

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

Reply Serial No.

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Question Serial No.

1605

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

Programme : (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : What is the effectiveness of the waste separation and recovery programmes for 2003-04?
What are the details of the estimated development of the programmes in 2004-05? What
is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : Overall, the recovery rate for municipal solid waste in Hong Kong has risen from 36% in 2002 to 41% in 2003. The increase is mainly attributed to a surge in metal recovery in 2003 as a result of a strong demand for waste metals in the Mainland as well as increased Government efforts in promoting waste recycling. The amount of plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical and electronic appliances recovered also registered significant increases in 2003.

In 2004-05, it is estimated that a total of about \$6 million will be allocated to more than 15 programmes to promote waste separation and recovery. These include the extension of the dry and wet waste separation trial in the Eastern District, continuation of programmes to recover wastes which are difficult to handle (e.g. plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical & electronic appliances) and trials on various new waste recovery systems.

In support of the Government's programmes, the waste recycling campaign in housing estates organized by the Environmental Campaign Committee has now reached over 1,300 public and private housing estates covering some 5 million people. The amount of waste paper and aluminium cans collected under this programme in 2003 was 31% and 69% higher respectively than that collected in 2002, although there was a slight drop in the amount of plastic bottles recovered. The Environmental Campaign Committee will continue to support the Government's efforts in promoting waste reduction and recycling in financial year 2004-05. Funding for community groups to conduct waste reduction and recycling programmes will also continue to be made available through the Environmental and Conservation Fund. The amount to be made available will depend on the nature of individual applications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 25 March 2004