



Environmental Report

2005



食物環境衛生署
Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department

Content



Page

CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION

1

CHAPTER TWO - PROFILE OF KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Our Services 2
- Our Impact on the Environment 5

CHAPTER THREE - ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

6

CHAPTER FOUR - ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE


- To achieve waste reduction in our operations 7
- To minimise environmental impact in the delivery of our services 9
- To promote green housekeeping within the department 11
- To promote environmental awareness through educational programmes and campaigns 14

CHAPTER FIVE - THE WAY FORWARD

- Towards a Better Environment 16
- Comments and Suggestions 17

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION



The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), set up on 1 January 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 2005 so that our staff and stakeholders could better understand our efforts.

Chapter 2

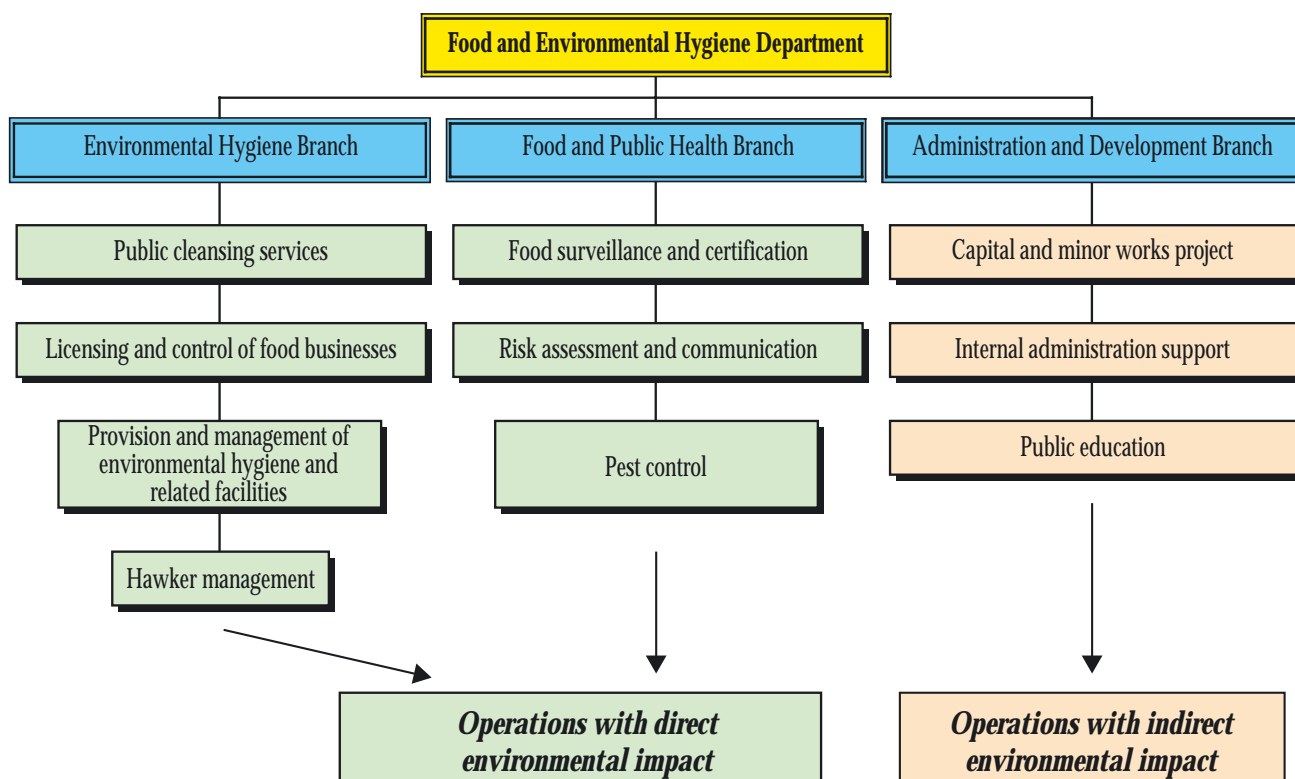
PROFILE OF KEY

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 services, 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 cleansing, desludging, to managing public cleansing facilities like refuse collection points (RCPs), public toilets and bathhouses. These services are provided by our 3 500 cleansing staff and our private contractors whose services are under our close supervision.

We provide 18 600 litter containers, 470 dog toilets and 880 dog excreta collection bins throughout Hong Kong. There are 3 117 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 5 450 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 39 cooked food centres, 26 free-standing cooked food markets and 78 public markets, 334 public toilets, 28 public bathhouses, 11 public cemeteries, 6 crematoria and 8 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 to advise the public on risk management measures in relation to food and public health matters. 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 emphasize the importance of tripartite collaboration among the Government, food trade and consumer on effective food safety and pest control. 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 environmentally 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 a new publicity drive comprising television and radio Announcements in the Public Interest, display of posters and stickers as well as advertisements at bus shelters and railway stations. In 2005, we also continued to subsidise cleansing campaigns/activities organised by District Councils and/or local organisations.

