for ethnic minorities and foreign domestic helpers to help them understand the MSW charging policy.

3. The total number of registered accounts for GREEN\$ has exceeded 500 000, with about 75% of them being mobile app users and about 25% of them being physical card users. The issuance of physical GREEN\$ cards offers convenience to users who do not own a smartphone or have difficulty using mobile applications.

The GREEN\$ mobile app is designed with clear illustrations, straightforward short text descriptions and instructions, complemented by intuitive graphics and icons, aiming to provide a concise and easy-to-understand experience for users. If users have any questions while using the GREEN\$ mobile app at GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities, the staff there can offer assistance, such as explaining the recycling steps using the simple illustrations on the promotional materials published in different languages (including Chinese, English, Filipino, Bahasa Indonesia, Nepali, Hindi and Pakistani), and demonstrating the use of the GREEN\$ mobile app on the spot. We will take note of and analyse the feedback from individuals of diverse backgrounds (including ethnic minorities and foreign domestic helpers) regarding their needs, and review different options to continuously improve the user experience of the GREEN\$ mobile app and enhance the support provided by GREEN@COMMUNITY recycling network to various groups.

4. In order to disseminate the message of MSW charging to more foreign domestic helpers, the EPD has broadcast announcements of public interest (APIs) on MSW charging on outdoor TV screens at popular gathering points of foreign domestic helpers, such as Victoria Park. The EPD has also collaborated with consulates and organisations connected to ethnic minorities, and provided them with leaflets, APIs and links to the thematic website for distribution to participants during their activities to help publicise MSW charging.
5. In June 2022, the Green Outreach launched the GO Green Domestic Helper · Green Outreach Volunteer Programme in collaboration with non-profit organisations to recruit and train foreign domestic helpers to become Green Outreach Volunteers for promoting waste reduction at source and clean recycling in their community and the families they serve. The domestic helper volunteers carry out recycling activities from time to time during holidays at popular gathering spots for foreign domestic helpers (such as the Statue Square area in Central and Victoria Park), encouraging foreign domestic helpers

on the spot to practise proper waste separation at source and clean recycling, and bring the recyclables collected to GREEN@COMMUNITY for recycling. The EPD has also provided them with publicity materials on MSW charging, so that the volunteer team could promote MSW charging while organising GO Green Domestic Helper activities at these gathering spots. The Green Outreach has also co-organised activities with GO Green Domestic Helper to create synergy, such as the GO Green Domestic Helper event in November 2023 at Statue Square in Central and the Sunday Vibes - Hong Kong Foreign Domestic Helpers Cultural Festival in January 2024 at the Dundas Street Sitting-out Area in Mong Kok. As at February 2024, GO Green Domestic Helper and the Green Outreach have organised about 5 promotional activities related to foreign domestic helpers and MSW charging, which attracted around 2 500 participants. The EPD will continue to work with non-profit organisations to implement the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme to engage more foreign domestic helpers and ethnic minorities, educate them to comply with legislative requirements for MSW charging, and encourage them to practise proper waste separation at source and clean recycling, so as to tie in with the implementation of MSW charging.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)112

(Question Serial No. 2440)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the role of the Green Outreach in facilitating the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the expenditures and staff establishment involved at present?
2. Please set out by the 18 districts and by month the numbers of visits to housing estates/residential buildings by the Green Outreach and the numbers of residents' enquiries addressed.
3. Please set out by the 18 districts and by month the numbers of activities organised jointly with the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores of the respective district and the number of participants.
4. Some are of the view that the promotion of MSW charging is insufficient. Will additional resources be allocated to expand the scope of the Green Outreach services? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 86)

Reply:

The Green Outreach comprises 74 non-directorate professional staff (including Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Inspector grades) and 142 non-civil service contract staff. The annual expenditure incurred is about \$100 million.

To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the "Programme on Source Separation of Waste" to

improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women's, foreign domestic helpers' and new immigrants' groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has conducted about 154 000 community visits, established connections with more than 4 500 property management companies and residents' organisations, which altogether provided waste reduction and recycling support for about 70% of housing estates/residential buildings and villages in Hong Kong. Besides, the Green Outreach has organised about 5 000 publicity and promotional activities in various forms, attracting over 410 000 participants.

The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging starting from August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage the public of different backgrounds (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging.

From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

The Green Outreach and the operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY jointly organise various types of publicity and promotional activities in accordance with the needs of the community and the contents of the activities. Some of the relatively large-scale campaigns are as follows. In 2021, the Green Outreach and the operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY jointly organised the GREEN@District by setting up recyclables collection points and game booths in 16 housing estates/public spaces in Hong Kong, with a view to promoting the new generation community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY and encouraging the public to participate in recycling through interactive activities. During the GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Month in 2022, the Green Outreach and 11 Recycling Stations jointly organised the RECYCLING FEST to engage members of the public to participate in waste reduction at source and separation for recycling at district level through upcycling workshops, second-hand exchange markets, game booths, etc. In the community engagement activity Wandering the Green in Kwun Tong in 2023, the Green Outreach has

introduced a series of environmental co-creation activities, including community recycling facilities adventures, green bazaars, upcycling fashion show, etc. at the Recycling Station of the district to encourage the public to live a green lifestyle of waste reduction and recycling through various means. These 3 large-scale campaigns attracted more than 36 000 participants. From mid-August 2023, the Green Outreach has also joined the operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY to hold promotional activities on MSW charging at Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts and rural areas. As at February 2024, the EPD has organised about 110 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 9 000 participants. The detailed figures of the publicity and promotional activities on MSW charging organised by the Green Outreach are set out by district in the Annex.

Furthermore, the operators of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY have been organising environmental education activities on their own from time to time. To tie in with the publicity of MSW charging, they are also promoting MSW charging at Recycling Stations and the community, so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling. As at February 2024, the operators of GREEN@COMMUNITY have organised more than 380 publicity and promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting more than 27 500 participants.

In 2024-25, apart from continuing with the work stated above, the Green Outreach will also collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise different types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and MSW charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), so as to raise the law-abiding awareness of the public. The Green Outreach will also offer assistance to the primary and secondary schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity launched in early March this year to encourage students and their family members to actively practise resources separation and recycling and to establish the habits of waste reduction and recycling in their daily lives. Upon implementation of MSW charging, the Green Outreach will further expand the scope of their outreaching services. Apart from continuing with their on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, promotional activities and hands-on demonstrations will be conducted at various locations to help the public gradually adapt to MSW charging and change their waste disposal habits by separating resources properly for recycling. Besides, the Green Outreach will also pay attention to any non-compliance during daily work, conduct preliminary investigations upon receipt of non-compliance reports, persuade the public, in the form of promotion, education and guidance, to comply with the legislative requirements and offer advice to property management companies/cleansing contractors to help them improve the situation. The existing staff establishment of the Green Outreach is sufficient for handling the relevant work. We will review the manpower arrangements from time to time as necessary.

The number of publicity and promotional activities on MSW charging organised by the Green Outreach in the 18 districts and the number of participants (From August to December 2023)

District	2023																							
	August		September				October						November						December					
	Housing estates/ residential buildings		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*	
	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants
Kowloon City	1	72	7	539	1	36	3	140	2	103	23	6 250	8	322	5	312	62	8 730	5	292	0	0	59	6 135
Tai Po	1	80	7	665	0	0	9	922	0	0			8	522	1	46			5	556	0	0		
Central and Western	2	178	0	0	0	0	2	196	1	98			41	805	2	115			16	26	10	590		
Yuen Long	4	300	11	550	0	0	7	424	0	0			27	1 513	0	0			11	947	0	0		
Tuen Mun	1	190	15	2 104	0	0	17	2 295	0	0			14	2 504	0	0			5	1 085	2	90		
North	2	115	8	955	0	0	10	988	0	0			8	695	2	121			1	73	1	65		
Sai Kung	2	223	17	2 114	0	0	17	1 687	0	0			24	1 976	0	0			6	83	0	0		
Sha Tin	1	130	20	1 894	0	0	17	1 883	0	0			18	2 058	0	0			8	523	1	65		
Eastern	4	588	11	1 319	0	0	17	1 557	1	74			9	647	1	72			5	328	5	378		
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	6	421	1	60	6	452	2	150			6	433	8	488			5	317	0	0		
Southern	0	0	7	1 080	0	0	4	571	1	128			6	410	1	180			0	0	3	295		
Tsuen Wan	2	126	5	521	2	83	13	888	0	0			8	464	0	0			8	688	3	8		
Sham Shui Po	5	289	6	433	1	33	10	711	3	207			4	200	1	46			5	256	1	137		

District	2023																							
	August		September				October						November						December					
	Housing estates/ residential buildings		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*	
	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants
Wong Tai Sin	5	569	7	831	0	0	8	869	0	0			10	1 229	0	0			2	422	2	223		
Kwai Tsing	2	148	10	571	1	30	9	911	2	66			7	506	0	0			5	338	0	0		
Islands	3	195	5	233	0	0	7	345	1	38			2	44	2	204			9	1 067	0	0		
Wan Chai	0	0	2	186	0	0	0	0	0	0			6	750	4	523			5	655	5	477		
Kwun Tong	5	412	18	2 369	0	0	11	1 569	1	178			9	1 242	3	1 007			7	1 572	1	87		
Total	40	3 615	162	16 785	6	242	167	16 408	14	1 042	23	6 250	215	16 320	30	3 114	62	8 730	108	9 228	34	2 415	59	6 135

The number of publicity and promotional activities on MSW charging organised by the Green Outreach in the 18 districts and the number of participants (From January to February 2024)

District	2024											
	January						February					
	Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*	
	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants
Kowloon City	16	622	0	0	56	20 230	2	75	0	0	83	23 560
Tai Po	11	1 330	2	193			4	530	0	0		
Central and Western	9	881	0	0			13	491	0	0		
Yuen Long	17	1 311	2	93			13	1 206	0	0		
Tuen Mun	14	2 468	1	43			17	2 183	0	0		
North	11	1 269	0	0			9	1 641	0	0		
Sai Kung	15	1 512	0	0			21	2 204	0	0		
Sha Tin	18	2 186	1	400			11	1 335	0	0		
Eastern	20	2 265	1	48			13	1 521	0	0		
Yau Tsim Mong	3	168	0	0			11	375	0	0		
Southern	9	1 446	0	0			6	283	0	0		
Tsuen Wan	14	1 394	8	321			11	6 419	1	38		
Sham Shui Po	8	497	1	53			9	857	0	0		
Wong Tai Sin	13	1 366	1	111			9	957	0	0		

District	2024											
	January						February					
	Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*		Housing estates/ residential buildings		Organised jointly with GREEN@ COMMUNITY		Others*	
	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants	No. of activities	No. of participants
Kwai Tsing	12	722	0	0			14	1 235	0	0		
Islands	3	84	0	0			0	0	0	0		
Wan Chai	7	298	0	0			4	143	4	554		
Kwun Tong	14	1 848	1	78			5	795	1	62		
Total	214	21 667	18	1 340	56	20 230	172	22 250	6	654	83	23 560

* Other activities include the publicity and promotional activities on MSW charging organised under the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme jointly implemented by the Green Outreach and non-profit-making organisations, and the promotion of the new food waste smart recycling bin services under the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates at PRH estates, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)113

(Question Serial No. 2441)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. The expenditure and staff establishment involved this year.
2. The expenditures for the implementation of MSW charging and the 3 major expenditure categories in each of the past 3 years.
3. It is noted that the Administration has engaged celebrities, including Louis Cheung, "Isabella-kwan" and Maria Cordero, to promote MSW charging. What is the expenditure involved? Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of promotion?
4. The staff establishment undertaking the enforcement work with a breakdown by the 18 districts.
5. Has the Administration set any indicators on the time taken in general to follow up on the relevant complaints upon the implementation of MSW charging? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
6. Has the Administration allocated resources for subsidizing facility upgrades in buildings such as the installation of closed-circuit television systems to detect any non-compliant cases? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
7. In addition to MSW charging, the first phase of the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products will be implemented this year. Has the Administration assessed whether there is sufficient manpower to handle the implementation of the policies concerned? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

Relevant details in respect of the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging are set out below:

1. For the implementation of MSW charging, the total estimated expenditure in 2024-25 is about \$581.3 million, involving 72 civil service posts.

2. The expenditures involved in the implementation of MSW charging and the 3 major expenditure categories over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure involved (\$ million)	3 major expenditure categories ^{Note}
2021-22	21.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct of survey, trial run, etc. ● Provision of dummy designated bags (DBs) and designated labels (DLs) and newly designed recycling bins and litter containers for trial ● Administrative support and general operating expenses
2022-23	34.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setting up of solar-powered aluminium refuse collection points in rural areas ● Provision of dummy DBs and DLs and newly designed recycling bins and litter containers for trial ● Administrative support and general operating expenses
2023-24 (revised estimate)	120.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of a manufacturing, inventory and distribution system and a retail network for the DBs and DLs ● Promotion, publicity, educational activities, etc. ● Administrative support and general operating expenses

Note: In no particular order

3. To enhance public and related sectors' understanding and awareness of the scheme, the explanation and publicity work launched by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for the implementation of MSW charging since the passage of the relevant legislation at the end of August 2021 are detailed below:

- (1) Producing Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), posters, leaflets, banners, online short videos, etc.;
- (2) Broadcasting APIs on television and radio for about 4 000 times;
- (3) Broadcasting APIs on over 9 000 display monitors at public transport stations, on vehicles, at shopfronts of restaurants and at lift lobbies; and
- (4) Displaying about 4 000 promotional banners and posters at roadsides, government facilities, public rental housing estates and public transport such as buses, public light buses, ferries and stations in various districts, and displaying online advertisements on about 100 mobile applications and websites relating to news and everyday matters.

The expenditure involved in the promotion, publicity and education work completed so far since the financial year in which the relevant legislation was passed at the end of August 2021 is approximately \$30.3 million. The APIs are an integral part of the EPD's promotion, publicity and education work. We do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure.

Since the launch of the above publicity campaigns, we have noticed an increase in media reports, public discussions on social media platforms and discussion forums, and

enquiries on MSW charging received by the EPD's hotline, reflecting that the key messages of MSW charging have been disseminated to the public effectively. We will regularly review the publicity campaign to evaluate its effectiveness and determine if adjustment to the overall publicity plan is needed.

- 4-6. Experiences outside Hong Kong show that public awareness and participation in the early stages of implementation of MSW charging are crucial to its smooth implementation. A six-month phasing-in period will be put in place after the commencement of MSW charging, during which we will focus on publicity and education, and give advices and warnings as far as possible. We will act against cases where the nature or magnitude of the offence calls for action. The EPD is also preparing to step up publicity, education, and advisory work during the phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging. This includes inspections on individual floors or the ground floor of waste reception points in residential, commercial and industrial premises, and conducting publicity, education and advisory work against non-compliant cases (i.e. disposal of waste without wrapping in DBs or oversized waste without affixing DLs) at the waste reception points.

On the other hand, the EPD has upgraded the customer service centre and set up a dedicated hotline to handle public enquiries and receive reports on non-compliant cases upon the implementation of MSW charging. Since the dedicated hotline commenced operation in July 2023, the customer service centre has handled more than 12 000 enquiries.

Frontline work will be undertaken by some of the EPD's existing staff involved in the implementation of MSW charging, who will be deployed to follow up on the cases on a risk-based approach.

If difficulty is encountered by property management companies of some premises in practising MSW charging, they may contact the EPD's customer service centre and dedicated hotline for necessary assistance.

7. The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products will be implemented with the existing staff establishment of the EPD. Depending on the actual situation, the EPD will strengthen the publicity and educational work during the initial stage of implementation through flexible deployment of manpower, so as to facilitate the trade and the public to adapt to the regulation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)114

(Question Serial No. 2442)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to enhancing the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the expenditures involved in the Pilot Programme in last year and the coming year;
2. the unit costs of the Smart Recycling Bin, Gift Redemption Unit and Smart Balance, and the numbers of such equipment by the 18 districts respectively;
3. whether the smart recycling systems had experienced any machine failure since last year; if yes, the numbers and time of failure;
4. whether service suspension due to Smart Recycling Bin reaching the maximum capacity has occurred since last year; if yes, the details;
5. the numbers of redemption for each type of gifts through the Gift Redemption Units in the past year and the item that is the most popular;
6. the time taken in general to resume the service upon receipt of machine failure reports, and whether there were cases that deviated from this indicator;
7. whether the Administration has any plan to further generalise the Pilot Scheme and increase its coverage for the convenience of the public; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)

Reply:

1. To support smart city development, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in the fourth quarter of 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores since end-2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins

have been progressively set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has been increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units.

The expenditures incurred in the Pilot Programme (including smart recycling bins, gift redemption units and smart balances) are tabulated below:

Financial year	Expenditure for service contract of individual types of smart recycling device (\$ million)			Total expenditure of the Pilot Programme (\$ million)
	Smart recycling bin	Gift redemption unit	Smart balance	
2022-23	6.7	1.9	5.5	14.1
2023-24	11.1	2.8	2.6	16.5

- Under the Pilot Programme, the smart recycling devices are procured from suppliers through leasing service. The average monthly rental fees for each smart recycling bin, gift redemption unit and smart balance are about \$3,600, \$4,600 and \$2,000 respectively, which include services fees for transportation, installation, inspection, repairs and maintenance, wireless network, software updates and replacement of consumables.

As at end-February 2024, the numbers of smart recycling devices in each district are tabulated below:

District	No. of smart recycling devices by type (set/unit)		
	Smart recycling bin (set) ^[Note 1]	Gift redemption unit (unit)	Smart balance (unit)
Central & Western	3	3	14
Eastern	6	2	16
Southern	2	3	11
Wan Chai	1	3	15
Kowloon City	2	4	16
Yau Tsim Mong	5	2	9
Sham Shui Po	4	2	14
Wong Tai Sin	2	2	12
Kwun Tong	10	8	18
Tai Po	4	2	17
Yuen Long	3	4	18
Tuen Mun	4	4	21
North	4	3	18
Sai Kung	5	5	15
Sha Tin	5	3	17
Tsuen Wan	3	2	10

District	No. of smart recycling devices by type (set/unit)		
	Smart recycling bin (set) ^[Note 1]	Gift redemption unit (unit)	Smart balance (unit)
Kwai Tsing	7	5	17
Islands	6	3	13
Total	76	60	271

Note 1: Each set of smart recycling bin comprises 2 to 6 compartments, depending on the requirements of each location and the space available therein.

3. In 2023, the number of cases in which the smart recycling systems required maintenance due to service disruption and the duration of service disruption are tabulated below:

Item	No. of items	Maintenance cases (no.)	Total no. of hours of service disruption (hour)	Percentage of service disruption to the total no. of operating hours
Smart recycling bin	76 sets (with a total of 296 compartments) [Note 1]	489	About 17 200	1.6%
Gift redemption unit	55 units	188	About 12 600	3.0%
Smart balance	271 units	81	About 3 800	0.3%

Note 1: Each set of smart recycling bin comprises 2 to 6 compartments, depending on the requirements of each location and the space available therein.

4. Equipped with a built-in capacity sensor, when the amount of recyclables in the smart recycling bin is about to reach the maximum capacity, the system will automatically send a message to the on-site staff, reminding them to collect the recyclables to free up the storage space. When the smart recycling bin is full, it will automatically close its inlet and indicate full load on the screen. Upon the collection of recyclables by the staff, the smart recycling bin will resume its service. The duration for which the smart recycling bin fails to provide service due to full load accounts for about 15% of the service hours, occurring mainly during nighttime when it is unable to arrange collection services. The EPD is currently developing a new function to provide real-time information on the storage space of smart recycling bins in the GREEN\$ Mobile App to facilitate the public to better arrange their time for recycling.
5. In 2023, about 290 000 items were redeemed via gift redemption units. The top 5 frequently redeemed gifts in quantity order were rice, flavoured soyabean milk, soyabean milk, canola oil and Indonesian noodle.
6. The main causes of smart recycling device malfunction are network instability, damaged parts, display screen malfunction, etc. According to the service contracts for smart recycling devices, the contractors are required to complete the maintenance services within 3 working days upon receipt of a report concerning the problems associated with the devices. Over the past year, the duration of service disruption due to device

malfunction accounted for less than 3% of the total operating time, and on average each maintenance case was completed within 48 hours. If the contractor fails to meet the relevant contract requirements, the EPD will deduct the relevant service fees in accordance with the contract terms.

7. Since the launch of the Pilot Programme, the EPD has been monitoring the usage and recycling data of the smart recycling systems at different locations. We are currently conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme, including the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, recycling effectiveness, the application scope, their role in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. Preliminary findings show that the operation of the smart recycling systems is generally smooth. The quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins is better than that of the conventional recycling bins and the public responses are also positive. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to fine-tune the Pilot Programme as appropriate, such as adjusting the locations and number of smart recycling bins.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)115

(Question Serial No. 2445)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

During the fifth wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, styrofoam boxes used for supplying vegetables to Hong Kong could not be returned to the Mainland for recycle and reuse, resulting in large quantities of styrofoam piling up in the streets of Hong Kong. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) openly invited tenders from recyclers for installing styrofoam crushers at some areas of 4 refuse transfer stations (RTSs) to cold press styrofoam for easy recycling. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the respective operation dates of the styrofoam crushers at the said RTSs and their expenditures involved?
2. When did the Mainland resume reusing the styrofoam boxes in Hong Kong with the gradual resumption of customs clearance?
3. Has the EPD stopped engaging contractors to recover styrofoam with the styrofoam crushers at the RTSs?
4. What is the current situation of the styrofoam crushers at the RTSs after their operation has ceased?
5. What public services are currently available in Hong Kong to assist in the recovery of styrofoam boxes after the styrofoam crushers at the RTSs ceased operation?
6. How many styrofoam recycling contractors are there in Hong Kong? What is the recycling capacity in each of the past 5 years?
7. Municipal solid waste (MSW) charging will soon be implemented in August this year. If members of the public or shops need to dispose of large-size styrofoam boxes or domestic styrofoam items that cannot be recycled, what suggestions will the EPD give for the disposal of such items?
8. Do all GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities collect styrofoam items from members of the public?
9. If after the implementation of MSW charging, some Recycling Stores are unable to accept large quantities of styrofoam boxes from members of the public in a timely manner due to lack of space, what guidelines or methods will be adopted by the relevant departments to assist in handling such styrofoam boxes?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 101)

Reply:

In the past, styrofoam boxes used for transporting vegetables and fruits supplied to Hong Kong from the Mainland were mainly returned to the Mainland for reuse, but such arrangement had been suspended since early 2022 due to the epidemic. During the epidemic, the normal operation of local refuse transfer stations (RTSs) was affected by the large quantity of styrofoam boxes being delivered there. Therefore, in March 2022, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) started to engage contractors to provide temporary recovery service for styrofoam boxes at 4 suitable RTSs for recycling. With the resumption of customs clearance between the Mainland and Hong Kong in January 2023, the previous arrangement of returning styrofoam boxes to the Mainland for reuse was resumed, and the RTSs resumed their normal operation. The temporary service for processing styrofoam ended in March 2024, involving an expenditure of about \$13 million.

In addition, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, and the Fish Marketing Organization have arranged local recyclers to recover and recycle non-reusable styrofoam boxes due to reasons such as damage in the overhauled markets and wholesale markets respectively. The number of styrofoam recycling contractors and the quantity recovered for processing in 2023 are tabulated below:

Government venues	No. of styrofoam recycling contractors	Average quantity of styrofoam boxes recovered for processing per month in 2023 (tonnes)
Aberdeen Market ^{Note 1}	1	0.62
Lai Wan Market ^{Note 2}		Not applicable
Government wholesale food markets	2	1.42
Wholesale fish markets		5

Note 1: Aberdeen Market commenced refurbishment works in November 2021, and was reopened in March 2023 after refurbishment.

Note 2: Lai Wan Market commenced refurbishment works in February 2023, and was reopened in February 2024 after refurbishment.

On the other hand, all GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities accept styrofoam items generated from households for passing on to downstream recyclers approved by the EPD for proper treatment and turning them into resources. Each GREEN@COMMUNITY facility has a workshop for temporary storage of recyclables. If the public needs to hand over styrofoam that is relatively bulky in size to GREEN@COMMUNITY, they are advised to contact the relevant facility to make prior arrangements.

From the perspective of environmental benefits, reusing styrofoam boxes is better than recycling. However, styrofoam also has unfavourable characteristics, such as poor strength, brittleness and non-biodegradability. Balancing the cost-effectiveness and the long-term development of the industries, we will continue to maintain dialogue with the food and recycling industries, encourage the food industry to switch to stackable, durable and easy-to-clean plastic boxes for transportation of goods in the long-run as far as practicable.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)116

(Question Serial No. 2447)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

To improve the cost effectiveness of processing waste plastics, the Government launched the Pilot Scheme on Collection and Recycling Services of Plastic Recyclable Materials (commonly known as the "Centralised Waste Plastics Collection") in 2020. The Pilot Scheme was expanded from 3 districts to 9 districts in the following year. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What are the quantities of waste plastics collected in tonnage and the recovery rate of plastics in each district per year since the launch of the Pilot Scheme?
2. What are the respective numbers of waste plastics collection points in each of the 9 districts covered by the Pilot Scheme?
3. What are the percentages of waste plastics collected from residential buildings, schools and public institutions, community recycling centres and GREEN@COMMUNITY in each of the 9 districts covered by the Pilot Scheme?
4. The contractors participating in the Pilot Scheme have undertaken to turn the waste plastics collected into plastic raw materials or recycled plastic products to be exported or supplied to the local market. How does the Government monitor the contractors' compliance with the relevant arrangements? Has any non-compliance case been detected since the launch of the Pilot Scheme?
5. Based on the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme, will the Administration extend the Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 103)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has commenced a two-year pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling (the pilot scheme) progressively since January 2020 in 3 districts, namely Eastern District, Kwun Tong District and Sha Tin District, and further extended the scheme progressively since late March 2022 to 6 additional districts, namely Tai Po District, Sai Kung District, Central and Western District, Sham Shui Po District, Tsuen Wan District and Tuen Mun District, to collect all types of non-commercial and non-industrial waste plastics from these districts for proper handling and recycling. The quantities of plastics collected in each district per year over the past 4 years under the pilot scheme are tabulated below:

District	Quantity of plastics collected (tonnes) ^{Note}			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Eastern District	301	935	743	735
Kwun Tong District	57	620	795	935
Sha Tin District	121	726	974	663
Tai Po District	Not applicable	Not applicable	268	503
Sai Kung District			433	843
Central and Western District			414	738
Sham Shui Po District			294	425
Tsuen Wan District			400	728
Tuen Mun District			524	908
Total			479	2 281

Note: The above figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

2 and 3. As at December 2023, the number of collection points and a breakdown of waste plastics collection quantity by type of premises in each district under the pilot scheme are tabulated below:

District	No. of collection points under the pilot scheme ^{Note 1}	A breakdown of waste plastics collection quantity by type of premises ^{Notes 1 & 2}		
		Percentage (%)		
		GREEN @COMMUNITY Community recycling network	Public and private housing estates	Schools and public institutions
Eastern District	152	50	45	5
Kwun Tong District	130	47	47	7
Sha Tin District	109	59	38	3
Tai Po District	12	99	< 1	< 1
Sai Kung District	15	99	0	< 1
Central and Western District	22	99	< 1	< 1
Sham Shui Po District	22	97	0	3
Tsuen Wan District	9	98	0	2
Tuen Mun District	23	98	0	2
Total	494			

Note 1: The contractors participating in the pilot scheme also provided services for public and private housing estates, schools and public institutions according to the actual situation of various districts.

Note 2: The above percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

4. To ensure that the waste plastics collected and properly handled by the contractors are turned into high-quality recycled raw materials or products, the contractors are required by the contracts to implement a comprehensive monitoring plan, including installation of Global Positioning System on collection vehicles, electronic data recording and installing surveillance camera systems at their processing plants. The EPD staff will conduct regular inspections and spot checks to monitor the performance of contractors in various procedures during the collection and processing of waste plastics. In addition, calculation of the service fee received by the contractors are based on the weight of the recycled raw materials or products after completion of the processing of waste plastics recycled, rather than the collection quantity. No service fee will be paid if the waste plastics are disposed of by the contractors after collection. Non-compliance cases have not been found since the launch of the pilot scheme.

5. We are reviewing the actual operation experience and effectiveness of the pilot scheme in order to decide on the way forward.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0231)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. Has the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) assessed the feasibility and effectiveness of applying biological deodorisation at harbourfront areas? Does the EEB have any plan to apply such method at suitable locations? What is the estimated expenditure involved?
2. Has the EEB set up any monitoring and assessment mechanism to monitor the operation of biological deodorisation at harbourfront areas? Will relevant data and analyses be publicised on a regular basis?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The Government has all along been attaching great importance to enhancing nearshore water quality and ameliorating odour problems along the waterfront of Victoria Harbour and is adopting a multi-pronged approach, taking into consideration the varying environment and conditions of individual harbourfront areas, in implementing pragmatic and cost-effective measures including tracing major pollution sources in the stormwater drainage system and rectifying sewerage misconnection for intercepting pollutants at source from entering the harbour, carrying out desilting and dredging works at stormwater drainage culverts and outfalls, as well as conducting sediment bioremediation at suitable locations to mitigate odour problems. The Environmental Protection Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department had already in the past utilised bioremediation at Shing Mun River (SMR) in Sha Tin, Kai Tak Approach Channel (KTAC) and Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter (KTTS) to treat sediments. The results showed that, after remediation, major odour indicators such as acid volatile sulphides in the sediment could be reduced by over 95%, thereby successfully solving the odour problems caused by seabed sediment.

The principle of bioremediation for solving or alleviating odour problems is to inject oxidising agent (i.e. calcium nitrate) into the sediment for microorganisms to oxidise the organic pollutants therein, so as to remove from the sediment the acid volatile sulphides. Assessing the feasibility of bioremediation involves professional and stringent scientific protocols, including firstly conducting site investigations on the condition and pollution level of the seabed sediment concerned and then taking in-situ samples for testing and data analyses, before a specific bioremediation plan could be formulated to cover the scope, depth of

sediment to be treated and dosage of chemicals to be injected, etc. Therefore, the work plan is site-specific and needs to be tailor-made to achieve the desirable cost-effectiveness.

Drawing on the successful experience at SMR, KTAC and KTTS, we have arranged similar bioremediation works at To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter (TKWTS), which involve an area of about 3.3 hectares at an estimated cost of approximately \$33 million. The works are currently at the preparatory stage and are expected to complete by the end of 2024. By then, the odour problems along the TKWTS harbourfront will be further ameliorated. The Government will keep collating and analysing relevant environmental data, such as water quality and odour levels, to continuously enrich experience, assess the effectiveness of bioremediation works in solving odour problems at the harbourfront, and, with due regard to the actual situation, consider to apply this technology at suitable locations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)118

(Question Serial No. 2645)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses (the Pilot Scheme):

1. Since the launch of the Pilot Scheme, how many public light bus operators have successfully applied for subsidy so far? What are the number of electric public light buses (e-PLBs) and the amount of subsidy involved?
2. What plans does the Government have in providing appropriate charging facilities and space for green minibus operators in the future? What are the amounts involved? What are the difficulties to be overcome?
3. The subsidised green minibus operators are required to arrange for a one-year trial of the acquired e-PLBs in their daily operation. What will happen to the e-PLBs after the trial period? What plans does the Government have to further enhance the Pilot Scheme so as to make good use of public money?
4. The Transport Department (TD) introduced the Low-floor Wheelchair Accessible Public Light Bus Trial Scheme in 2018, but the review results showed that the participating green minibus operators encountered various operational issues, including increase in operating expenditure, higher repair and maintenance cost, longer waiting time for maintenance parts for the new PLB models, etc. How will the TD prevent similar issues from recurring when supporting the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in implementing the Pilot Scheme in order to ensure a more successful outcome?
5. What policies will the EPD and the TD put in place when implementing the Pilot Scheme so that PLB operators will acquire low-floor e-PLBs (with or without wheelchair access) to facilitate the boarding and alighting of the elderly and mobility impaired persons in some districts who rely on PLBs for daily commuting? What are the details?
6. When does the Government expect to implement the full electrification of PLBs?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. The Government has earmarked \$80 million for the Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses (the Pilot Scheme) to promote the application of electric public light buses (e-PLBs) locally. Under the Pilot Scheme, the participating PLB operators will be subsidised to purchase e-PLBs for trials. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is implementing the Pilot Scheme in phases. The first trial points are the Kwun

Tong Yue Man Square and Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road) Public Transport Interchanges.

The EPD completed the approval process in December 2023 for the first round of applications submitted by PLB operators and signed the agreements with 2 operators for purchase of an e-PLB each for participating in the trial. The 2 e-PLBs concerned are the THOR model provided by the supplier Green Mobility Innovations Limited (GMI). The first phase of operational trials is expected to commence in March 2024. The EPD will subsidise successful operators with 80% of the vehicle price for each e-PLB joining the Pilot Scheme. The total amount of subsidy for the 2 e-PLBs above is \$2.21 million.

2. The Government recognises the importance of charging network in promoting popularisation of electric vehicles, and will examine the demand for dedicated charging facilities for e-PLBs based on the results of the Pilot Scheme. In addition, the Government is planning to gradually convert some existing petrol filling stations (PFSs) to quick charging stations serving different types of vehicles in the medium to long term, and offer appropriate incentives to PFS operators to install quick chargers in the existing PFSs and provide priority charging services for public transport such as electric taxis, e-PLBs, etc. The above measures are still under planning and hence no specific estimate is available.
3. According to the agreements signed by the operators participating in the Pilot Scheme, the operators are required to continue using the e-PLBs joining the trial, after the one-year operational trial, until 8 years from the date of first registration of the e-PLBs. We will test out the respective technologies and arrangements for the operation of e-PLBs, and will collect the operational data of the e-PLBs so as to evaluate the feasibility of its application in the local context and consider the long-term strategy and specific arrangements on the electrification of PLBs.
4. To support the EPD in carrying out the Pilot Scheme, the TD will continue to actively work alongside with the relevant departments in taking forward the Pilot Scheme, including participating in the inter-departmental Task Force on the Pilot Scheme, providing advice to the EPD from the operation perspective regarding the selection of PLB termini or public transport interchanges (PTIs) as trial points, and carrying out site inspections together with the EPD and relevant departments on green minibus termini and PTIs that have potential for installing charging facilities and conducting trials to confirm whether the concerned venues have sufficient power supply and are suitable for setting up quick charging facilities.

Moreover, the EPD engaged the Hong Kong Productivity Council to study and develop the basic technical requirements and specifications for e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities that are suitable for application in the local environment. Based on the recommendations of the study, the EPD has issued the Technical Guidelines for Electric Public Light Buses and the Associated Charging Facilities (the Technical Guidelines). The EPD has entered into agreements with the suppliers complying with the requirements set out in the Technical Guidelines, who have become “prequalified suppliers” (the suppliers) for supplying e-PLBs for trials under the Pilot Scheme, thereby ensuring that the e-PLBs supplied by them meet the relevant technical requirements and specifications. It is also stipulated in the agreements that the suppliers are required to

provide a warranty of 5 years for the basic vehicle and 8 years for the battery in terms of the daily operation and maintenance of e-PLBs.

5. To encourage the introduction of more e-PLBs with low-floor feature, the Pilot Scheme offers more favourable terms in this regard and set a higher ceiling for the number of vehicles that can be sold by suppliers of e-PLBs with low-floor feature as compared to those that provide ordinary ones, allowing the PLB operators to consider procuring more e-PLBs with low-floor feature. Currently, there are a total of 6 suppliers supplying e-PLBs under the Pilot Scheme, of which 3 suppliers provide models with low-floor feature. The e-PLBs provided by the suppliers must have passed the type approval from the TD and specification verification by an independent assessor engaged by the EPD before they will be made available for selection by the operators participating in the Pilot Scheme. The e-PLB models of 3 suppliers, including one with low-floor feature, have fulfilled the above specified requirements and are available for purchase by the operators. There are currently 2 suppliers who have applied for type approval from the TD, while the remaining supplier has yet to submit an application for type approval.
6. Hilly terrains, high daily mileage, high air-conditioning demand in all seasons, long charging time, as well as space and power requirements for installation of chargers all make application of e-PLBs in Hong Kong challenging, and the development may also be subjected to the operating environment of PLBs. The EPD will test out the respective technologies and arrangements for the operation of e-PLBs, and will collect the operational data of the e-PLBs so as to evaluate the feasibility of its application in the local context.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)119

(Question Serial No. 0006)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It was pointed out in the Budget Speech that the Administration would continue to take forward a number of sector-specific talent training programmes to enrich the local talent pool. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the specific measures and policies as well as the estimated expenditure and staff establishment in 2024-25 for training and attracting talents with professional skills in environmental protection;
2. the relevant measures and policies as well as the estimated expenditure and staff establishment in 2024-25 for improving the professional qualifications framework and continuing professional development for environmental professionals in Hong Kong;
3. given that the demarcation of green jobs is unclear in Hong Kong at present, whether the Administration will introduce a long-term blueprint for green employment to set out a clear vision and formulate measures for nurturing talents and equipping our workforce with green skills; if yes, the timetable; if no, the reasons;
4. whether the Administration will relaunch and expand the Green Employment Scheme, so as to get prepared for building up a talent pool; and
5. whether the Administration will make reference to the experience of Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, etc., and introduce a pilot scheme on talent accreditation for employees in the emerging priority industries, so as to enhance the overall recognition of green jobs?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1&2. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has all along been supporting the continuous development of environmental professions in Hong Kong, so that the standards and credibility of environment-related services and industries can be enhanced through professionalisation. Apart from promoting exchanges and development of environment-related professions with various professional institutes, we also supported the establishment of the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals (HKIQEP) by local environmental professionals in 2015, the development of professional qualification framework and continuous professional development for environmental professionals, as well as gradually enhancing the professional status of environmental professionals.

In respect of training, the EPD collaborates with relevant professional institutes to provide internship training for graduates in environment-related disciplines and young environmental professionals, so as to help them acquire relevant professional qualifications. For example, the EPD has been working with the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers for more than 25 years in providing university engineering graduates with environmental engineering-related internship training opportunities to assist them in acquiring the qualification of environmental engineer, and to increase their chances of securing employment in the environmental protection sector.

In addition, the EPD has been organising summer internship programmes over the years to provide university students with internship and training opportunities in the EPD, with a view to enhancing their understanding of career development in environmental protection-related fields. The EPD also launched the Job Shadowing Programme in 2023, through which secondary four to secondary six students can learn about the work of the EPD by shadowing professional and technical staff, with the aims of cultivating their interest and passion in environmental protection and preparing them for their future. As at March this year, 181 secondary school students have participated in the Job Shadowing Programme.

In 2024-25, we will continue to proceed with the aforesaid work to promote the ongoing development of environmental professions in Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure for talent training for the environmental protection sectors is about \$5 million. Such work is an integral part of the EPD's work and is undertaken by the existing staff establishment. We do not have a separate breakdown.

3. The Government has been committed to further nurturing and attracting environmental professionals. Tertiary institutions have introduced undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in environmental studies to nurture talents for green industries. In the area of green finance, the Government launched in December 2022 the Pilot Green and Sustainable Finance Capacity Building Support Scheme for application by market practitioners, related professionals as well as students and graduates of the relevant disciplines. After completing eligible programmes, applicants can apply for a subsidy of up to \$10,000. The Green and Sustainable Finance Cross-Agency Steering Group also launched the Sustainable Finance Internship Initiative in October 2022 to create more internship opportunities for students. In addition, the Government has added "financial professionals in environmental, social and governance (ESG)" to the Talent List of Hong Kong since 2021 to provide immigration facilitation to these talents.

The Government has drawn up the Talent List to attract high-quality talents in an effective and focused manner. The List covers the industry segment of environmental technology services and provides immigration facilitation to non-local talents in the environmental profession who submitted applications under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme, the General Employment Policy and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals. In respect of technical personnel, to encourage young people to join the Technician Training Scheme offered by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), the EMSD participated in the Vocational Training Council (VTC) Earn & Learn Scheme as an employer. Technician trainees who join the scheme would be granted an allowance and government subsidy by instalment during the training period of 2 to 3 years. In the new round of recruitment

conducted in August 2023, the EMSD recruited around 230 trainees. Trainees who completed the scheme with satisfactory performance might be considered with priority for employment as Technician I or Technician II of the EMSD. The Government is also collaborating closely with the trades to strengthen the training of technical and maintenance personnel for electric vehicles (EVs). In August 2023, the VTC launched the Certificate in EV Repair and Maintenance programme, which offers opportunities for existing practitioners to study and enhance their technical skills. In addition, the EPD is exploring collaboration with the VTC to roll out an environmental protection-related apprenticeship scheme and provide on-the-job training opportunities for students taking Certificate of Vocational Education, Diploma of Vocational Education or Higher Diploma programmes.

4&5. There were tremendous pressure and challenges on the local employment market brought about by the epidemic in the past few years. Through the Anti-epidemic Fund, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and the EPD launched 3 rounds of Graduates Subsidy Programme under the Green Employment Scheme from 2020 to 2022 to subsidise eligible private companies and suitable organisations to employ fresh graduates working in areas related to environmental protection, ecological conservation, green energy and energy conservation, climate change, sustainable development, etc. As the epidemic has passed and the society and the economy have returned to full normalcy, the Graduates Subsidy Programme has ended. Under the Green Employment Scheme, the EEB and the EPD created 35 time-limited posts. Such posts are mainly for processing applications of the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to complement the Government's promotion of EV popularisation. The contract periods of such posts will progressively expire before the end of June 2024.

Nonetheless, in order to help more graduates of environment-related disciplines to join the environmental profession, the EPD is collaborating with the HKIQEP to launch a training programme for graduates in environment-related disciplines with a view to assisting them in acquiring environmental professional qualifications. The above-mentioned work in various aspects will help enhance the status of environment-related jobs and promote the professional development of talents. The EPD will continue to keep in view the development of environmental professions in Hong Kong and nurture local environmental professionals by making reference to the situation and experience of other places.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)120

(Question Serial No. 0010)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the recycling measures and policies for different types of materials, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Will the Government consider enhancing and expanding the funded projects and scope of the Recycling Fund to increase the recovery rate? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Government look into extending the recycling points of GREEN@COMMUNITY to more rural areas to strengthen recycling support in such areas? If no, what are the difficulties encountered?
3. Will more self-service recycling machines for glass bottles or various types of materials be provided at shopping malls, supermarkets, libraries and other public facilities with cash rebate or consumption coupons to be offered to increase the recovery rate?
4. Will more resources be deployed to explore new uses of recycled materials to provide more outlets for such materials and to strengthen industry support to ensure sustainability of the relevant waste recovery economy?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. In support of the sustainable development of the recycling industry, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up the Recycling Fund (the Fund) in 2015, aiming to, through various funding programmes, assist the local recycling industry in enhancing its overall operational capabilities and productivity, and help enterprises to enhance and expand their recycling operation. The EPD and the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund (RFAC) have been reviewing the operation of the Fund from time to time so as to timely introduce different enhancement measures and to expand the scope of subsidy. Recently, among other initiatives, the scope of rental expenses subsidy under the Enterprise Support Programme was extended in 2023, and the funding ceiling for Projects from New and Start-up Enterprises was raised, so as to support local new and start-up enterprises in adopting innovative ideas to facilitate recycling operations. The EPD and the RFAC will continue to review the work and introduce enhancement measures in a timely manner to meet the needs of the recycling industry in its operation, upgrading and transformation.

2. The EPD continues to maintain about 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents there to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste papers and metals). In addition, the EPD is trying out various measures to strengthen waste reduction and recycling support for rural areas, including trying out add-on recycling spots to extend the recycling services of GREEN@COMMUNITY to rural areas with relatively dense population, and setting up smart recycling bins in 6 rural locations. The Environment and Conservation Fund has also provided funding support to non-profit-making organisations for conducting a project in 20 villages in the North East New Territories to recruit local residents as Green Outreach Volunteers to carry out recycling, publicity and educational activities in the villages, thereby encouraging the residents in rural areas to practise waste reduction at source and recycling.
3. To support smart city development, the EPD launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in the fourth quarter of 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores since end 2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins have been progressively set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has been increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units.

Since the launch of the Pilot Programme, the EPD has been monitoring the usage and recycling data of the smart recycling systems at different locations. We are currently conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme, including the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, recycling effectiveness, the application scope, their role in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. Preliminary findings show that the operation of the smart recycling systems is generally smooth. The quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins is better than that of the conventional recycling bins and the public responses are also positive. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to fine-tune the Pilot Programme as appropriate, such as adjusting the locations and number of smart recycling bins.

To encourage more members of the public to participate in resources separation for recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme (GREEN\$ ePIS) in October 2020. When depositing recyclables through smart balances and smart recycling bins in the community recycling network, members of the

public can earn GREEN\$ points and redeem daily necessities and groceries, as well as environmentally friendly products, thereby integrating the habit of waste reduction and recycling into daily lives. To further promote the GREEN\$ ePIS and increase its attractiveness, a pilot program was launched in collaboration with the MTR's carbon emission reduction reward platform Carbon Wallet in February this year. The pilot collaboration program allows GREEN\$ mobile app users to convert GREEN\$ points to Carbon Wallet points to redeem new rewards, including free single journey MTR tickets and local eco-tours, thereby providing more diversified reward options to GREEN\$ ePIS users. In addition, we are working on the inclusion of designated bags for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging as a GREEN\$ reward option. We will continue to explore other reward arrangements with more potential partners to encourage members of the public to integrate the habit of waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. As at the end of February 2024, the GREEN\$ ePIS had over 500,000 registered accounts.

To pave way for the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the EPD launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021 to assess the application of RVMs for recovering plastic beverage containers in Hong Kong. A total of 60 RVMs have been set up in public places, government facilities or shopping centres with suitable foot traffic. The number of RVMs increased to 120 from the third quarter of 2022. The RVM provides an instant rebate (\$0.1 per plastic beverage container) via e-payment platforms to encourage the public to return used plastic beverage containers. Positive responses from the public have been received since the rollout of the RVM Pilot Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, more than 92 million plastic beverage containers have been collected for local recycling.

Moreover, the contractors and GREEN@COMMUNITY operators engaged by the EPD have set up more than 4 400 glass container collection points in districts across the territory to collect used glass containers of beverages, sauces and food products from members of the public and catering establishments for recycling, and their operation has been generally effective and smooth. At this stage, the Government has no plan to set up RVMs for waste glass containers that offer cash or consumption coupon rebates.

4. In addition to the aforementioned Recycling Fund, the Government also set up the Green Tech Fund (GTF) in 2020 and has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF to provide better and more focused funding support for research and development projects which can help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. Waste reduction is one of the priority themes of the GTF in support of the trades to develop environmental technologies with commercialisation and application value. Upon completion of the subsidised projects, we will share and promote the project outcomes to encourage further development and practical application.

As to green procurement, the Government has all along led by example by adopting green procurement and encouraging all sectors of the community to join hands in procuring products and services that incur minimal adverse environmental impacts (including decarbonisation, reduction in air pollutant emissions and waste reduction). At present, the Government's green procurement list has covered 183 items of products and services with green specifications. As many of these products are made of

recycled materials, with concerted efforts of the Government and the community in practising green procurement, we hope to boost the demand for recycled materials and create business opportunities for the recycling industry, thereby fostering a circular economy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)121

(Question Serial No. 0190)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

As mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Administration would take forward the planning of the development of I-PARK2 and identify a suitable site in the Northern Metropolis for development of an advanced waste-to-energy facility. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. The manpower and expenditures involved in taking forward the planning of the development of I-PARK2.
2. I-PARK1 has entered the final stage of construction and is expected to commence operation in 2025. The Government has indicated earlier that I-PARK2 is not expected to be commissioned until early 2030s. This situation is not satisfactory. What measures will be adopted to speed up the development of the project?
3. There were suggestions to the Government that public-private partnership could be adopted to expedite the development of infrastructures including environmental facilities. Will such kind of collaboration be considered for projects like I-PARK2? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. The actual tonnage of food waste treated at O-PARK1 in 2023 was 60 792 with an average throughput of about 166 tonnes per day, which had not reached the target design throughput of 200 tonnes. Please provide information on the current average treatment cost per tonne and a breakdown of the cost.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The Waste Infrastructure Division of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for handling various waste infrastructure projects, including overseeing the management and operation of existing waste treatment facilities, overseeing the construction of waste facilities, as well as planning for new waste management facilities, etc. We do not have a breakdown of the expenditures and manpower resources involved in the above projects.
2. We are working on the investigation, design and environmental impact assessment study for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I-PARK2), and at the same

time drawing on the abundant experience of the Mainland in developing waste incineration facilities to take forward the development of I-PARK2.

