

Environmental Report • 2004



食物環境衛生署
Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

C o n t e n t



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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION



The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, set up on 1.1.2000, is responsible for the provision of environmental hygiene services and facilities, food safety control, import control on live food animals, management of food incidents and other public health issues like combating dengue fever, Japanese Encephalitis and Avian Flu. Our work affects everyone in the community and has a direct impact on the environment. Our vision and mission are -

Vision

To work hand in hand with our community in building Hong Kong into a world-class metropolis renowned for its food safety and public hygiene.

Mission

To ensure that food is fit for human consumption and to maintain a clean and hygienic living environment for the people of Hong Kong.

In performing our roles in ensuring food safety and maintaining a clean and healthy environment for the people of Hong Kong, we are mindful of the need to protect the environment by ensuring the efficient use of resources and delivering our services in an environmentally responsible manner. In this report, we will give an account on our environmental performance in 2004 so that our staff and stakeholders could better understand our efforts.

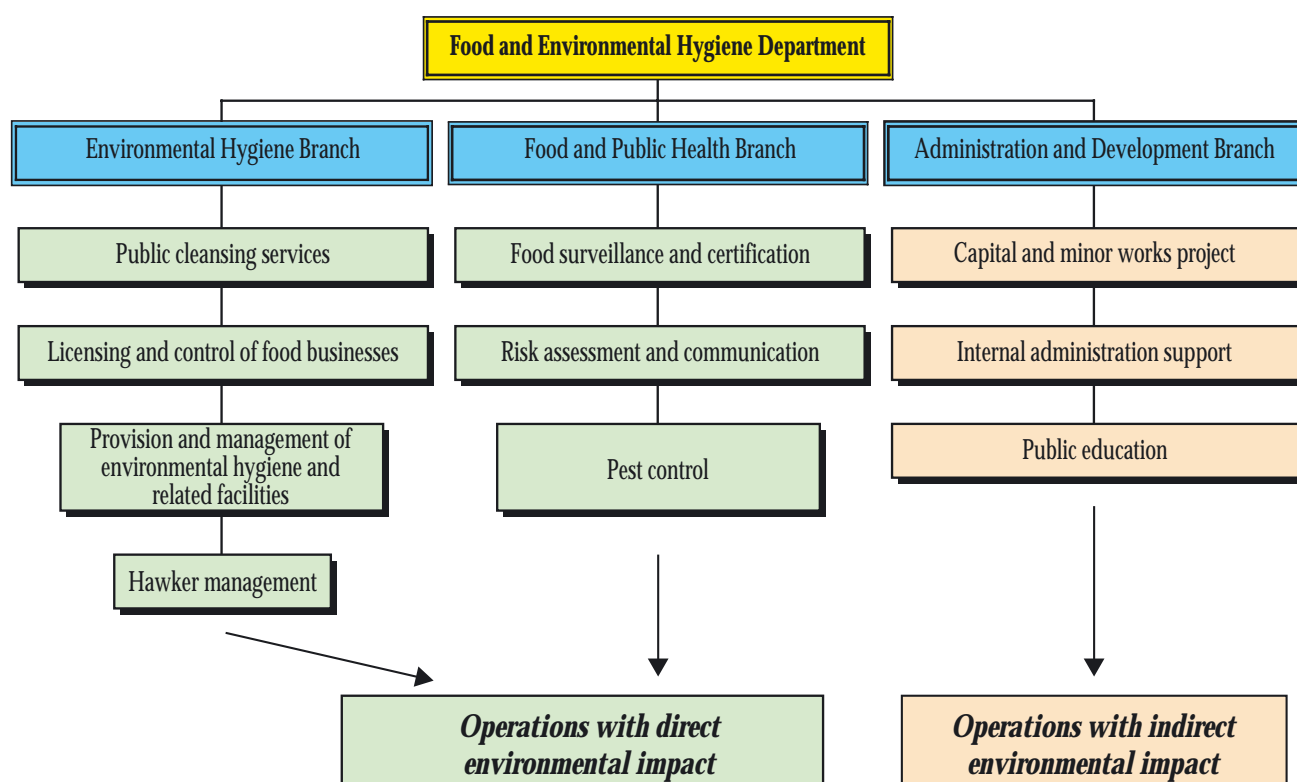
Chapter 2

PROFILE OF KEY RESPONSIBILITIES



Our Services

We deliver our services through three branches - Environmental Hygiene, Food and Public Health, and Administration and Development. An overview of our operations that have an impact on the environment is as follows -



Environmental Hygiene Services

We strive to provide and maintain a clean and hygienic living environment for the people of Hong Kong. The environmental hygiene services we provide include public cleansing service, licensing and control of food businesses, provision and management of environmental hygiene and related facilities and hawker management.