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

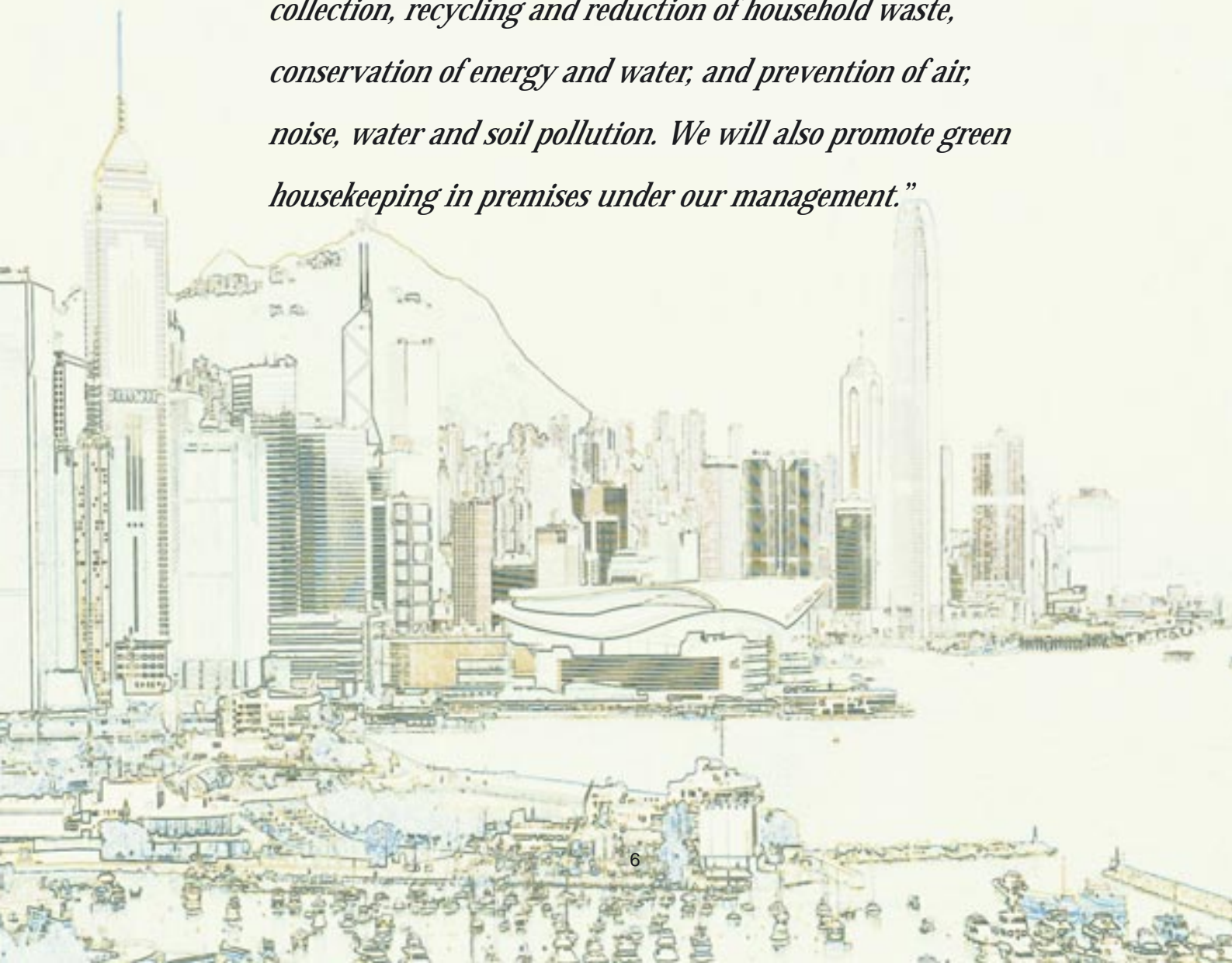
Chapter 3

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 2005.

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 1 956 recyclable collection points in public places, schools, clinics and government venues for the collection of waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic materials. All recyclables collected are delivered to waste recyclers for recycling.

The average weight of recyclable materials collected per month in 2005 is shown in the table below.

Recyclable materials collected	Average monthly weight in 2005 (kilograms)
Waste paper	27 112
Aluminium cans	2 020
Plastic materials	12 194

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 1:0.17. We plan to increase the ratio to 1:0.5 in the future.

