

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)056

Question Serial No.

1606

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 : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2004-05:

1. It is mentioned that the government will "continue to implement measures to further promote waste separation and recovery". What are the details? What is the expenditure involved? How is it different from the "waste separation and recovery programmes" under Programme (7)?
2. What are the details for implementing the product responsibility schemes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply : 1. In 2004-05, it is estimated that a total of \$6 million will be allocated to more than 15 programmes to further 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 that are difficult to handle (e.g. plastic bottles, plastic bags, electrical & electronic appliances) and trials on various new waste recovery systems. These initiatives under Programme 1 are measures to promote waste reduction, separation and recovery under the Waste Reduction Framework Plan while the programmes on waste separation and recovery under Programme 7 aim to educate the general public and increase community awareness on waste reduction and recovery.

2. The Government is exploring how product responsibility schemes may be employed to manage wastes that are not commercially attractive for recycling such as vehicle tyres, batteries, electrical & electronic appliances and beverage containers. The Environmental Protection Department has been discussing with the relevant business sectors on possible means to implement product responsibility schemes in Hong Kong.

Concurrently, the Government is carrying out a series of regulatory impact assessments to examine the costs, benefits and impacts on stakeholders for different product responsibility options with a view to identifying preferred options. Stakeholders are consulted in the process. The first product being examined is waste tyres and the findings of the regulatory impact assessment would be available in mid 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 25 March 2004