Public Cleansing Services

We are committed to keeping public places clean, tidy and free from litter. Direct public cleansing services range from street sweeping and washing, collection of household waste and street waste, gully emptying, desludging, to managing public cleansing facilities like refuse collection points (RCPs), public toilets and bath-houses. These services are provided by our 3 600 cleansing staff and our private contractors whose services are under our close supervision.

We provide 18 000 litter containers, 470 dog latrines and 792 dog excreta collection bins throughout Hong Kong. There are 2 937 RCPs in Hong Kong for the temporary storage of street waste and household waste pending collection. Household waste is collected at least once a day at these RCPs and about 5 516 tonnes of household waste are collected daily by refuse collection vehicles managed either by ourselves or contractors.

Licensing and Control of Food Businesses

We license food businesses to safeguard public health and safety and conduct regular inspection to ensure hygiene standards of licensed food premises are met. We also take law enforcement actions such as prosecutions, summary arrests, imposition of court orders, daily fines and suspension or cancellation of licences against unhygienic premises.

Provision and Management of Environmental Hygiene and Related Facilities

We are responsible for the management of a wide variety of environmental hygiene and related facilities for public convenience. In total, we manage 38 cooked food centres, 25 free-standing cooked food markets and 79 public markets, 318 public toilets, 28 public bathhouses, 11 public cemeteries, six crematoria and eight gardens of remembrance. In line with our commitment in providing a clean and hygienic environment for the people of Hong Kong, we will continue to improve and upgrade these facilities where necessary, subject to availability of resources.

Hawker Management

On-street hawking is an economic activity with a long history. Through licensing and enforcement of legislation, we aim to minimise the environmental nuisance caused by street trading activities.

Food and Public Health Services

We monitor the safety of imported and locally produced food to ensure that food available for human consumption is wholesome, unadulterated and properly labelled. We also aim to safeguard public health through testing and control of live food animals; to prevent vector-borne diseases and provide advice to the public on proper food and environmental hygiene practices. Our major areas of work having environmental impact include food surveillance and certification; risk assessment and communication; and pest control.

Food Surveillance and Certification

To ensure safety of food supply in Hong Kong, we undertake continuous monitoring, testing and enforcement action. Food samples are taken at import, wholesale and retail points for chemical, microbiological, radioactivity and toxicological tests to ascertain their fitness for human consumption. Pre-packaged food is also checked for compliance with food labelling laws.

Risk Assessment and Communication

Under the risk analysis model for food safety control, we conduct risk assessment on food hazards and recommend food standards. On risk communication, we promote interactive exchange of information on food and pest-related risks among the trade, general public and the Government. We also promote implementation of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles to the food industry and in particular the high risk sectors to enhance food safety.

Pest Control

We give advice on pest control and prevention to government departments and the general public. Our work includes surveillance and monitoring of pest problems to prevent local transmission and investigation of vector borne diseases. Operational services on pest control are provided on district basis.

Administration and Development Services

Planning of Capital and Minor Works Projects

We are responsible for the planning of new capital works projects and minor improvement works to existing departmental facilities relating to markets, RCPs, public toilets, crematoria and columbaria. We will continue to do our best in reducing the environmental impact during the construction and operational phases of these projects, and in including environmental friendly facilities to minimise any adverse environmental impact as far as possible.

Public Education and Campaigns

We operate a Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre at Tsim Sha Tsui, organising publicity and educational programmes, and arranging exhibitions, outreaching programmes and seminars as part of the department's integrated approach to promote food safety and environmental hygiene. Awareness of environmental protection is covered in our programme.