Enhanced Cleansing Services and Strengthened Enforcement

We continued to provide in 2005 a range of enhanced environmental hygiene improvement measures to keep the environment clean and tidy, which included:

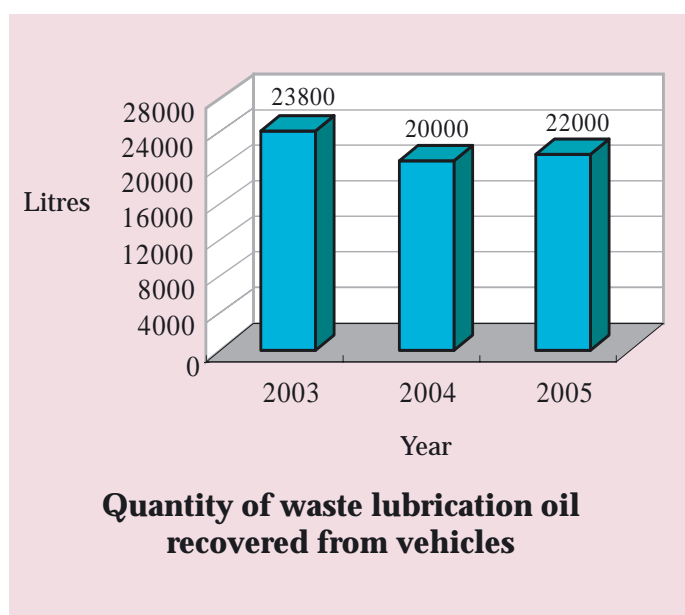
- cleansing and washing of public places and environmental blackspots;
- strengthening mosquito, rodent and other pest control services to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever; and
- cleansing of cooked food markets/bazaars.

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 2005 over 22 000 fixed penalty notices.

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

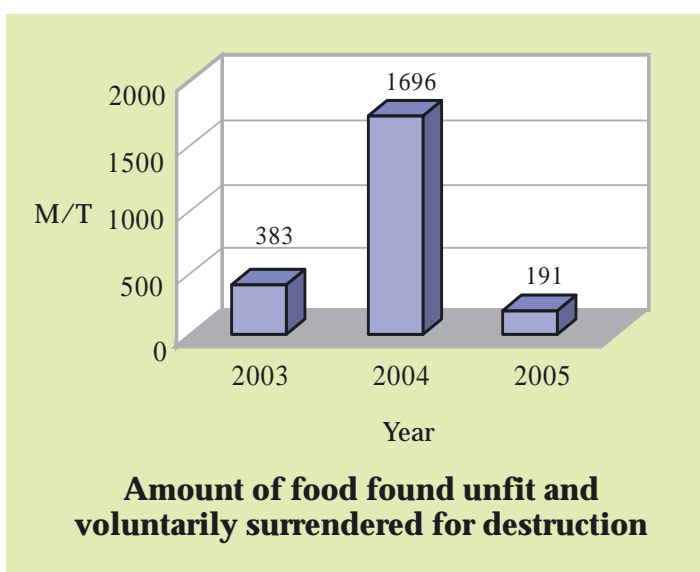
Waste lubrication oil, spent batteries and air conditioning refrigerants from FEHD vehicles are properly recovered and collected by approved contractors. During the year, we have increased the quantity of waste lubrication oil recovered from vehicles to 22 000 litres , compared to 20 000 litres in 2004. 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 2003, 2004 and 2005 was 383 metric ton (M/T), 1 696 M/T and 191 M/T respectively. The substantial increase in the amount of food disposed in 2004 is due to the interception of meat and poultry suspected to be smuggled into Hong Kong. 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; and
- 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 249 250 inspections to food premises and took out 4 371 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 environmentally friendly coffins through pamphlets and regular meetings with the funeral trade.

On cremation facilities, replacement of 6 cremators at the Diamond Hill Crematorium is in progress with works for Phases I and II scheduled for completion by early 2007 and end 2008 respectively. Whenever practicable, we would introduce environmentally 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 RCPs with off-street facilities in enclosed buildings equipped with modern deodorizing installations to minimise any possible environmental nuisance to nearby residents. The RCPs at Hing Shing Road in Kwai Chung, Penny's Bay on Lantau and Lam Tsuen in Tai Po were completed. Construction works for the RCPs at Yee Kuk Street in Sham Shui Po and Tat Yan Square in Tuen Mun are in the pipeline. Enlargement works to the RCP at Shung Yan Street, Kwun Tong are in progress.

