

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)048

Question Serial No.

0897

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

Programme : (1) Waste Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : The estimated expenditure on waste facilities of the Environmental Protection Department in 2004-05 is \$1,376.4 million, which represents a significant increase of 7.1% as compared to \$1,284.6 million in 2003-04. However, when compared to 2002, the quantities of all categories of wastes treated in 2003 were on the decline. Why is it still necessary to increase the expenditure by 7.1%? Out of the total estimated expenditure of \$1,376.4 million, how much will be used to promote waste reduction and recycling?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : Apart from the projected increase in waste intake due to an expected improved economy in 2004-05, the estimated increase of 7.1% in the expenditure under Programme 1 is mainly attributable to the inclusion of a contingency having regard to the many uncertainties in the estimation of waste quantities.

In 2004-05, it is estimated that a total of about \$6 million will be allocated for more than 15 programmes to promote waste reduction and waste recovery/recycling activities. These programmes include the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in housing estates in the Eastern District, recovery of wastes which are difficult to handle such as vehicle tyres and electrical & electronic appliances as well as trials on various new waste recovery systems.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Environmental Protection

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 25 March 2004