3. The Government will consider different development proposals, including public-private partnership, and will seek advice from professional consultant and corporates of waste incineration facilities in order to select the most cost effective proposal that is suitable for the development of I-PARK2.
4. The treatment cost per tonne of food waste of Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O-PARK1) in 2023 was about \$1,330, which included the operation, repair and maintenance costs of relevant facilities. As O-PARK1 operates under a Design-Build-Operate contract, the EPD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)122

(Question Serial No. 0212)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government mentioned that it would continue to strengthen various food waste collection initiatives to support more public premises and commercial and industrial premises to conduct source-separation and collection of food waste, and gradually expand the service to collect more food waste from domestic sources including private residential buildings and all public rental housing (PRH) estates. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. It is noted that the Government plans to make the locations and relevant information of recycling points for food waste and other common recyclables available on the “iAM Smart” platform. When will the work be completed? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
2. The Government plans to install a total of more than 700 food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in PRH estates across the territory. What are the current progress, the expected completion time, as well as the manpower and expenditure involved?
3. The Environmental Protection Department subsidises the installation of FWSRBs for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Industry Support Programme under the Recycling Fund. What are the number of applications received and the total amount of funding involved so far? How can publicity be enhanced so that more people will learn about such arrangement?
4. Will the Government review the arrangement of site selection for waste management facilities to prevent locating these facilities in the same areas? Has the Government identified a suitable site in the Northern Metropolis for development of an advanced waste-to-energy facility? If yes, what are the details?
5. Will the Government make reference to the Mainland’s one-stop treatment approach for multiple types of waste to reduce, detoxify and recover municipal solid waste in a highly efficient manner?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. To further promotion recycling, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has developed a “Map of Recycling Points”, which is available on the “Waste Less” and the GREEN\$ mobile applications, and the Hong Kong Waste Reduction Website

(<https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/en-hk>) of the EPD. The map provides information of more than 6 600 recycling points for the convenience of the public in practising recycling. A link to the map has been added in the “iAM Smart” mobile application in mid-March. The expenditure involved will be included in the recurrent operating cost of the “iAM Smart” mobile application and no additional development expenditure is incurred.

2. The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents’ participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure involved in the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates is about \$110 million in 2024-25, and the manpower involved will be absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD.

3. For private housing, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates. Since 29 December 2023, the Pilot Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. When launching the Pilot Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households.

In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the RF and the ECF.

In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

To encourage members of the public and housing estates to participate in domestic food waste recycling, the RF launched a solicitation scheme on “Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste” under the Industry Support Programme in 2020, focusing on supporting and subsidising private residential buildings to collect food waste using smart recycling bins, with a view to further enhancing the effectiveness and raising public awareness of food waste recycling. As at February 2024, a total of 34 eligible applications have been received, of which 33 have been approved, involving a total funding amount of about \$31 million.

4. In addition to promoting waste reduction and clean recycling, we are developing an advanced and efficient network of waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities to replace landfilling as the way to handle municipal solid waste in cities, while also converting waste into useful electrical energy. We are now in full swing constructing the first WtE facility utilizing advanced incineration technology to treat municipal solid waste (MSW) i.e. the first phase of Integrated Waste Management Facilities (I-PARK1), located in the artificial island off Stonecutters Island in the southern part of Hong Kong. Meanwhile, we are making every effort to push forward the development of the second phase of Integrated Waste Management Facilities (I-PARK2) located in the western part of Hong Kong (Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun). The Government is identifying a suitable site in the Northern Metropolis for development of an advanced WtE facility to provide essential waste disposal services for the local population of 2.5 million in the long run.
5. The Integrated Waste Management Facilities (I-PARKs) under development are capable of processing substantial volume of non-recyclable MSW in a highly efficient manner, including the adoption of modern incineration technology to reduce the waste volume by 90%, treating the emitted flue gas with advanced air pollution control systems, and recovering the heat released during incineration process to generate electricity, so as to reduce waste volume, turn waste into harmless material and recover resources in a highly efficient manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)123

(Question Serial No. 0434)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Under this programme, a Green Outreach service has been set up in 2023 to enhance community education and on-site recycling support. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the details of the Green Outreach service in 2023 and 2024; and
- (b) the manpower and resources allocated for 2024-25 to provide this service?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the "Programme on Source Separation of Waste" to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women's, foreign domestic helpers' and new immigrants' groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

As at February 2024, the Green Outreach has conducted about 154 000 community visits, established connections with more than 4 500 property management companies and residents' organisations, which altogether provided waste reduction and recycling support for about 70% of housing estates/residential buildings and villages in Hong Kong. In addition, the Green Outreach has organised about 5 000 publicity and promotional activities in various forms, attracting over 410 000 participants.

The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging starting from August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage the public of different backgrounds (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging.

From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

In 2024-25, apart from continuing with the work stated above, the Green Outreach will also collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise different types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and MSW charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), so as to raise the law-abiding awareness of the public. The Green Outreach will also offer assistance to the primary and secondary schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity launched in early March this year to encourage students and their family members to actively practise resources separation and recycling and to establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling in their daily lives. Upon implementation of MSW charging, the Green Outreach will further expand the scope of their outreaching services. Apart from continuing with their on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, promotional activities and hands-on demonstrations will be conducted at various locations to help the public gradually adapt to MSW charging and change their waste disposal habits by separating resources properly for recycling. Besides, the Green Outreach will also pay attention to any non-compliance during daily work, conduct preliminary investigations upon receipt of non-compliance reports, persuade the public, in the form of promotion, education and guidance, to comply with the legislative requirements and offer advice to property management companies/cleansing contractors to help them improve the situation.

The Green Outreach comprises of 74 non-directorate professional staff (including Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Inspector grades) and 142 non-civil service contract staff. The annual expenditure incurred is about \$100 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)124

(Question Serial No. 0435)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Government states that it will “implement the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases starting from the second quarter of 2024”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the manpower and resources allocated to execute this task; and
- (b) the manpower and resources allocated for 2024-25 to public education and publicity in respect of the implementation of the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products (the regulation) will be implemented on 22 April 2024. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of publicity and training programmes to increase awareness of the regulation among the public and the trades. The details are as follows.

The EPD launched the “Cut Plastic Use” thematic website (www.cuttheplastics.hk) in January this year, which provides one-stop information for the public and the trades, including information on the regulation and the various options of alternatives to plastic products. Furthermore, since 1 February this year, we have been progressively releasing promotional videos and audios, trade-specific promotional clips, posters and advertisements, etc. about the regulation through various channels (including television, radio, public transportation stations and vehicle exteriors, restaurant storefronts, building lobbies and external digital screens, news and lifestyle mobile applications and websites, etc.) Besides, we have proactively and promptly cleared up misconceptions and concerns of the public via various government websites and social media platforms, created infographics to address common questions, and set up hotlines to answer enquiries.

We have been maintaining close communication with various trades and providing appropriate assistance and support to them. As different trades have various concerns about the details of the regulation, since January this year, the EPD has been organising a total of

50 online and offline training sessions targeting at different sectors. To assist the catering trade in procuring compliant alternatives, we have engaged the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency to establish a “Green Tableware Platform” (<https://www.greentableware.hk/>) early in January 2022. The EPD has been progressively conducting compliance surveys through visits to 20 000 small and medium-sized eateries, with a view to assisting them in understanding the regulation and adjusting their operation to comply with the regulatory requirements (the numbers of visits are tabulated below). Besides, since January this year, the EPD has distributed trade-specific promotional leaflets to approximately 11 000 retail stores and 1 800 hotels and guesthouses to help them better understand the regulatory requirements.

The first 6 months following the implementation of the regulation on 22 April will be designated as an adaptation period. During this period, the EPD will arrange staff to proactively inspect the operation of relevant business premises, focusing on promotion and education, as well as providing appropriate advice and information to assist the trades in complying with the requirements under the new legislation. We will also continue, through different channels, to promote various “plastic-free” campaigns which aim at reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware and encouraging the use of reusable ones among the public and the trades.

In 2023-24 and 2024-25, the expenditure and estimated expenditure of the EPD for the publicity and educational work of the regulation are \$17.8 million and about \$25 million respectively. The EPD will monitor the implementation of the regulation with the existing staff establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)125

(Question Serial No. 0436)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The provision for 2024-25 under this Programme is \$2,714.6 million, which is considerably higher than the revised provision for 2023-24 by 38.0%. According to the Controlling Officer's explanation, the increase is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the details of these non-recurrent projects; and
- (b) the manpower and resources allocated for 2024-25 to these non-recurrent projects?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The estimate for the Air Programme in 2024-25 is \$747.5 million (38%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly attributed to the enhancement of the 3 priority tasks listed below. The manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). There is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 9 posts in 2024-25 under the provision for the Air Programme. These posts are mainly responsible for conducting investigations and enforcement work related to air pollution, involving annual salaries of about \$4.1 million. The EPD will cope with the impacts brought about by the deletion of posts through appropriate staff deployment and optimisation of workflows.

Major item	2023-24 Revised Estimate (\$ million)	2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Increase in 2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Reason
EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS)	220.0	800.0	580.0	Note (1)
Ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles	1,028.9	1,122.0	93.1	Note (2)
Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	39.2	110.6	71.4	Note (3)

- Note (1): As for the expenditure incurred by the EHSS, it is expected that the installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure will be completed progressively in 2024-25 for many of the approved applications, and the estimated amount of subsidies to be disbursed for the completion of installation will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.
- Note (2): As for the expenditure incurred by the ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles, the relevant figures show that the number of eligible vehicles reaching the statutory retirement age by 31 December 2024 is higher than that of 2023. Hence, the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is higher than that of 2023-24 to meet the funding needs of these applications.
- Note (3): As for the expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries, the construction of electric ferries and the associated charging facilities has commenced progressively in 2023-24. According to the current progress, the estimated amount of subsidies to be disbursed for the above construction works will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)126

(Question Serial No. 0437)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25, the Government states that it will prepare to set up in Hong Kong a supersite for the Greater Bay Area air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring to provide regional air pollution and meteorological monitoring and forecasting services. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the timetable of setting up this supersite for the Greater Bay Area air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring; and
- (b) the manpower and resources allocated for 2024-25 to execute this task?

Asked by: Hon LOONG Hon-biu, Louis (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Government is preparing to set up in Hong Kong a supersite for the Greater Bay Area air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring, and has preliminarily identified Tsim Bei Tsui as the site for development. The project is currently at the planning stage and a feasibility study is scheduled to commence in 2024-25.

The manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work in 2024-25 will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Department. The Government does not have a separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)127

(Question Serial No. 3295)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to Programme 4, the Environment Branch will oversee the implementation of waste-to-resources management strategies and programmes, including the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. It has been noted that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department anticipates the indicator of refuse collected in 2024 to be similar to that of the previous year. Does this suggest that the Government is of the view that MSW charging will not be effective in encouraging the public to reduce waste? Will the implementation of MSW charging be further postponed? If so, what are the details? What are the manpower and expenditures involved in explaining the MSW charging measures to the public in the next year?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

According to the medium-term goal as set out in the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035, the per capita waste disposal rate will gradually decrease by 40 to 45% whilst the recovery rate will increase to about 55%. According to overseas experiences, it would take certain time for the public to gradually develop the habit of practicing waste reduction and recycling even upon the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. Therefore, our primary goal is to help the public establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling first, so as to minimise the amount of charges they will need to pay. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) estimates that after the implementation of MSW charging, as the public's habits change, the recovery rate of 32% in 2022 will gradually increase, and the per capita waste disposal rate will gradually decrease.

In order to enhance the understanding and awareness of the general public and relevant trades on the MSW charging scheme, the EPD has launched a series of extensive public education, publicity and stakeholders' engagement activities. These campaigns include provision of first-hand experience on how MSW charging is implemented through the successive launches of community involvement projects as well as close partnership and collaboration with government departments and stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign Committee, village representatives, green groups, schools, etc. in organising activities. Starting from August 2023, the EPD has been publicising the implementation date and

arrangements of MSW charging through various channels in phases under the theme of “Dump less, save more” for the general public, the industrial and commercial sectors and public bodies. We will continue with these publicity efforts until the end of 2024. In addition, the EPD has introduced new publicity initiatives, including producing simple and easy-to-understand infographics for different groups, addressing misconceptions about the MSW charging policy through feature stories and street interviews, and collaborating with representatives of various stakeholders and celebrities to produce short videos to encourage the public to reduce and recycle waste and to share their experience in preparing for MSW charging. The Green Outreach is set up to complement the promotional activities and provide outreaching support to the community on waste reduction and recycling. Starting from 1 April 2024, the Government implements the Demonstration Scheme in phases to enable the public and the relevant sectors to have a clearer understanding of the operation and details of the MSW charging scheme through on-site demonstration.

The estimated expenditure related to publicity work for MSW charging in 2024-25 is approximately \$33.2 million. The implementation of MSW charging involves 72 civil service posts, of which the publicity and promotion work is an integral part of the EPD’s work and is undertaken by the existing staff. We do not have a separate breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)128

(Question Serial No. 0702)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched a food waste collection trial scheme in public rental housing (PRH) estates in 2022 by providing smart recycling bins equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices and offering reward points for recycling. As for private housing estates, they can apply for subsidies under the initiative “Solicitation Theme: Supporting Residential Buildings in Adopting Smart Bins Technology in Food Waste Collection and Recycling” of the Recycling Fund or the “Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates” launched by the Environmental Campaign Committee to install smart recycling bins to collect food waste. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- Please provide the locations, numbers and distribution of food waste recycling bins in PRH estates and private housing estates in Hong Kong, with a breakdown by the 18 districts;
- Please provide an evaluation on the effectiveness of the food waste recycling bins in Hong Kong, including information on utilisation rates or frequency, quantities of food waste collected, etc.; and
- It is noted that residents of PRH estates that are equipped with food waste recycling bins are required to become members of EPD’s GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme and download a mobile application or use a GREEN\$ card in order to activate the food waste recycling bins and accumulate points to redeem gifts. Will the Administration consider allowing non-members to use the food waste recycling bins directly in order to encourage more people to recycle food waste?

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD), in collaboration with the Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), started expanding the food waste recycling services to all public rental housing (PRH) estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (i.e. 115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of

approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs.

As at February 2024, about 540 FWSRBs have been in use in PRH estates and private residential buildings (including rural villages) in Hong Kong, with a cumulative usage of over 5 million times and a total recovery volume of about 3 900 tonnes. The participation rate has exceeded 70 per cent in certain housing estates. Both the quantity of food waste recovered and the participation rate of residents are in line with our expectations. The distribution of FWSRBs by district are tabulated below.

District	No. of FWSRBs (as at February 2024)		Total
	PRH Estates	Private Residential Buildings	
Central and Western	3	0	3
Wan Chai	0 ^{Note 1}	0	0
Eastern	17	16	33
Southern	9	0	9
Yau Tsim Mong	0 ^{Note 2}	2	2
Sham Shui Po	27	0	27
Kowloon City	7	0	7
Wong Tai Sin	40	2	42
Kwun Tong	49	19	68
Kwai Tsing	32	7	39
Tsuen Wan	20	6	26
Tuen Mun	49	5	54
Yuen Long	62	2	64
North	24	3	27
Sha Tin	68	15	83
Tai Po	9	0	9
Sai Kung	14	27	41
Islands	5	5	10
Total	435	109	544

Note 1: Currently, there is only 1 PRH estate under the HS in Wan Chai District (Lai Tak Tsuen) in which 3 FWSRBs are expected to be installed in April 2024.

Note 2: Currently, there is only 1 PRH estate under the HS in Yau Tsim Mong District (Prosperous Garden) in which 1 FWSRB has been installed on 13 March 2024.

To further promote recycling, the EPD has developed a “Map of Recycling Points”, which is available on the “Waste Less” and the GREEN\$ mobile applications, and the Hong Kong Waste Reduction Website of the EPD (<https://www.wastereduction.gov.hk/en-hk>). The map provides information of more than 6 600 recycling points (including locations of FWSRBs) for the convenience of the public in practising recycling.

To encourage more people to participate in food waste recycling, in addition to the GREEN\$ mobile app or physical cards, the EPD has placed public GREEN\$ cards at the information counter of the lobbies of PRH estates and private residential buildings for those in need to borrow, so that they can activate the FWSRBs. We are now arranging with the public and private housing estates concerned to attach the public GREEN\$ cards onto the FWSRBs for the convenience of non-GREEN\$ members to recycle food waste.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)129****(Question Serial No. 1353)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) AirControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding the promotion of new energy public transport, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the types of buses and the numbers of electric buses (and its percentage share) owned by various franchised bus companies in the past 3 years;
2. the numbers of electric taxis, electric light buses and electric goods vehicles in the past 3 years;
3. the progress of the study conducted by the Government on hydrogen filling stations, the arrangements of hydrogen supply and the use of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles on roads.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)Reply:

1. The numbers of licensed buses and their percentage shares in the overall number of buses owned by each franchised bus company in Hong Kong in the past 3 years are tabulated by vehicle emission standard as follows:

Franchised Bus company	Bus Category	Number of licensed franchised buses (the percentage share in the overall number of buses owned by the franchised bus company)(Note ¹)		
		End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023
The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited	Euro III	368 (9%)	161 (4%)	97 (2%)
	Euro IV	115 (3%)	116 (3%)	114 (3%)
	Euro V	2 923 (73%)	2 828 (72%)	2 870 (72%)
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	584 (15%)	772 (20%)	849 (21%)
	Electric bus	11 (<1%)	24 (<1%)	49 (1%)
	Sub-total	4 001 (100%)	3 901 (100%)	3 979 (100%)

Franchised Bus company	Bus Category	Number of licensed franchised buses (the percentage share in the overall number of buses owned by the franchised bus company)(Note ¹)		
		End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023
Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories Bus Network) (Note ²)	Euro III	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Euro IV	28 (4%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Euro V	633 (82%)	585 (82%)	1 065 (82%)
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	106 (14%)	121 (17%)	232 (18%)
	Electric bus	4 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	6(Note ³) (<1%)
	Sub-total	771 (100%)	710 (100%)	1 303 (100%)
Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Airport and North Lantau Bus Network)	Euro III	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Euro IV	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Euro V	149 (79%)	151 (84%)	165 (86%)
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	39 (21%)	29 (16%)	27 (14%)
	Electric bus	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Sub-total	188 (100%)	180 (100%)	192 (100%)
New World First Services Limited (NWFB) (Note ²)	Euro III	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	Not Applicable
	Euro IV	38 (6%)	13 (2%)	
	Euro V	533 (77%)	514 (80%)	
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	114 (17%)	112 (18%)	
	Electric bus	3 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	
	Sub-total	688 (100%)	640 (100%)	
Long Win Bus Company Limited	Euro III	10 (4%)	8 (3%)	4 (1%)
	Euro IV	6 (2%)	5 (2%)	5 (2%)
	Euro V	118 (46%)	115 (44%)	112 (40%)

Franchised Bus company	Bus Category	Number of licensed franchised buses (the percentage share in the overall number of buses owned by the franchised bus company)(Note ¹)		
		End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	119 (46%)	132 (50%)	156 (56%)
	Electric bus	4 (2%)	4 (2%)	4 (1%)
	Sub-total	257 (100%)	264 (100%)	281 (100%)
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited	Euro III	9 (7%)	6 (5%)	3 (2%)
	Euro IV	31 (23%)	13 (10%)	11 (8%)
	Euro V	88 (65%)	104 (79%)	113 (78%)
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	5 (4%)	5 (4%)	13 (9%)
	Electric bus	2 (1%)	4 (3%)	4 (3%)
	Sub-total	135 (100%)	132 (100%)	144 (100%)

Note 1: May not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note 2: The Citybus Limited (Franchise for Hong Kong Island and Cross-Harbour Bus Network) and NWFB merged as Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories Bus Network) on 1 July 2023. Meanwhile, the ownership of franchised buses of NWFB had also been transferred to Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Urban and New Territories Bus Network).

Note 3: The 6 electric buses include 1 hydrogen fuel cell electric bus.

2. The numbers of licensed electric taxis, electric light buses and electric goods vehicles in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Vehicle type	Number of licensed vehicles		
	End of 2021	End of 2022	End of 2023
Electric taxis	0	1	17
Electric public light bus	0	0	1
Electric private light bus	3	3	4
Electric light goods vehicle	202	277	563
Electric medium goods vehicle	2	1	6
Electric heavy goods vehicle	0	0	1
Total	207	282	592

3. To align with the use of hydrogen fuel in Hong Kong, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), in consultation with the industry, has developed safety guidelines for hydrogen fuelled vehicles and maintenance workshops, safety guidelines for hydrogen filling stations, and guidance note for the quantitative risk assessment

study for hydrogen installations. These guidelines have been applied to the current trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology in Hong Kong. The EMSD will continue to update these guidelines with reference to the development of hydrogen energy technology and experiences gained from the implementation of trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology, moving with the times.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)130****(Question Serial No. 1354)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) AirControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding electric vehicles and the charging facilities for electric public transport vehicles, please inform this Committee of:

1. the numbers of charging posts for electric private cars and electric taxis by district and their output power respectively;
2. the numbers of charging stations for electric light buses by district and their output power respectively;
3. the numbers of charging stations for electric buses by district and their output power respectively.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)Reply:

1. As at the end of December 2023, over 7 410 public electric vehicle (EV) chargers had been provided by the Government and the private sector in the 18 districts over the territory, of which about 2 550 were government chargers and the remaining of about 4 860 were provided by the private sector. The numbers of public EV chargers provided by the Government and the private sector by the 18 districts is set out in the table below:

District	Number of public EV chargers			Sub-total
	Standard (2.9 kW)	Medium (>2.9kW ≤20kW)	Quick (>20kW)	
Central & Western	10	366	49	425
Eastern	16	278	87	381
Southern	6	227	48	281
Wan Chai	70	277	57	404
Kowloon City	100	59	39	198
Kwun Tong	562	506	135	1 203
Sham Shui Po	29	168	58	255
Wong Tai Sin	18	173	37	228

District	Number of public EV chargers			Sub-total
	Standard (2.9 kW)	Medium (>2.9kW ≤20kW)	Quick (>20kW)	
Yau Tsim Mong	50	210	115	375
Kwai Tsing	9	162	54	225
Tsuen Wan	21	223	39	283
Sai Kung	118	144	96	358
North	172	263	31	466
Tai Po	30	116	17	163
Sha Tin	663	455	122	1 240
Yuen Long	53	222	67	342
Tuen Mun	12	77	40	129
Islands	100	299	60	459
Total	2 039	4 225	1 151	7 415

Apart from the above public EV chargers, the Government has already engaged contractors to provide no less than 10 dedicated quick charging facilities for electric taxis (e-taxis) on Lantau Island and in the Sai Kung district. The 2 charging facilities in Yat Tung Estate Carpark No.2, Lantau Island, have already commenced operation in October 2023, and the remaining quick charging facilities for e-taxis will be put into service in phases in 2024.

2. Regarding electric public light buses (e-PLBs), the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is implementing the Pilot Scheme for e-PLBs to provide charging service for e-PLBs at suitable public transport interchanges (PTIs). The EPD has engaged a contractor to install and operate a quick charging station at the Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road) PTI, which includes 2 fast pantograph chargers (300kW each) and 2 backup plug-in chargers (150kW each). In addition, a quick charging station installed and run by a private operator at its own expense has been set up at the Kwun Tong Yue Man Square PTI, which is equipped with 1 fast pantograph charger (300kW) and 1 backup plug-in charger (150kW).
3. As at the end of December 2023, the number of charging facilities for electric buses (see Note) by the 18 districts is set out in the table below:

District	Charging facilities for electric buses (output power)			
	75kW	80kW	150kW	200kW
Central & Western	-	3	3	-
Eastern	4	4	-	-
Southern	1	1	-	-
Kwun Tong	-	5	1	1
Sham Shui Po	-	6	-	3
Sha Tin	-	-	-	3
Yuen Long	-	2	-	-
Tuen Mun	-	-	-	2
Islands	-	6	-	-
Total	5	27	4	9

Note: Only government-funded charging facilities procured and installed by franchised bus companies under the trial for single-deck e-buses are included.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)131

(Question Serial No. 1355)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

What were the numbers of complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department about illegal disposal of waste, the numbers of proactive inspections conducted and the numbers of prosecutions instituted against illegal disposal of waste in the past 3 years (please set out the numbers by district)?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

Reply:

The numbers of complaints about illegal disposal of waste handled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), as well as the numbers of inspections conducted and the numbers of prosecutions instituted in the past 3 years are as follows:

	Year											
	2021				2022				2023			
	No. of complaints handled ^{Note}	No. of inspections conducted	No. of prosecutions instituted		No. of complaints handled ^{Note}	No. of inspections conducted	No. of prosecutions instituted		No. of complaints handled ^{Note}	No. of inspections conducted	No. of prosecutions instituted	
			No. of summonses	No. of Fixed Penalty Notices			No. of summonses	No. of Fixed Penalty Notices			No. of summonses	No. of Fixed Penalty Notices
Total	1 981	16 422	485	264	1 814	15 667	372	348	2 075	18 754	240	279
Figures by District												
Central & Western	98	537	6	0	88	585	6	2	119	904	3	0
Eastern	82	1 300	5	29	60	1 059	16	11	65	1 124	7	23
Southern	26	337	6	14	15	293	6	3	20	444	3	5
Wan Chai	66	490	0	1	92	613	0	0	90	1 013	0	1
Kowloon City	190	778	2	19	156	740	14	22	173	964	13	23
Kwun Tong	52	530	11	5	71	636	9	11	54	871	16	9
Sham Shui Po	140	1 844	5	63	144	1 446	9	75	137	1 644	19	64
Wong Tai Sin	24	498	25	2	27	667	10	0	33	1 373	9	3
Yau Tsim Mong	232	1 852	8	11	264	2 061	23	10	282	2 762	28	9
Islands	92	593	2	2	74	435	0	0	84	532	0	1
Kwai Tsing	58	954	57	52	58	1 072	69	142	54	551	56	100
North	186	880	135	22	120	676	46	9	161	697	21	4
Sai Kung	106	699	91	4	87	716	102	6	76	1 013	33	2
Sha Tin	89	776	11	10	69	742	7	19	71	605	1	13
Tai Po	159	1 036	5	3	112	532	2	5	123	346	4	2
Tsuen Wan	69	638	7	1	60	441	13	4	78	617	11	2
Tuen Mun	61	314	56	10	56	264	0	9	71	388	3	8
Yuen Long	251	2 366	53	16	261	2 689	40	20	384	2 906	13	10

Note: Including multiple complaints which may have arisen from a single case.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)132

(Question Serial No. 1356)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the collection and recycling of food waste, please advise this Committee of:

1. the amount of food waste collected by the Government from domestic and food premises over the past 3 years;
2. the amount of food waste processed by the Government in each of the past 3 years;
3. the annual operating expenditure of O·PARK and the cost for processing 1 tonne of food waste;
4. the numbers of smart food waste recycling bins installed in public rental housing estates by the Government since the launch of the Smart Food Waste Recycling Programme (Public Rental Housing) and the amount of food waste collected by those recycling bins;
5. the number of smart food waste recycling bins installed by the Government since the launch of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates and the amount of food waste collected by those recycling bins;
6. the provision and manpower involved in food waste collection and recycling by the Government over the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- 1, 2 & 6. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial, industrial and domestic sources, thereby encouraging all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste

treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost. The quantities of food waste recovered over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Food waste recovered (tonnes per year) [Note 1]	Food waste recovered from public and commercial & industrial premises (tonnes per year) [Note 2]	Food waste recovered from domestic source (tonnes per year)
2021	49 031	48 986	45
2022	49 249	48 648	601
2023	60 792	58 260	2 532

Note 1: Quantity of food waste recovered refers to the total amount of food waste treated by O-PARK1 and the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme at the Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works in the respective year. Organisations/premises delivering food waste to the above facilities through Government funding and at their own cost have been covered.

Note 2: As the venues collecting food waste from the restaurants also receive food waste generated by other businesses within the same venue, such as supermarkets and market stalls inside shopping malls, it is therefore unable to separately measure the amount of food waste recovered from restaurants.

The manpower involved in the implementation of the schemes in relation to food waste collection was absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The provisions for food waste collection over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Provision(\$m)
2021-22	73.2
2022-23	123.2
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	185.2

3. The revised estimate of the operating expenditure of O-PARK1 is \$84 million in 2023-24, and the cost for processing per tonne of food waste at the facility was about \$1,330 in 2023.
4. The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule. The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (i.e. 115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the

installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. Since the commencement of the Trial Scheme in October 2022, more than 3 000 tonnes of food waste have been recycled, with an average daily collection quantity of about 26 tonnes.

5. For private housing, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages, with a daily average of around 3 tonnes of food waste collected. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the installation of 10 FWSRBs has been completed under the Scheme, with around 200 kg of food waste collected per day. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides the traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection, with a daily average of around 1.2 tonnes of food waste collected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)133

(Question Serial No. 1357)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the promotion of new energy vehicles, please advise this Committee of:

1. the numbers of vehicle owners granted with the first registration tax (FRT) concessions in the past 3 years;
2. the numbers of cases with concessions granted under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme, the amount of FRT concessions involved and the classes and makes of the vehicles participating in the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme in the past 3 years;
3. the number of charging facilities installed under the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme in the past 3 years; the numbers of new energy vehicles and its percentage share in the government vehicle fleet by departments.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- 1.& 2. Over the past 3 years (i.e. from 2021 to 2023), there were a total of 58 862 cases that first registration tax (FRT) concessions were granted for electric vehicles (EVs) of various classes, including motorcycles, private cars, taxis, light buses, non-franchised public buses, goods vehicles and special purpose vehicles. Among them, 56 877 were cases of electric private cars (e-PCs) under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme (the Scheme).

The makes of the EVs granted with FRT concessions for EVs are tabulated below:

Makes		
AIDEA	AUDI*	B.M.W.*
BAZN	BICOSE	BMW I*
BYD*	CARVER	CFMOTO
DAYANG	DFSK*	DOFERN
ENERGICA	EVOKE	FAW
FELQ	FIAT*	FORD*
FOTON	GMI	HELI
HONDA*	HORWIN	HUANGHAI BUS
HYUNDAI*	JAC	JAGUAR*
JOYLONG	KIA*	KUMPAN ELECTRIC

Makes		
LEXUS*	LINDE	LONKING
MAXUS*	MERCEDES BENZ*	MG*
MINI*	MITSUBISHI	NEXT
NINEBOT	NISSAN*	NIU
ORA*	OTTOBIKE	PEUGEOT*
POLESTAR*	PORSCHE*	RENAULT
RIEJU	SANY	SGMW
SHUI CHEONG	SILENCE	SMART*
STILL	SUITONG	SUMITOMO
SUPER SOCO	SURRON	TAYLOR DUNN
TCM	TESLA*	TOYOTA*
TROMOX	UGBEST	VOLKSWAGEN*
VOLVO*	XDAO	YADEA

Note* These makes also involve e-PCs granted with FRT concessions for EVs under the Scheme.

3. The Government announced the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles (the Roadmap) in 2021, aiming to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure (EVCEI) by or before 2025. To this end, the Government through: (1) the measure of gross floor area concessions to encourage the installation of EVCEI in parking spaces of newly built private buildings. The Government has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces, of which more than 30 800 parking spaces have been completed and equipped with EVCEI; and (2) the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to assist existing private residential buildings and housing estates in installing EVCEI in their parking spaces. With the relevant schemes and initiatives in place, we are confident in achieving the target of having at least 150 000 parking spaces equipped with EVCEI by 2025 as set out in the Roadmap and raise the number to over 200 000 parking spaces within this government term.

The EHSS was rolled out in October 2020, with a total funding of \$3.5 billion allocated in two phases. Since the funding earmarked for the applications received under the EHSS had reached the \$3.5 billion funding ceiling, the application period for the EHSS was closed on 31 December 2023, with a total of 788 applications received. As at the end of February 2024, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has completed processing 732 applications. The processing of the remaining 56 applications will be completed within the first quarter of 2024. Upon approval of the EHSS applications by the EPD, applicants are required to engage consultants and contractors to design and install EVCEI through open tendering. It takes time for the installation to complete as applicants will have to conduct the tendering exercise, resolve the technical issues related to the installation works, as well as liaising with parking space owners to reach consensus over the detailed design of the installation. As at the end of February 2024, 57 car parks of residential estates (over 8 500 parking spaces) have completed the installation works under the EHSS, whereas 33 car parks of residential estates (about 6 500 parking spaces) have commenced installation works. Based on the current progress, it is anticipated that about 25 000 parking

spaces will have the installation of EVCEI completed in 2024, and the target of completing the installation of EVCEI for some 140 000 parking spaces in private residential estates can be achieved in 2027-28 as planned, involving over 700 car parks.

Regarding the use of new energy vehicles in the Government, the departments will have to take into account their actual operational needs and the availability of new energy vehicles in the market that meet the relevant requirements and specifications, and replace their conventional fossil fuel vehicles with new energy vehicles in accordance with the normal replacement cycle and the actual circumstances, so as to strike a balance between prudent use of public funds and taking the lead in using EVs. As at December 2023, all new energy vehicles being used in the Government are EVs. The numbers and percentages of EVs in the government fleet under various departments in the past 3 years are set out below:

Policy Bureau / Department / Organisation	(i) Total no. of vehicles in the fleet			(ii) No. of EVs in the fleet			(iii) Percentage of EVs		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Administration Wing	28	27	29	3	3	4	10.7%	11.1%	13.8%
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	211	212	212	9	9	10	4.3%	4.2%	4.7%
Auxiliary Medical Service	19	19	19	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Architectural Services Department	9	9	9	1	1	1	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%
Audit Commission	2	2	2	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Buildings Department	40	40	40	9	9	10	22.5%	22.5%	25.0%
Customs and Excise Department	215	217	225	7	7	15	3.3%	3.2%	6.7%
Census and Statistics Department	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Civil Aviation Department	15	15	15	5	5	6	33.3%	33.3%	40.0%
Civil Aid Service	40	40	40	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Commerce and Economic Development Bureau	6	4	4	1	1	1	16.7%	25.0%	25.0%
Civil Engineering and Development Department	41	41	41	2	2	2	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
Chief Executive's Office	8	8	8	1	1	1	12.5%	12.5%	12.5%
Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Companies Registry	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Civil Service Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Correctional Services Department	127	131	131	1	1	1	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau	N/A	5	5	N/A	0	0	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Development Bureau	6	6	6	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Department of Health	57	57	57	1	1	2	1.8%	1.8%	3.5%
Department of Justice	8	11	11	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Policy Bureau / Department / Organisation	(i) Total no. of vehicles in the fleet			(ii) No. of EVs in the fleet			(iii) Percentage of EVs		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Drainage Services Department	45	45	45	6	6	5	13.3%	13.3%	11.1%
Education Bureau	6	5	6	0	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%
Environment Bureau*	2	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	50.0%	N/A	N/A
Environment and Ecology Bureau	N/A	4	8	N/A	1	2	N/A	25.0%	25.0%
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	202	202	202	17	17	17	8.4%	8.4%	8.4%
Environmental Protection Department	52	52	47	2	2	1	3.8%	3.8%	2.1%
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	718	718	718	5	4	4	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Fire Services Department	741	804	819	5	5	4	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
Government Flying Service	4	4	4	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Government Logistics Department	61	62	63	3	3	6	4.9%	4.8%	9.5%
Government Laboratory	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Government Property Agency	2	2	2	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Home Affairs Department	28	29	29	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Housing Bureau	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Food and Health Bureau*	6	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A
Health Bureau	N/A	4	4	N/A	0	0	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Hong Kong Monetary Authority	5	5	5	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hong Kong Observatory	8	8	9	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hong Kong Police Force	2 707	2 877	2 892	35	29	34	1.3%	1.0%	1.2%
Hongkong Post	271	267	254	9	7	7	3.3%	2.6%	2.8%
Housing Department	51	51	51	4	4	4	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%
Home Affairs Bureau*	7	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	14.3%	N/A	N/A
Home and Youth Affairs Bureau	N/A	6	6	N/A	1	1	N/A	16.7%	16.7%
Highways Department	46	47	47	2	2	2	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%
Independent Commission Against Corruption	38	38	38	0	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%
Immigration Department	36	36	36	1	1	1	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Invest Hong Kong	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Intellectual Property Department	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Inland Revenue Department	4	4	4	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Information Services Department	8	8	8	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Innovation and Technology Commission	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Policy Bureau / Department / Organisation	(i) Total no. of vehicles in the fleet			(ii) No. of EVs in the fleet			(iii) Percentage of EVs		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Innovation and Technology Bureau*	2	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A
Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau	N/A	2	2	N/A	0	0	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Joint Secretariat for the Advisory Bodies on Civil Service and Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Judiciary	24	24	24	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Legal Aid Department	2	2	2	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Lands Department	172	172	172	5	4	4	2.9%	2.3%	2.3%
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	152	151	150	4	3	2	2.6%	2.0%	1.3%
Labour Department	27	27	27	2	2	4	7.4%	7.4%	14.8%
Land Registry	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Labour and Welfare Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Marine Department	5	5	5	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Office of the Communications Authority	21	21	21	2	2	2	9.5%	9.5%	9.5%
Office of the Government Chief Information Officer	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Official Receiver's Office	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Planning Department	12	12	12	1	1	1	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%
Public Service Commission	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Registration and Electoral Office	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Radio Television Hong Kong	24	24	24	1	1	1	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
Rating and Valuation Department	7	7	7	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Security Bureau	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Social Welfare Department	29	29	30	3	3	5	10.3%	10.3%	16.7%
Transport Department	213	219	241	1	1	2	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%
Trade and Industry Department	2	2	2	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Transport and Housing Bureau*	2	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0.0%	N/A	N/A
Transport and Logistics Bureau	N/A	2	2	N/A	0	0	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Treasury	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Policy Bureau / Department / Organisation	(i) Total no. of vehicles in the fleet			(ii) No. of EVs in the fleet			(iii) Percentage of EVs		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
University Grants Committee Secretariat	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency	2	2	2	2	2	2	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Water Supplies Department	249	249	248	12	12	11	4.8%	4.8%	4.4%
Total	6 861	7 108	7 158	164	153	179	2.4%	2.2%	2.5%

* The policy bureaux concerned have been reorganised and replaced in the restructuring of the Government in July 2022.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)134

(Question Serial No. 1358)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the promotion of green public transport, please advise this Committee of the effectiveness of the New Energy Transport Fund in promoting the use of new energy public transport as well as the progress of the Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses and the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The Government has been actively promoting the use of new energy vehicles and vessels to the transport trade and charitable/non-profit making organisations, sharing the benefits of using new energy transport and encouraging the trade to apply for the New Energy Transport (NET) Fund to trial new energy transport technologies. Besides, the Government has met with different vehicle suppliers and charging service operators and encouraged them to introduce electric commercial vehicles models suitable for local use and promote the marketisation of electric vehicle (EV) charging services to foster a fair market competition. The NET Fund organised more than 80 briefings, workshops, seminars, etc. in the past 2 years. As at the end of February 2024, 319 trials involving a total sum of \$274 million have been subsidised under the NET Fund. Among them, the trials of public transport include 48 single-deck electric buses, 1 electric double-decker, 6 electric light buses, 50 electric taxis (e-taxis), 23 hybrid light buses, 2 single-deck hybrid buses, 1 set of solar air-conditioning system for a bus and 4 sets of electric inverter air-conditioning systems for buses. For the operation of the NET Fund and the details of trial products, please refer to the website of the Environment and Ecology Bureau at <https://www.eeb.gov.hk/en/new-energy-transport-fund.html>.

With the rapid development of EV technologies in recent years, some suppliers have introduced or are preparing to introduce electric commercial transport tools with long driving range which support quick charging. In response to the Government's active promotion, the transport trade has been more willing to trial different new brands and models of new energy transport tools in the past 2 years, with a view to increasing the number and proportion of new energy transport fleet in their business, and is also willing to share the trial results with other trades.

The NET Fund will continue to subsidise the public transport trade to encourage trial and wider use of zero emission new energy transport technologies, including subsidising hydrogen fuel cell vehicle trials, implementing trial projects on e-taxi charging facilities, and earmarking \$50 million to subsidise the trade to purchase wheelchair-accessible e-taxis.

Regarding the progress of the two pilot schemes for electric public light buses (e-PLBs) and electric ferries (e-ferries), the details are as follows:

Pilot Scheme for e-PLBs

The Government has earmarked \$80 million for the Pilot Scheme for e-PLBs, mainly for providing quick charging services for e-PLBs and subsidising public light bus (PLB) operators to purchase e-PLBs for trials under the Pilot Scheme. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is implementing the Pilot Scheme in phases. The first trial points are the Kwun Tong Yue Man Square and Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road) Public Transport Interchanges (PTIs). The Government has engaged a contractor to install and operate quick charging facilities at the Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road) PTI, while the quick charging facilities at the Kwun Tong Yue Man Square PTI will be installed and run by private operators at their own expense.

The EPD completed the approval process in December 2023 for the first round of applications submitted by PLB operators and signed the agreements with 2 operators for purchase of an e-PLB each for participating in the trial. The first phase of operational trials is expected to commence in March 2024.

Pilot Scheme for e-ferries

The Government is preparing to launch the Pilot Scheme for e-ferries in 4 in-harbour ferry routes, with a view to testing out the technical viability of adopting e-ferries in Hong Kong. The Government has earmarked \$350 million to provide full subsidies to ferry operators for constructing 4 e-ferries and the associated charging facilities. The Government has entered into subsidy agreements with 4 in-harbour ferry operators, among which 3 of them have completed the open tender exercise for the procurement of e-ferries and started the shipbuilding work progressively. It is expected that the remaining operator will also complete the procurement tendering exercise soon. The Pilot Scheme will commence in the second half of 2024 at the earliest.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)135

(Question Serial No. 1359)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in 2021. Please advise this Committee of:

1. the resources allocated for the RVM Pilot Scheme by the Government in the past 3 years;
2. the number of RVMs and the total number of bottles collected by district in each of the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. To pave way for the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the Environmental Protection Department launched the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021. A total of 60 RVMs have been set up in public places, government facilities and shopping centres with suitable foot traffic. The number of RVMs increased to 120 from the third quarter of 2022. Positive responses from the public have been received since the rollout of the Pilot Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, over 92 million plastic beverage containers have been collected under the Pilot Scheme for recycling locally. The operational expenses of the Pilot Scheme in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Financial Year	Expenses (\$m)
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	31
2022-23	30
2021-22	16

2. The number of RVMs and the number of plastic beverage containers collected by district in each of the past 3 years are tabulated below:

District	Number of RVMs			Number of plastic beverage containers collected		
	2021	2022 ^{Note}	2023	2021	2022	2023
Central & Western	5	5	5	735 000	1 015 000	1 581 000
Eastern	5	9	9	1 332 000	2 121 000	3 730 000
Islands	2	3	3	339 000	549 000	822 000
Kowloon City	2	6	6	278 000	749 000	1 562 000
Kwai Tsing	3	5	5	855 000	1 024 000	1 699 000
Kwun Tong	5	8	8	2 008 000	2 493 000	3 209 000
North	3	6	6	775 000	1 341 000	2 270 000
Sai Kung	2	8	8	431 000	1 439 000	3 157 000
Sha Tin	6	12	12	1 409 000	2 551 000	4 874 000
Sham Shui Po	4	6	6	1 302 000	1 691 000	2 872 000
Southern	2	4	4	141 000	326 000	1 047 000
Tai Po	3	5	5	743 000	1 293 000	1 940 000
Tsuen Wan	4	8	8	1 393 000	1 689 000	2 756 000
Tuen Mun	3	10	10	997 000	1 741 000	3 290 000
Wan Chai	2	3	3	438 000	566 000	828 000
Wong Tai Sin	3	9	9	1 143 000	1 981 000	4 097 000
Yau Tsim Mong	3	6	6	519 000	1 153 000	1 967 000
Yuen Long	3	7	7	1 196 000	1 810 000	3 019 000
Total	60	120	120	16 034 000	25 532 000	44 720 000

Note: The number of RVMs after the end of August 2022

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)136

(Question Serial No. 1360)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the operation of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. the operating expenditures of the facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY (including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots) in the 18 districts;
2. the quantities of different types of recyclables collected by the facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY (including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots) in the 18 districts and their percentage share in the total quantity of waste disposed of;
3. the performance of the facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY (including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots) in the 18 districts, e.g. the rate of meeting the recycling target.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Recycling Station in 2015. Through organising various public education activities, Recycling Stations instill a green living culture into the community from different perspectives and provide the public with recycling support. To strengthen the recycling supporting facilities at community level, the EPD has regularised the funding support for the establishment and operation of Recycling Stores in the 18 districts since 2020.

The operating expenditures of GREEN@COMMUNITY include the manpower employed by the operators, purchase or hire of vehicles for transporting recyclables and rental expenses (if applicable), etc., with rental expenses accounting for about 20% of the operating expenditures of Recycling Stores. The actual/estimated operating expenditures incurred by GREEN@COMMUNITY in the past 5 financial years and the financial year 2024-25 are tabulated below:

Project ^{Note 1}	Actual/estimated operating expenditures by financial year (\$million)					
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	2024-25 (Estimate)
Recycling Stations ^{Note 2}	31	52	52	69	64	72
Recycling Stores ^{Note 3}	N/A	110	174	201	218	250
Recycling Stores set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates ^{Note 4}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	91

Note 1: Recycling Spots are operated by Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores. The operating expenditures of Recycling Spots are included in the operating expenditures of Recycling Stations or Recycling Stores.

Note 2: The number of Recycling Stations increased from 7 in 2018 to 11 in 2021.

Note 3: The first batch of 22 Recycling Stores commenced operation progressively starting from the fourth quarter of 2020, and the other batch of 10 Recycling Stores have been gradually put into service since early 2022.

Note 4: 8 Recycling Stores in PRH estates have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. The operators have also set up temporary collection booths until those Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

2. The quantities of each type of recyclables collected by Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and their Recycling Spots in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Recyclables	Recycling Stations Approximate quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)				
	2019	2020	2021 ^{Note 1}	2022 ^{Note 2}	2023 ^{Note 3}
Regulated electrical equipment	432	562	364	326	370
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)			336	385	500
Glass containers	1 947	2 008	3 146	3 628	3 520
Rechargeable batteries	7	9	14	13	15
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	23	22	25	26	26
Waste paper	149	275	753	1 024	1 690
Waste plastics	126	240	677	973	1 600
Waste metals	23	47	125	156	230
Beverage cartons	N/A	18	34	43	57

Recyclables	Recycling Stores Approximate quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)			
	2020	2021	2022 ^{Note 2}	2023 ^{Note 3}
Regulated electrical equipment	18	262	360	430
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)	33	528	740	920
Glass containers	64	1 522	2 290	3 020
Rechargeable batteries	1	6	17	24
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	1	7	29	30
Waste paper	106	2 432	3 870	5 380
Waste plastics	518	3 776	5 950	8 040
Waste metals	19	385	660	810
Beverage cartons	4	90	130	160

Note 1: Starting from the third quarter of 2021, Recycling Stations started to record the regulated electrical equipment and non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances) separately. The above categories were grouped under computer and electrical appliances in 2020 or before.

Note 2: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2022 are revised data.

Note 3: The quantities of each type of recyclables collected in 2023 are preliminary data and the actual figures are still being verified.

