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Session No. : 1

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in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment
Session No. : 1**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB001

Question Serial No.

0326

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Geopark, please advise on the following:

- (a) What is the total number of (local and overseas) visitors to the Geopark since its opening?
- (b) How many complaints about vandalism in geosites has the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department received? Are there any prosecution cases?
- (c) How many Geopark guides are there now? Have any resources been earmarked for training more guides?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- (a) The annual number of visitors to the Geopark since its opening in 2009 is around 1.5 million.
- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been actively promoting to the public a code of conduct for visiting geosites. Since the opening of the Geopark in 2009, we received some 20 complaints against malpractices of visitors including suspected vandalism. There were however no identifiable suspects or adequate evidence that could lead to prosecution action. We will continue our education and publicity efforts to raise the public awareness of the need and importance for the protection of our geosites. Regular patrols are also conducted to monitor visitors' behaviour and to promote the Code.
- (c) There are over 500 people who have attended the basic geopark guide or related training. To achieve a high standard of guided services for the Geopark, a 'Recommended Geopark Guide' system has been established. Currently, some 30 people have attained the Recommended Geopark Guide status. AFCD will continue to work with non-government organisations and the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong to train up more geopark guides, and \$1 million has been earmarked in 2012-13 for this purpose.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB002

Question Serial No.

3163

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

On strengthening publicity and education of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China this year, what are the details of the work by the Department? What is the estimated expenditure involved? What were the numbers of local and overseas visitors to the Geopark last year?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue its on-going efforts in promoting our Global Geopark and geo-conservation through a variety of education and publicity activities. Major activities include (a) production of multilingual promotion materials for local and overseas tourists; (b) overseas promotion through the international platform of the Global Geoparks Network; (c) upgrading the skills of the geopark guides through the Accredited Geopark Guide System in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs); (d) training of tour operators and fishermen interested in geo-tours; (e) science popularisation programme for students; and (f) collaboration with NGOs and private sectors in setting up and operation of education and visitor centres such as the Prehistoric Story Room which is operated by an NGO and sponsored by a local bank. \$8 million has been earmarked for these activities in 2012-13.

In 2011-12, the total number of visitors to the Geopark was 1.5 million. As our visitor survey does not collect separate statistics on the number of local and overseas visitors, such data is not available.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB003

Question Serial No.

3165

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

How many organisations were arranged by the Department to plant trees in country parks last year? How many seedlings were planted in total? Did the Department monitor the growth of these seedlings? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In 2011-12, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) had arranged, in collaboration with two organisations, for the general public to plant a total of 30 000 seedlings in country parks. Growth monitoring of these seedlings including weeding and use of fertilizers was mainly undertaken by volunteers of AFCD or these two organisations. Therefore, AFCD's spending on growth monitoring at these public planting sites has been minimal.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB004

Question Serial No.

3276

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

As the figures on all indicators, except “endangered species prosecutions”, for 2012-13 under Programme (2) have been revised downward, what are the main reasons for creating new posts? What are the respective percentages of the provision for the management of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre and for filling vacancies of 2011-12 in the increase in provision?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Five civil service posts (one Forestry Officer and four Field Officer II) will be created in 2012-13 (to replace existing non-civil service contract staff) for the preparation and implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. The respective percentages of the increase in provision for the management of the new Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre and for filling vacancies of 2011-12 are 20% and 61%.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB005

Question Serial No.

3483

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Will the Department allocate resources and manpower to review the penalties for illegal tree felling under the Country Parks Ordinance? If yes, what are the details of the work and the estimated expenditure?
- (b) Regarding the increase in cases of illegal vandalism in country park areas in recent years, will the Department allocate more resources to step up efforts in patrol and the enforcement of legislation related to nature conservation? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will review from time to time the Country Parks Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation including their penalty provisions. Such reviews will be funded by the allocation for recurrent expenditure on law enforcement and protection work in country parks.
- (b) AFCD will continue its efforts in patrol and the enforcement of legislation relating to protection of country parks. A total of \$56.5 million has been earmarked for such duties in 2012-13.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB006

Question Serial No.

1373

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under Programme 2, it is estimated by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department that 700 000 seedlings will be planted in 2012. Please provide the number of seedlings of native species to be planted in 2012 and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

It is estimated that 525 000 seedlings of native species will be planted and the estimated expenditure involved will be \$9.7 million in 2012-13.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB007

Question Serial No.

1374

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please inform the Committee of the respective numbers of plastic refuse bags used by the Administration and contractors in managing country parks and the related expenditure in 2011-12, as well as the estimated numbers of plastic refuse bags to be used and the related expenditure in 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The number of plastic refuse bags used in 2011-12 and to be used in 2012-13 by the Administration in managing country parks is 270 000 per year. Estimated expenditure is set out below:

Financial Year	Estimated Expenditure
2011-12	\$0.26 million
2012-13	\$0.30 million

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department had carried out a trial use of 32 000 biodegradable plastic bags to collect litter in country parks in 2011-12. The trial will be expanded to cover a wider area in 2012-13. Since the biodegradable bags are generally more expensive, the estimated expenditure for 2012-13 will increase accordingly.

The number of plastic refuse bags used/to be used by the contractors is 301 800 per year during the same period. Since the contractors are responsible for provision of plastic refuse bags when carrying out litter collection, the cost of the refuse bags provided by them is unknown to the Administration.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB008

Question Serial No.

1387

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under this Programme, it is stated by the Administration that one of the aims of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is the enhancement of biodiversity. Will AFCD inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) Does the Administration have the figures on white dolphin mortality in Hong Kong waters for each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12)? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) What is the yearly expenditure on the protection of Chinese white dolphins for the past 3 years (i.e. 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12)?
- (c) Has the Administration put in place any policy to minimise the mortality of Chinese white dolphins in Hong Kong waters? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been implementing a marine mammal stranding investigation programme to follow up all stranding reports in Hong Kong. The number of stranded Chinese white dolphins recorded in the past three years is provided in the table below. All the stranded Chinese white dolphins were dead when recovered.

Financial Year	Number of Chinese white dolphins stranded
2009-10	8
2010-11	9
2011-12 (up to Jan 2012)	8

(b) The expenditure involved in the conservation of Chinese white dolphins is as follows:

Financial Year	Expenditure
2009-10	\$2.3 million
2010-11	\$2.1 million
2011-12	\$2.5 million

(c) AFCD has put in place a variety of measures that are conducive for the conservation and the continued survival of the Chinese white dolphins in Hong Kong waters. They include (a) close monitoring of the occurrence and distribution of the Chinese white dolphins in local waters; (b) designation of important dolphin habitats as marine parks and subject them to proper management; (c) stipulating stringent requirements in Environmental Impact Assessments of coastal development projects to ensure that the potential impacts to dolphins are fully addressed; (d) implementation of fisheries management measures, such as the territory-wide trawl ban, which would benefit Chinese white dolphins whose prey food species are dependent on sustainable and healthy fish stocks; and (e) organising publicity and education programmes to raise public awareness of and solicit their support for the conservation of the Chinese white dolphins.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB009

Question Serial No.

0290

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise on the details of the provision for the Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre in 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$4.5 million for the management and operation of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre. This includes the expenditure on educational exhibits and programmes, building maintenance and security as well as staff costs.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB010

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

1401

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

710 000 seedlings were produced in 2011 whereas an estimated number of 680 000 seedlings will be produced in 2012. Please advise on the expenditure on fertilizers for producing seedlings under the estimate for 2012-13 and the amount involved in organic fertilizers.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The estimated expenditure on fertilizers for seedlings production and planting is \$1.3 million in 2012-13, of which \$42,000 will be for purchasing organic fertilizers.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB011

Question Serial No.

0513

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the territory-wide survey programme for collecting information and maintaining an ecological database, please provide the following information:

- (a) the projects covered by the survey programme;
- (b) the date the survey programme was launched and the estimated date of completion; and
- (c) the estimated expenditure on the survey programme.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) The territory-wide biodiversity survey programme is a long-term programme which covers different habitats and locations in Hong Kong. The programme includes the collection of data on (a) the status and species composition of about 100 plant and wetland communities; and (b) the distribution and abundance of over 1 200 animal species, including beetles, butterflies, dragonflies, freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Besides, the programme includes the implementation of conservation action plans for selected species of conservation concern. The data collected in the programme have been computerised and incorporated in a Geographic Information System to enable the storage of the data in digital format and the performance of spatial analysis. An online biodiversity database and eco-map containing information collected from the surveys has been made available for public access through the website of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.
- (b) The programme has started since 2002-03. Since the ecological environment and its components are constantly changing, continuous monitoring and surveys are required to update the database in order to obtain the most up-to-date information for policy/decision making on environmental issues as well as review of the existing and formulation of new conservation action plans.
- (c) \$4 million has been earmarked for the programme in 2012-13.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB012

Question Serial No.

0557

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Administration has indicated that they will oversee the implementation of the measures to better protect country park enclaves. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What measures had been implemented to better protect country park enclaves in the last year? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (b) At present, many ecologically important sites adjacent to the country parks are under private ownership. Are there any plans to undertake land resumption regarding all these sites for conservation purpose? If yes, what are the details, expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) There are currently 77 country park enclaves, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO) (Cap. 131). Since August 2010, 17 enclaves out of the 54 remaining enclaves have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under TPO. While the longer term planning control of incorporating the 17 enclaves either as OZPs under TPO or part of the Country Parks under the Country Parks Ordinance (CPO) (Cap. 208) will be processed, actions to protect the remaining 37 enclaves in accordance with TPO or the CPO will be pursued. Under the New Nature Conservation Policy, funding support may be provided by the Environment and Conservation Fund to facilitate the implementation of Management Agreements entered into with the land owners by non-governmental organisations to conserve the land concerned.

In 2011-12, the expenditure and manpower involved within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the incorporation of enclaves into Country Parks as well as the strengthening of patrol and enforcement relating to the country park enclaves were \$4.26 million and 12 staff.

- (b) In accordance with the New Nature Conservation Policy, twelve priority sites of high ecological importance for enhanced conservation have been identified. Amongst the twelve priority sites, nine are already covered by statutory control on the land use of the areas. The remaining sites are enclaves and actions are in hand to put them under statutory control under the TPO or CPO. We do not have any plan to undertake land resumption for conservation purpose per se. We aim to strike a balance between nature conservation and respecting private property rights by implementing the Public Private Partnership Pilot Scheme and the Management Agreement Scheme.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 1 March 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB013

Question Serial No.

2023

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Administration has mentioned "the inclusion of selected country park enclaves into country parks". Will the Administration inform the Committee if provisions for research will be earmarked to conduct timely review on the coverage of country parks, so that areas that have been included in country parks can be released to make available more land resources if their conservation value or quality has dropped? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

Country Parks are designated under the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) for conservation and recreational purposes. They cover important habitats for over 98% of the plants and animals of Hong Kong. They are also our natural heritage that the public treasures and attaches great importance. Apart from playing an indispensable and vital role in maintaining biodiversity in the territory, our country parks are also being important and irreplaceable venues for the public to escape the hustle and bustle of urban life and enjoy the wilderness of our quiet countryside. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department would continue to manage and protect country parks for the purpose of nature conservation, recreation, nature based tourism and education. We have no plans in hand to reduce the coverage of the country parks and release the land for development.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB014

Question Serial No.

1980

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) accepted the Hong Kong Geopark into the Global Geoparks Network in September 2011, making it the 26th global geopark of China. A series of one-off promotion activities was held in 2010, resulting in record-high turnout in educational activities. To continue promoting this global geopark, what measures or activities (e.g. local or international promotion activities in collaboration with tourism-related organisations) will be launched by the Administration?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

In 2012-13, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue its on-going efforts in promoting our Global Geopark and geo-conservation through a variety of education and publicity activities. Major activities include (a) production of multilingual promotion materials for local and overseas tourists; (b) overseas promotion through the international platform of the Global Geoparks Network; (c) upgrading the skills of the geopark guides through the Accredited Geopark Guide System in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs); (d) training of tour operators and fishermen interested in geo-tours; (e) science popularisation programme for students; and (f) collaboration with NGOs and private sectors in setting up and operation of education and visitor centres such as the Prehistoric Story Room which is operated by an NGO and sponsored by a local bank.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB015

Question Serial No.

0269

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

What are the expenditure on the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park and Hong Kong Global Geopark of China for the coming year? What is the number of staff on the establishment and are they assisted by outsourced workers? If yes, what is the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

Apart from maintaining a team of 76 staff for the management and operation of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department appoints contractors to assist in carrying out certain services such as security, cleansing, landscaping and ticketing services. The estimated expenditure on the management of HKWP for 2012-13 is \$47.5 million, including \$11 million for outsourcing services.

In 2012-13, a team of 21 staff will be deployed for the management and operation of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China (HKGGP). Major tasks include patrol and enforcement, provision of visitor facilities, education and publicity, promotion on local community's participation in geo-conservation and tourism activities, arranging cleansing and litter collection services, and research on geological science. The estimated expenditure on the management of HKGGP for 2012-13 is \$29.2 million, including \$1.5 million for outsourcing services.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB016

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

0648

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please give an account of the area, and the expenditure and manpower allocated for the operation of the following in the past five years:

(a) country parks; (b) special areas; (c) marine parks; (d) marine reserve; (e) wetlands; (f) sites of high scientific value and Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and (g) geopark.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

The area, expenditure and manpower allocated for the operation of the following in the past five years are as follows:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
(a) Country Parks (ha)	41 034	43 394	43 394	43 394	43 394
(b) Special Areas outside country parks (ha)*	610	610	610	610	845
(c) Marine Parks (ha)	2 410	2 410	2 410	2 410	2 410
(d) Marine Reserve (ha)	20	20	20	20	20
(e) Wetlands (ha)**	1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500	1 500
(f) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (ha)	7 467	7 467	7 467	7 491	7 491
(g) Geopark (ha)	-	-	-	4 985	4 985
Total Expenditure (\$ million)	250.3	267.5	266.5	285.5	297.1
Manpower ***	997	989	952	924	913

* Area of special areas within country parks is not included to avoid double-counting.

** This refers to the conservation management and law enforcement work of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site. The manpower and expenditure for the management of wetlands within country parks and special areas are absorbed in the management of these areas respectively.

*** The manpower allocated has decreased as a result of the Department's continued effort to enhance the efficiency in delivering the services through re-engineering, redeployment of resources and alternative means such as outsourcing of some non-core duties.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 23 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB017

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Subhead:

Question Serial No.

0649

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499), what are the yearly number, expenditure and manpower involved in the past 5 years? Please list the figures for each project by year.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

The number of approved development projects under ecological monitoring and auditing, the expenditure and number of staff involved in the past five years are shown as follows:

Financial year	Number of project*	Expenditure (\$ million)	Staff involved
2011-12	24	2.6	4
2010-11	22	2.0	4
2009-10	21	2.4	4
2008-09	18	2.2	4
2007-08	16	2.1	4

* The number includes projects carried forward from previous years.

As the expenditure and staff involved cover various projects at different stages, it would not be able to further breakdown the expenditure and manpower involved by individual project.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB018

Question Serial No.

0315

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the operation of the fill banks at Tuen Mun Area 38 and Tseung Kwan O Area 137, please give information on:

- a) the quantities and categories of fill received by the above two fill banks respectively in the past three years (2009-10 to 2011-12).
- b) as several projects of infrastructural works will launch over the next few years and a large quantity of construction waste will be generated, how much of such waste will be delivered to the above two fill banks; and when will the above fill banks be anticipated to be used up? Have any resources been set aside to expand the existing fill banks, or to identify any location to construct new fill banks?
- c) the quantities and categories of public fill delivered to the Mainland in the past three years (2009-10 to 2011-12), and the respective average delivery cost of public fill per tonne. Are there any measures to control the increase of delivery cost?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

- a) The quantities of fill received by the two fill banks at Tseung Kwan O (TKO) Area 137 and Tuen Mun (TM) Area 38 in the past 3 years are as follows:

Fill received at:	2009	2010	2011
TKO Area 137 Fill Bank (million tonnes)	7.5	5.8	6.2
TM Area 38 Fill Bank (million tonnes)	6.5	4.7	5.2

Fill basically comprises inert construction and demolition materials, such as soil, rock, concrete, asphalt, brick, tile, etc.

- b) The quantity of fill received at the fill banks in any given year is subject to the implementation programme of individual works projects and other related factors. It also depends on the extent to which such fill can be reused and recycled locally. Notwithstanding, we expect that the stockpiling capacities of the existing fill banks can cope with the anticipated demand in 2012. The Environment Bureau and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) are maintaining regular liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities to continue the arrangement of cross-boundary delivery of the surplus fill in the coming years. CEDD will also continue to study other options to tackle the surplus fill problem.
- c) The actual quantities of fill, which has a similar composition as explained in (a), delivered to the Mainland for beneficial reuse in 2009, 2010 and 2011 were 11.1, 9.4 and 11.2 million tonnes respectively. The expenditures in the financial years of 2009-10 and 2010-11 and the estimated expenditure in 2011-12 are \$884.7 million, \$673.9 million and \$759.3 million respectively. They included costs of delivery, operation and maintenance of the public fill reception facilities and associated staff costs and administrative overheads. CEDD implemented the delivery scheme through works contracts which were awarded through established open tendering procedures and administered under well-established contract management procedures which are adopted for public works contracts.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 24.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB019

Question Serial No.

0334

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In the recent three financial years, what was the respective cost per tonne involved in the transportation of construction and demolition (C&D) materials to the Mainland for reuse? Apart from transportation cost, is the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSARG) required to pay any other costs to the recipient points in the Mainland? Or will the HKSARG charge the recipient points of any costs? Please give the details of the costs.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The actual quantities of surplus fill delivered to the Mainland for beneficial reuse in 2009, 2010 and 2011 were 11.1, 9.4 and 11.2 million tonnes respectively. The expenditures in the financial years of 2009-10 and 2010-11 and the estimated expenditure in 2011-12 are \$884.7 million, \$673.9 million and \$759.3 million respectively. They included costs of delivery, operation and maintenance of the public fill reception facilities and associated staff costs and administrative overheads. The costs of delivery covered permit fees and supervision fees payable to the relevant Mainland authorities. We will not charge the recipient points of any costs under the delivery scheme.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ C K HON

Post Title: _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: _____ 24.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB020

Question Serial No.

0335

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and
Development Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the delivery of construction and demolition (C & D) materials for reuse in the Mainland, how many tonnes of the C & D materials per year can be received by the Mainland in the coming five years (including 2012)? And, what are the design capacity of the local existing public fill facilities, and their respective remaining capacity?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The Environment Bureau and the Civil Engineering and Development Department are maintaining regular liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities on the cross-boundary delivery scheme in handling surplus fill in Hong Kong, including the estimated quantity of such delivery in each year which is mutually agreed by both sides on an annual basis. In 2012, an estimate of 11.5 million tonnes of surplus fill will be delivered to the Mainland under this scheme.

The total design capacity of the existing fill banks at Tseung Kwan O (TKO) Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38 is 19.2 million tonnes. As at the end of 2011, the remaining capacity of the two fill banks is in total 3.8 million tonnes.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 24.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB021

Question Serial No.

3420

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) How much construction and demolition (C & D) materials were handled by the barging point at Chai Wan last year? What was its operating expenditure?
- (b) What was the expenditure on delivering public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland last year? What was the average expenditure in delivering each tonne of the materials? At present, where are the receiving locations of the fill in the Mainland? How many acres of land in the Mainland have been formed by such fill?
- (c) The government has set a new indicator of "public fill supplied to local projects for beneficial reuse". How would the government fulfill the indicator? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

- (a) The Chai Wan Public Fill Barging Point (CWPFBP) handled about 1.5 million tonnes of fill in 2011 at an operating expenditure of about \$30 million.
- (b) Through the delivery scheme, we delivered about 11.2 million tonnes of surplus fill to the Mainland for beneficial reuse in 2011. The estimated expenditure for the delivery in 2011-12 is \$759.3 million. It includes the costs of delivery, operation and maintenance of the public fill reception facilities and associated staff costs and administrative overheads. At present, the designated site at Taishan as agreed with the Mainland authority is the only receiving location under the delivery scheme. Since the commencement of the scheme and up to the end of 2011, about 350 hectares of land has been formed.

- (c) Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), on behalf of the Public Fill Committee, scrutinises submissions from proponents of public works projects with a view to maximizing the reuse of public fill in land formation projects and accordingly draws up the yearly indicators. CEDD will closely monitor the progress of the relevant works projects to achieve the target. In 2012, the estimated expenditure involved in public fill reception facilities for supplying fill to local projects for beneficial reuse is about \$45 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 27.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB022

Question Serial No.

2320

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

During 2012-13, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) will continue the cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland and review the scheme in the light of the experience gained. Please provide information on:

- (a) the details of an increase in the estimate of the management of construction and demolition (C & D) materials for 2012-13;
- (b) all the expenditures involved at present in delivering public fill to Taishan for disposal. Is there any time limit set by State Oceanic Administration, South China Sea Branch for designating Taishan as the disposal point? Upon the expiry of the designation of Taishan as a disposal point, is there any other location in Mainland to receive the public fill from Hong Kong?
- (c) according to the indicators in 2012, the public fill supplied to local projects for beneficial reuse will be three million tonnes. Please provide information to show how the target can be achieved. Has the Administration got any policy to raise the indicator by year?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

- a) The estimated increase in the expenditure on the management of C&D materials in 2012-13 is mainly to cater for the expected increase in the handling of public fill due to the implementation of major infrastructure projects.

- b) The estimated expenditure of \$833.4 million in 2012-13 includes the costs of delivery, operation and maintenance of the public fill reception facilities and associated staff costs and administrative overheads.

The Environment Bureau and CEDD are maintaining regular liaison with the relevant Mainland authorities on the cross-boundary delivery scheme in handling surplus fill in Hong Kong, including the estimated quantity of such delivery in each year which is mutually agreed by both sides on an annual basis. We will also liaise with the Mainland authorities to identify more possible sites for their reuse.

- c) CEDD, on behalf of the Public Fill Committee, scrutinises submissions from proponents of public works projects with a view to maximizing the reuse of public fill in land formation projects and accordingly draws up the yearly indicators. CEDD will closely monitor the progress of the relevant works projects to achieve the target.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 24.2.2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB023

Question Serial No.

3468

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise on the number of complaints received in respect of odour from the Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works by the Department last year. What is/are the source(s) of odour according to the investigation conducted by the Administration? Please advise on the measures that are being taken to monitor the air quality or odour in the vicinity of that area at present as well as the measures to be taken to improve the situation by the Department. Please provide details on the specific work and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

In 2011, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) had received one odour complaint in respect of the Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works (SCISTW). 15 odour complaints were also lodged with the Environmental Protection Department. After site investigation, it was found that none of the cases was related to the odour emission from SCISTW. It was also found that the deodourization equipment at SCISTW was operating satisfactorily.

A regular odour monitoring system has been implemented at SCISTW involving daily odour patrols within the sewage treatment works and biweekly odour measurements at strategic locations of the sewage treatment works.

SCISTW has adopted the following measures in reducing odour nuisance from the sewage treatment works:

- (a) dosing of chemicals to control the generation of odour from sewage and sludge;
- (b) enhancing the air tightness of the existing enclosed sludge containers to prevent release of odour during transportation;
- (c) covering up of the locations at channels, chambers and tanks which are likely to emit odour; and
- (d) installing deodourization units like activated carbon system, chemical scrubbers and biofilters at appropriate locations to clean up the collected odourous air from odour sources.

To further enhance odour control at SCISTW, DSD awarded a works contract valued \$189 million in October 2009 to install covers for all the existing sedimentation tanks at SCISTW. The contract also includes the provision of air extraction system and deodourization units to extract and treat the odourous air from the covered areas before discharging. Up to end of February 2012, covers for

36 out of 46 numbers of sedimentation tanks have been installed and the cover installation works for the remaining tanks are scheduled for completion in the third quarter of 2012.

In 2011, the annual recurrent expenditure involved in controlling odour at SCISTW was about \$9 million.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 24 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB024

Question Serial No.

1382

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

At present, direct connection of sewers to drains is still common in old tenement buildings in many districts like Tsuen Wan, thus giving rise to direct discharge of untreated sewage into the Hong Kong waters. In this connection, will the Government advise the Committee on the expenditure incurred by the government on rectifying expedient connections at source last year? What is the estimated expenditure on rectifying expedient connections at source in 2012-13? Has the Administration got measures to fully resolve expedient connections in old tenement buildings within a short time?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The rectification of expedient connections between the sewage terminal manholes of private buildings and the public stormwater drainage manholes is an integral part of the general maintenance operation of Drainage Services Department and no separate cost account is kept for expenses specifically on their rectification works.

Unauthorized alteration to the drainage systems within private buildings with foul water discharging into the buildings' stormwater drains contravenes the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) and may be subject to enforcement actions by Buildings Department including the issue of statutory removal orders under section 24 of the Ordinance. The rectification works are to be carried out by the building owners. The Environmental Protection Department will also step up enforcement actions under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance jointly with the Buildings Department to tackle the illegal connection and discharge cases, so as to rectify the misconnections in private buildings as soon as possible.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 23 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB025

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

0218

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many appeal cases of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge were there in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? How many appeal cases were approved? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? What is the average time needed to complete the processing of an appeal case?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The number of applications and approved cases for reassessment of (i) trade effluent surcharge (TES) rate and (ii) discharge factor (DF) for sewage charge and TES in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as follows:

		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (for 10 months only)
Reassessment of TES rate	Number of applications received			
	- <i>All trades</i>	311	275	176
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	290	259	122
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	- <i>All trades</i>	126	279 ⁽²⁾	201
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	122	259 ⁽²⁾	146
Reassessment of DF	Number of applications received			
	- <i>All trades</i>	30	1 ⁽³⁾	21
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0
	Number of applications approved ⁽¹⁾			
	- <i>All trades</i>	18	16	4 ⁽⁴⁾
	- <i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0

Notes:

- As there is a time lag for processing the applications, the number of applications approved does not correspond to the number of applications received within the same financial year.
- The validity period of TES rate reassessments had been extended from two to three years with effect from 1 August 2008. The extension was applicable to all reassessments which were still valid on 1 August 2008. As a result, we received the majority of TES rate reassessment applications (many of which are deferred renewal applications) in the last few months of 2009-10 and many of them were approved in the first few months of 2010-11. The number of TES rate reassessment applications approved was therefore particularly high in 2010-11 due to the special circumstances as explained above.
- Since end 2008, a three-year validity period (instead of two years as in 2007-08) has been granted to all successful DF reassessment applications, thus leading to a lack of renewal applications in 2010-11. The number of applications received within 2010-11 was therefore particularly low as a result.
- Four applications have been approved so far in 2011-12 since we only received in the last couple of months the majority of this year's DF reassessment applications.

It normally takes three to four months to process a case.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ CHAN Chi-chiu _____

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services _____

Date _____ 23 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB026

Question Serial No.

0220

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question: Over the past 3 years (from 2009-10 to 2011-12), what are the annual expenditures involved and manpower required for the maintenance of sewage treatment facilities? What are the costs of the maintenance of sewers over the same periods?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The apportionment of the expenditure involved and number of staff required for the repair and maintenance of sewage treatment facilities in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are listed below:

	2009-10 (Actual)	2010-11 (Actual)	2011-12 (Revised Estimate)
(a) Expenditure for repair and maintenance works (\$ million)	587	598	613
(i) sewage treatment works (\$ million)	397	419	426
(ii) sewers (\$ million)	190	179	187
(b) Number of staff ^{Note}	620	604	613

Note:

The manpower involved has included the number of staff for the repair and maintenance of sewage treatment works and sewers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 23 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB027

Question Serial No.

1055

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

During 2012-13, the Drainage Services Department will continue with the construction of the sewage conveyance system and the sewage treatment plant upgrading works under the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme stage 2A. In this connection, please advise on its progress, as well as the plans and targets during 2012-13.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

Harbour Area Treatment Scheme stage 2A (HATS stage 2A) consists of upgrading of eight existing preliminary treatment works (PTWs) for collection of sewage from the northern and southwestern parts of Hong Kong Island, construction of about 21 km of deep tunnels to convey sewage from these PTWs to Stonecutters Island sewage treatment works (SCISTW), and upgrading of SCISTW to provide additional treatment capacity and disinfection facilities.

Construction of the sewage conveyance system for HATS stage 2A commenced in July 2009 and is now in its full swing. Works on the production shafts are nearing completion and the main tunnel construction has started since May 2011. As for the PTWs and SCISTW upgrading works, all major works contracts have been awarded and the construction works are progressing satisfactorily on site. The advance part of the disinfection facilities has been completed and put into operation since March 2010 to remove at least 99% of bacteria from the effluent before discharge. The installation of fibre reinforced plastic covers and deodourization facilities to the existing sedimentation tanks at SCISTW for odour control enhancement is also making good progress for completion in the 3rd quarter of 2012. Our target is to complete all essential construction works for commissioning of HATS stage 2A in end 2014, bringing about further long term improvements to the water quality of Victoria Harbour.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****ENB028**

Question Serial No.

0652

Head: 39 - Drainage Services Department Subhead (No. & title):Programme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage ServicesDirector of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please provide a breakdown by 18 District Council districts of the volume of sewage collected and treated, and the overall expenditure and manpower involved each year over the past 10 years in Hong Kong. Also, the estimated volume of sewage treated for 2012 is 1 010 million cubic metres, representing an increase in volume as compared with the actual volume of 978 million cubic metres for 2010 and 979 million cubic metres for 2011. What are the reasons? Please advise on the additional expenditure and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tatReply:

The annual volume of sewage collected and treated by the Drainage Services Department over the past 10 years are summarized below:

Year \ Region	Hong Kong & Outlying Islands (million m³)	Kowloon (million m³)	New Territories (million m³)	Total (million m³)
2002	217.9	443.0	250.1	911.0
2003	231.4	457.1	254.5	943.0
2004	235.1	464.2	254.7	954.0
2005	245.7	456.1	266.2	968.0
2006	246.9	442.5	276.6	966.0
2007	245.1	449.9	269.0	964.0
2008	248.4	465.5	276.1	990.0
2009	254.1	455.8	268.1	978.0
2010	259.9	453.6	264.5	978.0
2011	266.0	450.6	262.4	979.0

Note:

Since the sewage catchments of the treatment facilities do not totally match with the boundaries of the District Councils, the figures of sewage flow in the table are listed under three regions namely Hong Kong & Outlying Islands, Kowloon and New Territories. [Hong Kong & Outlying Islands include catchment areas of Central & Western, Wan Chai, Eastern, Southern and Outlying Islands. Kowloon includes catchment areas of Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong (including Kowloon City), Kwun Tong (including Wong Tai Sin), Tseung Kwan O, Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan (including Kwai Chung). New Territories includes catchment areas of Shatin, Tai Po, North, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Sham Tseng and Sai Kung.]

The overall annual operation and maintenance expenditure and manpower involved in sewage collected and treated over the past 10 financial years are summarized below:

Year	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12 Estimate
Operation & Maintenance Expenditure (\$ million)	981.6	920.2	951.2	969.5	970.8	992.1	1,035.1	1,109.4	1,172.4	1,229.2
Manpower (number of staff)	1 102	1 059	1 004	991	961	920	926	941	919	919

In consideration of relevant factors such as the anticipated increase in water consumption due to growth in population and commercial activities, etc., an estimated 3% increase in volume of sewage treated for 2012 is allowed for. As sewage treatment is the normal operation of the Department, we have no separate provision to cater for the variation in volume of sewage treated in 2012-13. Moreover, additional manpower to cater for the variation is also not expected.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: CHAN Chi-chiu

Post Title: Director of Drainage Services

Date: 24 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB029

Question Serial No.

3469

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. &
title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Has Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) carried out review on the current services of dedicated liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations? If yes, please provide details. Will the Government plan to increase the number of dedicated LPG filling stations? What are the details and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been regularly reviewing various services aspects of the dedicated liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations, including their station management, operation and maintenance, through regular inspections, meetings with the dedicated LPG filling station operators as well as the LPG vehicle trade organizations. According to the findings of these regular review, the operators have generally met their contractual obligations. EMSD will continue to monitor closely their performance.

The current LPG filling network has a total of 62 LPG filling stations, including 12 dedicated stations and 50 non-dedicated stations and are sufficient to meet the filling demand of all taxis and light buses to use LPG vehicles. Thus, the Government does not have plan to set up additional dedicated LPG filling stations. However, to make LPG filling more convenient to drivers, the Government has a standing policy since 2000, to require suitable tendered sites for petrol filling stations to provide LPG filling facilities. We have also identified two potential sites on Hong Kong Island recently which could be made available for setting up petrol-cum-LPG stations subject to the completion of requisite procedures and arrangements. We have also recommended the strengthening of the existing policy by stipulating in the tender conditions of petrol-cum-LPG filling stations, both in respect of existing petrol filling stations that do not have LPG filling facilities and existing petrol-cum-LPG filling stations upon expiry of their current land leases, a minimum requirement for LPG filling facilities at 25% of the nozzles, subject to fulfillment of the necessary safety requirements.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 24 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB030

3480

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Has the Government conducted survey on the utilization rate of dedicated liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations? What is the current average waiting time for receiving services?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

Based on the operational records provided by the operators according to the contracts, on average about 1 300 to 3 900 vehicles per station were refilled daily at the 12 dedicated LPG filling stations in 2011.

LPG vehicles queuing for filling occurred in shift-changing periods, in particular at those dedicated LPG filling stations that are located at popular locations. Outside shift-changing periods, taxis and PLBs do not normally require much waiting time for refilling even at dedicated LPG filling stations.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan _____

Post Title: _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services _____

Date: _____ 28 February 2012 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB032

Question Serial No.

0294

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question : For the renewable energy projects undertaken for the Government and public bodies, please provide information in accordance with the format below

	Government Department/ Public Body	Buildings/ Facilities Involved	Electricity and cost saving	Reduction in carbon emission
2010				
2011				
2012				

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The renewable energy installations funded by the resources allocated to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in 2010 and 2011 are shown in the table below.

Year	Government Department/ Public Body	Buildings/ Facilities Involved	Electricity generated and cost saving #	Reduction in carbon emission
2010	Education Bureau	Shau Kei Wan Government Secondary School; Chiu Lut Sau Memorial Secondary School; and Yuen Long Government Primary School	9 700 kWh electricity and about \$9,700 per annum	About 6 800 kg carbon dioxide per annum
	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Lai Chi Kok Park; Middle Road Children's Playground; Tsuen Wan Jockey Club Tak Wah Park; and Tai Po Yuen Chau Tsai Park		
2011	Education Bureau	South Yuen Long Government Primary School	1 500 kWh electricity and about \$1,500 per annum	About 1 000 kg carbon dioxide per annum

For calculation of the cost saving, it has been assumed that the average electricity tariff is \$1 per kWh.

Apart from the above projects, there are also renewable energy projects funded by resources allocated to other departments and project votes for individual capital projects. For example, a photovoltaic installation has been installed in the New Central Government Offices and the estimated annual electricity generated is 40 000 kWh, with a cost saving of about \$40,000 per annum.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 29 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB033

Question Serial No.

0295

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question : For the energy-saving projects undertaken for the Government and public bodies, please provide information in accordance with the format below:

	Government Department/ Public Body	Buildings/ Facilities Involved	Electricity and cost saving	Reduction in carbon emission
2010				
2011				
2012				

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : During the period between 2010 and 2012, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has handled / will handle a total of 290 energy-saving projects for various government departments and public bodies. These projects involve retrofitting of energy efficient lighting and control systems, light emitting diode (LED) exit signs, and energy efficient air-conditioning and control systems, etc. The estimated total annual energy saving is 27 million kWh, or equivalent to an annual reduction of about 18 900 tonnes of carbon dioxide emission. The breakdown is given in the table below.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB036

Question Serial No.

1116

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Since liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles still have breakdown problems, will the Administration please provide details on measures to strengthen the monitoring of auto LPG quality and the associated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

With a view to ensuring liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) quality compliance, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been conducting quality check on LPG since January 2010. Up to end January 2012, the EMSD has collected a total of 298 LPG samples directly from the LPG filling stations and LPG terminals for testing conducted by an accredited laboratory against the auto LPG specification. Moreover, we have also stepped up promotion on the maintenance of LPG vehicles among vehicle owners.

On top of the above mentioned initiatives, the EMSD has also been vetting the independent third-party test reports submitted by LPG supply companies for each shipment to ensure that the quality of the imported LPG complies with the specified requirements.

The monitoring work was handled by a team of engineers and inspectors whose responsibilities cover a wide range of duties including inspection, investigation, public education and publicity. Apart from an annual expenditure of \$2.5 million for the laboratory tests, we do not have separate breakdown of manpower or expenditure involved in the monitoring of LPG quality only.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB037

Question Serial No.

1117

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In order to implement the 5-yearly revalidation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicle fuel tank, what are the additional resources and expenditures involved for each of the last two 5-yearly revalidations? The number of revalidation is significantly reduced from 9 144 in 2011 to 2 700 in 2012, what are the savings in resources and expenditures?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The revalidation of LPG vehicle fuel tanks is undertaken by a team of engineers and inspectors whose responsibilities cover a wide range of enforcement duties relating to LPG filling network, supporting infrastructure for LPG vehicles and revalidation of LPG vehicles fuel tanks. It is part and parcel of our on-going activities with its workload absorbed by existing provision. Reduction in the number of revalidation of LPG vehicle fuel tank will not result in savings in manpower and expenditure.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB038

Question Serial No.

