

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)059

Question Serial No.

1545

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 :

1. What is the estimated unit cost for handling one tonne of solid waste in landfills in 2004-05?  
Is there any increase or decrease as compared to that in 2003-04?
2. What is the proportion of the administration fee in the existing costs for waste treatment?
3. What is the current rate of waste recovery?
4. What was the amount of wastes recovered for recycling or reuse in the last financial year through recovery programmes jointly organised by the Government, district councils and community organisations? What is the amount of savings in waste treatment?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

1. The estimated unit cost for handling one tonne of solid waste in landfills in 2004-05 is about \$129 (including administrative cost) per tonne which is similar to that in 2003-04.
2. The administration fee in the existing cost for landfilling of waste is about 3%.
3. The overall recovery rate for municipal solid waste increased from 36% in 2002 to 41% in 2003. This increase of 5% was mainly attributed to a strong demand for waste metals in the Mainland and increased Government efforts in promoting waste recycling.
4. In 2003-04, a total of about 1300 tonnes of wastes (including paper, plastic bottles, clothes, aluminium and tin cans, electrical & electronic appliances, expanded polystyrene, plastic bags etc) were recovered through partnership programmes with District Councils and non-government organisations. If we use a landfill disposal cost of \$125 per tonne as basis, then there is a saving of some \$162,500.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title      Director of Environmental Protection

Date      25 March 2004