The EPD is currently running various waste reduction/recycling programmes, namely GREEN@COMMUNITY, Waste Paper Collection and Recycling Services, Pilot Scheme on Waste Plastics Collection and Recycling, Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Scheme (plastic beverage containers), Glass Management Contract, Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme, Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme, WEEE·PARK and Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. Among these programmes, the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY is tasked with providing specific support to residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The recyclables collected will be delivered to the downstream recyclers approved by the EPD for proper treatment. The percentage share of the recyclables collected by GREEN@COMMUNITY in the total quantity of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed of at the landfills from 2018 to 2022 is as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Tonnes				
Recyclables collected by GREEN@COMMUNITY	2 100	2 800	3 950	14 400	20 300
Quantity of MSW disposed of at landfills	4 171 099	4 035 697	3 955 988	4 145 596	4 061 868
Percentage	0.05%	0.07%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%
Quantity of MSW recovered	1 777 600	1 639 000	1 537 700	1 840 900	1 912 800
Recovery rate of MSW	30%	29%	28%	31%	32%

3. The operators of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores are required to provide the specified services during the contract period and meet the pre-determined performance targets. From the commencement of the relevant operation contracts till end-2023, the operational performances of all the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores were able to meet the pre-determined targets. The operators are subject to deduction of operational fees if they fail to meet the targets as required by the contracts.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)137

(Question Serial No. 1361)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding various waste reduction and recycling programmes/facilities (including but not limited to the waste paper collection and recycling services, pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling, Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Scheme (plastic beverage containers), glass management contract, Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme, WEEE-PARK and Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection), what are the expenditures involved and the effectiveness of the programmes/facilities in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The expenditures of relevant programmes and the quantities of various types of recyclables collected in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows.

a) Expenditures of the relevant programmes:

Name of waste reduction programme/facility	Financial year	Expenditure (\$million)
Waste paper collection and recycling services ^{Note 1}	2022-23	325.5
	2021-22	325.0
	2020-21	126.6
Pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling ^{Note 2}	2022-23	14.6
	2021-22	8.9
	2020-21	4.3
	2019-20	0.8
Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Scheme (plastic beverage containers) ^{Note 3}	2022-23	30.4
	2021-22	15.6
	2020-21	1.3
Glass management contract ^{Note 4}	2022-23	40.4
	2021-22	42.0
	2020-21	29.4
	2019-20	54.7
	2018-19	8.4

Name of waste reduction programme/facility	Financial year	Expenditure (\$million)
Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme	2022-23	This is a self-financed recycling programme operated by the trades, with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) acting as the programme advisor, providing support and promoting it to the public. The relevant work is part of the work of the EPD and is absorbed by existing resources.
	2021-22	
	2020-21	
	2019-20	
	2018-19	
WEEE-PARK	2022-23	200.8
	2021-22	203.4
	2020-21	220.1
	2019-20	220.2
	2018-19	164.7
Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection	2022-23	65.7
	2021-22	39.9
	2020-21	35.1
	2019-20	25.4
	2018-19	17.1

b) The quantities of recyclables recovered under various waste reduction and recycling programmes/facilities:

Name of waste reduction programme/facility	Year	Quantity of recyclables collected/treated (tonne)
Waste paper collection and recycling services ^{Note 1}	2023	571 300
	2022	579 710
	2021	598 620
	2020	149 650
Pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling ^{Note 2}	2023	6 480
	2022	4 850
	2021	2 280
	2020	480
Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Scheme (plastic beverage containers) ^{Note 3}	2023	1 120
	2022	640
	2021	400
Glass management contract ^{Note 4}	2023	22 670
	2022	19 530 ^{Note 5}
	2021	20 280 ^{Note 5}
	2020	14 270 ^{Note 5}
	2019	21 210
Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme	2023	40 ^{Note 6}
	2022	40 ^{Note 6}
	2021	30 ^{Note 6}
	2020	40

Name of waste reduction programme/facility	Year	Quantity of recyclables collected/treated (tonne)
	2019	40
WEEE-PARK	2023	21 340
	2022	22 170
	2021	23 970
	2020	23 380
	2019	23 980
Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection ^{Note 7}	2023	60 790
	2022	49 250
	2021	49 030
	2020	36 130
	2019	34 580

Note 1: The EPD launched a territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services in September 2020 by engaging multiple service contractors to collect 3 types of waste paper, including cardboard, newspaper and office paper, across the territory. The waste paper will undergo the processes of screening, sorting, baling, etc. locally before being delivered to various markets for recycling to paper products, thus turning waste into resources. The quantity recovered in 2023 is a preliminary figure and is pending verification.

Note 2: The EPD has commenced a two-year pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling progressively since January 2020 in 3 districts, namely Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin, and further extended the scheme progressively since late March 2022 to 6 additional districts, namely Tai Po, Sai Kung, Central and Western District, Sham Shui Po, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, to collect all types of non-commercial and non-industrial waste plastics from these districts for proper handling and recycling.

Note 3: The EPD launched the Reverse Vending Machine Pilot Scheme in January 2021 to encourage the public to return used plastic beverage containers for recycling.

Note 4: The glass management contracts for Hong Kong Island (including Islands District) and the New Territories started providing collection and treatment services for waste glass containers in January 2018. The contract for Kowloon commenced service in July 2018.

Note 5: The quantities of waste glass containers collected between 2020 and 2022 had reduced due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic situation.

Note 6: Due to the impacts of freight shipping arrangements issues, some of the rechargeable batteries collected under the programme are pending export for further treatment.

Note 7: Quantity of food waste recovered refers to the total amount of food waste treated by O-PARK1 and the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme at the Tai Po and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works in the respective year. Organisations/premises delivering food waste to the above facilities through Government funding and at their own cost have been covered.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)138

(Question Serial No. 1362)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding waste reduction and recycling, please advise this Committee of:

1. the expenditures involved in municipal solid waste charging and the regulation on disposable plastic products in the past 5 years?
2. the expenditure involved in plastic bag charging in the past 5 years? How does the Government assess the effectiveness of the scheme?
3. the expenditure involved in the Producer Responsibility Schemes (including plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, glass bottles and regulated electrical equipment) in the past 5 years? How does the Government assess the effectiveness of the schemes?
4. the total expenditure involved in waste treatment in the past year?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The expenditures involved in municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and the regulation on disposable plastic tableware are tabulated below:

Scheme	Expenditure (\$ million)				
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)
MSW charging	For the preparatory work				
	11	20	21	35	121
Regulation on disposable plastic tableware	For conducting research				For promotion and education
	2	0	1	0	17.8

2. In July 2009, the Government rolled out the first phase of the Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme which was fully implemented in April 2015. The relevant law enforcement is part of the integrated enforcement work of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). We will arrange our law enforcement officers to conduct inspection and law enforcement work in accordance with the actual

circumstances and deploy contract staff to assist with inspections and spot checks. We do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

In assessing the effectiveness of the PSB Charging Scheme, the EPD has been conducting PSB disposal surveys annually in order to monitor the disposal rates of PSBs. As estimated from the landfill disposal survey, the total number of PSBs disposed of in the first year of the full implementation of the Scheme (i.e. 2015) reduced significantly by about 25%. However, there was a rebound of PSB disposal in the following years. For example, the total number of PSBs disposed of in 2022 was about 4.83 billion, which is about 8% less than the disposal rate in the year before the full implementation of the Scheme (i.e. 2014), but about 3.9% more than the disposal rate in 2021, showing that the effectiveness of the Scheme had been gradually undermined. In this connection, we implemented the Enhanced Scheme on 31 December 2022 to increase the minimum charge per PSB from \$0.5 to \$1, remove the exemption for PSBs carrying frozen or chilled foodstuff items, and tighten the scope of exemption for PSBs carrying foodstuff items, subject to the basic principle of 1 free PSB per single transaction, so as to maintain the effectiveness of the Scheme.

The number of PSBs (excluding flat-top bags) disposed of from 2018 to 2022 as estimated from the disposal survey is listed below. The statistics on the total number of PSBs disposed of in 2023 is still under compilation.

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
4.51 billion	4.07 billion	4.18 billion	4.65 billion	4.83 billion

According to the information the EPD obtained from major retail groups (including major supermarket chains and convenience stores) in Hong Kong, the overall distribution of PSBs (excluding flat-top bags) dropped by more than 60% in January and February 2023 (i.e. the first 2 months of the implementation of the Enhanced Scheme) compared to the same period in 2022, and the distribution of flat-top bags by major supermarket chains even dropped by more than 80%.

3. In the past 5 years, the expenditure involved in the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs) (including plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons, glass beverage containers, and waste electrical and electronic equipment) are tabulated below:

Scheme	Expenditure (\$ million)				
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)
PRSs	Expenditure involved in the research of the PRS on plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons				
	1	1	1	0	0
	Operating expenditure involved in the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme				
	0	1	16	30	31
	Operating expenditure involved in the PRS on Glass Beverage Containers				
	58	31	43	41	57
Operating expenditure involved in the PRS on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment					
4	5	4	4	2	

Scheme	Expenditure (\$ million)				
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)
	Major publicity campaigns of PRSs (glass beverage containers, waste electrical and electronic equipment and the PSB Charging Scheme)				
	5	2	3	4	4

The progress and effectiveness of various PRSs are as follows:

PRS on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons

To manage waste plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons properly and effectively, the Government is preparing to launch the PRS on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons. We have consulted the stakeholders of the trade and will continue to refine the regulatory proposals. After the passage of the bill on the common legislative framework for PRSs, we will submit the subsidiary legislation on this PRS to the Legislative Council for scrutiny in due course.

RVM Pilot Scheme

To pave way for the implementation of the PRS on Plastic Beverage Containers and Beverage Cartons, the EPD launched the RVM Pilot Scheme in the first quarter of 2021. A total of 60 RVMs have been set up in public places, government facilities and shopping centres with suitable foot traffic. The number of RVMs increased to 120 from the third quarter of 2022. Positive responses from the public have been received since the rollout of the RVM Pilot Scheme. As at the end of February 2024, over 92 million plastic beverage containers have been collected under the RVM Pilot Scheme for recycling locally.

PRS on Glass Beverage Containers

With the full implementation of the PRS on Glass Beverage Containers on 1 May 2023, suppliers must first register with the EPD as registered suppliers before distributing any glass-bottled beverages in Hong Kong that are subject to the PRS, and pay a recycling levy of \$0.98 per litre-volume for the glass-bottled beverages they distribute. As at the end of 2023, there are over 1 180 registered suppliers under this PRS. We have been progressively rolling out waste glass container collection and treatment services since early 2018 to tie in with the implementation of this PRS. As at the end of 2023, there are more than 4 400 glass container collection points in Hong Kong, with over 107 000 tonnes of glass containers collected for proper treatment.

PRS on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment

The PRS on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment has been fully implemented since 2018, covering regulated electrical equipment (REE) including air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors. As at the end of 2023, there are over 210 registered suppliers under this PRS. The registered suppliers are required to pay a recycling levy for the REE they distribute. In addition, over 3 600 sellers have a removal service plan endorsed by the EPD. So far, the EPD has issued a total of 19 e-waste disposal licences, showing that this PRS has been effective in fostering the development of a circular economy and the local recycling industry. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Treatment and

Recycling Facility (WEEE·PARK), which was constructed by the Government to complement with this PRS, commenced full operation in March 2018. As at the end of 2023, more than 125 000 tonnes of REE have been processed, with a total of over 7 900 pieces of discarded electrical appliances being refurbished for donating to those in need through referral by social workers or relevant organisations.

4. The expenditure (revised estimate) for 2023-24 under Subhead 297 “Fees for operation of waste management facilities” was \$3,241 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)139****(Question Serial No. 1363)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding the waste management facilities, please advise this Committee of:

1. the operating expenditures involved in various waste management facilities (including but not limited to T·PARK, North East New Territories Landfill, South East New Territories Landfill and the Landfill Extension, West New Territories Landfill, O·PARK1, WEEE·PARK and Y·PARK) over the past 5 years;
2. the estimated operating expenditure of I·PARK1; and
3. the cost for handling per tonne of waste disposed of at the landfills over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)Reply:

1. The operating expenditures involved in the major waste management facilities over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Facility	Operating expenditure (\$ million)				
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised estimate)
South East New Territories Landfill and the Landfill Extension	203	200	237	259	361
West New Territories Landfill	347	331	350	283	412
North East New Territories Landfill	222	259	356	503	646
Chemical Waste Treatment Centre	247	204	269	268	260
Animal Waste Composting Plant	28	25	24	19	40
T·PARK	263	266	280	311	317
WEEE·PARK	220	220	203	201	195
O·PARK1	42	58	75	75	84

Facility	Operating expenditure (\$ million)				
	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised estimate)
Y·PARK ^{Note 1}	N/A	21	37	30	28
Pilot Biochar Production Plant in EcoPark ^{Note 2}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14
Total	1,572	1,584	1,831	1,949	2,357

Note 1: Y·PARK commenced operation in June 2021.

Note 2: The Pilot Biochar Production Plant in EcoPark commenced operation in May 2023.

2. The actual operating expenditure of I·PARK1 has to be calculated according to the price adjustment index set out in the contractual terms. Based on the latest projection, the estimated operating expenditure for 2025-26 is about \$400 million.
3. The operating expenditures per tonne of waste at the landfills over the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Operating expenditure per tonne of waste (\$)				
2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (Actual)	2021-22 (Actual)	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised estimate)
140	150	170	180	250

The operating expenditure per tonne of waste at the landfills for 2023-24 (Revised estimate) is higher than that of 2022-23 (Actual). This is mainly due to enhanced environmental management and adjustments to the existing operational measures, including stepping up odour management measures, conducting greening and environmental hygiene improvement works for the nearby environment and roads, etc., so as to optimise the overall operation and environmental performance of the landfills.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)140

(Question Serial No. 2361)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government had originally planned to implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging on 1 April 2024. However, due to a lack of understanding among the public about how MSW charging operates, the Government has decided to postpone the implementation of MSW charging to 1 August and use this extra time to help people understand the specific details of this initiative through education and publicity. In the meantime, government departments will lead by example and start implementing MSW charging on 1 April as a trial run. The purpose is to allow the public better understand MSW charging and actively participate in this environmental initiative. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. How is the Government going to step up publicity among the public at this stage? What are the estimated staff establishment and expenditures to be involved in all publicity work?
2. Further to the previous question, does the Government have a plan to rapidly train up a larger publicity team for the policy? For instance, enhancing co-operation with District Council Members and organising visits by government officials to districts to provide explanations, so as to enhance publicity efficiency, and preparing a line-to-take to prevent discrepancies in information provided by different parties?
3. What measures will the Government adopt to assist residents and property management companies in preparing for the implementation of MSW charging?
4. Will the Government actively invite management companies of various types of properties, such as public housing estates, private housing estates and "three-nil" buildings, to participate in the pilot trial scheme? This would expand the scope of the scheme and allow more members of the public to learn about the details of MSW charging sooner.

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. To enhance public and related sectors' understanding and awareness of the municipal solid waste (MSW) charging scheme, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has launched a series of extensive public education, publicity and stakeholder engagement activities. These initiatives include provision of first-hand experience on how MSW charging is implemented through the launches of community involvement projects as well as close partnership and collaboration with government departments and

stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign Committee, village representatives, green groups, schools, etc. in organising activities. Starting from August 2023, the EPD has been publicising the implementation date and arrangements of MSW charging through various channels in phases under the theme of “Dump Less, Save More” for the general public, the commercial and industrial sectors and public institutions. We will continue with these publicity efforts until the end of 2024. The EPD has also introduced new publicity initiatives, including producing simple and easy-to-understand infographics for different groups, addressing misconceptions about the MSW charging policy through feature stories and street interviews, and collaborating with representatives of various stakeholders and celebrities to produce short videos to encourage the public to practise waste reduction and recycling and to share their experience in preparing for MSW charging. The Green Outreach was set up to complement the promotional activities and provide outreaching support to the community on waste reduction and recycling. Starting from 1 April 2024, the Government implements the Demonstration Scheme in phases to enable the public and the relevant sectors to have a clearer understanding of the operation and details of the MSW charging scheme through on-site demonstration.

The estimated expenditure related to publicity work in 2024-25 is approximately \$33.2 million. As for manpower, the implementation of MSW charging involves 72 civil service posts, of which the publicity and promotion work is an integral part of the EPD’s work and is undertaken by the existing staff. We do not have a separate breakdown.

2. Support at the district level is crucial for the successful implementation of MSW charging, a policy that involves every sector of Hong Kong. The EPD has conducted policy briefings for all District Councils (DCs), and has organised 3 briefing sessions for District Services and Community Care Teams (Care Teams) in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories, as well as an additional English briefing session for foreign domestic helpers’ group, ethnic minorities and foreigners. Furthermore, the EPD has distributed leaflets on MSW charging and designated bags to all DC Members and Care Teams through the District Offices to facilitate their explanation of the MSW charging policy to the public in their daily district work. Staff members from the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the EPD have attended more than 40 briefings organised by Legislative Council Members, DC Members, District Offices and local personalities to explain the details of MSW charging to the public and various sectors. The EPD also holds press conferences from time to time as appropriate to update the media on the progress of MSW charging and provide explanations and clarifications on issues under community discussion to ensure consistent information dissemination.
3. To facilitate different stakeholders in understanding the arrangements of MSW charging, the EPD has prepared Best Practice Guides (BPGs) and training videos for different sectors (e.g. residential premises with property management organisations, commercial and industrial buildings, catering trade, etc.) and uploaded them to the thematic website on MSW charging for relevant stakeholders’ reference to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging. At the same time, the EPD will continue to arrange briefings and specialised training for the frontline staff in property management, environmental hygiene and other relevant trades to assist them in better understanding the relevant legal requirements and BPGs, and provide recommendations on suitable adjustments for their frontline operational arrangements.

Furthermore, we are also collaborating with the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) to organise continuing professional development seminars on MSW charging under its “Continuing Professional Development Scheme” so as to enhance property management practitioners’ knowledge on MSW charging for handling property management duties. We are also producing sample notices and training videos (including a number of videos jointly collaborated with the PMSA) to assist property management staff to introduce the charging modes of MSW charging to the occupiers of their premises in a simple and easy-to-understand way.

In addition, private residential premises and their property management companies, security companies or cleansing companies may, with the consent of the relevant owners’ committees or owners’ corporations, can apply to the EPD for the procurement of designated bags for distribution to residents. This arrangement will help enhance compliance rates in private residential premises and reduce possible confrontation between frontline staff of property management companies and households in case of non-compliance or complaints from households.

4. In order to have a comprehensive understanding of the impact of implementing of MSW charging on the various sectors of the community and to grasp the issues brought by the implementation, it is necessary for the Demonstration Scheme to achieve an in-depth and detailed review on potential problems that may occur during the implementation of MSW charging and the practical arrangements and requirements for implementation, and collect views and relevant data from all parties involved. The first group of premises under the Demonstration Scheme includes major types of premises (i.e. government buildings, public and private residential buildings, “three-nil” buildings, shopping centres, eateries and residential care homes).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0033)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

During 2024-25, the Environmental Protection Department will be implementing municipal solid waste charging. In this connection, please provide information on the progress, the number of staff and their establishment (according to job content) of the relevant work, and a breakdown of the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

The policy objective of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging is to encourage the community to reduce waste at source by creating financial disincentives through quantity-based charging, with a view to reducing the overall waste disposal amount. To implement and put into effect MSW charging, the following preparatory work will be carried out in the 2024-25 financial year:

- (1) To ensure a stable and sufficient supply of designated bags (DBs) and designated labels (DLs) in the market, the DBs and DLs suppliers have commenced production since late November 2023. The logistics contractor has set up warehouses and logistics fleets, and has been receiving and storing DBs and DLs progressively since early December 2023. At the same time, it has started delivering DBs and DLs to authorised retailers, wholesalers and bulk purchasers, for further distribution to retail outlets by the authorised retailers and wholesalers, and then for sale to the public. A territory-wide retail network for the sales of DBs and DLs has been established, covering approximately 3 000 retail outlets including supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies and online platforms, for the convenience of the public in purchasing DBs and DLs after the implementation of MSW charging. 16 major retailers have signed the authorisation agreements to become authorised retailers. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) also signed the agreements with 2 wholesalers in parallel to support more than 600 small stores (including small-to-medium sized pharmacies) to sell DBs and DLs. Retailers in the retail network will gradually come into service. At present, there are more than 400 retail outlets selling DBs and DLs to the public. The EPD has also set up bulk purchase platform for Owners' Committees, Owners' Corporations, property management companies or cleansing service companies, and

institutions in commercial and industrial sector to apply for creation of accounts for bulk purchase of DBs and DLs via the EPD's online platform directly. The Housing Department and the Hong Kong Housing Society will also set up sales points / vending machines to expand the sales channels in public rental housing (PRH) estates. This arrangement will help enhance the use of DBs and DLs and reduce non-compliance. We will also install vending machines in individual wholesale fish market and Central Piers for sales of DBs and DLs. The estimated expenditure for the aforementioned work in 2024-25 is \$468 million, which will mainly be used for the production of DBs and DLs, associated logistics and transport arrangements, service charges for operating the retail network, and setting up sales points / vending machines in PRH estates.

- (2) For monitoring the manufacturing, inventory, distribution and sales of DBs and DLs, the EPD has completed the development of the Smart Inventory Management (SIM) System and the relevant mobile application to facilitate the public to instantly locate nearby retail outlets of DBs and DLs and report suspected non-compliant cases. Early this year, DB and DL manufacturers have started receiving orders, and logistics contractors, authorised retailers and bulk purchasers have started placing orders through the system. The beta version of the mobile application and website is being tested to ensure that the final version of the programme operates smoothly and meets various security and load requirements set out by the Office of the Government Chief Information Technology Officer. The mobile application and website will be launched for the public to download and use 2 months before the implementation of MSW charging. The EPD has completed the development of the Registration and Accounting System (RAS), also known as "D·Easy", for charging private waste collectors or large scale waste producers "gate-fee" in accordance with the weight of waste disposed of at refuse transfer stations and landfills. Since the launch of RAS in September 2023, more than 600 applications for "gate-fee" account registration have been received, involving nearly 1 000 waste collection vehicles from 360 private waste collectors, 250 large scale waste producers and more than 20 government departments. The "D·Easy" mobile application has been made available for download by stakeholders since early March 2024 to facilitate stakeholders entering waste management facilities by using QR codes for waste disposal, checking waste disposal records and calculating the monthly gate-fee to be paid after the implementation of MSW charging. Arrangements are being made for various types of waste collection vehicles to participate in field trials to familiarise themselves with the new system. The estimated expenditure for the aforementioned work in 2024-25 is \$22.4 million, which will mainly be used for the operation and maintenance of the SIM System, the RAS and the "D·Easy" mobile application.
- (3) To facilitate different stakeholders in understanding the arrangements of MSW charging, the EPD has prepared Best Practice Guides (BPGs) and training videos for different sectors (e.g. residential premises with property management organisations, commercial and industrial buildings, catering trade, etc.) and uploaded them to the thematic website on MSW charging for relevant stakeholders' reference to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging. At the same time, the EPD will continue to arrange briefings and specialised training for the frontline staff in property management, environmental hygiene and other relevant trades to assist them in better understanding the relevant legal requirements and BPGs, and provide recommendations on suitable adjustments for their frontline operational arrangements. Furthermore, we are also

collaborating with the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) to organise continuing professional development seminars on MSW charging under its “Continuing Professional Development Scheme” so as to enhance property management practitioners’ knowledge on MSW charging for handling property management duties. We are also producing sample notices and training videos (including a number of videos jointly collaborated with the PMSA) to assist property management staff to introduce the charging modes of MSW charging to the occupiers of their premises in a simple and easy-to-understand way. To enhance public and related sectors’ understanding and awareness of the scheme, the EPD has launched a series of extensive public education, publicity and stakeholder engagement activities. These initiatives include provision of first-hand experience on how MSW charging is implemented through the launches of community involvement projects as well as close partnership and collaboration with government departments and stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign Committee, village representatives, green groups, schools, etc. in organising activities. Starting from August 2023, the EPD has been publicising the implementation date and arrangements of MSW charging through various channels in phases under the theme of “Dump Less, Save More” for the general public, the commercial and industrial sectors and public institutions. We will continue with these publicity efforts until the end of 2024. The EPD has also introduced new publicity initiatives, including producing simple and easy-to-understand infographics for different groups, addressing misconceptions about the MSW charging policy through feature stories and street interviews, and collaborating with representatives of various stakeholders and celebrities to produce short videos to encourage the public to practise waste reduction and recycling and to share their experience in preparing for MSW charging. The Green Outreach was set up to complement the promotional activities and provide outreaching support to the community on waste reduction and recycling. Starting from 1 April 2024, the Government implements the Demonstration Scheme in phases to enable the public and the relevant sectors to have a clearer understanding of the operation and details of the MSW charging scheme through on-site demonstration. The estimated expenditure on promotion, publicity and educational activities, etc. in 2024-25 is \$33.2 million.

- (4) Experiences outside Hong Kong show that public awareness and participation in the early stages of implementation of MSW charging are crucial to its smooth implementation. A six-month phasing-in period will be put in place after the commencement of MSW charging, during which we will focus on publicity and education, and give advices and warnings as far as possible. We will act against cases where the nature or magnitude of the offence calls for action. The EPD is also preparing to step up publicity, education, and advisory work during the phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging. This includes inspections on individual floors or the ground floor of waste reception points in residential, commercial and industrial premises, and conducting publicity, education and advisory work against non-compliant cases (i.e. disposal of waste without wrapping in DBs or oversized waste without affixing DLs) at the waste reception points. The EPD has upgraded the customer service centre and set up a dedicated hotline to handle public enquiries and receive reports on non-compliant cases upon the implementation of MSW charging. Since the dedicated hotline commenced operation in July 2023, the customer service centre has handled more than 12 000 enquiries. The estimated expenditure for the aforementioned work in 2024-25 is \$45.7 million, which will mainly be used for

operating the call centre and employing 113 agency workers to assist with publicity, education and advisory work against non-compliant cases.

In addition, the estimated expenditure on administrative support and general operation of MSW charging in 2024-25 (including the salaries for 7 contract staff) is \$11.9 million.

72 civil service posts are involved in the EPD's work on MSW charging. The relevant grades include Administrative Officer, Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental Protection Inspector, Treasury Accountant, Accounting Officer, Executive Officer, Clerical Officer, Personal Secretary and Clerical Assistant.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)142

(Question Serial No. 0034)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

During 2024-25, the Environmental Protection Department will introduce the legislative proposal for a common legislative framework with a view to gradually implementing the Producer Responsibility Schemes on plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, electric vehicle batteries, vehicle tyres and lead acid batteries starting from 2025. In this connection, please provide information on the progress, timetable and breakdown of the expenditure of each scheme?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

To put into practice the “polluter-pays” principle and the concept of “eco-responsibility”, the Government will establish a common legislative framework applicable to different products and look into gradually extending the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRs) to 5 types of products, namely plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, electric vehicle (EV) batteries, vehicle tyres and lead acid batteries, based on a “market-led approach”. The Government consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Environmental Affairs and the Advisory Council on the Environment on the relevant issues on 28 November 2023 and 5 February 2024 respectively. After the passage of the amendment bill of the common legislative framework for PRs, we will formulate relevant subsidiary legislation for different products for submission to the LegCo for scrutiny.

We are currently preparing for various PRs and the work progress is as follows:

Plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has consulted the stakeholders of the trade and largely finalised the regulatory framework of the scheme. Upon the passage of the aforesaid amendment bill, we will submit the subsidiary legislation for the PR on plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons to the LegCo for scrutiny in due course. Besides, we launched Stage 3 of the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme in December 2023 with the provision of 120 RVMs to encourage the public to recycle plastic beverage containers.

Regarding the expenditure and estimate for the scheme, the expenditure and estimated expenditure for the financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25 are about \$31 million and \$40 million respectively, including the expenditure involved in the research of the scheme, development of electronic systems, publicity campaigns, as well as the operating expenditure for the RVM Pilot Scheme, etc. The EPD will continue to consult the trade and relevant stakeholders in order to fine tune the regulatory proposal.

EV batteries

The PRS on retired EV batteries will cover retired batteries from pure EVs, plug-in hybrid EVs, and electric commercial vehicles. The types of batteries included for recycling are traction batteries in the above vehicles, of which lithium ion batteries are the most common. The EPD conducted consultations from June to October 2023 on the detailed proposal of the PRS on retired EV batteries, with about 50 companies or organisations participating, including EV suppliers, the Motor Traders Association of Hong Kong, EV maintenance workshops, EV owners associations, EV battery recyclers, etc. The EPD will continue to consult the trade and relevant stakeholders in order to fine tune the regulatory proposal.

Regarding the expenditure and estimate for the scheme, the expenditure and estimated expenditure for the financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25 are about \$0.8 million and \$2.2 million respectively, including the consultancy fee for the scheme, the development of electronic systems, etc.

Vehicle tyres

The PRS on vehicle tyres will cover vehicle tyres which are sold in local market and are intended for use on vehicles registered for road use. Since May 2023, the EPD has been meeting with various stakeholders, including vehicle tyre trade associations, suppliers, handlers and local recyclers to brief them on the proposal of the scheme and collect their views. The EPD will continue to consult the trade and relevant stakeholders in order to fine tune the regulatory proposal.

As the consultation work is part of the EPD's routine work, we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved for the financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Lead acid batteries

The PRS on lead acid batteries will cover the lead acid batteries of all types and uses in the market. Since June 2023, the EPD has been meeting with various stakeholders, including importers, exporters and local recyclers of lead acid batteries to brief them on the proposal of the scheme and collect their views. The EPD will continue to consult the trade and relevant stakeholders in order to fine tune the regulatory proposal.

As the consultation work is part of the EPD's routine work, we do not have a separate breakdown of the expenditure involved for the financial years of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)143****(Question Serial No. 1191)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) NoiseControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

The Environmental Protection Department has been striving to minimise and resolve environmental noise problems through the implementation of noise abatement measures. In this connection, please set out in tabular form the following statistics in the past 5 fiscal years:

- (a) the number of prosecutions instituted regarding various types of noise under the Noise Control Ordinance;
- (b) The number of Noise Abatement Notices issued regarding various types of noise;
- (c) The number of complaints handled regarding various types of noise; and
- (d) The number of complaints received, the number of cases successfully handled and the number of prosecutions instituted regarding domestic renovation noise.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)Reply:

- (a) Over the past 5 years (2019-2023), the numbers of prosecutions instituted by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) against various types of noise under the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap 400) (NCO) are as follows:

Year	Industrial/ Commercial noise	Construction noise	Shop peddling noise	Total
2019	8	104	45	157
2020	11	63	15	89
2021	2	36	27	65
2022	10	61	63	134
2023	16	70	45	131

Note: The statistics are prepared on a calendar year basis.

- (b) The EPD issues Noise Abatement Notices (NANs) under Section 13 of the NCO to control noise from commercial & industrial premises. The numbers of NANs issued by the EPD over the past 5 years (2019-2023) are as follows:

Year	Number of NANs issued
2019	30
2020	11
2021	21
2022	24
2023	27

Note: The statistics are prepared on a calendar year basis.

- (c) The numbers of noise complaints handled by the EPD over the past 5 years (2019-2023) are as follows:

Year	Industrial/Commercial noise	Construction noise	Shop peddling noise	Noise from neighbourhood and public places#	Traffic noise	Aircraft noise*	Other Noise^	Total
2019	2 326	1 575	355	583	138	1	71	5 049
2020	2 067	1 844	427	712	143	0	72	5 265
2021	2 290	1 889	572	623	149	0	94	5 617
2022	2 110	2 013	544	674	142	0	107	5 590
2023	2 414	2 107	472	609	130	4	122	5 858

Note: The statistics are prepared on a calendar year basis.

Noise from domestic premises and general public places is controlled under Sections 4 and 5 of the NCO, and the enforcement work against such noise is mainly carried out by the Police. Upon receipt of the relevant noise complaints, the EPD will approach the complainants to understand the situation, explain the regulatory arrangements of the NCO to them, and refer the cases to the Police for follow-up enforcement as appropriate. The EPD will also provide the contact telephone number of the police station in the district concerned to the complainants to facilitate their contact with the Police for immediate follow up when necessary.

* The handling of aircraft noise complaints falls within the purview of the Civil Aviation Department, which is responsible for following up on such cases.

^ E.g. false intruder alarm, marine traffic noise, etc.

- (d) The numbers of complaints received and prosecutions instituted in relation to domestic renovation noise handled by the EPD over the past 5 years (2019-2023) are as follows:

Year	Number of complaints received	Number of prosecutions instituted
2019	102	6
2020	153	0
2021	124	2
2022	110	0
2023	86	3

Note: The statistics are prepared on a calendar year basis.

At present, noise arising from renovation work is regulated under Section 6 of the NCO. Under Section 6(1) of the NCO, the use of powered mechanical equipment for renovation work during the restricted hours, i.e. between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. or at any time on Sundays/public holidays, shall only be carried out with a valid Construction

Noise Permit issued by the EPD and in accordance with the conditions stipulated therein, failing which an offence is committed. Upon receipt of the complaints, the EPD will deploy staff to carry out investigation on-site for each case. If a breach is identified, enforcement officers will initiate prosecution against the suspected offender after collecting sufficient evidence. If the complaint involves daytime domestic renovation noise, the EPD will assist in mediation and advise on practical measures to mitigate the noise impact. For some cases which involve daytime domestic renovation noise on weekdays, we are unable to take follow-up actions or give instructions on noise mitigation given the constraints of the existing NCO. Therefore, the EPD has proposed to amend the legislation and is now consulting the public and relevant stakeholders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)144

(Question Serial No. 1195)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

One of the aims of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) 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. The Government announced earlier that the statutory commencement date of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging would be revised to 1 August 2024. The EPD had mentioned that free designated bags (DBs) would be supplied to 3 types of households, namely the households of “three-nil” buildings, rural village houses and public rental housing (PRH), for 6 months. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) please tabulate the number of households to be supplied with free DBs by type;
- (b) please tabulate the expenditure involved for distributing free DBs by the type of households;
- (c) the staff establishment and cost involved, as well as the expenditure involved in the publicity for distributing free DBs;
- (d) whether the effectiveness of distributing free DBs had been assessed; if yes, of the details; if no, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (a) To facilitate the public that require more support in adapting to municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and modifying their waste disposal habits, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will distribute free designated bags (DBs) to the households of public rental housing (PRH) (including transitional housing), “three-nil” buildings and rural village houses during the initial stages of implementation of MSW charging. Based on preliminary estimation, a total of about 1.06 million households will be supplied with free DBs. The details are tabulated below:

Type of households	Estimated number of households
PRH	860 000
“Three-nil” buildings	150 000
Rural village houses	50 000
Total	1 060 000

The EPD is conducting site investigation according to the list of “three-nil” buildings provided by the Home Affairs Department and liaising with Heung Yee Kuk to verify the numbers of households of “three-nil” buildings and rural village houses respectively.

- (b) To achieve cost effectiveness, the warehouse and logistics service contractor of DBs and designated labels will also be responsible for door-to-door delivery of free DBs to the households of “three-nil” buildings. As such work is part of the contract requirements, a separate breakdown of the expenditure is not available. Regarding the households of PRH and rural village houses, the Housing Department, the Hong Kong Housing Society, non-governmental organisations that operate transitional housing, village representatives or Rural Committees will directly distribute free DBs to their residents or villagers. The EPD does not have to provide additional funding for such service.
- (c) As the arrangement of distributing free DBs and the relevant publicity work is an integral part of the EPD’s work, a separate breakdown is not available.
- (d) The distribution of free DBs aims to facilitate the households that require more support in adapting to MSW charging and modifying their waste disposal habits. The size of the free DBs is 15 litres. To encourage waste reduction, the EPD will provide free DBs on the basis of 20 DBs per household each month, i.e. a total of 120 free DBs for each household in 6 months. By supplying free DBs, we expect that the relevant households will be able to develop a new habit of using DBs for waste disposal, while proactively practising waste reduction at source and clean recycling to reduce the number of DBs to be used. We will make reference to the changes in the amount of recyclables collected through the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY and other channels to assess the effectiveness of MSW charging, including the distribution of free DBs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)145

(Question Serial No. 1197)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

One of the aims of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) 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. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following as at 31 January 2024 in tabular form:

- (a) Smart recycling bins in various districts: (i) numbers; (ii) quantity of various types of recyclables collected; and (iii) quantity/weight of wrongly placed items in the recycling bins;
- (b) Kerbside recycling bins in various districts: (i) numbers; (ii) quantity of various types of recyclables collected; and (iii) quantity/weight of wrongly placed items in the recycling bins;
- (c) The recycling stores: (i) quantity of various types of recyclables collected; and (ii) quantity/weight of wrongly placed items in the recycling bins.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

(a) Smart recycling bins

To support smart city development, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in October 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores since end-2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins have been progressively set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-

February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units.

As at end-January 2024, the number of smart recycling bins by district and the cumulative quantity of each type of recyclables since the Pilot Programme launched in October 2020 are as follows:

District	Number of smart recycling bins (set) ^[Note 1]	Quantity of recyclables collected (tonnes)			
		Paper	Metal	Plastic	Glass
Central & Western	3	10.8	0.6	4.5	0.7
Eastern	6	54.3	6.6	17.7	2.5
Southern	2	12.5	1.6	5.2	6.4
Wan Chai	1	N.A. ^[Note 2]	0	0	N.A. ^[Note 2]
Kowloon City	2	20.6	0.7	9.7	1.8
Yau Tsim Mong	5	24.8	3.6	11.0	24.1
Sham Shui Po	4	6.2	0.4	2.2	1.2
Wong Tai Sin	2	46.3	9.6	46.5	N.A. ^[Note 2]
Kwun Tong	10	67.3	9.4	43.2	3.5
Tai Po	4	11.5	2.3	8.7	3.0
Yuen Long	3	20.3	3.1	10.9	2.3
Tuen Mun	4	37.8	4.6	23.3	1.7
North	4	4.4	0.8	2.9	1.6
Sai Kung	5	77.2	8.7	44.5	16.6
Sha Tin	5	23.3	2.9	12.1	1.3
Tsuen Wan	3	13.3	1.8	10.2	N.A. ^[Note 2]
Kwai Tsing	7	53.1	9.7	35.8	24.7
Islands	6	22.3	3.7	13.5	5.7
Total	76	506.0	70.1	301.9	97.1

Note 1: Each set of smart recycling bin comprises 2 to 6 compartments, depending on the requirements of each location and the space available therein.

Note 2: "N.A." means that the smart recycling bins installed in that particular district do not receive the particular type of recyclable.

Recyclables collected by smart recycling bins, as well as those collected from GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities, housing estates and shopping malls, etc. at the same locations would be sent together to downstream recyclers for processing. We do not have a breakdown of wrong items or non-recyclable materials placed in recycling bins. Based on the situations as revealed in the past inspections on smart recycling bins, the vast majority of items deposited by the public are recyclables matching the relevant compartments of the smart recycling bins.

Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs)

The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. FWSRBs equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023. The installation was completed six months ahead of the original target schedule. The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private residential buildings, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the "Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates" (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually.

The number of FWSRBs by district as at end-January 2024 and the cumulative quantity of food waste collected since the commencement of various schemes^[Note 1] are as follows:

District	Number of FWSRBs (No.)	Quantity of food waste collected (tonne)^[Note 2]
Central & Western	3	129.0
Eastern	29	599.2
Southern	9	382.7
Wan Chai	0 ^[Note 3]	0
Kowloon City	6	67.3
Yau Tsim Mong	2	3.5
Shum Shui Po	19	47.1
Wong Tai Sin	32	146.7
Kwun Tong	51	385.6
Tai Po	9	48.5
Yuen Long	54	265.1
Tuen Mun	54	128.2
North	26	72.0
Sai Kung	40	368.4
Sha Tin	83	277.1
Tsuen Wan	20	90.4
Kwai Tsing	36	142.4
Islands	10	35.6

District	Number of FWSRBs (No.)	Quantity of food waste collected (tonne) ^[Note 2]
Total	483	3 189.0

Note 1: The first projects related to FWSBs under Recycling Fund and the Environmental and Nature Conservation Fund were launched in November 2021 and July 2021, respectively. The Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates has started accepting applications since 29 December 2023.

Note 2: No other recyclables, aside from food waste, were prominently found.

Note 3: Currently, there is 1 PRH estate under the HS in Wan Chai District (Lai Tak Tsuen) in which FWSRBs are expected to be installed in April 2024.

(b) Kerbside recycling bins

Since 1 October 2020, the EPD has taken over the management of kerbside recycling bins in public places from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. The EPD reviewed the policy positioning and the way forward of kerbside recycling bins in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman upon the completion of its direct investigation into the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins in April 2022. The findings of the review show that the amount of recyclables from kerbside recycling bins in urban areas accounts for only less than 0.1% of the total amount of recyclables in Hong Kong. Moreover, these bins are prone to be misused by passers-by who mistakenly put in rubbish, litter, containers with leftover food or drinks, etc., thereby affecting the downstream recycling process of recyclables and causing environmental hygiene problems. With the development and continuous enhancement in the services of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, coupled with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of kerbside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas has gradually diminished. Therefore, the EPD had removed about 800 sets of kerbside recycling bins placed in urban areas in 2022. In view of the better quality of recyclables collected from kerbside recycling bins in rural areas, the EPD has retained about 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents in rural areas to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste papers and metals). In addition, the EPD is stepping up various measures on waste reduction and recycling support for rural areas on a trial basis, including setting up trial add-on recycling spots to extend the recycling services of GREEN@COMMUNITY to rural areas with relatively dense population, and installing smart recycling bins in 6 rural locations. The Environment and Conservation Fund has also provided funding to a non-profit-making organisation for conducting a project in 20 villages in the North East New Territories to recruit local residents as Green Outreach Volunteers to carry out recycling, publicity and educational activities in the villages, thereby encouraging the residents in rural areas to practise waste reduction at source and recycling.

As at January 2024, the number of kerbside recycling bins by district and the cumulative quantities of recyclables collected since the EPD took over the management of kerbside recycling bins from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department are as follows:

District	Number of kerbside recycling bins (sets)
Central & Western	1
Eastern	0
Southern	2
Wan Chai	0
Kowloon City	0
Yau Tsim Mong	0
Sham Shui Po	0
Wong Tai Sin	0
Kwun Tong	0
Tai Po	165
Yuen Long	204
Tuen Mun	74
North	186
Sai Kung	181
Sha Tin	82
Tsuen Wan	65
Kwai Tsing	17
Islands	138
Total	1 115

Quantity of recyclables collected after sorting (tonne) ^[Note 1]			Non-recyclables (tonne)
Paper	Plastic bottle	Metal	
1 247	1 052	146	1 307

Note 1: Under the terms of the contract, the EPD's recyclables collection service contractor is required to record the total weight of recyclables collected, the total weight of recyclables sorted and the date of collection for each vehicle. However, since the collection vehicles collect recyclables across districts, we do not have a breakdown of recyclables and non-recyclables by district.

(c) Recycling Stores

The EPD is continuously expanding the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY. As at March 2024, there have been about 220 public collection points, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising on both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries and beverage cartons) to specifically support residents living in clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and "three-nil" buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of

2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024, until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year's Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year's Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to special arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual district for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots near public markets and "three-nil" buildings and extending the service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the community recycling network to help the public practise waste separation and recycling properly.

As at end-2023, the cumulative total quantities of each type of recyclable collected by Recycling Stores and their Recycling Spots since the programme started in October 2022 are tabulated below.

Recycling Store ^[Note 1]	
Recyclables	Approximate Quantity of Recyclables (tonne) ^[Note 2]
Regulated electrical equipment	1 070
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)	2 221
Glass containers	6 896
Rechargeable batteries	48
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	67
Waste paper	11 788
Waste plastics	18 284
Waste metals	1 874
Beverage cartons	384

Note 1: Currently, there are 77 Recycling Stores under the GREEN@COMMUNITY and the quantities of the recyclable collected by the Recycling Stores have been uploaded to their respective Facebook pages on a quarterly basis. In view of the large number of Recycling Stores, the table above only listed the total quantities of each type of recyclable collected by the Recycling Stores.

Note 2: The preliminary quantities of each type of recyclables collected by the

Recycling Stores and the Recycling Spots as at end-2023 are the latest data available and the actual figures are still being verified.

At present, most of the recyclables handed in by the public to GREEN@COMMUNITY are suitable for recycling, and only a very small amount (less than 1% approximately) is not recyclable and needs to be disposed of.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)146****(Question Serial No. 0505)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

Regarding industry support as one of the six target areas of the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035”, please advise:

1. What are the occupancy rate, the leased area involved and the rental income of EcoPark over the past 5 years?
2. The Government stated that land in EcoPark had been leased to recycling operators “at affordable price” with a tenancy period of 20 years in general. Since EcoPark came into operation in 2007, what are the number of tenants that had surrendered their tenancies, the leased area involved and the reasons for surrendering the tenancy?
3. EcoPark has engaged a professional management company to provide management services on behalf of the Environmental Protection Department. What are the manpower and expenditure involved in each of the past 5 years? What is the contract period concerned?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)Reply:

1. In the past 5 years, the occupancy rate of the land available for waste recycling in EcoPark, the leased area involved and the rental income are tabulated below:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Occupancy rate	95.6%	81.6%	87.0%	90.1%	90.1%
Leased area involved (hectare)	12.9	11.1	11.8	12.2	12.2
Rental income (\$m) Note	15.98	6.07	4.79	6.36	14.32

Note: In view of the epidemic, the Government granted rental concessions to EcoPark tenants from 2019 to 2023 to support the recycling industry.

In addition, EcoPark leased a site for waste plastic recycling in early January 2024, and open tendering exercise has commenced for the remaining site to develop retired electric vehicle battery recycling facilities. Upon completion of the tendering processes, the land available for waste recycling in EcoPark will be fully occupied.

2. Since the commissioning of EcoPark in 2007, 1 tenant had surrendered its tenancy after commencing operation with the consent of the Department due to its commercial considerations, and the leased area involved is 8 500 square metres.
3. In the past 5 years, the manpower and expenditures involved in the management company engaged by EcoPark are tabulated below:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Manpower of the management company	45	45	45	46	46
Expenditure (\$m)	14.86	15.00	15.11	16.27	21.01

The contract for the management company of EcoPark normally lasts for 4 years, and the current contract was awarded through open tender for commencement in October 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1225)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Department will “strengthen various food waste collection initiatives... and gradually expand the service to collect more food waste from domestic sources.” Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) How will the Department promote the food waste recycling schemes at village houses and old tenement buildings in the coming financial year?
- (2) Given that the staircases of old tenement buildings are usually narrow and there will not be sufficient space for placing food waste recycling facilities, has the Department planned to provide support to the residents of tenement buildings? If yes, what are the manpower and financial resources involved?
- (3) How can these residents be more incentivised to participate in food waste recycling?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- (1)&(2) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

To promote food waste recycling in rural areas, the EPD is providing traditional covered recycling bins for food waste collection under the Pilot Scheme, while the Environment and Conservation Fund is subsidising the installation of food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) at villages. In November 2023, the EPD introduced to the Heung Yee Kuk New Territories the details of food waste collection services and called for the active participation from the rural committees and village representatives. As at February 2024, 3 villages are already collecting food waste with traditional or smart recycling bins, and smart recycling bins will be progressively installed in another 6 villages starting from March 2024.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public. The manpower and expenditure involved in the initiatives above are absorbed by the EPD’s existing staff establishment and the expenditure of the Pilot Scheme.

- (3) With the GREEN\$ points rewarded by the FWSRBs, members of the public can redeem gifts through the gift redemption units or any recycling points of GREEN@COMMUNITY, thereby providing incentives to encourage residents to actively participate in food waste recycling.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)148

(Question Serial No. 1234)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Administration will “oversee the implementation of waste-to-resources management strategies and programmes, including the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging.” The impending implementation of MSW charging has aroused strong responses from the public. Some grassroots stated that in order to save money, they might dump their food waste into the toilet or disposed of their domestic waste in the litter containers nearby or leave them at the rear lanes, which is contrary to the original intent of the scheme. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What plans does the Administration have in the new financial year to publicise and promote the MSW charging and food waste recycling schemes to the grassroots?
- (2) What are the estimated manpower and financial resources involved in the publicity and promotion?
- (3) Regarding the above “countermeasures” proposed out of helplessness, what feasible solutions does the Administration have?
- (4) What actions will be taken in response to the aforesaid behaviour of the grassroots? Will they be severely punished or prosecuted? If yes, please provide information on the manpower and additional resources to be set aside for enforcement and how to ensure that the staff of other departments will strictly execute the relevant policies.

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

Details of the Environmental Protection Department’s (EPD) publicity and promotion work for the implementation and enforcement of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and food waste recycling schemes are set out below:

- (1) To enhance public and related sectors’ understanding and awareness of the scheme, the EPD has launched a series of extensive public education, publicity and stakeholder engagement activities. These initiatives include provision of first-hand experience on how MSW charging is implemented through the successive launches of community involvement projects as well as close partnership and collaboration with government departments and stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign Committee, village representatives, green groups,

schools, etc. in organising activities. Starting from August 2023, the EPD has been publicising the implementation date and arrangements of MSW charging through various channels in phases under the theme of “Dump Less, Save More” for the general public, the commercial and industrial sectors and public institutions. We will continue with these publicity efforts until the end of 2024. Besides, the EPD has introduced new publicity initiatives, including producing simple and easy-to-understand infographics for different groups, addressing misconceptions about the MSW charging policy through feature stories and street interviews, and collaborating with representatives of various stakeholders and celebrities to produce short videos to encourage the public to practise waste reduction and recycling and to share their experience in preparing for MSW charging. The Green Outreach was set up to complement the promotional activities and provide outreaching support to the community on waste reduction and recycling. Starting from 1 April 2024, the Government implements the Demonstration Scheme in phases to enable the public and the relevant sectors to have a clearer understanding of the operation and details of the MSW charging scheme through on-site demonstration.