1118

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: With regard to the 980 cases of enquiry and complaint on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicle safety received in 2011, what are the respective numbers of enquiries and complaints? Please give a breakdown by type of the enquiry and complaint cases.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

In 2011, 933 enquiries and 47 complaints were received on LPG vehicle safety. The enquiries on LPG vehicle safety covered a wide range of issues including LPG vehicle fuel tank revalidation, operation of LPG filling stations, LPG vehicle breakdown incidents, auto-LPG pricing, enlistment of competent persons, safe use of LPG vehicles, etc., and we did not have a breakdown for them. The breakdown of complaints by type is shown in the following table:

Type	Number of Complaints
Operation of LPG filling stations	32
LPG vehicle breakdown incidents	11
Auto-LPG pricing	3
LPG vehicle workshop	1

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 24 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB039

Question Serial No.

0653

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In the past five years, how many gas incidents were investigated by the Administration in each year? What were the expenses incurred, manpower involved, follow up actions as well as effectiveness? What were the causes and details of these incidents? Besides, the estimated number of follow-up inspections and quality assurance visits is 2 000 in 2012, which is less than the actual numbers of 2 098 and 2 104 in 2010 and 2011 respectively. What are the reasons behind, and the savings in expenses and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of gas incidents investigated over the past five years (from 2007 to 2011) were 494, 414, 392, 345 and 420 respectively.
- (b) These incidents basically fall into three categories - about 70% were related to gas pipe/cylinder/fitting faults, about 6% were related to careless/improper use of gas fittings, and the remaining 24% were found to be non-gas related.
- (c) Based on the analysis of gas incidents investigated, public education and publicity programmes as well as inspection plans were developed with a view to enhancing gas safety. Enhanced gas safety promotion, e.g. encouragement of gas users to arrange regular safety inspections, will be taken in 2012 with a view to reducing the number of incidents.
- (d) Gas incidents were handled by a team of engineers and inspectors whose responsibilities cover such duties as inspection, investigation, public education and publicity. We do not have the breakdown of manpower or expenditures involved in incident investigation only.
- (e) The estimated number of follow-up inspections and quality assurance visits on gas safety to be conducted in 2012 is slightly reduced to 2 000 as we envisage that the education and publicity works to be launched, in particular those related to promoting regular safety inspections, will help reduce the number of incidents.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 27 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB040

2351

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No.
& title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: One of the matters requiring special attention in 2012-13 is that the department will implement a Continuing Professional Development scheme for registered electrical workers. Please advise the following:

- a) The manpower and expenditure planned for the implementation of the scheme;
- b) The arrangement to have over 70,000 registered electrical workers to complete the training within 3 years;
- c) Whether the scheme would become a routine requirement. If yes, please advise the details.

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

- a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) would utilize existing manpower and resources for the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme for registered electrical workers (REW). As such, no additional manpower and expenditure would be required.
- b) EMSD, apart from organizing CPD training courses for REWs by itself, would also collaborate with various organizations of the electrical trade, including workers unions, contractors associations, academic and professional institutions to arrange the required CPD training courses. The arrangement has received support from concerned parties and is expected to provide sufficient CPD training opportunities to REWs.
- c) The purpose of the CPD scheme is to refresh and update REWs on the safety and technical knowledge on electrical works in a systematic and continuous manner. In this connection, the scheme would become an on-going exercise so that all REWs will be arranged to complete the CPD training before the renewal of their registration once every three years.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: _____ CHAN Fan

Post Title: _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date: _____ 22 February 2012

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB041

Question Serial No.

2354

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- a) Regarding the periodic testing certificates of electrical installations processed for electrical safety, please provide the number of periodic test certificates issued in the past 5 years according to the type of electrical installations as stipulated in the following table:

	Installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 12 months according to Regulation 20(1) of the Cap. 406E			Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(2) of Cap. 406E)	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(3) of Cap. 406E), other than those premises referred to in sub-regulation (1) or (2)	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(4) in Cap. 406E)						
	(a)	(b)	(c)			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	
2011												
2010												
2009												
2008												
2007												

b) With regard to the above breakdown records, please provide the number of conviction for owner of electrical installation failing to arrange the required periodic inspection and testing works.

	Installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 12 months according to Regulation 20(1) of the Cap. 406E			Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years in a factory or industrial undertaking (Regulation 20(2) of Cap. 406E)	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(3) of Cap. 406E), other than those premises referred to in sub-regulation (1) or (2)	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(4) in Cap. 406E)					
	(a)	(b)	(c)			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
2011											
2010											
2009											
2008											
2007											

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

(a) The required information regarding the number of periodic test certificates processed is summarized below:

	Installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 12 months according to Regulation 20(1) of the Cap. 406E			Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(2) of Cap. 406E)	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(3) of Cap. 406E), other than those premises referred to in sub-regulation (1) or (2)	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(4) in Cap. 406E)					
	(a)	(b)	(c)			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
2011	268	1 704	237	128	5 865	111	50	421	61	87	27
2010	250	1 649	198	97	6 051	150	69	415	49	59	0
2009	260	1 730	199	175	6 368	110	47	255	57	48	0
2008	260	1 655	147	181	6 535	126	33	285	70	36	0
2007	267	1 749	164	181	6 472	102	27	354	71	59	0

(b) The required information regarding the number of conviction for owner of electrical installation is summarized below:

	Installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 12 months according to Regulation 20(1) of the Cap. 406E			Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years in a factory or industrial	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(3) of Cap. 406E), other than	Low voltage fixed electrical installation required to be inspected, tested and certified at least once every 5 years (Regulation 20(4) in Cap. 406E)					
	(a)	(b)	(c)			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB042

Question Serial No.

0313

Head : 44 Environmental
 Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the operation of strategic landfills, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the amounts of waste received by each landfill in the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12)? Of which, how much was domestic and industrial/commercial waste?
- (b) What are the remaining capacities of these landfills? When are they expected to be filled up? What is the latest progress of their extension plans?
- (c) The Environmental Protection Department estimates that the operation hours of landfills in 2012 will be 14 274, which are higher than the target. Why is it so? Is there any way to reduce the number of operation hours?
- (d) According to the relevant programme indicator, the Environmental Protection Department handled over 3 000 complaints in both 2010 and 2011. What was the nature of these complaints and from which districts did they mainly come? How much did the Department spend in mitigating bad odor and other environmental nuisances arising from the landfills in the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12)?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) The quantities of waste received at the three strategic landfills over the past 3 years (2009, 2010 and 2011) are summarized below:

Year ¹	Total Waste ² (‘0000 tonnes)			Domestic Waste (‘0000 tonnes)			Commercial & Industrial Waste (‘0000 tonnes)		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
South East New Territories Landfill	189	188	176	33	27	28	58	52	48
North East New Territories Landfill	91	91	92	57	51	50	15	17	17
West New Territories Landfill	206	225	224	130	146	140	35	40	45
Total ³	486	504	491	220	224	218	108	109	110

Notes:

1. Waste figures are compiled on a calendar year basis and reported as such in the Controlling Officer's Report.
2. Total waste includes domestic waste, commercial & industrial waste, construction waste as well as other types of waste (e.g. sludge) that are disposed of at landfill.
3. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

- (b) The total design capacity of the three strategic landfills in Hong Kong (i.e. the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill, the North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill and the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill) is 139 million cubic metres and the remaining capacity is about 40% of the total design capacity. It is estimated that the three landfills will be gradually exhausted one by one in mid to late 2010s.

The engineering feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments for the three landfill extension projects were substantially completed with Environmental Permits issued. We are now progressing on the land matters and undertaking or planning to undertake consultancies for the procurement of the three landfill extension projects. We plan to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council Finance Committee within the current legislative session with a view to commissioning the landfill extensions in time before they are exhausted.

- (c) The estimated operation hours of the three strategic landfills (14 274 hours) in 2012, which is 39 hours higher than the target (14 235 hours), is resulted from the extra working day (i.e. 29 February 2012) of the leap year 2012. As the daily operation hours of landfills have well been adopted by the public and the trade involved, the operation hours will not be shortened unless due to unforeseeable conditions, such as typhoons.
- (d) The 3 438 and 3 224 numbers of complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department in 2010 and 2011 respectively were related to waste pollution. Of these, about 90% were related to improper deposition of waste, mainly construction and demolition waste. The remaining ones were mostly about improper handling of chemical waste, mainly lubrication oil and asbestos-containing waste. There was also a small number of complaints against oily waste, livestock waste, livestock rearing in waste control areas and marine dumping. These complaints came from all districts in Hong Kong.

The three strategic landfills are designed and operated to meet very stringent international standards which include measures to prevent odour and other environmental nuisances. In order to further mitigate any potential odour impact to the surrounding areas, a number of additional measures have been implemented at the landfills. In 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, we have spent \$6 million, \$21 million and \$34 million respectively for the implementation of these additional measures at landfills.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB043

Question Serial No.

0314

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise the cost for handling one tonne of Municipal Solid Waste (from waste collection to landfill disposal) in the past three years (2009-10 to 2011-12), including the breakdown of the cost for waste collection, delivery, transfer and operation of the landfills.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

A breakdown of the costs for collection, delivery, transfer and disposal of municipal solid waste at landfills is provided below :

	Actual 2009-10 (\$/tonne)	Actual 2010-11 (\$/tonne)	Projected 2011-12 (\$/tonne)
Collection and Delivery *	211	212	224
Transfer	197	192	203
Disposal at landfills	145	147	168
Total cost per tonne	553	551	595

* Household waste collection and delivery service is mainly provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB044

Question Serial No.

0316

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the operation of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38, please provide the information of the tenants of Phases 1 and 2 in the following table:

Names of the Enterprises or Organisations	Amount of Capital Invested	Amount and Types of Waste Recycled	Amount and Types of Products	Numbers of Staff Employed

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The information requested is summarised below.

Tenants in Phase I and two waste recycling centres operated by non-profit making organisations in Phase II:

Tenants	Capital Investment (\$ million) [@]	Waste Types	Recycled Materials / Products	Throughput 2011 (tonnes)	Number of Staff
Champway Technology Ltd	65.0	Waste cooking oil	Biodiesel	9 500	30
Shiu Wing Metal Ltd	25.0	Waste metals	Sorted & sheared scrap metals	18 100	12
Hong Kong Hung Wai Wooden Board Company	19.3	Waste wood	Shredded wood chips	1 600	11
Li Tong Group	15.0	Waste computer equipment	Dismantled electronic components	550	20
Hong Kong Telford Envirotech Group Ltd	11.5	Waste plastics	Plastic flakes and chips	230	7
Cosmos Star Holdings Company Ltd	11.0	Waste batteries	Dismantled battery components	Under construction	

[@] Capital investment reported by tenants

In addition, there are two waste recycling centres set up in EcoPark Phase II to provide secured outlets for waste plastics and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), which currently have limited opportunities of recycling in the local market. These two recycling centres are

managed by non-profit making organisations with funding support from the Environment and Conservation Fund. They recycled 1 090 tonnes of waste plastics and 230 tonnes of WEEE respectively in 2011, and the numbers of staff employed are 39 and 23 respectively.

Tenants in Phase II (lease agreements commenced on 1 January 2012 and recycling plants are still under planning):

Tenants	Capital Investment (HK\$ million) [#]	Waste Types	Recycled Materials / Products
Chung Yue Steel Group Company Limited	31.3	Waste metals	Sorted & sheared scrap metals
SSK Metal Limited	35.1	Waste batteries	Dismantled battery components
K. Wah Construction Products Ltd.	32.0	Construction & demolition materials and waste glass	Recycled glass concrete blocks
E. Tech Management (HK) Ltd.	15.0	WEEE	Metals, plastic & other recyclable materials
On Fat Lung Electrical & Metal Co., Ltd.	17.1	Waste rubber tyres	Recycled playground mat

Pledged capital investment stated in the lease agreements

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Date 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB045

Question Serial No.

0317

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In respect of the implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags:

- (a) Ever since the implementation of the Scheme, how many retailers have applied for withdrawal from the Scheme and what are their main products for sale? How many shops are involved?
- (b) How many cases of irregularity have been found? What are the details of these irregularities?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) Since the implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags (the Levy Scheme) in 2009, seven registered retailers had applied for de-registration from the Levy Scheme. Their products for sale include food and drinks, medicine, first-aid, personal hygiene and beauty products. The de-registration involved some 150 retail outlets.
- (b) Up to end of January 2012, Environmental Protection Department has issued a total of 64 warnings and completed five prosecutions on irregularities spotted during inspections. The prosecution cases involved (i) two offences on failure to charge the specified environmental levy for plastic shopping bags (PSBs) provided to customers; (ii) two offences on failure to display the certificate of registration for the Levy Scheme at the registered retail outlets; and (iii) one offence for providing PSBs at a retail outlet which should have been registered under the Levy Scheme. All defendants were convicted and fined \$10,000 in total, with \$2,000 fine on each count.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB046

Question Serial No.

0318

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Given that a citizen has launched a judicial review on the environmental impact assessment mechanism earlier, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many applications for environmental impact assessment are there pending processing due to the said legal action? Please provide a breakdown of the applications in terms of policy areas. What are the average numbers of projects being postponed?
- (b) Are there any resources reserved for review of the prevailing environmental impact assessment mechanism? If yes, what are the resources and manpower so involved as well as the direction of the review?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) After a judgment laid down by the Court of First Instance on 18 April 2011, five Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports submitted for approval were withdrawn by the respective applicants. Among them, one EIA report was under waste management policy area, three EIA reports were under transport policy area, and one EIA report was for private commercial development. Out of the five withdrawn EIA reports, four EIA reports have been re-submitted for approval. As of 8 February 2012, one EIA report has been approved whilst the other three EIAs were under consideration.
- (b) As a continual improvement process, the Environmental Protection Department regularly reviews the operation of the EIA system with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency taking into account the experiences accumulated in implementing the system, new professional developments as well as feedbacks from various stakeholders. The reviews are undertaken by existing manpower and resources of the department. We do not have a separate account for this specific activity.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB047

Question Serial No.

0319

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In respect of air quality monitoring:

- (a) In each of the past three years (2009-10 to 2011-12), what were the expenditures on daily operation and maintenance of air quality monitoring stations (general and roadside)?
- (b) Since the Administration proposes to update the current Air Quality Objectives (AQOs), is it necessary to earmark resources to upgrade the specifications and accuracy of air quality monitoring stations? If yes, what are the details?
- (c) Have any resources been set aside to increase the number of air quality monitoring stations? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) Our expenditures on daily operation and maintenance of air quality monitoring stations (general and roadside) in the past three years were:

Year	Expenditure (\$)
2009/10	17,000,000
2010/11	19,000,000
2011/12	20,000,000

- (b) We have adopted a quality control and quality assurance system for the air quality monitoring network (network) which conforms to international standards to ensure the air quality data are accurate and representative. We have also been upgrading the network in line with technological developments and international practices as an on-going activity of the air programme. In addition, we completed installation of monitors for measuring fine suspended particulates (PM2.5), which are a new parameter in the proposed new AQOs, in all the monitoring stations in our network by end 2011. We are now testing the monitors and expect that they will be in full operation in the first quarter of this year. The expenditure of the above work has been absorbed by the existing provision. Additional resources are not necessary.
- (c) The current network can effectively reflect the overall air pollution situation in Hong Kong covering different types of land use areas and provide the public with representative data on air quality. We have no plan to increase the number of air quality monitoring stations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB048

Question Serial No.

0320

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In respect of the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill:

- (a) Since the implementation of the Ordinance, how many prosecutions have been initiated? What are the types of vehicles involved?
- (b) Since the implementation of the Ordinance, what is the number of cases involving disputes between law enforcement officers and drivers?
- (c) What measures will be taken to help drivers comply with the above Ordinance in summer? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) & (b) In the first month of the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Ordinance in December 2011, enforcement officers only gave verbal warning to drivers contravening the prohibition and fixed penalty tickets would only be issued after the drivers did not heed their warning. In the period, 457 warnings were issued and all the involved drivers were cooperative. So far enforcement officers have not issued any fixed penalty tickets or involved in disputes with drivers.
- (c) The Ordinance has already provided exemptions to cater for the operational needs of different transport trades and other practical needs of private car drivers. To help drivers comply with the idling prohibition, we are stepping up publicity of the prohibition to prepare drivers for the summer season. The expenditure involved will be covered by the existing provision for the Air Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB049

Question Serial No.

0321

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many applications for the Pilot Green Transport Fund have been received ever since its introduction? What are the categories of organisations applying? How many successful applications? What is the average amount of fund approved in each application?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

As at the end of January 2012, we received 40 applications for the Pilot Green Transport Fund of which 24 applications have been approved. The total amount of subsidy approved stands at about \$61 million, averaging \$2.5 million per application. Successful applicants include bus operators, courier and logistics trade, goods vehicle operators and non-profit making organisations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB050

Question Serial No.

0322

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the emissions of franchised buses, please provide the following information:

- (a) Please provide the distribution of bus models for each franchised bus company according to the table below.

	Euro II or before	Euro III	Euro II or III retrofitted with catalyts	Euro IV	Euro V
KMB					
CTB					
NWFB					
LWB					
NLB					

- (b) How many hybrid buses and electric buses does each franchised bus company currently own?
- (c) It was mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Government would seek the Legislative Council's approval for a provision of \$180 million to subsidise trials of hybrid buses and electric buses by the franchised bus companies. When does the Administration expect to seek the funding approval and launch the trial scheme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) The number of buses owned by each franchised bus company as at end December 2011, classified by emission standards, is shown in the following table.

	Euro II or before	Euro III	Euro II or III retrofitted with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices*	Euro IV	Euro V
KMB	2 374	1 099	2	109	308
CTB	781	10	1	28	119
NWFB	546	75	0	38	44
LWB	99	18	0	31	15
NLB	8	67	0	15	14

*Remarks: The trial of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with SCR devices commenced in September 2011 and is still ongoing. Apart from the three buses retrofitted with SCRs by end-2011 as shown in the table, we have just retrofitted another three buses (comprising one Euro III bus from KMB, one Euro II bus from CTB and one Euro II bus from NWFB) for trial with SCR devices.

- (b) Currently the franchised bus companies do not own any hybrid or electric buses.
- (c) We have sought funding from the Finance Committee for the trial of hybrid buses and are working to start the trial around the end of 2013. As for the electric bus trial, we are working with the franchised bus companies on the trial arrangement with an aim to seek funding from the Finance Committee towards the middle of this year for starting the trial as soon as practicable after the acquisition of the electric buses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB051

Question Serial No.

0701

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list by a table the names, details, starting dates, completion dates and funding amounts of projects which were funded through the Environment and Conservation Fund in the past year (2011-12).

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The details of projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund in 2011-12 as of end January 2012 is provided at Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

**Details of Projects Funded through
 the Environment and Conservation Fund in 2011-12**

Project Category	Details	No. of Funded Projects	Starting Date (No. of Projects)	Completion Date (No. of Projects)	Approved Funding
Environmental Education and Community Action Projects – General Projects	These environmental educational programmes and activities include seminars and workshops, exhibitions at public areas, eco-tours, competitions, etc. for a wide spectrum of audience such as the general public, youth, women groups, businesses to enhance community awareness and knowledge of environmental issues such as waste reduction and recycling, mobilize individuals to take action to conserve the environment and induce behavioural change towards a green lifestyle.	23	2011 (15) 2012 (8)	2011 (3) 2012 (15) 2013 (4) 2014 (1)	\$19,501,563.50
Environmental Education and Community Action Projects – Minor Works Projects	Schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have obtained funding to set up environmental facilities such as green roof, renewable energy and energy efficiency installation and waste reduction facilities. The funding recipients will also organise educational activities riding on the facilities for their students and service recipients to promote awareness towards these green technologies.	166	2011 (145) 2012 (21)	2012 (108) 2013 (40) 2014 (18)	\$48,930,966.50
Community Waste Recovery Projects and Source Separation Projects	Programmes include reduction and recycling of waste plastics, glass, used electrical and electronic equipment, food waste etc. to promote waste reduction and recovery in the community; and setting up of waste separation facilities on floors of buildings to facilitate waste separation at source.	25	2011 (9) 2012 (16)	2012 (7) 2013 (10) 2014 (8)	\$28,381,367.20
On-site Meal Portioning Projects in Schools	Schools carry out basic conversion works and install facilities for implementing on-site meal portioning to reduce food waste and use of disposable lunch boxes and cutleries.	18	2011 (11) 2012 (7)	2011 (11) 2012 (7)	\$21,795,706.92
Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates	Housing estates implement food waste recovery by setting up composters and organise promotion programmes on food waste reduction and separation at source.	11	2012 (11)	2014 (11)	\$9,097,463.00

Project Category	Details	No. of Funded Projects	Starting Date (No. of Projects)	Completion Date (No. of Projects)	Approved Funding
Nature Conservation Management Agreement Projects	Conservation work is carried out at Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung areas and Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site in the Deep Bay area; education programmes are organized to raise public awareness towards nature conservation.	2	2012 (2)	2013 (1) 2015 (1)	\$14,785,250.64
Large-scale Environmental Education and Awareness Projects Coordinated by the Environmental Campaign Committee	The Environmental Campaign Committee organizes large-scale programmes for targeted stakeholder groups to enhance community involvement in environmental protection. Major programmes include Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme and Hong Kong Green School Award for the school sector; Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence for the business sector; as well as community-wide programmes such as the Combating Climate Change Campaign and World Environment Day activities.	24	2011 (24)	2012 (7) 2013 (17)	\$22,717,100.00
Building Energy Efficiency Funding Scheme	Domestic, commercial and industrial buildings as well as housing estates have obtained funding to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits to review the use of energy and quantify greenhouse gas emissions; and improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance of building services installations for communal use.	188	2011 (90) 2012 (98)	2011 (31) 2012 (96) 2013 (48) 2014 (11) 2015 (2)	\$83,390,123.50
Energy Conservation Projects for Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)	NGOs have obtained funding to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits in their premises to review the use of energy and quantify the greenhouse gas emissions; to carry out improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance; and to organize educational activities to promote energy conservation and carbon reduction.	106	2011 (47) 2012 (59)	2011 (25) 2012 (64) 2013 (8) 2014 (4) 2015 (5)	\$29,291,700.78
Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Projects	Tertiary institutions and non-profit making bodies have obtained funding to carry out research on environment-related topics such as climate change, waste treatment, nature conservation, etc. to build up research capacity and knowledge base; and to organize conference to facilitate knowledge exchange.	14	2011 (9) 2012 (5)	2012 (3) 2013 (10) 2014 (1)	\$10,240,021.00

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB052

Question Serial No.

0702

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the control of emissions of non-road mobile sources, please advise:

- (a) As it was mentioned in the Budget Speech that the port and light dues would be reduced by half to encourage more ocean-going vessels berthing in Hong Kong waters to switch to low sulphur fuel, how many ocean-going vessels are expected to benefit from the arrangement? What is their percentage in the total number of ocean-going vessels berthing in Hong Kong? How will the authorities verify that the above vessels are using low sulphur fuel? How much emission by initial assessment will be reduced?
- (b) Can the reduction in dues be applied to cruise ships as well? What are the anticipated changes in the number of local cruise ships berthing in Hong Kong and their emissions respectively after the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal is completed? What measures will be adopted to facilitate these cruise ships to switch to low sulphur fuel;
- (c) With regard to the trial of local ferries using ultra low sulphur diesel, how many ferries have participated in the trial scheme so far? What are the results achieved in the improvement of air quality? Would the authorities consider increasing the subsidies and subsidizing more categories of vessels?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) The proposed port and light dues concession aims to encourage all ocean-going vessels berthing in Hong Kong waters to switch to low sulphur fuel. If all of them participate in the scheme, we expect that the territory emission of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), respirable suspended particulates (RSP) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) will be reduced by about 7%, 6% and 0.1% respectively. We will draw up the implementation details with reference to international practices and in consultation with the relevant departments and shipping industry.
- (b) The above concession will also apply to cruise ships. The actual number of cruise ships berthing in Hong Kong after the new cruise terminal at Kai Tak is completed is not available at this stage as it depends on the ship deployment strategies of cruise lines which may change from time to time due to business considerations and marketing strategy of the terminal operator which is not yet appointed. We are therefore also unable to estimate the associated increase in emissions.

(c) Six ferries from four local ferry operators participated in the trial of using ultra-low sulphur diesel (ULSD). The trial was completed in 2010. Switching a ferry to ULSD can reduce its SO₂ emission by about 80% and RSP emission by about 30%. Owing to the small number of ferries involved, the overall contribution of the trial to air quality improvement was insignificant. The trial has also found that targeting a small sector for switching to cleaner fuel could increase significantly the fuel cost because of the extra fuel handling. To maximize potential environmental benefits and avoid incurring extra fuel handling costs, we will study, in collaboration with the relevant trades, ways to improve the quality of vessel fuels sold locally by capping the sulphur content at 0.1%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB053

Question Serial No.

0703

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration has put forward several financial subsidy schemes to encourage the public and the transport sector to purchase more environmental friendly vehicles in recent years. In this connection, will the Administration list, under each financial subsidy scheme, the anticipated number of applications, the actual number of applications received since implementation of the scheme, the number of applications approved, the total sum of subsidies and balance of the scheme. How will the Administration evaluate the effectiveness of various schemes on the improvement of our road side air quality?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The 36-month incentive scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard was launched in April 2007 and ended in March 2010. A similar 36-month incentive scheme to encourage early replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles was launched in July 2010. The numbers of applications received and expenditure up to end January 2012 under these two schemes are tabulated below:

	No. of application received	No. of application approved	Amount of subsidy involved \$ billion	Amount of fund approved \$ billion	Balance \$ billion
Incentive scheme to replace pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones (commenced on 1 April 2007 and ended in March 2010)	17 191*	17 103	0.77	3.2	2.4
Incentive scheme to replace Euro II diesel commercial vehicles with new ones (commenced on 1 July 2010)	3 028	2 683	0.24	0.54	0.30

* Processing of all the applications for pre-Euro and Euro I applications was completed.

The numbers of applications received for the tax incentive schemes for environment-friendly vehicles and first registration tax forgone up to end January 2012 are tabulated as follows:

	No. of application received	No. of application approved	Amount of First Registration Tax Forgone \$ billion
Incentive Scheme for Environment-friendly Petrol Private Cars (commenced on 1 April 2007)	30 197	30 110	1.01
Incentive Scheme for Environment-friendly Commercial vehicles (commenced on 1 April 2008)	6 224	6 210	0.21

The above financial subsidy schemes are voluntary in nature. Thus, the Government did not set any target on the anticipated number of applications.

The \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund was set up on 30 March 2011 for application by the public transport sector and goods vehicle owners to test out green and low-carbon innovative transport technologies. As at the end of January 2012, we received 40 applications of which 24 applications have been approved. The total approved subsidy amount stands at about \$61 million.

The Government has been implementing a basket of measures to improve roadside air quality. Between 2005 and 2010, the sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and respirable suspended particulate (RSP) concentration recorded by roadside air quality monitoring stations has dropped by 55% and 20% respectively. We will continue with relevant efforts and would put in place additional measures for further improvement in air quality.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 28 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB054

Question Serial No.

0704

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding cooperation with Guangdong authorities in improving the regional air quality, please advise:

- (a) Will the Administration consider increasing the number of monitoring stations in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) regional joint air quality monitoring network so as to collect more regional air quality data? If yes, what are the details?
- (b) Will the said monitoring stations collect more data on fine suspended particulates (PM2.5) in the PRD region in light of Hong Kong's updated air quality objectives?
- (c) In the Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area, are there any specific projects and emission reduction targets to improve the air quality in the PRD area? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) & (b) In conjunction with Guangdong and Macau, the Government consulted the public in September 2011 on the initial proposals for the Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area (the Plan). The consultation paper sets out proposals for enhancing cooperation to control emissions of air pollutants in the Greater Pearl River Delta (Greater PRD) region. These include enhancing the regional air quality monitoring network by setting up additional general monitoring and background stations, as well as adding new monitoring parameters at regional monitoring stations (e.g., PM2.5). Public views collected during the consultation period will be taken into account at the next phase of study with a view to finalising the compilation of the Plan.
- (c) The consultation paper of the Plan proposes that the three sides should collaborate and undertake a string of comprehensive measures to improve the air quality in the region, e.g., progressively adopting fuel and emission standards for motor vehicles and vessels which are more advanced than other places in the Mainland, exploring opportunities in controlling emissions from vessels in the Greater PRD waters, etc.. In addition, Hong Kong and Guangdong are undertaking a joint study on the post-2010 emission reduction arrangements for the PRD region. The two sides will seek to complete this study as soon as possible and promulgate the findings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB055

Question Serial No.

1825

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the Programme of the Environmental Protection Department, it is mentioned that the Government is implementing measures under the air quality management plan to improve regional air quality and operate the joint air quality monitoring network for the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region in collaboration with the Guangdong authorities. Would the Administration inform this Committee of whether the emission inventory for 2010 has been completed? Whether the established targets for emission reduction for 2010 have been fully achieved in respect of the emission of four major air pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

We are now assessing the emissions of Hong Kong in 2010 and expect the work to be completed in the first half of 2012. The figures of 2009 show that with the implementation of local control measures, the emissions of the four major air pollutants have decreased by 24% to 58% from 1997 to 2009. In addition, the emission reduction facilities for the coal-fired power units of the two local power companies have commenced operation as planned since 2010. We expect that Hong Kong could fully achieve the 2010 emission reduction targets.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB056

Question Serial No.

1826

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the Programme of the Environmental Protection Department, it is mentioned that the Government is conducting two trials of green power buses, including the current trial of hybrid buses along busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mongkok and the project conducted jointly with franchised bus companies for launching a trial of electric buses to assess their performance. Since the two trials are similar in nature in that both are mainly related to the performance of buses when driven by electricity, one using hybrid power while the other using electricity only. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the difference between the two trials and how will the information and data obtained be used in the future?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

Greener alternatives to conventional buses that are now available on the market are hybrid buses and electric buses. Being equipped with an internal combustion engine, hybrid buses are more ready than electric buses to take up the full duties of local franchised buses but they still have exhaust emissions. Electric buses do not have exhaust emissions but their current models are mainly single-deck buses with a somewhat limited driving range after a full charge. It will thus take a longer time for them to become a full rival of conventional buses. We have thus embarked on trial of both hybrid buses and electric buses to better understand their performance (such as the durability and reliability of the batteries under the local conditions) as local franchised buses. The trial will provide us with the necessary data and information on these more environment-friendly buses to enable us to find out early how they can be fit into the local franchised bus fleet. It can also encourage manufacturers of these greener buses to develop suitable models meeting Hong Kong's operational environment, thereby paving way for franchised bus companies to switch to zero emission buses or the most environment-friendly buses when replacing existing ones, taking into account the feasibility and affordability for bus operators and passengers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB057

Question Serial No.

1827

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the Programme of the Environmental Protection Department, it is mentioned that the Government has revised upward the Municipal Solid Waste recovery target to 55 per cent by 2015. To this end, the Department will step up publicity and promotional efforts on waste reduction and recycling. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure for the above publicity and promotional efforts? Would the Administration explain in detail what will be the specific publicity and promotional efforts? Will major publicity campaigns be organised and officers sent to schools to instill recycling concepts in students?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) plans to spend about \$20.61 million in 2012-13 to further promote the Programme on Source Separation of Waste and encourage community participation in waste separation, recovery and recycling.

The EPD will continue to encourage the public to reduce waste and separate waste at source for recycling through enhanced publicity and education programmes including recognition schemes, media advertisements and broadcasts, workshops, forums, exhibitions, posting of posters and banners at housing estates and public places together with promotional activities. We will also enhance our collaboration with government departments, district councils, property management companies, local residents groups, schools, green groups and social services organizations to set up more community recycling points throughout the territory so as to form a wider community recycling network for promoting waste reduction and recovery of recyclables. The EPD regularly conducts talks at schools to promote environmental protection, including waste reduction and recycling.

To promote waste reduction and recycling education and awareness in schools, the EPD, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC), the Education Bureau and Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre have taken joint effort to encourage students to participate in waste reduction and recycling with their families and to collect unavoidable plastic bottles back to the schools for recycling. Apart from setting up waste recycling centres in schools, an education kit would be distributed to teachers and a drama on waste reduction and recycling of waste plastics has been produced for viewing by students. In addition, the EPD has also been supporting schools, with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund, to install facilities to implement on-site meal portioning in order to reduce food waste and the number of non-reusable lunch boxes. At the same time, through the Hong Kong Green School Award and the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme, the ECC organises training sessions, education programmes and seminars to encourage teachers, students and parents to adopt a green lifestyle. Waste management has been adopted as the theme in the 2011-12 school year and the 3R, i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle, has been the focus in these activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB058

Question Serial No.

1828

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under Programme (1) of the EPD, it is mentioned that the Administration will pursue the extension of the three strategic landfills, namely the West New Territories Landfill, South East New Territories Landfill and North East New Territories Landfill. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the estimated expenditures, commencement timetables of plans and the time of submitting applications to this Committee for funding in respect of the extension plans of the three strategic landfills?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

The environmental impact assessments and engineering feasibility studies for the three landfill extension projects were substantially completed with Environmental Permits issued. We are now progressing on the land matters and handling the necessary preparatory work in relation to the procurement of the three landfill extension projects. The estimated expenditure involved in the preparatory work for the extension of the three landfills in 2012-13 is \$7.6 million. We plan to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council Finance Committee in the first half of this year with a view to commissioning the landfill extensions in time before they are exhausted.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 28 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB059

Question Serial No.

0171

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

- Question : (a) The public consultation on updating the air quality objectives (AQOs) was completed at the end of November 2009, but the Administration only made public the updating proposals in January this year. Can the Administration explain why the proposals were announced in more than two years? What have been the expenditures involved in these two years?
- (b) What are the reasons for setting the 5-year review cycle for the AQOs as proposed? What is the estimated expenditure for the review work per year?
- (c) Whether the law drafting work for updating the AQOs is expected to be completed in this year and whether the draft legislation is expected to be scrutinized by the Legislative Council at its first session? What are the work schedule and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

- (a) Apart from providing an yardstick for measuring our air quality, the air quality objectives (AQOs) are also a major factor in the consideration of Government in granting licences to specified processes under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) and in assessing the air quality impacts of designated projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). Following completion of the public consultation, we have to look into the best way for taking forward the AQO updating and air quality improvement measures recommended under the AQOs Review in the light of the public comments received. We have also drawn up additional air quality improvement measures, particularly those targeting at vehicle and maritime emissions, to facilitate attainment of the proposed new AQOs. In addition, we need to map out the transitional arrangement for introducing the proposed new AQOs to enable applicants of licences for specified processes and proponents of designated projects to plan their work on a transparent and legally sound basis. The associated expenditure was absorbed by the existing allocation.
- (b) We suggest reviewing the AQOs not less than once every five years to allow time for new air quality improvement measures to take effect and for us to evaluate if there is any further scope for tightening the AQOs. This suggested review frequency is same as that in the United States. Should extra resources be required, we will bid for them via the established mechanism nearer the time of the review.
- (c) We aim to introduce the amendment bill to the Legislative Council in the 2012-13 legislative session. The associated expenditure will be absorbed by the existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 17 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB060

Question Serial No.

0174

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

- Question : (a) What are the details of work for implementing the management agreements with landowners? How much resources will be used?
- (b) Will the Administration complete the inclusion of country park enclaves into country parks within this financial year? If yes, what are the work plan and the expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) What are the specific measures of the pilot scheme for public-private partnership? What is the financial provision?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

- (a) Under the Management Agreement (MA) scheme, funding support would be provided under the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to enable competent non-governmental organisations to enter into management agreements with landowners of the priority sites for enhancing conservation through cooperation. Three MA projects have been carried out at four priority sites, including the Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung Priority Sites by the Conservancy Association and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS); Fung Yuen Priority Site by the Tai Po Environmental Association; and the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetlands outside Ramsar Site Priority Sites by the HKBWS. Up to now, the total funding support under ECF amounts to about \$36 million.
- (b) There are currently 77 country park enclaves, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO) (Cap. 131). Consideration is being given to incorporate the 54 remaining enclaves either as part of the Country Parks or OZPs under TPO. As the incorporation of enclaves into Country Parks or OZPs would involve statutory procedures under Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208) or TPO, we would not be able to complete all of the incorporation within this financial year. Since August 2010, 17 enclaves out of the 54 remaining enclaves have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under TPO. We have consulted the Sai Kung District Council on the proposal to include Sai Wan in the Country Parks and will continue to engage the local community.

For the incorporation of enclaves into Country Parks and the strengthening of patrol and enforcement relating to the country park enclaves, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will allocate \$1.8 million and \$2.5 million respectively in 2012-13.

- (c) Under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Pilot Scheme, developments of an agreed scale and plan would be allowed at the ecologically less sensitive portions of the 12 priority sites provided that the developer undertakes to conserve and manage the rest of the site that is ecologically more sensitive on a long-term basis. To ensure the sustainability of the pledged conservation programmes under PPP, the project proponent would be required to contribute upfront to the

ECF a lump sum sufficient to generate recurrent incomes to support the pledged conservation programmes, and to identify competent bodies as their conservation agents to manage the ecologically sensitive portion of the concerned sites. The resources incurred by the AFCD to support the implementation of PPP pilot scheme will be absorbed under Programme (2) (“Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme”) under Head 22 – AFCD. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to oversee AFCD’s works in this aspect and relevant resources were absorbed under Programme (6) (“Nature Conservation”) under Head 44 – EPD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 21 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB061

Question Serial No.

