

## Index Page

### Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment**

**Session No. : 7**

**Consolidated e-file name : ENB-1-e1.docx**

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">ENB001</a>	1944	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB002</a>	1947	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB003</a>	1981	CHAN Hak-kan	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB004</a>	1240	CHAN Kin-por	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB005</a>	2734	CHAN Pierre	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB006</a>	2745	CHAN Pierre	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB007</a>	2746	CHAN Pierre	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB008</a>	3170	CHAN Pierre	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB009</a>	2182	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB010</a>	2197	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB011</a>	2218	CHEUNG Kwok-kwan	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB012</a>	2221	CHEUNG Kwok-kwan	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB013</a>	1484	CHUNG Kwok-pan	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB014</a>	0822	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB015</a>	0824	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB016</a>	0837	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB017</a>	0838	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB018</a>	0850	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB019</a>	0887	HO Chun-yin, Steven	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB020</a>	0888	HO Chun-yin,	22	(2) Nature Conservation and

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
		Steven		Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB021</a>	0410	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB022</a>	0534	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB023</a>	1755	IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB024</a>	1336	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB025</a>	2059	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB026</a>	2060	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB027</a>	0368	LEUNG Che-cheung	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB028</a>	2584	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB029</a>	0332	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB030</a>	0052	LO Wai-kwok	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB031</a>	0198	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB032</a>	2420	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB033</a>	2430	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB034</a>	0671	QUAT Elizabeth	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB035</a>	0672	QUAT Elizabeth	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB036</a>	0673	QUAT Elizabeth	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB037</a>	0674	QUAT Elizabeth	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB038</a>	0473	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB039</a>	1686	SHIU Ka-fai	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB040</a>	0551	TIEN Puk-sun, Michael	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB041</a>	0182	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB042</a>	1445	YUNG Hoi-yan	22	(2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks
<a href="#">ENB043</a>	3114	CHAN Pierre	33	(7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">ENB044</a>	1555	LAU Kwok-fan	33	(7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
<a href="#">ENB045</a>	1556	LAU Kwok-fan	33	(7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
<a href="#">ENB046</a>	0463	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	33	(7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials
<a href="#">ENB047</a>	1922	CHAN Hak-kan	39	(2) Sewage Services
<a href="#">ENB048</a>	0904	CHAN Han-pan	39	(2) Sewage Services
<a href="#">ENB049</a>	1050	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	39	(2) Sewage Services
<a href="#">ENB050</a>	2501	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	39	(2) Sewage Services
<a href="#">ENB051</a>	1375	CHAN Chun-ying	42	(3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
<a href="#">ENB052</a>	1380	CHAN Chun-ying	42	(3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
<a href="#">ENB053</a>	2399	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	42	(3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
<a href="#">ENB054</a>	1420	POON Siu-ping	42	(1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
<a href="#">ENB055</a>	1439	POON Siu-ping	42	(1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
<a href="#">ENB056</a>	1619	SHIU Ka-fai	42	(3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
<a href="#">ENB057</a>	3088	YUNG Hoi-yan	42	(3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy
<a href="#">ENB058</a>	1371	CHAN Chun-ying	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB059</a>	1381	CHAN Chun-ying	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB060</a>	1390	CHAN Chun-ying	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB061</a>	1391	CHAN Chun-ying	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB062</a>	1955	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB063</a>	1956	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB064</a>	1958	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB065</a>	1959	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB066</a>	1960	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB067</a>	1961	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB068</a>	1962	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB069</a>	1963	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB070</a>	1964	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB071</a>	1965	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">ENB072</a>	1966	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(6) Nature Conservation
<a href="#">ENB073</a>	1982	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(6) Nature Conservation
<a href="#">ENB074</a>	1983	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB075</a>	1985	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB076</a>	3053	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB077</a>	3054	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB078</a>	3055	CHAN Hak-kan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB079</a>	0270	CHAN Han-pan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB080</a>	0906	CHAN Han-pan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB081</a>	0917	CHAN Han-pan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB082</a>	0949	CHAN Han-pan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB083</a>	1243	CHAN Kin-por	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB084</a>	2743	CHAN Pierre	44	(1) Waste (4) Water (6) Nature Conservation
<a href="#">ENB085</a>	3272	CHAN Pierre	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB086</a>	2114	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB087</a>	2115	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB088</a>	2116	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB089</a>	2117	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB090</a>	2118	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB091</a>	2119	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB092</a>	2120	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB093</a>	2121	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB094</a>	2142	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB095</a>	2178	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB096</a>	2179	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning
<a href="#">ENB097</a>	2180	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB098</a>	2181	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB099</a>	2184	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB100</a>	2187	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB101</a>	2188	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">ENB102</a>	2189	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air (6) Nature Conservation
<a href="#">ENB103</a>	2190	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB104</a>	2192	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB105</a>	2193	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB106</a>	2235	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB107</a>	1060	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB108</a>	1067	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB109</a>	1071	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB110</a>	1292	CHIANG Lai-wan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB111</a>	1293	CHIANG Lai-wan	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB112</a>	0833	HO Chun-yin, Steven	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB113</a>	0836	HO Chun-yin, Steven	44	(4) Water (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning
<a href="#">ENB114</a>	0840	HO Chun-yin, Steven	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB115</a>	0862	HO Chun-yin, Steven	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB116</a>	0883	HO Chun-yin, Steven	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB117</a>	1533	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB118</a>	1534	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB119</a>	1535	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB120</a>	1536	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB121</a>	3200	HO Kwan-yiu, Junius	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB122</a>	0401	IP LAU Suk-yea, Regina	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB123</a>	0538	IP LAU Suk-yea, Regina	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB124</a>	0222	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB125</a>	0223	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB126</a>	0224	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB127</a>	0689	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB128</a>	0697	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(2) Air

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">ENB129</a>	0726	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB130</a>	0727	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB131</a>	0728	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB132</a>	0729	KWOK Wai-keung	44	(3) Noise
<a href="#">ENB133</a>	1364	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB134</a>	2052	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB135</a>	2053	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	44	(6) Nature Conservation
<a href="#">ENB136</a>	2054	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB137</a>	2055	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB138</a>	2056	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB139</a>	2057	LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB140</a>	1578	LAU Kwok-fan	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB141</a>	2500	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB142</a>	2516	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB143</a>	2567	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB144</a>	2582	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB145</a>	2592	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB146</a>	0330	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB147</a>	0331	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB148</a>	0382	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB149</a>	0645	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	44	(1) Waste (2) Air
<a href="#">ENB150</a>	0649	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB151</a>	0293	LO Wai-kwok	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB152</a>	0294	LO Wai-kwok	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB153</a>	1998	NG Wing-ka, Jimmy	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB154</a>	2388	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(0) -
<a href="#">ENB155</a>	2389	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB156</a>	2428	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(2) Air

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">ENB157</a>	2445	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB158</a>	2446	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(3) Noise
<a href="#">ENB159</a>	2618	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB160</a>	2626	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB161</a>	2628	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB162</a>	2640	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB163</a>	1087	POON Siu-ping	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB164</a>	1775	QUAT Elizabeth	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB165</a>	1786	QUAT Elizabeth	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB166</a>	3234	QUAT Elizabeth	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB167</a>	0447	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB168</a>	0467	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB169</a>	0472	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB170</a>	1591	SHIU Ka-fai	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB171</a>	1592	SHIU Ka-fai	44	(3) Noise
<a href="#">ENB172</a>	1593	SHIU Ka-fai	44	(4) Water
<a href="#">ENB173</a>	1594	SHIU Ka-fai	44	(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning
<a href="#">ENB174</a>	1595	SHIU Ka-fai	44	(6) Nature Conservation
<a href="#">ENB175</a>	0184	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB176</a>	0185	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB177</a>	0187	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB178</a>	1129	TSE Wai-chuen, Tony	44	(1) Waste
<a href="#">ENB179</a>	1796	WONG Ting-kwong	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB180</a>	1797	WONG Ting-kwong	44	(6) Nature Conservation
<a href="#">ENB181</a>	0627	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB182</a>	0628	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB183</a>	0629	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB184</a>	0630	YICK Chi-ming, Frankie	44	(2) Air
<a href="#">ENB185</a>	0842	HO Chun-yin, Steven	100	(3) Local Services

<b>Reply Serial No.</b>	<b>Question Serial No.</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Programme</b>
<a href="#">ENB186</a>	3105	YUNG Hoi-yan	100	(2) Port Services
<a href="#">ENB187</a>	1368	CHAN Chun-ying	137	(3) Sustainable Development
<a href="#">ENB188</a>	1957	CHAN Hak-kan	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB189</a>	0006	CHENG Chung-tai	137	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
<a href="#">ENB190</a>	2862	CHENG Chung-tai	137	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
<a href="#">ENB191</a>	2141	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	137	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
<a href="#">ENB192</a>	2185	CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB193</a>	2232	CHEUNG Kwok-kwan	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB194</a>	1059	CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB195</a>	1119	CHUNG Kwok-pan	137	(3) Sustainable Development
<a href="#">ENB196</a>	0220	KWOK Wai-keung	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB197</a>	0221	KWOK Wai-keung	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB198</a>	0374	LEUNG Che-cheung	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB199</a>	0375	LEUNG Che-cheung	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB200</a>	2534	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB201</a>	2585	LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB202</a>	0646	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB203</a>	0647	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB204</a>	0648	LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin	137	(3) Sustainable Development
<a href="#">ENB205</a>	3148	MA Fung-kwok	137	(1) Director of Bureau's Office
<a href="#">ENB206</a>	2410	OR Chong-shing, Wilson	137	(2) Power
<a href="#">ENB207</a>	1620	SHIU Ka-fai	137	(3) Sustainable Development



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB001**

**(Question Serial No. 1944)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Over the past 3 years, regarding endangered species and smuggling of animals in Hong Kong, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance? What were the penalties imposed?
- (b) What was the number of cases of possessing endangered species without a licence, and what follow-up actions were taken?
- (c) How many endangered animals were seized each year? What were their types?
- (d) What were the conditions of the animals seized in various control points? What was the number of animals died in course of transit?
- (e) What was the number of illegal trading on the internet? What was the number of enforcement actions taken by means of decoy operations?
- (f) What was the number of animals confiscated and handed to non-profit making organisations in Hong Kong for conservation?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

- (a) The number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) (the Ordinance) and the penalties imposed over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020*</b>
<b>Number of prosecutions</b>	221	226	25
<b>Maximum term of imprisonment (months)</b>	8	24	27
<b>Maximum amount of fine (\$'000)</b>	100	50	300

\* We estimate that the apparent decline in the number of prosecutions in 2020 might be due to the effect of the global pandemic situation.

- (b) Possession of endangered species without a licence is one of the offences under the Ordinance. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducts law enforcement investigations into cases of possessing endangered species without a licence under the Ordinance and institutes prosecution when there is sufficient evidence. The enforcement figures related to illegal possession of endangered species over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Number of prosecutions<sup>#</sup></b>	36	17	6
<b>Number of convictions</b>	34	17	6

<sup>#</sup> The number of prosecutions is higher than the number of convictions in 2018 mainly due to the fact that it takes time to conduct investigations, initiate summons and schedule the cases for court hearing. Hence, some of the cases were prosecuted and convicted in the following year after their occurrence.

- (c) The number of endangered animals seized over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Number of individuals</b>	4 140	2 851	426

The most common types of seized animals include tortoises, lizards, birds, snakes, fish and stony corals.

- (d) The numbers of live endangered animals seized at various control points over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows. As the health conditions of the animals seized at control points are often unsatisfactory, deaths in the course of transit out of the control points occur occasionally. The numbers of animals died in the course of transit are 5 (in 2018), 2 (in 2019) and 1 (in 2020) respectively.

<b>Control point<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Number of individuals of seized live endangered animals</b>		
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Hong Kong International Airport</b>	2 915	2 723	422
<b>Lo Wu Control Point</b>	6	15	-
<b>Lok Ma Chau Control Point</b>	14	29	4
<b>Lok Ma Chau Spurline Control Point</b>	15	20	-
<b>Man Kam To Control Point</b>	916	-	-
<b>Shenzhen Bay Control Point</b>	193	17	-
<b>Sha Tau Kok Control Point</b>	-	6	-
<b>West Kowloon Control Point</b>	-	8	-
<b>China Ferry Terminal</b>	-	-	-

<b>Control point<sup>@</sup></b>	<b>Number of individuals of seized live endangered animals</b>		
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Sea boundary</b>	-	-	-

<sup>@</sup> Apart from live endangered animals, other endangered species are seized at various control points from time to time, including orchid, American ginseng, dried seahorse and shark fin, etc.

- (e) In general, relevant departments conduct decoy operations to investigate cases of illegal selling of endangered species on the internet. The numbers of cases detected involving illegal selling of endangered species through internet platforms and the quantity of seizure over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Number of cases</b>	9	9	4
<b>Quantity of seizure</b>	24 animals	6 animals, 6 plants and 55.3kg of products or specimens	4 animals and 34 plants

- (f) In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the AFCD donated 241, 130 and 64 seized live endangered animals respectively to local institutes/organisations for conservation purposes and/or temporary keeping.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB002**

**(Question Serial No. 1947)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in the Budget that \$500 million has been set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks this year. Would the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the specific details and the country parks covered?
- (b) It is stated that the Government will “continue the preparation for the designation of the proposed Robin’s Nest Country Park”. What is the progress and the timetable?
- (c) In view of the report that the construction of concrete path at country parks by the Government would cause damage to the natural environment, does the Government have any plan to construct such concrete path? If yes, what are the details?
- (d) Further to the above question, given that trails in other districts are mostly surfaced with natural materials such as wood or pebbles, will the Government consider using this approach? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) Will Guidelines on Trail Maintenance be compiled? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

- (a) As announced in this year’s Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors’ experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, the new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with relevant stakeholders.

- (b) The AFCD has completed the collection of baseline information and literature review for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP), and collected stakeholders' views on the proposal. The Government will continue to carry out other preparation work for the designation of the proposed RNCP, including drafting nature conservation management plans, planning hiking trails, commissioning a consultancy study on the revitalisation of the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave, etc.
- (c) and (d) Regarding the management and planning of hiking trails, the AFCD subscribes to the fundamental principles that simple designs should be adopted as far as possible, the impact to the natural environment should be minimised and a safe environment should be provided for activities of the members of the public. Therefore, the construction and maintenance of trails by the Department generally involve manual labour and use natural materials as far as possible, e.g. tree trunks, recycled timber and rocks, and blend in with the natural environment and terrain with a view to retaining the natural setting of the countryside. The AFCD has no plan to construct new trails with cement/concrete as raw materials. Only a small amount of cement might be used to anchor the steps built by natural materials on a few trail sections where severe soil erosion or steep terrain are present, in order to ensure the safety of country park visitors.
- (e) The AFCD has formulated internal guidelines on the construction and maintenance of hiking trails in country parks in accordance with the above management and planning principles, which cover the trail construction and maintenance methods, selection of materials, occupational safety, etc. for staff's reference.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB003**

**(Question Serial No. 1981)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the issue of local wild pigs over the past 3 years, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What was the number of complaints about the sighting or nuisance of wild pigs each year?
- (b) Was there any report of damages to property or injury to people caused by wild pigs?
- (c) What were the numbers and expenditures involved in the neutering treatment under the contraception and relocation pilot programme?
- (d) What were the numbers of prosecutions instituted against feeding of wild pigs by members of the public?
- (e) It is learnt that the design of refuse collection facilities has been improved to reduce foraging by wild pigs in urban areas. What are the expenditure involved and the cost of each litter container?
- (f) What new measures are put in place to control wild pigs?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 105)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) The number of complaints related to and injury reports caused by wild pigs received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of reports on wild pig sightings or nuisance (number of injury reports)</b>
2018-19	1 008 (9)
2019-20	1 073 (7)
2020-21 (as of January 2021)	868 (2)

The AFCD does not have the figures on reports of public facilities damaged by wild pigs.

- (c) The AFCD launched the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) as a trial to handle nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas in late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, the AFCD has regularised the CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise wild pigs caught where condition permits. Figures related to the CCRP over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year/ number of wild pigs (heads)</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Administered with contraceptive vaccine*</b>	<b>Surgically sterilised*</b>	<b>Relocated to remote countryside*</b>
2018-19	115 <sup>#</sup>	46	18	81
2019-20	293	59	47	222
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	287	63	75	220

\* The number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine/surgically sterilised may overlap with that of the wild pigs relocated to remote countryside as the wild pigs might be relocated after they have been administered with the vaccine/after the surgery.

<sup>#</sup> This figure does not include all the wild pigs captured as the CCRP was still in pilot stage in 2018-19.

The AFCD's expenditure on the CCRP over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2018-19	6.2
2019-20	7.2
2020-21 (revised estimate)	9.3

- (d) The information on the prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows (the AFCD does not have the breakdown of the prosecution instituted against feeding of wild pigs):

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21 (as of February 2021)</b>
Number of prosecutions	32	26	40
Number of successful prosecutions*	20	28	31

\* Some of the prosecutions instituted in the latter part of the year might be processed in the following year.

- (e) The AFCD has commissioned a consultancy study with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Environmental Protection Department to improve the design of outdoor refuse collection facilities with a view to reducing scavenging for food by wild animals at these facilities. The consultant has developed 3 new designs of wild pig or monkey-resistant litter containers which were tested at over 70 sites disturbed by wildlife nuisance throughout the territory, and the field trials were completed in the third quarter of 2020. Study results indicated that the new design can effectively reduce wildlife nuisance. The expenditure incurred by the AFCD on this study in 2020-21 was about \$2.4 million.

As the quotation for the newly designed litter containers is based on the overall technical design, production, calibration, delivery and installation services, etc. as a whole, the breakdown of production cost of each litter container is not available at present. The newly designed litter containers will be placed at more suitable sites by the departments concerned according to the actual needs. As regards the actual cost of each litter container, the estimation can only be made after the production method, quantity, mode of supply, etc. have been finalised.

- (f) Currently, the AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach to control wild pig nuisance to residential areas, including managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. The AFCD has also set up an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs.

In addition, studies reveal that wild pigs' reproductive rate is highly dependent on food availability. The AFCD's investigation also reveals that the increase in wild pig nuisance cases in recent years is largely due to intentional feeding and improper disposal of outdoor garbage. In this regard, other than relocation and contraception/sterilisation of wild pigs habitually looking for food in residential areas, the AFCD has been working closely with relevant departments to eliminate the pull factors at black spots by removing food residues, strengthening the promotion of no-feeding of wild pigs, improving the design of refuse collection facilities, etc. In addition, the AFCD will conduct a consultancy study to analyse the reasons for feeding wild pigs by



the public in order to formulate more targeted publicity programmes and long-term management strategy.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB004**

**(Question Serial No. 1240)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department stated in its Programme that it would strengthen publicity for celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) for the promotion, conservation and education of its geological and cultural heritages. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of visitors to HKUGG over the past 10 years;
- (b) The specific plans for the relevant publicity and celebration events as well as the preparation work, resources and manpower required; and
- (c) The performance indicators of the promotion, conservation and education efforts in the forthcoming year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 10 years, the average number of visitors to the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) was about 1.4 million each year.
- (b) To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the HKUGG, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will organise a series of celebration programmes this year, including public lectures, exhibitions and launching promotional videos, etc. A geopark festival with activities such as community fairs, guided tours and photography competition will be held at various key geosites at the end of this year. In addition, the AFCD will also launch a re-designed geopark website and open new visitor facilities like the Kat O Heritage Trail. Details of the activities will be publicised on the websites of the AFCD and the geopark as well as

the social media. They will also be publicised to the public and the relevant communities through the mass media and various networks of the geopark partners.