Besides, improvement works to 11 public toilets and aqua privies were completed in 2005 as part of the Public Toilet Improvement Programme. Under the capital works project for conversion of 100 aqua privies into flushing toilets initiated by the former Team Clean, 8 aqua privies were converted into flushing toilets in 2005.

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.

Environmentally 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 disinfestations 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 and/or 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 668 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 and 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 708 858 points, conducted 2 771 trapping programmes and disposed of 31 119 rodents.



OBJECTIVE : TO PROMOTE GREEN HOUSEKEEPING WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

Apart from delivering our services to the public in an environmentally responsible manner, we are also mindful 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 every 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;
- have introduced the Electronic Leave Application and Processing System (eLAPS) since mid 2004 for use by staff where applicable to replace the paper-based leave application system;
- have ceased 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/Pamphlet Library” and “Pleasant Environment Pamphlet Library” on the Department's homepage contain a variety of publicity materials published by the Department; and
- use duplex printers.

Managing Electricity Consumption

We continue to adopt 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 air-conditioned offices and venues to conform with Government standard of 25.5°C, except otherwise approved by our Green Manager based on technical and operational considerations;
- 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;
- de-lamping in over-illuminated areas and utilizing natural light;
- designating staff to conduct regular green checks in office;
- using energy-saving lightings in our office and facilities as a norm. 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; and
- inviting EMSD to conduct energy audits and adopting relevant measures such as replacing conventional ballasts with electronic ballasts and conducting illumination reviews as recommended by EMSD. In the year, we visited the relevant venues to check the progress on the implementation of energy audits, and were pleased to note that good housekeeping practices had been generally adopted in the venues.

During the year, Tai Kok Tsui Market and Cooked Food Centre and Mong Kok Cooked Food Market were commissioned. Furthermore, retro-fitting of air-conditioning systems were completed for Bowrington Road Cooked Food Centre and Yue Wan Market. While these new facilities/projects would enhance the quality of our services as demanded by public, they would also bring about an increase in electricity consumption. Nevertheless, we would continue to introduce energy saving measures in our venues and remind our staff to widely adopt energy saving practices.



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 26 732 kg of waste paper which represented an increase of 29.22% over the previous year; and

Replace

- replace the paper-based leave application system by the eLAPS for use by staff where applicable; 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, clutch pencil and lead refill, pencil made from recycled materials, mercury-free batteries and environmentally friendly soap in liquid and cake form are maintained as our standard stock items to meet daily operational requirement. We encourage the trade-in of used ink/toner cartridges by arranging contract with trade-in requirements and also arrange the sale of used toner cartridges through auction.

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 are of Euro III emission standard. There are now 133 LPG light buses, representing 77% of the total number of light buses in our vehicle fleet. 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 organised two in-house environmental workshops on “Green Life and Global Environmental Problems” and “Clean Air and Water Resources” respectively with the assistance of EPD. We also encourage our staff to participate in inter-departmental seminars and training in environmental management such as “Hong Kong Awards for Energy Efficiency and Conservation in Government - Experience Sharing Workshop” and “Energy Saving in Government - Experience Sharing Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Conservation”.

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 2 342 talks and activities were organised by the Centre in 2005.

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 and Japanese Encephalitis. Act Now”. The campaigns have enhanced public awareness of the importance of rodent and mosquito prevention.



Staff of Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre conducted a talk on hygiene in a Secondary School.



Messages on environmental hygiene were being disseminated to staff in building/estate managements as to uplift standard of living environment.



Staff of Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre conducted talk deep into the community, by disseminating hygiene messages in a public market.



Foreign domestic helpers have been gate keepers in most families. They have to know more about food, environmental and personal hygiene to safeguard the health of the public.

Chapter 5

THE WAY FORWARD



Our management and staff place great importance on environmental issues and initiatives and monitor 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 aim at bringing about good environmental impacts and helping create a better environment.

Upgrading of Cremation Facilities

On top of the replacement of cremators at Diamond Hill Crematorium, we are planning for the provision of 7 coffin/skeletal cremators at the Wo Hop Shek Crematorium and reprovisioning of 9 cremators at Cape Collinson Crematorium. We 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 Yee Kuk Street in Sham Shui Po and Tat Yan Square in Tuen Mun. Enlargement works in the RCP at Shung Yan Street in Kwun Tong are in progress. Planning work is underway to 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 11 public toilets and aqua privies were completed in 2005 while improvement works to a further 58 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. 8 aqua privies were converted into flushing toilets in 2005 and conversion works for the remaining 92 aqua privies were in progress or under planning.

Pest Control

We will continue to adopt an integrated approach in pest control operations, putting equal emphasis on judicious application 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. Moreover, 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, working in partnership with EMSD, we will continue to schedule 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@feh.gov.hk.