0560

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

- Question :
- (a) The department has launched a public consultation on the introduction of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. What is the estimated expenditure involved in the whole public consultation period? Will extra funds be allocated to study the charging levels and charging methods?
 - (b) The department points out in the consultation document on MSW charging that Hong Kong's waste collection system must be well aligned with the charging system and will bring additional expenditure to the society. What are the details of the study on changing Hong Kong's waste collection system this year? What is the estimated expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The estimated expenditure to be incurred throughout the public consultation on municipal solid waste charging, from 10 January 2012 to 10 April 2012, is around \$2 million. Various charging approach will entail different complementary measures including the charging mechanism, the level of charge, any necessary adjustments to the waste collection system, which will affect the overall financial implications. Necessary research will be carried out in the next step, taking into account the community's feedback on the broad direction on the issue of MSW charging.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB062

Question Serial No.

0571

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Department already submitted recommendations for the extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags to the Legislative Council in November last year. What is the progress of the preparation and law drafting work in this regard? What is the estimated expenditure for the preparation work? Does the preparation work include the study on the additional administration expenditure after the levy is imposed? What is the estimated expenditure concerned?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

Upon conclusion of the public consultation and having taken into account the comments of the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has started the preparation of the legislative proposals and the planning of the necessary publicity and public education for the extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags (Levy Scheme). Such preparatory work is undertaken by the staff of EPD and other relevant departments as part of their normal duties and would not incur additional expenditure in 2011-12. Longer term resource requirements for the extended Levy Scheme will be assessed taking into account the operational details that are now being worked out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB063

Question Serial No.

0572

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : (a) The Department points out that in 2011 the three landfills disposed a total of some 490 tonnes of waste. How many tonnes of waste were disposed in each landfill then? What are the respective operation costs of each landfill in 2011?

(b) Last year, the Department said the South East New Territories Landfill was expected to be filled up in 2014. Has this forecast been changed in any way? How is the preparatory work for the extension of the three strategic landfills now? What is the estimated expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

- (a) In 2011, the total quantities of waste disposed of at the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill, the North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill and the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill were 1 760 000 tonnes, 920 000 tonnes and 2 240 000 tonnes respectively. The overall total was about 4 900 000 tonnes. The operation costs in 2011-12 for the SENT Landfill, NENT Landfill and WENT Landfill are \$192 million, \$127 million and \$151 million respectively.
- (b) The forecast is still valid. As the amount of waste generated and requiring disposal may vary, the Environmental Protection Department will monitor closely the situation and review the remaining service life of the landfill as appropriate.

The environmental impact assessments and engineering feasibility studies for the three landfill extension projects were substantially completed with Environmental Permits issued. We are now progressing on the land matters and handling the necessary preparatory work in relation to the procurement of the three landfill extension projects. The estimated expenditure involved in the preparatory work for the extension of the three landfills in 2012-13 is \$7.6 million. We plan to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council Finance Committee in the first half of this year with a view to commissioning the landfill extensions in time before they are exhausted.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB064

Question Serial No.

0906

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Given that the Administration has announced proposals on updating the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) and encouraged applicants to submit applications under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance in accordance with the new AQOs in future, will the Department allocate more resources and manpower to handle the applications received in 2012-13? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The Administration announced on 17 January 2012 to adopt a set of new AQOs together with a package of air quality improvement measures which would be implemented subject to resource availability. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has started the preparatory work with a view to having the new AQOs take effect in 2014.

After taking effect, the new AQOs will become statutory criteria for evaluating the air quality impact of designated projects under the EIA Ordinance (Cap. 499). For Government projects for which EIA studies have not yet commenced, even before the new AQOs take effect, the Administration will endeavour to adopt the proposed new AQOs as the benchmark for conducting the EIA studies.

EPD will provide technical advice and support to facilitate the assessment work while ensuring the department's statutory role under the law is upheld. EPD will endeavour to absorb the additional workload with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB065

Question Serial No.

0907

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the estimated expenditure for the operation and management of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China in 2012-13? Does the Department's overseeing work include preventing unauthorised people or organisations from landing on some of the islands? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

In 2012-13, a total of \$29.2 million has been earmarked under the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for the management and operation of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China (Geopark).

All Geo-areas of Geopark fall within Country Parks or Special Areas and are protected under the Country Parks Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 208). AFCD has been empowered under the Ordinance to protect the natural environment and combat unauthorised activities in Country Parks or Special Areas. Landing on islands in the Geopark is not a prohibited activity under existing legislation. Nevertheless, for better protection of the Geopark, AFCD has issued the "Code for visiting geosites in Hong Kong" (the Code) in order to provide guidelines on safety and protection of our natural heritage in the Geopark. Regular sea patrols are also conducted to monitor visitors' behavior and to promote the Code. Any such expenditure would be absorbed from within the existing provision for the protection of Country Parks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB066

Question Serial No.

0908

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the details of the Department's educational and publicity work for nature conservation in 2012-13? What is the estimated expenditure involved? What are the major projects so included? Will the Department put in more resources for the educational work on tree preservation? If yes, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

We will collaborate with District Councils, non-governmental organisations and the tourism industry in the educational and publicity efforts for nature conservation. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has earmarked \$30.7 million in 2012-13 for enhancing education and publicity on nature conservation. Major projects include: (a) the production and distribution of educational and publicity materials, and the organisation of talks, outreach programmes and exhibitions, such as Nature in Touch Country Parks Education Programmes, Bird Watching Festival and the Blossoms on Wetland; (b) the dissemination of nature conservation information through the websites of AFCD, i.e. www.afcd.gov.hk, www.hkherbarium.net, www.natureintouch.gov.hk, and www.hkwalkers.net; (c) educational activities and guided tours, such as school visit programme for kindergartens and primary schools; (d) the training of volunteers (country parks and wetland park volunteer scheme), local escorts and tour operators engaged in nature based tourism businesses; and (e) the opening of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre for promoting biodiversity.

As an integral part of the education and publicity programme, AFCD will continue to provide conservation education programmes in relation to tree preservation. The estimated expenditure would be \$1.0 million for tree walk promotion programmes in Ranger Services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB067

Question Serial No.

2850

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the progress of the preparation work and the study on HATS Stage 2B in 2012-13? What is the timetable and the estimated expenditure so involved?

Asked by : CHAN Tanya

Reply :

In June 2010, the Environmental Protection Department started a review of HATS Stage 2B as regards the water quality trends, population growth, sewage flow build-up and other relevant issues.

The review is expected to be completed in 2012. Based on the review findings, we will map out the way forward and the implementation programme of HATS Stage 2B. The estimated expenditure in 2012-13 for hiring consultants' services for the review is \$ 2.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB068

Question Serial No.

3064

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the specific work in implementing the measures for nature conservation and in conducting nature conservation education? Will the Administration earmark additional resources to carry out the work concerned?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

We undertake nature conservation via various measures, including (a) the management and protection of 24 country parks, 22 special areas, four marine parks, one marine reserve, the Hong Kong Wetland Park, Hong Kong Global Geopark of China and the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site; (b) the enhancement of biodiversity and promotion of compatible use of country and marine parks; (c) the identification of sites of high scientific value for listing as Sites of Special Scientific Interest; (d) the provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments; as well as subsequent monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for these projects if approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499); (e) promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation; (f) the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong; as well as (g) collaborations with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private sectors on our work on this front. Besides, we pursue to enhance the conservation of ecologically important sites in private ownership through the Management Agreement and Public-private Partnership schemes. NGOs will be involved in the schemes to undertake conservation management work for the concerned sites.

As regards nature conservation education, we will continue to collaborate with District Councils, non-governmental organisations and the tourism industry. Major projects to be carried out in 2012-13 include: (a) production and distribution of educational and publicity materials, and the organisation of talks, outreach programmes and exhibitions, such as Nature in Touch Country Parks Education Programmes, Bird Watching Festival and the Blossoms on Wetland; (b) dissemination of nature conservation information through the websites of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), i.e. www.afcd.gov.hk, www.hkherbarium.net, www.natureintouch.gov.hk, and www.hkwalkers.net; (c) educational activities and guided tours, such as school visit programme for kindergartens and primary schools; (d) the training of volunteers (country parks and wetland park volunteer scheme), local escorts and tour operators engaged in nature based tourism businesses; and (e) the opening of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Education Centre for promoting biodiversity.

The resources incurred by the AFCD on nature conservation and relevant education will be absorbed under Programme (2) ("Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme") under Head 22 – AFCD. In 2012-13, the financial provision of this programme amounts to \$531 million

(a 2.9% increase from the \$515.9 million provision in 2011-12.) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to oversee AFCD's works in this aspect and relevant resources were absorbed under Programme (6) ("Nature Conservation") under Head 44 – EPD. The financial provision under this programme would be \$6.7 million in 2012-13 (a 1.5% increase from the \$6.6 million provision in 2011-12).

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB069

Question Serial No.

1383

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, it is mentioned that the Administration will continue to monitor the operation of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the amounts of various types of waste disposed of by the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 in the past year? What is the estimated amount of waste to be disposed of in the coming year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

A total of about 31 000 tonnes of recyclable materials was processed in 2011, which is more than double of the volume processed in 2010. A breakdown of the different types of wastes processed is summarised below.

Tenants	Waste Types	Throughput 2011 (tonnes)
Champway Technology Ltd	Waste cooking oil	9 500
Shiu Wing Metal Ltd	Waste metals	18 100
Hong Kong Hung Wai Wooden Board Company	Waste wood	1 600
Li Tong Group	Waste computer equipment	550
Hong Kong Telford Envirotech Group Ltd	Waste plastics	230
Cosmos Star Holdings Company Ltd	Waste batteries	Under construction
Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre	Waste plastics	1 090
St James' Settlement "WEEE GO GREEN"	Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)	290

It is expected that the recycling amount at the EcoPark will continue to increase when the new Phase II tenants start their operation in 2013.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB070

Question Serial No.

0413

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With regard to the Transport Department's continued support to the Environment Bureau in the implementation of incentive schemes for the early replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard and the purchase of environment-friendly cars and commercial vehicles, please provide detailed figures in table format of the annual numbers of applications submitted subsequent to the implementation of the scheme.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The annual numbers of applications received for the incentive schemes for the early replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles with new ones and purchase of environment-friendly petrol private cars and commercial vehicles are tabulated below-

	Apr 2007- Mar 2008	Apr 2008- Mar 2009	Apr 2009- Mar 2010	Apr 2010- Mar 2011	Apr 2011- Jan 2012
Tax incentive scheme for promoting the use of Environment-friendly Petrol Private Cars ¹	3 913	3 454	4 609	7 387	10 834
Tax incentive scheme for promoting the use of Environment-friendly Commercial Vehicles ²	N/A	243	428	2 322	3 231
Incentive scheme to replace Euro II diesel commercial vehicles with new ones ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 395	1 633

Notes:

- 1) The tax incentive scheme for promoting the use of environment-friendly petrol private cars commenced in April 2007.
- 2) The tax incentive scheme for promoting the use of environment-friendly commercial vehicles commenced in April 2008.
- 3) The incentive scheme to replace Euro II diesel commercial vehicles with new commercial vehicles commenced in July 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB071

Question Serial No.

0538

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF),

- (a) What are the annual fund allocations for strengthening household participation in waste separation, food waste recovery and recycling as well as the numbers of applications involved in the past 3 years (i.e. 2009 to 2011)?
- (b) Please list in table form the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings which participated in waste separation in the past 3 years.
- (c) Please list in table form the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings which participated in food waste recovery in the past 3 years.
- (d) Please list in table form the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings which participated in recycling in the past 3 years.
- (e) How does the Administration plan to further promote and encourage the community to use the ECF for the promotion of environmental protection activities?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

- (a) The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) provides funding to set up waste separation facilities at domestic housing estates and buildings. It also supports non-government organisations (NGOs) and schools to undertake projects to promote food waste recovery and recycling in the community. The funds approved to projects in the areas of source separation of waste, food waste reduction and recovery as well as waste recycling in 2009 to 2011 are provided in (b), (c) and (d) respectively.

(b), (c) and (d)

The relevant statistics in the past three years are provided below:

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<u>Source separation of domestic waste</u>			
No. of Projects	9	8	1
Total Provision (\$ million)	0.35	0.33	0.01
No. of Participants*	87 housing estates and 70 buildings covering 124 000 households	93 housing estates and 81 buildings covering 131 000 households	93 housing estates and 87 buildings covering 132 000 households
* The above figures capture the cumulative number of housing estates/buildings that have obtained funding to set up waste separation facilities on each floor of the buildings.			
<u>Food waste reduction and recovery</u>			
No. of Projects	23	41	43
Total Provision (\$ million)	29.62	52.20	45.15
No. of Participants	about 25 schools and 1 community group	about 70 schools and 2 community groups	about 10 housing estates, 80 schools and 10 community groups
<u>Waste recycling</u>			
No. of Projects	7	8	10
Total Provision (\$ million)	24.32	10.16	14.12
No. of Participants	about 190 housing estates, 75 buildings, 50 schools, 20 community groups, 125 shops/companies	about 380 housing estates, 190 buildings, 105 schools, 45 community groups, 355 shops/companies	about 560 housing estates, 490 buildings, 160 schools, 70 community groups, 660 shops/companies

(e) To facilitate the interested, eligible organizations to make use of funding support for environment and conservation projects, the ECF Committee selects specific themes and earmark funding for applications under the selected themes. For example, on food waste reduction and recovery, the ECF launched “On-site Meal Portioning Projects in School” in December 2009 to fund schools to carry out basic conversion works and install necessary facilities so as to avoid the use of disposable lunch boxes and cutlery and to reduce food waste. Another funding scheme “Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates” was launched in July 2011 for housing estates to undertake on-site treatment of food waste and encourage households to separate food waste at source. In parallel, eligible organizations may formulate their proposals designed to achieve environment and conservation objectives and each application will be assessed on its own merits. Moreover, to step up efforts of engagement at community level, the ECF has set aside \$50 million for collaboration projects with the District Councils (DCs) to enlist community groups to undertake environmental projects. The EPD will enhance collaboration with DCs to enhance promotion of waste reduction and recycling to build up a wider community recycling network.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB072

Question Serial No.

0539

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the Environment and Conservation Fund, how many projects were approved in each of the past three years (2009-2011) for recycling commercial waste and what were the amounts of funding involved? What were the numbers of participating enterprises in each year?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) provides funding to set up waste separation facilities at commercial and industrial buildings. It also supports non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to undertake projects to promote waste recovery in the community, such as projects to collect waste glass bottles from restaurants and bars. The relevant statistics in the past three years are provided below:

	2009-10*	2010-11	2011-12
No. of projects	140	138	145
Total Provision approved in the year, the expenditure may span over a number of years (\$ million)	21.92	2.26	4.05
Number of participating enterprises / buildings	about 125 companies/shops and 160 buildings	about 350 companies/shops and 300 buildings	about 660 companies/shops and 440 buildings

* In 2009-10, the ECF provided funding to two NGOs to operate processing centres for waste plastic and waste electrical and electronic equipment at the EcoPark for three years, forming a network for collecting these materials from the community including various commercial and industrial institutions and providing an outlet for such materials.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB073

Question Serial No.

0540

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please explain how the Administration plans to support the environmental protection industry in line with the sustainable development of the long-term policy for the management of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

To support the development of the environmental protection industry, the Government has set out a series of initiatives in the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014) to support waste recycling as summarised below:

- Promoting programmes on source separation of waste to encourage the public to separate waste at source for recovery and recycling;
- Identifying more suitable sites for leasing to the recycling industry under short-term tenancy through bidding;
- Developing the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 to provide long-term land for the recycling industry at affordable rent so as to facilitate and encourage investment by the recycling industry. The target is to transform gradually the traditional simple mode of recycling operation (i.e. collection, baling and exporting) into more value-added processes that comply with environmental and other statutory requirements;
- Promoting the green procurement policy among government departments to boost the demand for green products as outlets for recycled/green products and materials;
- Implementing producer responsibility schemes to encourage the public and the industry to engage more actively in waste recovery; and
- Encouraging the development of recycling technologies to upgrade the standard of the local recycling industry through the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Environment and Conservation Fund and various funds for small and medium enterprises.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB074

Question Serial No.

0289

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list the average total cost of handling one tonne of Municipal Solid Waste in 2011-2012, including the cost for transfer of waste and the disposal cost in landfills.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

A breakdown of the average costs for transfer and disposal of municipal solid waste at landfills in 2011-12 is provided below:

	2011-12 (Projected) (\$/tonne)
Transfer	203
Disposal at landfills	168
Total cost per tonne	371

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB075

Question Serial No.

0296

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The number of days with air pollution index (API) not exceeding 100 for 2009 was 256, and there were 223 and 190 such days for 2010 and 2011 respectively. Please advise the reasons for the continuing decrease in the number of days with relatively clean air and the estimated expenditure for improving air quality to increase the number of days with API not exceeding 100 in 2012-13.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The above statistics is based on composite figures reflecting the number of days in the relevant year during which any one of the fourteen roadside and general air quality monitoring stations recorded API not exceeding 100. With our efforts in the past years to reduce air pollution from the power and transport sectors, the concentration of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and respirable suspended particulate had dropped by 55% and 20% respectively from 2005 to 2010 as recorded at roadside monitoring stations. The decrease in the number of days with API not exceeding 100 in recent years is due to an increase in roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations. On the other hand, the number of days with API not exceeding 100 recorded at the ambient level remained in general stable, at 343 in 2009, 346 in 2010 and 343 in 2011.

We have put forward three key measures targeting the main causes of the roadside NO₂ pollution. Firstly, we are conducting a trial of retrofitting Euro II and III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices, which can effectively reduce their nitrogen oxides emissions. Subject to satisfactory trial results, the Government will fully fund the retrofit of Euro II and III franchised buses with SCR devices. Secondly, the franchised bus companies are deploying low emission buses (i.e. those meeting Euro IV or above emission standards) as far as practicable to routes serving the three pilot low emission zones (LEZs) cutting through busy corridors in Central, Causeway Bay and Mongkok. The objective is to have only low emission buses in these pilot LEZs by 2015. Thirdly, we are taking forward a proposal to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles and subsidise owners of LPG taxis and public light buses to replace the catalytic converters once for their vehicles. We have also been promoting the use of electric vehicles with no tailpipe emissions. In parallel, we will continue to work with Guangdong Authorities to cut the emissions in the region so as to reduce the concentrations of ozone in the region, which could curb the formation of NO₂ at the roadside.

These measures are part and parcel of the Air Programme and the related expenditure in 2012-13 will be covered by the provision for the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB076

Question Serial No.

0297

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The statutory procedures for rezoning a site on Stonecutters Island for the underground biological treatment works under Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2B were completed in 2011. What was the total cost involved? What are the programme progress of HATS Stage 2B and the estimated provision for 2012?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The rezoning procedures for the proposed underground biological treatment plant under HATS Stage 2B were completed in 2011 and the total cost of engaging consultants to carry out planning and land use study of the site for facilitating the rezoning application was \$2.82 million. In June 2010, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) started a review of HATS Stage 2B as regards the water quality trends, population growth, sewage flow build-up and other relevant issues. The review is expected to be completed in 2012. Based on the review findings, we will map out the way forward and the implementation programme of HATS Stage 2B. The estimated expenditure in 2012-13 for hiring consultants' services for the review is \$ 2.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB077

Question Serial No.

1411

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, it is mentioned that the Administration will take forward the projects on the development of organic waste treatment facilities for the treatment of source-separated food waste from the commercial and industrial sectors. Would the Administration advise on the details of relevant policies and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

In the "Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)" published by the Administration in 2005, it was proposed that biodegradable materials such as food waste from commercial and industrial (C&I) establishments could be separated at source for biological treatment to produce renewable energy and compost products. In the 2009 Policy Address, the Administration announced the intention to develop recycling facilities to process and recycle food waste generated by the C&I sectors. To take forward the policy, the Government plans to develop organic waste treatment facilities (OWTF) in phases to treat food waste from the C&I sectors.

The first phase of the OWTF will be developed in Siu Ho Wan of North Lantau at a treatment capacity of 200 tonnes per day. The feasibility study for the first phase development is expected to complete by the third quarter of 2012, with an estimated expenditure of \$1.3 million in 2012-13. Subject to Finance Committee (FC)'s funding approval, we plan to commence the design and construction works in 2012-13. While the provision we have earmarked under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for the OWTF Phase I project in 2012-13 is \$89.6 million, the actual expenditure will be subject to the outcome of the tendering and FC's funding approval. We are also conducting the feasibility study for the second phase development of OWTF and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$4.8 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB078

Question Serial No.

1440

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In regard to the growing co-operation between Hong Kong and the Mainland in recent years, please provide relevant information on Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes in which the Environment Bureau is or has been involved.

- (a) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes from 2009-10 to 2011-12, please provide information in the following format:

Project / Programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation (the Framework Agreement)	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

- (b) For Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects or programmes from 2012-13, please provide information in the following format:

Project/ Programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisation involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Will the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology be released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what will be the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?

- (c) Apart from the projects or programmes listed above, are there any other modes of cross-boundary cooperation? If yes, what are they? What were the manpower and expenditure involved in the past 3 years, and how much financial and manpower resources are earmarked in the 2012-13 Estimates?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

- (a) Details please refer to the attachment.
- (b) For 2012-13, except for the First Review of the “Mirs Bay Water Quality Regional Control Strategy” which has been completed, we will continue to take forward those work as listed under (a) above.
- (c) Hong Kong and Guangdong governments set up the Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection in 2000 to strengthen the cooperation between the two sides on the environment and sustainable development. Expert groups and special panels have been set up under the Working Group for both sides to collaborate on issues of mutual concern, including improving regional air quality, promoting cleaner production, protecting water environment, promoting forestry and marine resources management, etc. In addition, both sides organize and participate in visits and exchanges as well as in environmental related expositions and discussion fora. The two sides agreed in August 2011 to set up the Hong Kong/Guangdong Joint Liaison Group on Combating Climate Change to coordinate measures and activities in combating climate change, including the promotion of scientific research and technology development in the two places. We have also actively taken part in Pan-Pearl River Delta meetings and exchanges on environmental cooperation.

Environmental cooperation with Guangdong authorities is mainly coordinated by the Cross-boundary and International Division (CBD) of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Between 2009-10 and 2011-12, the CBD had a working strength of 26 - 34 staff at various levels. Over the past three years, some \$22.4 million, \$18.1 million and \$20.2 million were respectively provided under Head 44 – EPD to cover the personal emoluments, associated general departmental expenses, as well as expenses necessary for taking forward various cross boundary environmental cooperation initiatives with the Mainland. In 2012-13, a financial provision of some \$25 million has been earmarked for this purpose. Moreover, staff from other divisions with the Department are also involved to different extent in pursuing cooperation with the Mainland in different aspects. The necessary resources are being met by funding provided under Head 44.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	ANISSA WONG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection
Date	23 February 2012

Hong Kong/Mainland cross-boundary projects / programmes from 2009-10 to 2011-12

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement (FA)	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisatio n involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
The Pearl River Delta (PRD) Regional Air Quality Management Plan (the Plan)	The Plan contains emission reduction and control measures targeting at major emission sources. It is related to the FA.	The Cross- boundary and International Division of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for coordinating the work under the Plan. Please refer to part (c) of the reply for the relevant expenses.	The EPD of Guangdong Province (GDEPD)	The Plan was drawn up in December 2003 and is an on-going cooperation item with Guangdong side	EPD reports the progress to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs biannually. The work progress is also published on EPD's website. It was also mentioned in the paper "Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation - Environmental Protection and Ecology Conservation" to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 24 May 2010. *
Study on the post-2010 air emission reduction arrangements for the PRD Region.	The study reviews the pollutant emission situation in the region; project future emission levels; consider possible additional emission reduction measures; and will make suggestions on post-2010 emission reduction arrangements. It is related to the FA.	The study is being conducted using in-house resources of EPD and will not incur additional expenses.	GDEPD	We commenced the study in October 2009	Progress of the study was publicized in the press releases of meetings of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection in 2009 and 2010, and reported to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs in 2010, 2011 and early 2012. It was also mentioned in the paper "Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation - Environmental Protection and Ecology Conservation" to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 24 May 2010. *

* The associated staffing and expenditure have been absorbed under the operating expenses of the EPD.

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement (FA)	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisatio n involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
The Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area (the Plan)	The Plan aims to study the long-term direction of cooperation in the Greater PRD Region, and focuses on five areas of cooperation in respect of improving environmental and ecological quality, low-carbon development, enhancing regional land-use planning, green transportation, as well as culture and social living. It is related to the FA.	\$6.95 million	Guangdong Province Housing and Urban-Rural Construction Department	Hong Kong, Guangdong and Macao jointly commenced the compilation of the Plan in October 2009. The three governments jointly consulted the public between September and November 2011 on the initial proposals of the Plan, and aim to finalise the Plan by taking account of comments received during the consultation in 2012	In 2010, the study team organized expert forums in Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao to collect views from relevant experts and academics on the three sides. It was also mentioned in the paper “ Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation - Environmental Protection and Ecology Conservation” to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 24 May 2010. We published the consultation document on the initial proposals for the Plan and its summary in September 2011. The public consultation exercise ran for three months until 30 November 2011, during which public forum and expert meetings were organised. We also consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs in October 2011. *

* The associated staffing and expenditure have been absorbed under the operating expenses of the EPD.

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement (FA)	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisatio n involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
Cleaner Production Partnership Programme (the Programme)	The Programme provides technical and funding support for Hong Kong -owned factories in the PRD Region to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices. It is related to the FA.	\$93.06 million	Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province and GDEPD	Commenced in January 2008	EPD consulted the trades and Legislative Council before launching the Programme, and submits progress report annually to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs. It was also mentioned in the paper “ Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation - Environmental Protection and Ecology Conservation” to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 24 May 2010. *
First Review of the “Mirs Bay Water Quality Regional Control Strategy”	The objective is to recommend necessary additional measures for protecting the Mirs Bay water environment and meeting the sustainable development objectives. It is related to the FA.	\$3.5 million	Habitation and Environment Commission of Shenzhen Municipality	Commenced in October 2008 and completed in September 2011	The work progress of the study was publicized in the press releases of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection meetings between 2008 and 2010, and the press release of the Hong Kong/Shenzhen Co-operation Meeting in 2011. It was also mentioned in the paper “ Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation - Environmental Protection and Ecology Conservation” to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 24 May 2010. *

* The associated staffing and expenditure have been absorbed under the operating expenses of the EPD.

Project/ programme title	Details, objective and whether it is related to the Framework Agreement (FA)	Expenditure involved	Name of Mainland department/ organisatio n involved	Progress (% completed, start date, anticipated completion date)	Have the details, objective, amount involved or impact on the public, society, culture and ecology been released to the public? If yes, through which channels and what were the manpower and expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons?
Pearl River Estuary Regional Water Quality Joint Management Planning Advance Study	The objective is to study the pollution load carrying capacity of the Pearl River Estuary region with different functional zones and water quality targets. It is related to the FA.	\$10 million	GDEPD	We commenced the Study in February 2010 and aim to complete it by end 2013	<p>The work progress of the study was publicized in the press release of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection meeting held in 2010.</p> <p>It was also mentioned in the paper “ Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/ Guangdong Co-operation - Environmental Protection and Ecology Conservation” to Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on 24 May 2010. *</p>

* The associated staffing and expenditure have been absorbed under the operating expenses of the EPD.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB079

Question Serial No.

0040

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : During 2012-13, the Department will continue to monitor the operation of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The breakdown of the recycling amount of the EcoPark and their percentages in the total amounts of waste by type in Hong Kong;
- (b) The average monthly operating costs of the whole EcoPark (Phase 1 & Phase 2) (including the supporting facilities and subsidies provided to the tenants) and their breakdown;
- (c) Whether the EcoPark has normally registered profits or losses financially after calculating the revenues and expenditures;
- (d) According to the booklet of the EcoPark, waste including food waste, other organic waste and waste glass can be handled in the EcoPark Phase 2. But there are no operators in the EcoPark who handle the above three items. What are the total amounts of food waste, other organic waste and waste glass in 2011 and their percentages in the total amounts of waste by type in Hong Kong?
- (e) In this connection, apart from landfilling, what measures are being taken by the Department to handle the above three items of recycled waste?

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

- (a) The tenants in Phase 1 of the EcoPark processed more than 30 000 tonnes of recyclable materials including waste wood, waste electrical and electronic equipment, waste cooking oil, waste plastics and waste metals in 2011. This quantity is relatively small when compared with the total amount of over 3 million tonnes per annum of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed of at the landfills. It is expected that the recycling amount at the EcoPark will continue to increase when the new Phase 2 tenants start their operation in 2013.
- (b) The Administration has engaged a management contractor at a lump sum monthly fee of about \$1.5 million in managing the EcoPark. This fee covers all expenses and resources for maintaining the EcoPark and its facilities, assisting EcoPark tenants to develop their recycling business, implementing promotional and waste recovery activities, as well as operating the Visitor Centre and a dedicated website.
- (c) The aim of the EcoPark is to provide long-term land at affordable cost for the development of the recycling and environmental industry with a view to encouraging investment in more advanced technologies and value-added processes in Hong Kong. In January 2012, the Administration receives a total of about \$1.2 million monthly rental from the existing tenants. It is expected that a balance of revenues and expenditures can be maintained in future when all available lots are let.

(d) The relevant waste disposal data in 2010¹ are tabulated below:

Waste Types	Average Daily Quantity Disposed of at Landfills (tonnes per day)	% of Total Waste Disposed of at Landfills²
Food waste	3 237	23.4
Waste glass	374	2.7
Other organic waste ³	58	0.4
Other waste (Construction waste, sludge and MSW excluding food waste, waste glass, etc)	10 148	73.5

Notes:

1. Latest waste information.
2. Total waste disposed of at landfills in 2010 is 13 817 tonnes per day.
3. Other organic waste mainly includes livestock waste.

(e) The Administration has taken the following measures to deal with the relevant types of waste:

- (i) Food waste – The Administration has implemented a Food Waste Recycling Partnership Scheme with the commercial and industrial sectors since 2010. Source separated food waste collected by the participants is sent to a composting plant in Kowloon Bay for recycling into useful compost products. In addition, we have been actively planning for the development of two modern Organic Waste Treatment Facilities in Siu Ho Wan and Sha Ling with daily capacities of 200 tonnes and 300 tonnes. We plan to commission these facilities in 2014 and 2016-17 respectively.
- (ii) Waste glass – The Administration has been collaborating with the relevant trades and other non-profit-organizations in organizing voluntary community programmes for waste glass recycling. We have also been promoting the use of glass cullets in the production of eco-paving blocks through green procurement and exploring other applications with a view to fostering the further development of our local glass recycling industry.
- (iii) Organic waste – The Administration is operating an animal waste composting plant at Ngau Tam Mei to process horse stable waste and livestock waste into useful compost products.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB080

Question Serial No.

0041

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration stated that the Environmental Protection Department will tighten the motor vehicle emission standards to Euro V in June 2012, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council. However, according to the Legislative Council paper, the tightening measure will apply to all newly registered vehicles only. Please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) The respective numbers of all types of registered vehicles which are currently below the Euro V emission standard;
- (b) What are the specific measures targeting at these registered vehicles not complying with the said emission standard?

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

(a) Below is a breakdown of registered vehicles that are below Euro V emission standards –

Vehicle Class	The Number of Registered Vehicles				
	Pre-Euro	Euro I	Euro II	Euro III	Euro IV
Public Light Bus	21	329	492	2 863	268
Private Light Bus	348	383	292	342	423
Light Goods Vehicle	11 786	10 036	14 162	18 078	18 779
Medium Goods Vehicle	8 316	2 627	7 656	9 689	8 542
Heavy Goods Vehicle	691	316	975	517	979
Franchised Bus	1	1 166	2 641	1 269	221
Non Franchised Bus	197	191	1 568	2 760	2 103
Private Car	21 986	57 733	56 632	133 366	201 764
Taxi	1	1	14 417	1 518	2 048
Motor Cycle	14 240	25 186	0	15 786	N/A
Total	57 587	97 968	98 835	186 188	235 127

(b) In line with international practices, regular tightening of the emission standard for newly registered vehicles aims to ensure that these vehicles are equipped with the latest practicable emission control technology. When the emission control technology has advanced, we will tighten the emission standard for newly registered vehicles. For all registered vehicles that are in operation, their owners are obliged to properly maintain them to keep their emission within acceptable levels. In this regard, we have introduced the Smoky Vehicle Emission Control Programme that targets mainly poorly maintained diesel vehicles for their vehicle owners to take repair action. We have put forward a similar control proposal for petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles, which will make use of roadside remote sensors to screen out gross emitters because unlike the smoke emission of diesel vehicles, the excessive emissions of petrol and LPG vehicles cannot be detected by visual inspection. To encourage early replacement of aged diesel commercial vehicles, we have introduced incentive schemes to provide one-off grant to help owners of pre-Euro, Euro I and Euro II diesel commercial vehicles to replace their vehicles with new ones which comply with the prevailing statutory emission standard. For franchised buses, we will fund the full cost of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices to reduce their emission of nitrogen oxides subject to trial results.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB081

Question Serial No.

0239

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under Programme (1), the Administration intends to continue promoting policy measures for waste separation, recovery and recycling. Would the Department inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the details of expenditure for promoting policy measures for waste separation, recovery and recycling in the entire year of 2011? What was the distribution of such expenditure?
- (b) Does the Administration have any plans for full recovery of items such as glass bottles, plastic bottles and single use batteries so as to reduce the quantity of waste for incineration and toxic emissions during incineration? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? If the Administration implements relevant plans, what is the expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has spent about \$24.24 million in 2011-12 to promote the Programme on Source Separation of Waste and encourage community participation in waste reduction, separation, recovery and recycling. A breakdown of the key expenditures is as follows:

	Expenditure Categories	Amount \$ million
1	Implementing education and promotion programmes such as holding workshops, forums, publicity events and related activities.	9.20
2	Production of publicity materials, e.g. videos, computer programmes, leaflets, brochures, banners, souvenirs, etc.	5.80
3	Media advertisement, e.g. newspapers, radio, internet, public video walls, bus TV, bus bodies, etc.	3.72
4	Provision of recycle bins and other necessary technical support.	5.52

(b) The EPD has been promoting source separation of recyclable materials including glass bottles, waste plastics and rechargeable batteries. For instance, we have collaborated with the trade and non-profit making organisations in organizing various programmes and activities to recover glass bottles for recycling. The EPD and Hong Kong Housing Authority have also jointly launched a pilot programme to facilitate the residents in the participating estates to recover glass bottles. The recovery of plastic bottles has been included as part of the collection of waste plastics in the Programme on Source Separation of Waste. Measures have been implemented in 2011 to enhance the community's participation in reduction and recycling of waste, including plastic bottles. For batteries, we encourage the public to use rechargeable batteries which can be recycled and create less waste than single use batteries. Since 2005, the trade has been implementing a voluntary programme to recover rechargeable batteries in the community for recycling. The EPD plans to spend about \$20.61 million in 2012-13 to further promote the Programme on Source Separation of Waste and encourage community participation in waste reduction, recovery and recycling.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB082

Question Serial No.

0240

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration has launched the Voluntary Producer Responsibility Scheme and drawn up proposals for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE):

- (a) What was the quantity of WEEE handled by the Department in 2011? How was the waste concerned disposed of? What was the expenditure so involved?
- (b) Among the existing sellers and producers of electrical and electronic equipment, how many of them have provided WEEE recovery service? What is their recovery process? In 2011, what was the quantity of WEEE recovered through such sellers and producers? What was the expenditure so involved?
- (c) Does the Administration have any plans to encourage producers and retailers to provide recovery service for WEEE? If yes, what are the details and the state of implementation? If no, what are the reasons?
- (d) When will the Administration conduct public consultation on when to implement the "Voluntary Producer Responsibility Scheme"? When the Administration launches the "Voluntary Producer Responsibility Scheme", what are the expenditure and manpower so involved?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has since 2005 engaged two charitable organisations, namely St James' Settlement and Caritas Hong Kong, in running two recycling programmes for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and computer products respectively.

In general, items collected will be repaired for reuse as far as practicable, or dismantled for materials recovery. In 2011, a total of 106 800 items were collected for handling under the two recycling programmes, and they incurred an estimated expenditure of some \$4.5 million in 2011-12.

- (b) The Government does not maintain information about the provision of recovery services in the relevant trades. On the other hand, EPD provided support and advice to the trade-led recycling programme for computer products launched since January 2008. Under this programme, 18 300 items of computer products were collected in 2011 and they were handled in a similar way as in the two recycling programmes referred to in (a).

- (c) The mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on WEEE is being developed with the intention to engage different stakeholders (including but not limited to manufacturers and retailers) in sharing the eco-responsibility so as to ensure that WEEE is collected for proper treatment. Under the mandatory PRS, we propose that retailers would be required to take back from consumers the old equipment free of charge on a "new-for-old" basis and properly dispose of such old equipment. We will further discuss with the trades on detailed implementation plan within 2012.
- (d) EPD has been supporting and promoting voluntary PRSs on fluorescent lamps, computers, rechargeable batteries and glass bottles that are operated and funded by the relevant trades. In 2011-12, the Department has incurred some \$1.3 million in the publicity and promotion etc. of these programmes. Five staff were involved in overseeing the above work among their other duties. We regularly monitor the situation of waste generation and consider introducing new schemes for other products, having regard to the relevant factors including waste reduction impacts, availability of voluntary partners and sustainability of the voluntary schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 24 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB083

Question Serial No.