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration activities are organised and coordinated by the AFCD and supported by various parties including geopark communities, geopark partners and geopark guide team, etc. Some activities will also be arranged by outsourced contractors. The estimated expenditure and manpower for organising such activities are about \$6 million and 13 staff members respectively.

- (c) The HKUGG, a member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has to be managed in accordance with the GGN guidelines and achieve the objectives for publicity and promotion, conservation, education, geo-tourism and local sustainable development. The AFCD will carry out the work in accordance with the above guidelines and objectives.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB005**

**(Question Serial No. 2734)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management of country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD),

- (a) It is stated in the Budget that \$500 million has been set aside to carry out enhancement works on country parks. AFCD will introduce an advance booking system for popular campsites and enhance services at campsites. Please advise of (i) the campsites which will likely or will be included in the booking system; (ii) the campsites which will likely or will have the services improved or enhanced; (iii) the selection criteria for such inclusion and enhancement; and (iv) the number of visitors to these campsites over the past 5 years.
- (b) Please provide the information on AFCD's 4 enhancement proposals on enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks in table form:

Enhancement proposals	Proposed or selected sites
Enhancement of existing facilities	
Open museums for historical relics appreciation	
Tree top adventure	
Glamping sites and eco-lodges	

- (c) Regarding the "setting up of more campsites" in "enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks" of AFCD, it is mentioned that AFCD is identifying suitable recreation sites for conversion into campsites. Please advise of the recreation sites that will likely or will be turned into campsites, and the criteria for such conversion.
- (d) Regarding the 4 enhancement proposals in "enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks" of AFCD, which proposals have their study on the carrying capacity been conducted? If yes, what are the contents, the results and the timetable of the study? If not, what are the reasons? Are there any plans in the future?

- (e) The Government has earmarked \$55 million for the Tourism Commission and AFCD to take forward the second phase of the enhancement programme for 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism in the coming 5 years. However, some trails, which are of high ecological and landscape value, have limited carrying capacities. Has the Department conducted any study on their carrying capacities? If yes, what are the contents and the timetable? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 128)

Reply:

- (a) to (c) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) completed the consultancy study on enhancing the recreation and education potential of country parks and special areas in Hong Kong in 2019 and formulated 4 proposals, including enhancement of existing facilities, setting up of open museums for historical relics appreciation, tree top adventure and glamping sites. The AFCD consulted the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council on the proposals in April 2020. The enhancement proposals of country parks were supported by the Panel.

To implement the proposals and enrich the experience of country park visitors, the Government will, as announced in this year's Budget, set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The AFCD is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc. The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

Regarding the enhancement of campsite facilities, in view of public demand for camping activities in country parks, the AFCD has been gradually improving relevant facilities at designated campsites in country parks in recent years, such as the provision of additional cooking places and camping platforms at the Twisk Campsite at Tai Lam and the Nam Shan and Shek Pik Campsites at Lantau Island during 2020-21. The AFCD also plans to extend the areas of some existing campsites or set up more campsites for campers. The reconstruction work of the Wong Shek Campsite has been completed and those for the Hok Tau and Chung Pui Campsites will be conducted soon. When identifying suitable locations for setting up new campsites and expanding existing camping areas, the AFCD will take into consideration factors such as the geographic conditions and ancillary facilities of country parks, etc.

The \$500 million mentioned in this year's Budget only refers to the expenditure for carrying out minor enhancement works in country parks. It does not include the expenditure for the implementation of the advance campsite booking system. Currently, there are 41 designated campsites in country parks open to the public freely on a first come first served basis. As it is not necessary for the public to make reservation or registration, the AFCD does not have the statistics on the number of users of campsites over the past 5 years. Regarding the introduction of the proposed venue booking system, the AFCD will, subject to the epidemic development, launch the pilot scheme for advance campsite booking at the Twisk Campsite later in 2021 for public use.

- (d) When designing the projects, the AFCD will identify suitable sites for detailed studies, taking into account the geographic conditions and other ancillary facilities to ensure that the operation of the facilities will not have long-term adverse impact on the environment of country parks. The AFCD will also provide various recreational facilities and improve the coverage of the hiking trail network and its linkage, with a view to diverting visitors with different needs to various country parks as far as possible to reduce the pressure arising from visits.
- (e) The \$55 million earmarked for taking forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails as mentioned in this part of the question falls under the policy purview regarding tourism promotion under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau. According to the information provided by the Tourism Commission, it is working with the AFCD to take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of visitor information, etc. In addition, the programme will also enhance and promote some hiking trails with tourism appeal to divert visitors and enrich the leisure experience of the public and visitors. The AFCD will also closely monitor the visitor flow and environment of popular hiking trails or attractions, and when necessary, carry out appropriate improvement work such as repair of damaged trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, enhancement of

cleansing services, and promotion of public awareness on protecting the environment of country parks, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB006****(Question Serial No. 2745)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding litter management in country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Conservation Department (AFCD):

- (a) The amount of litter collected in country parks has decreased from February 2020 as the barbecue sites and campsites have been closed. Please provide by month the figures in the following table for comparison of the amount of litter collected (in kg) from hiking trails as well as closed barbecue sites and campsites before and after the outbreak of epidemic.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
Total					

- (b) Further to the above question, is there any difference in the resources deployed for clearing up litter in the countryside before and after the outbreak of epidemic (e.g. numbers of patrols and frequency of outsourced cleansing services)? If yes, please provide the respective numbers and amounts of expenditure.



- (c) Please set out in tabular form the amount of litter collected in country parks (in tonnes) in activities initiated by the public or organised by green groups between 2017 and 2021 (clean-up activities with applications made to AFCD).

	Amount of litter
2017	
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	

- (d) Regarding the influx of visitors to country parks after the outbreak of pandemic:
- (i) Has AFCD studied the carrying capacity of popular hiking trails? If yes, please provide the names of the relevant trails and details of the studies.
- (ii) Further to the above question, have repair or conservation works been conducted on these trails? If yes, please provide the relevant information, such as the width of trails after widening, number of visitors, amount of litter collected, changes in the numbers of species and vegetation, as well as soil erosion. If not, what are the reasons?
- (e) (i) Although AFCD has launched the “Take Your Litter Home” programme in phases since 2015, the number of littering cases has increased drastically due to the sharp rise in the number of country park visitors amid the epidemic in 2020-21. What are the details of expenditure on promoting the “Take Your Litter Home” programme or disseminating nature conservation messages between 2018 and 2021?
- (ii) Further to the above question, please set out the channels of publicity used by AFCD (including television, radio and social media) and the expenditure incurred. Has the Department reviewed the effectiveness of various publicity channels?
- (iii) Will AFCD devise more innovative and effective publicity approaches in the future? If yes, how will it target different age groups? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 148)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) only has the statistics on the overall amount of litter collected in country parks throughout the territory and there is no separate breakdown on the litter collected from hiking trails and other recreational sites in its day-to-day management. The total amount of litter collected in country parks by the AFCD from January 2017 to January 2021 by month is tabulated as follows:

Month	Total amount of litter collected in country parks in Hong Kong (in tonnes)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*
January	360	278	258	276	172
February	289	233	243	287	-
March	282	245	204	312	-
April	334	291	217	140	-
May	276	210	200	156	-
June	176	174	178	192	-
July	196	169	156	162	-
August	215	151	141	154	-
September	196	247	193	138	-
October	324	292	220	165	-
November	338	312	242	167	-
December	394	341	292	167	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 380</b>	<b>2 943</b>	<b>2 544</b>	<b>2 316</b>	<b>172</b>

\* Due to the epidemic, all barbecue sites and campsites in country parks were closed from 28 March to 20 May 2020 and from 15 July 2020 to the present. The overall amount of litter collected in country parks has significantly dropped during the closure period.

- (b) During the epidemic, the AFCD has been deploying resources agilely to deal with the litter in country parks and maintain the environmental hygiene of the countryside, and step up patrol and cleaning of litter along popular hiking trails and at picnic sites as and when necessary. As both cleaning work and patrol form part of the regular work for management of country parks, the Department does not have the breakdown of the frequency of the enhanced cleansing services and number of patrols in country parks before and after the outbreak of epidemic and the breakdown of the expenditures.
- (c) The AFCD notes that many countryside visitors and groups take the initiative to collect litter in country parks and disposed of it in the large litter containers. As registration or prior application to the AFCD is not required for such activities, the AFCD does not have the statistics on the litter collected in such activities.
- (d) Since the epidemic broke out last year, many members of the public have visited country parks which led to higher patronage of trails and associated facilities. The AFCD has stepped up patrol at popular picnic sites and hiking spots to monitor and assess the impacts of the increase in visitors on the environment and country park facilities. In respect of certain trails with increased wear and tear due to the effect of increasing visitor flow, the AFCD plans to restore the damaged trails through improvement works, conduct vegetation maintenance and tree planting, as well as increase ancillary facilities at suitable locations in order to reduce the impact brought by visitors to the countryside. Meanwhile, the AFCD will also strengthen publicity and education efforts to raise the awareness of protecting the natural environment among countryside visitors.

Apart from restoration of the damaged parts of trails, the AFCD will also conduct vegetation maintenance and tree planting, etc. at suitable locations to control soil erosion. Taking a section of the trail at the MacLehose Trail Section 4 near Ngong

Ping, Ma On Shan as an example, it has been considerably widened as a result of off-trail trampling by visitors. After completing the manual restoration and repaving works at this section of the trail, the AFCD set up fences along both sides to narrow the width of the hiking trail and replanted vegetation. With educational interpretation panels installed on spot, the restoration of vegetation has started to bear fruit.

- (e) The AFCD attaches great importance to the promotion, publicity and education programmes of country parks. It continues to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD has been implementing the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups since 2015 and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.

The AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, broadcasts promotional videos on television, electronic information boards in country parks and visitor centres, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside, as well as places relevant advertisements on public transport, large billboards located at tunnels, large televisions in shopping malls and the media to carry out relevant promotion. The Department also conveys the message through the network of partner groups and volunteers. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots.

As the promotion of messages related to hiking etiquette and nature conservation forms part of the AFCD’s work on publicity and education of country parks, the Department does not have the breakdown on the expenditure involved in this regard. Over the past 3 years, the AFCD’s expenditure for publicity and education programmes of country parks is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$million)</b>
2018-19	23.0
2019-20	23.2
2020-21 (revised expenditure)	25.3

Overall speaking, the AFCD considers that since the launch of the “Take Your Litter Home” public education programme in 2015, it has been effective in enhancing the public awareness towards waste reduction and environmental conservation during their visit to the countryside. The relevant figures show that the overall amount of litter collected in country parks is on a downward trend since 2017. The AFCD will promote the message through various channels and means from time to time in view of different circumstances. In the coming year, the AFCD will continue to produce more promotional videos and make use of online platforms and other media channels

for reaching out to the general public widely to promote messages related to hiking etiquette and nature conservation, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB007****(Question Serial No. 2746)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please set out in tabular form the years of designation, areas and brief descriptions of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

	Name	Year of designation	Area	Brief descriptions
1	Yim Tso Ha Egretty			
2	Shing Mun Fung Shui Woodland			
3	Tai Mo Shan Montane Scrub Forest			
4	She Shan Fung Shui Woodland			
5	Tai Tam Harbour (Inner Bay)			
6	D'Aguilar Peninsula			
7	Ma On Shan			
8	Tsing Shan Tsuen#			
9	Sunset Peak			
10	Mai Po Marshes			
11	Bluff Island & Basalt Island			
12	Port Island			
13	Kat O Chau#			
14	Ninepin Group			
15	Tung Ping Chau			
16	Mai Po Village Egretty			
17	Mau Ping			
18	Pak Sha Wan Peninsula#			
19	Lai Chi Wo Beach			
20	Ng Tung Chai			
21	Pak Tai To Yan			
22	Chiu Keng Tam			
23	Tai Long Bay			
24	Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Catchment Area			

	Name	Year of designation	Area	Brief descriptions
25	Tai Tam Reservoir Catchment Area			
26	Beacon Hill			
27	Ho Chung Valley			
28	Lung Kwu Chau, Tree Island & Sha Chau			
29	Castle Peak			
30	Tai Mo Shan			
31	Pak Nai			
32	Man Cheung Po			
33	Lantau Peak			
34	Pat Sin Range			
35	Fung Yuen Valley			
36	South Lamma Island			
37	Yim Tin Tsai & Ma Shi Chau			
38	Tolo Channel (Northern Coast)			
39	Centre Island			
40	Nai Chung Coast			
41	Tsim Bei Tsui			
42	Ting Kok			
43	Sham Chung Coast			
44	A Chau			
45	Lai Chi Chong			
46	Inner Deep Bay			
47	Tsim Bei Tsui Egrettry			
48	Hoi Ha Wan			
49	Hok Tsui (Cape D'Aguilar)			
50	Nam Fung Road Woodland			
51	Sam Mun Tsai Egrettry#			
52	Shuen Wan Egrettry			
53	Tai Po Egrettry			
54	Lin Ma Hang Lead Mines			
55	Tseng Tau Coast			
56	Kei Ling Ha Mangal			
57	Pok To Yan & Por Kai Shan			
58	San Tau Beach			
59	Sha Lo Tung			
60	Shek O Headland			
61	San Chau			
62	Ngong Ping			
63	Tai Ho Stream			
64	Sham Wan			
65	South Tsing Yi			
66	Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland			
67	Shek Ngau Chau			
68	Lin Ma Hang Stream			
69	Siu Lang Shui			
70	Deep Water Bay Valley			

	Name	Year of designation	Area	Brief descriptions
71	Lung Kwu Tan Valley			
72	Sunshine Island			

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 150)

Reply:

There are 67 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Hong Kong at present. Their names, date of listing, areas and brief descriptions are tabulated as follows:

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
1	Yim Tso Ha Egrettry#	25 February 1975	0.9	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2016 after assessment.
2	Shing Mun Fung Shui Woodland	25 February 1975	6	This site has a rich tree flora.
3	Tai Mo Shan Montane Scrub Forest	15 September 1975	130	This site has many rare plants.
4	She Shan Fung Shui Woodland	15 September 1975	5.7	This site has many plant species, and provides a feeding ground and habitat for birds.
5	Tai Tam Harbour (Inner Bay)	24 October 1975	16	This site is an important coastal habitat on Hong Kong Island which includes mangroves and mudflats, for many animals and plants.
6	D'Aguilar Peninsula	24 October 1975	5	This site has many rare plants.
7	Ma On Shan	23 June 1976	118	This site has many rare plants.
8	Tsing Shan Tsuen#	23 June 1976	No information available	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2008 after assessment.
9	Sunset Peak	23 June 1976	331	This site has many rare plants.
10	Mai Po Marshes	15 September 1976	393	This site has the largest mangrove area in Hong Kong, and provides habitat for resident and migratory birds.
11	Bluff Island & Basalt Island	16 February 1979	147	The rocks and vegetation at this site are of geological and floristic interest.
12	Port Island	16 February 1979	47	This site is of ornithological interest.
13	Kat O Chau#	16 February 1979	23.3	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2006 after

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
				assessment.
14	Ninepin Group	16 February 1979	45	The rocks and vegetation at this site are of geological and floristic interest.
15	Ping Chau	16 February 1979	111	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
16	Mai Po Village	16 February 1979	5.3	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
17	Mau Ping	16 February 1979	3.7	This site has a number of rare plants.
18	Pak Sha Wan Peninsula#	16 February 1979	110.2	This site was de-listed from the SSSI Register in 2006 after assessment.
19	Lai Chi Wo Beach	16 February 1979	11	This site has 2 rare seagrass species.
20	Ng Tung Chai	16 February 1979	226	This site has a number of rare plants.
21	Pak Tai To Yan	20 September 1979	32	This site has a number of rare plants.
22	Chiu Keng Tam	20 September 1979	3.1	This site has a number of rare plants.
23	Tai Long Bay	20 September 1979	2.3	This site shows a clear vegetation zonation from the sea landwards.
24	Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Catchment Area	20 September 1979	217.3	This site has many plant species, and is a habitat for animals and birds.
25	Tai Tam Reservoir Catchment Area	20 September 1979	1 243.2	This site has many plant species, and is a habitat for animals and birds.
26	Beacon Hill	20 September 1979	53.2	This site has a number of rare plants.
27	Ho Chung Valley	20 September 1979	395	This site has a number of rare plants.
28	Lung Kwu Chau, Tree Island & Sha Chau	20 September 1979	54.4	This site is a habitat for winter migratory birds.
29	Castle Peak	5 February 1980	73.7	This site has a number of rare plants.
30	Tai Mo Shan	5 February 1980	95	This site is a breeding site for montane birds, and is a habitat for some rare snakes.
31	Pak Nai	5 February	15.5	This site is a habitat for migratory



	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
		1980		birds.
32	Man Cheung Po	5 February 1980	29.2	This site has a number of rare plants.
33	Lantau Peak	5 February 1980	116	This site has a number of rare plants.
34	Pat Sin Range	5 February 1980	128	This site has a number of rare plants.
35	Fung Yuen Valley	5 February 1980	42.8	This site has a number of rare plants, and is a breeding site for some uncommon butterflies.
36	South Lamma Island	5 February 1980	345	This site is of ornithological interest.
37	Yim Tin Tsai & Ma Shi Chau	24 September 1982	54.4	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
38	Tolo Channel (Northern Coast)	24 September 1982	1 287	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
39	Centre Island	24 September 1982	3.1	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
40	Nai Chung Coast	24 September 1982	2.2	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
41	Tsim Bei Tsui	10 January 1985	2.1	The mangroves at this site are of conservation interest.
42	Ting Kok	1 March 1985	37.5	The mangroves at this site are of conservation interest.
43	Sham Chung Coast	25 March 1985	26	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
44	A Chau	9 April 1985	4.4	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
45	Lai Chi Chong	26 April 1985	5	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
46	Inner Deep Bay	18 March 1986	1 036	The mangroves and mudflat at this site are important habitats for migratory birds.
47	Tsim Bei Tsui Egretty	5 January 1989	4.8	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
48	Hoi Ha Wan	5 January 1989	278	This site has a rich hard coral fauna.
49	Hok Tsui (Cape D'Aguilar)	19 July 1990	31.5	This site has many coastal features that are of biological and geological interest.
50	Nam Fung Road Woodland	22 June 1993	8	This site has a rich tree flora.
51	Sam Mun Tsai	13 August	1.2	This site was de-listed from the

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
	Egretry#	1994		SSSI Register in 2010 after assessment.
52	Shuen Wan Egretry	13 August 1994	2.1	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
53	Tai Po Egretry	13 August 1994	1.2	This site is a breeding site for ardeids.
54	Lin Ma Hang Lead Mines	13 August 1994	10	This site is an important habitat for bats.
55	Tseng Tau Coast	13 August 1994	4.3	The rocks at this site are of geological interest.
56	Kei Ling Ha Mangal	13 August 1994	48.4	This site is one of the largest mangrove stands in Hong Kong.
57	Pok To Yan & Por Kai Shan	13 August 1994	76.4	This site has a number of rare plants.
58	San Tau Beach	19 October 1994	2.7	This site has 2 rare seagrass species.
59	Sha Lo Tung	16 January 1997	22.05	This site is an important habitat for many dragonfly species, including some rare ones.
60	Shek O Headland	3 February 1998	0.66	This site is one of the areas with the most seaweed species in Hong Kong.
61	San Chau	4 May 1999	36	This site has a number of rare plants.
62	Ngong Ping	4 May 1999	14	This site is a habitat for an endemic frog.
63	Tai Ho Stream	5 May 1999	5	This stream has a rich freshwater and brackish water fish fauna, as well as some mangrove and seagrass patches close to the estuary.
64	Sham Wan	3 June 1999	4	This site is a nesting site for Green Turtles.
65	South Tsing Yi	13 April 2005	1.1	This site has a number of rare plants.
66	Tai Om Fung Shui Woodland	30 December 2005	2.7	This site has a rich flora.
67	Shek Ngau Chau	30 December 2005	0.92	This island is an important breeding site for summer migratory birds.
68	Lin Ma Hang Stream	6 July 2007	0.64	This stream has a rich freshwater fish fauna.
69	Siu Lang Shui	8 January 2008	2.3	This site is one of the known butterfly overwintering sites in Hong Kong.
70	Deep Water Bay Valley	18 February 2008	4.2	This site has a number of rare plants.