Regarding food waste recycling schemes, the EPD and the projects subsidised by the Environment and Conservation Fund provide promotional and educational support at the public rental housing (PRH) estates and private residential buildings participating in food waste recycling. These activities include distributing promotional leaflets (containing information on food waste recycling and promotional videos), providing and domestic food waste buckets to households, displaying promotional posters in building lobbies, arranging environmental ambassadors to assist residents in downloading the GREEN\$ Mobile App or assist those in need in registering for the GREEN\$ physical cards, guiding residents to practise source separation of food waste at home and the proper way to use food waste smart recycling bins. We have also set up a customer service hotline to provide residents with immediate support and technical assistance on food waste recycling. The EPD will also closely communicate and collaborate with relevant Members of the District Councils, local groups and organisations to introduce the food waste recycling schemes to the residents. To complement the implementation of MSW charging on 1 August 2024, the EPD will further step up the publicity and promotion to the public, and will closely monitor the usage rate of the food waste smart recycling bins, proactively listen to the feedbacks from residents, and provide more publicity and educational support as needed to the PRH estates and private residential buildings in a timely manner.

In addition, since its launch in 2013, the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign has been promoting a “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture through various schemes such as the “Food Wise Charter”, the “Food Wise Eateries” Scheme, the “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages, and the publicity through online platforms and mobile applications, public transport network, television and radio stations, etc. in order to encourage behavioural change in the community to reduce of food waste at source and participate in food waste recycling.

- (2) The estimated expenditure related to publicity work for the implementation of MSW charging in 2024-25 is approximately \$33.2 million. In addition, the

implementation of MSW charging involves 72 civil service posts, of which the publicity and promotion work is an integral part of the EPD's work and is undertaken by the existing staff. We do not have a separate breakdown.

Education and promotion of food waste recycling is an integral part of the work of the Waste Reduction and Resources Circulation Office of the EPD and are covered by the existing staff establishment. The promotion of food waste reduction and recycling will be continued through various schemes and activities under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign in the coming year, with an estimated expenditure of about \$4 million in 2024-25.

- (3)&(4) Once the public develops a habit of waste reduction and recycling, they can pay less MSW charges, and even turn waste into money through the recycling network of the EPD, achieving a win-win situation. If people flush their waste into the drainage in their residence, they risk blocking the sewerage system of their own flats or even the entire building. This will not only affect their daily life but also lead to unnecessary maintenance expenses.

Experiences outside Hong Kong show that public awareness and participation in the early stages of implementation of MSW charging are crucial to its smooth implementation. A six-month phasing-in period will be put in place after the commencement of MSW charging, during which we will focus on publicity and education, and give advices and warnings as far as possible. We will act against cases where the nature or magnitude of the offence calls for action. The EPD is also preparing to step up publicity, education, and advisory work during the phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging. This includes inspections on individual floors or the ground floor of waste reception points in residential, commercial and industrial premises, and conducting publicity, education and advisory work against non-compliant cases (i.e. disposal of waste without wrapping in DBs or oversized waste without affixing DLs) at the waste reception points.

On the other hand, the EPD has upgraded the customer service centre and set up a dedicated hotline to handle public enquiries and receive reports on non-compliant cases upon the implementation of MSW charging. Since the dedicated hotline commenced operation in July 2023, the customer service centre has handled more than 12 000 enquiries.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)149

(Question Serial No. 1236)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

There are still plenty of three-colour recycling bins (recycling bins) currently available in Hong Kong. While these recycling bins are usually full of recyclables collected from members of the public, they are often left unattended. Please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the number of recycling bins available at present? What are the reasons for the seemingly lack of attendance to these recycling bins?
2. Are these recycling bins still in operation?
3. How many manpower and expenditure have been allocated to handle the recycling bins in the new financial year?
4. Should people continue to use these recycling bins?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1,2&4. Since 1 October 2020, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has taken over the management of kerbside recycling bins in public places from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). The EPD reviewed the policy positioning and the way forward of kerbside recycling bins in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman upon the completion of its direct investigation into the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins in April 2022. The findings of the review show that the amount of recyclables from kerbside recycling bins in urban areas accounts for only less than 0.1% of the total amount of recyclables in Hong Kong. Moreover, these bins are prone to be misused by passers-by who mistakenly put in rubbish, litter, containers with leftover food or drinks, etc., thereby affecting the downstream recycling process of recyclables and causing environmental hygiene problems. With the development and continuous enhancement in the services of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, coupled with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of kerbside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas has gradually diminished. Therefore, the EPD had removed about 800 sets of kerbside recycling bins placed in urban areas in 2022. In view of the better quality of recyclables collected from kerbside

recycling bins in rural areas, the EPD has retained about 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents in rural areas to recycle.

The recyclables collection service contractor (the Contractor) of the EPD is required to collect recyclables from kerbside recycling bins regularly, and establish a supervisory team to oversee, inter alia, the collection, delivery and sorting of recyclables according to the contractual requirements. Meanwhile, the EPD has engaged a third-party organisation to set up quality assurance team to assist in monitoring the Contractor's performance and deploys its own staff to conduct routine and surprise inspections. This three-pronged monitoring mechanism comprising the EPD, supervisory team and quality assurance team ensures that the services comply with the contractual requirements and the recyclables are properly handled. The EPD will also adjust the locations of recycling bins accordingly from time to time to maintain the overall efficiency of recycling services. Besides, members of the public may use the QR code or hotline number affixed on kerbside recycling bins or social platform (WhatsApp) to report matters such as overflow or damaged bins to the Contractor directly. The Contractor is required to follow up these matters within a specific timeframe according to the contract requirements.

In addition, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has provided over 1 400 sets of three-colour recycling bins in its venues for the convenience of the users of its facilities. The cleansing and supporting services contractors of its venues will collect recyclables from the recycling bins regularly for delivery to recyclers according to the contractual requirements. To oversee the work of the contractors, the staff of the LCSD venues will conduct site inspections, surprise inspections and monthly performance assessment, so as to ensure that the recyclables collection service of the contractors meet the contractual requirements.

3. In 2024-25, the EPD has earmarked about \$18 million for the expenditure of recyclables collection services. The manpower to be involved will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Waste Reduction and Resources Circulation Office of the EPD.

As the cleansing and supporting services contracts of the LCSD venues also cover various types of cleansing and supporting work (e.g. general daily cleansing of venues, mosquito prevention, external wall cleansing, assisting users with check-in, setting up nets, handling recyclables, etc.) in addition to recyclables collection, the LCSD does not have a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved in recyclables collection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1239)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Municipal solid waste (MSW) charging will be implemented soon. Many housing estates and buildings have announced a future increase of management fee by nearly 10%. In addition, every household will have to pay extra for purchasing designated bags. On the other hand, the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products is about to come into effect. Restaurant operators have said that additional fees will be charged for takeaway orders. Coupled with a rates concession of merely \$1,000 and a salaries tax reduction by only half, there will be a significant increase in general household expenditure in the new fiscal year. Quite a lot of people will find it difficult to manage and this will lead to more social grievances. In this connection, please advise this Committee whether the Government would consider postponing MSW charging again to the next fiscal year in view of the social grievances and hardship brought about by the aforesaid sudden increase in cost of living within a short time?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chun, Paul (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The policy objective of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging is to encourage the community to reduce waste at source by creating financial disincentives through quantity-based charging, with a view to reducing the overall waste disposal amount. To assist those in need, the Government will distribute free designated bags to the households of "three-nil" buildings, public rental housing (PRH) estates and rural village houses during the initial stage of implementation of MSW charging for a period of 6 months to help them adapt to the charging arrangements. The Government will also provide a subsidy of \$10 per month as financial support to the elderly and the recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme. We will put in place a six-month phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging, during which we will focus on publicity and education to allow the public to gradually adapt to MSW charging.

The MSW charging Demonstration Scheme has been implemented on 1 April. The Demonstration Scheme aims at pragmatically examining the problems that may arise during the implementation of MSW charging, reviewing the processes and actual practices of different stakeholders including waste producers, frontline cleansing staff, waste collectors,

etc., in disposal of waste under different settings with MSW charging in place, as well as collecting their views, observing their preparedness on MSW charging implementation and possible problems they may encounter, and consolidating and evaluating relevant data. It is believed that the experience and outcome of the Demonstration Scheme will assist the Government in better grasping the overall situation.

To enhance public and related sectors' understanding and awareness of the scheme, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to launch a series of public education and publicity activities. Furthermore, the EPD is actively taking forward various food waste collection initiatives, including the installation of food waste smart recycling bins in PRH estates and private residential buildings, thereby encouraging all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD is also setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates progressively to improve the community recycling network, thereby helping the public practise waste reduction at source.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)151

(Question Serial No. 2219)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. Please set out the numbers of litter containers and recycling bins on the street by District Council district in each of the past 3 years.
2. Please set out the numbers of litter containers on the street to be reduced by District Council district this year and in each of the coming 3 years.
3. Will the Government place more recycling bins on the street? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
4. Will the Government deploy additional staff to combat illegal disposal of waste and arrange waste reduction ambassadors to educate the public about waste reduction after the implementation of MSW charging? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
5. Will the Department strengthen its co-operation with the Customs and Excise Department in combating counterfeit designated bags? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
6. Will the Department extend the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems by installing more smart recycling bins that operate 24 hours per day in various districts? If yes, what are the details? If no what are the reasons?
7. Will the Department set up more Recycling Stations/Recycling Stores/Recycling Spots under GREEN@COMMUNITY and adjust their operating hours, as well as expanding the outreaching services of the Green Outreach? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
8. How did the Administration set the indicator for the quantity of refuse to be collected in 2024-25 and why is it the same as the actual quantity collected last year?

Asked by: Hon YANG Wing-kit (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- 1, 2 & 3 Currently, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has provided kerbside recycling bins in rural areas, while other relevant departments are providing recycling bins at venues under their management. Since 1 October 2020, the EPD has taken over the management of kerbside recycling bins in public places

from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), and reviewed the policy positioning and the way forward of kerbside recycling bins in response to the recommendations made by the Office of the Ombudsman upon the completion of its direct investigation into the management and effectiveness of waste separation bins in April 2022. The findings of the review show that the amount of recyclables from kerbside recycling bins in urban areas accounts for only less than 0.1% of the total amount of recyclables in Hong Kong. Moreover, these bins are prone to be misused by passers-by who mistakenly put in rubbish, litter, containers with leftover food or drinks, etc., thereby affecting the downstream recycling process of recyclables and causing environmental hygiene problems. With the development and continuous enhancement in the services of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY, coupled with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, the role of kerbside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas has gradually diminished. Therefore, the EPD had removed about 800 sets of kerbside recycling bins placed in urban areas in 2022. In view of the better quality of recyclables collected from kerbside recycling bins in rural areas, the EPD has retained about 1 100 sets of kerbside recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate residents in rural areas to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste paper and metals). In addition, the EPD is stepping up various measures on waste reduction and recycling support for rural areas on a trial basis, including setting up trial add-on recycling spots to extend the recycling services of GREEN@COMMUNITY to rural areas with relatively dense population, and installing smart recycling bins in 6 rural locations. The Environment and Conservation Fund has also provided funding to a non-profit-making organisation for conducting a project in 20 villages in the North East New Territories by recruiting local residents as Green Outreach Volunteers to carry out recycling, publicity and educational activities in the villages, thereby encouraging the residents in rural areas to practise waste reduction at source and recycling.

In the past 3 years, the numbers of kerbside recycling bins placed in various districts by the EPD are as follows:

District	Number of kerbside recycling bins (sets)		
	2021	2022	2023
Central and Western	102	1	1
Eastern	51	0	0
Southern	70	4	2
Wan Chai	62	1	0
Islands	143	139	140
Kowloon City	66	0	0
Wong Tai Sin	35	0	0
Kwun Tong	38	2	1
Yau Tsim Mong	102	0	0
Sham Shui Po	52	0	0
Sha Tin	119	83	82
Tai Po	179	162	164
North	212	189	185
Sai Kung	200	182	181
Tsuen Wan	90	65	65

District	Number of kerbside recycling bins (sets)		
	2021	2022	2023
Kwai Tsing	53	17	17
Yuen Long	214	200	204
Tuen Mun	98	72	74
Total	1 886	1 117	1 116

In the past 3 years, the numbers of litter containers placed on the street by the FEHD are tabulated as follows:

District	Number of litter containers on the street		
	2021	2022	2023
Central and Western	778	647	646
Eastern	646	644	634
Southern	416	406	401
Wan Chai	815	816	800
Islands	495	495	486
Kowloon City	691	691	678
Wong Tai Sin	448	448	440
Kwun Tong	682	682	670
Yau Tsim Mong	680	680	666
Sham Shui Po	555	555	535
Sha Tin	1 202	1 202	1 163
Tai Po	531	531	521
North	370	370	363
Sai Kung	809	731	736
Tsuen Wan	496	496	442
Kwai Tsing	616	616	605
Yuen Long	817	817	802
Tuen Mun	600	600	589
Total	11 647	11 427	11 177

The FEHD will adjust the numbers and locations of litter containers placed on the street to keep in line with the relevant policies and to take into account the environmental hygiene situations of the districts and the actual operational needs, including pedestrian flow, width of pavement, usage of litter containers and other relevant factors. The FEHD plans to maintain the total number of litter containers placed on the street in 2024.

4. The FEHD has been committed to combating illegal disposal of waste to maintain environmental hygiene. To address potential disposal issues resulting from the implementation of the MSW charging, the FEHD will, having regard to the actual circumstances, allocate resources flexibly to strengthen waste collection services and law enforcement actions, including deploying dedicated enforcement teams in plain clothes to take enforcement actions, as well as utilising Internet Protocol cameras at black spots of illegal disposal of waste. By analysing the recorded data, more effective enforcement actions can be planned or prosecutions can be initiated.

To strengthen the publicity and education as well as on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, the EPD set up the Green Outreach in 2018 and has been progressively enhancing its strength to over 200 staff at present. The Green Outreach reaches out to the community to provide outreaching services in the territory. Through on-site guidance and hands-on demonstrations, the Green Outreach regularly educates the public about the importance of waste reduction at source, and encourages and facilitates the public to practise source separation of waste and clean recycling. Besides, they will promote and plan the GREEN@COMMUNITY services, and disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling as well as the legislative requirements to the community. The Green Outreach also provides on-site assistance and recycling support to housing estates/residential buildings, assists housing estates/residential buildings that have participated in the Programme on Source Separation of Waste to improve their recycling practices, as well as arranging trainings for property management staff and frontline cleansing workers on proper handling of recyclables. In addition, the Green Outreach plans and implements publicity and education work to promote waste reduction and recycling in the community, including launching large-scale online and offline publicity and education activities, and making use of the multi-media promotion such as social media and online platforms for publicity, to encourage all members of the public to integrate waste reduction and recycling into their daily lives. Furthermore, the Green Outreach has, in collaboration with non-profit-making organisations, implemented the Green Outreach Volunteer Programme, to reach out to women's, foreign domestic helpers' and new immigrants' groups, educating and encouraging them to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling.

The Green Outreach has further strengthened the promotion of MSW charging starting from mid-August 2023 and conducted promotional activities and on-site demonstrations at various locations (including housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots set up near clusters of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings in old districts and rural areas, public markets and public transport interchanges (e.g. near MTR stations), etc.) to engage the public of different backgrounds (including housewives, students, working people, the elderly, residents of single-block buildings and "three-nil" buildings, foreign domestic helpers, ethnic minorities, etc.), so as to deepen public understanding of MSW charging and educate the public and frontline staff of housing estates/residential buildings to comply with the legislative requirements and actively practise waste reduction at source and recycling to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging. From mid-August 2023 to February 2024, the Green Outreach has organised about 1 500 promotional activities in relation to MSW charging, attracting about 180 000 participants. The housing estates, residential buildings, Recycling Spots, public markets, etc. where the publicity activities were organised covered almost 80% of the population in Hong Kong.

5. The EPD has completed registering trade marks for the designs of designated bags (DBs) and designated labels (DLs) as well as the recordation procedure with the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) to combat the potential sale of suspected counterfeit DBs and DLs online or in the market. The EPD will continue working

closely with the C&ED by stepping up the efforts in risk assessment and intelligence sharing to support the relevant enforcement work.

6. To support smart city development, the EPD launched the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems (the Pilot Programme) in the fourth quarter of 2020 to test in phases the local application of smart recycling devices (comprising smart recycling bins, smart balances and gift redemption units). The objectives are to build up experience for reference in mapping out the direction for the long-term development of local application of smart recycling systems, and enhance the community recycling services and efficiency. Technical trials at 4 locations in the initial phase of the Pilot Programme had been completed in January 2022. After reviewing the results of the trials, the EPD expanded the Pilot Programme in mid-2022. In addition to setting up smart balances at all recycling facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY to facilitate self-service recycling, smart recycling bins and gift redemption units have also been gradually installed in some Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores since end 2022. Starting from March 2023, smart recycling bins have been progressively set up in public rental housing (PRH) estates, private housing estates, villages, shopping malls, universities, government venues, etc. As at end-February 2024, the number of application points under the Pilot Programme has been increased from 4 locations in the initial phase to about 300 locations at present, while the scope of smart recycling devices has also been gradually expanded from 4 smart recycling bins and 3 gift redemption units to 271 smart balances, 76 smart recycling bins and 60 gift redemption units.

Since the launch of the Pilot Programme, the EPD has been monitoring the usage and recycling data of the smart recycling systems at different locations. We are currently conducting a mid-term review on the Pilot Programme, including the results of the technical trials of the smart recycling systems, recycling effectiveness, the application scope, their role in the overall strategy on community recycling support, system layout and scale, etc. Preliminary findings show that the operation of the smart recycling systems is generally smooth. The quality of recyclables collected by the smart recycling bins is better than that of the conventional recycling bins and the public responses are also positive. We will take into account the findings of the mid-term review to fine-tune the Pilot Programme as appropriate, such as adjusting the locations and number of smart recycling bins.

7. As at March 2024, about 220 public collection points have been set up under GREEN@COMMUNITY all over the territory, including 11 Recycling Stations emphasising both environmental education and recycling support, 77 Recycling Stores located in close proximity to clusters of single-block buildings or set up in PRH estates and over 130 Recycling Spots operating weekly at fixed time and locations, for the collection of 9 common types of recyclables (including waste paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment and those lacking commercial recycling value, such as glass containers, plastics, small electrical appliances, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries, beverage cartons, etc.) to specifically supports residents living in the clusters of residential buildings (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings) that are lacking the space for setting up recycling facilities on their own to participate in separation at source and

clean recycling. The first Recycling Store in an MTR station, GREEN@TSING YI, has just commenced service in February 2024, and the twelfth Recycling Station, GREEN@WONG TAI SIN, is also expected to provide services in the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, the EPD is progressively setting up small-scale Recycling Stores in 50 PRH estates to facilitate residents living in the PRH estates and nearby residents to practise clean recycling. 8 of these Recycling Stores have already commenced operation, and the other 37 will come into service gradually from the second quarter of 2024 after completion of renovation works. In the meantime, the EPD has arranged for the relevant operators to set up temporary collection booths (operating from 10 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Sundays) in those PRH estates by 1 March 2024 until the corresponding Recycling Stores come into operation, with a view to achieving seamless transition.

In the planning of new refuse collection points (RCPs), the EPD will include recycling facilities or set up Recycling Stores at those RCPs as far as practicable to facilitate the public in carrying out clean recycling simultaneously during waste disposal. Recycling Stores under GREEN@COMMUNITY will be set up in the RCPs at Hung Yuen Road, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long and Anderson Road, Sai Kung, both of which are currently under construction. The construction works are expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and the end of 2025 respectively.

Currently, all Recycling Stores are basically open from 9 am to 7 pm all year round, including Sundays and public holidays (except for the Lunar New Year's Eve to the third day of the Lunar New Year, the New Year's Eve, the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Winter Solstice and the Christmas holidays, which are subject to special arrangements). In response to the service demand of the public, the EPD has adjusted the operating hours of most of the Recycling Stores in PRH estates (including the temporary collection booths mentioned above) to 10 am to 8 pm. The EPD will keep reviewing the operation of all community recycling facilities and the specific needs of individual districts for recycling facilities, and will proactively explore various measures such as increasing the number of Recycling Spots in public markets near "three-nil" buildings and extending their service hours, etc. We anticipate that the number of public collection points across the territory will increase to about 500 in August 2024, so as to enhance the services of the community recycling network.

The Green Outreach reviews its work focus and scope of the outreaching services from time to time, and adjust them as necessary to support and facilitate the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling policies and initiatives. To facilitate the expansion of various waste reduction and recycling programmes of the EPD (e.g. GREEN@COMMUNITY and the food waste recycling network), the Green Outreach has been stepping up the relevant publicity and promotion, including promoting the new facilities and services of GREEN@COMMUNITY in districts where Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots have recently come into service, planning and organising community participation activities at Recycling Stations to engage the public in exploring the green community and strengthen the role of Recycling Stations in public education, as well as promoting the new food waste smart recycling bin (FWSRB) services under the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates and demonstrating the use of FWSRBs, etc.

In 2024-25, apart from continuing with the work stated in part 4 above, the Green Outreach will also collaborate with different local groups, stakeholders and non-profit-making organisations to organise different types of publicity and promotional activities, and step up their efforts in disseminating the information on waste reduction and recycling programmes and MSW charging to people of different backgrounds (including ethnic minorities), so as to raise the law-abiding awareness of the public. The Green Outreach will also offer assistance to the primary and secondary schools participating in the “We-recycle@School” activity launched in early March this year to encourage students and their family members to actively practise resources separation and recycling and to establish the habit of waste reduction and recycling in their daily lives. Upon implementation of MSW charging, the Green Outreach will further expand the scope of their outreaching services. Apart from continuing with their on-site support for waste reduction and recycling at the community level, promotional activities and hands-on demonstrations will be conducted at various locations to help the public gradually adapt to MSW charging and change their waste disposal habits by separating resources properly for recycling. Besides, the Green Outreach will also pay attention to any non-compliance during daily work, conduct preliminary investigations upon receipt of non-compliance reports, persuade the public, in the form of promotion, education and guidance, to comply with the legislative requirements and offer advice to property management companies/cleansing contractors to help them improve the situation.

8. When drawing up the 2024-25 Budget, the FEHD had taken into consideration that there will be a phasing-in period upon the implementation of MSW charging, and the quantity of refuse collected will be influenced by various factors. Therefore, it is appropriate to estimate the quantity of refuse to be collected in 2024 with reference to the actual quantities collected in previous years as done in the past.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)152

(Question Serial No. 1277)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The provision for 2024-25 is 38% higher than the revised estimated for 2023-24. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. Please provide a breakdown of the increase in cash flow by projects. In addition, please provide information on the responsibilities of the 9 posts to be deleted and the amount of savings in expenditure.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The estimate for the Air Programme in 2024-25 is \$747.5 million (38%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly attributed to the enhancement of the 3 priority tasks listed below. The manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). There is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 9 posts in 2024-25 under the provision for the Air Programme. These posts are mainly responsible for conducting investigations and enforcement work related to air pollution, involving annual salaries of about \$4.1 million. The EPD will cope with the impacts brought about by the deletion of posts through appropriate staff deployment and optimisation of workflows.

Major item	2023-24 Revised Estimate (\$ million)	2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Increase in 2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Reason
EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS)	220.0	800.0	580.0	Note (1)
Ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles	1,028.9	1,122.0	93.1	Note (2)
Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	39.2	110.6	71.4	Note (3)

Note (1): As for the expenditure incurred by the EHSS, it is expected that the installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure will be completed progressively in 2024-25 for many of the approved applications, and the estimated amount of

subsidies to be disbursed for the completion of installation will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.

Note (2): As for the expenditure incurred by the ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles, the relevant figures show that the number of eligible vehicles reaching the statutory retirement age by 31 December 2024 is higher than that of 2023. Hence, the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is higher than that of 2023-24 to meet the funding needs of these applications.

Note (3): As for the expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries, the construction of electric ferries and the associated charging facilities has commenced progressively in 2023-24. According to the current progress, the estimated amount of subsidies to be disbursed for the above construction works will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)153

(Question Serial No. 1279)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the progressive phasing out of Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles, please advise this Committee of the respective number of each type of vehicles applying for the ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles, the percentage in the number of eligible vehicles of the same type, and the amount of payment involved in the past 3 years (2021, 2022 and 2023). Will the Government consider expanding the coverage of the ex-gratia payment for phasing out the old diesel vehicles to Euro V diesel commercial vehicles? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

To continuously improve roadside air quality, the Government launched in October 2020 the Ex-gratia Payment Scheme for Phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) with a target of progressively phasing out about 40 000 Euro IV DCVs (which include goods vehicles, light buses and non-franchised buses) by the end of 2027. The numbers of eligible vehicles, the numbers of applications approved, as well as the ex-gratia payment amount involved by vehicle class and year of first registration in each year from 2021 to 2023 are tabulated below:

(i) 2021

Vehicle class		Number of Euro IV DCVs (percentage in the total number of the vehicles concerned)							
		Year of first registration							
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Light goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	269	4 274	5 005	2 233	3 639	4 174	3 890	23 484
	Number of applications approved	204 (76%)	1 125 (26%)	891 (18%)	397 (18%)	431 (12%)	521 (12%)	327 (8%)	3 896 (17%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	24.8	121	99.1	45.1	50.1	59.3	37	436.5

Vehicle class		Number of Euro IV DCVs (percentage in the total number of the vehicles concerned)							
		Year of first registration							Total
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Medium goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	488	1 986	2 413	886	2 398	2 431	904	11 506
	Number of applications approved	390 (80%)	820 (41%)	699 (29%)	186 (21%)	310 (13%)	174 (7%)	41 (5%)	2 620 (23%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	84.4	187.2	166.5	46	80.4	47.4	10.2	622.1
Heavy goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	10	76	117	134	378	529	254	1 498
	Number of applications approved	7 (70%)	26 (34%)	31 (26%)	37 (28%)	57 (15%)	49 (9%)	13 (5%)	220 (15%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	2.6	8.9	11.9	13.8	21.7	18.5	4.9	82.2
Light bus	Number of vehicles*	7	129	183	54	107	125	55	660
	Number of applications approved	7 (100%)	37 (29%)	53 (29%)	10 (19%)	11 (10%)	28 (22%)	9 (16%)	155 (23%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	1.6	8.6	12.9	2.5	2.8	7.2	2.3	37.8
Non-franchised bus	Number of vehicles*	43	317	536	365	512	491	255	2 519
	Number of applications approved	33 (77%)	117 (37%)	141 (26%)	59 (16%)	58 (11%)	79 (16%)	12 (5%)	499 (20%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	12.6	46.6	60.6	26.6	27.4	37	5.2	216.1
Total	Number of vehicles*	817	6 782	8 254	3 672	7 034	7 750	5 358	39 667
	Number of applications approved	641 (78%)	2 125 (31%)	1 815 (22%)	689 (19%)	867 (12%)	851 (11%)	402 (8%)	7 390 (19%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	126	372.3	351	134.1	182.4	169.3	59.7	1,394.7

(ii) 2022

Vehicle class		Number of Euro IV DCVs (percentage in the total number of the vehicles concerned)							
		Year of first registration							Total
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Light goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	269	4 274	5 005	2 233	3 639	4 174	3 890	23 484
	Number of applications approved	36 (13%)	1 952 (46%)	799 (16%)	220 (10%)	251 (7%)	265 (6%)	223 (6%)	3 746 (16%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	4.4	195.4	84.7	24.5	29	30.3	25.1	393.4

Vehicle class		Number of Euro IV DCVs (percentage in the total number of the vehicles concerned)							
		Year of first registration							
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Medium goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	488	1 986	2 413	886	2 398	2 431	904	11 506
	Number of applications approved	44 (9%)	726 (37%)	523 (22%)	123 (14%)	279 (12%)	181 (7%)	39 (4%)	1 915 (17%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	9.1	156.1	119.4	29	70.6	49.1	10.8	444.2
Heavy goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	10	76	117	134	378	529	254	1 498
	Number of applications approved	2 (20%)	27 (36%)	14 (12%)	20 (15%)	47 (12%)	51 (10%)	16 (6%)	177 (12%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.7	9	5.1	7	16.8	18.6	6	63.2
Light bus	Number of vehicles*	7	129	183	54	107	125	55	660
	Number of applications approved	0 (0%)	67 (52%)	25 (14%)	2 (4%)	11 (10%)	7 (6%)	4 (7%)	116 (18%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.0	14.9	5.7	0.5	2.8	1.8	1.0	26.7
Non-franchised bus	Number of vehicles*	43	317	536	365	512	491	255	2 519
	Number of applications approved	3 (7%)	121 (38%)	99 (18%)	49 (13%)	55 (11%)	51 (10%)	11 (4%)	389 (15%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.9	38.5	40.7	21.3	25.5	22.7	4.9	154.6
Total	Number of vehicles*	817	6 782	8 254	3 672	7 034	7 750	5 358	39 667
	Number of applications approved	85 (10%)	2 893 (43%)	1 460 (18%)	414 (11%)	643 (9%)	555 (7%)	293 (5%)	6 343 (16%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	15.1	413.9	255.7	82.3	144.7	122.5	47.8	1,082.0

(iii) 2023

Vehicle class		Number of Euro IV DCVs (percentage in the total number of the vehicles concerned)							
		Year of first registration							
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Light goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	269	4 274	5 005	2 233	3 639	4 174	3 890	23 484
	Number of applications approved	0 (0%)	759 (18%)	1 245 (25%)	362 (16%)	388 (11%)	340 (8%)	334 (9%)	3 428 (15%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.0	72.5	125.5	39.1	43.8	39.2	37.5	357.6

Vehicle class		Number of Euro IV DCVs (percentage in the total number of the vehicles concerned)							
		Year of first registration							
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Medium goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	488	1 986	2 413	886	2 398	2 431	904	11 506
	Number of applications approved	0 (0%)	185 (9%)	582 (24%)	182 (21%)	365 (15%)	357 (15%)	107 (12%)	1 778 (15%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.0	38.0	123.8	40.0	88.0	90.4	27.3	407.5
Heavy goods vehicle	Number of vehicles*	10	76	117	134	378	529	254	1 498
	Number of applications approved	0 (0%)	14 (18%)	24 (21%)	26 (19%)	37 (10%)	59 (11%)	22 (9%)	182 (12%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.0	4.7	8.0	9.4	13.3	21.6	8.1	65.2
Light bus	Number of vehicles*	7	129	183	54	107	125	55	660
	Number of applications approved	0 (0%)	17 (13%)	59 (32%)	14 (26%)	6 (6%)	9 (7%)	5 (9%)	110 (17%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.0	3.7	13.1	3.2	1.4	2.3	1.3	24.9
Non-franchised bus	Number of vehicles*	43	317	536	365	512	491	255	2 519
	Number of applications approved	0 (0%)	51 (16%)	137 (26%)	67 (18%)	83 (16%)	65 (13%)	13 (5%)	416 (17%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.0	15.6	45.1	27.9	34.2	27.8	5.7	156.3
Total	Number of vehicles*	817	6 782	8 254	3 672	7 034	7 750	5 358	39 667
	Number of applications approved	0 (0%)	1 026 (15%)	2 047 (25%)	651 (18%)	879 (12%)	830 (11%)	481 (9%)	5 914 (15%)
	Amount granted (\$m)#	0.0	134.3	315.5	119.6	180.8	181.3	80.0	1,011.5

* The number of registered vehicles as at 1 January 2020.

May not add up to the total amount granted due to rounding.

Euro V DCVs emit 40% less nitrogen oxides than Euro IV DCVs and have a relatively low impact on roadside air quality. As the majority of Euro V DCVs in Hong Kong are 10 years of age or less at present, the Government has no plan to extend the Scheme to cover Euro V DCVs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0255)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is \$6.306 billion which is 11.8% higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly due to increased provision for waste management initiatives and increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. While the Government has implemented a trial scheme on food waste collection since 2022, the distribution and number of community collection points for food waste treatment are still running short. The Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private Housing Estates just commenced in December 2023. In this connection, please advise this Committee: whether the Government has considered duly allocating provisions for expediting the popularisation of food waste treatment facilities in residential areas so as to promote biodegradation as a means of treating food waste?

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

To keep expanding the food waste collection network, the Government has allocated an additional provision of \$175 million for 2024-25, which will mainly be used for collecting food waste from more public and private premises and providing smart food waste recycling services in public rental housing (PRH) estates across the territory.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

Regarding domestic food waste, the EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste for better environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (i.e. 115 PRH estates). Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong.

For private housing, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs. When launching the Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF. In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and "three-nil" buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public

food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public. We will closely monitor the food waste collection quantity and public participation in food waste recycling, and timely review the planning and development of food waste treatment facilities as well as the resources required.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)155

(Question Serial No. 0256)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The estimated expenditure for 2024-25 amounts to HK\$2,714.6 million, representing an increase of 38% over the revised estimated expenditure for 2023-24, whereas the key performance indicators are not significantly higher than those of the previous two years in general, and there will be a net decrease of posts. In this connection, please inform this Committee: What are the specific reasons for the significant increase in estimated expenditure? As the actual expenditures were lower than the original estimates in the past, why does the Government not consider reducing the estimated expenditure accordingly to be in line with actual needs?

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The estimate for the Air Programme in 2024-25 is \$747.5 million (38%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24. This is mainly attributed to the enhancement of the 3 priority tasks listed below. The manpower and expenditure involved in the relevant work will be absorbed by the existing resources of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). There is no separate breakdown of the manpower and expenditure involved. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 9 posts in 2024-25 under the provision for the Air Programme. These posts are mainly responsible for conducting investigations and enforcement work related to air pollution, involving annual salaries of about \$4.1 million. The EPD will cope with the impacts brought about by the deletion of posts through appropriate staff deployment and optimisation of workflows.

Major item	2023-24 Revised Estimate (\$ million)	2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Increase in 2024-25 Estimate (\$ million)	Reason
EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS)	220.0	800.0	580.0	Note (1)
Ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles	1,028.9	1,122.0	93.1	Note (2)
Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	39.2	110.6	71.4	Note (3)

Note (1): As for the expenditure incurred by the EHSS, it is expected that the installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure will be completed progressively in 2024-25 for many of the approved applications, and the estimated amount of subsidies to be disbursed for the completion of installation will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.

Note (2): As for the expenditure incurred by the ex-gratia payment for Phasing Out Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles, the relevant figures show that the number of eligible vehicles reaching the statutory retirement age by 31 December 2024 is higher than that of 2023. Hence, the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is higher than that of 2023-24 to meet the funding needs of these applications.

Note (3): As for the expenditure incurred by the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries, the construction of electric ferries and the associated charging facilities has commenced progressively in 2023-24. According to the current progress, the estimated amount of subsidies to be disbursed for the above construction works will increase significantly in 2024-25 as compared to that of 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)156

(Question Serial No. 3199)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs), please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the breakdown of the expenditure (including the expenditure on manpower, procurement and publicity) involved in installing and promoting FWSRBs since the implementation of the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in 2022?
2. What are the average daily recovery of food waste (in tonnes) from FWSRBs in PRH estates and private housing estates in each district and the respective percentage to the total recovery of FWSRBs?
3. The tonnage of food waste to be treated at the O·PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities in 2024 is expected to increase by 24 908 tonnes as compared to 2023. What contributes to such increase? What is the estimated tonnage of food waste to be treated at each of these facilities?
4. What is the commissioning schedule of O·PARK2?
5. At present, the recovery rate of food waste in Hong Kong is only 5.6%. Is there any plan or measure to enhance the recovery rate of food waste? Is there any enhancement target?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- 1-3. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively implementing various food waste collection initiatives, including support on the collection of food waste from commercial & industrial sectors and households, so as to encourage all sectors of the community and the general public to participate in food waste recycling. The EPD extended the scale of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection in 2021 to progressively provide point-to-point collection services for public and private premises with larger amount of food waste. Currently, there are approximately 900 collection points across the territory, including food processing factories, markets, cooked food centres, wholesale markets, hospitals, government facilities, tertiary institutions, school lunchbox suppliers, hotels, shopping malls, and residential estates, etc. At present, the amount of food waste collected from various local sources is gradually increasing, with

a daily average of around 200 tonnes. The food waste collected is then delivered to food waste treatment facilities for turning into electricity and compost.

The EPD, in collaboration with the Housing Department (HD) and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HS), launched the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in Public Rental Housing (PRH) Estates in late October 2022. Food waste smart recycling bins (FWSRBs) equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices are used to collect food waste to maintain environmental hygiene, and GREEN\$ rewards are provided to encourage residents' participation. The installation of FWSRBs in 13 PRH estates (a total of 101 blocks) was completed in mid-September 2023, covering about 170 000 residents. The installation was completed 6 months ahead of the original target schedule.

The EPD, together with the HD and the HS, then immediately started expanding the food waste recycling services to all PRH estates at full steam. As at February 2024, the EPD has installed a total of 435 FWSRBs in more than half of the PRH estates in Hong Kong (115 PRH estates), with a cumulative usage of over 4.2 million times. Our target is to complete the installation of more than 700 FWSRBs in all of the 213 PRH estates (a total of approximately 1 500 blocks) across the territory by August this year to cover about one-third of the population in Hong Kong. Since the commencement of the Trial Scheme in October 2022, more than 3 000 tonnes of food waste have been recycled, with an average daily collection quantity of about 26 tonnes. In some of these estates, more than 70% of the households have used the FWSRBs. The quantity of food waste recovered and the participation rate of residents have been in line with our expectations. We anticipate that the amount of food waste to be recovered at PRH estates in 2024 is about 16 000 tonnes (with an average daily collection quantity of about 44 tonnes).

For private housing, the Government has been supporting the installation of FWSRBs in private residential buildings and rural villages mainly through the Recycling Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) before the end of 2023. As at February 2024, these 2 funding schemes have subsidised the installation of about 100 FWSRBs in 29 private housing estates and 4 rural villages, with a daily average of around 3 tonnes of food waste collected. Besides, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) has been providing funding support through the ECF and collaborating with the EPD to roll out the Pilot Scheme on FWSRBs in Private Housing Estates (the Scheme). Since 29 December 2023, the Scheme has started accepting applications for FWSRBs from private housing estates with over 1 000 households for installation and relevant maintenance services for a period of 2 years. Over 100 applications from private housing estates have been received so far, and the installation of FWSRBs has been carried out gradually. As at February 2024, the EPD has completed the installation of 10 FWSRBs, with around 200 kg of food waste collected per day. When launching the Scheme, the EPD has adopted a simplified application procedure. Representatives of housing estates are only required to provide basic information on the application form, including the number of FWSRBs required, proposed installation locations, estimated amount of food waste, etc. The EPD is considering the optimisation of the existing Scheme to cover private housing estates with fewer than 1 000 households. In the financial year of 2024-25, we expect that

over 300 FWSRBs will be put into service in private housing estates with the support of the ECC, the Recycling Fund and the ECF.

The amount of food waste collected by FWSRBs in each district and the percentage to the total recovery in January 2024 are tabulated below:

District	The average daily recovery of food waste in each district in January 2024 ^{Note}		
	PRH estates (tonnes) [percentage to the total recovery of 18 districts]	Private housing estates (tonnes) [percentage to the total recovery of 18 districts]	Total recovery of each district (tonnes) [percentage to the total recovery of 18 districts]
Central & Western	0.3 [1.5%]	0.0 [0%]	0.3 [1.5%]
Wan Chai	0.0 [0%]	0.0 [0%]	0.0 [0%]
Eastern	0.6 [2.9%]	0.7 [3.4%]	1.3 [6.3%]
Southern	0.9 [4.4%]	0.0 [0%]	0.9 [4.4%]
Yau Tsim Mong	0.0 [0%]	0.0 [0%]	0.0 [0%]
Sham Shui Po	0.7 [3.4%]	0.0 [0%]	0.7 [3.4%]
Kowloon City	0.5 [2.4%]	0.0 [0%]	0.5 [2.4%]
Wong Tai Sin	1.4 [6.8%]	0.1 [0.5%]	1.5 [7.3%]
Kwun Tong	2.4 [11.7%]	0.3 [1.5%]	2.7 [13.1%]
Kwai Tsing	1.5 [7.3%]	0.1 [0.5%]	1.6 [7.8%]
Tsuen Wan	0.6 [2.9%]	0.2 [1.0%]	0.8 [3.9%]
Tuen Mun	1.9 [9.2%]	0.1 [0.5%]	2.0 [9.7%]
Yuen Long	2.6 [12.6%]	0.1 [0.5%]	2.7 [13.1%]
North	0.9 [4.4%]	0.0 [0%]	0.9 [4.4%]
Sha Tin	2.2 [10.7%]	0.4 [1.9%]	2.6 [12.6%]
Tai Po	0.6 [2.9%]	0.0 [0%]	0.6 [2.9%]
Sai Kung	0.9 [4.4%]	0.3 [1.5%]	1.2 [5.8%]
Islands	0.3 [1.5%]	0.0 [0%]	0.3 [1.5%]
Total	18.3 [88.8%]	2.3 [11.2%]	20.6 [100%]

Note: The above figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

The expenditure involved in the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates is tabulated below by category:

Breakdown of the expenditure	2022-23 (Actual) (\$ million)	2023-24 (Revised estimate) (\$ million)
Operation of FWSRBs ^{Note 1}	0.7	6.0
Publicity and education work ^{Note 2}	2.4	4.2
Engagement of additional cleansing staff ^{Note 3}	0.4	19.2
Other expenses ^{Note 4}	-	3.6
Total	3.5	33

Note 1: The operating cost of FWSRBs includes the service fees for rental, transportation, installation, inspection, repairs and maintenance, wireless network, software updates and replacement of consumables, etc.

Note 2: Publicity and education work includes the operating cost of gift redemption machines, procurement of gifts and domestic food waste buckets, replenishment for gift redemption machines and provision of publicity materials, etc.

Note 3: To tie in with the implementation of the Trial Scheme on Food Waste Collection in PRH Estates, the EPD has provided additional resources to the HD to ramp up its cleansing staff for enhancing cleansing services at all participating PRH estates, including maintaining cleanliness of the FWSRBs and their surrounding areas, replacing food waste filled inner bins and properly storing them at designated locations in the PRH estates.

Note 4: Other expenses include the rental fees for contract vehicles, miscellaneous administrative costs, etc.

In addition to FWSRBs, the EPD also provides the traditional covered food waste recycling bins for food waste collection in private residential buildings through the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection. As at February 2024, 20 private housing estates have been provided with the traditional food waste recycling bins for food waste collection, with a daily average of around 1.2 tonnes of food waste collected.

For residential buildings without sufficient space to install food waste recycling bins, the EPD set up FWSRBs at 2 Recycling Stations in the vicinity of residential areas, namely GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO and GREEN@EASTERN, in September and December 2023 respectively to conduct trial domestic food waste collection from the neighbourhood (including single-block residential buildings and “three-nil” buildings in old districts) at public collection points. GREEN\$ is offered as an incentive to encourage active public participation. As at February 2024, these FWSRBs have been used for more than 41 300 times. In view of the positive response from the public, we also installed a FWSRB at GREEN@SAI KUNG in mid-March 2024. The EPD will continue to set up more public food waste collection points at other suitable premises (such as public markets and refuse collection points (RCPs)).

To further facilitate residents in practising food waste recycling, starting from November 2023, the EPD has set up Recycling Spots near village houses or single-block

residential buildings, and clusters of restaurants in Sha Tin District to collect food waste generated by nearby households and restaurants via kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. We are planning to expand this scheme to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024 to provide more convenient recycling outlets for the public. As at February 2024, the Recycling Spots in Sha Tin District have been used for more than 2 100 times for food waste recycling.

To facilitate the recycling of food waste generated by street-level restaurants, the EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at RCPs under the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. As at February 2024, we have set up food waste collection points at 58 RCPs, and the number will increase to nearly 100 in the second quarter of 2024. Currently, around 400 restaurants have registered in the scheme, with a daily average of around 2 tonnes of food waste collected. In addition, the EPD has set up mobile booths or used trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po, and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage (F&B) clusters” in these 4 districts. The EPD will expand the initiative progressively to Hong Kong Island and Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. At present, around 200 restaurants have registered in this scheme, and the daily average amount of food waste collected is around 1.4 tonnes. Nearby restaurants can arrange to deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling when necessary. We anticipate that the number of participating restaurants will gradually increase.

4. O-PARK2 came into operation in March 2024.
5. With the implementation of municipal solid waste charging in Hong Kong, coupled with enhanced publicity and promotion of food waste recycling and greater public participation, we are expecting a decrease in waste disposal and a gradual increase in the recovery of various types of recyclables (including food waste).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3007)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The estimate for 2024-25 is \$20.4 million higher than the revised estimate for last year, which is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the non-recurrent item "Countryside Conservation Office" (CCO). Besides, the Chief Executive has proposed to implement a "New Proactive Conservation Policy" in his 2022 Policy Address, and the Government has indicated that it will conduct a strategic feasibility study on the development of a Wetland Conservation Parks (WCPs) System and the relevant study is expected to be completed by the end of last year. In this regard, please advise this Committee of:

1. the areas involved in the increased cash flow of the CCO; and
2. the manpower and expenditure involved in the strategic feasibility study on a WCPs System.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The increase in the cash flow of the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) is mainly due to an increase of \$17 million in the estimated expenditure for 2024-25 as compared with the revised estimate for 2023-24 of the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme, including a continuous and cumulative increase in the expected number of projects to be approved and amount of funding required for the projects already approved; and the remainder due to an increase in the operational expenditure of the projects commenced, including the CCO's dedicated website and 2 smart countryside conservation trails.
2. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is conducting a strategic feasibility study on the directional proposals on the development of a Wetland Conservation Parks System put forward in the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy, in order to ascertain the feasibility of the relevant proposals and formulate recommendations on the location/boundary, functions, positioning, management model, etc., of each of the proposed parks. The consultancy fee of the strategic feasibility study is about \$6.8 million in total. 2 dedicated additional staff have been recruited by

the AFCD to oversee the study, while there are other existing AFCD staff providing assistance in this regard. The supervision of the strategic feasibility study is part of the overall duties of the Environment and Ecology Bureau, and the manpower required is absorbed by its existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)158

(Question Serial No. 2478)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the promotion of the development of hydrogen energy in Hong Kong, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- details of the trials of hydrogen fuel cell heavy vehicles to be conducted by the Government; and whether there is a specific timetable;
- further to the above, the budget involved;
- when the Government will complete the amendment to the existing legal framework relating to the application of hydrogen fuel; and whether there is a timetable;
- whether the Government has plans to construct local hydrogen power plants;
- the feasibility of local hydrogen power generation, and the number of existing local power generation units that are hydrogen-powered;
- further to the above, whether the Government will acquire hydrogen energy from the Mainland for power generation, so as to further help realise the targets on decarbonisation and emission reduction; and
- whether the Government will set a target utilisation rate for the use of hydrogen for power generation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) vehicles are new energy vehicles with potential for further development, especially for application to heavy vehicles. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) will commence trials on 3 HFC heavy vehicles for street washing this year. With the operational data and experience collected from the trials, we will assess the operational performance, including cost effectiveness, and the environmental impact of the HFC heavy vehicles in comparison to traditional fuel-propelled vehicles. The trials of HFC street washing vehicles will last for 18 months, involving an average monthly cost of about \$180,000 per vehicle, including modifications as well as relevant repair and

maintenance works. In addition, to assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the New Energy Transport Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects, such as the procurement of HFC heavy vehicles. The Environment and Ecology Bureau will follow up on the trials to collect operational data and experience to help formulate an operational safety framework for adoption of hydrogen fuel in the transport trade locally in the long run.

To provide a legal framework that is suitable for local hydrogen fuel application, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is working on the amendments to the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), which involves the inclusion of the safety guidelines for hydrogen fuelled vehicles and maintenance workshops, safety guidelines for hydrogen filling stations, and guidance note for the quantitative risk assessment study for hydrogen installations in the legal framework. The EMSD conducted a one-month consultation with the industry between 20 February and 19 March this year and obtained generally positive views. The EMSD will continue to carry out relevant legislative amendments with the aim of introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in 2025.

At present, the two power companies in Hong Kong do not have any generating units that are hydrogen-powered. The Government has given approval for the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited to carry out a pilot project at Black Point Power Station to explore the feasibility of blending hydrogen and natural gas for electricity generation in the 2024-28 Development Plan.

The Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 promulgated by the Government in 2021 sets out the decarbonisation strategy of "net-zero electricity generation". With the overall target of achieving carbon neutrality before 2050, we will progressively increase the use of zero-carbon energy for electricity generation by taking into account 4 important factors, i.e. safety, reliability, affordability and environmental performance. In this connection, the Government will continue to promote the development of renewable energy while at the same time explore ways to enhance regional co-operation, identify more sources of zero-carbon energy in neighbouring regions, and explore the use of new zero-carbon energy, such as hydrogen, etc., for electricity generation, thereby gradually reducing reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation and achieving the target of increasing the share of zero-carbon energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation to around 60% to 70% before 2035.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)159

(Question Serial No. 2479)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the promotion of the use of solar energy in Hong Kong, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- the respective percentages of local power generated by solar energy in the past 3 years;
- the number of solar panels installed at government buildings and their locations; and the amount of electricity generated each year;
- the details and progress of the \$1 billion allocated by the Government for government departments to install additional renewable energy (RE) facilities;
- whether there is any new site identified for the construction of solar energy generation facilities;
- in order to promote the development of RE and use of energy-efficient building installations, tax concessions are granted for the capital expenditure incurred in the procurement of such installations; the respective numbers of such applications in the past 3 years; as well as the amount involved and their details;
- whether there is a measure in place for the disposal of waste solar panels, so as to prevent such waste from polluting the environment; and
- the details of the existing scheme for the provision of solar panels at restored landfills and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. According to the Hong Kong Energy End-use Data, renewable energy (RE) accounted for roughly 0.3%, 0.4% and 0.6% of electricity consumption in 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively. This included the solar energy used to heat water, and electricity generated by solar panels, wind and hydro power systems and waste-to-energy facilities. We do not have the breakdowns.

2. to 4.

The Government has earmarked a total of \$3 billion to install RE facilities at government buildings and infrastructure since 2017-18. As at December 2023, about \$2 billion have been approved for 226 projects, including the installation of solar energy generation systems at government offices, government quarters, schools, recreational grounds-cum-rest gardens, reservoirs, pedestrian links, etc. as well as the installation of waste-to-energy and hydropower systems at multiple sewage treatment plants. 143 of the 226 approved projects have been completed, and the rest of them will commence works as scheduled next year. We expect that these projects can generate a total of about 25 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually. The new solar energy generation system projects for government buildings and infrastructure supported by the above funding in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Buildings / Infrastructure	Expected annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
2023		
1	Lantau North Divisional Police Station	18 480
2	North District Government Offices	25 675
3	Police Tactical Unit Headquarters	9 750
4	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Tai Po Depot	24 700
5	Tai Po Government Offices	33 150
6	Western District Public Cargo Working Area	6 160
7	Wo Hop Shek Crematorium& Columbarium	22 750
8	Kowloon East Government Offices	3 600
9	Morse Park (Park No. 4)	9 880
2022		
10	Jockey Club Government Secondary School	39 000
11	Kowloon Tong Government Primary School	18 850
12	Mui Wo Government Offices	21 175
13	Shek Pik Prison	100 100
14	Border District Police Headquarters	19 500
15	Civil Aid Service Headquarters	8 160
16	Kowloon City Government Offices	6 500
17	Lantau South (Mui Wo) Divisional Police Station	5 775
18	Stanley Sub-divisional Police Station	11 600
19	Yung Shue Wan Pier	9 240
20	Independent Commission Against Corruption Headquarters Building	1 803
21	Kowloon Bay Sports Ground	9 100
22	Kwai Shing Circuit Garden	1 650
23	Marine East Divisional Police Station	26 250
24	Po Kong Village Road Park	14 915
25	Stonecutters Island Public Cargo Working Area	9 100
2021		

	Buildings / Infrastructure	Expected annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
26	Aberdeen Tree Centre	4 000
27	Cheung Chau Aeronautical Meteorological Station	3 600
28	Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force Headquarters	23 100
29	Kowloon Technical School	9 240
30	Mongkok Government Offices	10 780
31	Western Wholesale Food Market	77 000
32	N.T. Heung Yee Kuk Yuen Long District Secondary School	31 200
33	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution	9 240
34	Queen Elizabeth School	6 930
35	Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre	9 000
36	Sha Tin Government Secondary School	18 480
37	Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School	7 800
38	Tuen Mun Government Offices	61 000
39	Tuen Mun Government Primary School	17 000
40	Fanling Health Centre	9 750
41	Block M, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	6 930
42	Block N, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	7 700
43	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	300
44	Sha Tin Divisional Police Station	9 240
45	Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School	8 250
46	Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School	9 900
47	Tunnel KS57; across Cherry Street, near Oak Street	20 000
48	Silvermine Bay Treatment Works	70 000

Note: The management, operation, repair, maintenance, etc. of the above solar energy generation system projects are undertaken by individual departments. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has not kept information on the actual power generation efficiency of the projects.

The new solar energy generation system projects for government buildings and infrastructure expected to be supported by the above funding in 2024 and 2025 are tabulated below:

	Buildings / Infrastructure	Expected annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
1	South East New Territories Landfill/Tseung Kwan O Preliminary Treatment Works	1 000 000
2	Kwai Chung Industrial Wastewater Pumping Station	70 000
3	Sunny Bay Sewage Pumping Station	50 000
4	Penny's Bay Sewage Pumping Station	50 000
5	Tin Shui Wai Tin Wah Road Sewage Pumping Station	50 000

5. The number of applications received by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) for concessionary tax deductions in relation to environmental protection installations and the total deductions granted in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Year of assessment	Number of applications for deductions	Total deductions (\$ million)
2019/20	56	489.6
2020/21	88	548.4
2021/22	104	342.1

The IRD does not have the yearly statistics for the year of assessment 2022/23 as the assessment cycle has not been completed.

6. Solar panels do not have moving parts, and normally can be used for more than 25 years. Solar panels are not e-waste or chemical waste, and are therefore currently disposed of at landfills in the same way as ordinary municipal solid waste. Although there is no imminent need to handle or recycle large quantities of solar panels in Hong Kong at the moment, the Government will keep in view the Mainland and international trends and actual practices on handling waste solar panels, and will continue to closely monitor the local usage of solar panels, so as to formulate a suitable solution for Hong Kong in a timely manner.
7. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) commissioned a 150-kilowatt solar energy generation system at Jordan Valley Landfill in February 2023. The system is the first of its kind on a restored landfill in Hong Kong with a view to making better use of vacant land and promoting the sustainability of restored landfills. Moreover, at the South East New Territories Landfill in Tseung Kwan O, the EPD will launch a pilot scheme on solar energy generation, and the Water Supplies Department and the Drainage Services Department will also install solar energy generation systems respectively.

Some of the recreational facilities developed at restored landfills by non-profit-making organisations or sports associations are also equipped with solar energy generation systems. These include the solar energy generation systems installed respectively by the Football Association of Hong Kong, China at the Football Training Centre at Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill in 2022 and by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals at the E-Co

Village under construction. The EPD will continue to keep in view suitable projects for installation of solar energy generation systems at restored landfills.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)160

(Question Serial No. 0995)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Government's support for the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme for electric private cars (e-PCs) and the promotion of the use of environment-friendly vehicles, please advise on the following:

1. After adjusting the first registration tax concessions for e-PCs and the concessions for e-PCs in general, will the Government allocate more funding to encourage the introduction of more new energy vehicles in compliance with standards? If yes, what are the specific budget arrangement? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Government has been striving to promote the use of new energy vehicles, including the provision of financial incentives, in order to reduce roadside air pollutant emissions and attain the target of carbon neutrality in transport sector by 2050. Nevertheless, to ensure the prudent use of public funds, the Government will only provide subsidies under sufficient justification upon considering relevant factors such as technological and market development. Therefore, the Government announced in the latest Budget that starting from 1 April 2024, the first registration tax (FRT) concession arrangement for electric private cars will be adjusted, and the FRT of electric commercial vehicles (e-CVs) will continue to be fully waived in order to promote the use of e-CVs.

Enterprises are also allowed to claim full profits tax deduction for their capital expenditure on the procurement of electric vehicles in the first year after purchase. The Government encourages the transport trade or charitable/non-profit making organisations to conduct trials of various new energy transport technologies through the \$1.1 billion New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund). As of end-February 2024, 319 trials have been subsidised for a total sum of \$274 million under the NET Fund. The Government also encourages vehicle suppliers and charging service providers to bring in e-CV models suitable for local use, and promote

the maketisation and healthy market competition of charging services. Hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) vehicle is another type of new energy vehicles. To assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the NET Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects such as the procurement of HFC heavy vehicles. The NET Fund will continue to subsidise the transport trade or charitable/non-profit making organisations to conduct trials and promote the wider use of zero-emission new energy transport technologies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)161

(Question Serial No. 0340)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel in 2022 to co-ordinate the work of bureaux and departments on promoting the local application of hydrogen energy. This year, the Government will continue to launch and monitor the trials of hydrogen fuel cell double-deck buses and heavy vehicles to explore the potential of applying hydrogen fuel in green transport. In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) the trial projects, amounts of subsidy, funding details and project implementation dates set out in tabular form;
- 2) whether hydrogen refilling facilities are installed at local petrol filling stations; if yes, the locations and amounts involved; and
- 3) whether the aforesaid trial projects cover heavy vehicles for refuse collection or street washing; if yes, whether assessment of the costs of purchasing and operating such heavy vehicles has been conducted and how these costs compare with those of traditional fuel-propelled vehicles; and the impact of the two on the environment.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1) One of the major tasks of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) is to review and assess applications for hydrogen fuel trial projects and advise on aspects such as safety and planning, with a view to assisting applicants in commencing the trials as early as possible. None of the review and assessment areas involves government subsidies. As at February 2024, the Working Group has given agreement-in-principle to a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects, of which 3 already commenced. Details are tabulated below:

Project	Project implementation date (as advised by applicant)
Citybus Limited (Citybus): trial of 1 hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) double-deck bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trial commenced in November 2023 - Passenger service officially started on 25 February 2024 - Trial period of about 12 months
Citybus: trial of a hydrogen refilling facility installed at its West Kowloon Depot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trial commenced in November 2023 - The hydrogen refilling facility has been serving the HFC double-deck bus - Trial period of about 12 months
Sinopec (Hong Kong) Limited (Sinopec): trial of a public hydrogen refilling station to be built at Au Tau, Yuen Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement-in-principle given by the Working Group on 16 June 2023 - Temporary planning permission obtained from the Town Planning Board (TPB) and construction works underway - Trial operation expected to commence within this year
Hong Kong and China Gas Company (HKCG): trial of a hydrogen extraction facility installed at its Tai Po plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trial commenced in November 2023 - Trial period of about 6 months
MTR Corporation Limited: test run of a hydrogen-fuelled light rail vehicle (LRV) in Tuen Mun without carrying passengers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement-in-principle given by the Working Group on 16 June 2023 - Trial operation planned to commence within this year
Linde HKO Limited: trial use of a hydrogen tube trailer to deliver hydrogen to a hydrogen-fuelled LRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement-in-principle given by the Working Group on 16 June 2023 - Trial operation planned to commence within this year
Citybus: trial operation of 5 HFC double-deck buses and a hydrogen refilling facility to be installed at its bus depot in Chai Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement-in-principle given by the Working Group on 24 August 2023 - Trial operation planned to commence in 2025

<p>China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited, Hong Kong Nation-Synergy International Hydrogen Power Technology Company Limited and Sinopec: joint trial use of hydrogen fuel to provide electricity for a site office at a construction site in Lok Ma Chau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement-in-principle given by the Working Group on 12 October 2023 - Trial operation planned to commence within this year
<p>HKCG and a padel company: joint trial of extracting hydrogen from the existing town gas network at the latter's Sai Kung site to generate electricity for charging electric vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement-in-principle given by the Working Group on 12 October 2023 - Trial operation planned to commence within this year

- 2) At its meeting in June 2023, the Working Group agreed in principle on an application submitted by Sinopec for a trial project to build a hydrogen refilling station at Au Tau, Yuen Long. Temporary planning permission has been obtained from the TPB for the project on the proposed use of the petrol filling station site as a hydrogen refilling station which is currently under construction. Trial operation is expected to commence within this year. The project is self-financed by the applicant without involving any government subsidies.

- 3) The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will commence trials on 3 HFC heavy vehicles for street washing this year. The trials of HFC street washing vehicles will last for 18 months, involving an average monthly cost of about \$180,000 per vehicle, including modifications as well as relevant repair and maintenance works. The Environment and Ecology Bureau will continue to follow up on the trials. With the operational data and experience collected from the trials, we will assess the operational performance, including cost effectiveness, and the environmental impact of the HFC heavy vehicles in comparison to traditional fuel-propelled vehicles to help formulate an operational safety framework for adoption of hydrogen fuel in the transport trade locally in the long run.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)162

(Question Serial No. 0341)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is announced in last year's Budget that the Government would earmark \$200 million under the New Energy Transport Fund (Item 840) for trials of hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) electric double-deckers and heavy vehicles, and that \$350 million has been set aside to provide subsidies to 4 in-harbour ferry operators for the construction and trials of electric ferries and the related charging facilities. Please advise of the following:

- 1) a breakdown of the relevant expenditures on the procurement, construction or leasing of HFC electric vehicles/ferries, setting up of hydrogen refilling facilities, operating expenses (such as the purchase of hydrogen fuel), etc. under the subsidised trials;
- 2) whether there will be any new trials in the next 3 years and the estimated expenditure involved; and
- 3) whether there is any plan to inject further funding into the dedicated funding for the hydrogen fuel research; if yes, the amount involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- 1) and 2) The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to co-ordinate preparatory work of bureaux and departments for using hydrogen as fuel locally, and to promote the local adoption of hydrogen energy through trial projects. The Working Group encourages applicants interested in undertaking trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology in Hong Kong to submit applications. To assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects such as the procurement of hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) heavy vehicles. We expect that the NET Fund will start accepting applications relating to HFC heavy vehicles within this financial year.

In addition to the aforementioned trial projects on HFC heavy vehicles subsidised by the NET Fund, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will commence trials on 3 HFC heavy vehicles for street washing this year. The trials of HFC street washing vehicles will last for 18 months, involving an average monthly cost of about \$180,000 per vehicle, including modifications as well as relevant repair and maintenance works.

As regards the \$350 million earmarked by the Government for launching trials on electric ferries, hydrogen ferries are not included.

- 3) At present, the Government has no plan to inject further funding into the NET Fund for trials on hydrogen fuel transportation.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)163

(Question Serial No. 0760)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention this year, the Bureau stated that it would commission a feasibility study on providing green methanol bunkering for both local and ocean-going vessels, and promulgate an action plan to construct bunkering facilities and develop supply chains, and take forward the preparatory work for the provision of liquefied natural gas bunkering for ocean-going vessels jointly with the Transport and Logistics Bureau. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee whether it has assessed the impact on local carbon emissions after the green cargo vessels have fully replaced all locally registered cargo vessels?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

Switching to the use of green methanol as an alternative to the conventional marine fuels can help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the shipping industry. The Transport and Logistics Bureau, in collaboration with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and other relevant departments, has commissioned a feasibility study on providing green methanol bunkering for both local and ocean-going vessels. The feasibility study will cover the facilities and supply chain setup required for the implementation of green fuel bunkering, such as green methanol, in Hong Kong, including the sources of green fuels, transportation, storage and bunkering, etc., as well as the feasibility of providing green methanol bunkering for both local and ocean-going vessels. The feasibility study is expected to be completed in the second half of 2024 with the promulgation of an action plan. Although GHG emissions from local shipping activities only account for a very small portion (about 1.7%) of Hong Kong's total emissions, and GHG emissions from cross-boundary shipping activities are not included in the GHG inventories of individual regions/countries under the Paris Agreement, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will continue to encourage the shipping industry to comply with the relevant requirements or guidelines of the

International Maritime Organization in order to minimise the GHG emissions from the shipping industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)164

(Question Serial No. 0761)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With a view to enhancing conservation of Chinese White Dolphins (CWDs) and other marine life, the Government proposed to establish the North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) in the north Lantau waters as the eighth marine park in Hong Kong, and will oversee the designation of the proposed NLMP this year. Would the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) What is the expected completion time of the NLMP designation? What are the respective manpower currently involved/to be involved in the matters of the NLMP at this stage and upon its completion?
- 2) As the NLMP is close to the Pearl River Estuary CWD National Nature Reserve in Guangdong Province, has the Government commissioned experts to observe the inhabiting situation of the CWDs after the completion of the NLMP? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- 1) It is expected that the statutory designation process of the North Lantau Marine Park (NLMP) will be completed and the park will be formally established in the fourth quarter of this year. The new marine park will connect the nearby existing Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) and Brothers Marine Park (BMP), thereby forming a connecting marine reserve network in the north Lantau waters for better protection of the important habitats of the Chinese White Dolphins (CWDs). There are currently 21 staff responsible for day-to-day patrol and enforcement, facility maintenance and management duties, etc. in the SCLKCMP and BMP. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will make use of the existing resources and daily management staff to manage the aforesaid 2 marine parks and the to-be-established NLMP in an integrated approach.

- 2) The Government will commission experts to monitor the situation of the CWDs in Hong Kong waters, including the waters of the to-be-established NLMP, with an estimated overall expenditure of approximately \$3 million each year. The AFCD will maintain close liaison, exchanges of knowledge and collaboration with the management authorities of the nearby Pearl River Estuary CWD National Nature Reserve in Guangdong Province regarding reserve management, publicity and education, CWD scientific research and monitoring, etc., for more effective conservation of the CWD communities living in the waters of both places.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2293)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 81 of the Budget Speech that the Government's Green Tech Fund (GTF) funds research and development projects which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection, and encourages their subsequent practical applications. With \$400 million injected into the GTF, 30 projects from local universities, public research institutes and enterprises have been approved, involving a total grant of about \$130 million for subsidising local research projects.

In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the effectiveness, total number of applications received, number of applications approved and funding provisions involved since the launch of the GTF in 2020? Are there any plans to set key performance indicators (KPIs) related to the carbon neutrality target for reviewing the effectiveness of subsidised projects? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

In 2020, the Government set up the Green Tech Fund (GTF) to provide better and more focused funding support to research and development (R&D) projects which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. The Government has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF to support R&D projects in the priority areas including net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction. Since the launch of the GTF for application in December 2020, a total of 368 applications have been received. 30 projects involving a total grant of about \$130 million were approved following careful deliberation by the GTF Assessment Committee. There was a new round of GTF application starting from December 2023 and closing on 20 March this year. While the approved R&D projects have commenced, none of them is completed as of now. Upon the completion of the funded projects, we will share and promote the project outcomes on the GTF website and other suitable platforms to encourage further development and practical applications.

The GTF's Guide to Applicants (the Guide) already sets out the mechanism to review the effectiveness of subsidised projects. According to the Guide, the Recipient Organisations are required to submit their progress reports and final reports within the specified periods. Based on the contents of the reports, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) will assess whether the projects concerned have achieved the intended objectives and contribution towards decarbonisation and environmental protection as stated in the proposal. Upon completion of their projects, the Recipient Organisations are also required to submit a summary and presentation slides on the project deliverables for publication on the GTF website. Moreover, upon 1 year and 3 years from project completion respectively, the Recipient Organisations are required to report through the GTF website their efforts in publicising project deliverables and facilitating technology transfer, together with quantitative measurements on the adoption of the project results by the industry. The EEB will take into account the outcomes of the R&D work and the post-project evaluation in considering future funding applications from the same Recipient Organisation or the same project coordinator.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)166

(Question Serial No. 2394)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environment and Ecology Bureau pointed out that it would oversee the retrofitting of electric charging facilities in petrol filling stations (PFSs) with a view to facilitating the transition to green transport. In this regard, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. How many applications for retrofitting electric charging facilities in PFSs or converting PFSs into quick charging facilities has the Government received so far? How many applications have been approved? What is the number of charging facilities involved in the approved applications? Please set out the number based on the approved locations.
2. As for existing PFSs which have been granted approval for retrofitting charging facilities, what are the durations of their short-term lease extension? Please list them one by one.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

(1) and (2)

Through the refining of the land lease conditions for petrol filling stations (PFSs), the Government is offering suitable incentives for PFS operators to retrofit electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities in the usable space of PFSs, so as to make effective use of about 180 PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. The Government wrote to PFS operators in November 2023 to invite submission of preliminary proposals for retrofitting quick charging facilities at PFSs. The Government received a total of 98 proposals, and invited various PFS operators to submit their detailed design proposals for 60 PFSs (involving over 200 chargers) in early March 2024. 6 PFSs were rejected due to land lease issues or non-compliance with operational requirements, while the remaining 32 PFSs are under further analysis and feasibility study conducted by government bureaux and departments concerned. As the details of the approved locations involve sensitive commercial data and the

Government is discussing the relevant details with the various PFS operators, we are unable to provide more details.

The PFS operators are carrying out detailed design work for the aforementioned 60 PFSs that have been invited to submit a detailed design proposal, and will submit applications to the government departments concerned (including the Fire Services Department, Transport Department, Buildings Department and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department) in accordance with legal and technical requirements.

The land leases of the existing PFSs, which have been granted approval for retrofitting charging facilities, can be extended by 3 to 7 years depending on the number of chargers retrofitted.

Regarding the conversion of PFSs into quick charging stations (QCSs), the Government is studying the gradual conversion of some existing PFSs into QCSs in the medium to long term, so as to support the charging of different EV types, in particular electric commercial vehicles. The Government has completed the feasibility study of converting 2 vacant PFS sites, which are located in Kowloon East and New Territories East respectively, into QCSs, and already invited tenders for the 2 vacant PFS sites in the first quarter of 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)167

(Question Serial No. 2395)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environment and Ecology Bureau will provide support to bureaux and departments in enhancing carbon management by carrying out carbon audits on major government buildings; and progressively extend the conduct of carbon audits to typical government infrastructure to identify room for carbon reduction. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The Government has conducted a three-year carbon audit on some 250 government buildings from 2020-21 to 2022-23. What is the expenditure involved?
2. What are the results of the carbon audits? The Government has proposed to improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by more than 6% in 2024-25. According to the results of the carbon audits, how many government buildings will need to actively improve their energy performance in order to achieve this target?
3. What are the typical government infrastructure to which the Government plans to extend the measures of carbon audits? Please list them out.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Siu-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1-2. The Government earmarked a non-recurrent provision of \$14 million in 2020-21 to carry out energy audits and carbon audits on about 250 government buildings in 3 years (i.e. from 2020-21 to 2022-23), with a view to systematically collecting and compiling data on the activities relating to carbon emission to identify energy saving and carbon reduction opportunities. The carbon audits mentioned in the question above are part of the work of energy audits and carbon audits. At present, the Government is still analysing the results of the relevant part of the carbon audits and following up with the relevant government departments on the implementation of the measures recommended in the carbon audits, and will announce the results in due course.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) also conducts energy audits for government buildings participating in the energy audits and carbon audits, and encourages government departments to proactively implement the energy saving measures recommended in the audit reports.

In addition, to enhance the energy performance of government buildings, the Government is leading by example in seeking to improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by more than 6% in 2024-25 (compared to the base year 2018-19). The EMSD requests bureaux and departments (B&Ds) to provide information on energy consumption and renewable energy of government buildings and facilities every year, in order to review their energy performance. The EMSD also organises annual briefings to discuss with B&Ds on energy performance and provide advice on energy saving measures and planning of renewable energy projects. The Government is also conducting retro-commissioning and implementing energy saving projects for its buildings, such as replacing lighting facilities with light emitting diode (LED) lamps and adopting high-efficiency air conditioning units. With the Government's overall energy performance improving by about 5.3% as at 2022-23, we are confident that the target of exceeding 6% can be achieved by 2024-25.

3. Government buildings account for about 50% of the total energy consumption arising from the Government's operation. To further enhance the Government's carbon management efforts, we will progressively extend the carbon audit practice to typical major government infrastructure, including water treatment works, sewage treatment facilities, fresh water and salt water pumping facilities, road lighting systems and ventilation systems at public transport interchanges, etc. The results of the carbon audits will not only help relevant B&Ds formulate carbon reduction strategies for the above and similar facilities, but will also assist them in establishing a mechanism and guidelines for conducting carbon audits, which will in turn facilitate the carbon management efforts for other infrastructure in the future.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)168

(Question Serial No. 1591)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Strategic Feasibility Study on the Establishment of the Wetland Conservation Parks System

The captioned study has been published. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1 As the study involves issues relating to wetlands and conservation parks in the Northern Metropolis, and taking into account the formation of the ecological corridor between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, has the study involved discussions or exchanges with other cities in the Greater Bay Area, so as to facilitate the creation of synergy between the wetlands and parks within the study area and the similar planning of other neighbouring cities?
2. It is mentioned in the study that the Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park will be incorporated into the Hoo Hok Wai Wetland Conservation Park for planning and management purposes. In view of the rezoning of the nearby funeral site at Sandy Ridge for innovation and technology use, will the Government consider reviewing the positioning of the Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park and proposing ways to dovetail with the development of innovation and technology in the area?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

(1) Under the Guangdong-Hong Kong and Hong Kong-Shenzhen co-operation mechanism, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has set up the Task Force for Collaboration on the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy to strengthen liaison and co-ordination between Hong Kong and the Mainland on matters relating to the Northern Metropolis, including making optimal use of the synergy between the Northern Metropolis and cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) (especially Shenzhen) in areas such as ecological conservation, industry development, land use, etc., as well as the opportunities arising therefrom.

In fact, the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in the Northern Metropolis and the Guangdong Shenzhen Futian Mangrove Wetlands of International Importance are ecologically linked, sharing the Shenzhen Bay (Deep Bay) ecosystem. They also serve as internationally important over-wintering and resting sites for waterbirds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. In this connection, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the Planning and Natural Resources Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality signed the Framework Arrangement for the Conservation of Shenzhen Bay (Deep Bay) Wetlands in January 2023 to establish a sister reserve network for both internationally important wetlands, and strengthen cross-boundary co-operation between both sides on wetland conservation, so as to create synergy for wetland conservation in the GBA. The Hong Kong and Shenzhen sides have set up a working group to oversee the implementation of relevant measures, including the joint removal of exotic mangrove species in Shenzhen Bay (Deep Bay), sharing of ecological monitoring data in Shenzhen Bay (Deep Bay), etc.

(2) The area of the Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park is about 4 hectares. Around 90% of the area is ecological compensation area provided under the statutory Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the Shenzhen River Regulation Project for mitigating the ecological impact caused by the project, with the AFCD being responsible for the habitat management work. The planning of the Northern Metropolis includes both urban development as well as ecological and environmental conservation projects. The co-existence of the two not only achieves “co-existence of development and conservation”, but also creates a unique urban and rural landscape for the Northern Metropolis. When planning the land use of the boundary commerce and industry zone in the eastern part of the Northern Metropolis, the Government will suitably consider the proposed Hoo Hok Wai Wetland Conservation Park (including the part of Sha Ling/Nam Hang) nearby, with a view to ensuring compatibility and co-ordination in respect of planning. As for the site at Sandy Ridge in North District, the Government plans to put it for innovation and technology and related use upon the completion of relevant technical assessment and rezoning procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)169

(Question Serial No. 1592)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Ecological Corridor between Hong Kong and Shenzhen

The Wutong Mountain in Shenzhen and Robin's Nest in Hong Kong will form an ecological corridor between Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and the Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) has been established. Please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1 As the extension works of the North East New Territories Landfill is underway 150 metres away from the RNCP, it is expected that the ecological corridor will be affected by the operation of the landfill for more than a few years. Are the RNCP authority's powers and functions effective to monitor the RNCP from the pollution caused by the landfill?
- 2 Given that the RNCP is expected to be managed by a dedicated team of staff, please give a brief account of the staff establishment and how they perform their duties on a regular basis.
- 3 Further to the above question, what are the channels for the public to notify the dedicated staff or the authority if they believe there are pollution problems in the RNCP, or that the RNCP has been affected by the landfill?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The feasibility and the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report of the North East New Territories Landfill Extension has been approved in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. According to the EIA report, after the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures such as the extensive plantation of tree seedlings and the appropriate progressive restoration of the operational areas where landfilling is completed, the environmental impacts of the project (including the natural environment in the Robin's Nest area) will be at an acceptable level. The relevant requirements stipulated in the EIA report and the environmental permit have already

been incorporated into the contract of the project, and the effectiveness of various mitigation measures will be assured in accordance with the environmental monitoring and audit programme proposed in the EIA report. As the landfill and its extension are at a considerable distance from the ecological corridor between Robin's Nest of Hong Kong and Shenzhen's Wutong Mountain, the Government expects no significant impact will be caused to the ecological corridor concerned by the operation of the landfill. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will keep in view the changes in the Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP) and its surroundings during routine inspections and take appropriate follow-up actions with the relevant departments as necessary.

2. After the establishment of the RNCP, there is a need for ongoing management and operation, including establishment and maintenance of recreational facilities, implementation of nature conservation measures, refuse collection, patrol and enforcement, publicity and education, etc. The AFCD will carry out the above tasks through redeployment of existing manpower resources and engagement of service contractors.
3. If members of the public come across suspected pollution problems or landfill-related issues in the RNCP, they may contact the Environmental Protection Department or the AFCD directly through the existing channels (e.g. departmental hotlines and 1823) for appropriate follow-up action.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)170

(Question Serial No. 1593)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Conservation of the Northern Metropolis

The Strategic Feasibility Study on the Development of Wetland Conservation Parks (WCPs) System (the Feasibility Study) proposes a phased approach for the implementation of the WCPs System, with the establishment of the Sam Po Shue WCP to be taken forward in the first phase, in which the Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park will be incorporated into the Hoo Hok Wai WCP for planning and management purposes. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1 What are the current official definitions of “Conservation Park” and “Nature Park”, and their respective governing laws?
- 2 According to the Feasibility Study, what are the ecological conservation values of the Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park, and the rationales for its establishment?
- 3 Are all the land titles of the Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park held by the Government? If not, what is the composition of the land titles and will land resumption be involved?
- 4 The Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park is directly adjacent to the Sha Ling construction site rezoned for innovation and technology use. Will the Government consider changing the park’s positioning in order to cope with the innovation and technology development of that area?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

[Question 1]

The terms and concept of “Wetland Conservation Park” (WCP) and “Nature Park” under the WCPs System originated in the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy (the Strategy) promulgated by the Government in 2021. While the two have no statutory definition, their main objectives are to conserve ecology and foster harmonious co-existence between humans

and nature, only that different terms are adopted due to different locations. There is currently no specific legislation governing the designation/establishment, jurisdiction and management of a “Nature Park”. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is conducting a Strategic Feasibility Study (the Feasibility Study) on the directional proposals on the WCPs System put forward in the Strategy. We will further explore the positioning, functions and management of the proposed Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park at a later stage.

[Question 2]

The proposed Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park is part of the proposed WCPs System, which aims to achieve conservation, eco-education, eco-recreation, sustainable development of aquaculture, as well as creating environmental capacity for the development of the Northern Metropolis. The Strategy proposed the establishment of the Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park in view that it is situated between the proposed Hoo Hok Wai WCP and the recently established Robin’s Nest Country Park, serving as an eco-node where the entire wetlands system in the western and central parts of the Northern Metropolis transits to the woodland ecosystem in the east. The preliminary findings of the Feasibility Study showed that the proposed Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park mainly comprised habitats such as ecological compensation wetlands, marshes, reeds, etc., restored from abandoned fishponds, with some birds, mammals, amphibians, freshwater fishes and other species of conservation interest recorded in the area, indicating a medium ecological value. The Feasibility Study, which is being conducted by AFCD, preliminarily recommended that the proposed Hoo Hok Wai WCP together with the part of Sha Ling/Nam Hang could be positioned as a “rural retreat” to make good use of the local habitat resources to provide rural experiences/activities, while achieving the multi-functions of ecological conservation, sustainable development of aquaculture, eco-tourism, etc.

[Question 3]

The area of the proposed Sha Ling/Nam Hang Nature Park is about 4 hectares. Around 90% of the area is ecological compensation area recommended for implementation in the statutory Environmental Impact Assessment Report of the Shenzhen River Regulation Project to mitigate the ecological impact caused by the project. The area concerned is owned by the Government, with the AFCD being responsible for the habitat management work. The remaining small portion of land in the area is private land. The Feasibility Study will provide recommendations on the modes of future management and protection of the land within the park area for each of the proposed parks. The Government will explore the most suitable arrangements for private land acquisition during the development stage of the proposed parks in future.

[Question 4]

AFCD and the consultant of the Feasibility Study have consulted the relevant bureaux/departments, including the Northern Metropolis Co-ordination Office/Development Bureau and Planning Department, on the preliminary recommendations for the WCPs System under the Feasibility Study, including the positioning of each proposed park. The general public and stakeholders have also been consulted during part 2 of the public engagement

exercise. The consultant of the Feasibility Study will submit the final recommendations to the Government in the first half of this year after considering the views collected.

The Northern Metropolis has rich and diverse habitats, and ecological conservation is one of its main development objectives. The planning of the Northern Metropolis includes both urban development as well as ecological and environmental conservation projects. The co-existence of the two not only achieves “co-existence of development and conservation”, but also creates a unique urban and rural landscape for the Northern Metropolis. When planning the land use within the Northern Metropolis, the Government will suitably consider the proposed parks under the WCPs System, with a view to ensuring compatibility and co-ordination in respect of planning.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)171

(Question Serial No. 1594)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Plans on Charging Facilities and Feed-in Tariff

The Government continues to promote decarbonisation, including efforts such as the introduction of feed-in tariff and the provision of additional charging facilities, etc. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of:

Whether the Government has considered increasing the number of charging facilities at suitable locations in rural areas of the New Territories to meet the relevant policy objectives, including but not limited to government buildings and their connected car parks, premises of various rural committees and adjacent government land in rural areas?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

The Government strives to expand the network of charging facilities, and aims to increase the total number of public and private parking spaces with charging infrastructure in Hong Kong (including rural areas in the New Territories) to about 200 000 by mid-2027. The Government updated the Joint Circular on Green Government Buildings in March 2023, stipulating that all parking spaces for private cars, motorcycles and light goods vehicles (whether indoors or outdoors) within the boundaries of newly built government buildings with tender documents issued on or after 1 April 2023 must be fully equipped with medium electric vehicle (EV) chargers. As for existing government buildings, where technically feasible, efforts would be taken as far as possible to provide EV charging facilities for all parking spaces for private cars, motorcycles and light goods vehicles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)172****(Question Serial No. 0768)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the extension of the first registration tax (FRT) concession arrangement for electric vehicles (EVs) for 2 years, would the Government advise the Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the numbers of newly registered electric private cars (e-PCs) and newly registered non-e-PCs since 2020?
- (2) Among the e-PCs granted FRT concessions, what are the respective numbers of vehicles benefited from the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme and basic concessions since 2020? What are the amounts of concessions involved?
- (3) Among the e-PCs granted FRT concessions, what is the number of e-PCs valued at over \$500,000 before tax? What are the amounts of concessions involved?
- (4) After reducing the concessions by 40% and excluding EVs valued at over \$500,000 before tax from the concession arrangement, has the Government assessed whether there will be any impact on promoting the wider use of EVs?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- (1) According to the statistics of the Transport Department (TD), the numbers of first registered electric private cars (e-PCs) and first registered non-e-PCs between 2020 and 2023 in Hong Kong are set out in the table below:

Year	No. of first registered private cars in the year	
	E-PCs	Non-e-PCs
2020	4 595	32 441
2021	9 583	29 726
2022	19 795	17 683
2023	28 541	15 628

Note: Government vehicles are not included in the figures as government vehicles are not required to be registered.

- (2) According to the statistics of the TD, the respective numbers of first-registered e-PCs under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme and granted the FRT basic concessions from 2020 to 2023 in Hong Kong and the amount of concessions involved are set out in the table below:

Year	“One-for-One Replacement” Scheme		FRT concessions	
	No. of e-PCs	Amount of FRT concessions granted (\$ million)	No. of e-PCs	Amount of FRT concessions granted (\$ million)
2020	4 264	955	331	32
2021	9 317	2,381	266	26
2022	19 365	5,295	427	42
2023	28 195	7,392	326	32

- (3) According to the statistics of the TD, among the e-PCs which have completed their first registration and have been granted FRT concessions between 2020 and 2023, the number of those with a taxable value (i.e. value before tax) exceeding \$500,000 and the amount of concessions involved are set out in the table below:

Year	No. of e-PCs	Amount of FRT concessions granted (\$ million)
2020	309	58
2021	390	99
2022	1 299	370
2023	3 137	900

- (4) To encourage a wider use of electric vehicles (EVs), the Government has extended the FRT concession arrangement for EVs (including the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme), which originally expired on 31 March 2024, for 2 years to 31 March 2026. Given the increasing popularity of e-PCs, coupled with factors such as the price reduction of EVs and increasing availability of vehicle options, the FRT concessions for e-PCs will be reduced by 40% starting from 1 April 2024, and e-PCs with a taxable value (i.e. value before tax) exceeding \$500,000 will not be entitled to the concessions.

According to the statistics of the TD, in 2022, newly registered e-PCs with a taxable value of \$300,000 or below, over \$300,000 to \$400,000, over \$400,000 to \$500,000 and over \$500,000 accounted for about 6%, 68%, 20% and less than 7% of the total number of newly registered e-PCs respectively. We have also noticed that more affordable EVs are now available in the local market. As at end-2023, there were 6 makes offering e-PC models with a taxable value no more than \$270,000, which were 4 makes more than that as at end-2022. We are of the view that even with the 40% reduction of the FRT concessions for e-PCs, the maximum amount of FRT concessions (i.e. \$172,500) will still be attractive, and the FRT of e-PCs with a taxable value no more than \$270,349 will continue to be fully waived under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme. With more and more affordable EVs entering into the market, the cost of purchasing EVs has become increasingly closer to that of fuel-propelled vehicles, and

the costs for fuel and maintenance of EVs are also lower than that of fuel-propelled vehicles. We believe that the new arrangement will not significantly affect the public's desire to purchase e-PCs.

Considering that the affordability of high-end e-PC purchasers is relatively high, and the exclusion of the relevant taxable value of e-PCs can effectively reflect the "affordable users pay" principle, e-PCs with a taxable value of over \$500,000 will not be entitled to the concessions. Given the small number of e-PCs affected, we expect the impact of the measures to be relatively mild.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)173

(Question Serial No. 1732)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Budget that the first registration tax concessions for electric vehicles (EVs), due to terminate at the end of March this year, will be extended for 2 years. Nevertheless, given various factors such as the price reduction of EVs, increasing availability of vehicle options, etc., the concessions will be reduced by 40%. What criteria does the Government use in deciding the downward adjustment of the amount of concessions; and has it assessed the impact of the 40% reduction on the overall promotion of the use of EVs?

Asked by: Hon CHIU Duncan (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

To encourage a wider use of electric vehicles (EVs), the Government has extended the FRT concession arrangement for EVs (including the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme), which originally expired on 31 March 2024, for 2 years to 31 March 2026. Given the increasing popularity of electric private cars (e-PCs), coupled with factors such as the price reduction of EVs and increasing availability of vehicle options, the FRT concessions for e-PCs will be reduced by 40% starting from 1 April 2024, and e-PCs with a taxable value (i.e. value before tax) exceeding \$500,000 will not be entitled to the concessions.

We are of the view that even with the 40% reduction of the FRT concessions for e-PCs, the maximum amount of FRT concessions (i.e. \$172,500) will still be attractive, and the FRT of e-PCs with a taxable value no more than \$270,349 will continue to be fully waived under the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme. With more and more affordable EVs entering into the market, the cost of purchasing EVs has become increasingly closer to that of fuel-propelled vehicles, and the costs for fuel and maintenance of EVs are also lower than that of fuel-propelled vehicles. We believe that the new arrangement will not significantly affect the public's desire to purchase e-PCs.

Considering that the affordability of high-end e-PC purchasers is relatively high, and the exclusion of the relevant taxable value of e-PCs can effectively reflect the "affordable users

pay” principle, e-PCs with a taxable value of over \$500,000 will not be entitled to the concessions. Given the small number of e-PCs affected, we expect the impact of the measures to be relatively mild.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)174

(Question Serial No. 1557)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the implementation of education and publicity programmes, including the School Outreach Programme and the School Award Programme, please advise this Committee of:

1. the numbers of schools and students participating in the School Outreach Programme and the School Award Programme in the past 3 years;
2. the number of times and the average interval for updating and adjusting the details of the activities (drama performances, seminars and workshops) under the School Outreach Programme in the past 3 years;
3. whether the Government will extend the Sustainable Development School Outreach Programme to primary schools, so as to enable students to engage in the learning of the concept of sustainable development at different learning stages; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHU Kwok-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) has been actively implementing various public education and publicity programmes to enhance the public awareness of sustainable development. Details of participation in the Sustainable Development School Outreach Programme (the Outreach Programme) and the Sustainable Development School Award Programme (the Award Programme) in the past 3 school years are as follows:

School year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
1. The Outreach Programme	This programme aims at promoting the concept and practice of sustainable development among primary and secondary school students through a series of seminars, workshops, field trips and interactive dramas.		

Number of participating primary and secondary schools	101	161	196
Number of participants	About 27 000	About 50 000	Estimated to be about 74 000
2. The Award Programme	This programme aims at encouraging schools to participate in and organise activities relating to sustainable development, allowing students to promote the public practice of sustainable development concept in their schools and the community.		
Number of participating secondary schools	54	65	73
Number of participants	About 94 000	About 80 000	Estimated to be about 110 000

2. Through integrating various core themes related to sustainable development, such as low-carbon lifestyle, climate change and natural resources, with a specific theme for that school year, the Outreach Programme has organised different types of seminars, workshops, field trips, interactive dramas and other activities on diverse topics, so as to promote the concept and practice of sustainable development among primary and secondary school students and foster their value of sustainable development. To better cater for the actual learning needs of students, the EEB will adjust and update the specific themes and contents of the Outreach Programme in the beginning of each school year.
3. The respective themes of the past 3 school years were “reducing single-use plastics”, “sustainable ecology” and “zero-carbon energy”. In addition to the original core thematic activities, complementary activities are also organised under the Outreach Programme to align with the updated themes. For example, to match the theme of “reducing single-use plastics”, seminars and workshops on plastic-free lifestyle and the GREEN@COMMUNITY Recycling Stations are added; and for the theme of “sustainable ecology”, visits to Hoi Ha Wan for the exploration of its marine ecosystem and to the Ocean Park for the exploration of its educational programme “Every Drop Counts” are added.
4. Since the 2021/22 school year (i.e. September 2021), the Outreach Programme has been officially extended to primary schools, and the number of participating primary schools has continued to increase from 23 in the 2021/22 school year to 105 in the 2023/24 school year. To cater for the learning needs of primary school students, we will adjust the depth of our activities including seminars, field trips and interactive dramas. Take the “zero-carbon energy” interactive drama staged in the 2023/24 school year as an example, we have introduced 5 types of zero-carbon energy, including solar energy, wind energy and waste-to-energy, in a light-hearted manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)175

(Question Serial No. 0960)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is stated in the Budget Speech that “given maritime industry’s vast market potential for green transformation, the Marine Department is planning to provide incentives for Hong Kong-registered ships that have attained high ratings under the international standards on decarbonisation formulated by the International Maritime Organization. This will involve about \$65 million in funding. And the Transport and Logistics Bureau, in collaboration with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and other relevant departments, is conducting a feasibility study to provide green methanol bunkering for local and ocean-going vessels. We expect to publish an action plan for Hong Kong’s development into a green maritime fuel-bunkering centre this year.”

- a) Will the feasibility study to provide green methanol bunkering cover fishing vessels?
- b) Has the Government studied the feasibility of promoting electric vessels in Hong Kong at the same time?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

- a) The Transport and Logistics Bureau, in collaboration with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and other relevant departments, has commissioned a feasibility study on providing green methanol bunkering for both local and ocean-going vessels. The study will cover different types and usage of local vessels.
- b) To promote the local application of electric vessels, the Government is preparing to launch the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries (Pilot Scheme) in 4 in-harbour ferry routes, with a view to testing out the technical viability of adopting electric ferries (e-ferries) in Hong Kong. The Government has earmarked \$350 million to provide full subsidies to ferry operators for constructing 4 e-ferries and the associated charging facilities. The Government has also established an inter-departmental working group to work out the details of the Pilot Scheme, oversee its progress and evaluate the performance of the e-

ferries. The Pilot Scheme is expected to be launched in the second half of 2024 at the earliest. We will engage a consultant to collect and analyse the operational data of the e-ferries so as to evaluate their effectiveness and performance in terms of operation and environmental protection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)176****(Question Serial No. 1322)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The estimate of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environmental Branch) for 2024-25 is about \$420 million less than that of last year. What are the specific details of the reduction (e.g. staff establishment, planning, etc.)?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The decrease of about \$420 million in the overall estimate for 2024-25 under the Head concerned as compared with the original estimate for 2023-24 is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for the following non-recurrent items:

Items under Subhead 700 (code)	Ambit	2023-24 Original estimate (\$m)	2024-25 Estimate (\$m)	Increase/ (decrease) in 2024-25 Estimate (\$m)	Reason for increase/ (decrease)
801	Electricity Charges Relief Scheme	1,872	10	(1,862)	See Note (1)
804	Electricity Charges Relief Scheme (2024-25)	291	1,764	1,473	
803	Countryside Conservation Office (CCO)	80	50	(30)	See Note (2)

Note (1): In order to alleviate the impact of using greener fuel for electricity generation on electricity tariffs, the Government has launched 2 rounds of Electricity Charges Relief Scheme (the Scheme) since 2019 to provide a monthly relief of \$50 for each eligible residential electricity account. The first round of the Scheme (2019-

2023) ended on 31 December 2023 and a new round of the Scheme (2024-2025) commenced on 1 January 2024, hence there has been increase or decrease in the estimate concerning the Items. The original estimate for 2023-24 includes all unused relief injected into the residential electricity accounts in previous years under the first round of the Scheme with the balance expiring on 31 December 2023, and all unused relief has been written off when the Scheme ended and cannot be carried forward to the new round of the Scheme. Therefore, overall speaking, the total estimated expenditure for Items 801 and 804 for 2024-25 is \$389 million less than their original estimate for 2023-24.

Note (2): As the expected number of projects to be approved and amount of funding required for the projects already approved under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) of the CCO are less than the original estimate for 2023-24, the estimated expenditure required for the CCFS for 2024-25 is \$30 million less than the original estimate for 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)177

(Question Serial No. 2700)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In 2023, did the Environment and Ecology Bureau engage external lawyers for consultancy services in accordance with the Stores and Procurement Regulations of the Government without first seeking assistance from the Department of Justice? If so, what were the nature of such services and the expenditures incurred?

Asked by: Hon LAM San-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) did not engage external lawyers for consultancy services in 2023-24.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)178

(Question Serial No. 1754)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office, (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment) (Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 87 of the Budget Speech that the Government encourages the wider use of electric vehicles (EVs). In this regard, would the Government advise this Committee of:

- (1) the respective numbers of newly registered electric private cars, electric commercial vehicles, electric motorcycles and electric motor tricycles in the past 3 years;
- (2) a breakdown of the respective amounts of registration tax received on electric private cars, electric commercial vehicles, electric motorcycles and electric motor tricycles in the past 3 years; and
- (3) the respective numbers of newly installed EV charging facilities in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

(1) and (2)

According to the statistics of the Transport Department, the numbers of newly registered electric private cars, electric commercial vehicles, electric motorcycles and electric motor tricycles and the respective total amounts of registration tax received in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Vehicle type ^{Note1}								Total	
	Electric private car		Electric commercial vehicle		Electric motorcycle		Electric motor tricycle			
	No.	Total amount of registration tax received (\$million)	No.	Total amount of registration tax received (\$million) ^{Note2}	No.	Total amount of registration tax received (\$million) ^{Note2}	No.	Total amount of registration tax received (\$million) ^{Note2}	No.	Total amount of registration tax received (\$million)
2021	9 583	236	68	0	77	0	2	0	9 730	236
2022	19 792	810	96	0	159	0	4	0	20 051	810
2023	28 521	1,847	349	0	201	0	10	0	29 081	1,847

Note 1: Government vehicles are not included in the figures as government vehicles are not required to be registered.

Note 2: First registration tax is fully waived for electric commercial vehicles, electric motorcycles and electric motor tricycles.

(3)

The numbers of newly installed public electric vehicle (EV) chargers provided by the Government and private sectors in Hong Kong in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Year	No. of public EV chargers (provided by the Government and private sectors)	No. of newly installed EV chargers (comparison with figures from the previous year)
2021	4 696	+1 345
2022	5 434	+738
2023	7 415	+1 981

The locations and details of public EV charging stations provided by the Government and private sectors in Hong Kong can be accessed or downloaded from the following link of the website of the Environmental Protection Department.