0241

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the financial provision, would the Department inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Why is there an increase of \$20 million in the 2011-12 revised estimate compared with the original estimate? What are the increases and amounts of each expenditure item? Why is there such a difference?
- (b) The expected expenditure for 2012-13 will increase by about \$235 million, an increase of 16% compared with 2011-12. How will each amount of expenditure be allocated? Why will there be such a significant increase in the estimate in this year? What item will register the largest increase?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The higher provision of \$20 million in the revised estimate for 2011-12 as compared to its original estimate under Programme (1) is mainly attributed to increase in staff cost due to pay rise amounting to \$10 million and increase in payment for the operation of waste facilities arising from the increase in contract price fluctuation amounting to \$10 million.
- (b) The increase in provision in the estimate for 2012-13 as compared with the revised estimate for 2011-12 is mainly provided to cover the price fluctuation as required in accordance with the contract provisions of waste facilities; enhancement of odour and dust management measures at landfills; upgrading of mercury lamp treatment facility and clinical waste disposal service and aftercare service at restored landfills which was funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund before. Landfills operation and chemical waste treatment centre receive the biggest increment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB084

Question Serial No.

0242

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the financial provision, would the Department inform this Committee of the allocation of each amount of expenditure as the expected expenditure for 2012-13 will increase by about \$72 million, an increase of 13% compared with 2011-12. Why will there be such an increase in the estimate in this year? What item will register the largest increase?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

The increase of about \$72 million in the budget estimate of the Air Programme for 2012-13 are due to the following :

- (a) a provision of about \$30 million for the successful applicants of the Pilot Green Transport Fund to embark on the approved trials of green transport technologies;
- (b) a provision of about \$26 million for the payment of the hybrid buses for trial by the franchised bus companies; and
- (c) a provision of about \$16 million to support the implementation of various air-related programmes such as implementation of the idling engine regulation, review of measurement protocols for existing Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) parameters and development of related measurement protocols, the trial of replacing the propulsion engines of Government vessels with ones complying with the latest emission requirements, etc. and acquiring equipment for air quality measurement and analysis.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB085

Question Serial No.

0243

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding environmental impact assessment studies, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditure and manpower involved in the studies in 2011?
- (b) What are the expected expenditure and manpower so involved in the studies in 2012-13?
- (c) How many projects that failed to meet the criteria were required to re-conduct environmental impact assessment studies in 2011? What were the expenditure and manpower so involved?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) In 2011-12, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) deployed 115 staff within its establishment to support the operation of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) mechanism as well as provide inputs to the land use planning process with a total expenditure of \$84.6 million. We do not have a separate account specifically for processing the EIA study reports submitted to EPD.
- (b) In 2012-13, the planned resources for the above activities will be 116 staff with a total expenditure of \$86 million.
- (c) In 2011, five submitted EIA reports had been withdrawn by the respective applicants. Of the five reports, four were subsequently resubmitted for approval. EPD deployed the existing manpower and resources to process the reports resubmitted and we do not have separate accounting for the four resubmitted EIA reports.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 16 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB086

Question Serial No.

0244

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration has indicated that they will oversee the implementation of the measures to better protect country park enclaves. In this regard, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What measures had been implemented to better protect country park enclaves in the last year? What are the expenditure and manpower involved?
- (b) At present, many ecologically important sites adjacent to the country parks are under private ownership. Are there any plans to undertake land resumption regarding all these sites for conservation purpose? If yes, what are the details, expenditure and manpower involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) There are currently 77 country park enclaves, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO) (Cap. 131). Since August 2010, 17 enclaves out of the 54 remaining enclaves have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under TPO. While the longer term planning control of incorporating the 17 enclaves either as OZPs under TPO or part of the Country Parks under the Country Parks Ordinance (CPO) (Cap. 208) will be processed, actions to protect the remaining 37 enclaves in accordance with TPO or the CPO will be pursued. Under the New Nature Conservation Policy, funding support may be provided by the Environment and Conservation Fund to facilitate the implementation of Management Agreements entered into with the land owners by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to conserve the land concerned.

In 2011-12, the expenditure and manpower involved within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the incorporation of enclaves into Country Parks as well as the strengthening of patrol and enforcement relating to the country park enclaves were \$4.26 million and 12 staff.

- (b) In accordance with the New Nature Conservation Policy, twelve priority sites of high ecological importance for enhanced conservation have been identified. Amongst the twelve priority sites, nine are already covered by statutory control on the land use of the areas. The remaining sites are enclaves and actions are in hand to put them under statutory control under the TPO or CPO. We do not have any plan to undertake land resumption for conservation purpose per se. We aim to strike a balance between nature conservation and respecting private property rights by implementing the Public Private Partnership Pilot Scheme and the Management Agreement Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB087

Question Serial No.

0245

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding whether any changes to the emission caps on power companies are warranted, would the Department inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the progress of studies and review conducted by the Administration? What are the estimated expenditure and details of the review?
- (b) Are there a set of requirements prescribed by the Administration to review the emission caps on power companies? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the Administration plan to bear part of the increased expenditure incurred by the need to improve technology due to the changes to the emission caps on power companies? If yes, what are the details and expenditure so involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) We are reviewing the emission caps on the power plants with a view to reporting the findings to the Environmental Affairs Panel of the Legislative Council in this legislative session. The expenditure will be absorbed by the existing provision.
- (b) The second Technical Memorandum (TM) on allocation of emission allowances to power plants provides, inter alia, that the Secretary for the Environment (SEN) shall review the emission allowances not less than once every two years after issue of the TM. Section 26G(2) of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) (APCO) also provides that in making an allocation of the emission allowances, SEN shall-
 - (i) have regard to the best practicable means for preventing the emission of that type of pollutant;
 - (ii) have as his purpose the attainment and maintenance of any relevant air quality objective; and;
 - (iii) have regard to whether the emission of that type of pollutant would be, or be likely to be, prejudicial to health.

We will conduct the review in accordance with the above requirements.

- (c) It is a legal requirement for the power companies under the APCO to adopt the best practicable means to reduce emissions. As noted in (a) above, we are in the course of reviewing the emission caps on the power plants. Any additional expenditure to be incurred by power companies to meet the emission caps will have to be justified under the Scheme of Control Agreement. It is not appropriate for Government to bear the cost of the power companies arising from its operation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 16 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB088

Question Serial No.

0246

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On ecology conservation policy, 12 priority sites have been identified by the Administration for enhanced conservation, please advise this Committee:

- (a) What is the progress of the conservation plans for 12 priority sites for enhanced conservation so far? What are the manpower and expenditures involved in the relevant plans in 2011?
- (b) Does the Administration have a set of guidelines in deciding which areas are for priority conservation? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) Has the Administration invited green groups to participate in planning the above enhanced conservation items in 2011? If yes, what are the details and their level of participation? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

(a) Under the New Nature Conservation Policy (NNCP) promulgated in 2004, we have identified 12 priority sites (Priority Sites) of high ecological importance for enhanced conservation. Fung Yuen Priority Site and Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung Priority Sites have been managed under the Management Agreement (MA) scheme funded under the Environment and Conservation fund (ECF) since 2005. In November 2011, the ECF committee endorsed a new MA project at the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetlands outside Ramsar Site Priority Sites to enhance the conservation value of fishponds at the two priority sites through management agreements between a non-governmental organisation and the fishermen in Northwest New Territories to promote the ecologically sustainable fish pond operation. In respect of projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Pilot Scheme, the project proponent of Sha Lo Tung Development withdrew its environmental impact assessment (EIA) report on 16 May 2011. The decision on whether and when to re-submit another EIA report and to pursue the subsequent town planning on land use matters is to be made by the project proponent. As regards the development proposal for Fung Lok Wai, which comprises sites in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site, the EIA report has been approved under the EIA Ordinance (Cap. 499). At present, the project proponent is pursuing the town planning and land matters for the development.

In 2011, for the implementation of the MA projects and the proposed PPP pilot projects, the resources incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) were absorbed under Programme (2) ("Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme") under Head 22 – AFCD. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) continued to oversee AFCD's works in this aspect and relevant resources were absorbed under Programme (6) ("Nature Conservation") under Head 44 – EPD.

- (b) The 12 Priority Sites were identified using a scoring system drawn up by an expert group which comprised key academics with expertise in ecology, major green groups and other professionals. The criteria used in the scoring system include naturalness, habitat diversity, non-recreatability, species diversity and richness and species rarity/endemism.
- (c) Under the NNCP, we have involved the non-governmental organisations in enhancing conservation of the Priority Sites. For instance, the MA project at Long Valley has been jointly carried out by the Conservancy Association and Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS), while that at Fung Yuen has been undertaken by the Tai Po Environmental Association. The new MA project at the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetlands outside Ramsar Site Priority Sites is being managed by the HKBWS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 22 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB089

Question Serial No.

0248

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With regard to the extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In 2011-12, what were the expenditure and manpower involved for the above-mentioned scheme and how much revenue had been generated?
- (b) In the 2012-13 budgets, what are the anticipated expenditure incurred and revenue generated by the above scheme? In promoting the second stage of the Levy Scheme, what will be the manpower involved and revenue generated?
- (c) How does the Administration dispose of the revenue generated from the above scheme? Will the revenue generated be allocated to relevant enterprises for administration expenses in recovery work?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) A ten-member dedicated team in Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for the enforcement work on the Levy Scheme and the total recurrent expenditure in 2011-12 is \$8.82 million. Other supporting tasks are undertaken by the staff of EPD as part of their normal duties and do not incur additional expenditure in 2011-12. Based on the quarterly returns submitted by registered retailers in the first three quarters in 2011-12, the total levies collected for the full year of 2011-12 is projected to be around \$27 million.
- (b) The expenditure to be incurred and revenue generated in 2012-13 are expected to remain at their respective level as in 2011-12. At this stage, promotion of the extension of the Levy Scheme is undertaken by the staff of EPD as part of their normal duties and would not incur additional expenditure in 2011-12. Longer term manpower requirements for the extended Levy Scheme will be determined taking into account of the operational details that are now being worked out.
- (c) The revenue generated from the Levy Scheme is deposited into the General Revenue. There is no mechanism under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance for the alternative allocation of such revenue. But the Government would continue to promote source separation and recycling, and to support the development of the recycling industries through other measures including funding support under the Environment and Conservation Fund on educational and promotional programmes as well as making suitable sites available at affordable prices for recycling under short term tenancy and the EcoPark etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB090

Question Serial No.

0251

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding Subhead 297 "Fees for operation of waste facilities", the estimate for 2012-13 is \$0.2 billion plus higher than 2011-12, representing a 19.3% increase. The explanation is that contract payments for the operation of these facilities have increased. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How is the fund allocated among the waste facilities in Hong Kong? Why is there a significant increase in the 2012-13 estimate? What type of facilities is receiving the biggest increment?
- (b) Is there any plan to reduce the expenditure concerned? If yes, what are the plan and its details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The estimated fee under Subhead 297 for the operation of the waste facilities in 2012-13 is \$1,280 million. The waste facilities include landfills, refuse transfer stations, chemical waste treatment centre, animal waste composing plant, restored landfills and other facilities. The increase in provision in the estimate for 2012-13 as compared with the revised estimate for 2011-12 is mainly provided to cover the price fluctuation as required in accordance with the contract provisions of waste facilities; enhancement of odour and dust management measures at landfills; upgrading of mercury lamp treatment facility and clinical waste disposal service and aftercare service at restored landfills which was funded under the Capital Works Reserve Fund before. Landfills operation and chemical waste treatment centre receive the biggest increment.
- (b) As explained above, this increase in expenditure is essential for meeting the contract requirements or enhancing the services and service quality of the waste facilities and therefore cannot be reduced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB091

Question Serial No.

0254

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration has indicated that they will oversee the implementation of the measures to better protect country park enclaves. In this regard, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

What measures will be implemented by the Administration to better protect country park enclaves in 2012? What are the expenditure and manpower involved for implementing such measures?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

There are currently 77 country park enclaves, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO) (Cap. 131). Since August 2010, 17 enclaves out of the 54 remaining enclaves have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under TPO. While the longer term planning control of incorporating the 17 enclaves either as OZPs under TPO or part of the Country Parks under the Country Parks Ordinance (CPO) (Cap. 208) will be processed, in the nearer term we seeks to enhance protection of relevant private lands through Management Agreement (MA) and Public-private Partnership (PPP) Pilot Scheme.

In 2012-13, the expenditure and manpower involved within the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department for the incorporation of enclaves into Country Parks as well as the strengthening of patrol and enforcement relating to the country park enclaves will be \$4.26 million and 12 staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB092

Question Serial No.

0514

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With regard to the mandatory producer responsibility scheme on waste electrical and electronic equipment, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) In 2011-12, what are the expenditure and manpower involved in the implementation of the above scheme? Has the Administration estimated the revenue generated from the scheme?
- (2) In the 2012-13 budgets, what are the expenditure involved in and revenue generated from the above scheme? What are the manpower involved in and revenue generated from the new scheme?
- (3) How would the Administration deal with the revenue generated from the above scheme? Is there any plan to allocate the full amount of revenue generated to relevant enterprises for administration expenditure of the recovery work?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (1) The expenditure incurred for the mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in 2011-12, mainly for the relevant research and promotional work, was \$1.8 million. The team developing the PRS is also responsible for other waste management duties; there is no separate breakdown on manpower involved for this matter. We are unable to estimate the revenue to be generated under the PRS at this stage until after its full cost is ascertained, by which time the amount of the recycling fee to be collected would be determined and proposed for approval by the Legislative Council.
- (2) In 2012-13, the estimated expenditure on the mandatory PRS on WEEE is \$5.4 million, mainly for continued research and promotional work as well as the planning the development of a WEEE treatment and recycling facility for the PRS. No revenue will be collected until after implementation of the enabling legislation for the PRS. At this stage, preparatory work for the PRS is undertaken by the staff of Environmental Protection Department as part of their normal duties and would not incur additional expenditure in 2012-13. Longer term manpower requirements will be determined taking into account of the operational details that are now being worked out.
- (3) The revenue to be generated under the mandatory PRS on WEEE is proposed to be deposited to the General Revenue. The Government will procure through open tender a WEEE Management Contractor to provide WEEE collection and recycling services for the purpose of the PRS.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

24 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB093

Question Serial No.

0555

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Would the Administration provide the following information on the study on the planned secondary sewage treatment works under the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2B:

- (a) What are the details and purpose of the study?
- (b) What were the manpower and expenditure involved in 2011-12?
- (c) Would the Administration plan to set a timetable for the implementation of HATS Stage 2B? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure so involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) In June 2010, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) started a review of HATS Stage 2B as regards the water quality trends, population growth, sewage flow build-up and other relevant issues. The review is expected to be completed in 2012. Based on the review findings, we will map out the way forward and the implementation programme of HATS Stage 2B.
- (b) The review is conducted through consultancy services. The estimated expenditure in 2011-12 for hiring consultants' services is \$4.6 million.
- (c) Based on the review findings referred to in (a) above, we will draw up an implementation programme of HATS Stage 2B and determine the associated expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB094

Question Serial No.

0556

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With reference to overseeing the operation and management of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, would the Administration please provide the following information:

- (a) What are the expenditure and manpower involved for the operation and management in 2011-12?
- (b) What are the estimated expenditure and manpower involved for the operation and management by the Administration in 2012-13?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

(a) and (b)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is responsible for the management and operation of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China. Major tasks include (a) conducting patrols and enforcement operations; (b) arranging cleaning and litter collection services; (c) setting up and maintenance of visitor facilities such as visitor centres and geo-trails; (d) organising education, promotional and publicity activities; (e) promoting participation by non-governmental organisations, private sector and local community in geo-conservation and tourism activities; and (f) conducting research and studies on geological science.

AFCD allocated \$29.2 million and 21 staff both in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for these activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB095

Question Serial No.

1815

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With regard to the promotion of the principle of sustainable development and the work on sustainability assessment system, please advise:

By year and cases and commencing from 2000, the number of appeals and judicial reviews filed against the Government on environmental assessments conducted on government projects, the points of contention, results of the judgments, and the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

Since 2000, there has been one judicial review lodged against a government project under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance and a connected appeal to the Court of Appeal.

In February 2010, a Tung Chung resident sought leave for judicial review of Director of Environmental Protection's decisions to approve the EIA reports and issue environmental permits for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge projects proposed by the Highways Department. The grounds of challenge covered seven main issues including the absence of a "stand-alone analysis". In April 2011, the Court of First Instance rejected the contentions of the applicant for judicial review in six of those seven main issues but held that a "stand-alone analysis" was required to illustrate that the pollutants caused by the projects had been minimized. EPD appealed against the Court of First Instance's judgment. In September 2011, the Court of Appeal allowed EPD's appeal.

Subject to further and more detailed assessment and to taxation by the Court (if required), the rough estimate is that the Government's costs incurred for the said court case is about HK\$7.5 million.

The EPD handled the said court case by existing manpower and resources. We do not have a separate account for the activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

24 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB096

Question Serial No.

1817

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise by year and items, over the past 5 years, the projects undertaken under the Environment and Conservation Fund, and provide details of the projects, the manpower and expenditure involved, effectiveness of the projects, and the number of participants/units involved. Please also advise on the percentages of the various environmental issues (such as sustainable development, sewage, waste and global warming) tackled.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

The details of projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) from 2007-08 to 2011-12 (as of end January 2012) is provided at Annex. Regarding the manpower involved in each project, the ECF guidelines stipulate that the cost for project staff should normally be within 50% of the total project cost. Depending on the project scope and scale, the number of staff involved in most of the funded projects may range from 10 to 20. The distribution of the funded projects into different environmental themes is as follows: energy efficiency (42%); general environmental education (34.5%); waste reduction and recycling (18%); nature conservation (3.5%); and research and development on various environmental themes (2%).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 February 2012

**Details of Projects Funded through the Environment and Conservation Fund
 from 2007-08 to 2011-12 (as of end January 2012)**

Details	Effectiveness	Participation	Approved Funding
<u>Environmental Education and Community Action Projects - General Projects</u>			
<p>These environmental educational programmes and activities include seminars and workshops, exhibitions at public areas, eco-tours, competitions, etc. for a wide spectrum of audience such as the general public, youth, women groups, businesses to enhance community awareness and knowledge of environmental issues such as waste reduction and recycling, mobilize individuals to take action to conserve the environment and induce behavioural change towards a green lifestyle.</p>	<p>Various kinds of education and promotion activities with diversified themes and target groups have been held. 113 projects have been approved since 2007. According to the questionnaires completed by the participants, over 85% agreed that their environmental knowledge and awareness were enhanced, while around 80% expressed that they would put the knowledge into practice in their daily life (e.g. participating in waste reduction and waste separation at source) and put across the green messages to their families and friends.</p>	<p>It is estimated some 4.5 million participants have been / will be involved in various projects since 2007, including those reached out through promotion channels and the media.</p>	<p>2007-08: \$3,032,726.80</p>
			<p>2008-09: \$4,568,429.69</p>
			<p>2009-10: \$8,255,870.18</p>
			<p>2010-11: \$6,110,536.20</p>
			<p>2011-12: \$19,501,563.50</p>
<u>Environmental Education and Community Action Projects - Minor Works Projects</u>			
<p>The funding scheme was launched in mid-2008. Schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) set up environmental facilities such as green roof, renewable energy and energy efficiency installations and waste reduction facilities. Funding recipients have also organised educational activities riding on the facilities for their students</p>	<p>The installed environmental facilities have served education and demonstration purposes to show teachers, students, parents, service recipients and the public the characteristics, function and effectiveness of the facilities such as reducing roof temperature, energy saving for lower carbon emissions and promoting food waste recovery. Surveys have revealed that nearly all respondents have found that they benefited from</p>	<p>From mid-2008 to 2011, nearly 700 schools and service units of NGOs have been funded; an estimated 500 – 1 000 participants per school in related educational activities; and for NGOs, the number of participants could range from 500 (for elderly / community</p>	<p>2007-08: -</p>
			<p>2008-09: \$50,693,709.25</p>
			<p>2009-10: \$86,222,474.80</p>
			<p>2010-11: \$78,475,837.00</p>

Details	Effectiveness	Participation	Approved Funding
and service recipients to promote awareness towards these green technologies.	the funded facilities or the related educational activities, with the most commonly identified benefits being improved environmental awareness; increased knowledge on waste reduction, energy saving or better use of resources; and increased concern about environmental protection and social responsibilities.	centres) to 10 000 at camp sites.	2011-12: \$48,930,966.50
<u>Community Waste Recovery and Source Separation Projects</u>			
Programmes include reduction and recycling of waste plastics, glass, used electrical and electronic equipment, food waste etc. to promote waste reduction and recovery in the community; and setting up of waste separation facilities on floors of buildings to facilitate waste separation at source.	Arrangements have been made for setting up waste separation facilities on floors of buildings to facilitate waste separation at source. Networks have been strengthened for the recyclables to be collected and recycled, and more stable outlets are provided for these materials. Environmental awareness and participation by the community in waste reduction and recycling is increased.	Over 600 housing estates and 1 200 buildings; 170 schools; 100 community groups; and 770 shops/companies	2007-08: \$2,316,873.51 2008-09: \$1,694,403.90 2009-10: \$25,354,967.60 2010-11: \$10,645,232.00 2011-12: \$28,381,367.20
<u>On-site Meal Portioning Projects in Schools</u>			
Schools carry out basic conversion works and install facilities for implementing on-site meal portioning to reduce food waste and use of disposable lunch boxes and cutleries.	The use of disposable lunch boxes and cutleries is avoided. The arrangement has enabled students to adjust the meal portion as they need so as to reduce food waste. When all these schools start to implement on-site meal portioning, it is estimated that the use of about 55 000 disposable lunch boxes daily could be avoided and food waste reduction be 30% or more.	80 schools	2007-08: - 2008-09: - 2009-10: \$28,937,613.23 2010-11: \$52,034,301.15 2011-12: \$21,795,706.92

Details	Effectiveness	Participation	Approved Funding
<u>Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates</u>			
<p>The funding scheme was launched in July 2011. Housing estates implement food waste recovery by setting up composters and organise promotion programmes on food waste reduction and separation at source.</p>	<p>Food waste recovered is treated on-site and turned into compost for landscaping use in the housing estates. Households are encouraged to separate domestic food waste at source. The promotion programmes seek to raise environmental awareness of the residents and participation in waste recycling.</p>	<p>11 housing estates</p>	<p>2007-08: -</p>
			<p>2008-09: -</p>
			<p>2009-10: -</p>
			<p>2010-11: -</p>
			<p>2011-12: \$9,097,463.00</p>
<u>Nature Conservation Management Agreement Projects</u>			
<p>Under the management agreements, NGOs may provide landowners or tenants with financial incentives in exchange for management rights over their land or their cooperation in enhancing conservation of the priority sites, country park enclaves or private land in country parks.</p>	<p>The Fung Yuen project helps to conserve and enhance the natural habitat of butterflies in the Fung Yuen Valley. The number of butterfly species found has increased. For the Long Valley project, the number of bird species has increased and over 50% of the bird species in Hong Kong could be found. The project at Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site in the Deep Bay seeks to restore and enhance the conservation value of commercial fishponds in the Northwest New Territories. With education and promotional activities in place, public awareness has been raised on the need for conservation.</p>	<p>Over 160 000 visitors cum participants to these nature conservation sites</p>	<p>2007-08: \$6,332,434.72</p>
			<p>2008-09: -</p>
			<p>2009-10: \$9,626,836.65</p>
			<p>2010-11: -</p>
			<p>2011-12: \$14,785,250.64</p>

Large-scale Environmental Education and Awareness Projects Coordinated by the Environmental Campaign Committee

<p>The Environmental Campaign Committee organises large-scale programmes for targeted stakeholder groups to enhance community involvement. Major programmes include Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme and Hong Kong Green School Award for the school sector; Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (HKAEE) for the business sector; as well as community-wide programmes such as the Combating Climate Change Campaign and World Environment Day activities.</p>	<p>The territory-wide programmes have been well received by different sectors. Up till now, more than 500 schools and thousands of students have joined the education programmes. For the HKAEE, participating organizations have been increasing since its launch in 2008 and it is estimated that in 2012, there will be over 3 000 organizations joining the scheme and achieving targets in waste reduction, energy saving and carbon reduction. In addition, the publicity programmes outreached over thousands of general public annually.</p>	<p>On average 20 funded projects under the various territory-wide programmes are conducted each year. Tens of thousands of people / units join the programmes and /or are reached out through promotion events every year.</p>	<p>2007-08: \$18,964,200.00</p>
			<p>2008-09: \$20,594,900.00</p>
			<p>2009-10: \$38,473,600.00</p>
			<p>2010-11: \$25,351,100.00</p>
			<p>2011-12: \$22,717,100.00</p>

Building Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes (BEEFS)

<p>Domestic, commercial and industrial buildings as well as housing estates carry out energy-cum-carbon audits to review the use of energy and quantify greenhouse gas emissions; and carry out improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance of building services installations for communal use.</p>	<p>Since BEEFS was launched in April 2009, 127 energy-cum-carbon audits and 779 improvement works projects have been approved. The approved works projects, when all completed, are estimated to result in a saving in electricity consumption by over 150 million kWh per annum, which is equivalent to a reduction of around 105 200 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.</p>	<p>Over 5 700 buildings, i.e. more than one in eight buildings in Hong Kong, have benefited from the Schemes.</p>	<p>2007-08: -</p>
			<p>2008-09: -</p>
			<p>2009-10: \$75,884,926.15</p>
			<p>2010-11: \$203,013,255.28</p>
			<p>2011-12: \$83,390,123.50</p>

<u>Energy Conservation Projects for Non-government Organisations</u>			
<p>NGOs carry out energy-cum-carbon audits in their premises to review the use of energy and quantify the greenhouse gas emissions; carry out improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance; and organise educational activities to promote energy conservation and carbon reduction.</p>	<p>Since the scheme was launched on October 2009, 18 energy-cum-carbon audits and 187 improvement works projects have been approved. The works projects, when all completed, are estimated to result in a saving in electricity consumption of 7.13 million kWh per annum, which is equivalent to a reduction of around 5 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. 28 education programmes have been approved for organizing activities including workshops, competitions, exhibitions to enhance community awareness of energy conservation.</p>	<p>230 NGOs premises and their service recipients have benefited from the Schemes.</p>	2007-08: -
			2008-09: -
			2009-10: 7,613,965.61
			2010-11: 29,255,267.90
			2011-12: 29,291,700.78
<u>Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Projects</u>			
<p>Tertiary institutions and non-profit making bodies carry out research on environment-related topics to build up research capacity and knowledge base; and organise conferences to facilitate knowledge exchange.</p>	<p>Since April 2007 till end January 2012, 71 projects have been approved. These projects cover a wide range of topics including conservation of biological diversity, waste reduction and recycling, air and water quality, use of sustainable energy, etc.</p>	<p>29 faculties from the universities and 8 NGOs.</p>	2007-08: \$2,315,041.81
			2008-09: \$5,038,650.50
			2009-10: \$29,347,091.56
			2010-11: \$10,360,542.42
			2011-12: \$10,240,021.00

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB097

Question Serial No.

2245

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With regard to exploring and studying options for revamping the fuel mix for power generation, taking into account views received during the public consultation on climate change and other latest developments, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the current progress of work; and
- (b) the details (e.g. venues, time, attendances, representatives from both sides, etc.) of the Administration's consultation work (e.g. public consultations, meetings with the trade and with various organizations, etc.) in the past 3 years. Please list by each consultation work the manpower, expenditure and facilities involved.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

The public consultation on "Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda" took place from September to December 2010. During the period, we conducted 31 briefing and stakeholder engagement sessions at which more than 60 different stakeholders and organisations attended. Details are provided in the Annex. These sessions were mostly held in Government offices and stakeholder organisations' premises. Attendance to these briefing and stakeholder engagement sessions included the Secretary for the Environment and other relevant officers from the Environment Bureau (ENB) and Environmental Protection Department (EPD). The manpower and resources for conducting these sessions were met by funding provided for the ENB and the EPD. In addition, we had invited views and comments from the community by issuing press release and promulgating the consultation at the EPD website. More than 1 200 responses were received. We are carefully considering the feedback received as well as the latest developments on related issues for charting the way forward.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

1 March 2012

Details on Briefing Sessions Held during Public Consultation on “Hong Kong’s Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda”

	Date	Venue	Attending Stakeholders/ Organisations/ General Public
1.	10 September 2010	Renaissance Harbour View Hotel	Advisory Council on the Environment Council for Sustainable Development Energy Advisory Committee Environmental Campaign Committee Climate Change Business Forum Business Environment Council CMA Testing & Certification Laboratories Federation of Hong Kong Industries Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong
2.	14 September 2010	Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao	European Union Heads of Mission
3.	20 September 2010	Conference Room, Environmental Protection Department	Advisory Council on the Environment
4.	22 September 2010	Conference Room, Legislative Council Building	Legislative Council – EA Panel Subcommittee
5.	22 September 2010	West Wing, Central Government Offices	Council for Sustainable Development – Strategy Sub-Committee
6.	24 September 2010	Conference Room, Environmental Protection Department	Energy Advisory Committee
7.	30 September 2010	City University of Hong Kong	Attendants of Climate Policy Forum cum Workshop co-organised by WWF-Hong Kong, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd and Hong Kong Green Building Council
8.	8 October 2010	BEC Auditorium, Jockey Club Environment Building	Business Environment Council Climate Change Business Forum
9.	14 October 2010	Conference Room, Trade and Industry Department	Small and Medium Enterprises Committee
10.	18 October 2010	Meeting Room, American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong	American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong – Energy Committee
11.	21 October 2010	Youth Square, Chai Wan	Attendants of Youth Exchange Session organised by Home Affairs Bureau
12.	25 October 2010	Conference Room, Environmental Protection Department	Council for Sustainable Development
13.	1 November 2010	University of Hong Kong	Attendants of Dialogue Session at the University of Hong Kong on “Hong Kong’s Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda”
14.	1 November 2010	JW Marriott Hotel	Business Summit on Climate Leadership 2010
15.	4 November 2010	University of Hong Kong	Attendants of Opening Session at University of Hong Kong Law Faculty on Climate Change Governance after Copenhagen
16.	11 November 2010	Empire Hotel	Danish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Finnish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong German Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hong Kong Hong Kong Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry
17.	15 November 2010	Youth Square, Chai Wan	Attendants of Youth Forum on “Hong Kong’s Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda”

	Date	Venue	Attending Stakeholders/ Organisations/ General Public
18.	15 November 2010	Conference Room, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers	Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
19.	17 November 2010	Conference Room, Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups	Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
20.	18 November 2010	Conference Room, Home Affairs Department	Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of District Councils
21.	19 November 2010	BEC Auditorium, Jockey Club Environment Building	Construction Industry Council
22.	19 November 2010	Assembly Hall, HKCCCU Logos Academy	Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union Logos Academy
23.	22 November 2010	Conference Room, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
24.	22 November 2010	InnoCentre	Hong Kong Institute of Architects Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Environmental Division) Hong Kong Waste Management Association Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment Hong Kong Association for Testing Inspection and Certification Limited Institution of Civil Engineers - Hong Kong Institution of Mechanical Engineers (Hong Kong Branch) Chartered Institute of Building (Hong Kong) Hong Kong Chinese Importers' & Exporters' Association Hong Kong Productivity Council Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Association of Hong Kong Hong Kong Association of Energy Service Companies Hong Kong Environmental Industry Association Hong Kong Association of Energy Engineers KPMG
25.	25 November 2010	Conference Room, Federation of Hong Kong Industries	Federation of Hong Kong Industries
26.	25 November 2010	Conference Room, Chinese Manufacturers' Association	Chinese Manufacturers' Association
27.	27 November 2010	InnoCentre	Attendants of "Public Forum on Climate Change Policy Consultation Document" organized by the Combat Climate Change Coalition
28.	29 November 2010	Conference Room, Chinese General Chamber of Commerce	Chinese General Chamber of Commerce
29.	30 November 2010	City University of Hong Kong	Students at the Roundtable Programme of the City University Hong Kong
30.	9 December 2010	Conference Room, Commerce and Economic Development Bureau	Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee
31.	22 December 2010	Conference Room, Environmental Protection Department	Climate Change Business Forum

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB098

Question Serial No.

1452

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In recent years, many overseas investors and the commercial sector find the air quality in Hong Kong is deteriorating and their investment desires and lives are thus affected. Likewise, according to the official statistics of the past three years, the number of days with air pollution index (API) lower than 100 has decreased year after year with 256, 223 and 190 days respectively. Please state the reasons for the reduction in the number of days with cleaner air. Is the estimated expenditure earmarked in 2012-13 for improving air quality to increase the number of days with API lower than 100 more or less than those in 2011-12 and 2010-11 respectively? What are the percentages of increase or decrease respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The above statistics are based on composite figures reflecting the number of days in the relevant year during which any one of the 14 roadside and general air quality monitoring stations recorded API not exceeding 100. With our efforts in the past years to reduce air pollution from the power and transport sectors, the concentration of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and respirable suspended particulates (RSP) had dropped by 55% and 20% respectively from 2005 to 2010, as recorded at roadside monitoring stations. The decrease in the number of days with API not exceeding 100 in recent years is due to an increase in roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations. On the other hand, the number of days with API not exceeding 100 recorded at the ambient level remained in general stable, at 343 in 2009, 346 in 2010 and 343 in 2011.

We have put forward three key measures targeting the main causes of the roadside NO₂ pollution. Firstly, we are conducting a trial of retrofitting Euro II and III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices, which can effectively reduce their nitrogen oxides emissions. Subject to satisfactory trial results, the Government will fully fund the retrofit of Euro II and III franchised buses with SCR devices. Secondly, the franchised bus companies are deploying low emission buses (i.e. those meeting Euro IV or above emission standards) as far as practicable to routes serving the three pilot low emission zones (LEZs) cutting through busy corridors in Central, Causeway Bay and Mongkok. The objective is to have only low emission buses in these pilot LEZs by 2015. Thirdly, we are taking forward a proposal to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles and subsidize owners of LPG taxis and public light buses to replace the catalytic converters once for their vehicles. We have also been promoting the use of electric vehicles with no tailpipe emissions. In parallel, we will continue to work with Guangdong Authorities to cut the emissions in the region so as to reduce the concentrations of ozone in the region, which could curb the formation of NO₂ at the roadside.

These measures are part and parcel of the Air Programme and the related expenditure in 2012-13 will be covered by the provision for the Programme. Compared with the expenditure in 2010-11 and 2011-12, the provision earmarked in 2012-13 for the Air Programme has increased by 7% and 13%, respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB099

Question Serial No.

2024

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, it is mentioned that the Administration will take forward the projects on the development of an integrated waste management facility. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the progress of and financial provision for the facility at present and the work schedule concerned?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

In November 2008, we launched detailed Engineering Investigation (EI) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for the first phase integrated waste management facility (IWMF). The EIA report for the IWMF was completed in 2011, endorsed by the Advisory Council on the Environment on 30 December 2011 and approved under the EIA Ordinance on 17 January 2012. The preparatory works for developing the first phase IWMF are in progress, with an estimated expenditure of \$11.6 million in 2012-13. We are now undergoing relevant statutory procedures and plan to seek funding from the Legislative Council in the first half of 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 1 March 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB100

Question Serial No.

2025

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the progress of the trial of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices? When will the trial be completed? What is the estimated expenditure on subsidizing the installation of such devices?
- (b) What are the details and time take of jointly launching a trial of electric buses with franchised bus companies?
- (c) What is the progress of the trial of hybrid buses along busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mongkok? When will the trial be completed? What are the details of the plan?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) We have retrofitted three buses (comprising two Euro II and one Euro III buses) with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices for trial in September 2011. We have also just retrofitted another three buses (also comprising two Euro II and one Euro III buses) for trial with SCR devices. We will review the initial results after the first six months of the trial to assess as soon as possible the feasibility of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III buses with SCR devices on a large-scale and their effectiveness in reducing air pollutants. The Government has earmarked \$550 million for funding the installation of SCR devices to Euro II and Euro III buses.
- (b) The Government has earmarked \$180 million for franchised bus companies to purchase 36 electric buses for trial runs on a number of routes to assess their performance in different conditions. We are working with the franchised bus companies on the trial arrangement with an aim to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee towards the middle of this year for starting the trial around the end of 2013. The trial will last for two years to allow a comprehensive assessment of the operational efficiency and performance of the buses. An interim review will be carried out about one year after the start of the trial.
- (c) The Finance Committee has approved an allocation of \$33 million for the trial of six hybrid buses to test out their performance in busy corridors. We are working with the franchised bus companies to start the trial in 2013. The trial will also last for two years, with an interim review of the trial results after the first year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB101

Question Serial No.

2034

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It is pointed out in the Budget that the Government has been encouraging franchised bus companies to deploy environmental-friendly buses to serve the busy corridors and has allocated \$300 million for setting up a Pilot Green Transport Fund to facilitate trial use of green transport technologies in the transport industry. Please advise this Committee:

- (a) In each of the past three years, the expenditure on encouraging franchised bus companies to deploy environmental-friendly buses to serve the busy corridors and the percentages of environmental-friendly buses in the fleet of each local franchised bus company; and
- (b) What is the progress of work in setting up the \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund and the provision so involved? Will the Fund subsidise the public to buy private cars? If not, are there any new measures to help the public purchase environmental-friendly electric vehicles?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) In the past three years, the Administration made use of existing provision to encourage the franchised bus companies to deploy more low emission buses (i.e. those meeting Euro IV or above emission standards) as far as practicable to routes serving the three pilot low emission zones (LEZs) in Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok. The objective is to have only low emission buses in these pilot LEZs by 2015. Below is a breakdown of the percentages of such buses in the fleet of each franchised bus company as at 31 December 2011 –

Franchised Bus Company	Percentage of Euro IV or above Buses in the Bus Fleet
The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited	11%
New World First Bus Services Limited	12%
Citybus Limited	16%
Long Win Bus Company Limited	28%
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited	28%

- (b) The Pilot Green Transport Fund, which aims to encourage public transport sector and goods vehicles owners to test out green and innovative transport technologies, started operation on 30 March 2011. As at the end of January 2012, we received 40 applications for the Fund, of which 24 applications have already been approved. The approved applications cover the trial of 16 electric coaches, ten electric goods vehicles and 24 hybrid goods vehicles. The total amount of subsidy approved stands at about \$61 million. Successful applicants include non-franchised bus operators, courier and logistics trade, goods vehicle operators and non-profit making organisations. The Fund is not for subsidising the purchase of private cars.