	Name	Date listed as an SSSI	Area (hectares)	Brief descriptions
71	Lung Kwu Tan Valley	3 April 2012	6.72	This site has a number of uncommon butterflies and rare plants.
72	Sunshine Island	27 February 2015	54	This site is a habitat for an endemic reptile.

# De-listed from the SSSI Register.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB008****(Question Serial No. 3170)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The Government stated in 2018 that it would establish the Robin's Nest Country Park and would complete the designation by the end of 2020. More than 2 years have elapsed, but there is no further progress yet. During the designation of the country park, the Department has no authority to manage and prevent damages to the area concerned. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The reasons for the delay in designation of the country park and the latest schedule of designating the Robin's Nest Country Park.
- (b) Please set out in tabular form the manpower involved in the establishment of the Robin's Nest Country Park between 2018 and 2021 (including the ranks and number of staff).

Grade and rank	2018	2019	2020	2021

- (c) Please set out in tabular form the expenditure involved in the establishment of the Robin's Nest Country Park between 2018 and 2021 with a breakdown by category.

	2018	2019	2020	2021
e.g. Facility planning				
e.g. Baseline study				

- (d) Please set out in tabular form the estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the major aspects below in connection with the establishment of the Robin's Nest Country Park.

Major aspects	Estimated expenditure and the financial year concerned	Estimated manpower
(i) Conservation management plans		
Identification of conservation zonings in the Robin's Nest Country Park		
Enhancement of biodiversity and cultural heritage		
Monitoring and performance assessment		
Prevention and control of fires		
Patrol and law enforcement		
(ii) Recreation and education management plans		
Recreational activities and facilities		
Visitor services and engagement of local villagers		

- (e) Has the Government received any report in relation to environmental damages in the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park over the past 5 years (between 2017 and 2021)? If yes, please set out in tabular form the complaints and reports received on environmental damages. If they were not received or handled by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, please make requests to the relevant departments (e.g. the Police Force) for information.

	Complaints or damages to the environment	Number of cases	Number of cases with prosecution completed**	Total amount of fines (\$) **
2017				
2018				
2019				
2020				
2021				

\*\* if any

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 132)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has completed the collection of baseline information and literature review for the proposed Robin's Nest Country Park (RNCP), and collected stakeholders' views on the proposal. The Government has been conducting preliminary studies for the designation of the proposed RNCP over the past few years, such as the consultancy study on traffic review and the preliminary planning for hiking trails. However, such work has been affected to a certain extent by the epidemic. The Government will continue to carry out other preparation work for the designation of the proposed RNCP, including drafting nature conservation management plan, planning hiking trails and commissioning a consultancy study on the revitalisation of the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave, etc., with a view to completing the relevant designation work as soon as possible.
- (b) The preparation for the proposed RCNP is conducted by the AFCD through the deployment of existing manpower and resources.
- (c) The preliminary studies conducted by the AFCD from 2018-19 to 2021-22 for the designation of the proposed RNCP and the expenditure involved are tabulated as follows:

<b>Studies</b>	<b>2018-19 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2019-20 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2020-21 (\$ million) (revised estimate)</b>	<b>2021-22 (\$ million) (estimate)</b>
Consultancy study on the proposed RNCP (planning, design and consultation)	0.2	0.2	0.4	N/A
Consultancy study on the traffic review for the proposed RNCP	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.2
Preliminary planning for the hiking trails in the proposed RNCP	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.4
Consultancy study on the revitalisation of the Lin Ma Hang Lead Mine Cave	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.3

- (d) The AFCD will formulate the Management and Operation Plan for the proposed RNCP, which will cover the nature conservation management plan as well as recreation and education plans. As it is still in the planning stage, the AFCD does not have the estimate for the manpower and resources to be involved.
- (e) AFCD has received 1 complaint about suspected illegal felling of trees in the Robin's Nest area over the past 5 years. No prosecution was instituted due to insufficient evidence.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB009**

**(Question Serial No. 2182)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In the 2021-22 Budget, \$500 million will be set aside to enhance the facilities in country parks and \$55 million will be earmarked to take forward the second phase of the enhancement programme for hiking trails. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) Has the Government assessed the economic benefits brought about by the enhancement of country parks?
- (b) Which country parks will the expenditure be allocated? Please set out the country park sites which are initially considered for enhancement of facilities.
- (c) Regarding the proposed treetop adventure, will the Government make reference to overseas experiences by providing facilities which are suitable for different age groups, for example, treetop walkways which are more suitable for the elderly and children?
- (d) Is additional manpower required for taking forward the proposal?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

Regarding the \$55 million earmarked for taking forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails as mentioned in the question, it falls under the policy purview of tourism promotion of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB). Having consulted CEDB, our consolidated reply is as follows:

- (a) and (b) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites

and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc. The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

The Government aims to provide more outdoor recreational and educational facilities for the public, promote the message of nature protection and ecological conservation, improve the quality of life of the public, and at the same time promote green tourism by enhancing the recreational facilities in country parks. The Government has not assessed the corresponding economic benefits.

- (c) The AFCD will conduct a feasibility study on the proposed tree top adventure facilities to explore the site selection, design, operation mode and operating requirements of the facilities, and make reference to the experiences of other places, with a view to providing diversified adventurous experiences for people of different age groups.
- (d) The AFCD and relevant departments will implement the programme by redeploying some of their existing manpower resources.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB010**

**(Question Serial No. 2197)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Financial Secretary has stated in the Budget that \$500 million will be set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks and revitalise some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience. Please advise the Committee of the following:

- (a) Have any wartime relics been selected for converting into open museums? If yes, please give details of the selected sites and the types, ages and details of the relics.
- (b) When selecting wartime relics for enhancement works, will the Government consult experts in historical architecture and conservation and the Antiquities Advisory Board to ensure that the revitalisation will not change the original features of the historical relics, or make any improper removal or damage?
- (c) Will the Government solicit public views before the selection, conservation and enhancement of wartime relics for better public engagement?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites of wartime relics at this stage. The area to be revitalised, the approach and the budget would be subject to actual circumstances of individual relic sites. The AFCD will consult the Antiquities and Monuments Office when necessary. When conducting detailed studies

on the project, the AFCD will collect views from stakeholders (including experts and academics on history and monuments) and the public through public engagement activities to ensure that the historical relics can be properly preserved while the facilities are enhanced.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB011**

**(Question Serial No. 2218)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) The Financial Secretary has stated in the Budget this year that \$55 million will be earmarked to enhance 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism. With the current outbreak of epidemic, many people wish to pursue a healthy life, which makes many hiking trails overcrowded with people during holidays. Does the Government have any plan to use the provision to open up more new hiking trails with a view to diverting visitors away from the existing popular hiking routes?
- (b) For the \$500 million provision, apart from enhancing and providing more facilities in country parks, are there any measures in place for nature conservation and publicity and education purposes?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (a) Regarding the enhancement programme for 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism as mentioned in the question, it is an initiative under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB). According to information provided by CEDB, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. In addition, the programme will also enhance and introduce some hiking trails with tourism appeal to divert visitors and enrich the leisure experience of the public and visitors.

- (b) The \$500-million provision mentioned in the Budget is earmarked for works projects and does not include the expenditure on conservation of countryside as well as the publicity and education work. In the coming year, the AFCD will continue to use existing resources to carry out conservation, as well as promotion, publicity and education programmes in country parks, and to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD will continue to implement the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups and install water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks. The Department also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant publicity, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB012**

**(Question Serial No. 2221)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) As more and more people go hiking amid the epidemic, the countryside is packed with visitors during holidays. But at the same time, it results in damages and pollution to the countryside. What was the number of inspections conducted at country parks by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past year? What were the numbers of warnings (including verbal and written) and summons issued to those visitors who violated the rules and caused damages to the country parks respectively? Please tabulate the reasons and the number of warnings issued and prosecutions taken.
- (b) What was the amount of litter collected in country park areas over the past 3 years? Is the littering issue deteriorating? If yes, what measures would the Government put in place to deal with it? Will the Government re-consider placing more litter collection containers at countryside?
- (c) What education and publicity work has been done to call on countryside visitors to care for the nature over the past year? Is there any plan to step up the work?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

- (a) In 2020, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a total of 13 362 patrols in country parks and special areas across the territory and instituted 833 prosecutions and issued 123 written warnings under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A), which mainly involved littering, unauthorised possession or driving of bicycles or vehicles, damage of plants, and lighting of fire or camping outside the designated areas, etc. The number of cases by type is tabulated as follows:

<b>Type of offences</b>	<b>Number of prosecutions</b>	<b>Number of written warnings</b>
Littering	77	0
Unauthorised possession or driving of bicycles or vehicles	575	39
Damage of plants	38	2
Illegal lighting of fires	13	3
Illegal camping	18	40
Entry of closed sites	106	26
Others	6	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>123</b>

(b) and (c) The volume of litter collected by the AFCD in country parks over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Volume of litter (tonnes)</b>
2018	2 943
2019	2 544
2020	2 316

The AFCD has been implementing the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme in collaboration with green groups and hiking groups since 2015, and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.

To tie in with the relevant publicity and education programme, litter bins and recycling bins along the hiking trails in country parks have been removed since the end of 2017 while there are still litter collection facilities at recreational sites (e.g. barbecue sites and campsites) for use by members of the public if needed. Although all barbecue sites and campsites in country parks are temporarily closed during the epidemic, in view of the increased number of visitors recently, the AFCD has adjusted the cordoned off area as needed to ensure that country park visitors could continue to use the litter collection facilities in some barbecue sites and campsites to maintain environmental hygiene. When patrolling the country parks, the AFCD staff would remind visitors to take away their litter and take appropriate enforcement actions against littering if detected.

Besides, the AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside and to avoid crowded places during peak times, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant promotion, etc. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your Litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of

masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots. In the coming year, the AFCD will produce more promotional videos and make use of the internet and other media channels for reaching out to the public widely so as to continue promoting messages related to hiking etiquette and nature conservation, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB013**

**(Question Serial No. 1484)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary that additional resources will be allocated to enhance country parks. The enhancement will improve people's quality of life when the epidemic is over and may also appeal to the visitors. Please advise this Committee of the specific details of the plan. Is there any implementation timetable? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects in the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.



As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of visitor information, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB014**

**(Question Serial No. 0822)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the conservation and management of the wetland, please advise of the following:

- (a) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), what were the number of complaints received by the Government about alleged illegal bird prevention measures taken by fish farmers and farmers, the average and longest time taken to handle such cases, the number of prosecutions instituted against the contravention of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170), and the number of convictions thereof?
- (b) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), regarding farmers who have installed bird preventive netting or other measures, what were the numbers of applications for low-interest loans from loan funds and the Farm Improvement Scheme grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund received by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), and the amounts so involved in the applications?
- (c) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), how did AFCD assist farmers and fish farmers in reducing their loss due to bird predation in farmland and fish ponds?
- (d) Over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), what were the amounts of subventions granted to the management agreement projects under the Environment and Conservation Fund? What were the number of participating fish farmers as well as the figures and percentages of the fish ponds taken up to the total area of the Ramsar Site?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The provision of assistance, relevant loans and funds to fish farmers and farmers on bird preventive measures as mentioned in the question fall under the purview of the Food and

Health Bureau (FHB). Our consolidated reply after consulting the FHB is set out as follows:

- (a) According to the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance), no person shall, except in accordance with a special permit, wilfully disturb or hunt any protected wild animal, including all wild birds. Over the past 3 years (up to January 2021), the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has prosecuted a total of 218 cases for contravening the Ordinance and a total of 165 cases were convicted. During the same period, the AFCD received 4 complaints about suspected use of illegal bird prevention measures by farmers or fish farmers. It usually takes 3 to 6 months to process these cases.
- (b) Over the past 3 years (up to February 2021), the AFCD has received 6 applications for the Farm Improvement Scheme (FIS) grants under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund (SADF) related to installing bird preventive netting to protect their crops from birds. The amount requested was around \$30,000 in total. No applications for low-interest loans for installing bird preventive netting or other measures has been received.
- (c) The AFCD understands the concern of farmers and fish farmers over their loss due to predation by wild birds in farmland and fish ponds. The AFCD aims to strike a balance between supporting the agriculture and fisheries industries as well as conservation of wild birds, and assists farmers and fish farmers in taking appropriate measures to reduce predation by wild birds in farmland and fish ponds without causing harm to birds. Regarding farmers, the AFCD regularly organises talks and farmland visits where technical advice on bird prevention would be provided to assist farmers in taking appropriate measures to reduce bird predation in farmland. Farmers who are interested in installing bird preventive netting or other measures can apply for low-interest loans from loan funds administered by the AFCD, or purchase the necessary materials for self-installation with FIS grants under SADF. Regarding fish farmers, the AFCD regularly organises talks and workshops on good aquaculture practices and general fish farming guidelines, where methods on prevention of predation by wild birds would be introduced, such as pond wiring, hanging of reflective materials, etc., to reduce loss of fish produce. Fish farmers can also apply for low-interest loans from loan funds administered by the AFCD should they need any financial assistance, or purchase the necessary materials with the Equipment Improvement Project grants under the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund.

Besides, the AFCD has published 2 pamphlets on the “Methods of Preventing Bird Predation in Farmland” and “Methods of Preventing Bird Predation in Fish Ponds” for the reference of farmers and fish farmers respectively. According to the AFCD’s observation, many farmers and fish farmers have adopted the AFCD’s recommendations to reduce the risk of wild bird predation in farmland and fish ponds.

- (d) There were 2 Management Agreement projects with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund conducted during the period from March 2017 to February 2019 and from March 2019 to February 2021 in the Ramsar Site and Deep Bay Wetland outside the Ramsar Site respectively. Details of the projects are tabulated as follows:

<b>(1) Ramsar Site</b>		
<b>Project period</b>	<b>March 2017 to February 2019</b>	<b>March 2019 to February 2021<sup>#</sup></b>
<b>Total approved budget (\$)</b>	7,034,532	7,456,636
<b>Number of fishpond operators engaged</b>	67	69
<b>Area of fishponds engaged (hectare)</b>	286	265
<b>Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in eligible fishponds* (%)</b>	98	91
<b>(2) Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site</b>		
<b>Project period</b>	<b>March 2017 to February 2019</b>	<b>March 2019 to February 2021<sup>#</sup></b>
<b>Total approved budget (\$)</b>	7,659,992	7,246,276
<b>Number of fishpond operators engaged</b>	88	89
<b>Area of fishponds engaged (hectare)</b>	327	329
<b>Percentage of area of fishponds engaged in eligible fishponds* (%)</b>	88	91

\* Eligible fishponds are those registered under the AFCD's Voluntary Registration Scheme.

# Figures may vary slightly during the project period as some fishpond operators had withdrawn while some were newly engaged in the project during the period.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB015**

**(Question Serial No. 0824)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding wild pigs, please advise of the following:

- (a) What is the current population of wild pigs in Hong Kong?
- (b) What was the number of help-seeking cases in relation to the appearance of wild pigs received over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (c) What were the number of operations conducted under the pilot programme on the contraception and relocation of wild pigs, the number of wild pigs captured, in which the number of female wild pigs injected with contraceptive vaccines and were surgically sterilised as well as the number of wild pigs relocated to the countryside far away from residential areas over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (d) What were the expenditures and manpower dedicated to the aforesaid pilot programme and the work in relation to wild pigs over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (e) What were the number of arrests made and prosecutions instituted in relation to the illegal feeding of wild pigs over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)? What were the average, maximum and minimum penalties imposed respectively?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- (a) As wild pigs' tracks are difficult to trace and their distribution in the territory is wide with an extensive home range, it is often difficult to conduct large-scale population surveys on them. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) launched a pilot scheme in 2019 to estimate the number of wild pigs in the countryside using infrared camera traps. It was estimated that there were about 1 800 to 3 300 wild pigs in the countryside all over Hong Kong basing on the wild pig population density at the trial sites. The AFCD extended the scope of the study in 2020 to cover

more sites and different seasons so as to make a more accurate estimation of the wild pig population in the countryside. The study is expected to be completed in 2021.

- (b) The number of complaints about wild pigs received by the AFCD over the past 3 years is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>
2018-19	1 008
2019-20	1 073
2020-21 (as of January 2021)	868

- (c) The AFCD launched the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) as a trial to handle the nuisance caused by wild pigs in urban areas in late 2017. To enable a more effective control of the number of wild pigs causing nuisance to urban areas, the AFCD has regularised the CCRP in phases since 2019-20 to vaccinate or sterilise wild pigs caught where condition permits. The figures related to the CCRP over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Year/Number of wild pigs (heads)</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Administered with contraceptive vaccine *</b>	<b>Surgically sterilised *</b>	<b>Relocated to remote countryside *</b>
2018-19	115 <sup>#</sup>	46	18	81
2019-20	293	59	47	222
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	287	63	75	220

\* The number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine/surgically sterilised may overlap with that of the wild pigs relocated to remote countryside, as wild pigs might be relocated after they have been administered with the vaccine/after the surgery.

<sup>#</sup> This figure does not include all the wild pigs captured as the CCRP was still in pilot stage in 2018-19.

- (d) The manpower and expenditure involved in the AFCD's wild pig management over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>	<b>Total expenditure on wild pig management (\$ million)</b>	<b>Expenditure involved in CCRP (\$ million)</b>
2018-19	14	9.9	6.2
2019-20	26	14.5	7.2
2020-21 (revised estimate)	32	17.6	9.3

- (e) Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, part of Tai Mo Shan Country Park, Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, a section of Tai Po Road along Caldecott Road and Piper's Hill section of Tai Po Road are specified places under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) at which the feeding of any wild animals is prohibited (feeding ban areas). Any person feeding wild animals in the feeding ban areas is

liable to a maximum fine of \$10,000. The AFCD arranges regular patrol in the feeding ban areas and will take prosecution action against anyone who has violated the law and fed wild animals, subject to sufficient evidence. The AFCD will, from time to time, review the patrolling and enforcement arrangements in the feeding ban areas as appropriate, including the deployment of additional manpower to conduct enforcement and blitz operations at night and on public holidays where necessary, as well as collaborating with relevant departments to strengthen the measures in combating illegal feeding of wild animals. The information on the prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21 (as of February 2021)</b>
Number of prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)*	32	26	40
Number of successful prosecutions against illegal feeding of wild animals (including wild pigs)	20	28	31
Fine (\$)	1,000 <sup>#</sup>	1,500-2,000	300-2,000

\* Some of the prosecutions instituted in the latter part of the year might be processed in the following year.

<sup>#</sup> The amount of fine imposed on each case in 2018-19 was \$1,000.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB016**

**(Question Serial No. 0837)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding illegal display of items in country parks, please advise of the following:

- (a) The respective numbers of reports received in each of the past 3 years on illegal (i) display of vertical banners and (ii) posting of slogans and painting of graffiti in country parks; and the procedures, manpower and expenditure involved in the operations to remove or clear such items;
- (b) (i) The number of patrols conducted in country parks and special areas for combating illegal display of vertical banners, and (ii) the number of operations conducted during patrols to remove or clear such items, by government officers in each month of the past 3 years; the respective manpower, expenditure and time involved in such operations;
- (c) The respective current staffing establishment of those civil servants responsible for patrolling country parks and special areas;
- (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has stated that investigations on some cases of illegal display of large vertical banners had been conducted, yet no suspects could be identified eventually and hence no further actions could be taken. In this regard, has any study been conducted to resolve the issue; and
- (e) Whether the Department will raise the relevant penalties and step up law enforcement efforts so as to curb this undesirable trend. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?



Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receipt of the reports of illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans and graffiti in country parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct site inspections and investigations as soon as possible. Depending on the situation, the AFCD will deploy staff to remove them or refer to the relevant government departments to follow up the removal action. For cases of large vertical banners which were located in difficult terrains, joint removal operations will be carried out by various government departments, including the Fire Services Department (FSD), the Government Flying Service (GFS), the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and the AFCD. The number of cases of illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans and graffiti in country parks received by the AFCD and the manpower and time involved in handling cases of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks by relevant government departments over the past 3 years are set out at **Table 1 and Table 2 in Annex**. Relevant departments do not keep separate breakdowns of expenditure for handling such cases.
- (b) The number of patrols conducted by the AFCD in country parks and special areas in Hong Kong and the expenditure on patrols and law enforcement over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of patrols</b>
2018	15 456
2019	14 814
2020	13 362

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2018-19	65.4
2019-20	67.0
2020-21 (revised estimate)	65.7

As patrolling country parks is part of the regular work of the AFCD, there are no separate breakdowns of the number of patrols for combating illegal display of large vertical banners and the expenditure involved. Please refer to (a) for information of the number of removal actions for large vertical banners and the manpower and time involved.

- (c) At present, a total of about 150 staff members of the AFCD are responsible for conducting regular patrol and law enforcement work at country parks and special areas in Hong Kong.
- (d) Most of the sites involved in illegal display of large vertical banners are located in difficult terrains, making it difficult to monitor, intercept suspects on the spot, and collect evidence at these sites. Over the past 3 years, the AFCD successfully

instituted 1 prosecution against illegal display of banners with subsequent conviction under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) (the Regulations). The AFCD will continue to maintain close communication with the Police to step up intelligence exchange and cooperation with a view to combating the illegal activities.

- (e) According to the Regulations, it is an offence to display any sign, notice, poster, banner or advertisement within a country park or special area without the permission of the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority), and it is also an offence to wilfully or negligently deface, injure, soil or defile any notice, marker, fence, building, shelter, equipment or installation erected, used or maintained by the Authority within a country park or special area. Contravention of the relevant regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment for 3 months. The AFCD will continue to step up patrol at locations with past illegal display of large vertical banners, and arrange special operations to deter activities contravening the Regulations as necessary. The AFCD will institute prosecution against offenders if there is sufficient evidence.

Table 1: Number of cases of illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans and graffiti in country parks

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of cases involving large vertical banners</b>	<b>Number of cases involving slogans/graffiti</b>
2018	3	0
2019	22	0
2020	12	8

Table 2: Manpower and time involved in handling cases of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks by relevant departments

<b>Month/Year<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Number of staff involved<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>Total time involved in the operations (hours)</b>
March 2018	26	21.5
May 2018	6	5.5
September 2018	3	5.0
May 2019	120	32.7
June 2019	85	40.8
August 2019	87	25.0
September 2019	139	64.5
October 2019	58	34.5
December 2019	16	4.0
January 2020	69	24.3
May 2020	44	8.1
June 2020	59	33.5
October 2020	48	23.4

<sup>#</sup> The months with no cases received are not listed above.

<sup>\*</sup> The departments involved include the AFCD, the FSD, the Police and the GFS.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB017**

**(Question Serial No. 0838)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the nuisances caused by wild monkeys to nearby residents or visitors, please advise of the following:

- (a) What were the expenditures involved in public education and promotion of the feeding ban over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (b) What were the numbers of complaints received by the Department about nuisances of or attacks by wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (c) What were the manpower and expenditures involved in the investigation and study on the control of wild monkeys, as well as the administration of contraceptive and neutering treatment to wild monkeys over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (d) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department extended the contraceptive programme to monkey troops causing nuisance to residential areas near country parks in 2018. How effective is the programme?
- (e) Has the management plan for monkeys been updated? If yes, what are the progress, timetable and details involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 65)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in public education and publicity on the prohibition of feeding monkeys over the past 3 year is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2018-19	1.1
2019-20	1.2
2020-21 (revised estimate)	1.7

- (b) The number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack received by the AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of complaints about monkey nuisance/attack</b>
2018-19	409
2019-20	292
2020-21 (as of January 2020)	224

- (c) The AFCD's relevant expenditure and manpower involved in handling monkey nuisance over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2018-19	5.2	12
2019-20	5.4	12
2020-21 (revised estimate)	7.3	17

In addition, the AFCD's contractor (the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation) arranges regular sterilisation operations for monkeys in Kam Shan, Lion Rock and Shing Mun Country Parks, which involve about 10 staff members of the contractor in each operation.

- (d) The AFCD extended the contraceptive programme to monkey troops causing nuisance to residential areas near country parks in 2018. Trapping cages were set up in the districts of Wong Tai Sin, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Sham Shui Po to carry out sterilisation operations for suitable monkeys. Capturing operations were also improved through the application of real-time monitoring technology, with a view to further mitigating nuisance caused by monkeys in urban areas and controlling their populations. The case number of monkey nuisance/attack has significantly reduced from 409 cases in 2018-19 to 224 cases in 2020-21 (as of January 2021), which indicates that the measures are evidently effective.
- (e) The AFCD has completed the review of the management plan which addresses monkey nuisances in 2020-21 and reported the result to the Nature Conservation Subcommittee (Subcommittee) under the Advisory Council on the Environment in October 2020. Members of the Subcommittee supported the AFCD's continuous implementation of the relevant management plan and commencement of new research projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB018**

**(Question Serial No. 0850)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding marine parks and marine reserves, please advise of the following:

- (a) Please set out the names, locations, sizes and dates of establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves currently established or to be established as well as the sizes of the core areas or restricted zones. Please also provide the boundary maps of these marine parks and marine reserves (including the core areas or restricted zones).
- (b) Please set out the number of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park and marine reserve, in the first year after the establishment of the marine parks and marine reserves and over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21).
- (c) What were the number of operations and the effectiveness of the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities (including capture, angling as well as any other method) in marine parks over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)? What were the penalties and fines imposed?
- (d) What were the expenditures and manpower involved in the enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (e) What were the number of patrol vessels deployed by the Government to combat illegal fishing activities in marine parks, the area(s) patrolled, and the number of patrols conducted, over the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- (a) The information on the names, locations, sizes, core area sizes and dates of designation of the existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserve are at **Annex 1**. The relevant map is at **Annex 2**.
- (b) The number of fishing permits issued to various types of fishing vessels in each marine park and marine reserve is tabulated as follows:

Name of marine park/ marine reserve	Number of relevant permits			
	First year of establishment	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as of February 2021)
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve <sup>(i)</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP) <sup>(ii) (iii)</sup>	409	240	239	66
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park (YCTMP) <sup>(ii) (iii)</sup>	409	244	243	69
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKCMP) <sup>(iii)</sup>	208	81	81	22
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park (TPCMP) <sup>(ii) (iii)</sup>	280	200	200	56
The Brothers Marine Park	472	474	403	873
Southwest Lantau Marine Park (SLMP) <sup>(iv)</sup>	738	N/A	N/A	738

- (i) The number of fishing permits issued to fishing vessels for the Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve is not available as commercial fishing is banned in the marine reserve.
- (ii) Some fishing permits cover the TPCMP, YCTMP and/or HHWMP simultaneously.
- (iii) Commercial fishing in the 4 specified marine parks (namely the HHWMP, YCTMP, TPCMP and SCLKCMP) will be banned with effect from 1 April 2022 under the new fisheries management strategy in marine parks. Some of the permit holders have surrendered their fishing permits.
- (iv) Some fishing permits issued for the SLMP also cover The Brothers Marine Park. In addition, as the SLMP was designated on 1 April 2020, the number of fishing permits issued in the first year of establishment of the SLMP was counted until February 2021 only.

- (c) The number of prosecutions against illegal fishing activities in marine parks over the past 3 years and the penalties imposed are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of cases	Total amount of fine (\$)
2018-19	12	12,900
2019-20	7	6,400
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	1	(Prosecution in progress)

To strengthen the measures for combating illegal fishing and the related law enforcement work, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) consolidated its internal resources and set up a dedicated sea enforcement team in August 2020 with a view to enhancing the ability to combat illegal fishing. The AFCD will continue to exchange intelligence with relevant government departments and Mainland authorities, as well as adjust its enforcement strategy from time to time in the light of circumstances to combat illegal fishing activities jointly. As the dedicated enforcement team was just set up by the AFCD in the middle of last year, its effectiveness is yet to be observed.

- (d) The expenditure and manpower involved in the daily management of marine parks and marine reserve, including law enforcement against illegal fishing, over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>
2018-19	26.1	51
2019-20	29.0	61
2020-21 (revised estimate)	36.7	66

As combating illegal fishing is part of the daily management of marine parks and marine reserve, the AFCD does not have the relevant breakdown.

- (e) The AFCD will continue to conduct patrol and combat illegal fishing in marine parks, including flexibly deploying manpower dedicated to law enforcement at sea as well as providing additional patrol vessels and replacing some of the vessels. In early 2021, the Department provided additional patrol vessels and replaced some vessels deployed to marine parks (including existing and proposed ones), the marine reserve and surrounding waters. The Marine Police and their patrol vessels also provide assistance in law enforcement within marine parks and marine reserve from time to time at the AFCD's request. The AFCD is also planning to procure 3 patrol vessels (including 2 new vessels and replacement of 1 existing patrol vessel) to further combat illegal fishing and other irregularities in marine parks.

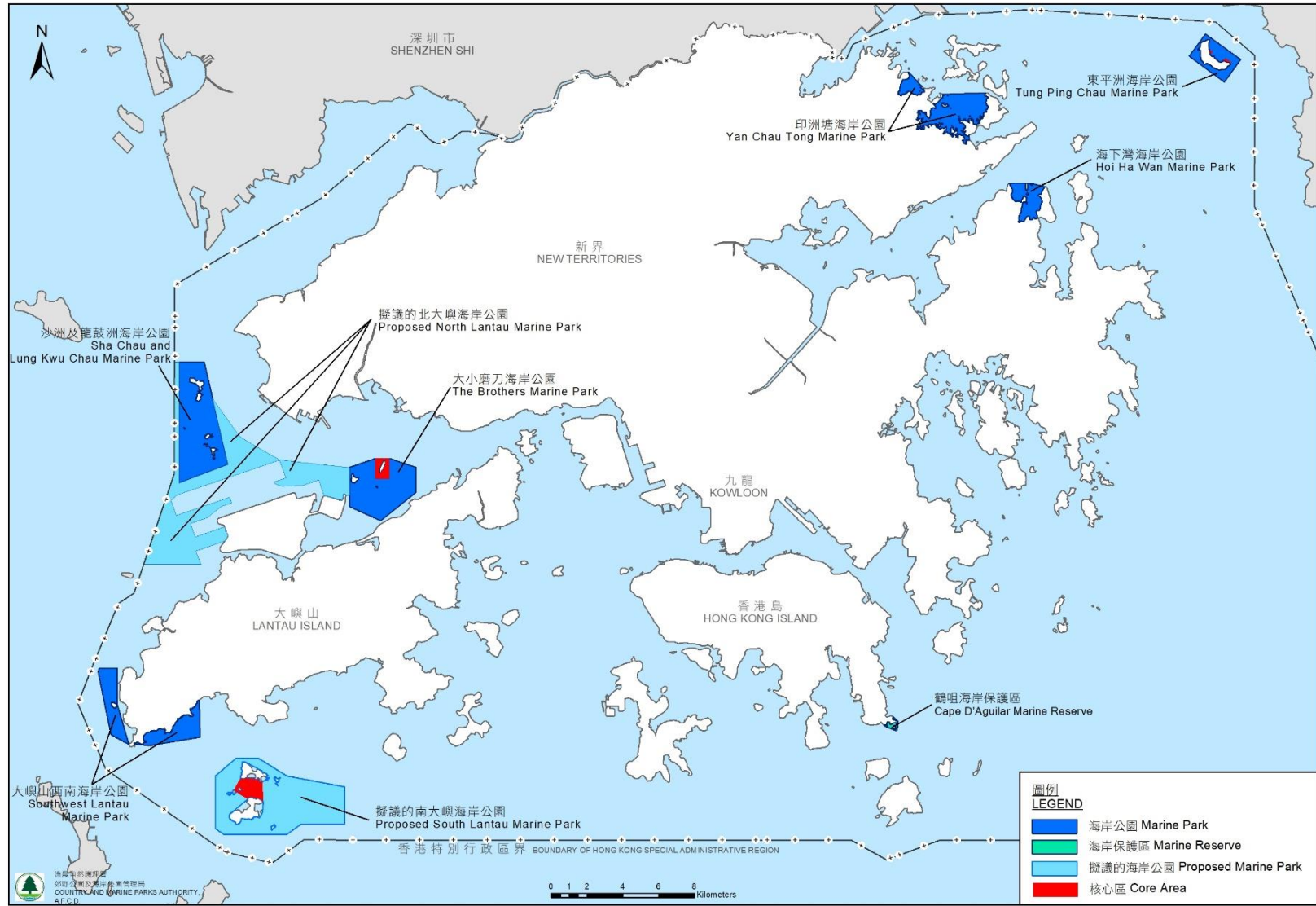
The number of patrols conducted over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of patrols</b>
2018-19	3 330
2019-20	3 154
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	2 624 <sup>#</sup>

<sup>#</sup> The number of patrols has slightly decreased due to the effect of the epidemic.



Name of existing or proposed marine park/marine reserve	Location	Size (hectares)		Designation date
		Total	Core area	
Cape D'Aguilar Marine Reserve	Waters at the southeastern tip of Hong Kong Island	20	0	July 1996
Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park	Sheltered bay located north of the Sai Kung West Country Park	260	0	July 1996
Yan Chau Tong Marine Park	Northeast coast of Plover Cove Country Park	680	0	July 1996
Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the islands of Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau on the western side of Hong Kong	1 200	0	November 1996
Tung Ping Chau Marine Park	Waters enclosing the small island Ping Chau in the northeastern waters of Hong Kong	270	7.4	November 2001
The Brothers Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of The Brothers in northern Lantau	970	80	December 2016
Southwest Lantau Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of Fan Lau in southwestern Lantau	650	0	April 2020
South Lantau Marine Park	Waters in the vicinity of Soko Islands in southern Lantau	~2 067	~145	2022 (Tentative)
North Lantau Marine Park (the marine park for the Three-Runway System of the Hong Kong International Airport)	Waters enclosing the airport in northern Lantau	~2 400	0	2024 (Tentative)



- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB019**

**(Question Serial No. 0887)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the new fisheries management strategy in marine parks, please advise of the status of surrendering of permits due to the fishing ban in the 4 specified marine parks since the introduction of the scheme. Please set out by time period the number of permits that have been surrendered and the number of permits that will be surrendered.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

The new fisheries management strategy in marine parks (the new strategy) has come into effect on 1 April 2020, under which the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department no longer grants new fishing permits for 4 marine parks (namely Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, Yan Chau Tong Marine Park and Tung Ping Chau Marine Park in the eastern waters and Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park in the western waters) for commercial fishing. At present, the fishing permits already granted for these 4 marine parks remain valid and can be renewed according to the established mechanism, although their validity period will not be extended beyond the 2-year transitional period under the new strategy (i.e. by 31 March 2022).

Fishermen who are currently holding relevant valid permits may surrender their permits during the transitional period or upon the expiry of the permits. As at February 2021, about 250 fishermen permit holders have surrendered their fishing permits. Approximately 100 remaining permit holders shall surrender their fishing permits on or before 31 March 2022.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB020**

**(Question Serial No. 0888)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and the extension of the restricted period, please advise of the following:

- (a) What are the expenditure and manpower involved in handling the aforesaid matters?
- (b) What is the progress of implementing the related work?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 50)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) To better protect Green Turtles, the Government will expand the restricted area at Sham Wan, Lamma Island (Sham Wan Restricted Area) from the 0.5-hectare sandy beach to the sea inlet adjoining the beach (about 98.2 hectares). The restricted period will also be extended from 5 months each year to 7 months (i.e. from 1 April to 31 October) each year. The Government has completed the relevant legislative amendments and the relevant measures will come into effect on 1 April 2021.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will take forward multi-pronged measures to enhance management of the Sham Wan Restricted Area with a view to protecting Green Turtles. They include setting up notice boards at conspicuous locations of the headlands of the sea inlet of Sham Wan and road entrances to Sham Wan for demarcating the boundary of the Sham Wan Restricted Area, reminding passing vessels and the public not to enter the area without permission during the restricted period, stepping up patrol by sea and on land against unauthorised entry during the restricted period each year, installing a remote surveillance camera system to monitor the restricted area as well as removing abandoned fishing nets, rubbish and unwanted vegetation at the

Sham Wan Restricted Area regularly to maintain suitable habitats for the breeding of Green Turtles, etc.

As the above work forms part of the nature conservation work of the AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB021**

**(Question Serial No. 0410)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, including adding recreational elements, improving toilets, barbeque and picnic sites, providing new facilities which adopt low-carbon and green design, etc. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) How is the amount of provision calculated?
- (b) What is the specific allocation of the provision, including the amount allocated to each project, the time each project is expected to take, the manpower and miscellaneous expenses involved, etc.?
- (c) Will the Government use the provision to upgrade the software, such as enhancing the online information platform on popular hiking trails, providing local real-time information.

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits. The estimate of the budget required is roughly based on the experience of previous enhancement works.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects in the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, the new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment. As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders. The AFCD and relevant departments will implement the plan by redeploying some of their existing manpower resources.

- (c) The AFCD launched the enhanced thematic website “Enjoy Hiking” in December 2019 to provide detailed information on hiking trails and countryside attractions to enrich visitors’ experience. Electronic display panels have also been put on trial by the AFCD at popular spots in country parks since November 2019 to provide real-time weather information to visitors alongside with travelling information about the areas concerned. The \$500-million provision mentioned in the Budget is earmarked for construction projects and does not include the expenditure on software enhancement.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB022**

**(Question Serial No. 0534)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the combat of illegal trade and smuggling of local endangered animals and plants, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Over the past 5 years, what were the number of cases and the number of trees involved in respect of illegal felling of protected and endangered trees?
- (b) Over the past 5 years, what were the types and the number of endangered animals seized?
- (c) Over the past 5 years, what were the details of the endangered species seized in various control points?
- (d) Over the past 5 years, what was the number of prosecutions instituted under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance? What were the number of convicted cases and the penalties imposed?
- (e) Over the past 5 years, what was the expenditure on public education and publicity regarding the protection of endangered animals and plants?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

- (a) According to the information from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, all trees involved in cases of illegal felling of protected endangered trees over the past 5 years were Incense Trees, and all such cases were handled by the Hong Kong Police Force under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210), the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) or the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200). Relevant statistics are tabulated as follows:



<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Estimated number of trees involved</b>
2016	54	172
2017	53	102
2018	41	78
2019	32	53
2020	13	26

- (b) The endangered species seized in enforcement operations against illegal trade in endangered species vary and usually include leather products of reptiles, pangolin scales/carcasses, ivory, timber, orchid, etc. The quantity of endangered animals seized over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Quantity of seizure</b>	149 000 kg and 2 594 items	63 000 kg and 4 272 items	273 000 kg and 18 975 items	376 000 kg	279 000 kg

- (c) The number of cases involving seizure of endangered species at various control points over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year / Control point</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Hong Kong International Airport</b>	194	297	397	357	132
<b>Lo Wu Control Point</b>	8	16	77	64	16
<b>Lok Ma Chau Control Point</b>	52	42	63	60	64
<b>Lok Ma Chau Spurline Control Point</b>	4	11	125	53	3
<b>Man Kam To Control Point</b>	2	1	4	3	2
<b>Shenzhen Bay Control Point</b>	22	40	43	40	20
<b>Sha Tau Kok Control Point</b>	8	4	5	10	4
<b>West Kowloon Control Point</b>	N/A	N/A	9	30	9
<b>China Ferry Terminal</b>	0	1	2	3	0
<b>Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal</b>	0	1	0	4	0
<b>Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge</b>	N/A	N/A	1	19	5
<b>Hong Kong Port</b>					
<b>Sea boundary</b>	19	20	19	16	21

The endangered species seized at land control points were mainly orchid, American ginseng, dried seahorse, etc., while the majority of those seized in sea containers were timber, shark fin, pangolin scales, etc. The majority of those seized at the Hong Kong International Airport were ivory, pangolin scales, American ginseng, live tortoise/turtle, leather products of reptiles, dried seahorse, etc.