Messages on keeping a clean environment are put across to the public through various means. These include broadcast of television films and radio announcements, display of banners, posters and advertisements at prominent spots and subsidizing cleansing campaigns/activities organized by District Councils / organizations.

Our Impact on the Environment

| Operations and Services | Environmental Impact |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Provision of public cleansing services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public places are kept clean and tidy. - Wastes (street waste and household waste) are handled in an environmentally responsible manner. |
| Licensing and control of food businesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollution from the operation of food businesses is kept to the minimum. - Hygiene standards of licensed food premises are under control to safeguard public health and food safety. |
| Provision and management of environmental hygiene and related facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air and water pollution is reduced through proper management of environmental hygiene and related facilities. - A clean and hygienic environment would be provided for the people of Hong Kong. |
| Hawker management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through licensing and enforcement of legislation, environmental nuisance caused by street trading activities is minimised. |
| Food safety and control - Food Surveillance and Certification program - Risk assessment and communication on food safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure food safety in Hong Kong, which in turn reduces the amount of unwholesome food to be destroyed. |
| Pest control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimise impact on the environment in pest control operations. |
| Planning of capital and minor works projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental impact of the planned facilities recognised and minimised as far as possible. |
| Office activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consumption of energy and resources (electricity, paper, water, stationery, etc.) and generation of solid waste will be closely monitored to reduce environmental impact. |
| Public education and campaigns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance public awareness of the importance of environmental hygiene. |

Chapter 3

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



Our statement on environmental policy is as follows -

“The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is committed to ensuring that all our services are delivered in an environmentally responsible manner, particularly in the collection, recycling and reduction of household waste, conservation of energy and water, and prevention of air, noise, water and soil pollution. We will also promote green housekeeping in premises under our management.”

Chapter 4

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE



In line with Government's efforts in protecting the environment, we incorporate environmental considerations in the formulation of our policy and deliver our services in an environmentally responsible manner. The following is an account of our main objectives and performance in 2004.

OBJECTIVE: TO ACHIEVE WASTE REDUCTION IN OUR OPERATIONS

Our Performance

Household Waste Recycling in Waste Collection Programme

In support of the Government's Waste Reduction Framework Plan 1998-2007, we have provided services to 1 932 recyclable collection points in public places, schools, clinics and government venues for the collection of waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles. All recyclables collected are delivered to waste recyclers for recycling.

The average weight of recyclable materials collected per month in 2004 is shown in the table below.

| Recyclable materials collected | Average monthly weight in 2004 (kilograms) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Waste paper | 45 777 |
| Aluminum cans | 1 689 |
| Plastic bottles | 13 144 |

Use of Retread Tyres

In response to the Government's initiative on waste reduction and environmental protection, retread tyres are used on the departmental vehicle fleet whenever possible. The current ratio on brand-new tyres to retread tyres is 1:0.22. We plan to increase the ratio to 1:0.5 in the future.

Enhanced Cleansing Services and Strengthened Enforcement

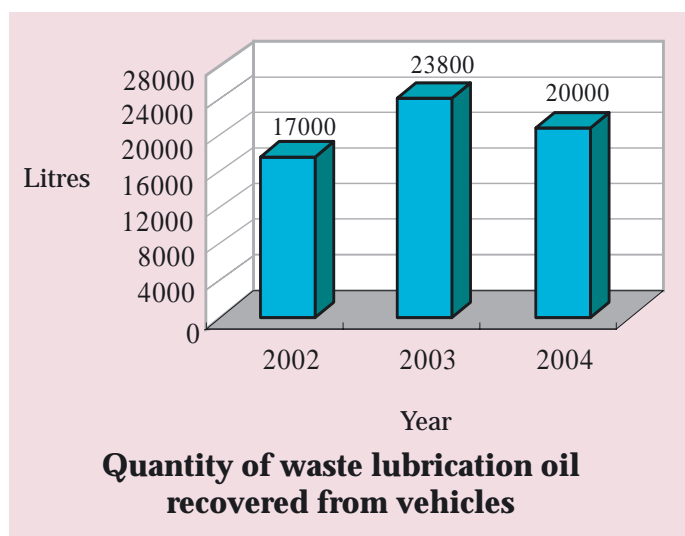
We provided in 2004 a range of enhanced environmental hygiene improvement measures to keep the environment clean and tidy, which included:

- cleansing and washing of public places and environmental blackspots;
- cleansing and washing of rear lanes and carrying out minor repair works and lime-washing;
- strengthening mosquito, rodent and other pest control services to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever; and
- cleansing of markets, cooked food centres and hawker sites, and collecting bagged refuse on streets.