To promote a wider use of electric vehicles (EVs) including private cars, the Government has extended the waiver of First Registration Tax for EVs for a period of five years till end March 2014. The Government has also accelerated the tax deduction for capital expenditure on EVs such that enterprises can enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction in the first year of procurement. In addition, we have been liaising closely with the EV dealers to encourage them to introduce their EVs into the Hong Kong market. In terms of infrastructural development, apart from encouraging private carpark operators to install more EV charging facilities, the Government will also install some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks. We expect that there would be some 1 000 standard EV chargers for public use by mid 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB102

Question Serial No.

2036

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, it is mentioned that the Administration will continue to implement the technical support programme and recognition scheme to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the progress of implementation of the above two programmes? How many applications have been received so far? What are the percentages of approved and rejected applications? What is the amount of funding approved?
- (b) Has the Administration evaluated the effectiveness of the programmes? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

(a) As at end January 2012, we received a total of 1 840 funding applications (excluding 259 cases which withdrew their applications) under the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme. Of these, 1 731 (94.1%) were approved, 62 (3.4%) are being processed and the remaining 47 (2.5%) were rejected. The total funding committed thus far is around \$75 million.

As for the Hong Kong-Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners Recognition Scheme, 148 applications were received in 2011. Of these, 139 (94%) enterprises were recognised as "Hong Kong-Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners", covering 113 Hong Kong-owned manufacturing enterprises, 20 environmental technology service providers and six sourcing enterprises. We will continue to organise the Scheme and invite applications in mid 2012.

(b) We conducted a mid-term review in the second quarter of 2010 to evaluate the management, outreaching strategies and resource deployment of the Programme. Feedback was sought from the participating factories on the Programme activities and their awareness level on adopting effective Cleaner Production (CP) technologies. In the light of the findings of the mid-term review, we have accorded higher priority and deployed more resources to, *inter alia*, publicize more widely the results and success stories of the Programme and conduct demonstration projects with a view to encouraging more Hong Kong-owned factories to take part in the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB103

Question Serial No.

1119

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Department will create 12 posts in 2012-13. Please list in detail the titles and responsibilities of each post and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The titles and responsibilities of the 12 civil service posts to be created in 2012-13 are to replace existing non-civil service contract staff. Details are as follows:

	No. of new posts / Rank	Responsibilities	Expenditure (\$ million)
(a)	4 Environmental Protection Officers	To manage the contracts and oversee the operational control (including progressive construction, daily operation, environmental monitoring, restoration, aftercare and interfacing issues with the landfill extensions) of the three landfills and to develop and implement the contracts for the landfills extensions.	2.080
(b)	2 Environmental Protection Officers	To plan and coordinate assistance to property management companies and the local community to implement source separation of waste at housing estates and residential buildings.	1.040
(c)	2 Senior Environmental Protection Inspectors	To supervise and manage field work and technical support to property management companies and the local community in implementing source separation of waste at housing estates and residential buildings.	0.859
(d)	4 Environmental Protection Inspectors	To conduct visits and surveys to monitor the implementation of source separation of waste at housing estates and residential buildings.	1.068
		TOTAL	5.047

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB104

Question Serial No.

1120

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2012-13, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to raise public awareness and enhance community participation on waste reduction, recovery and recycling. What are the details of the work and the expenditure so involved? What is the work target so set?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) plans to spend about \$20.61 million in 2012-13 to continue promotion of the Programme on Source Separation of Waste and encourage community participation in waste reduction, recovery and recycling.

The EPD will continue to encourage the public to reduce waste and separate waste at source for recycling through enhanced publicity and education programmes including recognition schemes, media advertisements and broadcasts, workshops, forums, exhibitions, posting of posters and banners at housing estates and public places together with promotional activities. We will also enhance our collaboration with government departments, district councils, property management companies, local residents groups, schools, green groups and social services organisations to set up more community recycling points throughout the territory so as to form a wider community recycling network for promoting waste reduction and recovery of recyclables. The EPD also conducts regular talks at schools to promote environmental protection, including waste reduction and recycling. With our enhanced publicity and promotional efforts, we hope to achieve our new municipal solid waste recovery target of 55% by 2015.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB105

Question Serial No.

1121

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It was mentioned in the 2011-12 Budget that the Environmental Protection Department would start the tendering work for the first phase of the development of organic waste treatment facilities for the treatment of source-separated food waste from the commercial and industrial sectors and would initiate the preparation of the feasibility study and the environmental assessment impact study of the second phase of development. What are the progress of work and expenditure so involved? With regard to the development of organic waste treatment facilities, what are the work plan and targets in 2012-13?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The prequalification of tenderers for the first phase of the organic waste treatment facilities (OWTF) was completed in April 2011 and tendering for the project was initiated in June 2011. The expenditures for the feasibility study in 2011-12 and 2012-13 are estimated at \$0.6 million and \$1.3 million respectively. Subject to Finance Committee (FC)'s funding approval, we plan to commence the design and construction works in the second quarter of 2012-13. While the provision we have earmarked under the Capital Works Reserve Fund for the OWTF Phase I project in 2012-13 is \$89.6 million, the actual expenditure will be subject to the outcome of the tendering and FC's funding approval.

As for the second phase of OWTF, we commenced the feasibility and environmental assessment studies in December 2011 with a view to commissioning the facilities in 2016-17. The expenditures for the studies in 2011-12 and 2012-13 are estimated at \$0.9 million and \$4.8 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB106

Question Serial No.

1122

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, the Department will explore the feasibility of requiring ocean-going vessels to switch to low sulphur diesel while berthing. What are the details of the action plan and resources so involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

We are exploring with the governments of Guangdong, Shenzhen and Macao the feasibility of requiring ocean-going vessels to switch to low sulphur fuel while berthing in the Pearl River Delta waters. Subject to the outcome of the discussion, we will work out jointly with them an action plan and assess the resource implications.

Meanwhile, we are working on the implementation details for the proposal in the latest Budget Speech to reduce by half the port facilities and light dues on ocean-going vessels using low sulphur fuel while at berth in Hong Kong. If all ocean-going vessels participate in this three-year scheme, the total revenue foregone would be in the region of \$260 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB107

Question Serial No.

1123

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13, it is mentioned that the Department will, in collaboration with the relevant trades, study ways to improve the quality of vessel fuels sold locally to reduce vessel emissions. What are the details of the action plan and resources so involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

We are consulting stakeholders, including local vessel operators and oil companies, about the proposal to tighten the sulphur content of locally supplied marine light diesel from 0.5% to 0.1%. The consultation will complete in the first half of 2012. We will take into account the feedback of the consultation in working out the action plan and assessing the resource implication in due course.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB108

Question Serial No.

1124

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In respect of encouraging the use of more environmentally friendly vehicles, fuels and technologies so as to help reduce air pollution, please inform this Committee of the progress of work and the work plan and targets in 2012-13 as well as the resources and expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

Our work plan and progress to encourage the use of more environment-friendly vehicles, fuels and technologies are as follows –

- (a) We have been offering a tax incentive to buyers of newly registered environment-friendly petrol private cars since April 2007. The Government has approved about 30 100 applications as at January 2012. The number of environment-friendly private petrol cars represents 17% of all newly registered private petrol cars during the period. The total amount of first registration tax (FRT) forgone was about \$1.01 billion.
- (b) We have been offering a tax incentive to buyers of newly registered environment-friendly commercial vehicles since April 2008. The Government has approved about 6 200 applications as at January 2012. In the past six months, the number of newly registered environment-friendly commercial vehicles represented about 46% of the newly registered vehicles. The total amount of FRT forgone was about \$211 million.
- (c) We completed the one-off grant scheme to encourage the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones in 2010. About 17 000 pre-Euro and Euro I diesel vehicles were replaced under the incentive scheme, representing about 30% of all eligible vehicles at the commencement of the scheme in April 2007. The amount of subsidy involved was about \$770 million.
- (d) We started in 2010 a three-year one-off grant scheme to encourage vehicle owners to replace early their Euro II vehicles with new ones. As at end of January 2012, about 2 700 applications were approved, representing about 10% of all eligible vehicles at the commencement of the scheme. The amount of subsidy involved was about \$236 million. In 2012-13, we have earmarked about \$150 million of subsidy under the scheme.
- (e) We will continue to implement the statutory requirement for motor vehicle diesel and unleaded petrol, which has been set at Euro V standards since July 2010.
- (f) The prevailing vehicle emission standards were set a Euro IV level currently. We plan to tighten the statutory vehicle exhaust emission standard for newly registered vehicles to Euro V level in June 2012 subject to the final approval of the Legislative Council.
- (g) We will continue to provide for the business sector to enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction for the capital expenditure on environment-friendly vehicles (including electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, environment-friendly commercial vehicles and environment-friendly petrol private cars) in the

first year of their acquisition.

- (h) We will continue to encourage the public transport sector and goods vehicle owners to apply for the Pilot Green Transport Fund, which has been open for application since 30 March 2011, to test out green innovative transport technologies. As at the end of January 2012, we received 40 applications for the Fund, of which 24 applications have been approved. The total amount of subsidy approved stands at about \$61 million.
- (i) We have obtained the Finance Committee's funding approval of \$33 million to take forward the trial of hybrid buses along busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok. We are working to start the trial in 2013.
- (j) We are making preparation jointly with the franchised bus companies for launching a trial of electric buses to assess their performance in different conditions, for which the Administration has earmarked \$180 million. Our plan is to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee towards the middle of this year for starting the trial around the end of 2013.
- (k) We will continue to conduct the trial of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices to reduce their emissions of nitrogen oxides and, subject to satisfactory trial results, seek funding for retrofitting these buses with such devices. We retrofitted three buses (comprising two Euro II and one Euro III buses) with SCR devices for trial in September 2011. We have just retrofitted another three buses (also comprising two Euro II and one Euro III buses) for trial with SCR devices. We will review the initial results after the first six months of the trial.
- (l) We have completed the stakeholder consultation on a proposal to strengthen the emission control of petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles, including the use of roadside remote sensing equipment and dynamometer for emission testing, and provision of \$150 million one-off grant to replace the catalytic converters and oxygen sensors of LPG taxis and light buses. The plan is to obtain funding approval from Finance Committee to start the replacement shortly and deploy remote sensors to the roadside in 2013 after the replacement is completed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB109

Question Serial No.

1125

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Since the launch of the Pilot Green Transport Fund, would the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the number of applications received;
- (b) the numbers of successful and unsuccessful applications;
- (c) details of the successful applications and the amounts of funding involved;
- (d) the reasons for applications not approved; and
- (e) whether the Administration will consider increasing the amount of funding for the Fund?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

- (a) As at the end of January 2012, we received 40 applications for the Pilot Green Transport Fund.
- (b) Twenty-four applications were approved, two rejected and four withdrawn. The remaining ten applications are under processing.
- (c) The approved applications cover the trial of 16 electric buses, ten electric goods vehicles, 15 hybrid electric light goods vehicles and nine hybrid electric medium goods vehicles. The total amount of subsidy approved stands at about \$61 million. Successful applicants include bus operators, courier and logistics trade, goods vehicle operators and non-profit making organizations.
- (d) The two unsuccessful applications involve the trial of electric motor cycles. They do not fit into the scope of the Fund which is intended to support the testing of green and innovative technologies applicable to the public transport sector, including goods vehicles.
- (e) The Fund still has an uncommitted balance of \$239 million. We have no plan to seek additional funding at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB110

Question Serial No.

2802

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

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The number of days with air pollution index (API) not exceeding 100 for 2011 failed to meet the target and was even lower than that for 2010. Would the Administration advise:

- (a) Why was the number of such days for 2011 was 33 days fewer than for 2010?
- (b) Since the Administration expects the situation in 2012 to improve as compared with 2011, what are the measures to be taken to meet the target and each item of expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) The above statistics are based on composite figures reflecting the number of days in the relevant year during which any one of the 14 roadside and general air quality monitoring stations recorded API not exceeding 100. With our efforts in the past years to reduce air pollution from the power and transport sectors, the concentration of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and respirable suspended particulates (RSP) had dropped by 55% and 20% respectively from 2005 to 2010, as recorded at roadside monitoring stations. The decrease in the number of days with API not exceeding 100 in recent years is due to an increase in roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations. On the other hand, the number of days with API not exceeding 100 recorded at the ambient level remained in general stable, at 343 in 2009, 346 in 2010 and 343 in 2011.
- (b) We have put forward three key measures targeting the main causes of the roadside NO₂ pollution. Firstly, we are conducting a trial of retrofitting Euro II and III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices, which can effectively reduce their nitrogen oxides emissions. Subject to satisfactory trial results, the Government will fully fund the retrofit of Euro II and III franchised buses with SCR devices. Secondly, the franchised bus companies are deploying low emission buses (i.e. those meeting Euro IV or above emission standards) as far as practicable to routes serving the three pilot low emission zones (LEZs) cutting through busy corridors in Central, Causeway Bay and Mongkok. The objective is to have only low emission buses in these pilot LEZs by 2015. Thirdly, we are taking forward a proposal to strengthen the control of emissions from petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles and subsidize owners of LPG taxis and public light buses to replace the catalytic converters once for their vehicles. We have also been promoting the use of electric vehicles with no tailpipe emissions. In parallel, we will continue to work with Guangdong Authorities to cut the emissions in the region so as to reduce the concentrations of ozone in the region, which could curb the formation of NO₂ at the roadside.

Implementation of the above measures will bring about improvement in roadside air quality.

The above measures are part and parcel of the Air Programme and the related expenditure in 2012-13 will be covered by the provision for the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB111

Question Serial No.

2803

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Ordinance, would the Administration advise:

- (a) The resources and manpower so involved;
- (b) Has the Administration assessed the effectiveness of the implementation of the Ordinance in improving air pollution and whether it will help increase the number of days with air pollution index not exceeding 100? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) Traffic Wardens and Environmental Protection Inspectors (EPIs) are empowered to enforce the Ordinance. Currently, there are about 280 Traffic Wardens and 350 EPIs. In addition, the Environmental Protection Department will co-ordinate publicity activities at idling engine black spots.
- (b) The idling prohibition aims to reduce the air pollution, heat and noise nuisances generated by idling engines at roadside. Pedestrians and shop workers, who are exposed to the direct impacts of idling vehicles, would experience discernible improvements. As to the overall air quality, the Administration has been pursuing a string of measures at both the local and regional fronts to improve air quality, which will help improve the general air quality.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB112

Question Serial No.

0647

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On nature conservation, please advise the details, progress, expenditure and manpower involved and the effectiveness of the following work in the past five years:

- (a) overseeing the implementation of the new nature conservation policy, in particular the pilot scheme for public-private partnership and the management agreement projects;
- (b) overseeing the implementation of the measures to better protect country park enclaves, in particular those found suitable for being included as part of country parks;
- (c) overseeing the implementation of the Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607);
- (d) overseeing the operation and management of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China; and
- (e) banning commercial fishing in marine parks.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

(a) Under the New Nature Conservation Policy (NNCP) promulgated in 2004, we have identified 12 priority sites (Priority Sites) of high ecological importance for enhanced conservation. In respect of projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Pilot Scheme, the project proponent of Sha Lo Tung Development withdrew its environmental impact assessment (EIA) report on 16 May 2011. The decision on whether and when to re-submit another EIA report and to pursue the subsequent town planning on land use matters is to be made by the project proponent. As regards the development proposal for Fung Lok Wai, which comprises sites in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site, the EIA report has been approved under the EIA Ordinance. At present, the project proponent is pursuing the town planning and land matters for the development.

Three Management Agreement (MA) projects have been carried out at four Priority Sites, including the Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung Priority Site by the Conservancy Association and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS); Fung Yuen Priority Site by the Tai Po Environmental Association; and the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetlands outside Ramsar Site Priority Sites by the HKBWS. Up to now, the total funding support under the Environment and Conservation Fund amounts to about \$36 million.

At Long Valley, the total number of bird species increased from 221 in 2005 to 275 in 2011, covering over half of the bird species in Hong Kong. The total number of butterfly species at Fung Yuen increased from 162 in 2005 to over 210 in 2011, covering about 90% of the butterfly species in Hong Kong. The fishpond management agreement project approved in November 2011 is also expected to benefit wetland birds using the fishponds at Ramsar Site and Deep Bay wetlands as foraging sites. In addition to the direct benefits to biodiversity, the MA projects also raised the public and local communities' awareness on nature conservation.

- (b) There are currently 77 country park enclaves, of which 23 have already been covered by Outline Zoning Plans (OZPs) under the Town Planning Ordinance (TPO). Consideration is being given to incorporate the 54 remaining enclaves either as part of the Country Parks or OZPs under TPO. Since August 2010, 17 enclaves out of the 54 remaining enclaves have been covered by draft Development Permission Area (DPA) plans gazetted under TPO. We have consulted the Sai Kung District Council on the proposal to include Sai Wan in the Country Parks and will continue to engage the local community.
- (c) The Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Ordinance (Cap. 607) (the Ordinance) gives effect to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (the Protocol) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Convention). It aims to protect the biological diversity of Hong Kong from possible adverse impacts arising from the transboundary movement of genetically modified organism (GMO) intended for release into the local environment. The Ordinance commenced on 1 March 2011. Also, a GMO Expert Group was established on 16 June 2011. With the commencement of the Ordinance, the Convention and the Protocol were formally extended to Hong Kong on 9 May 2011.
- (d) The Global Geoparks Network, supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), announced its acceptance of Hong Kong Geopark as a member of the network on 17 September 2011. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has been responsible for the management and operation of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China. Major tasks include (a) conducting patrols and enforcement operations; (b) arranging cleaning and litter collection services; (c) setting up and maintenance of visitor facilities such as visitor centres and geo-trails; (d) organising education, promotional and publicity activities; (e) promoting participation by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private sector and local community in geo-conservation and tourism activities; and (f) conducting research and studies on geological science. Since its inauguration in 2009, the Hong Kong Geopark has attracted over 1 500 000 visitors annually.
- (e) In the Policy Agenda for 2008-09, for the purpose of marine protection and conservation, the Government proposed to ban commercial fishing in marine parks. In 2009, the Administration consulted the Country and Marine Parks Board and its Marine Parks Committee, the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Environmental Affairs, fishermen groups, and the respective District Councils on the initiative. Subsequently, AFCD has invited fishermen organizations of Sai Kung, Lamma and Northeast New territories to take part in a pilot scheme of collaboration between fishermen associations and other ecotourism professionals to organize marine based eco-tours. It is hoped that the fishermen can gain the experience and skills needed to run the business in a commercially sustainable manner and help them switch to other forms of business apart from traditional fishing. The pilot scheme was rolled out in October 2010 and up to now, about 200 fishermen were trained. The AFCD is exploring opportunities to collaborate with fishermen in other districts with a view to extending the scheme to such areas. In addition, the AFCD is consulting the fishermen representatives on the Government's initiative to ban commercial fishing in marine parks.

In the past five years, the resources incurred by the AFCD for the above tasks were absorbed under Programme (2) (“Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme”) under Head 22 – AFCD. The Environment Protection Department (EPD) oversaw AFCD’s works in the above aspects and relevant resources were absorbed under Programme (6) (“Nature Conservation”) under Head 44 – EPD. The breakdown of financial provisions in individual years for these two programmes are as below:

Programme (2) under Head 22 – AFCD

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Financial Provision (\$ million)	405.1	431.2	458.1	479.9	515.9

Programme (6) under Head 44 – EPD

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Financial Provision (\$ million)	5.9	7.4	9.2	6.4	6.6

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB113

Question Serial No.

0655

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With reference to the construction of large scale waste treatment facilities to achieve bulk reduction of municipal solid waste, please advise on the following:

- (a) The potential sites which have been considered by the Administration, as well as the details, estimated expenditure, manpower required and the waste treatment capacity of the facilities concerned respectively;

Please list the following according to each potential site:

- (b) Has the Administration assessed the opinions of local residents regarding different potential sites and the various impacts on such areas as environment, economy and logistics, which will be caused by the construction of incinerators at different potential sites? If yes, what are the details, expenditure and manpower so involved? What are the results? If no, what are the reasons? Will the Administration conduct such assessment?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) For developing the first modern Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) to achieve bulk reduction of municipal solid waste (MSW) in Hong Kong, we have conducted a detailed site selection study in 2007-08 to examine potential sites against a range of criteria including environmental, ecological, planning, transport, technology/ engineering, economic and social considerations. The study initially covered all suitable government sites throughout the territory and involved several rounds of selection before the Tsang Tsui Ash Lagoons (TTAL) site in Tuen Mun and the artificial island near Shek Kwu Chau (SKC) were identified for further consideration. The TTAL site is located at the existing ash lagoons in Nim Wan, Tuen Mun, overlooking Deep Bay in north-western New Territories. The other site is an artificial island to be formed by reclamation at the southwestern coast of SKC. The result of this site selection study was presented in the paper to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs CB(1)724/07-08(01) and discussed on 25 February 2008. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study was completed in January 2011 and has confirmed that with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the construction and operation of IWMF at either or both of the two sites would meet the requirements under the EIA Ordinance. Taking into account the results of the EIA study, the territory-wide spatial distribution of our waste management facilities, environmental factors and transport efficiency, we have proposed the artificial island next to SKC to be the site for the first IWMF

The IWMF would be developed in phases and the Phase 1 will have a daily capacity of 3 000 tonnes. We estimate that the manpower resource required for implementing the IWMF Phase 1 project would be similar for both potential sites. We are now finalizing the cost estimates of the project and would provide detailed project cost estimate information when we apply for funding from the Legislative Council in the first half of this year.

- (b) In November 2008, we launched a detailed Engineering Investigation (EI) and (EIA) studies for the two potential sites for the first IW MF. The EI study evaluates the technical feasibility for developing IW MF at the two sites, while the detailed EIA addresses the cumulative impact of the project at either or both of the two sites in respect of noise, air, water quality, waste, ecology, landscape and cultural heritage. During and after the EIA process, we have been continuously engaging the public on the development of the IW MF, gathering their opinions and responding to their concerns. We have consulted respective district councils, local communities, professional institutions, environmental groups and groups concerned with environmental issues and taken into account their concerns in pursuing the project. Since the release of the EIA report in February 2011, we have met with over 1 300 people and about 50 groups/ organizations and attended more than 50 meetings to explain the need for the project and our responses to their concerns.

The residents near the two sites have expressed concerns and objections to the siting of IW MF in their own district. Their concerns include site selection, choice of technology, air quality and health, water quality, ecology and fisheries, waste reduction and recovery, cumulative environmental impacts, effects on tourism and transportation. To allay their concerns, we have met with the concerned groups and residents to exchange views, distributed explanatory booklets to the public and uploaded all relevant information on the Environmental Protection Department website.

The expenditure for conducting the EI and EIA studies for the IW MF project in the year 2011-12 was \$3.194 million.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	ANISSA WONG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection
Date	28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB114

Question Serial No.

0656

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On improving the air pollution problem, please advise:

- (a) Since 2005, the details of related measures implemented by the Administration annually, the expenditures and manpower so involved as well as the utilization /participation rates and effectiveness; please give a breakdown by year and measure;
- (b) As regards drawing up air quality objectives, the Administration's work details, expenditures and manpower involved annually as well as the effectiveness since 2005;
- (c) In respect of each of the following measures, please list the commencement dates, estimated completion dates, progress (if any), work details, expenditures and manpower involved and expected effectiveness:
 - (i) continue to co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts to reduce emissions from vehicles;
 - (ii) continue to conduct the trial of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices;
 - (iii) Pilot Green Transport Fund;
 - (iv) the trial of hybrid buses along busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mongkok;
 - (v) launching a trial of electric buses;
 - (vi) in collaboration with the relevant trades, study ways to improve the quality of vessel fuels sold locally to reduce vessel emissions; and
 - (vii) setting up low emission zones.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) Details of air quality improvement measures implemented by the Administration since 2005 are set out in the attached **Table 1**. Together with our joint efforts in reducing the emissions in the Pearl River Delta region, these measures have helped improve the air quality of Hong Kong. As compared with 2005, the ambient concentration levels of sulphur dioxide and respirable suspended particulates reduced by 45% and 18% respectively in 2010. In the same period, roadside concentrations of sulphur dioxide fell by 55%, respirable suspended particulates by 20% and nitrogen oxides by 11%.
- (b) We have been monitoring closely the work of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the development of air quality guidelines for global application since early 2000s. In response to the release of WHO's Air Quality Guidelines (for Global Application) in 2006, we commissioned a consultancy study in June 2007 to review our air quality objectives (AQOs) and develop a long term air quality management strategy. The consultancy study cost \$6.6 million and was completed in July 2009.

During the consultancy study, we set up an Advisory Panel comprising air and health experts, representatives of the trades and government officials to oversee and steer the conduct of the study.

After the completion of the study, we embarked on a four-month public consultation in July 2009 on the proposed new set of AQOs and a host of recommended air quality improvement measures for attaining the proposed new AQOs. The recommendation also included a mechanism to review the AQOs every five years.

We reported to the Panel on Environmental Affairs of this Council and its Subcommittee on Improving Air Quality of the Legislative Council in June and July 2010 respectively on the findings of the consultation and the key considerations in updating the AQOs and the progress made taking forward the proposed air quality measures. In the same year, the Chief Executive put forward in his Policy Address additional air quality improvement measures targeting franchised buses and the transport sector and set aside \$300 million for setting up a Pilot Green Transport Fund for the transport trades to test out green and innovative transport technologies.

In the 2011 Policy Address, further air quality improvement measures were proposed, targeting emissions from franchised buses and petrol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles. It proposed to set aside \$180 million to subsidise franchised bus companies to purchase 36 electric buses for trial and \$150 million to subsidise owners of LPG vehicles to replace the catalytic converters of their vehicles.

In January 2012, we announced the adoption of the proposed new AQOs and a total of 22 air quality improvement measures. Coupled with the continued efforts of Guangdong to improve regional air quality, these improvement measures could help us attain the new AQOs.

Apart from the resources set aside for pursuing specific measures, we have been undertaking the AQOs review and working on specific air quality improvement measures with the existing provision for the Air Programme.

- (c) The requested information for the listed measures is in the attached **Table 2**.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 1 March 2012

Table 1

(A) Motor Vehicle Emission Reduction Measures and their Expenditures (in the period from 2005 to 2011)

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness												
<p>1. Adopt Euro IV standard for unleaded petrol and Euro IV emission standards for newly registered vehicles</p>	<p>Euro IV petrol specification was implemented in January 2005 to pave way for introducing in stages Euro IV emission standards for newly registered vehicles starting from 1 January 2006. Since 1 January 2007, all newly registered vehicles must comply with Euro IV emission standards.</p> <p>(Note: Euro IV became a statutory standard for motor vehicle diesel in 2002)</p>	<p>The resources for implementing this measure were absorbed by existing provisions.</p>	<p>Euro IV petrol and diesel had 67% and 86% less sulphur than Euro III ones. As compared with Euro III motor vehicles, Euro IV vehicles emit about 30% and 80% less nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulates respectively for heavy duty vehicles. As for petrol vehicles, a Euro IV model emits about 45%, 50% and 55% less NOx, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide respectively. In the case of light duty diesel vehicles, the emission reduction is about 50% less for both NOx and particulates.</p>												
<p>2. Incentivise the replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles by new commercial vehicles</p>	<p>This three-year one-off grant scheme commenced on 1 April 2007 to encourage vehicle owners to replace early their pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones. About 17 000 eligible vehicles were replaced under the scheme accounting for about 30% of all the eligible vehicles at the commencement of the scheme.</p>	<p>The approved commitment for this programme was \$3.2 billion. A summary of the expenditure is as follow:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="794 1256 1121 1585"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fiscal Year</th> <th>Expenditure (\$ million)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007-2008</td> <td>172</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008-2009</td> <td>294</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009-2010</td> <td>158</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-2011¹</td> <td>139</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-2012 (up to Jan. 2012)¹</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note 1: Upon the request of the transport trades, we allowed those vehicle owners who had placed order for replacement vehicles before the closing of the incentive scheme on 31 March 2010 but the replacement vehicles could not be delivered before the expiry scheme to retain their eligibility for the grant until 31 March 2011. 1 205 vehicles were approved under this arrangement.</p> <p>The associated manpower</p>	Fiscal Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	2007-2008	172	2008-2009	294	2009-2010	158	2010-2011 ¹	139	2011-2012 (up to Jan. 2012) ¹	9	<p>Pre-Euro diesel vehicles emit about 33 and 1.6 times more respirable suspended particulates (RSP) and NOx than Euro IV ones, respectively</p> <p>Euro I diesel vehicles emit about 17 and 1.3 times more RSP and NOx than Euro IV ones, respectively. .</p> <p>Replacing them can help improve roadside air quality.</p>
Fiscal Year	Expenditure (\$ million)														
2007-2008	172														
2008-2009	294														
2009-2010	158														
2010-2011 ¹	139														
2011-2012 (up to Jan. 2012) ¹	9														

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness
		resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.	
3. Encourage the use of environment-friendly vehicles	<p>Starting from April 2007, the Administration has been offering reduction in the First Registration Tax (FRT) to buyers of newly registered environment-friendly petrol private cars. Since 15 June 2011, the FRT reduction rate has been raised from 30% to 45%, subject to a cap which has also been increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000 per car. As at end of January 2012, 30 100 petrol private cars received the concession. The number of environment-friendly private petrol cars accounted for 17% of all private petrol cars newly registered over the period of the scheme.</p> <p>Starting from April 2008, the Administration has also been offering reduction in the First Registration Tax of environment-friendly commercial vehicles. As at end of January 2012, 6200 commercial vehicles received the concession, which accounted for about 32% of all commercial vehicles newly registered over the period of the scheme. In the past six months, with the increase in Euro V models in the market, the number of newly registered environment-friendly commercial vehicles accounted for about 46% of the newly registered vehicles.</p>	The associated resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.	<p>Compared with petrol private cars meeting the prevailing emission standards, environment-friendly petrol private cars emit about 50% less hydrocarbons and NOx, and travel about 40% more mileage per litre of fuel.</p> <p>Compared with Euro IV vehicles, environment-friendly diesel commercial vehicles emit about 40% less NOx for heavy duty vehicles. As for light duty diesel vehicles, the environment-friendly ones emit about 80% less RSP and 30% less NOx. Should the environment-friendly vehicles be fueled by petrol or liquefied petroleum, they emit about 30% less NOx than Euro IV models.</p>

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness						
4. Euro V diesel	The Administrated introduced on 1 December 2007 a concessionary duty rate for Euro V diesel (being \$0.56 per litre). Since then, all petrol filling stations in Hong Kong have been offering exclusively this cleaner form of diesel.	The associated resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.	Euro V diesel has 80% less sulphur than Euro IV diesel. Powering a diesel vehicle with Euro V diesel instead of Euro IV diesel can help reduce its particulate emissions by 5%.						
5. Incentivise the replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles by new commercial vehicles	We put in place on 1 July 2010 a three-year incentive scheme to encourage vehicle owners to replace early their Euro II vehicles with new ones. As at end of January 2012, about 2 700 vehicles were replaced under the scheme, representing about 10% of all eligible vehicles at the commencement of the scheme.	<p>\$539 million has been earmarked for this programme. A summary of the expenditure is as follow:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="794 728 1121 936"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fiscal Year</th> <th>Expenditure (\$ million)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010-2011</td> <td>98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-2012 (up to Jan. 2012)</td> <td>137</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The associated manpower resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.</p>	Fiscal Year	Expenditure (\$ million)	2010-2011	98	2011-2012 (up to Jan. 2012)	137	Euro II diesel vehicles emit about 6.5 and 2 times more RSP and NOx than Euro IV ones, respectively. Expediting their replacement by new ones can bring early improvement to roadside air quality.
Fiscal Year	Expenditure (\$ million)								
2010-2011	98								
2011-2012 (up to Jan. 2012)	137								
6. Euro V motor vehicle fuel standards	Since 1 July 2010, Euro V motor vehicle diesel and unleaded petrol have become the statutory requirement for motor vehicle fuels in Hong Kong. Their introduction also paves the way for introducing Euro V emission standards for newly registered vehicles so that their emission benefits can be fully realized.	The associated resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.	Euro V motor vehicle fuels have 80% less sulphur than those of Euro IV motor vehicle fuels. Compared with Euro IV vehicles, Euro V heavy duty diesel vehicles emit about 40% less NOx and Euro V light duty diesel vehicles about 80% less RSP and 30% less NOx. As regards Euro V petrol or liquefied petroleum gas vehicles, they emit about 30% less NOx than their Euro IV counterparts.						
7. Retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices	We have retrofitted three buses (comprising two Euro II and one Euro III buses) with SCR devices for trial in September 2011. We have also just retrofitted another three buses (also comprising two Euro II and one Euro III buses) with SCR devices. We will review the initial results after the first six months of the trial. Subject to satisfactory trial results, Government will fully fund the cost of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with SCR devices.	The associated resources for conducting the trial have been absorbed by existing provisions. Some \$550 million has been earmarked for the retrofit programme.	According to overseas experience, SCR devices can effectively reduce NOx emissions by about 60%. Coupled with the diesel particulate filters that had been retrofitted to Euro II and III buses by the franchised bus companies, retrofitting of SCR devices could upgrade the emission performance of these buses to the level of an Euro IV or above bus.						

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness
8. Pilot Green Transport Fund	<p>The Pilot Green Transport Fund was set up on 30 March 2011 for application by the public transport sector and goods vehicle owners to test out green and innovative transport technologies.</p> <p>As at the end of January 2012, we received 40 applications for the Fund, of which 24 applications have been approved. The approved applications cover the trial of 16 electric buses, ten electric goods vehicles, 15 hybrid light goods vehicles and nine hybrid medium goods vehicles. Successful applicants include bus operators, courier and logistics trade, goods vehicle operators and non-profit making organizations.</p>	<p>Government has earmarked \$300 million for the Fund. The total amount of subsidy approved thus far stands at about \$61 million. As the first batch of applications was only approved in October 2011, there was not yet any expenditure on these approved applications as at the end of January 2012 because the successful applicants are still in the process of procuring the products for trial.</p> <p>We have absorbed the associated workload partly by existing resources and partly by creating four additional two-year time-limited posts (including one Senior Environmental Protection Officer, one Environmental Protection Officer, one Environmental Protection Inspector and one Assistant Clerical Officer), starting from 1 April 2011.</p>	<p>The Fund can promote a wider use of green and innovative transport technologies which could help improve roadside air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
9. Trial of hybrid buses along busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mongkok	<p>We are now working with the franchised bus companies to put on trial along busy corridors six hybrid buses, for which the Government will fund the full cost of their procurement. Our plan is to start the trial in 2013.</p>	<p>\$33 million was approved for this programme. We cope with the associated workload partly by deploying existing resources and partly by creating a three-year time-limited Senior Environmental Protection Inspector post.</p>	<p>According to information provided by the bus manufacturer of the three-axle double-deck hybrid bus that could be supplied to Hong Kong, the fuel consumption and the carbon dioxide emissions could be reduced by about 30% as compared to conventional diesel buses. Moreover, emissions of NOx and nitrogen dioxide could be reduced by about 20%, and particulates about 40%.</p>
10. Setting up pilot low emission zones (LEZs)	<p>Upon our request, the franchised bus companies, starting from 2011, are deploying as far as practicable low-emission buses (i.e. those meeting the emission level of a Euro IV or above bus) to routes serving the three pilot LEZs (i.e. the busy corridors in Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok). Our target is to have only low-emission buses in these zones by 2015.</p>	<p>We have been relying on existing provisions to meet the associated workload of this measure.</p>	<p>When there are only low-emission buses plying the pilot LEZs by 2015, we estimate that the roadside concentration of the major air pollutants from vehicular emissions, including RSP and NOx, would be reduced by about 14% and 26% respectively when compared with the 2008 levels.</p>

(B) Power Plant Emission Reduction Measures and their Expenditures (in the period from 2005 to 2011)

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness
11. Control of emissions from power sector	<p>2005 – 2009: Imposition and tightening of the emission caps on the power plants upon their licence renewals to require them to maximize the use of low sulphur coal and those generation units with the lowest emissions.</p> <p>2008: Linking the rate of return with their compliance with emission caps and encouraging power companies to use renewable energy under the Scheme of Control Agreement; stipulating stringent emission caps for power sector from 2010 onwards by the first Technical Memorandum (TM) issued under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance to require the power plants to retrofit emission control devices.</p> <p>2010: promulgation of the Second TM to further tighten the emission caps for power sector from 2015 onwards.</p>	The associated resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.	The sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), NO _x and RSP emissions of the power sector have been decreased from 77 100 tonnes, 46 400 tonnes and 2 320 tonnes in 2005 to 17 800 tonnes, 27 000 tonnes and 1 010 tonnes in 2010, respectively.