- (d) The number of prosecutions instituted and convictions under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance and the penalties imposed over the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020*</b>
<b>Number of prosecutions<sup>#</sup></b>	154	189	221	226	25
<b>Number of convictions</b>	126	170	178	199	45
<b>Maximum term of imprisonment (months)</b>	8	3	8	24	27
<b>Maximum amount of fine (\$)</b>	80,000	100,000	100,000	50,000	300,000

\* We estimate that the apparent decline in the number of prosecutions and convictions in 2020 might be due to the effect of the global pandemic situation.

# As prosecution takes time, cases prosecuted might not be convicted within the same year.

- (e) The expenditure on public education and publicity regarding the protection of endangered animals and plants over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21 (revised estimate)</b>
<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>	3.9	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.2

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB023****(Question Serial No. 1755)**Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country ParksControlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

In recent years, wild pigs have appeared frequently in urban areas and even forage near residential areas, causing nuisance to the residents. From 2019 onwards, the Department has progressively regularised the pilot Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP) which was introduced in 2017. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The manpower and expenditures involved in handling wild pigs over the past 3 years;
- (b) The number of wild pigs handled under CCRP over the past 3 years; and
- (c) Will the Government introduce any new programme to tackle the problem, apart from the existing measures including implementing CCRP and educating the public not to feed wild animals? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)Reply:

- (a) The manpower and expenditure involved in wild pig management by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), including the implementation of the Capture and Contraception/Relocation Programme (CCRP), over the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Manpower (number of staff)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$ million)</b>
2018-19	14	9.9
2019-20	26	14.5
2020-21 (revised estimate)	32	17.6

- (b) The number of wild pigs handled under the CCRP over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year/number of wild pigs (heads)</b>	<b>Captured</b>	<b>Administered with contraceptive vaccine *</b>	<b>Surgically sterilised *</b>	<b>Relocated to remote countryside *</b>
2018-19	115 <sup>#</sup>	46	18	81
2019-20	293	59	47	222
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	287	63	75	220

\* The number of wild pigs administered with contraceptive vaccine/surgically sterilised may overlap with that of the wild pigs relocated to remote countryside as wild pigs might be relocated after they have been administered with the vaccine/after the surgery.

<sup>#</sup> This figure does not include all the wild pigs captured as the CCRP was still in pilot stage in 2018-19.

- (c) Currently, the AFCD adopts a multi-pronged approach to control wild pig nuisance to residential areas, including managing wild pig nuisance, reducing food attraction for wild pigs, educating the public to stop feeding wild animals as well as enhancing public awareness towards wild pigs. The AFCD has also set up an advisory group comprising experts from various fields to advise on the management of wild pigs.

In addition, studies reveal that wild pigs' reproductive rate is highly dependent on food availability. The AFCD's investigation also reveals that the increase in wild pig nuisance cases in recent years is largely due to intentional feeding and improper disposal of outdoor garbage. In this regard, other than relocation and contraception/sterilisation of wild pigs habitually looking for food in residential areas, the AFCD has been working closely with relevant departments to eliminate the pull factors at black spots by removing food residues, strengthening the promotion of no-feeding of wild pigs, improving the design of refuse collection facilities, etc.

The AFCD has also commissioned a consultancy study with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Environmental Protection Department to improve the design of outdoor refuse collection facilities with a view to reducing scavenging for food by wild animals at these facilities. The consultant has developed 3 new designs of wild pig or monkey-resistant litter containers which were tested at over 70 sites disturbed by wildlife nuisance throughout the territory, and the field trials were completed in the third quarter of 2020. Study results indicated that the new design can effectively reduce wildlife nuisance. The newly designed litter containers will be placed at more suitable sites by the departments concerned according to the actual needs in order to minimise wildlife nuisance. In addition, the AFCD will conduct a consultancy study to analyse the reasons for feeding wild pigs by the public

in order to formulate more targeted publicity programmes and long-term management strategy.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB024**

**(Question Serial No. 1336)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding strengthening the control of trade in endangered species:

- (a) With the passage of the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Bill 2017 (the Amendment Bill) earlier, the import and re-export of pre-Convention (i.e. the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ivory (except antique ivory) have been banned and the possession of pre-Convention ivory (except antique ivory) for commercial purposes in the local market is subject to licensing control. Please advise this Committee of the enforcement efforts of the Government since the passage and implementation of the Ordinance, including the relevant law enforcement data, the amount of imported and exported pre-Convention and post-Convention worked ivory seized, as well as the number of licences issued for the commercial possession of pre-Convention ivory since the Ordinance came into force.
- (b) Regarding the licensing control of international trade in endangered species and curbing of illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong, please give details of the expenditures and manpower involved over the past 3 years and in the forthcoming year.
- (c) What are the details of the expenditures and manpower involved in the Government's efforts to protect endangered species and combat wildlife smuggling over the past 3 years? Apart from ivory, what are the manpower and expenditure involved in relation to the increase in penalties under the Ordinance by virtue of the Amendment Bill?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffery (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (a) The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (the Amendment Ordinance) came into effect on 1 May 2018. With the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance, all import and export of ivory (except antique ivory) for commercial purposes have been banned starting from 1 August 2018. A possession licence is required for keeping pre-Convention (i.e. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)) ivory for commercial purposes. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will scrutinise the applications and inspect the commercial stocks of pre-Convention ivory by recording the weight, taking photographs and putting on tamper-proof hologram stickers. In addition, the AFCD has also been implementing a series of measures that aims at curbing smuggling and strengthening the relevant control of the local ivory trade. The measures included enhancing inter-departmental collaboration and stepping up joint operations and intelligence exchange with the Customs and Excise Department and overseas law enforcement agencies (e.g. Interpol); deploying sniffer dogs to detect ivory at import and export control points to assist in the detection and prevention of the smuggling of ivory; and using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis to determine the age and hence the legality of ivory.

On the other hand, the AFCD has carried out a series of publicity and education activities to publicise the phase-out plan of the local ivory trade and the new penalty regime to the general public, travellers and traders. These include issuing letters, press releases and Facebook posts; distributing handbills and displaying posters at various import and export control points; broadcasting TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest on cross-boundary coaches and YouTube Channel; publicising regulatory measures and sharing information on cases and penalties through the AFCD Facebook page; as well as conducting visits to licensed ivory shops and other art and craft shops for education and promotion, etc. Internationally, the AFCD has also notified the World Trade Organization and all Parties to the CITES the relevant details.

Statistics on law enforcement related to ivory since the Amendment Ordinance took effect are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018 (May to December)</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020*</b>
Quantity of ivory seized (kg)	336	2 058	0.07
Number of persons convicted	24	18	1
Maximum term of imprisonment	4 months	6 weeks	24 months
Maximum amount of fine	\$8,000	N/A	N/A

\* We estimate that the apparent decline in figures in 2020 might be a result of the global pandemic situation.

The AFCD has issued 11 possession licences in respect of pre-Convention ivory for commercial purposes as at the end of 2020, covering around 1.5 tonnes of pre-Convention ivory.

- (b) and (c) Our efforts in protecting endangered species and combating wildlife smuggling include carrying out licensing control of international trade in endangered species, as well as curbing the illegal trade in endangered species in Hong Kong. The expenditure and manpower involved in the above work over the past 3 years and the forthcoming year are tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21 (revised estimate)</b>	<b>2021-22 (estimate)</b>
Expenditure (\$ million)	47.2	50.8	52.8	52.8
Manpower (number of staff)	57	61	61	61

No additional manpower or expenditure was involved in relation to the increase in penalties under the Amendment Ordinance.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB025**

**(Question Serial No. 2059)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management of country parks, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The number of patrols conducted in each country park in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) The number of prosecutions instituted against illegal camping in each of the past 3 years;
- (c) The utilisation rate of each designated campsite; and
- (d) Whether there is any plan to review and provide more campsites in view of public demand.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (a) The number of patrols conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in country parks and special areas throughout the territory over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of patrols</b>
2018	15 456
2019	14 814
2020	13 362

As some of the patrols cover a number of country parks, there is no breakdown on the number of patrols conducted in individual country parks.

- (b) According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap 208A) (the Regulations), members of the public may set up tents for camping only at designated

campsites in country parks or special areas, and it is an offence if otherwise. Over the past 3 years, the number of prosecutions instituted against illegal camping outside the designated campsites in country park areas is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of prosecutions</b>
2018	37
2019	24
2020 <sup>#</sup>	18 <sup>*</sup>

<sup>#</sup> All designated campsites and designated barbecue sites in country parks were temporarily closed from 28 March to 20 May 2020 and from 15 July 2020 to the present until further notice. During the closure period, no one should enter the closed sites for barbecuing or camping activities.

<sup>\*</sup> Another 131 cases are still under investigation.

- (c) Currently, there are 41 designated campsites in country parks open to the public freely on a first come first served basis. As it is not necessary for the public to make reservation or registration, the AFCD does not have the statistics on the utilisation rate of campsites. In general, campsites which are easily accessible and with better facilities are more popular with campers.
- (d) In view of the public demand for camping activities in country parks, the AFCD has been improving relevant facilities at designated campsites in country parks in recent years, such as the provision of additional cooking places and camping platforms at the Twisk Campsite at Tai Lam and the Nam Shan and Shek Pik Campsites on Lantau Island during 2020-21. The AFCD is also planning to extend the areas of some existing campsites or set up more campsites for campers. Amongst them, the reconstruction work of the Wong Shek Campsite has been completed and those for the Hok Tau and Chung Pui Campsites will be conducted soon. In addition, as announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks. The projects under the preliminary plan include the provision of a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park with a view to offering diversified facilities and experience.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB026**

**(Question Serial No. 2060)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the construction of fire lookouts, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the number of occurrence of hill fires over the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of fire lookouts expected to be constructed, their location and the timetable.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

- (a) Over the past 3 years, there were 23 (in 2018), 17 (in 2019) and 25 (in 2020) cases of hill fires which had affected country parks and special areas.
- (b) At present, there are 11 fire lookouts set up by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) at strategic locations in country parks and special areas in Hong Kong to assist AFCD staff members in detecting hill fires. As the detection range of these fire lookouts has covered important forests and habitats in country parks and special areas, the AFCD has no plan to set up additional fire lookouts in this regard.

Besides, the AFCD is exploring the use of video analytic robotics and artificial intelligence to enhance the accuracy of the existing hill fire detection system to assist in the detection of hill fires in country parks with a view to reducing damage to the nature environment by hill fire. The AFCD has selected the Pat Heung Fire Lookout to install the artificial intelligence surveillance system for real time monitoring of hill fire as a trial. The project is expected to complete by the end of 2021.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB027**

**(Question Serial No. 0368)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people prefer to go sightseeing locally. It is estimated that there will be 12 million visitors to country parks in 2021. In this regard, please advise of the following:

- (a) What assessment has been made on the impacts posed to country parks by the large influx of visitors? What are the plans for country park conservation?
- (b) What are the posts, number of staff and expenditure involved for the 15 posts created this year?
- (c) In view of the large influx of visitors, what are the plans to put forward the promotion/publicity/education programmes?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- (a) Since the epidemic broke out last year, many members of the public have visited country parks which led to higher patronage of trails and associated facilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has stepped up patrol at popular picnic sites and hiking spots to monitor and assess the impact of the increase in visitors on the environment and country park facilities. In respect of certain trails with increased wear and tear due to the effect of increasing visitor flow, the Department plans to restore the damaged trails through improvement works, conduct vegetation maintenance and tree planting, as well as increase ancillary facilities at suitable locations in order to reduce the impact brought by the visitors to the countryside. Meanwhile, the AFCD will also strengthen publicity and education efforts to raise the awareness of protecting the natural environment among countryside visitors.

- (b) Of the 15 posts created by the AFCD in 2021-22, 8 are involved in the work of the Nature Park Division (including 1 Forestry Officer, 5 Field Officers and 2 Field Assistants), amounting to about \$3.4 million, while 7 are involved in the work of the Marine Parks Division (including 1 Fisheries Officer, 2 Fisheries Supervisors and 4 Field Assistants or Artisans), amounting to about \$2.8 million.
- (c) The AFCD attaches great importance to the promotion, publicity and education programmes of country parks. It continues to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD has been implementing the “Take Your Litter Home” publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups since 2015 and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables public’s participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.

The AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside and avoid crowded places during peak times, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant promotion, etc. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your Litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB028**

**(Question Serial No. 2584)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In recent years, there were members of the public hanging large banners with slogans on hills or even within country parks from time to time without permission.

- (a) What were the number of large vertical banners removed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department over the past 3 years? Were there other government departments involved? Were there additional expenditures incurred?
- (b) What were the number of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted in each of the past 3 years for illegal display of large vertical banners, slogans or graffiti within country parks?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 124)

Reply:

- (a) Upon receipt of the reports of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will conduct site inspection and investigation as soon as possible. For cases which were located in difficult terrains, joint removal operations will be carried out by various government departments, including the Fire Services Department, the Government Flying Service, the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and the AFCD. As handling irregularities in country parks forms part of the daily work of the AFCD, no additional expenditure is involved. The number of cases of illegal display of large vertical banners in country parks received by the AFCD over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>
2018	3
2019	22
2020	12

- (b) According to the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) (the Regulations), it is an offence to display any sign, notice, poster, banner or advertisement within a country park or special area without the permission of the Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority). It is also an offence to wilfully or negligently deface, injure, soil or defile any notice, marker, fence, building, shelter, equipment or installation erected, used or maintained by the Authority within a country park or special area. Contravention of the relevant regulations is liable to a maximum fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment for 3 months. Over the past 3 years, the AFCD has successfully initiated 1 prosecution against illegal display of banners with subsequent conviction under the Regulations. The AFCD has investigated other cases of illegal display of large vertical banners and graffiti. However, no suspects could be identified after the investigation. The AFCD will continue to maintain close communication with the Police to step up intelligence exchange and cooperation with a view to combating relevant illegal activities.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB029**

**(Question Serial No. 0332)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 149 of the Budget Speech that the Government would set aside \$500 million and \$55 million to improve the country park facilities and hiking trails respectively. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How will the 2 aforesaid provisions be used specifically?
- (b) Many country parks and hiking trails are crowded with people during holidays in recent years. Has the Government conducted any study on the carrying capacity of the local scenic attractions? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Has the Government reviewed the traffic planning and arrangement for those exceptionally popular scenic attractions? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

- (a) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage.



Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The improvement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- (b) When designing the projects, the AFCD will identify suitable sites for detailed studies, taking into account the geographic conditions and other ancillary facilities to ensure that the operation of the facilities will not have long-term adverse impact on the environment of country parks. The AFCD will also provide various recreational facilities and improve the coverage of the hiking trail network and its linkage, with a view to diverting visitors with different needs to various country parks as far as possible to reduce the pressure arising from visits.

In addition, the AFCD will also closely monitor the visitor flow and environment of popular hiking trails or attractions, and when necessary, carry out appropriate improvement work such as repair of damaged trails, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, enhancement of cleansing services, enrichment of information for visitors and promotion of public awareness on protecting the environment of country parks, etc.

- (c) For particularly popular countryside attractions, the AFCD has been communicating and coordinating closely with relevant departments such as the Transport Department (TD), the Hong Kong Police Force and the Home Affairs Department regarding relevant transportation planning and arrangements, and has made corresponding improvement measures according to actual circumstances. In addition, the TD has been closely monitoring public transport services to country parks and will work with public transport operators to strengthen existing services or introduce new services when necessary to meet passenger demand. The TD will continue to carry out the work as mentioned above.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB030**

**(Question Serial No. 0052)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has mentioned that it would continue to implement the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong (BSAP). In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The manpower and resources allocated by the Government to BSAP over the past year. What were the specific projects and the amount of money involved for each project?
- (b) Currently, only 2.5% of the Hong Kong waters are protected. Will the Government consider increasing the area of protected waters in 2021-22? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will resources be allocated to set up a dedicated independent body for marine protection, such as managing the network of marine parks?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- (a) The Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BSAP) is a five-year plan which sets out strategies and action plans to conserve biodiversity and support sustainable development in Hong Kong. The manpower and expenditure (revised estimate) involved in the implementation of BSAP by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2020-21 were 29 staff members and about \$42 million respectively, and the major projects implemented and relevant expenditure are as follows:
  - (i) enhancing the existing conservation measures, which include enhancing habitat management in protected areas, implementing species action plans for Incense

Tree and Chinese Pangolin, as well as improving identification and control of invasive alien species, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$10 million;

- (ii) mainstreaming biodiversity to facilitate the public and private sectors to take biodiversity into consideration in relevant policies, programmes, works and projects, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$2 million;
  - (iii) improving knowledge on biodiversity, such as monitoring and studying important habitats and species, developing a habitat map and a biodiversity information hub, as well as commissioning a study on ecosystem services, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$10 million; and
  - (iv) enhancing public awareness and participation in biodiversity through publicity and education activities to encourage the public to practise conservation, involving an expenditure (revised estimate) of about \$20 million.
- (b) To further protect the important marine habitats and species in the Hong Kong waters (e.g. Chinese White Dolphins and Finless Porpoises), the Government has been working to designate more marine parks over the past few years to protect their habitats. The Government designated the Southwest Lantau Marine Park in April last year and is preparing to designate the proposed South Lantau Marine Park and North Lantau Marine Park (i.e. the marine park for the three-runway project of the Hong Kong International Airport), of which the designation is expected to be completed in 2022 and 2024 respectively. Upon establishment of those marine parks, the total area of marine waters of the marine parks/reserves will increase 1.5 times from the original 3 400 hectares to over 8 500 hectares.
- (c) Marine conservation in Hong Kong is currently undertaken by the AFCD. Key measures being implemented include designating ecologically important waters as marine parks or marine reserves and managing the habitats and species in these protected areas; continuously studying and monitoring the biodiversity of Hong Kong's marine environment; formulating and adopting appropriate measures to conserve important marine species (e.g. Chinese White Dolphins, corals and turtles); implementing relevant public education and publicity programmes to enhance public awareness and participation in marine conservation; and jointly conserving precious marine ecology and resources in Mainland and Hong Kong waters through cross-border liaison and collaboration, etc. In addition, the Country and Marine Parks Board (the Board) advises the Government on the policies and programmes formulated in respect of the existing and proposed marine parks and marine reserves. Members of the Board come from various sectors and background (such as the academia, construction and surveying, green groups, agriculture and fisheries, education, ecotourism industry, etc.). In this regard, the Government considers that there is no need to set up another dedicated independent body for marine protection.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB031**

**(Question Serial No. 0198)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 51 of the Budget Speech that additional resources will be allocated to enhance country parks. The enhancement will improve people's quality of life when the epidemic is over and may also appeal to the visitors. Does the Bureau have any timetable for completion of such work and the estimated expenditure for the works of each facility?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 159)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, the new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The enhancement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB032**

**(Question Serial No. 2420)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) Please set out the number of patrols conducted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in tabular form as follows:

Areas managed/Year	2019-20 (Actual)	2020-21 (as of February 2021) (Actual)	2021-22 (Estimate)
Country parks and special areas			
Marine parks			
Marine reserve			

- (b) Please set out the number of prosecutions related to offences under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations and the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation respectively in 2020.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

- (a) The number of patrols conducted in country parks and special areas, marine parks and marine reserve by staff of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is tabulated as follows:

<b>Areas managed</b>	<b>2019-20 (Actual)</b>	<b>2020-21 (as of February 2021) (Actual)</b>	<b>2021-22 (Estimate)</b>
Country parks and special areas	14 194	12 542	14 000
Marine parks	2 699	1 879	2 600
Marine reserve	455	446	450

- (b) The number of successful prosecutions instituted by the AFCD under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of successful prosecutions</b>
2018	724
2019	574
2020	678

- (c) The number of successful prosecutions instituted by the AFCD under the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation (Cap. 476A) over the past 3 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of successful prosecutions</b>
2018	10
2019	10
2020	5

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB033**

**(Question Serial No. 2430)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the nature conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (the Ramsar Site), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The permanent establishment of and expenditure incurred by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in nature conservation and management of the Ramsar Site;
- (b) The number of special permits issued for entering the Mai Po Marshes Restricted Area over the past 5 years (please set out by nature of activity);
- (c) The number of prosecutions instituted against the contravention of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance by entering or staying in the Ramsar Site over the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

- (a) The work carried out by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for the conservation and management of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site includes monitoring of the ecological conditions of the wetland; wetland habitat management, law enforcement to protect the species within the area and providing advice on conservation and wise use of wetland for planning/development proposals in and around the wetland area. The expenditure and manpower involved in the said work in 2020-21 were about \$27 million and 13 staff members respectively.
- (b) The Mai Po Marshes is a restricted area designated under the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170) (the Ordinance). Any person who needs to enter the Mai Po Marshes for bird watching, scientific research or nature conservation activities, must possess a permit issued by the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation.



