

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)050

Question Serial No.

0899

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 : It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05 that the Environmental Protection Department will enhance partnerships with district councils, green groups and community organisations to further promote waste reduction and recycling, and will involve the business community more in waste prevention and recovery through product responsibility schemes. How much staff resources and provision will be allocated for such work? Will community groups and organisations be given a certain amount of subsidies for joint promotion of related activities? If yes, what is the amount involved? Will a certain amount of the provision be reserved to support or encourage the business community to carry out waste reduction and recovery work? If yes, what is the amount involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHU Yu-lin, David

Reply : In 2004-05, a team of 8 professional staff and 8 technical staff (staff resources of \$8.5 million) will be deployed to work with district councils, environmental groups and community organisations to implement waste recovery projects including the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in the Eastern District and recovery of glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic bags, rechargeable batteries as well as electrical and electronic appliances. The team will also work with various business sectors to examine means to implement product responsibility schemes for waste tyres and other products. The estimated expenditure for these programmes is about \$3 million.

To further enhance the public's awareness on waste recycling and reduction, we will continue to implement various publicity and education programmes targeting different stakeholders in the community. The total amount to be incurred on these programmes in financial year 2004-05 is estimated at \$6.65 million.

Community groups and non-profit-making organizations can apply to the Environment and Conservation Fund for grants to implement waste recovery schemes in the community. The amount of grant varies according to the nature and scope of each application.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      25 March 2004