(C) Other Emission Reduction Measures and their Expenditures (in the period from 2005 to 2011)

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness
12. Ultra low sulphur diesel (ULSD) for industrial and commercial processes	We have mandated the use of ULSD with sulphur content of not more than 0.005% by weight in industrial and commercial processes since 2008.	The associated resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.	Mandating the use of ULSD in industrial and commercial processes brought immediate environmental benefit and reduced SO ₂ emission by 99%. SO ₂ emission from these sectors has been reduced by 3 200 tonnes.
13. Control of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from non-combustion products	Implementation of the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation by phases starting from April 2007 to reduce emission from paints, printing inks, adhesives and sealants and selected consumer products.	We have deployed existing resources as far as possible to implement the VOC control programme. To cope with the additional workload, one Environmental Protection Officer and one Environmental Protection Inspector were created to implement the surveillance and testing programmes.	The VOCs emission from regulated products has been reduced by 7 500 tonnes.

Table 2

(i) Continue to co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts to reduce emissions from vehicles; (ii) continue to conduct the trial of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices; (iii) Pilot Green Transport Fund; (iv) the trial of hybrid buses along busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mongkok; (v) launching a trial of electric buses; (vi) in collaboration with the relevant trades, study ways to improve the quality of vessel fuels sold locally to reduce vessel emissions; and (vii) setting up low emission zones.

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness
1. Continue to co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts to reduce emissions from vehicles	On-going measures. Please refer to items 1-11 of Table 1 .	The associated resources have been absorbed by existing provisions.	As compared with 2005, the roadside concentrations levels of SO ₂ , RSP and NO _x fell by 55%, 20% and 11% respectively in 2010.
2. Continue to conduct the trial of retrofitting Euro II and Euro III franchised buses with selective catalytic reduction devices	Please refer to item 7 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 7 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 7 of Table 1 .
3. Pilot Green Transport Fund	Please refer to item 8 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 8 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 8 of Table 1 .
4. The trial of hybrid buses along busy corridors at Causeway Bay, Central and Mongkok	Please refer to item 9 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 9 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 9 of Table 1 .
5. Trial of electric buses	We have proposed to fund the full cost of procuring 36 electric buses by the franchised bus companies for trial runs to assess their performance in different conditions. We are working with the franchised bus companies on the trial arrangement with an aim to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee towards the middle of this year.	The Administration has earmarked \$180 million for this measure. We cope with the associated workload partly by deploying existing resources and partly by creating two additional time-limited posts (including one Environmental Protection Officer and one Senior Environmental Protection Inspector) for Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to monitor the trial.	Electric buses do not have exhaust emissions. Replacing conventional franchised buses, whose emissions account for a substantial proportion of vehicular emissions in busy corridors, with electric buses can improve substantially the roadside air quality there.
6. Improve the quality of vessel fuels sold locally to reduce vessel emissions	The proposal was put forward in the 2011 Policy Address. We are now consulting stakeholders about the proposal to impose a 0.1% sulphur cap on locally supplied marine light diesel and will ascertain the technical feasibility subject to the views collected. The implementation plan of the control measures will be worked out after the consultation.	We have so far absorbed the work by existing provisions. Should additional resources be required to take forward the proposal, we will bid for them via the existing mechanism.	Local vessels will reduce their SO ₂ and RSP emissions by 80% and 30% respectively upon switching to 0.1% sulphur diesel.

Measures	Details	Expenditure and Manpower Involved	Effectiveness
7. Setting up low emission zones	Please refer to item 10 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 10 of Table 1 .	Please refer to item 10 of Table 1 .

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB115

Question Serial No.

0006

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700
General non-recurrent (Item 868
Programme for Promoting
Cleaner Production in the Pearl
River Delta Region)

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental
Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under 700 of the "Operating Account", the commitment of Item 868 "Programme for Promoting Cleaner Production in the Pearl River Delta Region" is \$93,060,000 whereas the expenditure for 2011-12 has been revised as \$17,982,000 with the balance being \$16,842,000. How will the Administration use the balance in 2012-13 to implement the technical support programme and recognition scheme to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region; and will the provision be duly increased?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply :

The five-year "Cleaner Production Partnership Programme" has been making satisfactory progress. As at end January 2012, a total of 1 731 applications were approved under the Programme, which include 891 on-site assessment, 115 demonstration and 725 verification projects. The total funding committed under the Programme thus far is around \$75 million. The Government will continue to mount extensive awareness promotion and publicity activities to broaden our reach to Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta region in the coming year, with a view to encouraging and facilitating them to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices. We expect that the Programme will fund a total of some 1 100 on-site assessment, 130 demonstration and 750 verification projects. In addition, we will continue to hold the "Hong Kong-Guangdong Cleaner Production Partners Recognition Scheme" jointly with the Economic and Information Commission of Guangdong Province in mid-2012 so as to provide recognition to eligible factories and enterprises. The Government has earmarked adequate resources under the 2012-13 Estimates for taking forward the above activities, and no additional provision would be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB116

Question Serial No.

0007

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

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under Programme (1), the provision for 2012-13 is \$1,695,600,000, which is 16% higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12. How will the Administration use the provision to:

- (a) take forward the projects on the development of an integrated waste management facility to achieve bulk reduction of municipal solid waste and the development of organic waste treatment facilities for the treatment of source-separated food waste from the commercial and industrial sectors; and
- (b) pursue the extension of the three strategic landfills, namely the West New Territories Landfill, South East New Territories Landfill and North East New Territories Landfill?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply :

The provision of \$1,695.6 million under Programme (1) Waste covers mainly the recurrent expenditure for the operation of various waste facilities, including that required for the operation of the three existing strategic landfills. It does not cover the capital expenditure for development of new waste facilities, including the integrated waste management facility (IWTF), the organic waste treatment facilities (OWTF) and the extension of the three strategic landfills, which are funded under Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRF). A provision of \$114.9million in 2012-13 has been included under CWRF for the projects concerned. Details are as follows -

- (a) The preparatory works for developing the first phase of IWTF are in progress, with an estimated expenditure of \$11.6 million in 2012-13. As for the OWTF, the feasibility study for the first phase development is expected to complete by the third quarter of 2012, with an estimated expenditure of \$1.3 million in 2012-13. While the provision we have earmarked under the CWRF for the OWTF Phase 1 project in 2012-13 is \$89.6 million, the actual expenditure will be subject to the outcome of the tendering and the FC's funding approval. We are also conducting the feasibility study for the second phase development of OWTF and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$4.8 million.
- (b) For the extension of West New Territories (WENT) landfill, the feasibility study is expected to complete by December 2012, with an estimated expenditure of \$2 million in 2012-13. Subject to FC's funding approval, we plan to commence the consultancy and investigation works (at an estimated cost of about \$33.4 million) in the third quarter of 2012-13 and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$1.1 million. For the extension of Northeast New Territories (NENT) landfill and Southeast New Territories (SENT) landfill, the preparatory works are in progress and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 is \$2 million and \$2.5 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB117

Question Serial No.

0267

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Since the Government will take forward new air quality objectives (AQOs), what specific standards for environmental practices will be adopted in the planning and design of new development projects? How will the existing projects be affected? What is the additional expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The Administration announced on 17 January 2012 to adopt a set of new Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) together with a package of air quality improvement measures which would be implemented subject to resource availability. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has started the preparatory work with a view to having the new AQOs take effect in 2014.

After taking effect, the new AQOs will become statutory criteria for evaluating the air quality impact of designated projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance (Cap. 499). For Government projects for which EIA studies have not yet commenced, even before the new AQOs take effect, the Administration will endeavour to adopt the proposed new AQOs as the benchmark for conducting the EIA studies. For on-going projects already granted with an Environmental Permit (EP) under the EIA Ordinance before the new AQOs take effect, the application of the new AQOs may cause substantial changes to the original design of the projects and have major cost and programming implications. Having considered carefully the need to preserve the integrity of the EIA system as an ongoing mechanism, as well as the regulatory certainty for proponents of projects that have already completed the EIA process and with the EP granted, the Administration proposes to provide for a time-limited transitional period of 36 months from the commencement date of the new AQOs, within which the new AQOs will not apply to an application for variation of an EP.

EPD will provide technical advice and support to facilitate the assessment work while ensuring the department's statutory role under the law is upheld. EPD will endeavour to absorb the additional workload with existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB118

Question Serial No.

1872

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It has not been mentioned in this year's Budget about the provision used for improving the water quality of the harbour. In the past, the Administration said that it would allocate more resources to expedite improvement in the water quality of New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter in Kowloon West, including dredging away the sediment in the navigational channel and culvert outlets. What is the provision earmarked for the above purpose in this year's Budget? What will be the extent of increase in provision in the next 3 years?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply :

To improve the water quality in West Kowloon and the New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter (NYMTTS) area, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) has increased the frequency of desilting works at the Cherry Street box culvert outlet to three times per year at an estimated annual cost of \$360,000 for the next three years (2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15). In 2011-12, DSD's annual expenditure for routine operation and maintenance works relating to storm water drains in the catchment area was \$ 3.6 million and \$12,000 for the operation and maintenance of six dry weather flow interceptors (DWFI). Similar expenditure is projected for the next three years.

With regard to a proposed DWFI at the Cherry Street box culvert outlet, the Government already completed the feasibility study and plans to invite Expression of Interest for the Investigation, Design and Construction (IDC) consultancy study (the Study) in February 2012, with a view to commissioning the Study in August 2012. We aim to take forward the project expeditiously subject to the funding approval.

The Marine Department (MD) has also increased the frequency of conducting sounding survey at the north-eastern end of the NYMTTS. Based on the survey data, MD will determine whether safety of maritime navigation is affected and initiate related maintenance dredging. The next survey will be conducted in July 2012, and the cost will be covered by MD's annual operating expenditure.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to take joint enforcement action with other concerned government departments to rectify misconnections from buildings and illegal discharges identified in the catchment area. As the action forms part of EPD's routine integrated enforcement practices that cover a wide range of enforcement activities against different aspects of environmental pollution, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of EPD's expense specifically on tackling misconnections or illegal discharges.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB119

Question Serial No.

2347

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On raising public awareness and enhancing community participation on waste reduction, recovery and recycling, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the details of and the numbers of participants in the promotional activities on waste reduction, recovery and recycling in 2011-12?
- (b) Does the Administration have any plan for organizing promotional activities on waste reduction, recovery and recycling in 2012-13? If yes, what are the expected benefits?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

(a) Over 80% of Hong Kong's population have joined the Source Separation of Waste Programme launched by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in 2005 and have easy access to waste recycling bins located close to where they live and work. In 2011-12, the EPD has continued to encourage the public to reduce waste and separate waste at source for recycling through enhanced publicity and education programmes including recognition schemes, workshops, forums, exhibitions, media advertisements and broadcasts, posting of posters and banners at housing estates and public places together with promotional activities. We have also enhanced our collaboration with government departments, district councils, property management companies, local resident groups, schools, green groups and social services organisations to set up more community recycling points throughout the territory so as to form a wider community recycling network for promoting waste reduction and recovery of recyclables. The EPD also conducts regular talks at schools to promote environmental protection, including waste reduction and recycling. It is estimated the waste reduction and recycling messages have been conveyed directly to some 600 000 people so far through the promotion efforts.

To further promote waste reduction and recycling education and awareness in schools, the EPD, the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC), the Education Bureau and Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre have taken joint effort to encourage students to participate in waste reduction and recycling with their families and to collect unavoidable plastic bottles back to the schools for recycling. Over 100 schools are participating in this programme in the 2011-12 school year. Apart from setting up waste recycling centres in schools, an education kit would be distributed to teachers and a drama on waste reduction and recycling has been produced for viewing by students. The EPD has also been supporting schools, with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF), to install facilities to implement on-site meal portioning in order to reduce food waste and the use of non-reusable lunch boxes.

In addition, the ECC runs the Hong Kong Green School Award (HKGSA) and the Student Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme (SEPAS) annually to organise education programmes for teachers and students. Waste management has been adopted as the theme in the

2011-12 school year and the 3R, i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle, has been emphasised in these activities. In the 2011-12 school year, 229 schools have participated in the HKGSA and over 15 000 students have joined SEPAS. In 2012-13, the ECC will continue to organise different activities for all schools under the HKGSA and SEPAS with the element of waste management included.

The ECF provides funding for setting up waste separation facilities at housing estates, with over 1 million households covered in over 1 200 housing estates/buildings. Moreover, the ECF provides funding support to non-profit making bodies such as non-government organisations, schools and resident organisations to undertake projects to promote waste recovery in the community. In 2011-12, the ECF provided funding to over 50 projects related to waste reduction and recycling. These projects involve about 50 housing estates, 680 buildings, 20 schools, 20 community groups and 210 shops/companies in various activities including source separation of waste, collection of waste plastics and glass bottles, setting up facilities for on-site meal portioning at schools, and food waste recovery at housing estates and local communities.

- (b) In 2012-13, the EPD will continue with the above publicity and promotion programmes. With our enhanced promotion in raising public awareness and with more active community participation, we hope to achieve our new municipal solid waste recovery target of 55% by 2015.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB120

Question Serial No.

2348

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Since the introduction of the scheme to replace Euro II diesel commercial vehicles, what are the numbers of applications received and approved respectively? Please list the figures by vehicle class, vehicle's first registration year and funding commitment. In addition, more than half of the funding commitment has yet to be incurred so far. What are the reasons and measures to encourage more participation from the trades?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The numbers of applications received and approved (as at end of January 2012) since the introduction of the scheme to replace Euro II diesel commercial vehicles in July 2010 are tabulated below:

Vehicle type	Permitted Gross Vehicle Weight (W) (Tonnes)	Numbers of applications approved	Grant involved in the approved applications (\$'000)
Good Vehicles	1.90 < W <=5.50	1 056	44,561
	5.50 < W <=10.00	47	2,773
	10.00 < W <=13.00	34	2,380
	13.00 < W <=16.00	478	42,064
	16.00 < W <=24.00	445	53,845
	W >24.00	74	10,286
Non-franchised buses		525	78,134
Light buses		24	2,024
Total		2 683	236,067

Further breakdown of the above by vehicle's first registration year is not available.

According to the experience of the incentive scheme for the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles, vehicle owners tend to participate in the scheme towards the end of the scheme. We expect the number of applications to increase in the remaining period of the scheme. To encourage more eligible vehicle owners to participate in the incentive scheme, we have recently issued a reminder letter to the transport trades, on top of the ongoing publicity through the electronic media.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB121

Question Serial No.

2349

Head : 44 Environmental
 Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In respect of the noise complaints handled:

- (a) the numbers of complaints on traffic noise, construction noise and other types of noises received by the Administration in each of the past three years;
- (b) the projects to improve the noise problem commenced or completed annually over the past three years; and
- (c) the projects to improve the noise problem to be commenced in 2012-13.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The numbers of complaints are shown in the table below.

Numbers of complaints on traffic noise, construction noise and other types of noises

Year	Road Traffic Noise	Construction Noise	Noise Pollution other than Road Traffic Noise and Construction Noise
2009	274	1 300	5 602
2010	215	1 480	5 132
2011	223	1 370	4 848

- (b) To tackle noise impact of existing roads on neighbouring residents, we have completed or commenced 14 noise barrier retrofitting works in the past three years. Details are given in the table below.

Retrofitting works commenced or completed in 2009 to 2011

Ref.	Road Section	Remarks
1	Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan)	Commenced in 2009
2	Tuen Mun Road (Anglers' Beach)	
3	Tuen Mun Road (Sham Tseng)	
4	Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to MTR Fanling Station)	
5	Cheung Pei Shan Road	Completed in 2009
6	Tseung Kwan O Road (near Hing Tin Estate)	
7	Tseung Kwan O Road (near Tsui Ping (South) Estate)	

Ref.	Road Section	Remarks
8	Tuen Mun Road (Yau Kom Tau)	Commenced in 2010
9	Tuen Mun Road (Tsing Lung Tau)	
10	Tuen Mun Road (Castle Peak Bay)	
11	Fanling Highway (MTR Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road)	
12	Yuen Shin Road (near Kwong Fuk Estate)	Completed in 2010
13	Tsing Tsuen Bridge (Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi)	
14	Kwun Tong Bypass	

From 2009 to 2011, low noise surfacing material has been applied to a total of 15 road sections. Details are given in the table below.

Resurfacing works completed in 2009 to 2011

Ref.	Road Section	Remarks
1	Portland Street (From Waterloo Road to Argyle Street)	Completed in 2009
2	Ma Sik Road (From Jockey Club Road to Tin Ping Road)	
3	Jockey Club Road (From Lung Sum Avenue to San Fung	
4	Tai Chung Kiu Road (From Sha Kok Street to Sha Tin Wai	
5	Wang Tat Road (From Wang Lok Street to Chun Hing San	
6	Wong Nai Chung Road (From Sing Woo Road to Broadwood	
7	Wong Nai Chung Road (From Sports Road to Broadwood Road)	
8	Java Road (From Tong Shui Road to Tin Chiu Street)	Completed in 2010
9	Texaco Road North (From Tsuen Kam Interchange to Kwok Shui	
10	Kornhill Road (From King's Road (East Junction) to King's Road	
11	Fung Tak Road (From Lung Poon Street to Sheung Yuen Street)	
12	Lai Chi Kok Road (West Bound Only) (From Tai Nam West	Completed in 2011
13	Chuk Yuen Road (From Ma Chai Hang Playground to Nga Chuk	
14	Yeung Uk Road (From Tai Ho Road to Chung On Street)	
15	Ngan O Road (From Pui Shing Road to Chiu Shun Road)	

- (c) In 2012-13, we plan to commence noise barrier retrofitting works on Tai Po Tai Wo Road (near Po Nga Court) as well as subject to progress, resurface 9 road sections with low noise surfacing material. The 9 road sections are listed in the table below.

Resurfacing works to be commenced in 2012/13

Ref.	Road Section
1	Aberdeen Main Road (From Aberdeen Praya Road to Aberdeen Reservoir Road)
2	Lockhart Road (From Arsenal Street to Percival Street)
3	Long Yuet Road (San Ma Tau Street to Kwei Chow Street)
4	Sung On Street (From Bailey Street to Chi Kiang Street)
5	Tung Tau Tsuen Road (From Shatin Pass Road to Tai Shing Street)
6	Junction Road (From Boundary Street to Dumbarton Road)
7	Siu Lek Yuen Road (From Chap Wai Kon Road to Tai Chung Kiu Road)
8	Pak Wo Road (From Choi Yuen Road to Po Wing Road)
9	Tin Sam Street (From Che Kung Miu Road to Hung Mui Kuk Road)

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 24 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB122

Question Serial No.

2350

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In accordance with the Noise Control (Motor Vehicles) Regulation, all vehicles registered after 1 June 2002 are subject to the control of the Regulation. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the status of implementation of the Regulation? What are the complaints received and how are such complaints handled?
- (b) What measures are taken by the Administration to alleviate noise nuisance caused by the exhaust system of vehicles in the light of noise level of the exhaust system of some vehicles?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The Noise Control (Motor Vehicles) Regulation (Cap. 400I) is implemented through the vehicle registration system. New motor vehicle must meet the prescribed noise emission standards stipulated under the Regulation before they can be first registered in Hong Kong with the Transport Department. Since Transport Department would not register new vehicles not meeting the standards for use in Hong Kong, there are no prosecution cases and associated penalties under this Regulation. There is no complaint received also.
- (b) For controlling noise from the exhaust system of vehicles, the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap. 374A) require all vehicles, among other things, to be fitted with a silencer, maintained in good and working order. Non-compliance is liable to a fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for six months. The Police are responsible for enforcing this requirement. In 2011, there were seven prosecution cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

21 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB123

Question Serial No.

2730

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As mentioned in paragraph 192 of the 2012-13 Budget Speech, between 2008 and the end of 2011, the Environment and Conservation Fund approved more than 2 000 projects involving subsidies of over \$1 billion. In this connection, will the Administration provide details of the vetting criteria and principles in assessing the applications for the Fund? Please provide details of the approval percentage of the projects applied for the Fund, and the reasons for rejection of the projects' application for the Fund? Will the Administration inform this Committee whether it has reviewed the effectiveness of the Fund in "encouraging peoples' participation in the promotion of a greener lifestyle at different levels". If yes, please provide the details; if not, please specify the timetable for the review.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) provides funding to non-profit making organisations to undertake projects related to environmental protection and nature conservation. The criteria adopted in assessing the merits of individual applications include:

- (1) Projects must contribute to the overall environment of Hong Kong, to raise environmental awareness of the local community, or to mobilise the community to take action to improve the environment.
- (2) The benefits must accrue to the local community as a whole, and not just to individuals, a single private organisation or a consortium of private companies.
- (3) Projects must be non-profit making in nature.
- (4) In considering a project proposal, due consideration will be given to:-
 - (a) the benefits that it will bring to Hong Kong's environment or the extent to which it will enhance the environmental awareness of local community;
 - (b) whether there is a demonstrable need for the proposed project;
 - (c) the technical and project management capability of the applicant, as well as the past performance of the applicant, including the effectiveness of past projects, and the applicant's ability to comply with the funding conditions;
 - (d) whether the proposed project's schedule of implementation is well-planned and practicable, and the duration is reasonable;
 - (e) whether the proposed budget is prudent, realistic and cost-effective, with full justification for every expenditure item;
 - (f) whether the proposed project should more appropriately be funded by other sources;

- (g) whether there is or likely to be a duplication of the work already or currently carried out by other groups; and
- (h) if recurrent expenditure is incurred, whether the proposed project has potential to become self-sufficient after a certain period of time.

The ECF Committee and Vetting Subcommittees would assess each project with respect to the criteria mentioned above. Reasons for rejection, depending on the project category, could include impractical implementation plan; ineffective education proposal; duplication with similar existing programmes; limited value of project outcome etc. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, the approval percentage was about 70%.

The survey commissioned by the Environmental Protection Department has revealed that over 85% of respondents who were participants in ECF projects agreed that both their environmental knowledge and environmental awareness have been enhanced after participating in ECF projects, and around 80% expressed that they would adopt a greener lifestyle such as waste reduction, separation and recovery of waste, energy saving, water conservation, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 23 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB124

Question Serial No.

0359

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Brief Description under Programme (1) mentions the extension of three strategic landfills, namely the West New Territories Landfill, South East New Territories Landfill and North East New Territories Landfill. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How much money has the Administration spent on conducting assessments and studies of the above plans? What are the details?
- (b) Apart from the extension on the peripheries of the three landfills, does the Administration have any other plans, such as source-separation of waste, to reduce the speed of landfills being filled up?
- (c) How many hectares of land will be obtained by the extension plans of the three landfills?
- (d) Does the Administration have any plans to spend how much money on constructing large-scale waste treatment facilities in the coming year? If yes, what is the percentage of this sum of money in the total expenditure on handling municipal solid waste?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The Administration has spent \$36.5 million (up to February 2012) on conducting consultancy studies, assessments and associated investigations for the three landfill extension projects, with breakdown as follows:

Extension project	Approved project estimate (\$ million)	Consultancy study commencement date	Money spent in consultancy study and associated investigations (\$ million)
West New Territories Landfill Extension – Feasibility Study	14.9	7 March 2007	11.7
South East New Territories Landfill Extension – Feasibility Study	12.2	8 August 2005	11.3
North East New Territories Landfill Extension – Feasibility Study	12.0	17 February 2005	9.8
North East New Territories Landfill Extension – Design & Construction	10.0	21 December 2010	3.7
Total			36.5

- (b) In January 2011, the Administration announced an action agenda under the theme of "Reduce, Recycle and Proper Waste Management". It sets out a series of initiatives relating to waste reduction at source, introduction of advanced waste treatment facilities as well as timely extension of the landfills to tackle our waste problem in a multi-pronged approach.

Promotion of waste reduction, reuse and recycling is a key component of the waste management strategy. The territory-wide Source Separation of Waste Programme launched in January 2005 aims at providing suitable facilities for waste recovery as close as possible to the source of waste generation, and at the same time broadening the types of recyclables to be recovered. The Source Separation of Waste Programme now covers over 80% of the population in Hong Kong. We will continue to enhance our collaboration with government departments, district councils, property management companies, local community, green groups, social services organizations and schools to form a wider Community Recycling Network at the district level for promoting waste reduction and recovery of recyclables.

The Sludge Treatment Facility is being developed at Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun. Upon its commissioning in 2013-14, sewage sludge from sewage treatment plants will be diverted to this facility and therefore saving landfill space for other types of waste.

- (c) A total of about 270 hectares will be required for the development of the three landfill extension plans, with breakdown as follows:

	Area required for landfill extension site
SENT Landfill Extension	about 13 hectares
NENT Landfill Extension	about 70 hectares
WENT Landfill Extension	about 200 hectares
Total	about 283 hectares

- (d) In 2012-13, we plan to spend \$1,601.7 million for design and construction of the Sludge Treatment Facility respectively. Subject to Finance Committee (FC)'s funding approval, we plan to commence the design and construction works of the first phase of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTF) in 2012-13. While the provision we have earmarked under the Capital Works Reserve Fund (CWRF) for the OWTF phase 1 project in 2012-13 is \$89.6 million, the actual expenditure will be subject to the outcome of the tendering and the FC's funding approval. In addition, we plan to spend \$1.3 million, \$4.8 million and \$11.6 million on consultancy studies for the development of the first and second phase of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities, and the first phase of Integrated Waste Management Facilities respectively. The above expenditure is capital in nature and therefore will be funded under the CWRF.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment
/ Director of Environmental Protection

Date 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ENB125

Question Serial No.

0465

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff	()	()	()
Distribution of posts taken up by NCSC staff			
Salary expenditure for NCSC staff	()	()	()
Monthly salaries of NCSC staff			
- \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
- \$16,001 to \$30,000	()	()	()
- \$8,001 to \$16,000	()	()	()
- \$6,501 to \$8,000	()	()	()
- \$5,001 to \$6,500	()	()	()
- \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
- Number of staff with monthly salaries below \$5,824	()	()	()
- Number of staff with monthly salaries between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of employment of NCSC staff in years			
- 5 years or above	()	()	()
- 3 to 5 years	()	()	()
- 1 to 3 years	()	()	()
- less than 1 year	()	()	()
Number of staff converted to civil servants	()	()	()
Number of staff failed to be converted to civil servants	()	()	()
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	()	()	()
Percentage of payment for NCSC staff in the total staff costs of the Department	()	()	()
Number of staff with paid meal time	()	()	()
Number of staff without paid meal time	()	()	()
Number of staff working 5 days a week	()	()	()
Number of staff working 6 days a week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The figures on the employment of NCSC staff from 2010-11 to 2011-12 are as follows-

	2011-12	2010-11
Number of NCSC staff*	125 (-6.0%)	133 (+0.8%)
Distribution of posts taken up by NCSC staff		
• Comparable to ranks below Environmental Protection Inspector (EPI) or equivalent	28	33
• Comparable to EPI or equivalent	21	26
• Comparable to Assistant Environmental Protection Officer (AEPO) or equivalent	41	42
• Comparable to Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) or equivalent	35	32
Salary expenditure for NCSC staff #	\$33.7M (-1.7%)	\$34.3M (-1.7%)
Monthly salaries of NCSC staff		
- \$30,001 or above	35 (+105.9%)	17 (-15.0%)
- \$16,001 to \$30,000	41 (-28.1%)	57 (+3.6%)
- \$8,001 to \$16,000	49 (-16.9%)	59 (+3.5%)
Length of employment of NCSC staff in years		
- 5 years or above	14 (+75.0%)	8 (+14.3%)
- 3 to 5 years	26 (+52.9%)	17 (-10.5%)
- 1 to 3 years	37 (-22.9%)	48 (+11.6%)
- less than 1 year	48 (-20.0%)	60 (-4.8%)
Number of staff converted to civil servants^	2	7
Number of staff failed to be converted to civil servants^^	36	14
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department	6.9%	7.4%
Percentage of payment for NCSC staff in the total staff costs of the Department	3.7%	4.0%
Number of staff with paid meal time	124	132
Number of staff without paid meal time	1	1
Number of staff working 5 days a week	125	133
Number of staff working 6 days a week	0	0

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

* As at 31 December of the relevant year.

As the actual expenditure in 2011-12 has yet to be concluded, the figure in 2011-12 is derived based on the revised estimate for the year.

^ The figures here refer to NCSC staff in Environmental Protection Department (EPD) who were appointed as EPI/AEPO/EPO through open recruitment exercises of the relevant year.

^^ The figures here refer to NCSC staff in EPD who failed to be appointed as EPI/AEPO/EPO through open recruitment exercise in the year concerned.

Note

The figures for 2012-13 cannot be provided because it is difficult to project the number of NCSC staff to be employed in the next financial year as the employment of NCSC staff will vary from time to time having regard to the service needs and operational requirements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 21 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB126

Question Serial No.

0490

Head : 44 Environmental
 Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On engaging agency workers, please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of contracts of engaging employment agencies	()	()	()
Contract sum paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency	()	()	()
Length of contract for each employment agency	()	()	()
Number of agency workers	()	()	()
Breakdown of positions held by agency workers			
Monthly salary range of agency workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 to \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 to \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 to \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 to \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of agency workers			
• 5 years or longer	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of agency workers among the total number of staff in the Department	()	()	()
Percentage of amount paid to employment agencies among the total departmental staff cost	()	()	()
Number of workers with remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without remunerated meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers on 5-day week	()	()	()
Number of workers on 6-day week	()	()	()

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	Type of Contract	2012-13 estimates	2011-12 (as at 30.9.2011)	2010-11 (as at 31.3.2011)	2009-10 (as at 31.3.2010)
(a) Number of contracts engaging employment agencies	Others	Do not expect major changes in number of contracts in 2012-13	6 (-14%)	7 (+40%)	5
	T-contract (Note 1)		1	1	1
(b) Contract sum paid to each employment agency (\$M)	Others	Do not expect major changes in contract sum in 2012-13	0.10 to 1.26	0.10 to 1.26 (+10%)	0.10 to 1.14
	T-contract		17.97 (+10%)	16.27 (+13%)	14.39
(c) Total amount of commission paid to each employment agency (\$M)		The contracts contain the total service fee payable to the employment agencies and do not normally provide a breakdown of total service fee into commission and wages of agency workers. The information is therefore not available.			
(d) Length of contract for each employment agency	Others	Do not expect major changes in length of contract in 2012-13	9 months to 12 months	9 months to 12 months	11 months to 12 months
	T-contract		12 months	12 months	12 months
(e) Number of agency workers	Others	Do not expect major changes in length of contract in 2012-13	27 (As of 30.9.2011)	25	25
	T-contract		52 (-2%)	53 (+33%)	40
(f) Monthly salary range of agency workers	Others	Do not expect major changes in number under different salary range in 2012-13			
	\$30,001 or above				
	\$16,001 - \$30,000		1	1	1
	\$8,001 - \$16,000		21 (+10%)	19	19
	\$6,501 - \$8,000		5	5	5
	T-contract (Note 2)				
	\$30,001 or above		37 (-5%)	39 (15%)	34
	\$16,001- \$30,000		15 (+7%)	14 (+133%)	6

(g) Length of services of agency workers		The employment agencies may assign different agency workers during the contract period such that the service as pledged can be maintained. Hence, information on length of services of agency workers is not available.			
(h) Percentage of agency workers in the total number of staff in the department	Others	Do not expect major changes in the percentage in 2012-13	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%
	T-contract		2.9%	3.0%	2.2%
(i) Percentage of amount paid to the employment agencies in the total departmental staff cost	Others	Do not expect major changes in the percentage in 2012-13	0.38% (full year effect)	0.37%	0.36%
	T-contract		1.9%	1.9%	1.7%
(j) Number of workers with paid meal break/without paid meal break		The information is not available as whether meal breaks are included as paid time is a matter for agreement between the employment agencies and the agency workers when the employment contract is signed.			
(k) Number of workers on five-day week/ six-day week	Others	Do not expect major changes in 2012-13	five-day week 27	five-day week 25	five-day week 25
	T-contract		five-day week 52	five-day week 53	five-day week 40

Note 1 T-contract refers to term contract centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Note 2 The salary range quoted for T-contract includes both salaries and commissions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment
/ Director of Environmental Protection

Date 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB127

Question Serial No.

2936

Head : 44 Environmental
 Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On engaging "outsourced workers", please provide the following information:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Number of outsourced service contracts	()	()	()
Total amount paid to outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Length of contract for each outsourced service provider	()	()	()
Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	()	()	()
Details of the positions held by outsourced workers (e.g. customer service, property management, security, cleansing and information technology)	()	()	()
Monthly salary range of outsourced workers			
• \$30,001 or above	()	()	()
• \$16,001 - \$30,000	()	()	()
• \$8,001 - \$16,000	()	()	()
• \$6,501 - \$8,000	()	()	()
• \$5,001 - \$6,500	()	()	()
• \$5,000 or below	()	()	()
• number of workers with monthly salary below \$5,824	()	()	()
• number of workers with monthly salary between \$5,824 and \$6,500	()	()	()
Length of service of outsourced workers			
• 5 years or longer	()	()	()
• 3 - 5 years	()	()	()
• 1 - 3 years	()	()	()
• less than 1 year	()	()	()
Percentage of outsourced workers in the total number of staff in the Department	()	()	()
Percentage of amount paid to outsourced service providers in the total departmental staff cost	()	()	()
Number of workers with paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers without paid meal break	()	()	()
Number of workers working 5 days a week	()	()	()
Number of workers working 6 days a week	()	()	()

Figures in () denote year-on-year changes

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10
(a) Number of outsourced service contracts	The information requested is not available at this moment as the number of service contracts and workers vary over time depending on the need.	13* (-7%)	14 (+16%)	12
(b) Total amount paid to outsourced service providers (\$M)		7.8* (+10%)	7.1 (+16%)	6.1
(c) Length of contract for each outsourced service provider		3 months to 24 months	6 to 24 months	12 to 24 months
(d) Number of workers engaged through outsourced service providers	For most of the outsourced service contracts, Environmental Protection Department (EPD) only specifies the types and level of services to be delivered by the service providers, rather than the number of staff to be employed for the services. The outsourced contracts mainly provide services including cleansing and security, information technology, sampling and laboratory testing. Information about the number of outsourced workers engaged and their positions is not available.			
(e) Details of positions held by outsourced workers				
(f) Monthly salary range of outsourced workers				
(g) Length of service of outsourced workers	The contracts of EPD entered into with the service providers specify the service level and fee to be charged by the latter in providing the services. EPD normally does not specify the number and salaries of the outsourced workers. As long as the procuring requirements (in terms of types and level of services) are satisfied, the service providers may arrange any of their employees to provide the service during the contract period. Information about the monthly salary and length of service of the outsourced works is not available.			
(h) Outsourced workers as a percentage of the total number of staff in the department				
(i) Amount paid to outsourced service providers as a percentage of the total staff cost of the department	The information requested is not available at this moment as the number of contracts and workers vary over time depending on the need.	0.85%	0.82%	0.71%

(j) Number of workers with/without paid meal break	The information requested is not available as we do not have access to employment information of the service providers and their workers.
(k) Number of workers on five-day/six-day week	

() denotes percentage of increase or decrease per year

* Including 3 outsourced service contracts which are scheduled for award in 2011-12

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB128

Question Serial No.

2496

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Since the implementation of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme, how many Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region have adopted cleaner production technologies and practices? What types of factories have been involved and its effectiveness? What is the expenditure on subsidies involved? Has the Administration reviewed the overall effectiveness of the Programme? If yes, what are the results? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

As at end January 2012, a total of 1 731 projects were funded under the five-year "Cleaner Production Partnership Programme". They include 891 on-site assessment, 115 demonstration and 725 verification projects. The majority of the participating factories came from metal and metal product (including electroplating, electronics and electrical products, fabricated metal products manufacturing), textile, chemical product, and printing and publishing industries. The Programme has been facilitating adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by organising awareness promotion activities, showcasing success stories, and sharing experience gained from demonstration projects. The Programme has been making satisfactory progress. The total amount of funding committed under the Programme is around \$75 million.

We conducted a mid-term review in the second quarter of 2010 to evaluate the management, outreaching strategies and resource deployment of the Programme. Feedback was sought from the participating factories on the Programme activities and their awareness level on adopting effective Cleaner Production (CP) technologies. In the light of the findings of the mid-term review, we have accorded higher priority and deployed more resources to, *inter alia*, publicize more widely the results and success stories of the Programme and conduct demonstration projects with a view to encouraging more Hong Kong-owned factories to take part in the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB130

Question Serial No.

0323

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As mentioned in paragraph 191 of the Budget Speech, at present there are over 240 electric vehicles on local roads and it is estimated that there will be about 1 000 charging points in Hong Kong by mid-2012. In this connection, please advise the Committee on:

- (a) The numbers of electric vehicles purchased by the government departments, public organisations and private owners respectively.
- (b) The types, countries of origin and prices of electric vehicles purchased by the government departments, as well as the respective departments which have been allocated with such vehicles.
- (c) Ever since the electric vehicles purchased by the government departments began operation, what frequency of breakdown has been noted? What are the details of breakdowns? What is the annual expenditure for maintenance?
- (d) What is the provision earmarked by the Administration for the procurement of electric vehicles by various government departments in 2012-13? How many electric vehicles will be procured?
- (e) How many charging stations mentioned above are expected to be located in government buildings? For the rest of the charging stations, what kind of buildings would they be located?
- (f) What is the distribution of the aforesaid charging stations among the 18 districts in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) The Government has purchased 75 electric vehicles (EVs), including 42 vehicles pending delivery.
- (b) The vehicle types, countries of origin and prices of the electric vehicles purchased by the Government are as follows-

Vehicle Type	Country of Origin	Unit Price	Number Purchased
Car	Japan, France	\$370,000 - \$490,000	51
Large Van	UK	\$1,400,000	1
Motorcycle	USA	\$93,300 - \$114,000	23

A total of 22 bureaux and departments have been allocated with EVs. They include Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Civil Aviation Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department, Chief Executive's Office, Customs and Excise Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Government Logistics Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Housing Department, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Lands Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Office of the Telecommunications Authority, Post Office, Radio Television Hong Kong, Social Welfare Department, Transport Department and Water Supplies Department.