The number of permits issued by the AFCD for entering the Mai Po Marshes over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of permits</b>
2016-17	1 468
2017-18	1 480
2018-19	1 364
2019-20	1 300
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	1 411

The AFCD does not have the breakdown of permits issued by nature of activity.

- (c) The number of prosecutions instituted by the AFCD against the contravention of the Ordinance by entering or staying in the Mai Po Marshes over the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of prosecutions</b>
2016-17	24
2017-18	39
2018-19	10
2019-20	40
2020-21 (as of February 2021)	40

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB034**

**(Question Serial No. 0671)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government's estimate for production and planting of seedlings in 2021-22 is higher than that in 2020-21. Would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The reason(s) for such increase.
- (b) In 2020-21, what are the number of seedlings produced and planted respectively? Please set out by the 18 districts.
- (c) In 2021-22, what are the number of seedlings estimated to be produced and planted respectively? Please set out by the 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (a) The number of seedlings produced and planted by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has slightly dropped in 2020 as a result of the epidemic. Therefore, the estimated numbers of seedlings to be produced and planted in 2021 have been adjusted appropriately to meet the need of the tree planting work in country parks.

(b) and (c) All seedlings are propagated in the Tai Tong Nursery. The numbers of seedlings produced and planted in 2020 and 2021 are tabulated as follows:

(i) The total number of seedlings for production and planting:

	<b>2020 (Actual)</b>	<b>2021 (Estimate)</b>
Seedlings produced (number)	228 600	260 000
Seedlings planted (number) <sup>Note 1</sup>	220 100	250 000

Note 1: The seedlings produced are mainly planted in country parks and about 10 000 seedlings are provided to other departments for urban planting purpose.

(ii) The number of seedlings for planting in country park areas by district

Note 2 :

	<b>2020 (Actual)</b>	<b>2021 (Estimate)</b>
Eastern	300	300
Islands	80 100	71 000
North	13 000	83 000
Sai Kung	31 000	14 000
Sha Tin	15 600	8 000
Southern	700	400
Tai Po	7 400	3 000
Tsuen Wan	9 900	8 000
Tuen Mun	27 600	50 000
Wan Chai	0	300
Yuen Long	34 500	12 000

Note 2: There is no country park in Kowloon City, Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Yau Tsim Mong and Kwai Tsing districts. In addition, no planting of seedlings was/will be carried out in Wong Tai Sin (in which there is only a small area of Ma On Shan Country Park) and the Central and Western District in 2020 and 2021.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB035**

**(Question Serial No. 0672)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government would continue the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Hong Kong. What are the specific initiatives concerned? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

The Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BSAP) is a five-year plan which sets out strategies and action plans to conserve biodiversity and support sustainable development in Hong Kong. In 2021-22, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked a provision of about \$25 million to continue the implementation of some long-term and sustainable measures under BSAP. It is expected to involve a total of 26 staff members. Key measures include:

- (i) enhancing the existing conservation measures, which include enhancing habitat management in protected areas, further implementing species action plans for Incense Tree and Chinese Pangolin, as well as improving identification and control of invasive alien species, etc.;
- (ii) mainstreaming biodiversity to facilitate the public and private sectors to take biodiversity into consideration in relevant policies, programmes, works and projects;
- (iii) improving knowledge on biodiversity, such as monitoring and studying important habitats and species, developing a habitat map and a biodiversity information hub, as well as commissioning a study on ecosystem services; and
- (iv) enhancing public awareness and participation in biodiversity through publicity and education activities to encourage the public to practise conservation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB036**

**(Question Serial No. 0673)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government will strengthen the control of trade in endangered species and combat their illegal trade and smuggling. What are the specific initiatives concerned? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

The Government is committed to protecting every endangered species and regulates the trade in endangered species by implementing the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586), with a view to fulfilling the requirements of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) . In view of the amendments made to the species listed in the Appendices to CITES and some of the content adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES held in August 2019 <sup>Note</sup>, the Government has made the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 3) Order 2021 (the Amendment Order) to reflect the latest requirements of CITES. The Government solicited views from stakeholders on the Amendment Order in 2019 and consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on the relevant legislative amendments in January 2021. The Amendment Order is currently under the negative vetting procedure and will come into effect on 30 April 2021.

Apart from that, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has also implemented a series of measures that aim at curbing smuggling of endangered species and strengthening the control of local trade in endangered species. The measures include, deploying sniffer dogs to assist in detecting smuggling of endangered species at import and export control points, conducting inspections at markets and shops that might sell endangered species from time to time, as well as developing and applying new technologies to assist in enforcement, for example, using hi-tech radiocarbon dating analysis for

determining the age and legality of ivory, etc. The AFCD also conducts joint operations with the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) at various import and export control points to combat illegal import and export of endangered species from time to time. They also collaborate with overseas and Mainland law enforcement agencies through joint operations and intelligence exchange to combat smuggling of endangered species.

Besides, the Government also established an Inter-departmental Task Force on Wildlife Crime, comprising representatives of the AFCD, C&ED and the Hong Kong Police Force, to develop strategies on intelligence exchange and co-ordinate joint enforcement operations. Targeted joint operations, both local and international, will be undertaken from time to time to strengthen the frontline enforcement against smuggling and illegal trade in endangered species.

The AFCD's manpower and estimated expenditure for controlling trade and combating smuggling of endangered species in 2021-22 are about 60 staff members and \$51 million respectively.

Note: The amendments involved multiple lizard species, salamanders, sea cucumbers, mako sharks, otters, turtles and tortoises, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB037**

**(Question Serial No. 0674)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Government would implement the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area on Lamma Island and extension of the restricted period to enhance protection of Green Turtles. What are the specific details? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

To better protect Green Turtles, the Government will expand the restricted area at Sham Wan, Lamma Island (Sham Wan Restricted Area) from the 0.5-hectare sandy beach to the sea inlet adjoining the beach (about 98.2 hectares). The restricted period will also be extended from 5 months each year to 7 months (i.e. from 1 April to 31 October) each year. The Government has completed the relevant legislative amendments and the relevant measures will come into effect on 1 April 2021.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will take forward multi-pronged measures to enhance management of the Sham Wan Restricted Area with a view to protecting Green Turtles. They include setting up notice boards at conspicuous locations of the headlands of the sea inlet of Sham Wan and road entrances to Sham Wan for demarcating the boundary of the Sham Wan Restricted Area, reminding passing vessels and the public not to enter the area without permission during the restricted period, stepping up patrol by sea and on land against unauthorised entry during the restricted period each year, installing a remote surveillance camera system to monitor the restricted area as well as removing abandoned fishing nets, rubbish and unwanted vegetation at the Sham Wan Restricted Area regularly to maintain suitable habitats for the breeding of Green Turtles, etc.

As the above work forms part of the nature conservation work of the AFCD, there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB038**

**(Question Serial No. 0473)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In recent years, hikers and visitors are ever increasing and still on a rising trend. The many visitors will bring about negative impacts on the ecology and environment. In this connection, will the Department advise on the following:

- (a) Is there any action plan on public education and publicity this year to remind residents to protect the country parks and ecological environment? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) Has any review been conducted to examine whether the current enforcement action is sufficient? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Will the Department collaborate with relevant departments to enhance enforcement with a view to curbing the situation from deteriorating? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) attaches great importance to the publicity and education programmes regarding the protection of country parks. It continues to promote the messages of keeping country parks clean and conserving the nature to countryside visitors through various channels. The AFCD has been implementing the "Take Your Litter Home" publicity and education programme together with green groups and hiking groups since 2015, and has installed water filling stations in country parks. The programme enables the public's participation in the protection of the countryside by nurturing their good habits of taking away their own litter and bringing their own water bottles, etc. when visiting country parks.



The AFCD also displays promotional banners and posters at suitable locations in country parks, appeals to the public through social media and radio programmes to protect the environment and maintain environmental hygiene while visiting the countryside and avoid crowded places during peak times, as well as places advertisements on public transport and media to carry out relevant promotion, etc. In view of the large number of people visiting country parks recently, the AFCD has employed green ambassadors to promote the concept of “Leave No Trace”, such as “Take Your Litter Home”, “bring own bottle to reduce single-use plastic consumables” and “proper disposal of masks”, etc. to the general public at popular hiking spots.

- (b) and (c) The AFCD is committed to combating illegal activities in country parks so as to protect the natural environment. The AFCD staff conduct patrol in country parks and special areas in various districts to monitor the conditions of country parks and the use of related facilities by visitors. If irregularities such as littering, illegal camping or lighting of fires, illegal plucking or damaging of plants are detected, the AFCD will take enforcement actions against the persons involved under the Country Parks and Special Areas Regulations (Cap. 208A) (the Regulations) and other relevant legislation. Over the past 3 years, the number of convicted cases under the Regulations were 724 (in 2018), 574 (in 2019) and 678 (in 2020) respectively, and the offenders were fined from \$100 to \$2,000.

In the light that many members of the public have visited country parks since the epidemic last year, the AFCD has stepped up patrol and law enforcement at popular hiking spots. The AFCD will review and adjust the patrolling arrangements in country parks from time to time in the light of the situation and conduct special operations at specific locations when necessary to combat the irregularities in country parks. It will also conduct joint operations with relevant law enforcement departments to enhance publicity, inspection, enforcement, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB039**

**(Question Serial No. 1686)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

During 2021-22, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will focus on the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks. Regarding the enhancement of the education and recreation functions of country parks, \$500 million and \$55 million will be set aside to enhance the facilities and hiking trails in country parks respectively. In this connection, will the Government advise of the details of relevant measures and the breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The improvement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of information for visitors, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB040**

**(Question Serial No. 0551)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 149 of the Budget that \$500 million will be set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing recreational elements like additional lookout points, treetop adventure and glamping sites, improving toilet facilities and barbeque and picnic sites, and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience and enjoyment at the countryside. It is also mentioned that \$55 million has been earmarked for the Tourism Commission to work with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to take forward the second phase of the enhancement programme for 10 popular hiking trails in country parks that have potential for tourism in the coming 5 years, with a view to enriching leisure experience of the public and visitors.

- (a) How does the Government assess the carry capacities of the aforesaid country parks?
- (b) What are the assessment criteria?
- (c) What is the outcome of the assessment?

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits. The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities.

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage.

In addition, the Tourism Commission, in collaboration with the AFCD, will take forward the enhancement programme for hiking trails from 2021 to 2026 to promote green tourism. It involves a total of 10 hiking trails within country parks. The improvement works mainly include improvement to the coverage of the hiking trail network, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, addition of lookout points and enrichment of visitor information, etc. The estimated expenditure of the whole programme is \$55 million.

When designing the projects, the AFCD will identify suitable sites for detailed studies, taking into account the geographic conditions and other ancillary facilities to ensure that the operation of the facilities will not have long-term adverse impact on the environment of country parks. The AFCD will also provide various recreational facilities and improve the coverage of the hiking trail network and its linkage, with a view to diverting visitors with different needs to various country parks as far as possible to reduce the pressure arising from visits.

In addition, the AFCD will also closely monitor the visitor flow and environment of popular hiking trails or attractions, and when necessary, carry out appropriate improvement work such as repair of damaged trails, control of soil erosion at the trails, enhancement of vegetation coverage, enhancement of cleansing services, enrichment of information for visitors and promotion of public awareness on protecting the environment of country parks, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB041**

**(Question Serial No. 0182)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government will set aside of \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing recreational elements like additional lookout points, treetop adventure and glamping sites, improving toilet facilities and barbeque and picnic sites, and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience and enjoyment at the countryside.

- (a) Regarding the enhancement of facilities, which country parks are involved? What is the work schedule and the estimated expenditure for the improvement projects this year?
- (b) What projects are involved in the revitalisation of some wartime relics by converting them into open museums and the estimated expenditure for each project?
- (c) Will an open design competition be organised for some of these projects to enable professionals to unleash their creativity? If yes, what is the estimated number of projects? Will open museums be included?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 130)

Reply:

- (a) and (b) As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience at the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages

and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects in the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, adding recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.

The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

- (c) The AFCD will consider organising design competitions for suitable projects. Currently, in collaboration with the Architectural Services Department, the AFCD is organising a design competition for professionals on the new viewing platform in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB042**

**(Question Serial No. 1445)**

Head: (22) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Dr LEUNG Siu-fai)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

According to the Financial Secretary, \$500 million will be set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing recreational elements like additional lookout points, treetop adventure and glamping sites, improving toilet facilities and barbeque and picnic sites, and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums so as to enrich visitors' experience and enjoyment at the countryside. How will the provision be allocated? Which country parks will be given priority in funding allocation to enhance their facilities? What is the implementation timetable of the whole project?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

As announced in this year's Budget, the Government will set aside \$500 million to carry out enhancement works on facilities in some country parks, such as providing additional recreational elements like viewing platforms, glamping sites and tree top adventure; improving toilet facilities, barbecue and picnic sites; and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums, so as to enrich visitors' experience in the country parks and enable members of the public to better enjoy the fun of local countryside visits.

The new facilities will adopt low-carbon and green design that integrates with the natural surrounding, having regard to the needs of people of different ages and physical abilities. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is still identifying suitable sites for various enhancement of facilities at this stage. Projects under the preliminary plan include setting up a new viewing platform overlooking Po Pin Chau in Fa Shan of the Sai Kung East Country Park, providing a glamping site in the Sai Kung West Country Park, providing recreation facilities suitable for people of different ages and physical abilities in the Aberdeen Country Park by reconstructing barbecue and picnic sites, as well as improving toilet facilities with higher utilisation rates, etc.



The above plan will be launched in 2021. After the first stage of site selection, design and detailed assessment, new facilities are expected to be rolled out gradually starting from 2 to 3 years onwards for public enjoyment.

As for projects of larger scale such as tree top adventure and open museums for wartime relics appreciation, their specific locations and details will be finalised after completion of the feasibility studies and consultation with stakeholders.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB043****(Question Serial No. 3114 )**Head: (33) Civil Engineering and Development DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): ( )Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition MaterialsControlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Ricky C K LAU)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

- a) Please advise on the amounts (in tonnes) of public fill (or inert construction and demolition (C&D) materials) delivered to public fill reception facilities in the past five years. If such information is not available, when will statistics be compiled and made public?

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Public fill (or inert C&D materials)						

- b) Further to the previous question, please advise on the actual amount (in tonnes) of public fill (or inert C&D materials) used in reclamation works in the past five years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 158)Reply:

- a) The quantities of public fill received at public fill reception facilities in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Quantity of Public Fill Received at Public Fill Reception Facilities (million tonnes)
2016	15.0
2017	13.3
2018	12.3
2019	11.2
2020	12.1*

\*Provisional actual figure subject to adjustment

Note: The above figures do not include the quantity of public fill that has been directly delivered to other projects through matching for reuse without routing through the public fill reception facilities.

b) The Government has been promoting the reuse of public fill in suitable local projects as far as possible. The quantities of public fill supplied from fill banks to local reclamation projects in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Quantity of Public Fill Supplied from Fill Banks to Local Reclamation Projects for Reuse (million tonnes)
2016	-
2017	0.1
2018	2.0
2019	12.6
2020	13.0*

\*Provisional actual figure subject to adjustment

Note: The above figures do not include the quantity of public fill that has been directly delivered to reclamation projects through matching for reuse without routing through the public fill reception facilities.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB044**

**(Question Serial No. 1555)**

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 (Ricky C K LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Currently, there are only two temporary fill banks in Hong Kong, one in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and the other in Tuen Mun Area 38, with a total capacity of around 20 million tonnes only. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- a. What are the capacities (in tonnes) of the fill banks in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38 respectively? Are the fill materials currently stored in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38 mainly used for reclamation for the Three-runway System (3RS) of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and at Tung Chung East (TCE)?
- b. Regarding major works projects that will require fill materials in the future, such as reclamation projects, has the Government estimated the demand for fill materials of each project and made arrangements accordingly (e.g. setting up additional fill banks, waste sorting facilities, fill reception facilities and fill barging points), in order to store locally generated public fill for use in future works projects?
- c. Why is it that the reclamation works of the 3RS of HKIA and TCE cannot first use up all the locally generated public fill, the surplus of which needs to be delivered to the Mainland, and at the same time there is a need to import manufactured sand and marine sand for reclamation use?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The Government properly manages the inert construction and demolition materials (also known as public fill) arising from various types of construction works through a multi-pronged approach, including encouraging the construction industry to reduce the generation of public fill and reuse public fill as far as practicable. While part of the public fill would be delivered to suitable local construction projects for direct reuse, the rest would be delivered to public fill reception facilities (including two temporary fill banks) for storage and future reuse in reclamation or earth filling projects.

- a. The storage capacities of Tseung Kwan O Area 137 Fill Bank and Tuen Mun Area 38 Fill Bank are about 14 million and 6 million tonnes respectively. Currently, public fill is mainly used in the reclamation works of the Three-runway System of the Hong

Kong International Airport, the Tung Chung New Town Extension and the Integrated Waste Management Facilities projects.