(https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/promotion_ev/locations_ev_chargers.html)

The Government does not have statistics on the number of private chargers located in private car parks that are not open for public use.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)179

(Question Serial No. 1755)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office, (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 85 of the Budget Speech that "the Government has taken the lead in applying renewable energy (RE) in government buildings and facilities. We will launch a pilot scheme at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of government buildings. We will also support public and private organisations to use RE to help Hong Kong realise carbon neutrality". Will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (1) the breakdown and expenditures of the new solar energy generation projects in government buildings in the past 3 years; and
- (2) the publicity and effectiveness in promoting solar energy generation in the private sector in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LAM Shun-chiu, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- (1) The Government has earmarked a total of \$3 billion to install renewable energy (RE) facilities at government buildings and infrastructure since 2017-18. As at December 2023, about \$2 billion have been approved for 226 projects, including the installation of solar energy generation systems at government offices, government quarters, schools, recreational grounds-cum-rest gardens, reservoirs, pedestrian links, etc. as well as the installation of waste-to-energy and hydropower systems at multiple sewage treatment plants. 143 of the 226 approved projects have been completed, and the rest of them will commence works as scheduled next year. We expect that these projects can generate a total of about 25 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually. The new solar energy generation system projects for government buildings and infrastructure supported by the above funding and their project expenditures in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Buildings / Infrastructure	Project expenditures (\$ million)
2023		
1	Lantau North Divisional Police Station	4.79
2	North District Government Offices	7.89
3	Police Tactical Unit Headquarters	1.95
4	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department - Tai Po Depot	5.20
5	Tai Po Government Offices	6.93
6	Western District Public Cargo Working Area	2.81
7	Wo Hop Shek Crematorium& Columbarium	5.55
8	Kowloon East Government Offices	1.23
9	Morse Park (Park No. 4)	3.85
2022		
10	Jockey Club Government Secondary School	7.30
11	Kowloon Tong Government Primary School	3.60
12	Mui Wo Government Offices	6.30
13	Shek Pik Prison	18.12
14	Border District Police Headquarters	4.63
15	Civil Aid Service Headquarters	1.98
16	Kowloon City Government Offices	1.81
17	Lantau South (Mui Wo) Divisional Police Station	4.48
18	Stanley Sub-divisional Police Station	3.51
19	Yung Shue Wan Pier	2.00
20	Independent Commission Against Corruption Headquarters Building	0.76
21	Kowloon Bay Sports Ground	2.95
22	Kwai Shing Circuit Garden	1.16
23	Marine East Divisional Police Station	6.51
24	Po Kong Village Road Park	6.70
25	Stonecutters Island Public Cargo Working Area	2.60
2021		
26	Aberdeen Tree Centre	1.98
27	Cheung Chau Aeronautical Meteorological Station	1.88
28	Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force Headquarters	7.40
29	Kowloon Technical School	2.00
30	Mongkok Government Offices	3.43
31	Western Wholesale Food Market	19.00
32	N.T. Heung Yee Kuk Yuen Long District Secondary School	5.80
33	Pak Sha Wan Correctional Institution	2.36
34	Queen Elizabeth School	1.98
35	Sai Kung Outdoor Recreation Centre	1.95
36	Sha Tin Government Secondary School	5.50
37	Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School	1.99
38	Tuen Mun Government Offices	12.00
39	Tuen Mun Government Primary School	4.30

	Buildings / Infrastructure	Project expenditures (\$ million)
40	Fanling Health Centre	1.95
41	Block M, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	1.95
42	Block N, Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre	1.95
43	Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre	0.10
44	Sha Tin Divisional Police Station	1.99
45	Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School	1.98
46	Tseung Kwan O Government Secondary School	1.82
47	Tunnel KS57; across Cherry Street, near Oak Street	0.96
48	Silvermine Bay Treatment Works	1.63

- (2) The Government is committed to creating favourable conditions to encourage the private sector to develop RE on their land and properties. To complement the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, the Government has introduced a series of supporting measures, for example, facilitating the private sector in installing solar energy generation systems at open car parks. In particular, the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort has embarked on the first car park solar canopy project in Hong Kong, which is expected to be completed this year.

In addition, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has launched Solar Harvest to install solar energy generation systems for eligible schools and welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) free of charge. In the past 3 years, about 500 solar energy generation systems have been installed at participating schools and welfare NGOs under Solar Harvest, and it is estimated that the installed systems can generate about 4.5 million kWh of electricity each year, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of about 1 360 families.

The Environment and Ecology Bureau will continue the cooperation with the EMSD to regularly organise activities such as seminars and briefings, etc. to introduce to relevant stakeholders the installation of RE facilities and the FiT Scheme, so as to encourage different sectors to make optimal use of their premises for the development of RE. In the past 3 years, the EMSD has organised and participated in nearly 80 public and industry briefings / seminars with a total of about 10 000 participants.

The Government has also introduced legislative amendments to provide exemption from the requirements to apply for business registration and pay profits tax in respect of participation in and the payments received under the FiT Scheme. In particular, the number of applications received by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) for concessionary tax deductions in relation to environmental protection installations and the total deductions granted in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

Year of assessment	Number of applications for deductions	Total deductions (\$ million)
2019/20	56	489.6
2020/21	88	548.4
2021/22	104	342.1

The IRD does not have the yearly statistics for the year of assessment 2022/23 as the assessment cycle has not been completed.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3078)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the first registration tax (FRT) concessions for electric vehicles (EVs) will be extended for 2 years. Nevertheless, given various factors such as the price reduction of EVs, increasing availability of vehicle options, etc., the Government will reduce the concessions by 40%. Specifically, the maximum FRT concession for electric private cars (e-PCs), granted under the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme (the Scheme), will be adjusted to \$172,500, whereas the concession cap for general e-PCs will be lowered to \$58,500. In this regard, please inform this Committee of:

1. whether the Government has compared the vehicle prices in Hong Kong with those in other places; if yes, the details; and
2. whether the Government has other means to attract more vehicle owners to participate in the Scheme in order to prevent the subsidies from being transferred to manufacturers and dealers, hence reducing the attractiveness of the subsidies to vehicle owners; if yes, the details.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. To encourage a wider use of electric vehicles (EVs), the Government has extended the first registration tax (FRT) concession arrangement for EVs, including the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme (the Scheme), which originally expired on 31 March 2024, for 2 years to 31 March 2026. Given the increasing popularity of electric private cars (e-PCs), coupled with factors such as the price reduction of EVs and increasing availability of vehicle options, the FRT concessions for e-PCs will be reduced by 40% starting from 1 April 2024, and e-PCs with a taxable value (i.e. value before tax) exceeding \$500,000 will not be entitled to the concessions. In general, vehicle prices are market driven and determined by many factors such as economic climate, currency rates, sales strategies, competition in the market, etc. These factors are subject to many variables, and they are not considerations in deciding whether or not to extend the FRT concession arrangement as well as determining the downward adjustment percentage

for the concessions. Therefore, the Government has not compared the vehicle prices in Hong Kong with those in other places when considering the relevant arrangement.

2. We are of the view that even with the 40% reduction of the FRT concessions for e-PCs, the maximum amount of FRT concessions (i.e. \$172,500) will still be attractive, and the FRT of e-PCs with a taxable value no more than \$270,349 will continue to be fully waived under the Scheme. With more and more affordable EVs entering into the market, the cost of purchasing EVs has become increasingly closer to that of fuel-propelled vehicles, and the costs for fuel and maintenance of EVs are also lower than those of fuel-propelled vehicles. We believe that the new arrangement will not significantly affect the public's desire to purchase e-PCs. Apart from tax concessions, the Government also continues to actively expand the network of charging facilities to tie in with the continuous growth of EVs and attract more vehicle owners to switch to e-PCs. The Government aims to increase the total number of public and private parking spaces with charging infrastructure in Hong Kong to about 200 000 by mid-2027. In particular, the Government launched the \$3.5 billion "EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme" in October 2020, covering about 140 000 parking spaces at residential estates. Through the measure of gross floor area concessions, the Government also encourages the installation of charging-enabling infrastructure in the parking spaces of newly built private buildings, and has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces thus far.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)181

(Question Serial No. 2035)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

As the Government encourages a wider use of electric vehicles (EVs), does it have any specific plan and financial resources earmarked for EV charging facilities and other complementary measures? How will the Government provide comprehensive support for use of new energy vehicles, with a view to encouraging a wider use of EVs?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chi-pang (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

As announced in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, the Government will strive to expand the network of charging facilities with an aim to increasing the total number of public and private parking spaces with charging infrastructure in Hong Kong to about 200 000 by mid-2027. In particular, the Government launched the \$3.5 billion "EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme" in October 2020, covering about 140 000 parking spaces at residential estates. Through the measure of gross floor area concessions, the Government also encourages the installation of charging-enabling infrastructure in the parking spaces of newly built private buildings, and has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces thus far.

Besides, the Government will provide an additional 7 000 parking spaces with charging facilities in government premises by 2025, and the expenditure will be absorbed by relevant works projects.

The Government is speeding up the expansion of the charging network for different types of electric vehicles (EVs), including electric commercial vehicles. The Government invited tenders in the first quarter of 2024 for the conversion of 2 vacant petrol filling station (PFS) sites in Kowloon East and New Territories East into quick charging stations, and will also explore the option of developing some suitable PFS sites under the "single site, multiple use" development model. At present, through the refining of the land lease conditions for PFSs, the Government is offering suitable incentives for the PFS operators to retrofit EV charging facilities in the usable space of their existing PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs

throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. In November 2023, the Government invited PFS operators by letters to submit their preliminary proposals for the retrofitting of quick charging facilities at PFSs. 98 preliminary proposals were received in February 2024, and are currently under analysis and feasibility study. The above work to expand the quick charging network is part of the responsibilities of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department, and is absorbed by their existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)182

(Question Serial No. 2571)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government will launch a Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (the Pilot Scheme) at the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of government buildings. The Government will also support public and private organisations to use renewable energy (RE) to help Hong Kong realise carbon neutrality. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) What are the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement for implementing the Pilot Scheme? What is the estimated life span of the photovoltaic panels to be installed? How many years will it take to recover the cost?
- 2) Apart from the EMSD Headquarters, please provide in tabular form the number of government buildings and infrastructure applying photovoltaic technologies, the names of the buildings or infrastructure, and the electricity saving targets in 2024-25.
- 3) Please provide, for each of the past 5 years: i) the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; ii) the amount of per capita GHG emissions; and iii) the top 3 major sources of local GHG emissions.
- 4) What effective measures does the Government have to reduce GHG emissions? Will performance indicators or work targets be set?
- 5) How will the Government further promote the use of RE in public and private organisations? What are the relevant work targets?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. Through multi-disciplinary collaboration among government departments (including the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), Buildings Department, Architectural Services Department and Fire Services Department), the Government will launch the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (the Pilot Scheme) at the EMSD Headquarters to explore photovoltaic technology applications on the facades of

buildings as well as the supply of renewable energy (RE) for buildings. The project is currently under planning. We will announce the details in due course.

To formulate an appropriate proposal for the Pilot Scheme, the inter-departmental team will comprehensively take into consideration various factors of the existing EMSD Headquarters, including structural compatibility, appearance, insolation conditions at different facades of the building, operational conditions, as well as repair and maintenance requirements, etc.

Apart from supplying RE to the building, the Pilot Scheme can provide actual data for reference and evaluation. Based on the relevant data collected, the Government will assess the effectiveness and feasibility of building-integrated photovoltaics from various aspects, such as the actual power generation efficiency, performance in reducing indoor energy consumption as well as repair and maintenance requirements and expenditures, etc., so as to evaluate whether to extend the Pilot Scheme to other public and private organisations in the future.

2. The Government has earmarked a total of \$3 billion to install RE facilities at government buildings and infrastructure since 2017-18. As at December 2023, about \$2 billion have been approved for 226 projects, including the installation of solar energy generation systems at government offices, government quarters, schools, recreational grounds-cum-rest gardens, reservoirs, pedestrian links, etc. as well as the installation of waste-to-energy and hydropower systems at multiple sewage treatment plants. The new solar energy generation system projects for government buildings and infrastructure expected to be supported by the above funding in 2024 and 2025 are tabulated below:

	Buildings / Infrastructure	Expected annual power generation efficiency (kWh)
1	South East New Territories Landfill/Tseung Kwan O Preliminary Treatment Works	1 000 000
2	Kwai Chung Industrial Wastewater Pumping Station	70 000
3	Sunny Bay Sewage Pumping Station	50 000
4	Penny's Bay Sewage Pumping Station	50 000
5	Tin Shui Wai Tin Wah Road Sewage Pumping Station	50 000

3. The Environment and Ecology Bureau compiles yearly greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in accordance with the guidelines published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As the inventory compilation involves large amount of work on data collection and consolidation, as well as analysis and verification work, there is usually a time lag of 2 to 3 years in the publication of GHG inventories in different parts of the world.

In the past 5 years (2018 to 2022), the top 3 major sources of GHG emissions in Hong Kong were electricity generation, transport and waste management. The relevant GHG emissions and per capita GHG emissions are set out below:

Year	GHG emissions (in kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalent; kt CO ₂ -e)						Per capita GHG emissions (in tonnes CO ₂ -e)
	Total	Energy			Waste treatment	Other sources@	
		Electricity generation	Transport	Other end use of fuel^			
2018	40 400	26 700	6 990	2 010	2 980	1 700	5.42
2019	39 600	26 300	6 790	1 840	2 950	1 720	5.28
2020	33 300	20 400	6 280	1 860	2 970	1 810	4.46
2021	34 700	21 800	6 520	1 800	2 910	1 740	4.68
2022	33 500	21 000	6 420	1 860	2 580	1 630	4.55

Remarks:

The sum of individual items may not be added up to the total owing to rounding.

[^] *Including the use of fuel for combustion in commercial, industrial and domestic premises.*

[@] *Other sources include “Industrial processes and product use” and “Agriculture, forestry and other land use”.*

4. To align with the national “dual carbon” targets, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is striving to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and reduce Hong Kong’s GHG emissions by half before 2035 from the 2005 level. Hong Kong’s total GHG emissions have been on a downward trend after reaching its peak in 2014. The per capita GHG emissions in 2022 have dropped by about one quarter from the peak of 6.11 tonnes CO₂-e in 2014.

Focusing on the 3 major sources of GHG emissions including electricity generation, transport and waste treatment, the Government has proposed 4 major decarbonisation strategies in the Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050, namely “net-zero electricity generation”, “energy saving and green buildings”, “green transport” and “waste reduction”, to lead Hong Kong towards carbon neutrality.

In terms of “net-zero electricity generation”, the HKSAR has ceased to build coal-fired generating units since 1997, and the share of coal in Hong Kong’s overall fuel mix for electricity generation has been reduced from about half in 2015 to about a quarter at present, while the share of natural gas has significantly increased from about a quarter to almost half. Moreover, with the expected completion of the enhancement project of the Clean Energy Transmission System in 2025, the share of zero-carbon energy imported from the Mainland in the fuel mix for electricity generation can be increased from about 25% at present to about 35%. On the other hand, we will cease the use of coal for daily electricity generation by 2035 and replace it with natural gas, which is of lower carbon content, and zero-carbon energy. The Government will also strive to increase the share of zero-carbon energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation to about 60% to 70% by 2035.

On “energy saving and green buildings”, buildings account for 90% of Hong Kong’s electricity consumption, contributing to over 50% of the city’s carbon emissions. In light of this, we have been promoting green buildings and enhancing energy efficiency of buildings. Our goal is to reduce the electricity consumption of commercial buildings by 30% to 40% from the 2015 level and of residential buildings by 20% to 30% by 2050, and to achieve half of the above target by 2035. To this end, the

Government has been striving to enhance energy efficiency of buildings through a multi-pronged approach which includes:

- (a) planning to amend the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance to improve energy efficiency of building services installations in buildings;
- (b) continuing to expand the coverage of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) and upgrade the grading standards of products under the MEELS to encourage suppliers to introduce more energy-efficient household electrical appliances and at the same time inform consumers of their energy efficiency performance, so as to promote energy conservation; and
- (c) taking forward the implementation of the highly energy-efficient District Cooling System projects to supply chilled water for air-conditioning to non-domestic buildings in the New Development Areas.

Regarding “green transport”, to further reduce carbon emissions from the transport trade, we are continuing to promote the electrification of transport tools, as well as the use of new energy transportation and improvement of traffic management measures, with a view to achieving zero vehicular emissions and zero carbon emissions from the transport sector in the longer term before 2050, including: (1) introduction of a number of policies (e.g. the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme and the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme) to promote the development of electric vehicles; (2) formulation of a citywide green transformation roadmap and timetable for public buses and taxis in 2024, so as to achieve the target of introducing about 700 electric buses and about 3 000 electric taxis by end-2027; and (3) provision of funding support to trial and promote wider use of green innovative transport technologies for a wide range of commercial transport tools under the New Energy Transport Fund. We will also formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for legislative amendments pertinent to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy with a view to introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in 2025.

As for “waste reduction”, the Government will implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and other waste reduction and recycling measures (e.g. producer responsibility schemes and the expansion of the community recycling network GREEN@COMMUNITY), as well as publicity and educational campaigns to gradually reduce the daily per capita MSW disposal rate by 40 to 45% and at the same time raise the recovery rate to about 55%. The Government will also move away from the reliance on landfills for MSW disposal by 2035 with the application of waste-to-energy and waste-to-resources facilities, by which time only non-combustible and non-recyclable waste should require direct landfill disposal, thereby significantly reducing GHG emissions and helping to achieve carbon neutrality in waste treatment by 2050.

Combating climate change is a long-term task. In line with the spirit of the Paris Agreement, we will review the *Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan* about every 5 years to update the strategies and targets for decarbonisation and other climate actions.

5. The Government has been leading by example in optimising the favourable conditions of premises and developing RE, including raising the requirements for applying RE technologies in new government buildings and developing large-scale solar energy

generation and waste-to-energy projects, etc. at suitable locations. For instance, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has commenced the operation of T·PARK (Sludge Treatment Facility), O·PARK1 (Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1) and O·PARK2 (Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2), and is constructing I·PARK1 (Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1). In parallel, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) is developing a large-scale floating solar energy generation system at Plover Cove Reservoir and a solar farm at the South East New Territories Landfill in Tseung Kwan O to supply electricity to the nearby waterworks for their direct use.

In addition to developing large-scale RE systems, starting from 2022, the Government has planned to optimise the use of space in 28 selected government premises, such as the EPD's refuse transfer stations and the WSD's pumping stations, to install solar energy generation systems through inter-departmental efforts. The electricity generated from these projects can be used directly by relevant facilities, thereby saving electricity costs for the departments concerned and reducing carbon emissions.

The Government is also committed to creating favourable conditions to encourage the private sector to develop RE on their land and properties. To complement the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, the Government has introduced a series of supporting measures, for example, facilitating the private sector in installing solar energy generation systems at open car parks, suitably relaxing the requirements for the installation of solar energy generation systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (i.e. village houses), revamping the "HK RE Net" and setting up an enquiry hotline, introducing legislative amendments to provide exemption from the requirements to apply for business registration and pay profits tax in respect of participation in and the payments received under the FiT Scheme, etc. Furthermore, we will continue our cooperation with the EMSD to regularly organise activities such as seminars, briefings, etc. to introduce to relevant stakeholders the installation of RE facilities and the FiT Scheme, so as to encourage different sectors to make optimal use of their premises for the development of RE

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)183

(Question Serial No. 2572)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

To help improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions, thereby helping to avert global climate change, the Government puts in place the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) to subsidise the transport trade and charitable/non-profit making organisations to try out green innovative transport technologies. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) The provision for the NET Fund for 2024-25 is \$78.6 million higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24, representing a significant increase of 104.5%. Please provide a breakdown of the relevant details.
- 2) In the past 3 financial years, how many trial projects have been subsidised by the NET Fund, the types of transport mode and amounts involved, and how many trial projects have been successfully applied locally so far?
- 3) In the past financial year, what were the numbers of applications received and approved under the trials on electric taxis charging facilities and the subsidy scheme for wheelchair accessible electric taxis? Please list out in tabular form the following of the approved projects: (i) amounts of subsidies; (ii) specific details; (iii) progress of implementation; and (iv) related effectiveness.
- 4) In the past financial year, what were the numbers of applications received and approved under the trials of hydrogen fuel cell double-deck buses and heavy vehicles? Please list out in tabular form the following of the approved projects: (i) amounts of subsidies; (ii) specific details; (iii) progress of implementation; and (iv) related effectiveness.
- 5) Has the Government assessed the effectiveness of the NET Fund in promoting the development of new energy transport in Hong Kong in the past 3 years? If yes, what are the details? If no, will relevant performance indicators be set for this purpose?
- 6) The carbon emissions from vehicles in 2023 were 0.45 million tonnes, which is still falling short of the Government's target of achieving zero-carbon emissions from vehicles by 2025. What are the reasons for that? What measures does the Government have to expedite the relevant progress?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

(1), (3) and (4)

Under the Programme of environmental protection, the provision for 2024-25 is \$78.6 million higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24, which is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the non-recurrent expenditure item New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund). To support the charging needs of the taxi trade, the Government has created a new category for trial projects on electric taxi (e-taxi) charging facilities under the “Applications for Trial” of the NET Fund and earmarked \$50 million to subsidise the trade to purchase wheelchair accessible e-taxis. We are working on the funding and implementation details of the trial projects on e-taxi charging facilities, which is expected to be launched in mid-2024. Besides, to assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the NET Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects such as the procurement of hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) heavy vehicles. We expect that the NET Fund will start accepting applications relating to HFC heavy vehicles within this financial year.

- 2) In the past 3 years, 135 trials under the “Applications for Trial” have been subsidised for a total sum of \$137 million under the NET Fund, including trials of 90 electric light goods vehicles, 37 single-deck electric buses, 3 electric light buses, 47 e-taxis, 3 electric medium goods vehicles, 2 electric heavy goods vehicles, 1 electric motorcycle, 3 electric vessels and 2 electric kaitos. Since the establishment of the NET Fund in 2011, more than 220 trials have been successfully applied in Hong Kong. Information on the operation of the Fund and the products under trial can be found on the website of the Environment and Ecology Bureau at <https://www.eeb.gov.hk/en/new-energy-transport-fund.html>.
- 5) The Government has been actively promoting the use of new energy vehicles and vessels to the transport trade, so as to share the benefits of using new energy transport, and encourage the trade to bring in electric commercial vehicle (e-CV) models suitable for local use and apply for the NET Fund to trial new energy transport technologies. Since 2021, the NET Fund Secretariat has organised more than 100 briefings, workshops and seminars, etc., and has also collaborated with the Transport Department in organising briefings to promote the NET Fund to the transport trade. Following the Government’s promotion, more suitable e-CV models have become available in the market for use by the trades. The number of electric light goods vehicles in Hong Kong has increased from 210 in 2021 to nearly 600 in 2023. The Government will continue to encourage suppliers to introduce more e-taxi and electric medium and heavy goods vehicle models suitable for use in Hong Kong for promoting healthy market competition.
- 6) To achieve the target of zero-carbon emissions from vehicles by 2050, the Government is adopting a multi-pronged approach to promote green transport and will announce a roadmap for the promotion of electric public transport and commercial vehicles by 2025. The Government will continue to subsidise the transport trade or charitable/non-profit making organisations to conduct trials of and promote the wider use of zero-emission new energy transport technologies. The Government will also encourage vehicle

suppliers and charging service providers to bring in e-CV models suitable for local use, and promote the maketisation of and healthy market competition in charging services. In fact, the Government has made notable progress in promoting the popularisation of electric vehicles, especially electric private cars. The ratio of electric private cars among all newly registered private cars in Hong Kong has soared in recent years, from 6.3% in 2019 to 64.6% in 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)184

(Question Serial No. 1616)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the part of the 2024-2025 Budget relating to the promotion of new energy development, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Apart from the Pilot Scheme on Building-Integrated Photovoltaics mentioned in the Budget Speech, are there any other plans for the wider application of renewable energy (RE) in government buildings and facilities?
2. What are the current details of the implementation of various programmes and schemes in relation to the "promotion of energy efficiency and conservation and the development of RE"?
3. What was the annual expenditure involved in the installation of RE systems in government buildings and facilities in the past 5 years and their effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. and 3. The Government has earmarked a total of \$3 billion to install renewable energy (RE) facilities at government buildings and infrastructure since 2017-18. As at December 2023, about \$2 billion have been approved for 226 projects, including the installation of solar energy generation systems at government offices, government quarters, schools, recreational grounds-cum-rest gardens, reservoirs, pedestrian links, etc. as well as the installation of waste-to-energy and hydropower systems at multiple sewage treatment plants. 143 of the 226 approved projects have been completed, and the rest of them will commence works as scheduled next year. We expect that these projects can generate a total of about 25 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually.

Meanwhile, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Development Bureau jointly updated the internal technical circular on Green Government Buildings in March 2023. The updates include raising the RE electricity generation targets for

new school buildings and parks, as well as increasing the proportion of roof space to be incorporated with RE technologies, with a view to promoting the wider application of RE in government buildings and infrastructure.

2. The Government has been actively promoting energy efficiency and conservation as well as the development of RE through various policy initiatives, including:

(i) Promoting Energy Efficiency and Conservation

- The Government is leading by example in seeking to improve the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure by more than 6% in 2024-25 (compared to the base year 2018-19). With the Government's overall energy performance improving by about 5.3% as at 2022-23, we are confident that the target of exceeding 6% can be achieved by 2024-25.
- To enhance the energy performance of government buildings, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has carried out energy audits on about 250 government buildings, and encourages government departments to proactively implement the energy saving measures recommended in the audit reports. The Government is also conducting retro-commissioning and implementing energy saving projects for its buildings, such as replacing lighting facilities with light emitting diode (LED) lamps and adopting high-efficiency air conditioning units.
- To further enhance building energy efficiency, the Government plans to amend the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (BEEO), including extending the scope of regulation to more types of buildings, mandating the disclosure of information in energy audit reports, and shortening the interval of energy audit.
- The EMSD reviews the Building Energy Code and the Energy Audit Code under the BEEO once every 3 years to enhance building energy efficiency standards. The 2021 edition of the Building Energy Code gazetted by the Government on 31 December 2021 uplifted the energy efficiency standards, with an improvement of more than 15% as compared with the 2015 edition. By 2035, the estimated annual energy saving from buildings in Hong Kong is around 4.7 to 5.3 billion kWh (compared with 2015). The EMSD has commenced the review of the 2024 edition of the Building Energy Code with a view to further enhancing building energy efficiency.
- The fourth phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) has already come into effect in 2023 and will be fully implemented on 1 December 2024, with the coverage expanded from 8 types of products in the first 3 phases to 11 types and the total coverage of energy consumption of residential buildings substantially increased from about 50% to about 80%. To encourage suppliers to introduce more energy-efficient household electrical appliances and at the same time inform consumers of their energy efficiency performance, the Government will continue to expand the

coverage of the MEELS and upgrade the grading standards of the products under the MEELS. The new energy efficiency grading standards for refrigerating appliances, washing machines and storage type electric water heaters will take effect from June 2024.

- The Government will reduce energy consumption from infrastructure level, including the implementation of the District Cooling System (DCS) projects. The EMSD will continue to oversee the construction and operation of the DCS projects in the Kai Tak Development, take forward the implementation of DCS projects in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area and Tung Chung New Town Extension (East), and expedite the implementation of DCS projects in other New Development Areas (including the Northern Metropolis).

(ii) Renewable Energy

- The Government has been leading by example in optimising the favourable conditions of premises and developing RE, including raising the requirements for applying RE technologies in new government buildings and developing large-scale solar energy generation and waste-to-energy projects, etc. at suitable locations. For instance, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has commenced the operation of T·PARK (Sludge Treatment Facility), O·PARK1 (Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1) and O·PARK2 (Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2), and is constructing I·PARK1 (Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1). In parallel, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) is developing a large-scale floating solar energy generation system at Plover Cove Reservoir and a solar farm at the South East New Territories Landfill in Tseung Kwan O to supply electricity to the nearby waterworks for their direct use.
- In addition to developing large-scale RE systems, starting from 2022, the Government has planned to optimise the use of space in 28 selected government premises, such as the EPD's refuse transfer stations and the WSD's pumping stations, to install solar energy generation systems through inter-departmental efforts. The electricity generated from these projects can be used directly by relevant facilities, thereby saving electricity costs for the departments concerned and reducing carbon emissions.
- The Government is also committed to creating favourable conditions to encourage the private sector to develop RE on their land and properties. To complement the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, the Government has introduced a series of supporting measures, for examples, facilitating the private sector in installing solar energy generation systems at open car parks, suitably relaxing the requirements for the installation of solar energy generation systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (i.e. village houses), revamping the "HK RE Net" and setting up an enquiry hotline, introducing legislative amendments to provide exemption from the requirements to apply for business registration and pay profits tax in respect of participation in and the payments received under the FiT Scheme, etc.

Furthermore, we will continue our cooperation with the EMSD to regularly organise activities such as seminars and briefings, etc. to introduce to relevant stakeholders the installation of RE facilities and the FiT Scheme, so as to encourage different sectors to make optimal use of their premises for the development of RE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1617)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the part of the 2024-25 Budget relating to the promotion green transport, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the current details of the implementation of trials on electric taxis charging facilities and electrification of taxis, as well as the plans for the current year?
2. The Government has proposed in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 to promote the application of hydrogen fuel cell buses in collaboration with franchised bus companies. The first hydrogen double-deck bus was put on trial in Hong Kong in recent months, but it has been learnt that the cost of such buses is more than double that of electric buses. Does the Government have any relevant plan for the green transformation, so as to facilitate the commissioning of hydrogen buses in the future?
3. What are the current details of the implementation of the retrofitting of electric charging facilities in petrol filling stations and the cumulative expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. The Government is adopting a multi-pronged approach to promote the use of electric taxis (e-taxis) in the trade, such as launching the Dedicated 100% Loan Guarantee Scheme for Battery E-Taxis to encourage transition to e-taxis, subsidising trials of e-taxis through the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) and earmarking \$50 million under the NET Fund to subsidise the trade in purchasing wheelchair accessible e-taxis, with a view to realising the goal of introducing about 3 000 e-taxis by end-2027. Given the importance of charging facilities to the promotion of e-taxis, a new category for trial projects on e-taxi charging facilities has been created under the NET Fund to serve the charging needs of the trade. We are working on the subsidy arrangements and implementation details, which are expected to be launched in mid-2024.

In addition, the Government has already engaged contractors to install no fewer than 10 dedicated quick charging facilities for e-taxis on Lantau Island and in the Sai Kung

district. The 2 charging facilities at Yat Tung Estate Carpark No. 2, Lantau were put into service in October 2023, while the remainders are expected to be put into service in phases starting from the first half of 2024.

The Government will formulate a citywide green transformation roadmap and timetable for taxis in 2024. The focus will be on setting out the specific measures and timetable to encourage the transition to e-taxis, with a view to realising the goal of introducing about 3 000 e-taxis by end-2027.

2. Hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) vehicles are new energy vehicles with potential for further development, especially for application to heavy vehicles. However, the relevant technology and market are still in the early development stage, and the feasibility and competitiveness of hydrogen fuel vis-à-vis other new energy have yet to be ascertained. Nevertheless, to promote the future development of hydrogen energy, the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address announced that the Government will formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for legislative amendments pertinent to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy with a view to introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in 2025, in order to foster a conducive environment for hydrogen development in Hong Kong. Moreover, the Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to co-ordinate preparatory work of bureaux and departments for using hydrogen as fuel locally, and to promote the local adoption of hydrogen energy through trial projects. As at February 2024, the Working Group has given agreement-in-principle to a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects. One of the trial projects is Citybus's first HFC double-decker bus which commenced trial operation in conjunction with its hydrogen refuelling facilities in November 2023 and was officially put into passenger service in February 2024. To assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the NET Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects such as the procurement of HFC heavy vehicles.
3. At present, through the refining of the land lease conditions for petrol filling stations (PFSs), the Government is offering suitable incentives for the PFS operators to retrofit electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities in the usable space of their existing PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. In November 2023, the Government invited PFS operators by letters to submit their preliminary proposals for the retrofitting of quick charging facilities at PFSs. 98 preliminary proposals were received in February 2024, and are currently under analysis and feasibility study. Apart from retrofitting EV charging facilities in existing PFSs, the Government also invited tenders in the first quarter of 2024 for the conversion of 2 vacant PFS sites in Kowloon East and New Territories East into quick charging stations. The above work is part of the responsibilities of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and is absorbed by the existing resources of the Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)186

(Question Serial No. 1621)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power, (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

To promote the development of low-carbon energy and implementation of energy policies, please inform this Committee of the relevant measures to be put in place in 2024-25:

1. As the application for the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) had already been closed earlier, does the Government have any new plans to continue to subsidise and promote the installation of charging posts in 2024-25?
2. Are there any statistics on the current expenditure involved in the disbursement of subsidies under the EHSS? What is the total number of subsidised charging post installations, and what are the respective numbers of each type of charging posts?
3. In view of the formulation and promulgation of the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong by the Government this year, does the Government have any plans to subsidise the industries related to hydrogen energy development?
4. Are there any differences in the extent of the Government's subsidies for different types of new energy such as photovoltaics, wind power, hydrogen energy, etc.?

Asked by: Hon LEE Hoey Simon (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. From the launch of the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) in October 2020 to the close of application period on 31 December 2023, the EHSS has successfully promoted the installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure (EVCEI) in car parks of many private residential buildings and housing estates, while stimulating the market demand for charging facilities for electric private cars (e-PCs). In the future, the provision of charging facilities for car parks in private residential buildings and housing estates will be driven by the market, thereby further enhancing the charging network for e-PCs. The Government has no plan to inject additional funding into the EHSS at this stage.

2. As at the end of February 2024, a total of 674 applications have been approved under the EHSS. Among them, 57 car parks in housing estates (over 8 500 parking spaces) have

completed the installation of EVCEI, involving a subsidy amount of about \$220 million. The scope of the EHSS only covers the installation of EVCEI, but not electric vehicle chargers or supply equipment, and it is up to individual parking space users to decide on and procure the models of chargers required.

3-4. On promoting the development of hydrogen energy industry, to assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the New Energy Transport Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects such as the procurement of hydrogen fuel cell heavy vehicles. Moreover, technological advancement plays a pivotal role in the wider application of hydrogen energy. In 2020, the Government set up the Green Tech Fund (GTF) and has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF to provide better and more focused funding support to research and development projects which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. 30 projects have been approved thus far, involving projects that contribute to the application of solar energy generation and development of hydrogen energy technologies, such as solar cells that could be printed on different surfaces; development of building-integrated photovoltaic systems; production of green hydrogen with renewable energy (RE); hydrogen fuel storage and release technologies; and development of intelligent hydrogen fuel supply facilities, etc.

The Government is committed to creating favourable conditions to encourage the private sector to develop RE on their land and properties. To complement the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, the Government has introduced a series of supporting measures, for examples, facilitating the private sector in installing solar energy generation systems at open car parks, suitably relaxing the requirements for the installation of solar energy generation systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (i.e. village houses), revamping the “HK RE Net” and setting up an enquiry hotline, introducing legislative amendments to provide exemption from the requirements to apply for business registration and pay profits tax in respect of participation in and the payments received under the FiT Scheme, etc. Furthermore, the Environment and Ecology Bureau will continue to cooperate with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to regularly organise activities such as seminars and briefings, etc. to introduce to relevant stakeholders the installation of RE facilities and the FiT Scheme, so as to encourage different sectors to make optimal use of their premises for the development of RE.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)187

(Question Serial No. 2436)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Government announced in July last year that the implementation of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging would be postponed. Regarding the work of the Director of Bureau's Office on the promotion of policy explanation, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the respective expenditures and manpower involved in the publicity of the implementation of MSW charging last year and this year?
2. Please set out by month the respective numbers of policy briefings on MSW charging attended by the Secretary, Under Secretary and Political Assistant, together with the number of participants and number of hours of attendance of each official.
3. Please provide a breakdown, by the Secretary, Under Secretary and Political Assistant, of the number of hours on explaining or exchanging views on MSW charging with the property management sector, cleansing sector, residents, District Council members, Community Care Teams and foreign domestic helpers and the types of such explanations and exchanges.
4. There are views that the Government's explanation on MSW charging is inadequate, and in this connection, has the Director of Bureau's Office reviewed the effectiveness of the publicity work? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

1. The expenditures of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) involved in the publicity work on municipal solid waste (MSW) charging for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are as follows:

Financial year	Expenditure involved (\$m)
2023-24 (Revised estimate)	29.0
2024-25 (Estimate)	33.2

The implementation of MSW charging by the EPD involves 65 and 72 civil service posts in 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. The work on the publicity and promotion of MSW charging is part of the overall duties carried out by the existing manpower, and no breakdown is available.

2 and 3.

Details of relevant activities attended by the Secretary, Under Secretary and Political Assistant for the briefings on MSW charging are as follows:

Month	Secretary		Under Secretary		Political Assistant	
	Number of attendance	Number of Hours of attendance	Number of attendance	Number of Hours of attendance	Number of attendance	Number of Hours of attendance
Jul 2023			3	4		
Aug 2023	1	1				
Sep 2023	4	4.5	2	2	3	3
Oct 2023	4	4.5	1	1	4	3.5
Nov 2023			1	1.5		
Dec 2023	1	1	1	0.5	1	1
Jan 2024	6	7.5	2	3.5	5	6.5
Feb 2024	6	7	15	23	6	7
Mar 2024			11	15.5		
Total	22	25.5	36	51	19	21

Through the aforementioned activities, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and EPD have reached out to a total of over 6 000 people, including Legislative Council (LegCo) members, District Council (DC) members, members of local communities/district bodies, owners' committees, owners' corporations, property management and environmental hygiene trade associations, representatives of chambers of commerce, green groups, catering sector, education sector, students, members of the public, etc.

Moreover, the EPD has been organising operational briefings and specialised trainings for stakeholders from all sectors, including property management and environmental hygiene trade associations, waste collection sector, commercial and industrial/retail sector, chambers of commerce, catering sector, hotel sector, recycling sector, owners' associations, stakeholders in the rural areas, fishermen's organisations, non-government organisations, tertiary institutions, primary and secondary school principals' associations, theme parks, etc. About 450 meetings and briefings have been held, and more than 36 000 stakeholders from different sectors have been contacted thus far, with a view to enhancing stakeholder participation and facilitating different stakeholders' understanding of the MSW charging arrangements.

After the establishment of the new-term of DCs and District Services as well as the Community Care Teams (CCTs), the EPD has organised multiple briefing sessions for policy interpretation and distributed leaflets and designated bags of MSW charging to all DC members and CCTs to facilitate their explanation of the MSW charging policy to the public in their day-to-day district work. Through the above activities, the EPD has reached out to over 300 DC members and 800 CCT members. The EPD staff have so far attended more than 40 briefings organised by LegCo members, DC members, District Offices and local personnel, reaching out to over 3 200 people. More briefings in English will be organised for ethnic minorities and foreign domestic helpers to help them understand the MSW charging policy.

4. To enhance public and related sectors' further understanding and awareness of the MSW charging scheme, the EPD has launched a series of extensive public education, publicity and stakeholder engagement activities. These initiatives include provision of first-hand experience on how MSW charging is implemented through the launches of community involvement projects; close partnership and collaboration with government departments and stakeholder groups such as the Environmental Campaign Committee, village representatives, green groups, schools, etc. in organising activities. Starting from August 2023, the EPD has been publicising the implementation date and arrangements of MSW charging through various channels in phases under the theme of "Dump Less, Save More" for the general public, the commercial and industrial sector and public institutions, and it will continue with these publicity efforts until the end of this year. Moreover, the EPD has introduced new publicity initiatives, including producing simple and easy-to-understand infographics for different groups, addressing misconceptions about the MSW charging policy through feature stories and street interviews, and collaborating with representatives of various stakeholders and celebrities to produce short videos to encourage the public to practise waste reduction and recycling and to share their experience in preparing for MSW charging. The Green Outreach was set up to complement the promotional activities and provide outreaching support to the community on waste reduction and recycling. Starting from 1 April 2024, the Government will launch the Demonstration Scheme in phases to hold on-site demonstrations to enable the public and the relevant sectors to have a clearer understanding of the operation and details of the MSW charging scheme.

Since the launch of the above publicity initiatives, we have noticed an increase in media coverage, public discussions on social media platforms and discussion forums, as well as the number of enquiries received by the EPD's hotline on MSW charging. These suggest that the key message of MSW charging has been effectively conveyed to the public. We will continue to review the publicity work to assess its effectiveness and decide whether there is a need to adjust the publicity plan.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)188

(Question Serial No. 2446)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to the Scheme of Control Agreements signed between the Environment and Ecology Bureau and The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited and CLP Power Hong Kong Limited respectively, if the power companies meet the specified targets/indices of 4 indicators, namely "Supply Reliability", "Operational Efficiency", "Customer Services" and "Supply Restoration", their permitted returns for that year can be increased. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Given that there is an annual increase in the permitted returns for meeting the 4 indicators by the two power companies, what are the actual amounts of incentives received by them in each of the past 5 years?
2. What procedures do the two companies go through and when do they receive the actual amounts of incentives under the increased permitted returns of that year?
3. To the Government's knowledge, have the two power companies used the incentives received for meeting the 4 indicators to reward their customers in the past 5 years? If yes, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?
4. The Government has been following this incentive mechanism until 2023, when a review was conducted in response to views received due to multiple large-scale power outage incidents by the two power companies. It was until then a penalty mechanism was established. What is the reason for that?
5. There are views that the penalty mechanism fails to reflect the actual impact of individual large-scale power outage incidents on affected customers. Will the Government make further improvements and follow-ups regarding this issue?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 102)

Reply:

1. & 2.

The Government regulates the affairs of CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP) and The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited (HKE) through the Scheme of Control Agreements

(SCAs) signed with the two power companies. The SCAs set out the rights and obligations of the power companies and provide a framework for the Government to monitor their financial affairs and technical performance. In accordance with the SCAs, the Government conducts annual Auditing Reviews with the power companies with regard to technical, environmental and financial performance, including their customer performance, energy efficiency performance, etc. Under the mechanism, an incentive and penalty mechanism has been established.

On the achievement of performance targets, the power companies are required to submit relevant records and information to the Government for the annual Auditing Review. The performance data so submitted will then be sampled and verified by the Government during visits to the two power companies to ensure data accuracy. Once it is verified that relevant targets have been achieved, the power companies will be awarded with an additional increase in the rate of permitted returns and a corresponding amount of incentives.

Details of the customer performance indices and corresponding amounts of incentives received by the two power companies from 2019 to 2022 since the commencement of the existing SCAs in late 2018 (for CLP) and early 2019 (for HKE) are set out in the [Annex](#). The power companies will submit in due course their performance data for 2023 to the Government for the annual Auditing Review in accordance with the SCAs. The relevant and confirmed information is not yet available.

3.

The SCAs do not specify the use of incentives awarded to the two power companies under customer performance. However, the power companies will make an annual injection, which accounts for more than 60% of the incentives awarded under energy efficiency performance, into the Community Energy Saving Fund in accordance with the SCAs for promoting energy efficiency and conservation as well as for programmes that support disadvantaged groups.

4. & 5.

Targeting serious large-scale electricity supply interruption incidents such as the CLP Cable Bridge Fire Incident on 21 June 2022, the Government has introduced, during the 2023 Interim Review of the SCAs, a new penalty scheme based on a performance indicator of “Customer Interruption Duration”. The new penalty scheme complements the existing incentive and penalty mechanism with the “Average Service Availability Index” and “Average Grid Supply Restoration Time”, etc., thereby enhancing the overall incentive and penalty mechanism of the SCAs.

Customer Performance Indices and Corresponding Incentive Amounts of the Power Companies from 2019 to 2022

HKE

	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)
Supply Reliability	99.9965%	+0.015%	7.9	99.9972%	+0.015%	8.3	99.9970%	+0.015%	8.8	99.9974%	+0.015%	9.2
Operational Efficiency	100%	+0.01%	5.3	100%	+0.01%	5.5	100%	+0.01%	5.8	100%	+0.01%	6.2
Customer Services	100%	+0.01%	5.3	100%	+0.01%	5.5	100%	+0.01%	5.8	100%	+0.01%	6.2
Supply Restoration	55 minutes	+0.015%	7.9	54 minutes	+0.015%	8.3	55 minutes	+0.015%	8.8	54 minutes	+0.015%	9.2

CLP

	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)	Actual performance	Adjustment to permitted return	Incentive amount (HK\$ million)
Supply Reliability	99.9974%	+0.015%	17.3	99.9973%	+0.015%	17.8	99.9976%	+0.015%	18.5	99.9949%	0%	0
Operational Efficiency	100%	+0.01%	11.5	100%	+0.01%	11.9	100%	+0.01%	12.3	100%	+0.01%	12.9
Customer Services	99.99%	+0.01%	11.5	100%	+0.01%	11.9	100%	+0.01%	12.3	100%	+0.01%	12.9
Supply Restoration	48 minutes	+0.015%	17.3	48 minutes	+0.015%	17.8	48 minutes	+0.015%	18.5	49 minutes	+0.015%	19.4

Remarks:

In accordance with the SCAs signed between the Government and the power companies, an incentive and penalty mechanism is in place for the customer performance achieved by the two companies, with performance measurements as follows:

Performance on “supply reliability”	Average Service Availability Index
Performance on “operational efficiency”	Connection & Supply Performance Index
Performance on “customer services”	Appointment Punctuality Index
Performance on “supply restoration”	Average Grid Supply Restoration Time

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)189

(Question Serial No. 2448)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Through the Environment and Conservation Fund, the Government launched the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Necessary Equipment for “Plastic-free” School Lunch (the Pilot Scheme) in 2020 for the running of 3 school years, so as to encourage primary and secondary schools to use reusable lunch boxes in serving school lunch, and students to bring along their own reusable cutlery. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Since the launch of the Pilot Scheme, what are the respective numbers of participating primary and secondary schools each year? Are there any students who have dropped out of the Pilot Scheme?
2. Since the launch of the Pilot Scheme, what are the respective numbers of participating students and teachers each year? How many disposable lunch boxes have been replaced in total as estimated by the Government?
3. The Pilot Scheme’s project management services are provided by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund. What is the average cost of the preliminary assessment and procurement of equipment and associated works for each school? What is the annual maintenance cost?
4. Is there any school continuing the implementation of the Pilot Scheme after 3 school years of it? If yes, what are the relevant arrangements? If no, does the equipment for “plastic-free” school lunch installed at the schools need to be returned as a result?
5. Based on the implementation results, will the Government extend the Pilot Scheme?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 104)

Reply:

1. To support the “plastic-free” culture in schools, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in September 2020 launched the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Necessary Equipment for “Plastic-free” School Lunch (the Pilot Scheme) to subsidise schools for the installation of the “4 Treasures” (refrigerators, steam cabinets, dishwashers and disinfection machines) under the funding support through the

Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). Under the Pilot Scheme, a total of 46 schools (including 33 secondary schools, 6 primary schools, 1 primary cum secondary school and 6 special schools) have been subsidised to commence the Pilot Scheme in 2021. We have not received any application from schools to withdraw from the Pilot Scheme during the period.

2. According to the information provided by the participating schools, the total number of students participating in the Pilot Scheme is about 2 000. About 2 000 disposable lunch boxes and cutlery can be reduced per school day.
3. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) has arranged for the installation of equipment in subsidised schools by the end of 2021, with a total project cost of about \$2.1 million. After the completion of the installation, the EMSTF has arranged a two-year defect liability period for the equipment and associated minor works/subsidiary facilities, and the cost of which has been included in the total project cost. On average, the expenditure of each school on the installation of equipment, associated works and maintenance for the first 2 years was \$45,700.
4. After the expiry of the three-year implementation period of the Pilot Scheme, there is no need to return the equipment to the ECF and they can be kept by the schools for use.
5. The objective of the Pilot Scheme is to encourage students to use reusable food containers for lunch, so as to significantly reduce the disposal of disposable containers and cutlery. During the implementation of the Pilot Scheme, due to the impact of the epidemic, schools suspended classes and school lunch for a long period of time, rendering it difficult to accurately assess the performance and effectiveness of the installation of the “4 Treasures” in schools. At present, most schools are still using the necessary equipment to prepare lunch for their students. The EPD will follow up in due course on the arrangements for resumption of school lunch in participating schools after the epidemic and examine the effectiveness and demand of the Pilot Scheme before considering whether to expand or extend it.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(E)190****(Question Serial No. 0242)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

What is the respective numbers of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong in the past 3 years? Please set out the number of public places with EV charging facilities over the territory, including housing estates, shopping malls, etc.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

The respective numbers of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of EVs
2021	28 013
2022	47 468
2023	76 395

As at the end of December 2023, the number of public EV chargers provided by the Government and private sectors in the 18 districts is set out in the table below:

District	Number of chargers			Subtotal
	Standard	Medium	Quick	
Central & Western	10	366	49	425
Eastern	16	278	87	381
Southern	6	227	48	281
Wan Chai	70	277	57	404
Kowloon City	100	59	39	198
Kwun Tong	562	506	135	1 203
Sham Shui Po	29	168	58	255

District	Number of chargers			Subtotal
	Standard	Medium	Quick	
Wong Tai Sin	18	173	37	228
Yau Tsim Mong	50	210	115	375
Kwai Tsing	9	162	54	225
Tsuen Wan	21	223	39	283
Sai Kung	118	144	96	358
North	172	263	31	466
Tai Po	30	116	17	163
Sha Tin	663	455	122	1 240
Yuen Long	53	222	67	342
Tuen Mun	12	77	40	129
Islands	100	299	60	459
Total	2 039	4 225	1 151	7 415

The locations and details of public EV charging stations provided by the Government and private sectors in Hong Kong can be accessed or downloaded from the following link of the website of the Environmental Protection Department.