A “zero-tolerance” approach was adopted in law enforcement of the fixed penalty system to improve the overall cleanliness of Hong Kong. We issued in 2004 over 20 000 fixed penalty notices.

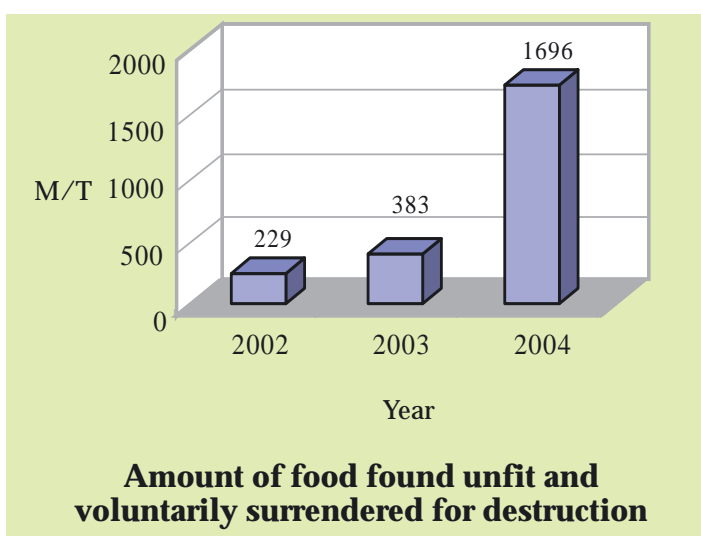
Chemical Waste Recovery and Waste Water Drainage at FEHD's Vehicle Depots

Waste lubrication oil, spent batteries and air conditioning refrigerants from FEHD vehicles are properly recovered and collected by approved contractors. During the year, the quantity of waste lubrication oil recovered from vehicles has dropped to 20 000 litres, as compared to 23 800 litres in 2003, as a result of using more environmental friendly lubrication oil which has longer useful service life leading to a lower consumption rate. Proper drainage systems are also provided for our vehicle washing bays to avoid pollution to storm water drainage.



All the departmental depots are in compliance with the requirements under the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation and Water Pollution Control Ordinance and are issued with relevant licences by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

Food Safety and Control



The amount and the way in which unwholesome food destroyed is interrelated with the overall environmental objective of producing less waste and mitigating nuisances arising from waste disposal. To this end, we exercise tight control on the import of certain categories of high-risk food including game, meat, poultry, milk and frozen confections. We also conduct food surveillance programme through sampling at different stages of the food supply chain - from import and manufacture to the wholesale and retail stages.

The amount of food found unfit and voluntarily surrendered for destruction in 2002, 2003 and 2004 was 229 metric ton (M/T), 383 M/T and 1 696 M/T respectively. The substantial increase in the amount of food disposed in the year is due to the interception of meat and poultry suspected to be smuggled into Hong Kong. Such interception would help deter import of potential unfit food into Hong Kong thereby help reduce waste generation. We would continue to closely monitor the disposal of unfit food to ensure compliance with EPD guidelines.

OBJECTIVE : TO MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Our Performance

Licensing Control and Enforcement on the Operation of Food Premises

We conduct regular inspection to licensed food premises to check compliance in the licensing requirements and conditions which include -

- grease traps installed in food premises are functioning properly to prevent discharge of oil or grease into public drains or sewers;
- plumbing systems in food premises are properly maintained to prevent discharge of offensive or noxious effluents into public places;
- fumes and hot air are discharged in such manner as not to be a nuisance. Metal hood, air-ducts, extraction fans, grease filters/water scrubbers of exhaust systems are maintained in good order;
- waste is properly stored in dustbins for collection.