- b. The Government has been closely monitoring the generation of and the demand for public fill, and has requested relevant departments to provide estimated quantities of public fill generation or demand for major projects during the planning and design stages. The Government will continue to reuse public fill in suitable local projects as far as practicable, and will review the need for various facilities taking into account the situation of public fill generation and demand, including examining the feasibility of increasing the storage capacity of the fill banks and the corresponding arrangement.
- c. The reclamation projects in progress (including the Three-runway System of the Hong Kong International Airport, the Tung Chung New Town Extension and the Integrated Waste Management Facilities projects) reuses public fill as far as practicable, but some sand fill is still necessary to fulfil the design and construction requirements of these projects. The share of different types of fill materials being used in each reclamation project and the construction arrangements are subject to the design and construction requirements of the respective project.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB045**

**(Question Serial No. 1556)**

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 (Ricky C K LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

According to the reply of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to the Legislative Council in 2018 (Reply Serial No. S-ENB004 in Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2019-20), the capacities of the two temporary fill banks were already near saturation. In this connection:

- a. When will the tenancy of Tseung Kwan O Area 137 as a fill bank expire? As the CEDD is conducting a study on re-planning Tseung Kwan O Area 137, is the Government currently inclined to renew the tenancy or plan the area for other uses after the expiry of the tenancy? When is the study expected to complete?
- b. If Tseung Kwan O Area 137 is eventually re-planned for other uses, is the Government considering picking another location as fill bank? Can the Government reveal what locations are being considered?
- c. In the next five and ten years, will the new development areas with ongoing and planned site formation works (including Hung Shui Kiu, Kwu Tung North and Fanling North), along with other land production programmes, generate surplus public fill? Does the Government have an estimate? If yes, what are the details?
- d. If the aforementioned projects generate surplus fill, will the Government consider reserving sufficient space and capacity of the fill bank for proper sorting and storage of the surplus fill, so that in future, major projects' need for fill materials can be met and the reliance on imported fill can be reduced?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

- a. The land of Tseung Kwan O Area 137 (TKO137) is currently used as a temporary fill bank by way of Temporary Government Land Allocation (TGLA) until 31 December 2021. Having assessed the overall public fill situation in Hong Kong prudently, the Government will apply for an extension of the TGLA arrangement for TKO137. The study for the re-planning of TKO137 for other uses in the longer term is ongoing and the Government will timely consult stakeholders.
- b. The Government will continue to review the need for various facilities taking into account the situation of public fill generation and demand.

c&d. The Government has been closely monitoring the generation of and the demand for public fill, and has requested relevant departments to provide estimated quantities of public fill generation or demand for major projects during the planning and design stages. Currently, we anticipate that in the coming few years, around 15 million tonnes of public fill will be generated by the construction industry annually, which includes generation from both the ongoing and planned projects in the new development areas. The Government will continue to reuse public fill in suitable local projects as far as practicable, and review the need for various facilities taking into account the situation of public fill generation and demand.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB046**

**(Question Serial No. 0463)**

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 (Ricky C K LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Department “continued to deliver part of the surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland and to liaise with the Mainland authority to ensure smooth operation”. In this connection, would the Department advise on the following:

1. whether there is any agreement with the Mainland regarding the delivery of public fill to them; if yes, the details; if no, how to ensure smooth operation;
2. the reason for the substantial decrease in the quantity of public fill to be delivered in 2021 to the Mainland for reuse as compared with that in 2019.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

1. The Government has been delivering surplus public fill to Taishan in the Guangdong Province for disposal since 2007. The Government has been closely liaising with the relevant Mainland authorities to monitor the actual delivery of surplus public fill to the Mainland waters for disposal and to discuss the estimated amount to be delivered, with a view to ensuring smooth operation.
2. The Government has been promoting the reuse of public fill in suitable local construction projects as far as practicable. The proportion of public fill to be used in various construction projects is subject to their design and construction needs. It is anticipated that the quantity of public fill to be delivered to the Mainland for reuse in 2021 will decrease substantially as compared with that in 2019 mainly because the local reclamation projects (including the Three-runway System of the Hong Kong International Airport, Tung Chung New Town Extension and the Integrated Waste Management Facilities projects) will absorb a large amount of public fill for reclamation in 2021.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB047**

**(Question Serial No. 1922)**

Head: (39) Drainage Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not specified

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (Alice PANG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

With regard to the design and construction of village sewerage in Tai Po and North District, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the estimated expenditure involved in each project;
2. the works progress and anticipated completion dates of the on-going projects; and
3. the details of the projects to be implemented.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditures involved in the village sewerage projects for Tai Po and North District in 2021-22 are about \$20 million and \$23 million respectively.
2. The Tolo Harbour village sewerage project covering Ha Wong Yi Au and Care Village in Tai Po commenced in July 2020 and is expected to complete in 2024. The village sewerage project in Tong To Tsuen in North District commenced in November 2018 and is anticipated to complete in 2022. Besides, the village sewerage project covering Fanling Wai, So Kwun Po and Leng Pei Tsuen in North District commenced in January 2021 and is expected to complete in 2025.
3. The design of the village sewerage in Tai Po and North District covering 24 and 14 villages respectively is underway.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB048****(Question Serial No. 0904)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (Alice PANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

With regard to the design of sewerage for some villages in Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan, please tabulate, for the past 3 years, the information on the villages involved in the design work commenced, resources and manpower allocated for the work, as well as the work progress. Will the Government provide more funding and manpower to expedite the work in the future? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)Reply:

The progress of sewerage design for the villages or areas in Kwai Tsing and Tsuen Wan in the past 3 years is as follows:

District Council District	Villages or Areas	Progress
Tsuen Wan	(1) Chuen Lung, (2) Wang Lung, (3) Lo Wai, (4) Fu Yung Shan, (5) San Tsuen, (6) Sam Dip Tam, (7) Wo Yi Hop, (8) Sheung Kwai Chung and (9) Hon Man Squatter Area	The preliminary design has been completed. The site investigation and detailed design are in progress.
Kwai Tsing	(1) Kau Wa Keng Old Village and (2) Kau Wa Keng San Tsuen	

We will continue our endeavour to liaise with relevant stakeholders and departments, with a view to completing the project design and planning as well as public consultation and statutory procedures among other work as early as possible.

As the work mentioned above is part of the Drainage Services Department staff members' overall duties, there is no breakdown of the manpower and salary expenditure involved in this regard.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB049****(Question Serial No. 1050)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (Alice PANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

How many appeal cases of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge were there in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21? Of these, how many were from the restaurant trade? How many appeal cases were approved? Of these, 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 (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (for the first 11 months only)
Reassessment of Trade Effluent Surcharge Rate	Number of applications received			
	<i>All trades</i>	80	75	3
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	69	16	2
	Number of applications approved <sup>Note</sup>			
	<i>All trades</i>	120	45	62
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	59	35	7
Reassessment of Discharge Factor	Number of applications received			
	<i>All trades</i>	33	8	20
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	1	0	0
	Number of applications approved <sup>Note</sup>			
	<i>All trades</i>	18	15	12
	<i>Restaurant trade</i>	0	0	0

Note: 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.

Normally, upon receipt of all the necessary information, it takes 3 to 4 months to process a case of reassessment of trade effluent surcharge rate, while it takes 1 to 2 months to process a case of reassessment of discharge factor.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB050****(Question Serial No. 2501)**Head: (39) Drainage Services DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Sewage ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services (Alice PANG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

- Over the past three years, what are the number of foul water pipe misconnection cases received by the Department, the number of resolved cases, as well as the expenditure on rectification of the foul water pipe misconnection outside private buildings and rehabilitation of public sewers?
- What are the progress of and expenditure involved in each item of sewerage works over the past three years and in the coming year?
- What is the latest progress of the Village Sewerage Programme?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 168)Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows:

- Over the past 3 years, the Drainage Services Department (DSD) received 149 foul water pipe misconnection cases. Of these, 123 cases have been resolved. The expenditure on rectification of the foul water pipe misconnection outside private buildings was about \$2 million. On the other hand, the expenditure on rehabilitation of public sewers was about \$850 million.
- The table below sets out the major sewerage works being implemented and subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council and the expenditure involved in the works over the past 3 years and in the coming year:

Project title	Expected completion year	2018-19 (Actual) (\$million)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$million)	2020-21 (Revised estimate) (\$million)	2021-22 (Estimate) (\$million)
Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon sewerage – phase 3	2024	1.866	28.231	83.830	127.380
Construction of dry weather flow interceptor at Cherry Street box culvert	2022	49.009	67.842	104.390	65.560
Construction of additional sewage rising main and rehabilitation of the existing sewage rising main between	2025	150.000	91.045	90.000	49.000

Project title	Expected completion year	2018-19 (Actual) (\$million)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$million)	2020-21 (Revised estimate) (\$million)	2021-22 (Estimate) (\$million)
Tung Chung and Siu Ho Wan					
Shek Wu Hui Effluent Polishing Plant	2034	0.000	41.276	476.691	658.898
Rehabilitation of trunk sewers in Tuen Mun	2023	4.435	67.249	80.000	84.000
Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works – phase 1	2025	11.041	179.982	240.960	214.400
Rehabilitation of trunk sewers in Kowloon, Sha Tin and Sai Kung	2022	33.879	68.531	87.350	60.000
Upgrading of Kwun Tong preliminary treatment works	2022	56.088	59.662	65.000	66.160
Sewerage to Lei Yue Mun Village	2023	3.519	25.177	27.340	34.690
Upgrading of sewage pumping stations and sewerage along Ting Kok Road	2023	1.771	60.782	120.000	130.000
Enhancement works for Kwun Tong sewage pumping station	2022	135.548	268.753	246.572	107.200
Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan sewerage – Phase 1	2022	21.881	28.729	35.000	20.000
Outlying Islands sewerage stage 2 – Peng Chau village sewerage phase 2 package 1	2022	4.200	7.102	11.000	11.500
North District sewerage stage 2 part 2A – village sewerage for Tong To	2022	0.219	1.132	2.470	7.990
Relocation of Sha Tin sewage treatment works to caverns – site preparation and access tunnel construction	2022	0.000	172.943	343.430	355.270
Rehabilitation of underground sewers stage 1	2022	2.100	24.493	33.721	56.200
Tolo Harbour sewerage of unsewered areas, stage 2, phase 2	2024	0.000	0.000	22.000	39.228
Port Shelter sewerage, stage 2, package 3	2025	0.000	0.000	18.000	64.840
Port Shelter sewerage, stage 3, package 2	2025	0.000	0.000	22.000	85.160
Yuen Long Effluent Polishing Plant – stage 1	2027	0.000	0.000	85.000	440.000
Tseung Kwan O sewerage for villages	2025	0.000	0.000	3.000	12.200
Sewerage for Ma Yau Tong village, Tseung Kwan O	2024	0.000	0.000	2.000	12.400
Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan sewerage – phase 2	2026	0.000	0.000	24.000	86.000
Construction of San Shek Wan Sewage Treatment Works and Pui O village sewerage	2026	0.000	0.000	0.000	102.500
Village Sewerage in Fanling Wai, So Kwun Po and Leng Pei Tsuen, Fanling	2025	0.000	0.000	0.300	15.000

Project title	Expected completion year	2018-19 (Actual) (\$million)	2019-20 (Actual) (\$million)	2020-21 (Revised estimate) (\$million)	2021-22 (Estimate) (\$million)
Village Sewerage in Northern Tuen Mun	2024	0.000	0.000	6.600	32.500
Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 – upgrading of Cheung Chau sewage treatment and disposal facilities	2026	0.000	0.000	3.000	87.000
West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan village sewerage – phase 1	2023	0.000	0.000	3.150	19.190
Rehabilitation of underground sewers stage 2	2025	0.000	0.000	5.000	11.810
Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to caverns – main caverns construction and upstream sewerage works	2031	0.000	0.000	0.000	90.500
Outlying Islands sewerage, stage 2 – extension of sewerage system to other unsewered villages in Mui Wo*	2026	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.910
Outlying Islands sewerage stage 2 – Lamma village sewerage phase 2, package 2*	2026	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.320
North East New Territories sewerage system upgrade*	2027	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.470
Construction and rehabilitation of trunk sewage rising mains in Yuen Long*	2026	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.520
Construction and rehabilitation of sewage rising mains in Tai Po Kau*	2023	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.230
Construction and rehabilitation of trunk sewage rising mains in Yau Tong*	2026	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.840

\* The items of works subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council.

- Regarding the Village Sewerage Programme, as at December 2020, sewerage works at 258 villages have been completed while those at about 290 villages are being implemented or have been included in the Public Works Programme.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB051**

**(Question Serial No. 1375)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor Plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)  
Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy  
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The estimate for acquisition and replacement of minor plant, vehicles and equipment for the current year is as high as \$207 million. However, the revised estimate for the previous year only accounts for 33.8% of the approved estimate.

1. Please explain the rather large discrepancy between the revised estimate and the approved estimate;
2. Please provide a comparison of the projects under the approved estimate of the current year and the previous year, and list the recurrent projects and new projects for these two years.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The estimated expenditure on acquisition and replacement of minor plant, vehicles and equipment is mainly used for the following three measures: (1) conducting retro-commissioning for a number of existing major government buildings; (2) implementing Solar Harvest to install solar energy generation systems at the premises of eligible non-government and non-profit-making schools as well as welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which receive recurrent subventions from the Social Welfare Department; and (3) implementing Green Schools 2.0 – Energy Smart to install energy-saving appliances for eligible primary and secondary schools. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, some premises (e.g. schools and welfare NGOs) with planned works had to be closed or suspended from operation, resulting in unforeseen project delays. Besides, the prices of the successful bids of some projects were lower than expected. Therefore, the estimate for the above-mentioned subhead needs to be revised in the light of the development of the pandemic and the prices of the successful bids.



2. The estimated expenditure for the above-mentioned subhead for 2021-22 is used for the same three measures, i.e. retro-commissioning, Solar Harvest and Green Schools 2.0 – Energy Smart. There is no new project in this respect.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB052**

**(Question Serial No. 1380)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (696) Energy saving projects in government buildings (block vote)  
Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy  
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under Sub-head 696, \$110 million is earmarked for acquisition and replacement of plant and equipment for government buildings for the purpose of energy saving. However, the revised estimate for the previous year only accounts for 63.7% of the approved estimate:

- 1) Please explain the reasons for the low spending of approved estimate in the previous year;
- 2) Please provide a list of additional plant and equipment proposed to be acquired and replaced under the estimate of this year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The projects funded under the approved estimate for 2020-21 commenced as scheduled. However, some venues and facilities were closed entirely or suspended from operation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in unforeseen project delay. The relevant estimates have been revised accordingly in the light of the development of the pandemic and project progress.

2. The estimate for Sub-head 696 “Energy saving projects in government buildings (block vote)” for 2021-22 is \$110 million, representing an increase over the revised estimate for 2020-21. A breakdown of the number of projects is tabulated below:

Type of energy saving projects	Number of energy saving projects in 2020-21	Number of energy saving projects in 2021-22
Energy-efficient air-conditioning and control systems	37	44
Energy-efficient lighting and control systems	4	10
Other energy saving projects	1	0
Total	42	54

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB053****(Question Serial No. 2399)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Controlling Officer's Report that a total of 991 sampling inspections of buildings were conducted in respect of the Mandatory Building Energy Code Scheme. According to the information of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD), the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services will issue an improvement notice if statutory requirements or the code are contravened in a building. How many improvement notices were issued in each of the past five years? Please provide a breakdown of items stated in these improvement notices by category. After issuing the notices, how would the EMSD follow up with the completion of improvement items by the responsible persons of the buildings?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

As at early March 2021, the number of improvement notices issued by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past five financial years with breakdown are tabulated below:

Financial year	Items involved in the improvement notices issued (number of notices issued)			
	Failure to cause an energy audit	Failure to obtain the Form of Compliance issued by registered energy assessors for major retrofitting works	Non-compliance of the requirements for stage one or stage two declarations of new buildings	Total
2016-17	43	0	8	51
2017-18	28	1	11	40
2018-19	4	0	22	26
2019-20	0	0	11	11
2020-21	1	0	1	2

Financial year	Items involved in the improvement notices issued (number of notices issued)			
	Failure to cause an energy audit	Failure to obtain the Form of Compliance issued by registered energy assessors for major retrofitting works	Non-compliance of the requirements for stage one or stage two declarations of new buildings	Total
Total in the past five years	76	1	53	130

All the improvement notices issued are recorded in the central database of the EMSD for on-going follow-up and monitoring by the EMSD. After receiving a responsible person's report on the completion of improvement items in accordance with the improvement notice, the EMSD will send its staff to conduct a site inspection to verify whether the irregularities are rectified. If the responsible person has not rectified the irregularities after the expiry of the deadline specified in the notice, the EMSD will take follow-up actions, including prosecution.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB054**

**(Question Serial No. 1420)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department  
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified  
Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety  
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In recent years, the number of generating facilities registration applications processed by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been increasing continuously. The estimated number for 2021-22 is as high as 3 000, which is 1 748 higher than the actual number in 2020-21. The EMSD explained that it was due to the increase in installation of solar energy generating facilities under the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme. Yet regarding the manpower responsible for electrical, gas and nuclear safety, there will be a net decrease of three posts in 2021-22, denoting a possible significant increase in the workload of each staff concerned. What upcoming manpower arrangement or work plan does the EMSD have to deal with the above-mentioned changes? For the safety of such installation, how could the EMSD ensure that the quality of future regular inspection will not be affected due to the rapid increase in generating facilities?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 51)

Reply:

With the positive response to the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) Scheme and various facilitation measures for promoting the development of renewable energy, the number of solar energy generating facilities installed by the private sector and registration applications have increased correspondingly. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has previously deployed additional manpower to handle generating facilities registration and regulatory work related to the FiT Scheme. Regarding the net decrease of three posts under the Programme "Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety" in 2021-22, the scope of work of these posts is not related to electrical safety. In addition, the EMSD has completed a computer system improvement project in 2020 to expedite the processing and vetting of generating facilities registration applications. The EMSD will continue to closely monitor the situation of generating facilities registration with a view to continuously enhancing service efficiency and ensuring electrical safety.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB055**

**(Question Serial No. 1439)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. To prevent electrical incidents and ensure public safety, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has been promoting the importance of periodic testing of electrical installations. Generally, fixed electrical installations with an approved loading exceeding 100A in general residential or commercial premises shall be inspected, tested and certified at least once every five years. Considering that there are numerous commercial buildings in Hong Kong, it is expected that the number of tests conducted and certificates processed would increase in time. However, the number of periodic testing certificates processed by the EMSD has been decreasing in the past few years and is expected to further decrease to 10 000 in 2021-22. What are the reasons? Has the EMSD compiled any statistics on the general residential or commercial premises for which five-yearly inspection has not been conducted, and their percentage to all premises of such types?
2. The actual number of prosecutions / disciplinary actions conducted in 2020-21 is 427. Among them, how many cases were instituted due to failure to carry out five-yearly inspection on electrical installations? Does the EMSD consider that it is necessary to strengthen enforcement and prosecution? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

1. Pursuant to the Electricity (Wiring) Regulations (Cap. 406E), owners of electrical installations shall arrange periodic inspection, testing and certification for their electrical installations. Fixed electrical installations with approved loading exceeding 100A in general residential or commercial premises shall be inspected, tested and certified at least once every five years. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) anticipates that about 10 000 endorsement applications for periodic testing certificates of electrical installations will be processed in 2021-22.

The figure is at a level comparable to the actual average number of cases processed in the past five years. At present, about 90% of the fixed electrical installations that are required to undergo periodic inspection and testing have been issued with valid periodic testing certificates, while about 10% of the fixed electrical installations are still undergoing inspection and testing or requiring such arrangement on expiry of their inspection cycles. The EMSD will review every case in which periodic inspection and testing for fixed electrical installations are not completed as the inspection cycle requires, carry out corresponding follow-up action and consider instituting prosecution against the concerned electrical installation owners.

