

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)051

Question Serial No.

0264

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What was the work carried out in 2003-04 to promote the waste separation and recovery scheme, its progress and the expenditure involved? How would the Environmental Protection Department assess the effectiveness of the scheme? Please provide the details and estimated expenditure of the scheme in 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : In 2003-04, a team of 8 professional staff and 8 technical staff was involved in 16 waste separation and recovery programmes at a total cost of \$14.5 million (staff costs of about \$8.5 million and programme costs of about \$6 million). These programmes included the dry and wet waste separation trial in housing estates in the Eastern District, promotion on recovery of wastes which are difficult to manage (e.g. waste tyres, electrical and electronic appliances) as well as recovery of glass bottles, plastic bottles and plastic bags. To enhance the public's awareness on waste separation and recovery, we also implemented various community education programmes at a total cost of about \$7.42 million.

As regards effectiveness, the overall municipal waste recovery rate rose from 36% in 2002 to 41% in 2003. Also, the amount of plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical and electronic appliances recovered all registered significant increases since the launch of the respective programmes.

It is estimated that the expenditure by the government on waste separation and recovery in 2004-05 would remain about the same as in 2003-04. Expenditure on education programmes would be reduced slightly to \$6.65 million due to a reduction in the frequency of direct outreaching activities and the provision of more technical advice and support for schools and community groups to organize their own activities on waste separation and recovery. We will also enhance the dissemination of waste reduction messages through the internet.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ROBERT J. S. LAW

Director of Environmental Protection

25 March 2004