- (c) The difference between the breakdown rate of EV and its conventional counterparts is minimal. The annual maintenance cost for each unit of EVs is around \$8,000 on average.
- (d) The Government plans to procure about 140 EVs at an estimated cost of about \$29 million in 2012-13.
- (e) and (f)

Apart from liaising with and encouraging private carpark operators to install EV charging facilities at different commercial and residential premises including shopping centres and office buildings, the Government is also setting up some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks for public use. There will be about 1 000 EV charging points for public use by mid 2012. The distribution by district of these charging points would be as follows:

Location (district)	No. of chargers currently available	No. of chargers set up at government carparks by mid 2012	Additional no. of chargers to be installed by the private sector by mid 2012	
Central & Western	10	155	~ 130	
Eastern	35	85		
Southern	4	0		
Wan Chai	57	30		
Kowloon City	3	0		
Kwun Tong	25	0		
Sham Shui Po	8	30		
Wong Tai Sin	19	35		
Yau Tsim Mong	63	80		
Islands	5	0		
Kwai Tsing	6	0		
North	15	15		
Sai Kung	3	20		
Sha Tin	35	20		
Tai Po	15	0		
Tsuen Wan	12	30		
Tuen Mun	19	0		
Yuen Long	42	0		
Sub-total:	376	500		~ 130
Total:	~ 1 000			

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB131

Question Serial No.

0324

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In the past three years, how many complaints about light pollution caused by external lighting installations were received by the Environmental Protection Department? From which districts among the 18 in Hong Kong did such complaints come? When will the Task Force on External Lighting be expected to make recommendations to the Administration for solving the problem of excessive external lighting?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

In the past three years, the Environmental Protection Department received 213, 226 and 234 complaints respectively against external lighting. A breakdown of these complaints by district is at the **Annex**.

The Task Force on External Lighting has considered and supported the issue of the Government's Guidelines on Industry Best Practices for External Lighting Installations, which have been promulgated on 26 January 2012. The Task Force has proceeded with its work to engage different stakeholders by holding stakeholder engagement meetings on external lighting issues, and consider whether and how technical standards and parameters for regulation of light nuisance and energy wastage may be developed to suit local circumstances with regard to international experience and practices. It aims to complete these deliberations and draw up recommendations to the Environment Bureau on the strategy and measures that should be adopted to tackle external lighting later this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

24 February 2012

Breakdown on light nuisance complaints by district

District	2009	2010	2011
Central & Western	20	25	20
Wan Chai	44	22	42
Eastern	22	15	20
Southern	4	2	9
Yau Tsim Mong	19	42	41
Sham Shui Po	13	17	4
Kowloon City	15	16	15
Wong Tai Sin	3	6	7
Kwun Tong	9	7	7
Tsuen Wan	5	5	13
Tuen Mun	2	4	8
Yuen Long	3	4	11
North	7	9	2
Tai Po	1	5	2
Sai Kung	29	14	6
Sha Tin	9	22	18
Kwai Tsing	5	9	4
Islands	3	2	5
Total	213	226	234

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB132

Question Serial No.

0325

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list the total annual consumption of electricity and tariffs of the government in the past 3 years (2009-10 to 2011-12). What are the differences? With the completion and opening of the new government headquarters at Tamar, what is the change in total consumption of electricity? Has each department been required to set specific targets of reduction in consumption of electricity?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Administration's overall annual electricity consumption and electricity expenses in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows-

Financial Year	Electricity consumption (kWh)	Electricity Expenses (Note) (\$)
2009-10	2 569 million	2,156 million
2010-11	2 548 million (- 21 million)	2,168 million (+12 million)

Note: As recorded under item 451 (Electricity) of departmental expenses of bureaux and departments.

Data for 2011-12 are not yet available.

It is not considered appropriate to directly compare the total amount of electricity consumption of the former and the new Central Government Offices (CGOs) as the number of Bureaux located in the two CGOs as well as their total gross floor areas and facilities are different. Besides, the new CGO has become fully operational since early this year and the building contractor has been carrying out defect rectification works. Hence, the amount of electricity consumption of the new CGO in the past few months may not be representative.

All bureaux and departments are required to save energy. As a whole, the Government has set a target to achieve a 5% saving on the total electricity consumption from 2009-10 to 2013-14 after discounting activity changes, using the electricity consumption in 2007-08 as the baseline.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB133

Question Serial No.

0705

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding promotion of building energy efficiency, please provide the following information:

- (a) Please list in the table below the numbers of buildings which participated in the Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings in the past three years (2009 to 2011).

	2009	2010	2011
Types of buildings			
Government buildings			
Commercial buildings			
Charitable organisation buildings			
Others			
Types covered by codes			
Lighting			
Air-conditioning			
Electrical			
Lift and escalator			

- (b) There are energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficiency projects under the Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes. In respect of these two items, please provide the numbers of applications received and approved projects for subsidies as well as the amounts of subsidies involved in the past three years (2009-10 to 2011-12).

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) The Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings was launched in 1998 to promote the application of the Building Energy Codes (BEC). Building designers, developers and property management agencies may submit relevant details of their buildings for assessment of compliance with the BEC, which stipulates the minimum energy performance standards for

lighting, air conditioning, electrical and lift and escalator installations of the buildings concerned. Up to January 2012, 3 018 registration certificates were issued to 1 324 building venues involving 3 174 installations under the Scheme. The number of buildings which joined the Scheme in the past three years (2009 to 2011) is tabulated below-

	2009	2010	2011
<u>Types of buildings</u>			
Government buildings	84	72	55
Commercial buildings	39	12	11
Charitable organisation buildings	1	1	1
Others	30	44	30
<u>Installations covered</u>			
Lighting	140	130	100
Air-conditioning	29	17	25
Electrical	52	37	44
Lift and escalator	67	44	35

- (b) The Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes were launched in April 2009. Up to January 2012, we have received 220 applications for energy-cum-carbon-audit projects (ECA) and 1 356 applications for energy efficiency projects (EEP). We have approved 121 ECA and 755 EEP projects involving subsidies of \$6.5 million and \$350 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB134

Question Serial No.

1192

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2012-13, the Administration will promote public awareness of energy efficiency, best energy conservation practices and understanding of renewable energy through publicity and public education activities. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How much funding and manpower will be earmarked for deepening the understanding among the public in these aspects? Will there be any territory-wide energy conservation activities to, through different administrative measures, encourage all sectors of the community to participate in energy conservation activities? Please list in table form various measures and activities that will be rolled out by the Administration and the funding and manpower so involved.
- (b) When and how will the effectiveness of these measures be evaluated?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

- (a) A dedicated provision of \$2 million has been earmarked for 2012-13 for the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to undertake various promotional activities to enhance public's awareness on energy efficiency and conservation. Existing manpower is deployed for the activities and there is no separate breakdown on the manpower involved. The promotional activities planned for 2012-13 include school exhibitions and outreach educational programmes to schools and youth centres, trade seminars for professional bodies, properties development and management companies, public seminars, distribution of promotional leaflets and newsletters, dissemination of energy saving information through the Internet, etc. In addition, energy efficiency and conservation will also be featured in the general promotional and public education activities to be funded by the Council for Sustainable Development and the Environmental Protection Department to promote sustainable development and low carbon living. The message of energy conservation is an integral part in our promotion of energy saving legislation and funding schemes such as the Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes.
- (b) We will evaluate the effectiveness of the promotional activities having regard to the participation rate and feedbacks from participants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB135

Question Serial No.

1824

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the Programme of the Environment Bureau, it is mentioned that the Bureau will promote the use of electric vehicles by facilitating introduction of relevant vehicles into the Hong Kong market, promoting the setting up of charging infrastructure and expanding the size of Government fleet of electric vehicles. The Financial Secretary has pointed out that there are over 240 electric vehicles running on our roads, a twofold increase over the past year. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the total number of electric vehicles in the Government fleet at present and their distribution among government departments. How many electric vehicles are planned to be added to the Government fleet in the coming year? Besides, what initiatives will be adopted by the Administration to facilitate the introduction of electric vehicles into the Hong Kong market? Has the Administration evaluated how many more electric vehicles will be running on our roads in the coming year if the measures mentioned under the above Programme are further implemented?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

The Government has been actively promoting the wider use of electric vehicles (EVs). To encourage the procurement of EVs, we have already extended the waiver of First Registration Tax for EVs for a period of five years till end March 2014. We have also accelerated the tax deduction for capital expenditure on EVs such that enterprises can enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction in the first year of procurement. In addition, we have been liaising closely with the EV dealers to encourage them to introduce their EVs into the Hong Kong market.

In terms of infrastructural development, there are more than 370 standard EV chargers in Hong Kong, covering all 18 districts, and the number is increasing. Apart from encouraging private carpark operators to install more EV charging facilities, the Government is also installing some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks. We expect that there would be some 1 000 standard EV chargers for public use by mid 2012. Through granting concessions on Gross Floor Areas for carparks, we have been encouraging developers to put in place at the building construction stage the basic infrastructure to facilitate future installation of EV standard charging facilities having regard to the needs of carpark users.

As regards existing buildings, we have been liaising with the property management companies to encourage owners' organisations to install EV chargers at the carparks of their residential properties. We have already written to more than 7 400 owners' committees and owners' corporations in Hong Kong to appeal for their support for installing EV chargers at premises under their management upon request by EV users. A set of guidelines on the technical requirements and arrangements for setting up EV chargers has also been issued, while a dedicated hotline has been set up to provide information and technical support to parties interested in setting up EV chargers.

With support of relevant Government policies, the number of EVs has been increasing progressively from 16 units in end 2009 to 74 in end 2010. As at end 2011, there were 242 EVs in Hong Kong. We expect the growth to continue while it is not practicable to set any specific target when the development and commercialization of EVs is only at an initial stage.

For 2012-13, about \$5.2 million will be allocated for promoting the use of EVs, which will be supported by a dedicated team in Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. Moreover, the \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund provides funding support to public transport operators and goods vehicle operators in the trial of EVs and other green and innovative transport technologies, and the Government plans to allocate \$180 million to fully fund franchised bus companies to try electric buses. The Government has also foregone tax revenue for the tax incentives for EVs.

The Government will continue to set an example in adopting EVs in our fleet. The Government has purchased 75 EVs, including 33 vehicles already in use and 42 pending delivery. It plans to procure about 140 more at an estimated cost of about \$29 million in 2012-13. The 33 EVs already in use are distributed among Government departments and Bureaux as follows -

User department	Number of units
Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	1
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	1
Chief Executive's Office	1
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1
Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department	2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	2
Government Logistics Department	1
Hong Kong Police Force	16
Lands Department	2
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	1
Post Office	1
Transport Department	1
Water Supplies Department	3

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB136

Question Serial No.

3282

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It is stated in paragraph 131 of the Budget Speech that environmental industries and the others are the 6 industries where Hong Kong enjoys advantages for further advancement. The private-sector part of these industries accounted for 8.4 per cent of GDP in 2010 and contributed over \$140 billion value added to our economy, an increase of more than 15% over the previous year. The number of employees engaged in these industries was close to 410 000. In this connection, please provide the following information in table form:-

- (a) the policies and initiatives implemented by the Government regarding the environmental industries, as well as their implementation progress and the funds and manpower involved, in the past year; and
- (b) the policies and initiatives to be implemented by the Government regarding the environmental industries, including the implementation timetable and roadmap, and the funds and manpower to be involved, in the coming year.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

We have adopted a three-pronged approach in promoting the development of environmental industries. Firstly, we invest heavily in the development of environmental infrastructure facilities and the setting up of various funding schemes to encourage adoption of clean technologies in different sectors of the community, including transport trades, industrial practices and the general households. We also provide funding support to encourage research and development on green and environmental technologies. A list of the major projects and funding schemes is at **Annex**.

In addition, we have been pursuing policy initiatives to promote business opportunities for environmental friendly products and technologies. Some of these initiatives include the implementation of green procurement in the Government procurement and enactment of legislation on energy efficiency of buildings and products. Currently, we have developed green specifications for 103 commonly procured items and services, and the Government has earmarked \$15 million and \$29 million in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively to procure a total of about 200 electric vehicles. At present, there are 33 electric vehicles and 375 hybrid vehicles in the Government's vehicle fleet.

Thirdly, we are also capitalising on Hong Kong's advantages to open up business opportunities in the Mainland for our environmental industries, and will support the industry's participation in such activities as environmental exhibitions and trade missions to help build local environmental brands, and facilitate collaboration with local and overseas enterprises.

As the above measures and investments form an integral part of the work of relevant Bureaux and Departments, we do not have a separate breakdown on the funds and manpower involved for promoting the development of environmental industries *per se*.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 1 March 2012

**Major projects and funding schemes
 in support of development of environmental industries**

Infrastructural Projects	Approved Capital Costs (\$ million)
Stage 2A of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme	17,199.9
Upgrading of Pillar Point sewage treatment works	1,920.5
Sludge Treatment Facilities	5,154.4
District Cooling System at the Kai Tak Development (Phases I and II)	1,861.8
Development of EcoPark	319.0
Funding Schemes and Other Initiatives	Commitment/Earmarked Funds (\$ million)
Environment and Conservation Fund	1,500.0
Pilot Green Transport Fund	300.0
Cleaner Production Partnership Programme	93.0
Environmental technology projects funded under the Innovation and Technology Fund	159.0
Funding support for academic research concerning green and energy conservation technologies, as well as environmental science, under the University Grants Committee and Research Grants Council	123.0

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB137

Question Serial No.

0172

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

- Question : (a) The Environment Bureau ensures the supply of electricity by the two power companies at reasonable prices through monitoring the development plans of the two power companies. Because the increase rate of electricity tariffs proposed by the two power companies has drawn public attention this year, would the Bureau put in additional resources in 2012-13 to study the interconnection between the networks of the two power companies and segregation of the generation sector from the network sector? If yes, what is the expenditure involved?
- (b) At present, the permitted return of the two power companies is basically hooked on to their fixed assets, would the Bureau consider implementing a mid-term review of the Scheme of Control Agreements early? If yes, what are the details of the preparatory work concerned in this year? What is the expenditure involved?
- (c) Since there are no incentives in the existing Scheme of Control Agreements to encourage users to conserve energy and reduce emissions, will the Administration conduct related research to enhance the awareness of energy efficiency and emission reduction among the public and businesses, thus reducing electricity consumption from the demand side? If yes, what are the work details and expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

(a) and (b)

Under the Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs) the Government signed with the two power companies in 2008, an interim review will be carried out every five years to consider matters under the SCAs and any changes are to be mutually agreed by the parties. We are making preparation for conducting the interim review in 2013 with the power companies. The Government and the power companies will discuss the potential changes to the electricity regulatory framework and the relevant market readiness and transitional issues before 1 January 2016. We will kick-start the necessary preparatory work and examine various options as appropriate.

- (c) Under the SCAs, both power companies have each set up a loan fund of \$125 million and \$62.5 million respectively for non-Government customers to implement energy saving initiatives identified in energy audits to promote energy efficiency. They have also set up an education fund for energy efficiency and promotion activities.

Meanwhile, in relation to the public engagement process launched by the Council for Sustainable Development in 2011, a series of education and publicity programmes have been undertaken to enhance public awareness on energy saving and carbon emission reduction. These include Announcements in the Public Interest, radio and publicity programmes, student training and the launching of web-based carbon management tool. The expenditure incurred for these events

was about \$3.8 million in 2011-12. The Government has also engaged local community associations in organising neighbourhood workshops and community programmes on climate change and carbon reduction. The relevant expenditure in 2011-12 was about \$1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment _____

Date _____ 1 March 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB138

Question Serial No.

0573

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : (a) In respect of promoting the use of electric vehicles, what are the work details and estimated expenditure involved in this year? What are the plans for setting up charging facilities and the estimated expenditure so incurred this year?

(b) What are the number of electric vehicles and their percentage in the government fleet at present? What is the estimated expenditure on purchasing new electric vehicles? Whether the fuel expenditure on the government fleet for 2012-13 is expected to be reduced? What is the extent of reduction?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

(a) To encourage the procurement of electric vehicles (EVs), we have extended the waiver of First Registration Tax for EVs for a period of five years till end March 2014. We have also accelerated the tax deduction for capital expenditure on EVs such that enterprises can enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction in the first year of procurement. In addition, we have been liaising closely with the EV dealers to encourage them to introduce their EVs into the Hong Kong market. In terms of infrastructural development, apart from encouraging private carpark operators to install more EV charging facilities, the Government is also installing some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks. We expect that there would be some 1 000 standard EV chargers for public use by mid 2012. About \$5.2 million has been reserved in 2012-13 for promoting the use of EVs through various channels, which will be supported by a dedicated team in Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. Moreover, the \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund provides funding support to public transport operators and goods vehicle operators in the trial of EVs and other green and innovative transport technologies, and the Government plans to allocate \$180 million to fully fund franchised bus companies to try electric buses. The Government has also foregone tax revenue for the tax incentives for EVs. Separately, around \$6 million will be provided for the installation of EV charging points at government carparks.

(b) At present, there are 33 EVs in the Government fleet. Besides, orders have been placed for another 42 EVs. Upon their delivery, the total number of EVs will be 75, representing about 1.2% of the Government fleet. In 2012-13, we plan to procure about 140 EVs at an estimated cost of about \$29 million. On reduction on fuel expenditure, a Government EV private car on average consumes electricity at about \$18 per 100 km, as against fuel expenditure of about \$50 for a conventional model running on petroleum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB139

Question Serial No.

0574

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the details of promotion of energy conservation in government buildings this year? What is the expenditure involved in the plans and work projects? How much energy is expected to be saved? In this connection, will the estimated expenditure on electricity tariffs of government buildings be reduced?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The Government will continue to promote energy efficiency and conservation in government buildings. The allocation for implementing energy-saving projects in various government buildings in 2012-13 is about \$44.7 million. These projects include retrofitting of energy efficient lighting and control systems, light emitting diode (LED) exit signs, and energy efficient air-conditioning and control systems, etc. The estimated total annual energy saving of these projects is about 4 000 000 kWh, and electricity tariff saving is about \$4 million per annum.

For new Government building projects to commence in 2012-13, the estimated capital cost for energy efficiency features is about \$13.9 million. The estimated total amount of energy saving is about 1 800 000 kWh, and electricity tariff saving is about \$1.8 million per annum upon completion of the projects.

Provisions for expenditure on electricity tariff are grouped with other general recurrent expenditure on building / facility operation and the year-to-year adjustments take into account various factors including inflation, changes in tariff rate, operating hours and areas, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB140

Question Serial No.

0575

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the progress of the follow-up work in the wake of the completion of the public consultation on restriction of sale of incandescent light bulbs? Will the relevant work be completed in 2012-13 and what is the estimated expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The public consultation on the restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs ended in November 2011. Views were received from members of the public, the trade, professional bodies, academia, green groups and various advisory committees on the Government's proposal. We are consolidating the views collected in drawing up the way forward. We expect to complete this work in the coming months. The expenditure required will be absorbed from within existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB141

Question Serial No.

0582

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Bureau points out that provision for 2012-13 is \$6.6 million lower than the revised estimate for 2011-12 and that this is mainly because additional provision was allocated in 2011-12 for installing charging facilities for electric vehicles in government carparks. What is the total number of charging facilities which have been installed by the Bureau? What is the utilization rate of such facilities at present? What is the estimated expenditure for such facilities in this year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply :

The installation of around 500 electric vehicles charging facilities at government carparks is scheduled for completion in mid-2012. We expect that around \$6 million will be incurred for the installation of charging facilities in 2012-13. Their utilisation rate would be available when they come into operation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB142

Question Serial No.

1370

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under this Programme, it is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13 that the Administration will take follow-up actions having regard to the recommendations of the Task Force on External Lighting in tackling excessive external lighting. Would the Administration inform this Committee of the details of follow-up actions mentioned above and the expenditure so involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

To address the concerns about the light nuisance and energy wastage problems that may be caused by external lighting installations, the Government set up the Task Force on External Lighting (Task Force) in August 2011, with members drawn from different professional bodies, relevant trades and green groups. The Task Force is considering whether and how technical standards and parameters for regulation of light nuisance and energy wastage may be developed to suit local circumstances with regard to international experience and practices. It is also engaging different stakeholders to forge a consensus, and will advise the Government on the way forward to tackle external lighting problems. The Government will consider the recommendations of the Task Force and take follow-up actions as appropriate. In 2012-13, \$1 million has been allocated to conduct publicity and engagement activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

24 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB143

Question Serial No.

0424

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are those two energy efficiency demonstration projects? For promoting environmental protection and energy conservation in government buildings, has the Administration made use of any roof-tops on government buildings or identified any suitable public facilities for installing solar power electricity storage devices at present? If yes, what are the details and their cost-effectiveness? If no, would the Administration take this into consideration?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The two energy efficiency demonstration projects are Sing Yin Secondary School and the Kai Tak Government Office.

Consideration for adoption of renewable energy technology (including solar technology) is a standing requirement for public works projects, subject to the actual site conditions, technical feasibility, and cost effectiveness. Solar photovoltaic installations have been installed on the roof-tops of various government buildings and public facilities, including government offices, fire stations, prisons, museums, art and cultural venues, town halls, recreational centres, staff quarters, hospitals, schools and sewage treatment plants, etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB144

Question Serial No.

0708

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many charging stations for electric vehicles are there in the territory now? What is the distribution of these charging stations among the 18 districts in Hong Kong? What were the average electricity consumption and vehicle mileage per vehicle annually in respect of electric vehicles in the government fleet over the past three years? In terms of carbon emissions and respirable particulates produced in power generation, what are the amounts of carbon footprint and respirable particulates indirectly produced by each electric vehicle in the government fleet on average?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

There are now 376 charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong which are available for public use. Their geographical distribution is as follows-

District	No. of Charging Points	District	No. of Charging Points
Central & Western	10	Islands	5
Eastern	35	Kwai Tsing	6
Southern	4	North	15
Wan Chai	57	Sai Kung	3
Kowloon City	3	Sha Tin	35
Kwun Tong	25	Tai Po	15
Sham Shui Po	8	Tsuen Wan	12
Wong Tai Sin	19	Tuen Mun	19
Yau Tsim Mong	63	Yuen Long	42

On average, the annual mileage of electric cars in the Government fleet is about 7 700 km. The electricity consumption is about 18 kWh per 100 km, generating about 111 g of carbon dioxide and 0.0047 g of respirable particulates per km traveled. The annual mileage of electric motorcycles in the Government fleet is about 4 050 km. The electricity consumption is about 17 kWh per 100 km, generating about 105 g of carbon dioxide and 0.0044 g of respirable particulates per km traveled.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB145

Question Serial No.

0709

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many electric vehicles will the Administration plan to purchase in 2012-13? Will the Administration consider developing jointly with local universities or science and technology institutions electric vehicles that can use rechargeable batteries and solar energy simultaneously? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Government plans to procure about 140 electric vehicles (EVs) at an estimated cost of about \$29 million in 2012-13. We have been promoting the use of green transport technologies through various funding initiatives, such as the Innovation Technology Fund (ITF) and the Pilot Green Transport Fund (PGTF).

With the support of the ITF, for instance, the Hong Kong Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems (APAS) research and development (R&D) Centre was established 2006 to undertake market-led R&D programmes as well as to commercialise R&D results in collaboration with the industry, universities and technology institutes. R&D projects undertaken include the development of a fast EV charger, which can be used by EVs of various charging standards and protocols. ITF also funded the development of "MyCar".

On the other hand, the \$300 million PGTF was established in March 2011 for application by the transport trade. The objective of the Fund is to encourage the transport sector to test out green and low-carbon transport technologies so as to improve roadside air quality and avert global climate change. Applications approved thus far include trial of electric buses and goods vehicles. The Fund may subsidise the capital cost of procuring the vehicles and, if required, the installation of relevant charging facilities as well.

We will keep monitoring the latest technological developments with a view to promoting their application in greening our transport system.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB146

Question Serial No.

3246

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Since the Administration will take measures to increase the number of charging facilities for electric vehicles (EVs):

- (a) Please advise the number and distribution of charging facilities for EVs in Hong Kong now. The Administration will increase the number of charging facilities in 2012-13. What are the details?
- (b) What is the utilisation rate of the existing charging facilities for EVs?
- (c) What are the numbers of EVs used by each government department at present? How many EVs does the Government plan to add?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-che

Reply :

- (a) There are now 376 charging points for electric vehicles in Hong Kong which are available for public use. Their geographical distribution is as follows-

District	No. of Charging Points	District	No. of Charging Points
Central & Western	10	Islands	5
Eastern	35	Kwai Tsing	6
Southern	4	North	15
Wan Chai	57	Sai Kung	3
Kowloon City	3	Sha Tin	35
Kwun Tong	25	Tai Po	15
Sham Shui Po	8	Tsuen Wan	12
Wong Tai Sin	19	Tuen Mun	19
Yau Tsim Mong	63	Yuen Long	42

The Government is installing 500 charging facilities at government carparks, which are scheduled for completion by mid 2012. By then, there will be around 1 000 charging points in Hong Kong.

- (b) As existing charging points are provided by the private sector, we do not have their utilisation rate. With an increasing number of EVs running on the road, the utilisation rate of charging points is expected to rise gradually.

- (c) The Government has purchased 75 EVs, including 33 vehicles in use and 42 pending delivery. It plans to procure about 140 EVs at an estimated cost of about \$29 million in 2012-13. The EVs already in use are distributed among Government departments and Bureaux as follows –

User department	Number of units
Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office	1
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	1
Chief Executive's Office	1
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department	1
Environment Bureau / Environmental Protection Department	2
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	2
Government Logistics Department	1
Hong Kong Police Force	16
Lands Department	2
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	1
Post Office	1
Transport Department	1
Water Supplies Department	3

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB147

Question Serial No.

0299

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list the aviation charges and relevant "carbon offsetting" expenses for overseas visits by the Bureau Secretary in 2010-11 and 2011-12 and the expenditure earmarked for the aviation charges and relevant "carbon offsetting" for such overseas visits in 2012-13.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The expenditures of air-travelling for duty visits by Secretary for the Environment in 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as follows –

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Expenditure on Air-travelling</u>
2010-11	\$374,000
2011-12 (up to end of January)	\$292,000

As duty visits are arranged on a need basis, we have not separately budgeted for air-travelling for such visits in 2012-13. There are no official expenditures or provisions for "carbon offsetting".

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 27 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB148

Question Serial No.

0300

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise the number of complaints about light pollution handled by the Bureau in 2009, 2010 and 2011. What is the expenditure earmarked for handling light pollution complaints in 2012-13?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) handled 213, 226 and 234 complaints of light pollution in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Handling of environmental related complaints forms part of the EPD's regular duties and we do not breakdown expense specifically on tackling light pollution complaints.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

22 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB149

Question Serial No.

1420

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Environment Bureau Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the consultancy studies (if any) commissioned by the Environment Bureau and its departments for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies, please provide information in the following format.

(1) Using the table below, please provide information on studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2009-10 and 2011-12:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others(please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

(2) Are there any projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2012-13? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others(please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed)	For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2011-12, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?

(3) What are the criteria for considering the award of consultancy projects to the research institutions concerned?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

Please refer to the attachment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 27 February 2012

- (1) For studies on public policy and strategic public policy for which funds had been allocated between 2009-10 and 2011-12, information is provided in the table below:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning /in progress/ completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Environmental Resources Management	Tender	To explore possible ways to recycle glass containers in Hong Kong	1,142,500	Jan 2008	Completed	We are taking into account the findings of the study in considering possible ways to recycle glass containers in Hong Kong.	Relevant arrangements would be worked out after we have completed our consideration of the subject.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd	Tender	To explore ways to reduce excessive packaging of consumer products in Hong Kong	1,080,000	Feb 2008	Completed	We are taking into account the findings of the study in considering possible ways to reduce excessive packaging of consumer products in Hong Kong.	Relevant arrangements would be worked out after we have completed our consideration of the subject.
ERM-Hong Kong Ltd	Tender	A Study on Climate Change in Hong Kong The study, inter alia, characterised the impacts of climate change on Hong Kong and recommended additional policies and measures to reduce local greenhouse gases emissions and facilitate adaptation to climate change.	8,798,949	Mar 2008	Completed	The major findings of the Study have been reflected as appropriate in the public consultation document on "Hong Kong's Climate Change Strategy and Action Agenda".	The consultancy report was released at Environmental Protection Department (EPD's) website.
CityU Professional Services Limited and Hyder Consulting Limited	Tender	Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives	8,946,000	Oct 2008	In progress	The First Stage Public Engagement was conducted between September and December 2009. The study findings are being finalised.	Report of the First Stage Public Engagement has been uploaded to dedicated website for public viewing.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning /in progress/ completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Environmental Resources Management	Tender	To collect information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial buildings	1,250,000	Nov 2008	Completed	We have suitably incorporated the findings of the study in the public consultation document entitled "Strengthening Waste Reduction: Is Waste Charging an Option?" that was published on 10 January 2012.	The consultation document was published on 10 January 2012 and is available for download at EPD's website.
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Tender	Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong	1,428,000	Dec 2008	In progress	Not applicable (not yet completed)	When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD's website.
Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited	Tender	Feasibility Study: Electricity Market Development in Hong Kong - to look into options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the electricity market	2,900,000	Jan 2009	Completed	The findings of the study are being analysed.	Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the review of the study findings.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning /in progress/ completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) of the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong	Tender	Independent analysis of public views received during the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC)'s public engagement on Fostering a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment	1,062,000	Jan 2009	Completed	<p>The SDC released a report on the public engagement in June 2010, which put forward recommendations on building design to foster a quality and sustainable environment for Hong Kong.</p> <p>The Administration subsequently released its response in October 2010, and accepted most of recommendations put forward by the SDC in the report. Relevant measures have been implemented since April 2011.</p>	The reports of both the PPRI and the SDC have been uploaded on the SDC's website.
EDMS (HK) Limited	Tender	Review the eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers	398,800	Apr 2009	Completed	The results of the study are being analysed.	When analysis completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD's website.
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd.	Tender	Survey on impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong – to survey external lighting conditions in representative areas in Hong Kong	1,150,000	May 2009	Completed	We have briefed Legislative Council's Environmental Affairs Panel on the results in March 2011 and proposed the way forward to deal with external lighting issues in Hong Kong.	Yes, the study report is available on Environment Bureau (ENB's) website.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning /in progress/ completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd.	Tender	Studies on overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting – to identify experience of other cities/economies in handling external lighting issues	1,400,000	Jun 2009	Completed	We have briefed Legislative Council's Environmental Affairs Panel on the results in March 2011 and proposed the way forward to deal with external lighting issues in Hong Kong.	Yes, the study report is available on ENB's website.
Policy 21 Limited	Tender	Opinion survey study on external lighting in Hong Kong – to collect views of relevant stakeholders on external lighting	597,500	Jun 2009	Completed	We have briefed Legislative Council's Environmental Affairs Panel on the results in March 2011 and proposed the way forward to deal with external lighting issues in Hong Kong.	Yes, the study report is available on ENB's website.
Deloitte Consulting Hong Kong Ltd	Tender	To conduct a Business Impact Assessment (BIA) Study on mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)	1,425,600	Nov 2009	Completed	We have suitably incorporated the findings of the study in our proposed way forward for the mandatory PRS as reported to the Legislative Council's Panel on Environmental Affairs in November 2011.	We have reported the key findings of the study to the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee and the Retail Task Force of the Committee.
EDMS (HK) Limited	Tender	Study to evaluate the environmental implications on traffic management measures – to benchmark overseas approaches and evaluate their practicability in Hong Kong	388,000	Feb 2010	In progress	Not applicable (not yet completed)	When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD's website.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning /in progress/ completed)	Follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been made public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
Office of Service Learning, Lingnan University	Tender	Independent analysis of public views for the public engagement process of the SDC on climate change-related issues	861,000	Jun 2011	In progress	The SDC would take into account the report of the Office of Service Learning, Lingnan University in drawing up its recommendations for submission to the Administration for consideration.	The reports of both the Office of Service Learning, Lingnan University and the SDC will be uploaded on the SDC's website upon the submission of the SDC report to the Administration expected in 2012.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Tender	Review of the Computer Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET)	1,221,000	Jan 2012	In progress	The Administration will take into account the review report in updating the CASET system	Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the review.

(2) For projects for which funds have been reserved for conducting consultancy studies in 2012-13, information is provided in the table below:

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/others (please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/ completed)	For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2012-13, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
CityU Professional Services Limited and Hyder Consulting Limited	Tender	Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives	8,946,000	Oct 2008	In progress	The study findings are being finalised before the public are to be consulted.
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Tender	Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong	1,428,000	Dec 2008	In progress	When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the Environmental Protection Department (EPD's) website.

Name of consultant	Mode of award (open auction/tender/other s(please specify))	Title, content and objectives of project	Consultancy fee(\$)	Start date	Progress of study (under planning/in progress/completed)	For the projects that are expected to be completed in 2012-13, is there any plan to make them public? If yes, through what channels? If no, why?
EDMS (HK) Limited	Tender	Study to evaluate the environmental implications on traffic management measures - to benchmark overseas approaches and evaluate their practicability in Hong Kong	388,000	Feb 2010	In progress	When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD's website.
Office of Service Learning, Lingnan University	Tender	Independent analysis of public views for the public engagement process of the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) on climate change-related issues	861,000	Jun 2011	In progress	The reports of both the Office of Service Learning, Lingnan University and the SDC will be uploaded on the SDC's website upon the submission of the SDC report to the Administration expected in 2012.
Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd.	Tender	Review of the Computer Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET)	1,221,000	Jan 2012	In progress	Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the review.

- (3) Tendering, selection and award of the studies are carried out according to the relevant procedures of the Stores and Procurement Regulations with due consideration of technical criteria including expertise and experience of consultants and resources to be committed for the study by the consultants.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB150

Question Serial No.

0042

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2012-13, the Environment Bureau will continue to promote the use of electric vehicles. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the numbers of various types of electric environmental friendly vehicles registered in Hong Kong now and what are their percentages in the total number of vehicles in Hong Kong?
- (b) What is the long-term target of the Administration in promoting the use of electric vehicles (i.e. the target number of electric vehicles in Hong Kong and its percentage in the total number of vehicles in Hong Kong)?
- (c) What are the existing specific measures of the Administration to encourage the use of electric environmental friendly vehicles?
- (d) What are the number and locations of existing charging stations for electric environmental friendly vehicles? What are the specific measures taken by the Administration in tackling the problem of inadequate charging stations?

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

- (a) As at end 2011, there were 242 electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong, including 199 electric cars, 32 electric motorcycles, five electric light good vehicles, four electric light buses, one electric bus and one electric medium goods vehicle. The total number of licensed vehicles by end 2011 is around 630 000 units.
- (b) The Government has been actively promoting the use of EVs and we have seen an encouraging growth in the number of EVs on road as highlighted above. However, given that the development and commercialization of EVs are still at an early stage, we do not consider it appropriate to set a numerical target for the wider adoption of EVs.
- (c) and (d)

The Government has been actively promoting the wider use of EVs. To encourage the procurement of EVs, we have already extended the waiver of First Registration Tax for EVs for a period of five years till end March 2014. We have also accelerated the tax deduction for capital expenditure on EVs such that enterprises can enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction in the first year of procurement. In addition, we have been liaising closely with the EV dealers to encourage them to introduce their EVs into the Hong Kong market. The \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund provides funding support to public transport operators and goods vehicle operators in the trial of EVs and other green and innovative transport technologies, and the Government also plans to fully fund franchised bus companies to try electric buses.

In terms of infrastructural development, there are more than 370 standard EV chargers in Hong Kong, covering all 18 districts. Their distribution is as follows-

Facilities under the management of the Link REIT or Housing Authority	45
Shopping centres, offices and residential buildings	300
Others (such as the government carparks, airport and scientific research institutes)	30

Through granting concessions on Gross Floor Areas for carparks, we have been encouraging developers to put in place at the building construction stage the basic infrastructure to facilitate future installation of EV standard charging facilities having regard to the needs of carpark users.

As regards existing buildings, we have been liaising with the property management companies to encourage owners' organisations to install EV chargers at the carparks of their residential properties. We have already written to more than 7 400 owners' committees and owners' corporations in Hong Kong to appeal for their support for installing EV chargers at premises under their management upon request by EV users. A set of guidelines on the technical requirements and arrangements for setting up EV chargers has also been issued, while a dedicated hotline has been set up to provide information and technical support to parties interested in setting up EV chargers.

In addition, the Government is also setting up some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks. Together with the charging points to be set up by the private sector, we expect that there would be some 1 000 standard EV charging points by mid-2012. We will continue to monitor closely the growth in the number of EVs and consider the need to expand the charging facilities in a timely manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB151

Question Serial No.