Enforcement action will be taken on those food premises not complying with licensing requirements and conditions. During the year, we conducted 276 103 inspections to food premises and took out 4 854 prosecutions against food premises.

We also assist Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) in checking, during routine inspections, the provision of no-smoking area and no-smoking signs in restaurants with seating accommodation for more than 200 persons. We will issue warning letters to licensees who fail to observe the rules, and report to HWFB for further actions if warnings are not heeded.

Cremation Services

To control the quality and volume of emissions generated from cremation services, we have

- regularly serviced and maintained cremators through Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD);
- installed a Telemetry and Monitoring System in new cremators with online computerised network supplying information to EPD for monitoring the pollution level to make sure that they are operating within the statutory limit. Monitoring systems with temperature recorders are installed in major crematoria;
- used the ultra-low sulphur (0.005%) diesel for cremators using diesel; and
- enlisted the support of the public and funeral service operators to use environmental friendly coffins through pamphlets and regular meetings with the funeral trade.

On cremation facilities, replacement of four cremators in Fu Shan Crematorium was completed, with the new facilities commissioned in mid-October 2004. Replacement of the six

cremators at the Diamond Hill Crematorium is in good progress, and scheduled for commissioning in 2006. Whenever practicable, we would introduce environmental friendly facilities with increased capacity and speed for cremation to enhance efficiency and minimise environmental nuisances.

Environmental Hygiene Facilities

As part of the on-going efforts to improve the living environment, we continue to replace temporary roadside refuse collection points (RCPs) with off-street facilities in enclosed buildings equipped with modern deodorizing installations to minimise any possible environmental nuisance to nearby residents. Construction works for the RCP at Hing Shing Road in Kwai Chung, Yee Kuk Street in Sham Shui Po, Lam Tsuen in Tai Po and Penny's Bay on Lantau are in the pipeline. Enlargement works to the RCP at Shung Yan Street, Kwun Tong are in progress. In addition, upgrading works to 48 RCPs in the New Territories to enhance pollution control were completed in 2004.

Besides, improvement works to 18 public toilets and aqua privies were completed in 2004 as part of the Public Toilet Improvement Programme. Conversion of 100 aqua privies into flushing toilets as initiated by the former Team Clean chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration is also underway.

The drainage systems in our facilities including markets, hawker bazaars and RCPs are checked regularly to avoid water pollution. All cooked food markets and cooked food centres have proper drainage systems with grease traps to prevent the discharge of pollutants into surface channels.

Pest Control

In the prevention and control of public health pests, we have adopted an Integrated Pest Management approach to rationalise the work to minimise the impact of pest prevention and control on non-target animals and the environment. It includes finding out the causes of pest infestation and then determining the choice of control methods. Pest control operations are evaluated regularly and will be terminated if no longer necessary. Advice on environmental improvement for solving pest problems is given to the parties concerned.

Environmental friendly methodologies, technologies and products are used. Non-chemical agents will be considered before adopting the use of pesticides. We are also very cautious in the choice of pesticides so that pest disinfections are carried out effectively and with the least impact on the environment. To minimise the detrimental effect to non-target living organisms, we choose synthetic pyrethroid insecticides which generate less hazards to human beings. Pests and nuisance-causing animals are disinfested judiciously to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the ecological system. The control measures include a choice of physical, environmental, biological, legal or chemical methods.

Mosquito Control

In mosquito control, we continue to adopt non-chemical means as far as possible. Mosquito breeding can be forestalled by killing the insect at its adult or/and larval/pupal stages. We strive to improve the environment so that it becomes unfavourable for mosquitoes to breed. We apply larvicidal oil or pesticide strictly on a need basis and to specific spots only.

In preventing malaria transmission, an environmental control approach has been adopted and found to be successful. The prevention programme is mainly confined to densely populated areas with a high risk of malaria transmission. In the year, the control programme against malaria transmissible mosquitoes, covering a total of 647 streams is reported with favorable result. There was no evidence of local transmission of malaria.