(https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/promotion_ev/locations_ev_chargers.html)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)191

(Question Serial No. 2970)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 81 of the 2024-25 Budget Speech that the Government has injected \$400 million into the Green Tech Fund (GTF) and 30 projects from local universities, public research institutes and enterprises have been approved, involving a total grant of about \$130 million. The GTF is now open for the third round of applications and the deadline is 14 March this year. (If possible, please provide a reply after 14 March.) In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is estimated amount of funding to be allocated to the third round of the GTF?
2. How many projects applied for the third round of the GTF?
3. What are the respective numbers of projects from local universities, public research institutes and enterprises out of the 30 research and development projects currently under the GTF (set out in table form)?
4. How many of the 30 projects involve new energy vehicles?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

In 2020, the Government set up the Green Tech Fund (GTF) to provide better and more focused funding support to research and development (R&D) projects which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. The Government has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF to support R&D projects in the priority areas including net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction. Since the launch of the GTF for application in December 2020, a total of 368 applications have been received. 30 projects submitted by local universities, public research institutes and private enterprises have been approved for a total grant of about \$130 million following careful deliberation by the GTF Assessment Committee. The GTF is inviting the 4th round of applications before the deadline on 20 March this year. As at 10 March this year, the GTF Secretariat has received a total of 7 applications. According to our experience in handling the first 3 rounds of applications, a majority of the applications would arrive just before the

deadline. The GTF Secretariat will announce the number of applications received in this new round of applications in due course.

The 30 R&D projects approved under the GTF comprise 23 projects submitted by local universities, 1 by public research institutes and 6 by private enterprises. Among them, 6 R&D projects involve new energy vehicles, of which 3 projects are relating to second-life electric vehicle (EV) batteries or reuse of retired EV batteries. Details of the approved projects are at the Annex.

**Projects of local universities and public research institutes
approved under the Green Tech Fund**

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
Projects approved in 2021					
1*	Development of high performance and long life hydrogen fuel cell stacks	Development of high performance and long life hydrogen fuel cells that can be widely applied in electric vehicles (EVs) for facilitating large-scale application of fuel cells and helping to promote the popularisation of EVs and low-carbon transformation	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	36 months	\$8,991,500
2	Development of printable perovskite solar cells for transformative clean energy and sustainable society	Development of solar cells that can be printed on different surfaces to increase the power generation efficiency of photovoltaic systems and to develop building-integrated photovoltaic systems	City University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$5,031,934

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
3	A safe, efficient and facile approach for hydrogen storage and generation: catalytic hydrolysis of solid-state hydrogen storage materials	Development of hydrogen storage and release technology involving the use of stable solid-state materials for hydrogen storage to enhance safety and reduce potential risks associated with hydrogen transport and storage	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	30 months	\$3,305,100
4	Green hydrogen production from active flow membraneless electrolyzers	Development of more cost-effective and efficient technologies for producing green hydrogen	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	36 months	\$3,198,150
5	Turning water into the source of solar hydrogen via photocatalyst panel	Use of domestic water for scalable solar hydrogen evolution, and development of a demonstration system to promote public awareness of green hydrogen technologies	City University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$2,876,449

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
6*	Smart power conditioners using second-life EV batteries	Development of a smart energy storing power regulator with retired EV batteries to control and improve the power quality and grid stability, improve the charging infrastructure for EVs, and facilitate the application of second-life EV batteries with a view to achieving the goals of waste reduction and decarbonisation	City University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$6,687,710
7	Reducing biological landfill leachate treatment footprint via rapid electrochemical-UV technologies	Research on more energy-efficient ways to purify landfill leachate which has to be treated before it is discharged into the public sewerage system	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	30 months	\$6,674,600
8	Coupling AnMBR and PNA for compact - and energy- saving landfill leachate treatment	Development of a low-cost, less energy-intensive and less space-demanding system for landfill leachate treatment, with renewable energy generated in the process for use by the system	The University of Hong Kong	24 months	\$4,381,040

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
9	Biochar-enhanced construction materials for sustainable waste management and decarbonisation	Research on the use of yard waste for production of biochar building materials to reduce landfilled woody waste and carbon emissions each year	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	36 months	\$8,784,200
10*	Recycling of waste lithium-ion batteries as highly active fuel cell catalysts	Collection of waste batteries, electric vehicle batteries in particular, and recycling the cathode materials therein to produce fuel cells	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	24 months	\$2,783,920
11	Portable and low-cost sensors for the ambient air monitoring of BTEX and other volatile organic compounds	Development of low-cost portable sensors for real-time concentration monitoring of the most common air pollutants that lead to the formation of ozone in Hong Kong. The development of the sensors will help identify the sources of ozone formation	City University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$5,686,750

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
Projects approved in 2022					
12	Development of nanotechnology based hybrid air cleaning system towards green transport	Development of an air cleaning system to reduce air pollutants in roadside and semi-enclosed spaces through advanced technologies, such as high efficiency particulate filtration and nano catalytic coating, without affecting traffic flow or altering existing facilities	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	24 months	\$5,561,400
13	Carbon-friendly pneumatic flow mixing (PFM) to rapidly recycle waste mud for land reclamation in Hong Kong	Collaboration with the Civil Engineering and Development Department to recycle waste mud for land reclamation instead of dumping it into sediment pits in the open sea	The University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$4,901,300
14	Low carbon road pavement by maximising material circularity and adopting sustainable materials	Development of low carbon road pavement systems by adopting the closed-loop and open-loop based material circularity strategies according to the specifications of pavement systems of Hong Kong	City University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$4,197,500

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
15	Low-carbon transformation of construction materials using waste glass	Development of novel glass-based concrete products and promising large-scale technologies to provide a viable route for the use of waste glass in concrete, and reduce the consumption of cement and concrete raw materials in the construction industry	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	36 months	\$5,292,875
16*	Development of renewable energy and retired EV battery solution	Extending the lifespan and enhancing the value of retired EV batteries by providing a solution to overcome the technical challenges of reusing retired EV batteries	Hong Kong Productivity Council	36 months	\$2,942,000
<u>Projects approved in 2023</u>					
17	Low-carbon high-performance deep mixing piles for land reclamation	Utilisation of waste ashes to replace cement in deep mixing piles for land reclamation, which reduces the disposal of waste ashes and carbon emissions in land reclamation	The University of Hong Kong	24 months	\$2,783,000

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
18	Developing low-cost PEM electrolysis at scale by optimizing transport components and electrode interfaces	Development of an innovative proton exchange membrane electrolysis cell to improve the performance and cost efficiency in hydrogen production, which helps promote the application of hydrogen energy	City University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$3,866,300
19*	Self-healing aqueous batteries for safe and durable green transport	Development of aqueous rechargeable batteries to solve the flammability problem of traditional EV batteries and improve the safety and lifetime of batteries for EVs	City University of Hong Kong	36 months	\$2,500,100
20	Development of multi-functional “building clothing” using textile waste for energy saving and waste reduction	Development of exterior material for building with textile waste, which promotes energy saving of buildings	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	24 months	\$2,606,000
21	Carbon-negative, green, circular technologies for interception and revalorisation of fat, oil and grease (FOG) waste from catering industry	Development of an innovative FOG interception technology to reduce FOG from wastewater of catering services and turn the recovered FOG into energy	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	24 months	\$3,356,850

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
22	Study of ammonia pretreatment - power generation system toward complete valorisation of food waste digestate	Development of an intelligent energy supply station powered by ammonia to promote the development and application of low-carbon energy	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	24 months	\$6,870,100
23	The first intelligent ammonia-powered zero-carbon versatile-energy supply station, "NH3-VESS"	Develop an ammonia pretreatment system for food waste to help enhance the operation efficiency of O·Park and promote the turning of food waste into energy	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	24 months	\$4,613,800
24	Thermally-integrated water desalination - electrolysis system for clean hydrogen generation	Development of a seawater desalination system integrating with electrolysis for hydrogen production and an innovative membrane technology to explore the feasibility of using desalinated seawater to produce hydrogen and recovering the heat generated during hydrogen production for seawater desalination	City University of Hong Kong	24 months	\$4,142,300

* Projects which involve new energy vehicles

**Projects of local enterprises
approved under the Green Tech Fund**

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
Projects approved in 2021					
1*	Agile and dynamic control technologies to enhance system stability and power quality considering renewables and electrical vehicle impacts	Development of technologies that can control power quality and grid stability by storing the energy generated by a photovoltaic power generation system and analysing the utilisation of the charging stations with the use of software to improve the stability and reliability of the power grid, thereby supporting the popularisation of EVs	CAFEA Smart City Limited	30 months	\$2,504,200
2	Green intelligent garbage bag assessment system	Development of a smart garbage bag assessment system by using artificial intelligence technologies, together with positioning system data analysis to optimise waste management processes and facilitate effective implementation of municipal solid waste charging	United Microelectronics Centre (Hong Kong) Limited	21 months	\$2,514,580

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
3	Temperature and humidity impact free gas sensor and monitor system development for real-time high performance air quality monitoring	Development of low-cost smart air sensors capable of accurate and real-time air quality monitoring under different temperature and humidity conditions	Sundial Technology Development Limited	36 months	\$5,701,200
Projects approved in 2022					
4	A high-performance roll-to-roll process for the manufacture of a novel PEM membrane electrode assembly	Development of a novel membrane electrode assembly, and by reducing the particle size and increasing the conductivity of the support material, a larger surface area is available for catalyst deposition and a lower catalyst loading is required to achieve a similar performance in water electrolysis	iCreate Limited	18 months	\$3,866,033
5	Manufacturing high-efficiency noise-absorbing materials from recycled plastics	Manufacturing noise-absorbing products with superior acoustic and non-acoustic performance through using recycled plastics as raw materials	Lumi Technology Company Limited	24 months	\$3,379,200

	Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Grant approved
6	Green tech platform for waste management and reduction - Large scale reverse vending machine for plastic beverage bottles	Provision of a large size reverse vending machine (RVM) with enhanced accuracy, speed and reliability, and the use of the RVM database and 5G communication network to facilitate bottles identification and analysis of the public's recycling habits	Roborn Technology Limited	12 months	\$2,518,000

* Projects which involve new energy vehicles

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)192

(Question Serial No. 2654)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. The Bureau stated that in 2024-25, it would oversee the retrofitting of electric charging facilities in petrol filling stations with a view to facilitating the transition to green transport. What is the budget of that part? What is the estimated target for facilitating the retrofitting of electric charging facilities in 2024-25?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

Through the refining of the land lease conditions for petrol filling stations (PFSs), the Government is offering suitable incentives for PFS operators to retrofit electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities in the usable space of PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. The Government wrote to PFS operators in November 2023 to invite submission of preliminary proposals for retrofitting quick charging facilities at PFSs, and received 98 preliminary proposals in February 2024. Analysis and feasibility study of the proposals received are underway. We expect to provide about 100 chargers at the existing PFSs in the 2024-25 financial year.

The aforementioned work is part of the overall duties of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and is absorbed by its existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)193

(Question Serial No. 2656)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to the Bureau, the original estimate of the provision for this Programme for 2023-24 is \$149.3 million, but the revised estimate is \$96.4 million, representing a difference of nearly 40%. What are the areas in which the difference arises and the reasons for the difference?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

Under the programme of Nature Conservation, the decrease of nearly 40% in the revised estimate for 2023-24 as compared with the original estimate for 2023-24 is mainly due to the lower-than-expected cash flow requirement for the approved projects under the "Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme" of the Countryside Conservation Office.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)194

(Question Serial No. 0737)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Bureau mentioned that it would promote regional and international collaboration on climate change and carbon neutrality, including collaboration with cities in the Greater Bay Area, and there would be a decrease of 1 post in 2024-25.

In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the reasons and details of the post to be deleted;
2. the details of the staff cost and expenditure involved in promoting regional and international collaboration on climate change and carbon neutrality;
3. as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is a key strategic area for China's low-carbon transformation, the details of the Government's efforts to promote collaboration in the following 4 areas in the GBA:
 - 1) enhance capabilities in air/environmental pollution and extreme weather monitoring, forecast and control;
 - 2) establish protection barriers for woodland and marine ecological resources;
 - 3) strengthen the co-ordinated development in measures for new energy, energy conservation and environmental protection; and
 - 4) promote cleaner production?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. To maintain the sustainability of public finance, the Government has been strictly controlling the size of civil service establishment since 2021-22. In 2024-25, the Government will continue with this measure and the target of zero growth in the civil service establishment to keep the latter at a level no higher than that in end-March 2021. The Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) has been taking forward new policies and initiatives of the Government through reprioritisation, internal redeployment, streamlining work processes and enhancing effectiveness and efficiency. The

Environment Branch has examined its civil service establishment and will delete in 2024-25 1 Workman II post that is no longer required to meet operational needs. This arrangement will not affect the work progress in combating climate change.

2. The estimated staff cost and expenditure for combating climate change and promoting regional and international collaboration on carbon neutrality are about \$152 million in 2024-25. The provision will be used to meet the expenditure on the projects under the Green Tech Fund and the Sustainable Development Fund, and to support all areas of work of the Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality.
3. (1) Enhance capabilities in air/environmental pollution and extreme weather monitoring, forecast and control

The governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao (GHM) have collaborated for years in developing a regional air quality monitoring network (the Network) to continuously monitor the changes of regional air quality in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). Starting from 2022, the Network has included volatile organic compounds in its regular monitoring to further enhance its air pollutant monitoring capability. Moreover, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is also establishing a Three-dimensional Air Quality Monitoring Network in Hong Kong basing on the light detection and ranging (also known as “LiDAR”) system to monitor the real-time spatial distribution of air pollutant concentrations and meteorological data profiles up to several kilometres above ground, which can supplement the monitoring data gathered at near ground level by conventional air quality monitoring stations. This will enhance our understanding of the regional air pollutant formation and transport. The data concerned can improve the accuracy of air quality modelling and forecast, effectively enhancing the capability of GHM in carrying out jointly prediction and forecasting on polluted weather.

Furthermore, the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) has maintained close co-operation with the Mainland and Macao meteorological authorities over the years in various areas such as meteorological monitoring and forecasting for the GBA. The HKO and other GBA meteorological authorities exchange real-time meteorological data for monitoring various extreme weather including thunderstorms, rainstorms and tropical cyclones to keep track of the latest weather conditions and analyse the development trend. At the same time, the GHM meteorological authorities have put in place a communication and liaison mechanism for high-impact meteorological events. The 3 sides also hold the regular Meeting on Co-operation in Meteorological Operations and Seminar on Meteorological Science and Technology to make in-depth technological exchanges on the monitoring, analysis and forecasting of extreme weather like rainstorms and tropical cyclones.

To strengthen the collaboration in the prevention and control of air pollution and combating climate change in the GBA, the EPD and the HKO are actively preparing for the development of a supersite for GBA air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring (the Supersite) in co-operation with academic research institutions in the Mainland and Hong Kong. Equipped with the world’s state-of-the-art equipment including air quality monitoring system, greenhouse gases monitoring system and high performance computers, the Supersite will provide a series of real-time monitoring data with a solid scientific basis on the atmospheric conditions, thus enhancing Hong Kong’s

capabilities in monitoring and forecasting regional air pollution, and predicting extreme weather and related risks exacerbated by climate change.

Moreover, the HKO commenced the preparatory work for developing the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Meteorological Monitoring and Warning Centre (Hong Kong) (Hong Kong Centre) last year. The Hong Kong Centre to be situated at the Supersite will serve to further enhance the meteorological monitoring, forecasting and warning services as well as the capabilities in forecasting and predicting extreme weather events for the GBA through meteorological data sharing, meteorological scientific research and innovation, and training for meteorological personnel, etc.

(2) Establish protection barriers for woodland and marine ecological resources

Hong Kong will work with Guangdong to strengthen the ecological connectivity between woodland, marine, wetland and other conservation areas of both regions. We will also carry on in-depth exchanges with Guangdong on construction, management, conservation, personnel training, publicity, education, etc., of those conservation areas, with an aim to enhancing their effectiveness in using conservation areas as a tool to protect the nature's "carbon sinks" to achieve the goals of conservation and climate change.

(3) Strengthen the co-ordinated development in measures for new energy, energy conservation and environmental protection

On new energy transport, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) will further exchanges and co-operation with Shenzhen to advance the replacement of cross-boundary goods vehicles with new energy ones, with concerted effort to take forward the installation and standards alignment of electricity charging and hydrogen refuelling facilities near boundary control points. Moreover, the HKSAR Government will explore with Shenzhen the scope of co-operation on the provision of facilities and a supply chain required for green-methanol bunkering for local and ocean-going vessels.

On the other hand, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has had ongoing exchanges with GBA cities on the technology of retro-commissioning (RCx) of existing buildings to enhance energy efficiency of buildings. The initiatives in 2023 included the following:

- the joint fifth plenary meeting with signatories of the Memorandum of Co-operation on RCx of Buildings in the GBA held in Guangdong, with site visits to the Mainland and Macao to learn about their development in RCx and share relevant experience; and
- the Green I&T Day 2023 in Guangdong held jointly with the Guangdong Provincial Association for Science and Technology, with Hong Kong and Mainland experts sharing experience in decarbonisation through innovation and technology (I&T), and at which 15 exhibitors from both sides showcased their I&T achievements in energy conservation and new and renewable energy.

The EEB has all along maintained close liaison with the Guangdong authorities through the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Environmental Protection and Combating Climate Change, focusing our discussions and exchanges on matters relating to respective environmental quality, natural resources, ecological conservation, sustainable development and climate change adaptation. Special panels are tasked to take forward the implementation of co-operation initiatives. In 2024-25, Hong Kong will conclude the three-year project of “Characterisation of photochemical ozone formation, regional and super-regional transportation in the GBA” to identify the causes of ozone formation in the GBA and provide scientific recommendations for formulating regional ozone pollution control policy. Hong Kong and Guangdong will continue to promote and deepen exchanges, co-operation and scientific researches on mitigation, adaptability and resilience to climate change.

The EEB and the Macao SAR Government will also continue to utilise the Hong Kong-Macao Environmental Protection Liaison Meeting for exchanges on topics covering environmental impact assessment, international conventions, policy measures on motor vehicle pollution control, coastal waters pollution, chemical waste disposal and charges, publicity and education on environmental protection, the development of environmental industries, etc.

(4) Promote cleaner production

The HKSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government launched the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme (the Programme) in 2008, which provides funding support and technology promotion activities to encourage and facilitate Hong Kong-owned factories in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices for reducing pollutant emissions, thereby improving the environment in the region. As at end-2023, a total of about 4 000 projects have been funded under the Programme, comprising projects on initially energy saving and air pollutant emissions reduction and gradually wider topics covering effluent control/reduction and waste reduction technologies. It is estimated that the Programme would reduce air pollutant emissions by about 39 000 tonnes, effluent discharge by 19 million tonnes, carbon dioxide by 1.75 million tonnes and energy consumption by about 18 000 tera-joules annually.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)195

(Question Serial No. 0007)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Bureau stated that in 2024-25, it would commission a feasibility study on providing green methanol bunkering for both local and ocean-going vessels, and promulgate an action plan to construct bunkering facilities and develop supply chains. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Has the Government considered engaging in technical exchanges and collaboration with other countries or regions in the development of the green methanol industry?
2. Does the Government have any plan to enhance public awareness of green methanol and its environmental benefits? Are there any targeted education and publicity programmes to enhance support for the industry from various sectors of the community?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Transport and Logistics Bureau has set up a joint working group with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and other relevant departments to follow up on the issue of green methanol bunkering, and study the feasibility of providing green methanol bunkering for both local and ocean-going vessels, including collaboration with neighbouring regions on green fuel bunkering; and will promulgate an action plan within 2024 for the construction of bunkering facilities and development of supply chains.

The joint working group has been communicating closely with the industry, including fuel suppliers, fuel bunkering operators and shipping companies, on the promotion of green methanol bunkering in Hong Kong. In tandem with the ongoing feasibility study on green methanol bunkering and the action plan to be subsequently promulgated, the Government will produce publicity materials to enhance the industry's awareness of green marine fuels and their environmental benefits.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)196

(Question Serial No. 0008)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25, the Government pointed out that it would formulate and promulgate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the current progress of the work, what is the estimated time for the promulgation, and what are the resources devoted in this regard?
2. As it is learnt that the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has developed safety guidelines for hydrogen fuel system of vehicles and hydrogen refuelling stations, as well as technical guidelines for quantitative risk assessment of hydrogen refuelling stations in the fields of hydrogen storage, transportation, and refuelling, etc., and the EMSD is currently consulting the professional bodies, trade and stakeholders on these guidelines, please advise on the progress and details of the consultation, and when it will be completed.
3. According to the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, the share of renewable energy in the fuel mix for electricity generation will increase to 7.5% - 10% by 2035, and to 15% thereafter, but at present, the share of renewable energy is still less than 1%. Apart from expediting the development of local renewable energy, will the Government consider importing zero-carbon energy from overseas, so that it can be used for local consumption as well as for the production of green hydrogen?
4. How will the Government promote the training of professionals in the fields of hydrogen energy and new energy? For example, will the Government increase the number of hydrogen energy and new energy-related courses offered by local universities and institutions; and will it also strengthen the co-operation between schools and enterprises in order to nurture multi-skilled talents?
5. Will the Government consider providing subsidies to encourage operators to introduce hydrogen technology and applications during the trial period of hydrogen projects, so as to expand the scale of the economy?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address announced that we will formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong (the Strategy) in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for legislative amendments pertinent to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy with a view to introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2025, in order to foster a conducive environment for hydrogen development in Hong Kong.

In formulating the Strategy, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) (Environment Branch) will draw reference from the basic principles set out in our country's Medium and Long Term Plan for the Development of Hydrogen Energy Industry (2021-2035), and the experiences and research and development results of cities in our country and overseas, for the purpose of exploring and promoting comprehensive development of hydrogen production, storage, transportation, refuelling, application, etc. with a view to preparing Hong Kong for the wider application of hydrogen energy in the future. The EEB (Environment Branch) is collecting views from stakeholders to formulate an approach on hydrogen development that caters for Hong Kong's development needs.

To align with the use of hydrogen fuel in Hong Kong, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), in consultation with the industry, has developed safety guidelines for hydrogen fuelled vehicles and maintenance workshops, safety guidelines for hydrogen filling stations, and guidance note for the quantitative risk assessment study for hydrogen installations. These guidelines have been applied to the current trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology in Hong Kong. The EMSD will continue to take into account the development of hydrogen technology and experiences gained from the implementation of trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology, in order to continuously update relevant guidelines and move with the times. To provide a legal framework that is suitable for local hydrogen fuel application, the EMSD is working on the amendments to the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), which involves the inclusion of the aforementioned guidelines in the legal framework. The EMSD conducted a one-month consultation with the industry between 20 February and 19 March this year and obtained generally positive views. The EMSD will continue to carry out relevant legislative amendments with the aim of introducing an amendment bill into the LegCo in 2025.

The Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 promulgated by the Government in 2021 sets out decarbonisation strategies including "Net-zero Electricity Generation", etc., with a view to achieving the overall target of carbon neutrality before 2050. We will progressively increase the use of zero-carbon energy for electricity generation by taking into account 4 important factors: safety, reliability, affordability and environmental performance. In this connection, the Government will continue to promote the development of renewable energy while at the same time explore ways to enhance regional co-operation, identify more sources of zero-carbon energy in neighbouring regions, and try out the use of new zero-carbon energy, such as hydrogen, etc., thereby gradually reducing reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation and promoting low-carbon energy transformation.

On professional training and capacity building, the EMSD has been communicating closely with the industry and is committed to collaborating with training institutions to provide suitable hydrogen energy-related training courses for the industry. The EMSD is actively discussing with the Vocational Training Council the provision of training courses on

maintenance of hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) vehicles, and will continue to explore with professional bodies and local institutions the training arrangements for professionals on hydrogen energy, so as to nurture various hydrogen practitioners and professionals in Hong Kong in a comprehensive manner.

The Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to co-ordinate preparation work of bureaux and departments for using hydrogen as fuel locally, and to promote the local adoption of hydrogen energy through trial projects. As at February 2024, the Working Group has agreed in principle on a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects. The Government encourages interested applicants to submit applications to the Working Group for undertaking trial projects on hydrogen fuel technology in Hong Kong. To assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transport technologies, the Government has earmarked funding under the New Energy Transport Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the procurement of HFC heavy vehicles under the trial projects.

Regarding the staffing arrangements for promoting local hydrogen development, the EMSD has set up a new hydrogen team in 2023-24, comprising 9 professional grade posts. In 2024-25, the hydrogen team will continue to engage in the work of promoting hydrogen development in Hong Kong, including liaising with the trade to take forward hydrogen energy trial projects, as well as continuing with the work on the amendment of the Gas Safety Ordinance to regulate the safety of hydrogen fuel. The estimated expenditure of the relevant posts is about \$10.983 million. The work of the EEB (Environment Branch) on the formulation and promulgation of the Development Strategy will be absorbed by the existing staff establishment, we do not have the relevant breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)197

(Question Serial No. 0015)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024-25 that the Government would oversee further studies and planning for the development of Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (WCP) in the Northern Metropolis. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the details of the further studies and planning, and will the Government set a timetable for the remaining wetland conservation parks and announce conservation projects with more details?
2. As it is learnt that the construction period of the San Po Shue WCP is as long as 13 years, will the Government explain the reason for that?
3. It has been reported that some of the wetlands have been damaged, including large-scale grading and excavation, filling up or widening of the protective facing of ponds, placing of dredgers and containers for an extended period of time, etc. Does the Government have any record of the relevant law enforcement actions, and what are the details?
4. Will government departments step up law enforcement actions, including allocating additional resources and manpower for inspections and prosecutions, as well as setting stringent criteria and penalties for reinstatement?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

[Questions 1 and 2]

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is conducting the Strategic Feasibility Study on the Development of Wetland Conservation Parks System under the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy (the Strategic Feasibility Study) to ascertain the location, boundary, functions and management mode, etc., of each of the proposed parks (including the Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park (WCP)). The AFCD has just completed the part 2 public engagement exercise on the preliminary recommendations put forward under the Strategic Feasibility Study in January this year, including the

recommendation to establish the Sam Po Shue WCP first. The consultant is expected to submit the final recommendations of the Strategic Feasibility Study to the Government in the first half of this year upon analysis and consideration of the public members' views. The Government will take into account the recommendations of the Strategic Feasibility Study to take forward the establishment of the Sam Po Shue WCP, including the investigation study in the next stage, which would commence within this year.

The Sam Po Shue WCP is estimated to cover an area of about 338 hectares, which is 5 times the size of the existing Hong Kong Wetland Park. It is a very large-scale project and therefore requires a longer construction period. We will actively explore the possibility of expediting the commencement of the works under the first phase, and will endeavour to take forward the preparatory or advance tasks for the works under the second phase during the construction of the first phase, with a view to completing the whole project as early as possible. It is expected that we will have a more accurate picture of the actual timetable for the implementation programme of the works for the project when the investigation study and detailed design for the project are carried out in the next stage.

The initial proposed area and scale of the WCPs System is very large, amounting to about 2 000 hectares. The consultant of the Strategic Feasibility Study has recommended that a more pragmatic approach would be for the Government to develop the WCPs System in phases, such that the planning, design and monitoring on construction works of the parks, as well as the handling of impact on stakeholders (e.g. fishpond operators and land owners) could be thoroughly considered and properly managed. For the other parks proposed under the WCPs System, namely the Nam Sang Wai WCP, Hoo Hok Wai WCP (including the Sha Ling/Nam Hang part) and the Hong Kong Wetland Park Expansion Area, the Government will take into account the final recommendations of the Strategic Feasibility Study which is expected to be completed in the first half this year and make reference to the experience of planning and establishing the Sam Po Shue WCP, in order to review in due course the work related to the studies for the other proposed WCPs.

[Questions 3 and 4]

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has all along attached great importance to the issue of fly-tipping of construction waste at and filling of fish ponds and wetlands in the Northern Metropolis (including areas such as Sam Po Shue, San Tin, Nam Sang Wai and Hoo Hok Wai). The EPD arranges regular inspections and investigations into suspected fly-tipping cases, and takes enforcement actions against unauthorised waste disposal and illegal activities in conservation areas through the Waste Disposal Ordinance and the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance respectively. In the past 5 years (2019 to 2023), the EPD has successfully prosecuted 42 cases involving fish ponds and wetlands in the Northern Metropolis. The number of inspections and prosecution cases by year is tabulated below:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. of inspections conducted	122	37	87	128	110
No. of prosecutions instigated	4	5	19	3	11

On the other hand, the Planning Department (PlanD) will undertake enforcement action against unauthorised developments (UDs) in the rural areas of the New Territories under the

Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131) (TPO). Specifically, if the PlanD has sufficient evidence to prove that the relevant site involves a UD under the TPO, it will undertake appropriate enforcement actions by issuing an Enforcement Notice (EN) to the concerned parties requiring them to discontinue the UD by a specified date, and a Reinstatement Notice (RN) to require the recipient to remove the pond filling materials/fill materials as appropriate. If the notice recipients fail to comply with the requirements of the statutory notices, the PlanD will instigate prosecution. For convicted cases, the court will impose a fine in accordance with the TPO.

From 2019 to end-February 2024, the PlanD has taken enforcement action against UDs at 5 sites within the proposed area of the Sam Po Shue WCP. Upon discontinuance of the UDs at 3 sites, the PlanD has issued RNs and the notice recipients have complied with the requirements under the RNs, such as removal of fill materials from the pond/on the land/grassing the land (where applicable). As for the UDs at the remaining 2 sites, the PlanD has issued ENs in early 2024 to require the notice recipients to discontinue the UDs before deadline, and will consider issuing RNs after the UDs are discontinued.

Relevant departments will continue to step up inspections and make use of smart technology (such as drones) to enhance the work efficiency of control and prosecution, and the EPD will organise ambush operations from time to time to combat illegal activities. At the same time, through inter-departmental collaboration including exchange of intelligence, sharing of information and joint inspections, the departments would step up combating illegal activities such as fly-tipping of waste and filling at fish ponds and wetlands in the Northern Metropolis.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)198

(Question Serial No. 1457)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Controlling Officer's Report that the Bureau will continue to oversee the implementation of the various programmes and schemes to promote the development of renewable energy. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- (a) the specific details and progress of the various programmes and schemes;
- (b) whether the Government will, in the future, consider continuously exploring ways to capitalise on the advantages of the new development areas to introduce healthy competition, strengthening the power grid interconnection between Guangdong and Hong Kong, increasing the proportion of zero-carbon energy imported to the Mainland to minimise the impact of the fluctuation of energy prices on fuel costs, and whether there is a timetable or corresponding key performance indicators formulated in this regard; and
- (c) the manpower establishment and expenditures involved in the relevant work in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) The Government has been leading by example in optimising the favourable conditions of premises and developing renewable energy (RE), including raising the requirements for applying RE technologies in new government buildings and developing large-scale solar energy generation and waste-to-energy projects, etc. at suitable locations. For instance, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has commenced the operation of T·PARK (Sludge Treatment Facility), O·PARK1 (Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1) and O·PARK2 (Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 2), and is constructing I·PARK1 (Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1). In parallel, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) is developing a large-scale floating solar energy generation system at Plover Cove Reservoir and a solar farm at the South

East New Territories Landfill in Tseung Kwan O to supply electricity to the nearby waterworks for their direct use.

In addition to developing large-scale RE systems, the Government has earmarked a total of \$3 billion to install RE facilities at government buildings and infrastructure since 2017-18. As at December 2023, about \$2 billion have been approved for 226 projects, including the installation of solar energy generation systems at government offices, government quarters, schools, recreational grounds-cum-rest gardens, reservoirs, pedestrian links, etc. as well as the installation of waste-to-energy and hydropower systems at multiple sewage treatment plants. 143 of the 226 approved projects have been completed, and the rest of them will commence works as scheduled next year. We expect that these projects can generate a total of about 25 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. Besides, starting from 2022, the Government has planned to optimise the use of space in 28 selected government premises, such as the EPD's refuse transfer stations and the WSD's pumping stations, to install solar energy generation systems through inter-departmental efforts. The electricity generated from these projects can be used directly by relevant facilities, thereby saving electricity costs for the departments concerned and reducing carbon emissions.

The Government is also committed to creating favourable conditions to encourage the private sector to develop RE on their land and properties. To complement the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme, the Government has introduced a series of supporting measures, for examples, facilitating the private sector in installing solar energy generation systems at open car parks, suitably relaxing the requirements for the installation of solar energy generation systems on the rooftops of New Territories Exempted Houses (i.e. village houses), revamping the "HK RE Net" and setting up an enquiry hotline, introducing legislative amendments to provide exemption from the requirements to apply for business registration and pay profits tax in respect of participation in and the payments received under the FiT Scheme, etc. Furthermore, we will continue our cooperation with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to regularly organise activities such as seminars and briefings, etc. to introduce to relevant stakeholders the installation of RE facilities and the FiT Scheme, so as to encourage different sectors to make optimal use of their premises for the development of RE.

- (b) In view of the overall target of achieving carbon neutrality before 2050 as set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050, we will progressively increase the use of zero-carbon energy for electricity generation by taking into account 4 important factors, i.e. safety, reliability, affordability and environmental performance. We will also not rule out the possibility of purchasing any kind of zero-carbon energy, including nuclear electricity and all types of RE, from the Mainland and explore the feasibility of developing zero-carbon energy projects near Hong Kong.
- (c) The Environment and Ecology Bureau implements the above measures with the existing staff establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)199

(Question Serial No. 1459)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding launching and monitoring trials of hydrogen fuel cell double-deck buses and heavy vehicles to explore the potential and possible applications of hydrogen fuel in green transport, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) whether the Government has drawn up a timetable for the setting up of hydrogen refuelling facilities; if yes, the details; if no, the reasons; and
- (b) in order to minimise the costs incurred in the reassessment and studies, whether the Government will make early planning for the hydrogen refuelling facilities and at the same time take into account the additional charging facilities to be provided. What were the Government's expenditures involved in the assessment, studies and site investigations of the hydrogen refuelling facilities in the past?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

(a) and (b)

To support local development of hydrogen energy, the Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to co-ordinate preparatory work of bureaux and departments for using hydrogen as fuel locally, and to promote the local adoption of hydrogen energy through trial projects. As at February 2024, the Working Group has given agreement-in-principle to a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects, including the setting up of hydrogen refuelling facilities by Citybus at its West Kowloon Depot for hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) double-decker buses, and the project commenced trial operation in November 2023. In addition, the Working Group has also given agreement-in-principle to an application submitted by Sinopec (Hong Kong) Limited for a trial project to build a public hydrogen refuelling station at Au Tau, Yuen Long. Temporary planning permission has been obtained from the Town Planning Board for the project on the proposed use of the petrol filling station site as a hydrogen refuelling station,

which is currently under construction. The applicant expects that the project can be put into operation for testing within this year.

HFC electric vehicles are potential means of new energy vehicles for adoption, thereby helping us strive towards the target of achieving carbon neutrality. The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address announced that we would formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong (the Strategy) in the first half of 2024. Details of the Strategy will be announced in due course. The work of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) on the promotion of hydrogen energy development will be absorbed by the existing staff establishment, and there is no relevant breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)200

(Question Serial No. 1364)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is noted that there has been a growing number of people in recent years who want to keep endangered species or “exotic species” (i.e. non-native, wild or non-domesticated, non-traditional or unusual species) as pets, which will lead to a rise in illegal trafficking of animals or threaten the ecosystem. On the work to protect the above species, will the Government inform this Committee of:

1. the volumes of imported animals listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other “exotic” animals in the past 3 years;
2. the types and quantities of endangered species and other “exotic” species involved in prosecutions, and the numbers of the prosecutions concerned;
3. the numbers in relation to cases of illegal import/export of endangered species and other “exotic” species, arrests, prosecutions and convictions; the maximum terms of imprisonment and amounts of fine; the endangered species involved and the numbers of seizures in the past 3 years; and
4. the manpower and expenditures involved in the work to protect endangered species and other “exotic” species in the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

1. The Government implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) regulations through the enforcement of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586). The volume of imported live animals of species listed in the appendices to the CITES in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

		Volume of Import (quantity)		
		2021	2022	2023
Type of animals	Year			
Bird		72	63	426
Reptile		371 732	299 065	445 143
Amphibian		130	663	801
Fish		124 812 (Note)	14 948	15 832
Mollusc		354	370	339
Arthropod		200	0	0
Coral		110 870	83 767	70 288

Note: The larger quantity was mainly due to a surge in the volume of imported Asian Arowana in 2021.

In addition, the volume of other live non-endangered pet birds and reptiles imported in accordance with the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139) in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

		Volume of Import (quantity)		
		2021	2022	2023
Type of animals	Year			
Bird		37 074	14 855	37 121
Reptile		219 716	202 477	323 092

- For the past 3 years, the number of suspected illegally imported or possessed live endangered species seized by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on the whole (the AFCD does not maintain breakdown of cases by animals as pets) in accordance with Cap. 586 and the number of the successful prosecutions concerned are tabulated below:

Type of animals	2021		2022		2023	
	Seizure (quantity)	No. of prosecution	Seizure (quantity)	No. of prosecution	Seizure (quantity)	No. of prosecution
Bird	3	1	2	7	52	1
Reptile	187	5	422	5	593	3
Amphibian	7	1	0	0	0	0
Fish	1 724	0	25	1	9	3
Arthropod	0	0	0	0	26	0
Coral	1 053	0	32	0	137	0

Note: Some seizure cases involved a large number of animals. Since it took time to investigate and seek legal advice, some cases of prosecution were not initiated in the same year as the seizure. Moreover, some seizure including, amongst others, certain

reptile cases and all coral cases did not lead to prosecution because the evidence was considered insufficient upon investigation and/or seeking legal advice.

In addition, for the past 3 years, the number of non-compliant imported live non-endangered pet birds and reptiles under Cap. 139 seized by the AFCD at the airport and various land boundary control points (BCPs) and the number of successful cases of prosecution concerned are tabulated below:

Year Type of animals	2021		2022		2023	
	Seizure (quantity)	No. of prosecution	Seizure (quantity)	No. of prosecution	Seizure (quantity)	No. of prosecution
Bird	0	1	0	0	757	4
Reptile	1 524	0	887	0	286	0

Note: Some seizure cases might involve a large number of animals.

- The number of prosecution against illegal import/export of live endangered animals initiated by the AFCD on the whole (the AFCD does not maintain breakdown of cases by animals as pets) under Cap. 586 in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of persons prosecuted	2	1	1
Number of prosecution cases	2	2	2
Number of conviction	2	1	2
Maximum term of imprisonment	Not applicable	24 months	30 months
Maximum amount of fine	\$2,000	Not applicable	Not applicable
Endangered species involved	1 tortoise and 2 freshwater turtles	6 parrots	3 lizards, 5 freshwater turtles and 13 tortoises

The number of successful prosecution against illegal import of live non-endangered pet birds and reptiles instituted by the AFCD under Cap. 139 in the past 3 years is tabulated below:

Year	2021	2022	2023
Number of persons prosecuted	1	0	4
Number of prosecution cases	1	0	4
Number of conviction	1	0	4
Maximum term of imprisonment	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Maximum amount of fine	\$2,000	Not applicable	\$15,000

4. The work to protect endangered species include enforcement of the licensing control of international trade of endangered species and suppression of illegal trafficking of endangered species in Hong Kong under Cap. 586. The expenditure and manpower involved in the relevant work of the AFCD in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	51.0	48.3	48.3
Manpower (number of staff)	57	56	55

In addition, the AFCD has been performing quarantine work for imports at various BCPs and the Hong Kong International Airport. The expenditure and manpower involved in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (revised estimate)
Expenditure (\$ million)	52	59	63
Manpower (number of staff)	102	102	102

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)201

(Question Serial No. 1365)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the efforts in strengthening the control of trade in endangered species, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide the enforcement data relating to ivory in the past 5 years, including the quantity of ivory seized (in kilograms), the number of persons convicted, the maximum term of imprisonment and the maximum amount of fine.
2. Since the full implementation of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018, what are the expenditure and manpower involved in prohibiting the import, re-export and commercial possession of ivory?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

1. The enforcement statistics relating to ivory in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Quantity of ivory seized (in kilograms)	2 058	0.07	1.13	6.93	3.62
Number of persons convicted	18	1	0	19	4
Maximum term of imprisonment	6 weeks	24 months	N/A	6 weeks (suspended for 18 months)	2 weeks
Maximum amount of fine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2. As ivory control is part of the regular enforcement duties of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the AFCD does not have a breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)202

(Question Serial No. 1366)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

To address global climate change, the development of hydrogen energy as an alternative energy source is a major global trend. In recent years, the Government has made a lot of efforts in developing hydrogen energy, and the Policy Address has promulgated the formulation of the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong (the Strategy) in the first half of this year. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the work progress of the formulation of the Strategy?
2. On improving and amending relevant legislation for promoting the development of hydrogen energy, what are the Government's plans and progress?
3. In the Mainland, there is already technology for the production of green hydrogen using renewable energy sources such as solar energy, etc., and the process does not produce greenhouse gases. Will the Government study and draw reference from the practice to install photovoltaic systems in reservoirs in Hong Kong to produce green hydrogen? If yes, what are the details, budget and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?
4. What are the Government's plans for promoting the development of industries related to hydrogen energy production in Hong Kong? What are the relevant details?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address announced that we will formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong (the Strategy) in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for legislative amendments pertinent to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy with a view to introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2025, in order to foster a conducive environment for hydrogen development in Hong Kong.

In formulating the Strategy, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) (Environment Branch) will draw reference from the basic principles set out in our country's Medium and Long Term Plan for the Development of Hydrogen Energy Industry (2021-2035), and the experiences and research and development (R&D) results of cities in our country and overseas, for the purpose of exploring and promoting comprehensive development of hydrogen production, storage, transportation, refuelling, application, etc. with a view to preparing Hong Kong for the wider application of hydrogen energy in the future. The EEB (Environment Branch) is collecting views from stakeholders, and taking into account Hong Kong's unique opportunities and challenges, to formulate an approach on hydrogen development that caters for Hong Kong's development needs.

To provide a legal framework that is suitable for local hydrogen fuel application, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is working on the amendments to the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51), which involves the inclusion of the safety guidelines for hydrogen fuelled vehicles and maintenance workshops, safety guidelines for hydrogen filling stations, and guidance note for the quantitative risk assessment study for hydrogen installations in the legal framework. The EMSD conducted a one-month consultation with the industry between 20 February and 19 March this year and obtained generally positive views. The EMSD will continue to carry out relevant legislative amendments with the aim of introducing an amendment bill into the LegCo in 2025.

The production of hydrogen by electricity generated from solar energy involves losses during energy conversion, and therefore, only when a large amount of renewable energy is produced and cannot be used in situ will the production of hydrogen by renewable energy bring significant benefits. At present, the solar energy generation facilities that the Government plan to establish at the reservoirs in Hong Kong will directly supply electricity to the facilities in situ.

Regarding local hydrogen energy production, green hydrogen, which is zero-carbon and clean, is produced by electrolysis of water from renewable energy sources. However, due to Hong Kong's mountainous terrain and limited waters, the development of renewable energy in Hong Kong faces various constraints, and the potential of large-scale development of renewable energy, such as solar energy and wind energy, is relatively limited. In the long run, importing low-carbon hydrogen energy is one of the options to be considered for local hydrogen energy development.

In the short run, the Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to co-ordinate preparation work of bureaux and departments for using hydrogen as fuel locally, and to promote the local adoption of hydrogen energy through trial projects. As at February 2024, the Working Group has agreed in principle on a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects, including trials of installing hydrogen supply facilities at the existing town gas facilities to extract hydrogen from town gas, with the aim of meeting Hong Kong's short-term needs.

Despite the limited potential of large-scale green hydrogen production in Hong Kong, we will continue to provide funding support for suitable R&D projects, and encourage innovation in low-carbon hydrogen energy technologies, products, adoption and commercial applications. In 2020, the Government set up the Green Tech Fund (GTF) and has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF to provide better and more focused funding support to R&D projects

which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. 30 R&D projects have been approved thus far, and the funded applications include projects that facilitate the development of hydrogen production technologies, such as innovative technologies to enhance the cost-effectiveness of producing green hydrogen with renewable energy.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)203

(Question Serial No. 0035)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

During 2024-25, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the work progress, indicators and timetable in respect of promoting commercial new energy vehicles and provide a breakdown of the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Government introduced the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) to encourage the trades to introduce electric commercial vehicle (e-CV) models suitable for local use for promoting healthy market competition. As of end-February 2024, 319 trials have been subsidised for a total sum of \$274 million under the NET Fund. Following the Government's promotion, more suitable e-CV models have become available in the market for use by the trades. The number of electric light goods vehicles in Hong Kong has increased from 290 in 2022 to nearly 600 in 2023. The Government will continue to encourage suppliers to introduce more electric medium and heavy goods vehicle models suitable for use in Hong Kong.

To achieve the target of introducing about 700 electric buses (e-buses) and about 3 000 electric taxis (e-taxis) by end 2027, the Government will formulate a citywide green transformation roadmap and timetable for public buses and taxis in 2024. The focus will be on setting out the specific measures and timetable on promoting the trades to switch to e-buses and e-taxis. Moreover, the Government will, by 2025, announce a roadmap for the promotion of electric public transport and commercial vehicles.

A comprehensive electric vehicle (EV) charging network is an indispensable element to bolster the popularisation of EVs. To cope with the increasing number of EVs, the Government is speeding up the expansion of the charging network for different types of EVs, including e-CVs. The Government invited tenders in the first quarter of 2024 for the

conversion of 2 vacant petrol filling station (PFS) sites in Kowloon East and New Territories East into quick charging stations, and will also explore the option of developing some suitable PFS sites under the “single site, multiple use” development model. At present, through the refining of the land lease conditions for PFSs, the Government is offering suitable incentives for the PFS operators to retrofit EV charging facilities in the usable space of their existing PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. In November 2023, the Government invited PFS operators by letters to submit their preliminary proposals for the retrofitting of quick charging facilities at PFSs. 98 preliminary proposals were received in February 2024, and are currently under analysis and feasibility study.

In addition to EVs, hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) vehicle is another type of new energy vehicles with potential for further development. For now, the relevant technology is still in the early development stage. To support local development of hydrogen energy, the Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to co-ordinate preparatory work of bureaux and departments for using hydrogen as fuel locally, and to promote the local adoption of hydrogen energy through trial projects. As at February 2024, the Working Group has given agreement-in-principle to a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects. One of the trial projects is Citybus’s first HFC double-decker bus which commenced trial operation in conjunction with its hydrogen refuelling facilities in November 2023 and was officially put into passenger service in February 2024. The Government will also formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for legislative amendments pertinent to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy. More trial projects are expected to roll out within this year, including hydrogen street washing vehicles and the first ever public hydrogen refuelling station in Hong Kong.

The above work to promote the adoption of new energy commercial vehicles is part of the responsibilities of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department, and is absorbed by their existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)204

(Question Serial No. 3137)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The Environment and Ecology Bureau will oversee the retrofitting of electric charging facilities in petrol filling stations with a view to facilitating the transition to green transport. In this connection, will the Government advise on the progress of the relevant work; whether any targets/key performance indicators have been set; the timetable; and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

Through the refining of the land lease conditions for petrol filling stations (PFSs), the Government is offering suitable incentives for PFS operators to retrofit electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities in the usable space of PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. The Government wrote to PFS operators in November 2023 to invite submission of preliminary proposals for retrofitting quick charging facilities at PFSs, and received 98 preliminary proposals in February 2024. Analysis and feasibility study of the proposals received are underway. We expect to provide about 100 chargers at the existing PFSs in the 2024-25 financial year.

The aforementioned work is part of the overall duties of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and is absorbed by its existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)205

(Question Serial No. 0181)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

According to paragraph 87 of the Budget Speech, the Government has been encouraging a wider use of electric vehicles (EVs), and the first registration tax (FRT) concessions for EVs, due to terminate at the end of March, will be extended for 2 years. Specifically, the maximum FRT concession for electric private cars (e-PCs), granted under the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme, will be adjusted to \$172,500. At the same time, e-PCs valued at over \$500,000 before tax will not be entitled to concessions under the "affordable users pay" principle. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. As the FRT concessions arrangement for EVs has been implemented for 6 years, will the Government inform this Committee of the number of vehicle owners who joined the arrangement in the past 3 years? What is the total amount of tax concessions involved in the arrangement?
2. According to the new arrangement, EVs valued at over \$500,000 before tax will not be entitled to concessions. Does it mean that the Government will encourage the development of affordable EVs in the future?