0247

Head : 137 Government Secretariat:
Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It is mentioned in the said Programme that the Environment Bureau will continue to oversee the implementation of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme. In this connection, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the total expenditure and the breakdown of expenditures annually in respect of the said scheme over the past three years? What are the implementation details and major work so involved?
- (b) In the coming year, what will be the total expenditure and the breakdown of expenditures in respect of the said scheme? What are the implementation details and major work so involved?
- (c) Has the Administration worked out any statistics on the respective percentages of home appliances of each energy efficiency grade in the total numbers of appliances on the market?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The first and second phases of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme were implemented on 9 November 2009 and 19 September 2011 respectively. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been conducting shop inspections as well as product sampling and testing with independent accredited laboratories to monitor product compliance with the labeling requirements. Various publicity activities have also been launched to promote and publicise the Scheme. The relevant expenditures incurred by EMSD in the past three years are summarized as follows -

	2009-10 (\$ million)	2010-11 (\$ million)	2011-12 (\$ million)
Publicity activities	0.6	0.6	0.8
Compliance monitoring activities	0.9	1.4	1.4
Total	1.5	2.0	2.2

- (b) EMSD would continue with the above compliance monitoring and publicity activities in 2012-13. The estimated expenditure is around \$ 2.2 million with similar breakdown as in 2011-12.
- (c) There are about 4 500 listed models of the five prescribed products under the Scheme as at end January 2012. The energy efficiency grade distribution of the listed models is summarized as follows -

Energy efficiency grade	1	2	3	4	5
Percentage of listed models (%)	51	19	22	7	1

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB152

Question Serial No.

0252

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under this Programme, would the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the progress of the plan for replacing vehicles with more environmental friendly ones as launched by the Administration? What quantity of resources will be earmarked in 2012-13 to encourage and facilitate the public and public transport organisations to replace vehicles with electric ones? What is the expenditure so involved?
- (b) When the Administration plans to encourage the public to use electric vehicles, will it earmark part of the expenditure to install more charging facilities in public car parks and car parks in housing estates to tie in with the plan? If yes, what are the expenditure and manpower involved as well as the details of the plan? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Government has been implementing various initiatives to promote the use of more environmentally friendly vehicles including electric vehicles (EVs). A funding incentive scheme for the early replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles by new ones was launched in July 2010. As at end of January 2012, we approved about 2 700 applications involving a total subsidy of about \$236 million.

As regards franchised buses, we propose to earmark \$180 million to fund the full cost of procuring 36 electric buses by the franchised bus companies for trial runs to assess their performance in different conditions. We are working with the franchised bus companies on the trial arrangement with an aim to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee towards the middle of this year.

The tax incentive scheme for promoting the use of environment-friendly petrol private cars commenced in April 2007. As at end of January 2012, we approved about 30 100 applications. The number of environment-friendly private petrol cars is 17% of all private petrol cars newly registered during the period. The total amount of first registration tax (FRT) forgone was about \$1.01 billion.

The tax incentive scheme for promoting the use of environment-friendly commercial vehicles commenced in April 2008. As at end of January 2012, 6200 commercial vehicles received the concession, which accounted for about 32% of all commercial vehicles newly registered over the period of the scheme. In the past six months, with the increase in Euro V models in the market, the number of newly registered environment-friendly commercial vehicles accounted for about 46% of the newly registered vehicles. The total amount of FRT forgone since April 2008 was about \$211 million.

We have also set up a \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund to support the transport sector to test out green and innovative transport technologies, including EVs. So far, 24 applications involving the trial of electric buses, electric goods vehicles as well as hybrid goods vehicles have been approved, involving a sum of more than \$60 million.

- (b) The Government has been actively promoting the wider use of EVs. In terms of infrastructural development, there are more than 370 standard charging points for EVs in Hong Kong, covering all 18 districts, and the number is increasing. Apart from liaising with and encouraging private carpark operators to install more EV charging facilities, the Government is putting in place some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks at a cost of around \$10 million. We expect that there would be some 1 000 standard EV chargers for public use by mid 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 1 March 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB153

Question Serial No.

0253

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration has launched the "Sustainable Development Fund". Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In 2011-12, how many applications for the relevant Fund have been approved by the Administration? What are the amount of fund involved and the details of the project items? How many applications are still being processed?
- (b) In 2012-13, what quantity of resources will the Administration earmark for the above fund? What are the amount of fund involved and the details of the plan?
- (c) What are the details of the sustainable development plans provided by the Administration for various departments? What are the amount of fund and manpower so involved?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) In 2011-12, a total of seven projects under the eighth round of applications of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) were approved. Details are in the **Annex**.

The ninth round of applications for the SDF was closed on 31 January 2012. We are processing the 56 applications received in accordance with standing vetting procedures.

- (b) In 2012-13, we have earmarked \$5 million under the SDF to meet the funding requirements of both existing and new projects. The actual level of provisions for the new projects will only be confirmed upon endorsement of the Council for Sustainable Development later this year.
- (c) All bureaux and departments are required to conduct sustainability assessments in respect of their major initiatives. Guidelines have been issued on using a computer-aided sustainability assessment system as a planning tool to incorporate sustainability considerations at an early stage as they commence the planning or formulation of major proposals. Regular training sessions and workshops are provided to update them on the development of the sustainability assessment system and familiarise them with the proper application of the computer programme. The Sustainable Development Division of the Environment Bureau works closely with bureaux and departments to provide advice and technical support as required from time to time. In 2012-13, a team of seven staff will be deployed to undertake the work mentioned above, involving an expenditure of about \$3.54 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 28 February 2012

Details of the projects approved in 2011-12 are as follows –

Financial Year	Projects Approved		
	Project Name	Name of Grantee	Amount of Grant (\$)
2011-12	Enhancing the Role of the Travel Trade in Reducing Tourism's Carbon Footprint	Hong Kong Polytechnic University	398,418
	Carbon Footprint Management at Home for Sustainable Low-Carbon Living	The City University of Hong Kong	1,001,200
	Hong Kong Platforms	The University of Hong Kong	1,323,679
	Enhancing the Low Carbon Competitive Advantage Across the Manufacturing Sector of the Hong Kong Apparel Supply Chain Through Effective Carbon Disclosure and Carbon Emission Reduction	Clothing Industry Training Authority	1,146,300
	Sustainable Building Index	Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency	897,500
	Moving the Construction Sector Towards Sustainable Development: Industry Engagement in Developing Corporate Sustainability Guidebook for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Construction Sector in Hong Kong	Business Environment Council	1,037,860
	Educating for a Sustainable Future – A New Senior Secondary On-line Education Resource Library Based on Real-life Experiences	Hong Kong Productivity Council	1,484,364
	TOTAL	7,289,321	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB154

Question Serial No.

1814

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In respect of promoting energy efficiency, please advise on the following:

- (a) On the implementation of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance, what are the details of work, progress and timetable? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?
- (b) On the implementation of mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, what are the details of relevant work, manpower and expenditure involved and the effectiveness of the scheme in the past five years?
- (c) Has the Administration examined the possibility of providing free audit on electricity consumption for various buildings and of providing energy conservation recommendations after the audit so as to reduce energy consumption and electricity consumption by the public? If yes, what are the manpower and expenditure involved, details of work and number of buildings concerned? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance (Cap. 610) enacted in November 2010 will come into full operation on 21 September 2012. Registration of Registered Energy Assessors (REAs) who are qualified to perform the duties of certification under the Ordinance commenced in March 2011. As at end January 2012, about 280 REAs have been registered. The relevant Codes of Practices for complying with the requirements of the Ordinance were also gazetted on 10 February 2012. We will launch a series of publicity activities to publicise the operation of the Ordinance. The expenditure for the relevant publicity work in 2011-12 is about \$0.6 million and will be increased to about \$1 million in 2012-13 to support the full operation of the Ordinance in September 2012. A team in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department comprising Engineers and Inspectors is responsible for enforcing the Ordinance. Since the officers are required to perform duties other than promoting the Building Energy Efficiency Ordinance, there is no separate breakdown on the manpower involved.
- (b) The first and second phases of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme came into effect on 9 November 2009 and 19 September 2011 respectively. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been conducting shop inspections as well as product sampling and testing with independent accredited laboratories to monitor product compliance with the labeling requirements. Various publicity activities have also been launched to promote and publicise the Scheme. The relevant expenditure incurred by EMSD in the past three years in such work is summarised as follows –

	2009-10 (\$ million)	2010-11 (\$ million)	2011-12 (\$ million)
Publicity activities	0.6	0.6	0.8
Compliance monitoring activities	0.9	1.4	1.4
Total	1.5	2.0	2.2

(c) Through the Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes launched in April 2009, subsidies have been provided to building owners to encourage them to undertake carbon-cum-energy audits for their buildings. Upon the full implementation of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance in September 2012, the central building services installations of commercial buildings and the commercial portion of composite buildings will be required to carry out energy audits every ten years and the results have to be displayed in a conspicuous position at the main entrance of the buildings concerned for public inspection. We will continue to encourage building owners to perform energy audits.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB155

Question Serial No.

1816

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the incorporation of sustainability considerations into the Government's decision making process, what are the details, effectiveness, expenditure, and manpower so involved in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

To integrate sustainability principles into the Government's decision-making process, bureaux/departments are required to conduct sustainability assessments for major government proposals and new policy initiatives. The sustainability assessment system provides a structured framework for bureaux/departments to identify the sustainability implications associated with a proposal. In the past five years (up to 13 February 2012), 681 sustainability assessments have been conducted by bureaux/departments. The number was in the region of 130 to 140 for each year.

The Sustainable Development Division (SDD) of Environment Bureau is tasked to facilitate bureaux/departments to take sustainable development (SD) considerations into account in their policy formulation through the sustainability assessment. The SDD is also responsible for organising and arranging relevant trainings for civil servants to understand the concepts and principles of SD with a view to facilitating integration of sustainability considerations into public policy formulation and daily work. Furthermore, training is provided to civil servants on using the Computer-Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET) for conducting sustainability assessment. SDD staff and private training firms are involved in the training and the total expenditure incurred since 2008 is in the region of \$500,000, being about \$40,000 in 2008-09, and \$57,000, \$116,000 and \$292,000 in the subsequent years.

In order to keep the CASET up-to-date and effective, regular studies to review and update the technical and relevant data have been conducted. Since 2007-08, the total estimated expenditure incurred for such studies including the on-going review of the CASET is about \$1.6 million, being \$560,000 in 2008-09, \$689,000 in 2009-10 and \$366,000 in 2011-12.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB156

Question Serial No.

1819

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list by year the numbers, numbers of participants, duration, work details, expenditures and manpower involved in respect of overseas visits, studies and other related duties taken by the Secretary for the Environment and his subordinates in the past five years.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

Experience sharing and liaison with officials of the Mainland and other countries on environmental protection, energy and related policies are an integral part of the responsibilities of Environment Bureau. Information related to the officials involved, duration and the expenditure incurred on duty visits in the past five year are provided in the table below.

Financial Year	Total number of duty visits	Duration (Days)	Total no. of officials involved	Total expenditure (\$'000)
2007-08	23	47	47	514
2008-09	29	54	59	490
2009-10	35	86	66	1,457
2010-11	37	84	75	1,241
2011-12 (up to January 2012)	20	62	36	984

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB157

Question Serial No.

2243

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the promotion of the use of electric vehicles, please advise:

- (a) the numbers of electric vehicles travelling on roads in Hong Kong in each of the past 5 years. Please list the numbers of vehicles by type (private car and light goods vehicle, etc.);
- (b) the total numbers of charging facilities in Hong Kong in each of the past 5 years. Please list the numbers by the 18 District Council districts; and
- (c) were there any promotional and publicity activities in the past 5 years? If yes, what were the manpower and expenditure involved and what were the details? Please list them by each type of work.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The Government first announced in the 2009-10 Budget a series of measures to promote the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong. As at end 2011, there were 242 EVs in Hong Kong, including 199 electric cars, 32 electric motorcycles, five electric light good vehicles, four electric light buses, one electric bus and one electric medium goods vehicle. By comparison, there were 16 units of EVs by end 2009 and 74 by end 2010.
- (b) As compared to about ten charging points by end 2009 and about 260 by end 2010, there are now 376 charging points for EVs in Hong Kong available for public use. Their geographical distribution is as follows-

District	No. of Charging Points	District	No. of Charging Points
Central & Western	10	Islands	5
Eastern	35	Kwai Tsing	6
Southern	4	North	15
Wan Chai	57	Sai Kung	3
Kowloon City	3	Sha Tin	35
Kwun Tong	25	Tai Po	15
Sham Shui Po	8	Tsuen Wan	12
Wong Tai Sin	19	Tuen Mun	19
Yau Tsim Mong	63	Yuen Long	42

Among the above charging points, three of them are quick chargers located in the Southern, Shatin and Yau Tsim Mong districts. The number of these quick chargers will be increased to ten by mid 2012. The new chargers will be set up at various locations including the Eastern, Southern, Central and Western, Kwun Tong, North, Yuen Long and Islands Districts. By then, there will be one quick charger within 20 kilometres.

- (c) About \$5.2 million will be allocated in 2012-13 for promoting the use of EVs and for the operation of an EV Support Team in EMSD to provide the public with general information on EVs and technical advice on the setting up of EV charging facilities and to organize publicity events, etc. The provisions in 2010-11 and 2011-12 are \$3 million and \$5.4 million respectively. We do not have further breakdown of these provisions by the promotional events held.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 23 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB158

Question Serial No.

2244

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On taking follow-up actions having regard to the recommendations of the Task Force on External Lighting in tackling excessive external lighting, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the manpower and expenditure involved as well as the progress and timetable of the above-mentioned work?
- (b) Under what circumstances, conditions and criteria, the Administration will be committed to regulate excessive external lighting by legislation?
- (c) In the past ten years, how many complaints about (excessive) external lighting and "light pollution" were received in each year? What were the details of the follow-up actions taken by the Administration and the required time? Please list the details by case, year and by the 18 District Council districts.
- (d) In item (c) above, how many complaints were the ones repeated by the complainants and what were the details of these cases? Please list the details by case, year and by the 18 District Council districts.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) To address the concerns about the light nuisance and energy wastage problems that may be caused by external lighting installations, the Government set up the Task Force on External Lighting (Task Force) in August 2011, with members drawn from different professional bodies, relevant trades and green groups. The Task Force is considering whether and how technical standards and parameters for regulation of light nuisance and energy wastage may be developed to suit local circumstances with regard to international experience and practices. It is also engaging different stakeholders to forge a consensus and will advise the Government on the way forward to tackle external lighting problems. It is expected to finish its work later this year. The Government will consider the recommendations to be put up by the Task Force and take follow-up actions accordingly. In 2012-13, \$1 million has been allocated to undertake relevant work.
- (b) The Task Force on External Lighting is exploring the various issues relating to the regulation of external lighting installations. Among other things, it will consider if a voluntary or a mandatory approach should be taken to regulate external lighting installations. The Government will carefully consider the recommendations to be made by the Task Force in deciding on the way forward.
- (c) The details of external lighting complaints received by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in the past ten years are provided at **Annex A**.

In handling a lighting nuisance complaint, EPD advises the relevant parties as necessary of the mitigating measures that may be taken to improve the situation. We also advise the responsible

parties to make reference to the “Guidelines on Industry Best Practices for External Lighting Installations” issued by the Government on 26 January 2012, which set out some general good practices on the design, installation and operation of external lighting installations.

(d) In the past ten years, there were 40 complaints repeated by the same complainants. Please refer to **Annex B**. In all cases, EPD had followed up with the complainants and provided advice to the lighting device owners or persons in charge to take suitable mitigation measures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 27 February 2012

Breakdown on light nuisance complaints by district

District Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Central & Western	0	0	0	2	5	1	6	20	25	20
Wan Chai	0	0	1	1	4	3	8	44	22	42
Eastern	0	0	0	3	3	1	5	22	15	20
Southern	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	4	2	9
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	5	3	8	11	19	42	41
Sham Shui Po	0	0	0	1	1	3	7	13	17	4
Kowloon City	0	0	1	2	3	2	5	15	16	15
Wong Tai Sin	0	1	0	1	1	2	3	3	6	7
Kwun Tong	0	0	7	3	0	6	4	9	7	7
Tsuen Wan	0	2	1	3	0	4	5	5	5	13
Tuen Mun	0	0	0	1	4	3	4	2	4	8
Yuen Long	0	3	0	0	2	2	1	3	4	11
North	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	7	9	2
Tai Po	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	2
Sai Kung	0	1	0	0	1	0	6	29	14	6
Sha Tin	0	0	0	4	3	2	9	9	22	18
Kwai Tsing	0	1	1	5	0	0	3	5	9	4
Islands	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	3	2	5
Total	0	9	13	33	35	40	82	213	226	234

Information on complaints repeated by the same complainants

Year	Districts Involved	No. of Cases
2004	Kowloon City	1
2005	Yau Tsim Mong	1
2007	Wan Chai	1
2008	Kowloon City, Kwai Tsing, Sai Kung, Sham Shui Po, Wan Chai, Yau Tsim Mong	7
2009	Eastern, Sai Kung, Sha Tin, Sham Shui Po, Wan Chai, Yau Tsim Mong	10
2010	Central & Western, Islands, Kwun Tong, North, Wan Chai, Wong Tai Sin, Yau Tsim Mong	12
2011	Eastern, Kwun Tong, Southern, Tuen Mun, Wan Chai	8

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB159

Question Serial No.

2027

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under Programme (2) Power, the provision in 2012-13 is 25.6% substantially lower than that for the previous year. Please inform this Committee of the reasons why the provision is adjusted downwards? Will the services and work under that Programme be affected as a result of the downward adjustment of the provision?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The provision in 2012-13 is lower than that for the revised estimates for 2011-12 mainly because a one-off provision was allocated in 2011-12 for the installation of charging facilities for electric vehicle (EV) at government carparks. The downward adjustment will not affect the services and work funded on a recurrent basis under the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment _____

Date _____ 29 February 2012 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB160

Question Serial No.

2028

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration is responsible for monitoring the operation of the two power companies and ensuring the provision of power supply to the public at reasonable price. Please advise this Committee:

- (a) Regarding the controversy over tariff increases of the two power companies in this year, is it necessary for the Administration to allocate more resources in the next legislative session to strengthen the monitoring work?
- (b) In respect of the tariff adjustments, how will the Administration enable the public to obtain more related information and do the public consultation work well?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) Under the Scheme of Control Agreements with the power companies, the Government has been scrutinising tariff adjustments at two levels, that is, through the Five-year Development Plan and the annual Tariff Review. In Tariff Review for the coming year, we will continue to carry out relevant monitoring and gate-keeping work with support from our team of professional accountants and engineers, as well as external energy consultants.
- (b) For the 2012 Tariff Review, the power companies have provided supplementary information on the current Five-year Development Plan and the 2012 tariff proposals in response to the requests of Panel on Economic Development and other Legislative Council Members. At the Panel meeting on 7 February 2012, Members discussed, with closed-door and relevant confidentiality arrangements in place, the supplementary information provided by the two power companies in the form of confidential documents. In the light of Members' views, the power companies also agreed to make public those parts of the aforesaid documents not involving commercial sensitive information. The disclosure of further information by the two power companies has helped enhance transparency of the tariff adjustment exercise. This year's experience demonstrates the importance of transparency in relevant monitoring work, and we will take account of such experience with a view to enhancing transparency for future tariff adjustment exercises.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB161

Question Serial No.

2029

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list in brief the application status of the Sustainable Development Fund and the amounts of funding approved in the past 3 years.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The Sustainable Development Fund provides funding support to projects which help develop a strong public awareness of the concept of sustainable development and encourage sustainable practices in Hong Kong. Details of the number of applications received and projects approved in the past three years are as follows –

Financial Year	No. of Applications Received	No. of Projects Approved	Total Amount of Grant Awarded (\$)
2011-12	56	7	7,289,321
2010-11	66	5	5,436,000
2009-10	38	7	7,906,525

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB162

Question Serial No.

1138

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Environment Bureau is committed to promoting the use of electric vehicles so as to reduce road traffic air pollution. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the progress of the Administration's work in promoting the use of electric vehicles in 2011, including that of setting up charging facilities, and of the work targets in 2012-13 in this regard. What are the expenditures involved respectively?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The Government has been actively promoting the wider use of electric vehicles (EVs). To encourage the procurement of EVs, we have already extended the waiver of First Registration Tax for EVs for a period of five years till end March 2014. We have also accelerated the tax deduction for capital expenditure on EVs such that enterprises can enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction in the first year of procurement. In addition, we have been liaising closely with the EV dealers to encourage them to introduce their EVs into the Hong Kong market.

In terms of infrastructural development, there are more than 370 standard EV chargers in Hong Kong, covering all 18 districts, and the number is increasing. Apart from encouraging private car park operators to install more EV charging facilities, the Government will also install some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks. We expect that there would be some 1 000 standard EV chargers for public use by mid 2012. Through granting concessions on Gross Floor Areas for carparks, we have been encouraging developers to put in place at the building construction stage the basic infrastructure to facilitate future installation of EV standard charging facilities having regard to the needs of carpark users.

As regards existing buildings, we have been liaising with the property management companies to encourage owners' organisations to install EV chargers at the carparks of their residential properties. We have already written to more than 7 400 owners' committees and owners' corporations in Hong Kong to appeal for their support for installing EV chargers at premises under their management upon request by EV users. A set of guidelines on the technical requirements and arrangements for setting up EV chargers have also been issued, while a dedicated hotline has been set up to provide information and technical support to parties interested in setting up EV chargers.

As at end 2011, there were about 240 EVs in Hong Kong. Around 30 of them are owned by the Government, the remaining 210 by individuals or private enterprises. The number of EVs has been increasing progressively, as compared to 16 units by end 2009 and 74 by end 2010.

For 2012-13, about \$5.2 million will be allocated for promoting the use of EVs through various channels and for the operation of a dedicated support team in Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. Separately, around \$6 million will be provided for the installation of EV charging facilities at government carparks. Moreover, the \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund provides funding support to public transport operators and goods vehicle operators in the trial of EVs and other green and innovative transport technologies, and the Government plans to allocate \$180 million to fully fund franchised bus companies to try electric buses. The Government has

also foregone tax revenue for the tax incentives for EVs.

The Government will continue to set an example in adopting EVs in our fleet. The Government has purchased 75 EVs, including 42 vehicles pending delivery, and plans to procure about 140 EVs at an estimated cost of about \$29 million in 2012-13.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB163

Question Serial No.

1139

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The provision for 2012–13 is \$6.6 million (25.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2011–12. This is mainly because additional provision was allocated in 2011-12 for installing charging facilities for electric vehicles in government carparks. What is the progress of the installation work?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

To provide infrastructure support for the wider adoption of electric vehicles in Hong Kong, we have started to install about 500 standard charging points at 18 government carparks. The installation work is scheduled for completion by mid-2012. Together with charging points provided by the non-Government sector, there will be some 1 000 charging points all over the territory by then.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB164

Question Serial No.

1140

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2012-13, the Administration will implement the Council of Sustainable Development's education and publicity programmes, including the School Outreach Programme, SD School Award Programme and promotion of SD through the media. What are the details of the relevant work plans, targets and expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) implements education and publicity initiatives to promote sustainable development (SD) to various sectors of the community, with collaboration with stakeholder organisations. In 2012-13, the SDC will continue to implement these initiatives with details as follows –

School Outreach Programme (SOP)

The SOP is an on-going educational initiative of the SDC to promote SD in the school community. It takes place in the form of school talks, workshops and drama performances during which there will be an introduction on the SD concept and concrete examples with reference to current global and local issues, as well as discussions on how to put SD principles into practice in daily lives. In 2012-13, we estimate about 60 schools will participate in the programme with an estimated expenditure of \$170,000.

School Award Programme (SAP)

The SAP is an award programme to encourage schools to participating in activities that promote public awareness of SD and encourage SD practices in schools and the community. Under the programme, there are mainly three levels of awards, namely, Gold, Silver and Bronze for schools that are involved in different scales of participation in activities organised by the SDC and other organisations. In 2012-13, some 40 schools are expected to take part in the programme and related events would also be organised in the year, which would incur an estimated expenditure of about \$900,000.

Media publicity programmes

The SDC will procure the production of short videos to be publicised through different media channels to disseminate, promote and enhance the public understanding of SD. In 2012-13, the estimated expenditure is about \$520,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB165

Question Serial No.

2804

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration has indicated that they will continue to promote the use of electric vehicles in 2012-13. Would the Administration please provide the following information since the implementation of the programme till now:

- (a) the expenditures involved for promoting the use of electric vehicles with a breakdown by year;
- (b) the numbers of electric vehicles purchased by the government and private owners respectively with a breakdown by year;
- (c) whether the Administration has set any targets or timetable regarding the use of electric vehicles; if yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

- (a) About \$5.2 million will be provided in 2012-13 for promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and for the operation of a dedicated support team in Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. The provisions in 2010-11 and 2011-12 were \$3 million and \$5.4 million respectively. Moreover, the \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund provides funding support to public transport operators and goods vehicle operators in the trial of EVs and other green and innovative transport technologies, and the Government plans to allocate about \$180 million to fully fund franchised bus companies to try electric bus. The Government has also foregone tax revenue for tax incentives for EVs, and plans to procure about 140 EVs at an estimated cost of about \$29 million in 2012-13.
- (b) As at end 2011, there were 242 EVs in Hong Kong. 33 EVs are in the Government fleet, and the rest are owned by the non-government sector. By comparison, there were 16 units of EVs by end 2009 and 74 in end 2010, and the numbers owned by the Government were 12 and 22 respectively.
- (c) The Government has been actively promoting the use of EVs and we have seen a steady growth in the number of EVs. As the development and commercialisation of EVs is yet at an early stage, we do not consider it appropriate to set a specific target for the wider adoption of EVs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB167

Question Serial No.

2725

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13" the Government will take follow-up actions having regard to the recommendations of the Task Force on External Lighting in tackling excessive external lighting. In this connection, will the Administration provide details of recommendations made by the Task Force, and, if the recommendations have not been released, when will the recommendations be released? Will the Administration also provide details of whether it has conducted any public consultation with the stakeholders on tackling excessive external lighting. If yes, please provide the details, if not, the timetable for conducting public consultation?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

To address the concerns about the light nuisance and energy wastage problems that may be caused by external lighting installations, the Government set up the Task Force on External Lighting (Task Force) in August 2011, with members drawn from different professional bodies, relevant trades and green groups. The Task Force is considering whether and how technical standards and parameters for regulation of light nuisance and energy wastage may be developed to suit local circumstances with regard to international experience and practices. It is also engaging different stakeholders to forge a consensus and will advise the Government on the way forward to tackle external lighting problems. It is expected to finish its work later this year. The Government will consider the recommendations of the Task Force and take follow-up actions as appropriate.

The Environment Bureau commissioned in 2009 a consultancy study on external lighting. It included an opinion survey on external lighting in Hong Kong, which collected views from around 2 700 respondents from various sectors. The survey found that respondents had mixed feelings and opinions towards external lighting in Hong Kong. While more than 70% had the impression that there was "light pollution" in Hong Kong, a large proportion of them also acknowledged the benefits of external lighting. For example, about 78% of residents considered that external lighting installations helped beautify the environment, boost Hong Kong's image as a dynamic metropolis and promote tourism. About 87% of residents considered that external lighting helped provide safe environment and reduce crime. We will take into account the findings of the opinion survey and the recommendations to be put up by the Task Force in charting the way forward.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB168

Question Serial No.

2726

Head : 137 Government Secretariat:
Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13", the Government will implement the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC)'s education and publicity programmes including the School Outreach Programme, Sustainable Development (SD) School Award Programme and promotion of SD through the media. In this connection, will the Administration provide details of the programmes; the total estimated cost on manpower and resources for the implementation of the programmes? Will the Administration also inform this Committee on how the effectiveness of the programmes in facilitating the Government's aim "to promote sustainable development in Hong Kong" will be evaluated?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) implements education and publicity initiatives to promote sustainable development (SD) to various sectors of the community, with collaboration with stakeholder organisations. In 2012-13, the SDC will continue to implement these initiatives with details as follows –

(a) School Outreach Programme (SOP)

The SOP is an on-going educational initiative of the SDC to promote SD in the school community. It takes place in the form of school talks, workshops and drama performances during which there will be an introduction on the SD concept and concrete examples with reference to current global and local issues, as well as discussions on how to put SD principles into practice in daily lives. In 2012-13, we estimate about 60 schools will participate in the programme with an estimated expenditure of \$170,000.

(b) School Award Programme (SAP)

The SAP is an award programme to encourage schools to participating in activities that promote public awareness of SD and encourage SD practices in schools and the community. Under the programme, there are mainly three levels of awards, namely, Gold, Silver and Bronze for schools that are involved in different scales of participation in activities organised by the SDC and other organisations. In 2012-13, some 40 schools are expected to take part in the programme and related events would also be organised in the year, which would incur an estimated expenditure of about \$900,000.

(c) Media publicity programmes

The SDC will procure the production of short videos to be publicised through different media channels to disseminate, promote and enhance the public understanding of SD. In 2012-13, the estimated expenditure is about \$520,000.

Evaluation of these programmes including the participation rate, questionnaire feedback from participants and on-site visits etc. are conducted regularly to ensure the programmes are implemented in accordance with the objectives of the schemes. Progress reports are also submitted to the Education and Publicity Sub-committee of the SDC. On average, a team of four staff in the SDC secretariat (i.e. the Sustainable Development Division of the Environment Bureau) provides support to these programmes, with an estimated staff cost of about \$2.14 million in 2012-13.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB169

Question Serial No.

2727

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13", the Government will process applications for the SD Fund and monitor the implementation of the approved projects. In this connection, will the Administration provide details about the time it takes in processing the applications; of the criteria it has considered in determining the eligibility in applying for the SD Fund; and of how the effectiveness of the approved projects would be monitored? Please provide details of the total estimated cost on manpower and resources required for the monitoring and administration of the SD Fund.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

Organisations or individuals can apply for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). It normally takes some six months for processing the applications, which are assessed in accordance with the following major criteria –

- (a) enhancing public understanding of the importance of advancing the long-term economic, social and environmental interests of the community in a balanced and integrated manner;
- (b) promoting everyday practices that are consistent with the principles of sustainability; and
- (c) promoting public participation in the discussion and implementation of Hong Kong's long term sustainable development.

The Education and Publicity Sub-committee (EPSC) established under the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) provides advice on the awards of grants from the SDF. Approved projects are monitored by the SDC Secretariat (i.e. the Sustainable Development Division of the Environment Bureau) in accordance with the established mechanism, including vetting progress reports, financial statements, and schedule of activities; and conducting on-site visits to project activities as appropriate to ensure the projects are implemented within the timeframe and in the manner as stipulated in the approved proposals. Evaluation reports will also be submitted to the EPSC. On average, a team of five staff in the SDC Secretariat are involved in these duties, with an estimated staff cost of about \$2.159 million in 2012-13.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB170

Question Serial No.

2728

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under "Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision", provision for 2012-13 is \$6.6 million (25.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2011-12. This is because additional provision was allocated in 2011-12 for installing charging facilities for electric vehicles in government carparks. In this connection, will the Administration provide details of the total installation costs, and of the total number of Government electric vehicles in operation and the number of charging facilities installed since 2011-12? What measure the Administration has taken to ensure that the number of charging facilities installed meet the demand?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

To provide infrastructure support for the wider adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong, we have started to install about 500 standard charging points at 18 government carparks. The installation work is scheduled for completion by mid-2012 and a total of \$10 million has been provided for this purpose.

As at end 2011, there were about 240 EVs in Hong Kong. There are now more than 370 standard EV chargers in Hong Kong, covering all 18 districts, and the number is increasing. In addition, more quick chargers are being set up. Together with the charging points being installed by the Government as mentioned above, we expect that there will be some 1 000 charging points by mid 2012. We will continue to closely monitor the growth in the number of EVs and consider the need to expand the charging facilities in a timely manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB171

Question Serial No.

2729

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As mentioned in paragraph 191 of the 2012-13 Budget Speech, along with the related facilities provided by the business and non-government sectors, it is estimated that there will be 1 000 charging points in Hong Kong by mid-2012. In this connection, will the Administration provide details of the geographical distribution of these charging points? Will the Administration inform this Committee whether it has considered further increase of charging points due to the increase in usage of electric vehicles? What measure has the Government considered to promote and publicize the usage of electric vehicles?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Government has been actively promoting the wider use of electric vehicles (EVs). To encourage the procurement of EVs, we have already extended the waiver of First Registration Tax for EVs for a period of five years till end March 2014. We have also accelerated the tax deduction for capital expenditure on EVs such that enterprises can enjoy a 100% profits tax deduction in the first year of procurement. In addition, we have been liaising closely with the EV dealers to encourage them to introduce their EVs into the Hong Kong market. The \$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund provides funding support to public transport operators and goods vehicle operators in the trial of EVs and other green and innovative transport technologies, and the Government also plans to fully fund franchised bus companies to try electric buses.

In terms of infrastructural development, there are more than 370 standard EV chargers in Hong Kong, covering all 18 districts, and the number is increasing. Apart from encouraging private carpark operators to install more EV charging facilities, the Government is also installing some 500 standard chargers at various government carparks. We expect that there would be some 1 000 EV chargers for public use by mid 2012. The distribution of these charging points would be as follows-

Location (district)	No. of chargers currently available	No. of chargers to be set up at government carparks by mid 2012	Additional no. of chargers to be installed by the private sector by mid 2012
Central & Western	10	155	~ 130
Eastern	35	85	
Southern	4	0	
Wan Chai	57	30	
Kowloon City	3	0	
Kwun Tong	25	0	
Sham Shui Po	8	30	
Wong Tai Sin	19	35	
Yau Tsim Mong	63	80	
Islands	5	0	
Kwai Tsing	6	0	
North	15	15	
Sai Kung	3	20	
Sha Tin	35	20	
Tai Po	15	0	
Tsuen Wan	12	30	
Tuen Mun	19	0	
Yuen Long	42	0	
Sub-total:	376	500	~ 130
Total:		~ 1 000	

Furthermore, through granting concessions on Gross Floor Areas for car parks, we have been encouraging developers to put in place at the building construction stage the basic infrastructure to facilitate future installation of EV standard charging facilities having regard to the needs of carpark users.

As regards existing buildings, we have been liaising with the property management companies to encourage owners' organisations to install EV chargers at the car parks of their residential properties. We have already written to more than 7 400 owners' committees and owners' corporations in Hong Kong to appeal for their support for installing EV chargers at premises under their management upon request by EV users. A set of guidelines on the technical requirements and arrangements for setting up EV chargers has also been issued, while a dedicated hotline has been set up to provide information and technical support to parties interested in setting up EV chargers.

There are now about 240 EVs in Hong Kong. We will continue to closely monitor the development of EVs and consider the need to install more chargers in a timely manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 29 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB172

Question Serial No.

2731

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012-13", the Government will take forward the proposal to restrict the sale of incandescent light bulbs having regard to the outcome of the public consultation. In this connection, will the Government provide details of the expected time it takes in putting forward the proposal after public consultation, and of what measures it has considered to take in ensuring the proposal to be smoothly implemented? In light of any discrepancy between the affordability of the public and the environmental costs of incandescent light bulbs, will the Government consider providing subsidy in the form of concession to the public for the purchase of the alternative lighting installations?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The public consultation on the restriction of sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs ended in November 2011. We are currently consolidating the views received during the consultation exercise in drawing up the way forward. We expect to complete this work in the next couple of months. Through the Environment and Conservation Fund, the Government has been providing funding support to non-government organizations for implementing schemes that help low-income families to procure energy efficient lighting installations. The Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes also finances building owners to purchase energy saving lightings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

28 February 2012

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB173

Question Serial No.

2246

Head : 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the work to ensure the enforcement of safety standards for electricity and gas, please advise this Committee:

- (a) In each of the past five years, the manpower and expenditure so involved as well as the work details;
- (b) As per the information provided by the Government, should there be any inappropriate work procedures, the government department concerned will advise the LPG supply companies to implement improvement measures or follow up with these companies in accordance with the legislation or relevant regulations. Please advise:
 - (i) What are the numbers of such cases in each of the past five years? Please list the figures by year and gas supply company.
 - (ii) The details of the said improvement measures, legislation or relevant regulations;
- (c) Will the Administration regulate by legislation the work procedures of LPG supply companies, including unloading of LPG from tankers, storage at terminals (such as water draining operations), delivery by road tankers and storage at filling stations? If yes, what are the work details, timetable, manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of electricity and gas safety under the Electricity Ordinance, Cap. 406 and the Gas Safety Ordinance, Cap. 51. These responsibilities are undertaken respectively by the Electricity Legislation Division and Gas Standards Office of the EMSD, which currently have a staff strength of 150 in total. Duties of these divisions include registration of trade practitioners, inspection of electrical and gas installations and appliances, inspection and approval of gas installations, investigations into electrical and gas incidents, initiation of prosecution and disciplinary actions against non-compliant cases, and promotion of electrical and gas safety to the public and trade. The total recurrent expenditure for these divisions is about \$89 million a year.

(b) & (c)

All Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply companies have developed internal work procedures, which guide the operations on receipt of LPG from tankers, storage at terminals (such as water draining), delivery by road tankers and storage at filling stations. EMSD has been conducting regular site inspections and audits to ensure that relevant procedures are complied with. Where necessary, advisory letters are issued to gas supply companies. The number of such letters issued in the past five years are set out below-

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of advisory letters issued</u>
2007 - 2009	0
2010	1
2011	4

The above cases were related to non-compliance with in-house procedures or conditions of registration, and have been followed up properly by the gas supply companies concerned. The existing monitoring mechanism is considered effective in ensuring the quality of LPG and its normal supply.

Signature _____
Name in block letters _____ CHAN Fan _____
Post Title _____ Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services _____
Date _____ 29 February 2012 _____