In areas where malaria vector mosquitoes are detected but with a low population, local species of mosquito larvae eating fishes are released to abate mosquito breeding. To further reduce the impact on the environment, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* are used for killing mosquito larvae. *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* produce crystal proteins which can be converted into toxins in the gut of the mosquito larva. The toxins act on larvae of limited species including mosquitoes, blackflies and non-biting midges.



Rodent Control

We continue our efforts in containing rodent problems through regular inspection and disinfestations and organising theme talks, exhibition. In drawing up rodent disinfestation programmes, we always take into account the environmental concern. Anticoagulants are used although it takes a longer time to kill rodent. With the right dosage, chosen bait, selected baiting locales and a well-designed baiting programme, the use of anticoagulants is considered much safer than acute rodenticides. Trapping of rodents is preferred to using chemicals. During the year, we laid poison baits at 585 289 points, conducted 2 920 trapping programmes and disposed of 31 871 rodents.



OBJECTIVE : TO PROMOTE GREEN HOUSEKEEPING WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

Apart from delivering our services in an environmentally responsible manner to the public, we are also aware of the importance of good green housekeeping and raising environmental awareness. To promote a green office environment and strive for continual improvement in the efficient use of resources, we regularly remind our staff of good green housekeeping practices and organise education programmes and campaigns.



Our Performance

Green Ambassadors Scheme

Following the launch of Green Drive in the department in 2003, we continue our efforts in promoting and practising green housekeeping through the Green Ambassadors Scheme. 60 Green Ambassadors and 39 Green Assistants are appointed in the department to co-ordinate the implementation of green housekeeping practices in each district and section and to monitor the effectiveness of such practices. They are also responsible for collecting data on the consumption of electricity and paper and the amount of waste



collected for recycling in their offices for inputting in the department's Green Management database.

To assist the Green Ambassadors and Green Assistants in upkeeping their knowledge on environmental management, we regularly arrange in-house seminars and briefings for them and encourage them to attend environmental or energy savings seminars organised by other government departments.

Managing Paper Consumption

Common paper-saving measures like using paper on both sides, keeping photocopying to the minimum, reusing used paper for drafting are widely practised in the department. In addition to these measures, we -

- re-circulate the “Guideline on Economy Use of Paper” regularly to remind all staff to be prudent in the use of paper;
- disseminate circulars, telephone directories, reference materials or information by emails and e-bulletin boards;
- encourage communication through electronic means;
- introduce the Electronic Leave Application and Processing System (eLAPS) for use by most staff members in mid 2004 to replace the paper-based leave application system;
- cease publishing hard copy of the department's annual report since 2002;
- exercise strict control over the printing volume of publications and publicity materials;
- provide e-version of our publicity materials for general reference as far as possible. Our “safe food and public health poster and pamphlet library” and “pleasant environment pamphlet library” on the department's homepage contain a variety of printed publicity materials published by the department; and
- purchase duplex printers.

Our paper consumption returns to normal after an unusual high consumption of paper in the previous year. With efforts in saving papers, we are pleased to report that we recorded a 17.2% decrease in total paper consumption in 2004 over the consumption in 2003, representing a saving of 12 169 reams of paper.

Managing Electricity Consumption

We continue adopting the following energy saving measures in our offices and venues -

- re-circulating the Guidelines on energy conservation to remind our staff of energy saving practices including switching off unnecessary lightings, air-conditioning and equipment when not in use;
- displaying energy saving stickers at conspicuous places in the offices to enhance staff awareness on energy conservation;
- standardizing the indoor temperature setting of all offices to conform with Government standards;
- shading sun-exposed windows to prevent solar heat gain and keeping exterior doors / windows closed as much as possible to prevent leakage of conditioned air;
- encouraging staff to use staircases for inter-floor traffic;
- delighting in over-illuminated areas and utilizing natural light;
- designating staff to conduct regular green checks in office;

- reviewing the tariff scales used in FEHD venues and switching to more cost-effective ones where appropriate;
- using as a norm energy saving lightings in our office and facilities. We also promote the use of energy saving bulbs instead of tungsten light bulbs by stall owners in our markets and cooked food centres;
- holding regular discussions with EMSD staff to identify energy saving opportunities;
- inviting EMSD to conduct energy audits and adopting relevant recommendations such as replacing conventional ballast with electronic ballast, conducting illumination reviews and adopting effective tariff system after the audits. In the year, we visited six venues to check the progress on the implementation of energy audits, and were pleased to note that good housekeeping practices are generally adopted in these venues; and
- initiating goodwill visits to our facilities in addition to the energy audits to assist venue staff to review the effectiveness of their green housekeeping practices and whether there is scope for further savings. In the year, we visited two crematoria and proposed energy savings measures where appropriate. In addition to achieving a modest reduction in energy consumption in these venues, the visits have enhanced staff awareness on energy conservation.