Asked by: Hon SO Cheung-wing (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

1. According to the statistics of the Transport Department, there were a total of 58 862 cases that first registration tax (FRT) concessions were granted for electric vehicles (EVs), involving a total amount of \$15.21 billion, in the past 3 years (i.e. from 2021 to 2023).
2. Under the new FRT concessions arrangement for EVs, electric private cars (e-PCs) valued at over \$500,000 before tax will not be entitled to concessions. The consideration is that the affordability of high-end e-PC purchasers is relatively high, and

the exclusion of the relevant taxable value of e-PCs can effectively reflect the “affordable users pay” principle.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)206

(Question Serial No. 1897)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 86 of the Budget Speech that through its New Energy Transport Fund, the Government has been promoting trials of various new energy public transport, including new energy buses, while encouraging the industry to conduct trials on a variety of new energy commercial transport, including electric-goods vehicles and electric coaches. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

1. The first hydrogen double-decker bus has been officially put into passenger service in Hong Kong, but some members of the sector have relayed their concern that it is difficult for Hong Kong to produce sufficient hydrogen energy for local use at present. Does the Government have any plan to formulate relevant complementary policies to provide incentives to hydrogen producers and operators of hydrogen refuelling stations, so as to attract more investors and enterprises to promote the introduction of more new energy commercial transport? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
2. In paragraph 20 of Programme (6) of the Controlling Officer's Report, it is mentioned that in 2024-25, the Environment Branch will formulate and promulgate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong (the Development Strategy). Are there any milestones and timetable set for the formulation and promulgation of the Development Strategy? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. To support local development of hydrogen energy, the Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to provide a one-stop platform for bureaux and departments to deliberate on proposals for local trial projects using hydrogen fuel, with a view to promoting the local adoption of hydrogen energy. As at February 2024, the Working Group has given agreement-in-principle to a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects, including the setting up of hydrogen refuelling facilities by Citybus at its West Kowloon Depot for hydrogen fuel cell (HFC)

double-decker buses, and the project commenced trial operation in November 2023. In addition, the Working Group has also given agreement-in-principle to an application submitted by Sinopec (Hong Kong) Limited for a trial project to build a hydrogen refuelling station at Au Tau, Yuen Long. Temporary planning permission has been obtained from the Town Planning Board for the project on the proposed use of the petrol filling station site as a hydrogen refuelling station, which is currently under construction. The applicant expects that the project can be put into operation for testing within this year.

To assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the New Energy Transport Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects such as the procurement of HFC vehicles. Moreover, technological advancement plays a pivotal role in the wider application of hydrogen energy. In 2020, the Government set up the Green Tech Fund (GTF) and has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF to provide better and more focused funding support to research and development (R&D) projects which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. 30 projects have been approved thus far, involving projects that contribute to the development of hydrogen energy technologies, such as the production of green hydrogen with renewable energy; hydrogen fuel storage and release technologies; and the development of intelligent hydrogen fuel supply facilities, etc.

2. The Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address announced that we will formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong (the Strategy) in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for legislative amendments pertinent to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy with a view to introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in 2025, in order to foster a conducive environment for hydrogen development in Hong Kong.

In formulating the Strategy, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) (Environment Branch) will draw reference from the basic principles set out in our country's Medium and Long Term Plan for the Development of Hydrogen Energy Industry (2021-2035), and the experiences and R&D results of cities in our country and overseas, for the purpose of exploring and promoting comprehensive development of hydrogen production, storage, transportation, refuelling, application, etc. with a view to preparing Hong Kong for the wider application of hydrogen energy in the future. The EEB (Environment Branch) is collecting views from stakeholders to formulate an approach on hydrogen development that caters for Hong Kong's development needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)207

(Question Serial No. 0502)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 87 of the Budget Speech that given the price reduction of electric vehicles (EVs), increasing availability of vehicle options and the “affordable users pay” principle, the amount of first registration tax (FRT) concessions for EVs will be adjusted with effect from 1 April. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. A breakdown of the number of electric private cars (e-PCs) granted tax concessions under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme in each of the years since the implementation of the scheme by their vehicle prices before tax (e.g. \$200,000 or below, above \$200,000 to \$300,000, above \$300,000 to \$400,000, above \$400,000 to \$500,000, and above \$500,000);
2. Does the Government have the number of private cars (including electric and non-electric) owned by the registered owners applying for tax concessions? If yes, please provide the relevant figures; if not, will the Government start collecting the relevant data?
3. Has the Government compiled statistics on the places (e.g. China, the United States, etc.) where the e-PCs applying for tax concessions are manufactured? If yes, please provide the relevant figures; if not, will the Government start collecting the relevant data?
4. Please provide the number of other types of EVs (including electric commercial vehicles, electric motorcycles and electric motor tricycles) which have been granted tax concessions; and whether the Government has classified electric engineering vehicles/ machinery into a specific category. If not, will the Government consider adding such a classification?
5. While the research, development and application of new energy (including electric and hydrogen) engineering vehicles/ machinery in the Mainland have become highly mature and popular, most of the relevant vehicles and machinery in Hong Kong are still using fossil fuels and even diesel, which is not conducive to carbon reduction and increases

pollution. What is the Government's plan to encourage the relevant industries in Hong Kong to introduce and make more use of new energy engineering vehicles/ machinery?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

1. According to the statistics of the Transport Department (TD), the number of electric private cars (e-PCs) granted tax concessions under the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme (the Scheme) since the introduction of the first registration tax (FRT) concession arrangement for electric vehicles (EVs), with a breakdown by their taxable value (i.e. vehicle price before tax), is tabulated below:

Year	Number of e-PCs granted tax concessions under the Scheme				
	\$200,000 or below	Above \$200,000 to \$300,000	Above \$300,000 to \$400,000	Above \$400,000 to \$500,000	Above \$500,000
2018	0	125	131	8	57
2019	0	289	1 503	341	26
2020	0	343	3 186	551	184
2021	1	800	7 893	290	333
2022	1	1 173	13 079	3 829	1 283
2023	24	4 867	11 087	9 090	3 127

2. According to the information provided by the TD, applicants are not required to state the number of private cars owned by them when submitting tax concession applications, and thus the Government does not have the relevant figures. Under the existing policies, the figures concerned bear no relation to the eligibility to apply for the FRT concessions, and therefore, the Government has no plan to collect such information.
3. According to the statistics of the TD, the number of first registered e-PCs granted the FRT concessions in 2023, with a breakdown by the place of manufacture is tabulated below:

Place of manufacture *	Number of e-PCs granted the FRT concessions
Australia	2
Belgium	124
China	17 607
France	29
Germany	6 497
Hungary	1 538
Indonesia	2
Italy	12

Place of manufacture *	Number of e-PCs granted the FRT concessions
Japan	870
Korea	1 393
Spain	59
The United Kingdom	235
The United States	153

*Based on information declared by registered distributors/importers

4. According to the statistics of the TD, the number of first registered EVs granted the FRT concessions in 2023, with a breakdown by vehicle class is tabulated below:

Vehicle class	Number of EVs granted the FRT concessions
Motorcycle and motor tricycle	211
Private car	28 521
Taxi	17
Non-franchised public bus	15
Private light bus	1
Public light bus	1
Goods vehicle	308
Special purpose vehicle	7

Pursuant to Schedule 1 to the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374), the classes of vehicles are Private car, Taxi, Public light bus, Private light bus, Light goods vehicle, Medium goods vehicle, Public bus, Private bus, Heavy goods vehicle, Special purpose vehicle, Motorcycle, Motor tricycle, Invalid carriage, Trailer and Rickshaw. For the EVs used for works purpose, they are generally classified as special purpose vehicles. The TD has no plan to introduce other vehicle classes.

As regards construction machinery, with effect from the year of assessment 2008/09, the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) provides a 100% profits tax deduction for capital expenditure on environmental protection machinery in the year in which such expenditure is incurred. Section 16H and Part 1 of Schedule 17 to the Inland Revenue Ordinance do not classify environmental protection machinery or plants as electric or non-electric machinery or plants. Therefore, the Inland Revenue Department does not have relevant statistics on the number of electric construction machinery, nor does it have any plan to further classify environmental protection machinery or plants.

5. The Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) encourages wider adoption of innovative construction methods and technologies in the construction industry to enhance the performance of the industry in various aspects, including enhancing environmental efficiency of construction sites. The CITF welcomes the construction

industry to propose and apply for funding support for products that can help enhance the environmental performance of construction sites, including the use of new energy engineering vehicles/ machinery. Relevant products that have received funding support from the CITF include electric power generators, electric demolition robots, electric transportation robot and solar-powered signage board, etc. As at end-February 2024, the CITF has approved over 100 applications regarding engineering vehicles/ machinery that enhance the environmental performance of construction sites, with a total grant of about \$66 million.

The construction industry may also apply for the New Energy Transportation Fund (NET Fund) to test new energy non-road vehicles. For the operation of the NET Fund and the details of trial products, please refer to the website of the Environment and Ecology Bureau at <https://www.eeb.gov.hk/en/new-energy-transport-fund.html>.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)208

(Question Serial No. 1278)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In order to strive to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, the Government has been actively promoting the popularisation of electric vehicles (EVs). However, whether vehicle owners will switch to EVs depends very much on the availability of charging facilities, in particular for commercial vehicles. In this connection, please inform this Committee of:

- (1) the latest number of quick charging facilities and the estimated numbers of additional quick charging facilities to be provided in the coming 3 years (i.e. 2024, 2025 and 2026);
- (2) the latest progress in installing additional charging facilities to promote the electrification of public light buses (PLBs) and taxis and the numbers of additional dedicated charging facilities for PLBs and taxis to be installed in the coming 3 years;
- (3) the latest progress made by the Government in providing additional supercharging facilities;
- (4) the respective percentages of approved and completed cases against the number of applications under the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme, and the number of parking spaces with charging facilities involved; and
- (5) the expenditure on promoting EVs.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1-3) As at the end of December 2023, there are a total of 1 151 public quick chargers provided by the Government and private sectors.

On promoting electric taxis (e-taxis), the Government has already engaged contractors to install no fewer than 10 dedicated quick charging facilities for e-taxis on Lantau Island and in the Sai Kung district. The 2 charging facilities at Yat Tung Estate Carpark No. 2, Lantau were put into service in October 2023, while the remaining dedicated quick charging facilities for e-taxis will be put into service in phases in 2024.

Regarding electric public light buses (e-PLBs), the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is implementing the Pilot Scheme for e-PLBs (the Pilot Scheme) to provide charging services for e-PLBs at suitable public transport interchanges (PTIs). The EPD has engaged a contractor to install and operate a quick charging station at the Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road) PTI, which includes 2 fast pantograph chargers and 2 backup plug-in chargers. In addition, a quick charging station installed and run by a private operator at its own expense has been set up at the Kwun Tong Yue Man Square PTI, which is equipped with 1 fast pantograph charger and 1 backup plug-in charger.

The Government is also speeding up the expansion of the quick charging network for different types of electric vehicles (EVs), including electric commercial vehicles (e-CVs). The Government invited tenders in the first quarter of 2024 for the conversion of 2 vacant petrol filling station (PFS) sites in Kowloon East and New Territories East into quick charging stations, and will also explore the option of developing some suitable PFS sites under the “single site, multiple use” development model. At present, through the refining of the land lease conditions for PFSs, the Government is offering suitable incentives for the PFS operators to retrofit EV charging facilities in the usable space of their existing PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. In November 2023, the Government invited PFS operators by letters to submit their preliminary proposals for the retrofitting of quick charging facilities at PFSs. 98 preliminary proposals were received in February 2024, and are currently under analysis and feasibility study.

To ensure the charging facilities retrofitted at PFSs could cater for Hong Kong’s actual transportation needs and to encourage PFS operators introducing more advanced charging technologies, the Government will explore the provision of suitable incentives to encourage operators to adopt and field-test the most advanced charging technologies, such as supercharging technology with a charging power of at least 300 kilowatts, or its equivalent, which is also known as liquid cooling supercharging technology, so as to shorten the charging time of electric private cars to no more than 10 minutes.

The Government will continue to expand the charging network and supporting facilities on various fronts. With the progressive marketisation of EV charging services in government car parks since end-2023, the whole charging service market will be provided with the impetus in its development, creating opportunities for the market to build a more convenient charging network to provide motorists with necessary EV charging services.

- 4) From the launch of the “EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme” (EHSS) in October 2020 to the close of application period on 31 December 2023, a total of 788 applications have been received. As at the end of February 2024, the EPD has completed processing 732 applications, with a total of 674 applications approved, covering about 139 300 parking spaces. Among them, 57 car parks in housing estates (over 8 500 parking spaces) have completed the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure. The number of approved applications and completed cases account for about 86% and 7% of the total number of applications respectively.
- 5) As announced in the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address, the Government will strive to expand the network of charging facilities with an aim to increasing the total number

of public and private parking spaces with charging infrastructure in Hong Kong to about 200 000 by mid-2027. In particular, the Government launched the \$3.5 billion EHSS in October 2020, covering about 140 000 parking spaces at residential estates. Through the measure of gross floor area concessions, the Government also encourages the installation of charging-enabling infrastructure in the parking spaces of newly built private buildings, and has approved over 78 000 relevant parking spaces thus far. Besides, the Government will provide an additional 7 000 parking spaces with charging facilities in government premises by 2025, and the expenditure will be absorbed by relevant works projects.

The Government has also introduced the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) to encourage the trades to introduce e-CV models suitable for local use for promoting healthy market competition. As of end-February 2024, 319 trials have been subsidised for a total sum of \$274 million under the NET Fund. The Government has created a new category for trial projects on e-taxi charging facilities under the “Applications for Trial” of the NET Fund to support the taxi trade to identify the charging options that are most suitable for their operation. The NET Fund has also earmarked \$50 million to subsidise the trade to purchase wheelchair accessible e-taxis. The NET Fund will continue to subsidise the transport trade and charitable/non-profit making organisations to conduct trials of and promote the wider use of zero-emission new energy transport technologies. Key projects include promotion of the applications for trials on electric medium and heavy goods vehicles.

To implement the Pilot Scheme, the Government has earmarked \$80 million, mainly for providing quick charging services for e-PLBs and subsidising operators to purchase e-PLBs for trial under the Pilot Scheme.

The aforementioned work to promote the use of EVs is part of the overall duties of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and EPD, and is absorbed by their existing resources.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0674)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

As mentioned in the Budget Speech, the Government's Green Tech Fund (GTF) funds research and development (R&D) projects which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection, and encourages their subsequent practical applications. With \$400 million injected into the GTF, 30 projects from local universities, public research institutes and enterprises have been approved, involving a total grant of about \$130 million. In this connection, please advise this Committee of whether there has already been realisation of the R&D outcomes, such as patent applications, among the 30 projects currently funded, and whether there is any R&D project planned to apply for listing in Hong Kong this year.

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

In 2020, the Government set up the Green Tech Fund (GTF) to provide better and more focused funding support to research and development (R&D) projects which help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. The Government has injected a total of \$400 million into the GTF to support R&D projects in the priority areas including net-zero electricity generation, energy saving and green buildings, green transport and waste reduction. Since the launch of the GTF for application in December 2020, a total of 368 applications have been received. 30 projects involving a total grant of about \$130 million were approved following careful deliberation by the GTF Assessment Committee. A new round of GTF application started in December 2023 and would close on 20 March this year. The approved R&D projects are still in progress and none of them has been completed as of now. Upon the completion of the funded projects, we will share and promote the project outcomes on the GTF website to encourage further development and practical applications.

Under the GTF funding arrangements, the project funds can be used to cover fees for obtaining patent registrations for functional inventions to be developed in the project, and the maximum amount of funding for each project is \$250,000. Information on the use of the fund to cover patent registration fees should be provided in the reports submitted by the

Recipient Organisations upon project completion. As no project has been completed for the time being, the exact number of patent applications is not yet available. On the other hand, following initial enquiries with the Recipient Organisations, the GTF Secretariat understands that 2 patent applications have been approved. In addition, no Recipient Organisation has any plan to apply for listing of the relevant R&D projects in Hong Kong this year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)210

(Question Serial No. 0676)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that through its New Energy Transport Fund, the Government has been promoting trials of various new energy public transport, including new-energy buses, as well as encouraging the trade to conduct trials of a variety of new-energy commercial transport, including electric-goods vehicles and electric coaches. However, there are views that although the Government has vigorously advocated the promotion of new energy transport, there is an acute shortage of charging facilities for electric vehicles and no clear planning has been made. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of whether it will consider switching to the approach of subsidising the trade, so as to encourage the trade to facilitate the establishment of charging facilities (e.g. charging stations) across the territory, with a view to improving the efficiency of the establishment of charging facilities?

Asked by: Hon YIM Kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

To keep pace with the green transformation of the transport trade, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to establish a charging network for electric vehicles (EVs). At present, under the New Energy Transport Fund, if an applicant from the transport trade applies for subsidies for the trial of electric commercial vehicle(s), it may also apply for subsidies for the installation of charging system(s) to support the daily charging needs.

The Government has required each new public transport interchange or bus terminus to provide sufficient designated charging bays for electric franchised buses, electric public light buses and electric taxis respectively, with bypass lanes by the side of the charging bays to ensure that the charging of vehicles will not affect traffic. The Government also updated the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in January 2024 to encourage the provision of medium EV chargers in all parking spaces (both indoor and outdoor) for private cars, motorcycles and light goods vehicles in new buildings.

The Government invited tenders in the first quarter of 2024 for the conversion of 2 vacant petrol filling station (PFS) sites in Kowloon East and New Territories East into quick charging stations, and will also explore the option of developing some suitable PFS sites under the “single site, multiple use” development model. At present, through the refining of the land lease conditions for PFSs, we are offering suitable incentives for the PFS operators to retrofit EV charging facilities in the usable space of their existing PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. The Government will continue to promote the marketisation of EV charging services to facilitate the sustainable development of the charging network in the long run and support the charging needs of the transport trade.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)211

(Question Serial No. 1953)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

1. Please tabulate the staff establishment and estimated expenditure for countryside conservation and supervision of the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) in the past 3 years.
2. Does the CCO have any plans to promote Hong Kong's countryside characteristics to tourists? If yes, please provide the relevant estimates and details.
3. Will the Government include tourism promotion requirements in the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme, so as to encourage different conservation projects to promote and publicise Hong Kong to tourists under the principle of sustainable development?

Asked by: Hon YIU Pak-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The staff establishment and estimated expenditure of the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) in the past 3 years are as follows:

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Number of civil servant posts	24	24	22
Estimated expenditure (\$ million)	118	107	119

The estimated expenditure in the table are mainly required for covering the operating expenses of the CCO and the cash flow for the approved projects under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) of the respective years.

2. & 3. The CCO co-ordinates countryside conservation projects that promote sustainable development of remote countryside, and takes forward the CCFS to support organisations and villagers in organising diverse and innovative conservation projects in remote countryside areas, including the conservation of natural ecology, revitalisation of village architectural environment and conservation of cultural

resources and historical heritage, etc. These initiatives not only seek to attract villagers to return to the countryside, but also provide the public with in-depth travelling experiences of green, ecology, tradition and culture. Since its launch in October 2019 and up to the end of 2023, a total of 45 projects have been approved under the CCFS, involving a total grant of about \$236 million. For all the CCFS applications, details of education and public engagement activities, and publicity and promotion projects must be submitted in accordance with the guide to application. At present, the cumulative number of activities organised under the funded projects exceeds 1 600, with over 380 000 participants. Apart from carrying out publicity work through social media platforms, the CCO also co-ordinates special events, such as Kuk Po's traditional Lunar New Year festive event and the "Explore the Enchanting Countryside" Roving Exhibition held in the first quarter of 2024. Attracting a total of nearly 7 000 participants, these activities help promote to the public the countryside conservation areas, their conservation values as well as the achievements of the funded projects, thereby facilitating the public's understanding of and support for countryside conservation work. Moreover, the CCO is planning to set up the smart countryside conservation trails in Lai Chi Wo, Mui Tsz Lam and Kuk Po of Sha Tau Kok to introduce to visitors the countryside's history and culture as well as the ecological and revitalisation achievements through interactive visitor signage, with a view to promoting eco-tourism. The estimated expenditure of the conservation trail project is \$2.8 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)212

(Question Serial No. 1426)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Energy Saving and Decarbonisation for All Campaign (the Campaign), will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number, establishment, ranks and expenditures of the staff responsible for the Campaign;
2. the numbers and details of the various types of activities organised under the 2022 Campaign and 2023 Campaign, as well as their respective numbers of participants and relevant expenditures; and
3. the estimated number of activities to be organised by the Environment Branch in 2024-25 to promote carbon reduction, their details, number of expected participants and estimated expenditures?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1. The work relating to the Energy Saving and Decarbonisation for All Campaign (the Campaign) is part of the overall work of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and is undertaken by the existing staff establishment, for which we do not have a breakdown.
2. The Campaign aims to promote energy saving in all sectors in order to tackle climate change. The 2022 Campaign, funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club, covered the Energy Saving Charter 2022, the 4T Charter, the Wise Save @ RCx Competition and the Energy Saving Championship Scheme 2.0. The 2023 Campaign, funded by the Environmental Campaign Committee, covered the Energy Saving Charter 2023, the 4T Charter and the Energy Saving Championship Scheme 2023. Details of the various activities are as follows:

- (1) The premises and organisations participating in the Energy Saving Charter have committed to a series of energy saving actions, including switching off electrical appliances and systems when not in use, promoting building energy saving retrofit, etc., and maintaining an average indoor temperature between 24-26°C during the period of June to September of that year.
- (2) The 4T Charter is based on the 4T framework, namely “Target”, “Timeline”, “Transparency” and “Together”, under which the 4T partners are encouraged to set their energy saving targets and timelines and to share their existing and planned energy saving measures.
- (3) The EMSD organised briefing sessions and launching ceremonies for the Campaigns in the second quarter of 2022 and 2023 respectively to explain and promote the Energy Saving Charter and the 4T Charter to various sectors and encourage them to participate in the various energy saving activities.
- (4) Wise Save @ RCx Competition is a competition to encourage stakeholders (including owners, property management companies and retro-commissioning service providers, etc.) to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in existing buildings with the application of innovation and technology (I&T). The competition is building-based, and participating organisations are invited to submit plans and result data on the application of I&T to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in buildings. After assessment, the EMSD organised in July 2023 a sharing session for the winning organisations to share with the industry their plans for applying I&T to enhance energy efficiency and conservation in buildings.
- (5) The Energy Saving Championship Scheme (including competition for students) invites young people to promote the realisation of carbon neutrality by submitting innovative projects on the themes of energy saving and renewable energy in the form of drawings, multi-media videos or three-dimensional models, etc. Participating teams are categorised into primary school category, and secondary and post-secondary school category for the submission of energy saving or renewable energy projects. After assessment, the EMSD organises sharing sessions and invites the winning teams of each competition to share their winning projects. The sharing session for the Energy Saving Championship Scheme 2.0 was held in July 2023. The EMSD is now conducting the assessment of the Energy Saving Championship Scheme 2023 and the results are expected to be announced in June 2024.

The 2022 Campaign and 2023 Campaign have over 3 000 and 3 200 participating units respectively, including premises and organisations signing up to the charters, as well as participating groups and independent participants in various competitions.

3. The Government is committed to encouraging different sectors of the community to join hands in tackling climate change by organising various carbon reduction activities, including the Campaign mentioned above. The 2024 Campaign will cover the Energy Saving Charter 2024 and the 4T Charter. The EMSD plans to organise a briefing session on the 2024 Campaign to explain and promote the charters to the public, a launching ceremony for the 2024 Campaign and 4 seminars to promote energy

efficiency to various government departments, the public and organisations. The estimated expenditure is about \$1.5 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)213

(Question Serial No. 1427)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding promoting waste reduction at source and strengthening environmental protection, will the Government inform this Committee of the reasons for substantially revising the Government's financial provision for environmental protection from the original \$153.1 million to \$75.2 million in 2023-24?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

Under the Programme of Environmental Protection, the decrease of about \$77.9 million in the original estimate for 2023-24 as compared with the revised estimate for 2023-24 is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirements for the non-recurrent item "New Energy Transport Fund" (NET Fund). To assist the transport trade to commence trials of new energy transports, the Government has earmarked funding under the NET Fund in 2023-24 to subsidise trials of green innovative transport technologies, trial projects on electric taxi (e-taxi) charging facilities and hydrogen fuel transportation by the transport trade and charitable/non-profit making organisations. We expect to launch the trial projects on e-taxi charging facilities in mid-2024, and start accepting applications relating to hydrogen fuel cell heavy vehicles within this financial year. In addition, some trial projects were not able to reach the reimbursement requirement in 2023-24, resulting in a corresponding reduction in the cash flow in the year.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)214

(Question Serial No. 3103)

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Environmental Protection

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 86 of the Budget Speech that “through its New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund), the Government has been promoting trials of various new energy public transport, including new energy buses, while encouraging the industry to conduct trials on a variety of new energy commercial transport, including electric goods vehicles and electric coaches”. Please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide details of the approved items of “Applications for Trial” and “Applications for Use” under the NET Fund in the past 3 years, including the types of transport tools, the number of approved products, and the amount of funding approved.
2. Apart from incentivising the trade to conduct trials of a variety of commercial transport tools through the NET Fund, what are the Government’s short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies to proactively promote the application of different types of new energy public transport in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years, 135 trials under the “Applications for Trial” have been subsidised for a total sum of \$137 million under the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund), including trials of 90 electric light goods vehicles, 37 single-deck electric buses, 3 electric light buses, 47 electric taxis (e-taxis), 3 electric medium goods vehicles, 2 electric heavy goods vehicles, 1 electric motorcycle, 3 electric vessels and 2 electric kaitos. The NET Fund Steering Committee takes into account factors such as trial results and approval of technical products, views of the trade, models available in the market, prices, development of charging network and policy objectives, etc., and makes timely recommendations to the Government on the trials under the “Applications for Use”, including the mode, level and ceiling of subsidy. At present, no technology or product has been included in the “Applications for Use”. Information on the operation

of the Fund and the products under trial can be found on the website of the Environment and Ecology Bureau at <https://www.eeb.gov.hk/en/new-energy-transport-fund.html>.

2. Apart from incentivising the trade to conduct trials of a variety of commercial transport tools through the NET Fund, the Government will continue to encourage suppliers to introduce more e-taxi and electric medium and heavy goods vehicle models suitable for use in Hong Kong for promoting healthy market competition and establishing a comprehensive charging network to support the daily charging needs of electric commercial vehicles (e-CVs).

The Government will formulate a citywide green transformation roadmap and timetable for public buses and taxis in 2024. The focus will be on setting out the specific measures and timetable on promoting the trades to switch to electric buses and e-taxis. Moreover, the Government will, by 2025, announce a roadmap for the promotion of electric public transport and e-CVs.

To cope with the increasing number of electric vehicles (EVs), the Government is speeding up the expansion of the quick charging network for different types of EVs, including e-CVs. The Government invited tenders in the first quarter of 2024 for the conversion of 2 vacant petrol filling station (PFS) sites in Kowloon East and New Territories East into quick charging stations.

The Government has required each new public transport interchange or bus terminus to provide sufficient designated charging bays for electric franchised buses, electric public light buses and e-taxis respectively, with bypass lanes by the side of the charging bays to ensure that the charging of vehicles will not affect traffic. The Government also updated the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines in January 2024 to encourage the provision of medium EV chargers in all parking spaces (both indoor and outdoor) for private cars, motorcycles and light goods vehicles in new buildings. The Government will also explore the option of developing some suitable PFS sites under the “single site, multiple use” development model. At present, through the refining of the land lease conditions for PFSs, the Government is offering suitable incentives for the PFS operators to retrofit EV charging facilities in the usable space of their existing PFSs, so as to make effective use of PFSs throughout the territory to provide charging services for EVs. In November 2023, the Government invited PFS operators by letters to submit their preliminary proposals for the retrofitting of quick charging facilities at PFSs. 98 preliminary proposals were received in February 2024, and are currently under analysis and feasibility study.

In addition to EVs, hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) vehicle is another promising type of new energy vehicles, especially for the application to heavy vehicles. However, the relevant technology and market are still in the early development stage, and the feasibility and competitiveness of hydrogen fuel vis-à-vis other new energy have yet to be ascertained. Nevertheless, to promote the future development of hydrogen energy, the Chief Executive’s 2023 Policy Address announced that the Government will formulate the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in the first half of 2024, and commence the preparatory work for legislative amendments pertinent to the production, storage, transportation and application of hydrogen energy with a view to introducing an amendment bill into the Legislative Council in 2025, in order to foster a

conducive environment for hydrogen development in Hong Kong. Moreover, the Government set up the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel (the Working Group) in 2022 to co-ordinate preparatory work of bureaux and departments for using hydrogen as fuel locally, and to promote the local adoption of hydrogen energy through trial projects. As at February 2024, the Working Group has given agreement-in-principle to a total of 9 hydrogen trial projects. One of the trial projects is Citybus's first HFC double-decker bus which commenced trial operation in conjunction with its hydrogen refuelling facilities in November 2023 and was officially put into passenger service in February 2024. To assist the transport trade to commence trials for hydrogen fuel transportation, the Government has earmarked funding under the NET Fund for subsidising the costs associated with the trial projects such as the procurement of HFC heavy vehicles.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)215

(Question Serial No. 0091)

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Weather Services
Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (Dr CHAN Pak-wai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Under this Programme, the Hong Kong Observatory provides weather forecasts and issue warnings to the public, special users, the shipping community and aviation groups in order to reduce loss of life and damage to property, and minimise disruption to economic and social activities during hazardous weather. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- a. of the number of operating staff and the average expenditure of the Dial-a-Weather System over the past 3 years;
- b. further to the above, whether consideration will be given to upgrading the Dial-a-Weather System to a smart system in order to answer public enquiries on weather information; if so, the details; if not, the reasons;
- c. of the amount of estimated expenditure earmarked for establishing a virtual training centre to strengthen co-operation on the provision of training for the meteorological personnel of Belt and Road countries; and
- d. further to the above, of the detailed measures to be adopted to attract participants to take part in training.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ling-lai, Lillian (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Dial-a-Weather service of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) is an interactive voice response system which provides automatic telephone answering service. The system runs automatically and no manual operation is required. As the expenditure on system maintenance has been subsumed under the regular provision for the HKO, a breakdown in this respect is not available. The HKO will, in the next system renewal, explore incorporating smart features such as speech recognition technology into the system to optimize the service.

The HKO will establish a virtual Meteorological Training Centre for Belt and Road (B&R) Countries in late 2024 to provide meteorological personnel from various B&R regions with online meteorological training and, where possible, face-to-face training for some of them. The HKO has earmarked \$400,000 in 2024-25 to set up information technology facilities for the training centre under this project. The HKO plans to provide meteorological training in

collaboration with international organisations, such as training workshops jointly organised with the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization under its Voluntary Cooperation Programme, and promote the activities of the training centre to meteorological organisations in various regions through different international organisations and invite them to send personnel to participate online and offline.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)216

(Question Serial No. 2563)

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Weather Services

Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (Dr CHAN Pak-wai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

In 2020, the Hong Kong Observatory launched the chatbot service Dr Tin, which employs artificial intelligence to automatically answer a series of questions related to the weather or astronomy. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) the weather and astronomical information currently available from Dr Tin;
- (2) the additional weather and astronomical information to be provided by Dr Tin in the future plan;
- (3) the respective numbers of responses made by Dr Tin in each of the past 5 years;
- (4) the costs for developing Dr Tin at the time;
- (5) the staffing establishment and the actual expenditure or revised estimate of expenditures for the operation and system maintenance of Dr Tin in the past 5 years; and
- (6) whether the Government has any plans to add ethnic minority languages commonly used in Hong Kong to Dr Tin; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

At present, the chatbot service Dr Tin provides information on local current weather, weather forecast, weather warnings, tidal information, Hong Kong standard time, weather forecasts of major world cities and sunrise or sunset time. The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) will continue to enhance the contents with astronomical phenomena such as solar and lunar eclipses, and the Chinese agricultural calendar according to users' needs.

Since the launch of the service, the numbers of responses made by Dr Tin in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 were 1 550 000, 1 100 000, 890 000 and 690 000 respectively.

The costs for developing the chatbot service Dr Tin was about \$2.6 million at the time. The expenditure on the operation and maintenance of the chatbot system has been subsumed under the regular provision for the HKO, a breakdown in this respect is not available.

The HKO currently provides basic weather information in eight ethnic minority languages on its personalised weather website. Depending on the demand, technical feasibility and

resources required, the HKO will consider whether to provide chatbot service in ethnic minority languages commonly used in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)217

(Question Serial No. 1700)

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Weather Services

Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (Dr CHAN Pak-wai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With climate change intensifying, it is likely that we will experience extreme weather more often. The Government has indicated that it will enhance its handling capabilities in respect of early warning, emergency preparedness, response and recovery to reduce the impact on society and protect people's safety. However, limited by technological constraints, there is room for improvement in respect of early-warning arrangements. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- a) how the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) arrived at 91 per cent of forecast accuracy as it stated;
- b) why it is different from the 78 per cent of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public;
- c) what software- or hardware-based measures will be implemented in the future to help narrow such a difference, or to further improve the weather forecast accuracy rate;
- d) the impact on improving weather forecast accuracy by developing a cloud-based platform to manage and process high-volume meteorological data in-situ, and implementing the numerical weather prediction models on the high performance computer system respectively;
- e) the impact on improving weather forecast accuracy by upgrading HKO's existing meteorological satellite reception systems to enable reception of the new Chinese Fengyun-4B (FY-4B) satellite data for enhancing weather monitoring.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

To assess the accuracy of weather forecasts, the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) calculates the "percentage of accurate weather forecasts" using an objective verification method. This objective method takes into account the differences between the Local Weather Forecast and actual observations for each day of the year, including weather elements such as temperature, wind speed, cloud cover, visibility and rainfall to objectively calculate the accuracy of weather forecasts. In 2023, the "percentage of accurate weather forecasts" was 91 per cent.

In addition, the HKO conducts annual opinion surveys to collect feedback from users and understand their latest needs regarding weather services. Survey results show that, over the

past 5 years (2019 to 2023), the average percentage of forecasts perceived as accurate by the public was 78 per cent, which is slightly higher than the average of 77 per cent in the previous five-year period (2014 to 2018). According to the frequent users of the HKO's forecast services, such as airlines and ship captains, the accuracy of the HKO's weather forecasts was over 95 per cent.

As weather information becomes more widely available, the expectations of the public about weather forecast services continue to rise. The HKO will strive to enhance service quality and develop new services with reference to public opinions. These efforts include continuous introduction of new instruments and technologies, such as the application of new radar systems, artificial intelligence technology and big data, so as to support the operations of weather monitoring, forecasting and warning. The HKO also actively participates in the World Meteorological Organization of the United Nations to enhance exchange with members with advanced forecasting technology, ensuring that the overall service quality will keep abreast of the times.

A wide range of HKO services were awarded the International Organization for Standardization ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) certification and the HKO has put in place a QMS to review its service quality and improve its public services. It will also continue to gauge opinions on its weather services from the public, including the Friends of the Observatory, a public group established in 1996 with more than 14 000 members as of today. Meanwhile, the HKO regularly meets with customer liaison groups from different sectors such as transport, logistics, fishery, shipping, aviation and broadcast media to discuss how to provide better meteorological services. On stepping up public education, continuous efforts will be made by the HKO to deepen public understanding on its services and the current technological constraints on weather forecasting through various channels, such as the "Cool Met Stuff" educational video series, Weather Notes, social media platforms and open days.

By developing a cloud-based platform to manage and process high-volume meteorological data in-situ, forecast products can be generated for reference by forecasters in a more timely manner, thereby supporting weather forecast and warning operations. Concurrently, the use of a high performance computer system allows implementation of numerical weather prediction models with higher resolution and more sophisticated simulation of future weather changes, thereby supporting weather forecast and warning operations. Moreover, the HKO is upgrading the existing meteorological satellite reception system for reception of Fengyun-4B (FY-4B) satellite data. Located above the equator at the longitude of 105°E, the FY-4B satellite enables the HKO to monitor the weather over different regions including Asia, Indian Ocean, South China Sea and the western North Pacific, etc. Apart from installing on-board a more advanced multi-channel radiation imager, the FY-4B satellite is also equipped with an atmospheric vertical sounder for measuring the vertical profiles of atmospheric temperatures and humidity which provides essential observation data for numerical weather prediction models. Furthermore, the High-speed Imager on board of the satellite can provide high resolution images covering an areal extent of 2 000 km x 2 000 km with an update frequency of less than 1 minute. This is very useful for monitoring the development of tropical cyclones and rainstorms. All the items above can help improve weather forecast accuracy, but their impacts cannot be individually quantified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)218

(Question Serial No. 1539)

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified
Programme: (1) Weather Services
Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (Dr CHAN Pak-wai)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Many Hong Kong people are used to finding out weather conditions through the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). With the introduction of the Dial-a-Weather service by the HKO in March 2005, members of the public can obtain various types of weather information through a telephone number. In this connection, will the Government advise on the following:

1. given that the usage of the Dial-a-Weather service in the past 3 years showed a continued downtrend, whether the Government has considered enhancing the attractiveness and usage of the service by launching publicity campaigns, updating the contents of information delivered over the telephone and adding new functions; if so, the specific plans; if not, the reasons for that; and
2. the manpower and expenditure involved in the Dial-a-Weather system each year?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

With the popularity of smartphones in recent years, members of the public can make use of the mobile application "MyObservatory" in addition to the Dial-a-Weather service when obtaining weather information by phone. Although it has become a trend in recent years to access weather information through mobile applications, the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) appreciates that a number of users will continue to use the Dial-a-Weather service. The HKO will, in the next system renewal, explore incorporating smart features such as speech recognition technology into the system to optimize the service.

The Dial-a-Weather service is an interactive voice response system which provides automatic telephone answering service. The system runs automatically and manual operation is not required. As the expenditure on system maintenance has been subsumed under the regular provision for the HKO, a breakdown in this respect is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)219

(Question Serial No. 1413)

Head: (168) Hong Kong Observatory

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Weather Services

Controlling Officer: Director of the Hong Kong Observatory (Dr CHAN Pak-wai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO)'s weather forecasts, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the ranks, the relevant expenditure and the proportion of the permanent posts and supernumerary posts in respect of the current 310 staff members responsible for weather services at the HKO;
2. the numbers of relevant updates and upgrades in respect of application of artificial intelligence and big data in the HKO's weather forecast system, the expenditure and the respective contents in the past 5 years and in the estimate for 2024-25;
3. the numbers of system updates and upgrades of the HKO's website and its mobile application, the expenditure and the respective contents in the past 5 years and in the estimate for 2024-25;
4. the estimated timetable and expenditure for adding voice function to the HKO chatbot in 2024-25;
5. the reasons for expecting a significant drop in the number of telephone enquiries answered in 2024 while the numbers of calls answered by the Dial-a-Weather system in 2023 and 2024 are similar;
6. the specific timetable and the expenditure involved for extending weather forecast range to 15 days; and
7. the total number of complaints received by the HKO in the past 5 years, including cases related to weather forecasts and warnings on hazardous weather.

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. At present, the staff of the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) responsible for weather services include those from the grades of Scientific Officer, Experimental Officer, Radar Specialist Mechanic, Scientific Assistant, Executive Officer and Analyst Programmer, etc. The relevant estimated expenditure for 2024-25 is about \$254.9 million, involving mainly permanent posts except 6 time-limited posts.

2. In the past 5 years, the HKO has been developing artificial intelligence (AI) and big data analytics models to support weather monitoring, forecast and warnings. The analytics models are regularly updated and upgraded as necessary. For example, the Intelligent Meteorological Monitoring Assistant system developed by the HKO undergoes about 6 system upgrades per year on average for handling new data types and weather forecast scenarios. The HKO has also been developing new machine learning models to optimise its nowcasting system, and there were about 6 upgrades in the past 5 years. The use of AI-based weather prediction models is a popular meteorological research topic in recent years. Since mid-2023, the HKO has been conducting trials on AI-based weather prediction model to provide forecasts for wind direction, wind speed, temperature and sea-level pressure. The above system updates and upgrades were undertaken by the existing manpower and resources of the HKO, and the relevant expenditure has been subsumed under the establishment of and provision for the HKO. Therefore, no relevant breakdown is available.

The HKO also applied to the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau for funding support of the project to develop a new AI-based atmospheric model system. The estimated expenditure of the project in 2024-25 is about \$2.6 million.

3. A wide range of contents in the HKO website and mobile application system are updated regularly. For example, observation data such as the temperature, relative humidity and wind are updated every 10 minutes, while the local weather forecast and the 9-day weather forecast are updated every hour and twice a day respectively. When the HKO issues weather warnings or Special Weather Tips, the relevant contents on the website and mobile application will be updated immediately. In addition, the contents of weather programmes produced by the HKO, “Cool Met Stuff”, etc. are updated daily or weekly on the website and mobile application according to programme schedules.

In the past 5 years, the HKO conducted a host of system upgrades of its website and mobile application each year to launch new services or enrich service contents. A summary of the contents is set out in the table below:

Year	Details
2019-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enriched the contents of regional weather information, probability forecast of mean-sea-pressure under extended weather outlook service, and “Tidal Information” webpage provided on the website and mobile application - Enriched the interactive webpage Earth Weather with tropical cyclone forecast track, rain forecast and sea wave and swell forecast - Enriched the contents and features of the mobile application with Earth Weather, location-specific heavy rain information and lightning nowcast, and relaying government messages, etc. - Launched the Weather Website for Greater Bay Area - Launched the “Interactive Map of Storm Damage by Mangkhut” webpage and a new space weather webpage
2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enriched the contents of regional weather provided on the website and mobile application, and launched a trial chatbot service - Launched the “Hong Kong Hiking Trail Weather Service” webpage, panoramic virtual tours webpage and “Climate Change Impacts” webpage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced the weather satellite imagery on the HKO website and revamped the “Lightning Location Information Service” webpage - Enriched the mobile application with more information on Earth Weather, aviation weather, tide and storm track
2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enriched the website and mobile application with automatic weather forecasts for 100 cities in the Asia-Pacific region and computer-generated forecasts of mean sea-level pressure, and weather photos from Tai Mo Shan and Sai Kung - Launched a new personalised website which provides basic weather information in 8 ethnic minority languages and the “Hong Kong Observatory Open Day 2021” webpage - Launched a new geographic information system-enabled interactive map to display historical felt earth tremors in Hong Kong - Provided in the mobile application the probability of significant rain, weather information for outdoor photography, and a new feature “My Weather Observation” - Launched additional features on the panoramic virtual tours webpage to enhance public understanding of the HKO’s facilities at outstations
2022-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced the Meteorological Information for Fishermen on the website and mobile application with automatic sea-state forecasts and tropical cyclone tracks - Enhanced the website and mobile application to deliver messages of alerting the general public of prolonged heat situations in Special Weather Tips - Updated the mobile application with a new home screen design and to support push notification message of locally felt earth tremor - Enhanced the Weather Website for Greater Bay Area with visibility reports and forecast of over 600 grid points - Launched the “Hong Kong Observatory Open Day 2022” webpage - Enhanced the “Automatic Regional Weather Forecast in Hong Kong & Pearl River Delta Region” webpage with observations and automatic weather forecasts at several newly added urban-scale meteorological monitoring stations - Launched a gallery on the website to display photos of different weather phenomena collected via crowdsourcing
2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced the regional relative humidity information and real-time weather photos provided on the website and mobile application - Enriched the Earth Weather on the website and mobile application by adding weather forecast products based on AI-based prediction models and sea current forecasts, as well as extending forecast range up to 15 days - Enriched the mobile application with a push notification feature for extremely hot weather, and with forecast traffic conditions of strategic/major roads in Hong Kong - Launched the “Historical Records of Using Typhoon Gun and Explosives as Tropical Cyclone Warning in Hong Kong during 1884-

	<p>1937” webpage and the “Hong Kong Observatory 140th Anniversary” dedicated webpage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further enhanced the “Automatic Regional Weather Forecast in Hong Kong & Pearl River Delta Region” webpage with observations and automatic weather forecasts at newly added urban-scale meteorological monitoring stations
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In 2024-25, the HKO will continue to conduct system updates and upgrades of its website and mobile application, including the provision of more weather forecast products based on prediction models on the Earth Weather webpage and the addition of weather information of the Greater Bay Area cities on the mobile application.

The above system updates and upgrades of the website and mobile application were undertaken by the existing manpower and resources of the HKO, and the relevant expenditure has been subsumed under the establishment of and provision for the HKO. Therefore, no relevant breakdown is available.

4. The voice function will be added to the HKO chatbot in the second half of 2024, with the estimated expenditure of about \$140,000 in 2024-25.
5. The HKO’s Dial-a-Weather service is an interactive voice response system which provides automatic telephone answering service. The system runs automatically and manual operation is not required. The number of calls handled by the system was about 4 million in each of the past 2 years. The actual number of telephone enquiries answered manually varies from year to year, depending on the occurrence of weather events that arouse public concern in a particular year. In 2021 and 2022, the telephone enquiries answered manually were about 12 000 each year. Given that there were relatively more weather events of public concern in 2023, such as the issuance of Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No. 10 for Saola and the issuance of Black Rainstorm Warning Signals in both September and October, the number of telephone enquiries answered manually in 2023 was higher than those in previous years. It is estimated that the number in 2024 will be similar to the figures of 2021 and 2022, i.e. 12 000.
6. In October 2023, the HKO extended the forecast range of weather forecast products on the Earth Weather webpage to 15 days. This was undertaken by the existing manpower and resources, and the relevant expenditure has been subsumed under the establishment of and provision for the HKO. Therefore, no relevant breakdown is available.
7. A total of 666 complaints were received by the HKO in the past 5 years. Among the 508 cases which were related to weather forecasts, 398 cases were related to warnings on adverse weather.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(E)220

(Question Serial No. 2486)

Head: (194) Water Supplies Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Water Supplies (WONG Yan-lok, Roger)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB). The reply was prepared by the Water Supplies Department and vetted by the EEB.]

Question:

The Government has been installing floating photovoltaic (PV) systems at reservoirs since 2017. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee:

1. What are the installation costs of the PV systems at reservoirs?
2. What were the annual amount of electricity generated by the PV systems at reservoirs in the past 5 years?
3. Further to the above question, where will the electricity generated by the PV systems at reservoirs be used respectively?
4. What is the frequency of damage of floating PV panels caused by adverse weather since the installation? What is the repair expenditure involved? What are the measures to enhance the resilience of the PV systems against super typhoon?
5. As the PV systems at reservoirs are subject to more environmental factors, what is the repair and maintenance cost of the systems in comparison with other PV systems?
6. Further to the above question, does the Government have any new plan to install PV panels at reservoirs in future? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

1-3. Since 2017, the Government has implemented the pilot projects of floating photovoltaic (PV) system at Shek Pik Reservoir, Plover Cove Reservoir and Tai Lam Chung Reservoir. The installation costs of the floating PV systems at the reservoirs and other relevant information are tabulated as follows:

Installation locations	Shek Pik Reservoir	Plover Cove Reservoir	Tai Lam Chung Reservoir
Generating capacity	100 kilowatts (kW)	100 kW	100 kW
Completion date	February 2017	October 2017	April 2022
Cost (HK\$)	about 3.5 million	about 3.3 million	about 3.1 million
Facilities powered	Shek Pik Raw Water Pumping Station	Plover Cove Reservoir Air Compressor House	Tai Lam Chung Reservoir Air Compressor House

The amount of electricity generated by a PV system is subject to the weather and insolation duration of individual area at the time. According to the design, each floating PV system can generate 120 000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually.

4. During the passage of super typhoon Mangkhut in September 2018, the anchorage system of the floating PV system at Plover Cove Reservoir was damaged as the wind force had exceeded the requirements of the system design at the time, resulting in damage to some PV panels. On that occasion, the repair expenditure was about \$1.2 million. Afterwards, when designing the floating PV system for Tai Lam Chung Reservoir, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) used an enhanced anchorage system with tensile strength to enhance the system's resilience against typhoon.
5. With the enhancement of the anchorage system, the annual repair and maintenance cost of each floating PV system at the 3 abovementioned reservoirs is around \$50,000, which is similar to that of the PV systems at other waterworks of the WSD.
6. Building on the successful experience of the pilot projects of floating PV system, the WSD plans to develop a large-scale floating PV system at Plover Cover Reservoir. Upon the completion of the system in 2026, it is expected to supply an annual electricity of 6 million kWh to the nearby Harbour Island Raw Water Pumping Station for direct use and reduce about 4 200 tonnes of carbon emissions at the same time.

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