During the year, a new market in a multi-functional complex in Tai Po and a cooked food market in Queen Street were commissioned. Besides, a number of works like improvement works in ventilation system and lightings in markets, upgrading of the cremators and addition of adequate and modern facilities in our public toilets were completed. While these new facilities/projects and upgrading works would enhance the quality of our services as demanded by public, they would also bring about an increase in electricity consumption. Thus despite our efforts in saving energy, we still recorded an increase of 3% in the electricity bill in 03/04 as compared to that in 02/03. However, we are pleased to note that the annual growth rate of energy consumption has been levelled off from double-digit percentage to single-digit percentage since 2003.

Promoting 4-R Principle

We promote the principle of “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Replace” to our staff and encourage them to practise it in daily work. Some examples of the 4Rs are as follows -

Reduce

- reduce paper consumption by the measures as stated above; and
- reduce the use of water by using water taps with sensor control and installing cisterns with dual flushing volumes.

Reuse

- reuse stationery such as envelopes and file jackets as far as possible; and
- use blank side of used paper for drafting or printing documents for internal reference.

Recycle

- collect toner cartridges and waste paper for recycling. During the year, we collected 20 687 kg of waste paper which represented an increase of 13.67% over the previous year; and
- in support of ETWB's initiative, we participate in a pilot scheme to collect waste CDs in the office to help promote a greener environment.



Replace

- introduce the eLAPS for use by most staff members to replace the paper-based leave application system; and
- e-cards are widely used during festive seasons to replace the paper greeting cards.

Using More Green Products

We continue our efforts in using and purchasing more green products. Green products such as photocopying papers made from recycled material / renewable forests, recyclable toner cartridges for printers, clutch pencil and lead refill, recycle pencil, mercury-free batteries and environmental friendly soap in liquid and cake form are maintained as our standard stock items to meet daily operational requirement.

Maintaining No-smoking Workplace Policy

We maintain a smoke-free workplace policy in all offices as well as government vehicles.



Incorporating Environmental Considerations in the Use of Departmental Vehicles

We procure vehicles with engines that meet the latest legislative environmental standard. The vehicles we procured since 2001 were of Euro III emission standard. A total of 33 light buses running on LPG had been put into use to replace the diesel engine vehicles in 2004. There are now 113 LPG light buses, representing 66% of the total number of light buses in our vehicle fleet, as compared to 50% in 2003. All the light buses will be gradually replaced by LPG ones.

With a view to minimising the environmental impact of diesel vehicles, we have retrofitted Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOC) on all Euro I & II emission standard diesel vehicles of our vehicle fleet.

Our vehicles are maintained on schedule to reduce the emission of fumes and particles.

We instruct our drivers to comply with the air control guidelines such as switching off the engine while waiting.

We participate actively in trials that facilitate assessment of pollutant reduction devices on vehicles, especially those for heavy-duty vehicles like refuse collection vehicles. We will continue to work together with EMSD and Government Logistics Department to explore the feasibility of using pollutant reduction devices to protect the environment.

OBJECTIVE : TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND CAMPAIGNS

Our Performance

Internal

To increase the environmental awareness among our staff, we organise two in-house environmental workshops on Green Office and Waste Reduction with the assistance from EPD and two briefings on Energy Saving to Venue Green Managers in collaboration with EMSD. We also encourage our staff to participate in inter-departmental seminars and trainings in

environmental management such as Seminars on Energy Saving for Green Managers and Hong Kong Awards for Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Government — Experience Sharing Workshop. In addition, we support green initiatives launched by other Government departments and organisations like the “Community Chest Green Day”.

External

The Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre organises talks and health education activities for kindergarten, primary and secondary school students, the elderly, new arrivals and members of the public. Apart from messages on personal hygiene, food hygiene and environmental hygiene, the economical use of paper and waste reduction are also covered. A total of 2 413 talks and activities were organised in 2004.

During the year, in collaboration with other Government departments, we organised the “Anti-rodent Campaign” and the “Anti-mosquito Campaign” carrying respectively the themes of “Prevent Disease, Eliminate Rodent Nuisance” and “Beware of Dengue Fever. Act Now”. The campaigns have enhanced public awareness of the importance of rodent and mosquito prevention.



Health education talk conducted at a secondary school.



Dissemination of health messages on environment, food, personal hygiene and reduction of waste to elderly in community hall.



Dissemination of health messages through games and visual media to kids in a kindergarten.



Talk presented to group visitors to the Health Education and Exhibition Resource Centre.

Chapter 5

THE WAY FORWARD



Our management and staff place great importance on environmental issues and initiatives and monitors related performance and achievement closely. To strive for continuous improvement, the management will -

- monitor the effectiveness of the green measures we have put in place, and modify and improve them as and when necessary;
- review our environmental objectives regularly and incorporate new techniques that bring about good environmental impact when delivering our services; and
- promote staff awareness in and knowledge on environmental issues and support green initiatives and campaigns organised by other organisations.

Towards a Better Environment

Looking ahead, we plan to take forward the following environmental initiatives, which hopefully will bring about good environmental impacts and help create to a better environment.

Upgrading of Cremation Facilities

On top of the replacement of cremators at Diamond Hill in 2006, we are planning for the re-provisioning of cremators at Wo Hop Shek Crematorium which will also help minimise environmental nuisances. We are also planning for re-provisioning of cremator at Cape Collinson Crematorium and will adopt technologies that will increase cremation efficiency and minimize impact on the environment.

Improvement of Refuse Collection Points and Public Toilets

To further improve our facilities, we plan to build more off-street RCPs equipped with features to minimise environmental nuisance to nearby residents, including the RCPs under construction at Hing Shing Road in Kwai Chung, Yee Kuk Street in Sham Shui Po, Lam Tsuen in Tai Po and Penny's Bay on Lantau. Enlargement works in the RCP at Shung Yan Street in Kwun Tong are in progress so that in-house refuse collection can be carried out. Planning work is underway to convert the existing semi-open Tat Yan Square RCP into an enclosed RCP and upgrade 6 village RCPs in Tai Po.

Besides, we continue to carry out improvement works to public toilets and aqua privies. As part of the on-going Public Toilet Improvement Programme, improvement works to 18 public toilets and aqua privies were completed in 2004 while improvement works to about 18 public toilets and aqua privies are in progress or under planning. Conversion of 100 aqua privies into flushing toilets as initiated by the former Team Clean chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration is also under active implementation.

Pest Control

We will continue to adopt an integrated approach in pest control operations, putting equal emphasis on effective use of pesticides and continuous improvement of environmental hygiene. We update pest control methodologies and technologies regularly, making reference to the World Health Organisation's latest recommendations. In 2005, we will continue to organise the “Anti-mosquito Campaign” and “Anti-rodent Campaign” to promote public awareness of mosquito and rodent prevention for a better living environment.

Green Drive

Good green housekeeping is an effective means to ensure efficient use of resources. In the coming year, we will continue to work with our green ambassadors in implementing green housekeeping practices and promoting staff awareness of paper saving, energy saving and waste recycling.

On energy conservation, as a continuation of the programme in 2004, we will follow up on the review of tariff system for those accounts with high electricity consumption and continue our goodwill visits to the crematoria to identify energy saving measures. In partnership with EMSD, we will schedule more energy audits, arrange energy saving briefings to venue green managers and staff and explore further energy saving initiatives.

Comments and Suggestions



This report can be viewed at our homepage at www.fehd.gov.hk. Comments and suggestions on the report are most welcome. Please write to our Green Manager at Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 45/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong or email us at fehdaqgen@fehd.gov.hk.