2. In 2020-21, there was a total of 252 prosecution cases involving the failure to complete periodic inspection and testing for fixed electrical installations, which was similar to the number of prosecution cases of the same category in 2019-20. The EMSD will continue with the enforcement and prosecution work, closely monitor the contravention cases and take appropriate enforcement actions. Various channels such as TV announcement of public interest are also employed to reinforce the importance of five-yearly inspection among the public to ensure electrical safety.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB056**

**(Question Serial No. 1619)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environment Bureau indicated that it will proceed with the fourth phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme in 2021-22 to cover more types of products. Would the Government provide the details, including the products considered to be covered and the schedule?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) proposes to include three types of products, namely Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lamps, gas cookers and gas instantaneous water heaters, in the fourth phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS). In this connection, a three-month public consultation commenced on 1 March 2021. The EMSD plans to seek the views of the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council in the fourth quarter of 2021 after considering the outcome of the public consultation. The legislative amendment exercise will commence afterwards. It is currently anticipated that the fourth phase of the MEELS will be implemented in 2023.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB057**

**(Question Serial No. 3088)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department  
Subhead (No. & title): Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy  
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (PANG Yiu-hung)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What energy saving and renewable energy programmes will the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) implement in schools and welfare non-governmental organisations? What are the details, manpower and expenditure involved, and implementation schedule? Has the EMSD set any specific energy saving targets for future evaluation of each programme? If yes, what are the specific targets? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) implements the following three energy saving and renewable energy programmes for eligible schools and welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

- (a) Solar Harvest has been implemented since 2019-20 for a period of five years to install small-scale solar energy generation systems free of charge for eligible schools and welfare NGOs. In 2019-20, the EMSD carried out works for 50 schools and the expenditure was about \$12.27 million. The revised estimated expenditure for 2020-21 is about \$36.45 million, which is used to carry out works for about 135 schools and welfare NGOs. As the works are still in progress, the final expenditure figures for 2020-21 are not available at the moment. The estimated total annual electricity generated in the above-mentioned 185 projects is about 1.65 million kWh. We estimate that eventually about 600 premises will participate in this programme and the total annual electricity generated will be about 5.4 million kWh.
- (b) Green Schools 2.0 – Energy Smart has been implemented since 2020-21 to install the more energy-efficient variable-speed air-conditioners (VSACs) and light-emitting diode (LED) lighting as well as real-time energy monitoring systems free of charge for eligible schools in five years. The revised estimated expenditure of the programme

for 2020-21 is about \$16 million, which is used to carry out works for about 25 schools. As the works are still in progress, the final expenditure figures for 2020-21 are not available at the moment. We estimate that eventually about 300 schools will participate in this programme and the total annual energy saving will be about 40 million kWh.

- (c) Green Welfare NGOs , a new initiative, will be implemented in 2022-23 to conduct energy audits and install the more energy-efficient VSACs and LED lighting at premises of eligible NGOs free of charge in five years, with a view to improving the energy efficiency performance of these premises, as well as promoting energy saving and decarbonisation proactively. The Green Welfare NGOs targets at about 1 000 premises under more than 160 welfare NGOs which receive recurrent subventions from the Social Welfare Department, including venues providing services to the elderly, families, young people, children, rehabilitees, etc. We estimate that eventually about 300 premises will participate in this programme and the total annual energy saving will be about 5 million kWh.

The staff establishment for Solar Harvest and Energy Smart comprises two Senior Engineers, seven Engineers, two Inspectors, one Assistant Inspector, one Senior Technical Officer and one Technical Officer. The work of Green Welfare NGOs will be undertaken by the EMSD's existing manpower.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB058**

**(Question Serial No. 1371)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The revised estimate for 2020 only accounts for 31.4% of the approved estimate and this year's estimate represents an increase of 107.8% over last year's revised estimate. Please provide the reasons for the under-spending of last year's estimate and a breakdown of the expenditure for the new equipment to be provided.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The revised estimate under Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) for 2020-21 only accounts for 31.4% of the approved estimate. This is mainly because more time is required for conducting market research to obtain information of the latest technology, and preparing tender documents for some projects, and for seeking legal advice on related projects. Hence, the progress has changed.

The estimate for 2021-22 represents an increase of 107.8% over the revised estimate for 2020-21. The breakdown of the expenditure for the major new equipment to be provided is listed in the table below:

Project	2021-22 Estimate (\$m)
(1) New volatile organic compounds (VOCs) monitoring equipment at the existing air quality monitoring stations for inclusion of VOCs in routine monitoring.	12.0
(2) New equipment for conducting the study on "Photochemical Ozone Pollution in Greater Bay Area and Characterisation of Regional and Super-Regional Transportation of Ozone", which includes:	

Project	2021-22 Estimate (\$m)
(i) equipment for monitoring VOCs/oxygenated VOCs;	9.5
(ii) equipment for studying the chemical composition and formation mechanisms of secondary particulate matter in photochemical smog; and	9.0
(iii) high-sensitivity optical instruments for monitoring atmospheric reactive intermediate species in regional ozone formation.	8.4

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB059**

**(Question Serial No. 1381)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Provision of \$2.8 million under Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote) represents funding for renovation of Island West Transfer Station Administration Building. This provision was mentioned as early as in the Budget of 2019, and the revised estimate for 2019 was \$170,000, accounting for only 6.4% of the approved estimate. A provision of \$2.5 million was also mentioned in last year's budget, but the approved estimate for that year was only \$125,000, accounting for only 5% of the approved estimate. Please advise on whether the renovation accounts have been finalised and the expected completion time for this renovation project.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The provision under Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote) is for the maintenance and repair works for the five-storey Administration and Office Building of the Island West Transfer Station. The approved estimate under this subhead in 2019-20 was \$2.67 million, among which \$170,000 was the final payment for the re-laying of the waterproofing layer on the roof of the building while the remaining \$2.5 million was the estimated expenditure on the window repair and replacement works for the building. The waterproofing works on the roof had been completed with accounts finalised in 2019. However, as it takes time to complete a survey for the window repair and replacement works for the building, the works concerned were postponed to 2020. Afterwards, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the window repair and replacement works have been further delayed. Based on the latest estimate after the survey, the expenditure on the window repair and replacement works is revised to about \$2.8 million. It is expected that the works will be completed with accounts finalised in 2021-22.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB060**

**(Question Serial No. 1390)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The provision for this year is \$937.3 million (62.7%) higher than the revised estimate for the previous year. It is mentioned that this is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. Please provide the major projects with increased cash flow.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

Under the Programme "Air and Climate Change", the estimate for 2021-22 is \$937.3 million (62.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. Relevant major projects include ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles and pilot subsidy scheme for installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB061**

**(Question Serial No. 1391)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Last year's revised estimate for "Promotion of green lifestyle" under the Subhead was around \$99.9 million, representing an increase of 122% over the original estimate, whereas the estimate for this year is only \$5 million:

- 1) Please explain the reasons for the substantial cost overrun in the previous year and the reduction in the estimate for this year;
- 2) Please provide a breakdown of the main expenditures of the item in the previous year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The estimated expenditure on the Subhead "Promotion of green lifestyle" for 2019-20 and 2020-21 was for the Green Lifestyle Local Tour Incentive Scheme (the Scheme) jointly launched by the Government and the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong (TIC) on 20 January 2020. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) and the TIC are responsible for implementing the Scheme.

In view of the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel industry, the CEDB announced in June 2020 that the total commitment for the Scheme would be increased from the original \$50 million to \$100 million to foster local economic revival and provide further support to the travel industry. The revised estimate of the above Subhead for 2020-21 was therefore adjusted accordingly.

Regarding the estimate of the above Subhead for 2021-22, it is planned to be used on activities for enhancing public understanding of local waste-to-energy and waste-to-resources facilities.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1955)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding reduction of food waste, will the Government advise this Committee on the following for the past 5 years:

1. What were the expenditure and manpower involved each year?
2. What were the quantities of food waste generated from commercial and industrial as well as domestic sources and their recovery rates?
3. What are the anticipated recovery rates in the coming 5 years?
4. What were the quantities of food waste disposed of at landfills?
5. What were the expenditures for implementing the Pilot Programme on Provision of Small Food Waste Composters at Schools? What were the quantities of food waste recovered?
6. What were the expenditures for implementing the Pilot Scheme on Free Collection of Food Waste from Commercial and Industrial Sources? What were the quantities of food waste recovered?
7. What were the expenditures for implementing the Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates? What were the quantities of food waste recovered?
8. What were the expenditures for implementing the Food Waste Recycling Partnership Scheme? What were the quantities of food waste recovered?
9. What were the expenditures for implementing the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme? What were the quantities of food waste recovered?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

- 1, 6 and 9. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is implementing a number of initiatives to reduce food waste, including major projects such as the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign, the pilot scheme on free collection of food waste, etc.

The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign has been promoting a “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture and encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste

at source in the community through various schemes and activities since its launch in 2013.

In addition, the EPD has launched the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection since July 2018, focusing on food waste generated from the commercial and industrial (C&I) and public sectors with a view to drawing up the major operation and logistics arrangements for the collection and delivery of food waste to the recycling centre. There were 70 venues of public organisations, including the Hospital Authority, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, participating in the initial stage of the pilot scheme. The EPD has even provided free collection service of food waste for primary and secondary schools through school lunch suppliers since April 2019.

To further promote recycling of food waste and enhance the quality of food waste collected, the EPD has arranged a contractor to provide suitable guidance and training for operators of public market stalls, cooked food venues and shopping centres, including advising them on how to practise source separation, collection and delivery of food waste. An incentive programme has been launched to encourage the shops to separate food waste at source and gather it for collection and delivery.

Since the implementation of the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection, an accumulated total of 82 000 tonnes of food waste have been delivered to the Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O-PARK1) for recycling, and about 17.3 million kWh of electricity and about 2 300 tonnes of compost have been generated, thereby turning waste into energy and resources.

The manpower and supervision work involved in the implementation of the above initiatives in the past 5 years were absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The expenditures involved are tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure Involved (\$m)		
	Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign	Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection	Engagement of contractors to provide training and assistance to the C&I sectors
2016-17	3.6	-	-
2017-18	4.0	-	-
2018-19	6.3	17.1	0.3
2019-20	4.0	25.4	0.4
2020-21 (Estimated Expenditure)	3.6	34.2	0.6

Regarding food waste treatment, O-PARK1 and the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works (STW) commenced operation in July 2018 and May 2019 respectively, and

treated a total of about 36 000 tonnes of food waste in 2020. The relevant supervision work was absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The expenditures involved from the 2018-19 to 2020-21 financial years are tabulated below:

Year	Operating Cost (\$m)		
	Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O-PARK1)	Food Waste/Sewage Anaerobic Co-digestion Scheme at Tai Po STW	Sludge Trial
2018-19	11	-	
2019-20	47	5	
2020-21 (Revised Estimate)	58	11	

2 to 4. According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the EPD, the statistics on the respective quantities of food waste (including domestic as well as C&I food waste) disposed of at landfills, generated and the recovery rates from 2015 to 2019 are tabulated below. The EPD does not have a breakdown of the food waste generated from domestic and C&I sources and the recovery rates. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation.

Year	Domestic food waste	C&I food waste	Overall municipal food waste		
	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day) (a)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day) (b)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day) (c)=(a)+(b)	Quantity generated (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate
2015	2 397	985	3 382	3 420	1.1%
2016	2 326	1 274	3 600	3 643	1.2%
2017	2 363	1 299	3 662	3 702	1.1%
2018	2 418	1 147	3 565	3 639	2.0%
2019	2 286	1 067	3 353	3 479	3.6%

Note 1: The above figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

The Environment Bureau has announced the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” with the vision of “Waste Reduction · Resources Circulation · Zero Landfill”. As food waste accounts for one-third of municipal solid waste, recycling of food waste is crucial. We plan to roll out the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection on a larger scale this year, and will progressively collect domestic food waste on a trial basis, in the hope that the daily quantity of food waste collected will gradually reach 250 tonnes in 2022. To achieve the target of “Zero Landfill”, we also plan to progressively enhance the overall food waste treatment capability in Hong Kong. We expect to largely equip Hong Kong with adequate facilities by mid-2030s to handle the total amount of food waste anticipated to be collected (i.e. around half of the daily food waste disposal) for transforming into energy and resources.

5. The EPD launched the Pilot Programme on Provision of Small Food Waste Composters at School (Pilot Programme) (Phase One) in 2018 with the funding support of \$1.37 million from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to provide 90 participating schools with small food waste composters, education kits and information for educational activities, with the aim of assisting primary and secondary schools to cultivate the “Food Wise” culture among teachers and students, and demonstrating the recycling of food waste into compost for use in planting on campus. Participating schools have started using the small food waste composters to recycle food waste since March 2019 and recovered a total of 6.4 tonnes of food waste in 2019. In 2020, most of the participating schools suspended the arrangement for students to have lunch on campus due to the pandemic and could not use the small food waste composters to recycle food waste.

In addition, the EPD has further earmarked \$1.7 million under the ECF and rolled out the Pilot Programme (Phase Two) in 2020. A total of 58 applications from schools were approved. The EPD is currently preparing for the tendering exercise for the procurement of small food waste composters.

7. Since 2011, the EPD has implemented the Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates through the ECF to support housing estates to install food waste treatment facilities (i.e. composters) and organise relevant educational and promotion activities, so as to encourage public participation in domestic food waste recycling. Up to March 2021, a total of 36 housing estates have received funding support with a total amount of approved funding of about \$40 million. This funding scheme has been closed for applications. All funded private housing estates may continue to use the on-site food waste composters for converting part of the domestic food waste into compost for landscape planting. These estates are welcome to continue their efforts in separating food waste at source and join the pilot scheme on free food waste collection to be rolled out by the Government. The quantities of domestic food waste recovered and the funding approved under these projects in the past 5 years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Funding approved (\$m)</b>	<b>Quantity of food waste recovered (tonnes)</b>
2016-17	2.20	469
2017-18	1.78	485
2018-19	3.27	389
2019-20	1.46	181
2020-21	0.23 <sup>(Note 2)</sup>	79 <sup>(Note 3)</sup>

Note 2: The amount of funding approved as at the end of December 2020. The ECF received an extension project application at the end of 2019 (before the funding scheme closed), and the amount (approximately \$230,000) was approved in 2020-21.

Note 3: The estimated quantity of food waste recovered as at the end of March 2021.

8. Since 2010, the EPD has been taking forward the Food Waste Recycling Partnership Scheme (the Partnership Scheme) with relevant C&I organisations to promote good food waste management to the C&I sectors. Under the Partnership Scheme, the EPD has collaborated with District Councils and

non-profit-making organisations to hold Food Waste Reduction Activities which would last for 3 to 6 months in various shopping malls in different districts on a roving basis, so as to enhance public participation and promote food waste reduction at source to the C&I sectors. To tie in with the development of planning and works of Kowloon Bay Action Area, the Pilot Composting Plant in Kowloon Bay has stopped receiving food waste from the end of June 2018 and the associated Partnership Scheme and Food Waste Reduction Activities have also ended accordingly.

The annual quantities of C&I food waste recovered under the Partnership Scheme and Food Waste Reduction Activities and the expenditures involved in the past 5 years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$m)</b>	<b>Quantity of food waste recovered (tonnes)</b>
2015-16	0.44	324
2016-17	0.56	431
2017-18	0.81	258
2018-19	-	30 (Note 4)

Note 4: The quantity of food waste recovered as at the end of June 2018 before the activities ended.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB063**

**(Question Serial No. 1956)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding local recycling, will the Government advise this Committee on the following information for the past 3 years:

1. What were the quantities of various types of recyclables, including waste electrical and electronic equipment, plastics and paper, imported/exported?
2. What were the numbers of three-colour recycling bins and glass bottle recycling bins across the territory, and the local recovery rates of various types of recyclables?
3. What is the current recycling capacity of EcoPark?
4. What are the manpower and expenditures for the various sites of GREEN@COMMUNITY each month?
5. What are the manpower and expenditures for T-PARK each year? What is the amount of electricity generated?
6. What are the estimated recycling capacities of the local recycling facilities in the coming 5 years?
7. What were the manpower and expenditures for the outreaching team since its establishment at the end of 2018?
8. What enforcement and prosecution actions have been taken against waste import/export offences?
9. How many projects have been funded by the Recycling Fund so far? What are the quantities of various types of recyclables processed?
10. It is stated in the Budget that the Government will inject an additional funding of \$1 billion to the Recycling Fund. Has a target recovery rate been set for the Recycling Fund?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

1. According to the external merchandise trade statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department, the recyclables imported and exported in the past 3 years mainly involved ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, paper and plastics. Since waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) does not have a corresponding commodity classification code under the current Hong Kong Harmonised System, the

relevant information is not available. From 2018 to 2020, the quantities of ferrous metals imported were 300 000, 210 000 and 140 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of non-ferrous metals imported were 250 000, 430 000 and 250 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of paper imported were 100 000, 30 000 and 20 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of plastics imported were 600 000, 610 000 and 300 000 tonnes respectively. During the same period, the quantities of ferrous metals exported (including re-exports and domestic exports) were 1 290 000, 960 000 and 820 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of non-ferrous metals exported were 340 000, 440 000 and 320 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of paper exported were 720 000, 540 000 and 450 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of plastics exported were 290 000, 230 000 and 110 000 tonnes respectively.

- The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been encouraging the public to practise source separation of recyclables at home or in workplace through continuous promotion of the Source Separation of Waste Programme (the Programme). The Government has now placed about 18 000 sets of recycling bins at housing estates and commercial and industrial (C&I) buildings which have participated in the Programme, government office buildings, schools, country parks and other public places to collect recyclable waste plastics, paper and metals. In addition, the EPD engaged 2 glass management contractors and 9 Recycling Station operators to manage around 13 900 glass container recycling bins, including the recycling bins placed in various districts and also the additional recycling bins to stand by for daily operational needs. Apart from the above recycling bins provided by the Government, additional recycling bins are also placed by many housing estates or C&I buildings on their own. The EPD does not have information on the number of these recycling bins.

The statistics on the recovery rates of the major types of recyclables in 2018 and 2019 are tabulated as follows. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation.

<b>Major type of recyclables</b>	<b>Recovery rate</b>	
	2018	2019
Ferrous metals	91%	91%
Non-ferrous metals	85%	88%
Paper	41%	35%
Plastics	7%	8%
WEEE	63%	69%

- The quantities of recyclables processed at EcoPark in the past 3 years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Quantity processed <sup>(1)</sup> (tonnes)</b>
2018	213 000
2019	185 000
2020	184 000

Note (1) Quantities processed are rounded to the nearest thousand

- In 2020, the EPD rebuilt the community recycling network, namely GREEN@COMMUNITY, including 9 Recycling Stations and 22 Recycling Stores, and set up more than 100 Recycling Spots operating at fixed locations on weekly

schedules, with a view to strengthening the support for waste reduction and recycling at district level. The operators of the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores have hired about 200 and 300 staff respectively. At present, the operating expenditure of GREEN@COMMUNITY is as follows:

Project	Estimated expenditure (\$m)	
	2020-21 financial year	2021-22 financial year
Recycling Stations	42	48
Recycling Stores	127	229

5. T·PARK operates under a Design-Build-Operate contract. The relevant work is undertaken by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. In the past 3 years, the annual electricity generation and operating costs of T·PARK are as follows:

<u>Recycling facility</u>	<u>Electricity generation</u>		<u>Operating cost</u>	
	<u>Year</u>	<u>GWh</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>(\$m)</u>
T·PARK	2018	46.0	2018-19	260
	2019	46.2	2019-20	263
	2020	47.3	2020-21	264
			(revised estimate)	

6. Apart from offering assistance to the tenants of EcoPark and some private recyclers mainly engaged in the business of exporting recyclables or turning recyclables into raw materials for export, the Government also builds different recycling facilities or supports the recycling and processing of recyclables through legislation so as to create a circular economy. For example, on food waste recycling, the Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK 1), which can process about 73 000 tonnes of food waste per year, commenced operation in July 2018. The Design-Build-Operate contract of O·PARK 2 was awarded in August 2019. The facility is scheduled for commissioning in 2023, with a processing capacity of about 110 000 tonnes of food waste per year. The EPD is also working with the Drainage Services Department to examine the use of existing and sewage treatment works under planning to take forward the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme in order to enhance the overall food waste recycling capacity for Hong Kong. Under the trial scheme, the first project implemented at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works commenced operation in May 2019, and the project implemented at the Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works is expected to be commissioned in 2022. Both facilities can process about 18 000 tonnes of food waste per year. Besides, with the full implementation of the producer responsibility scheme on WEEE, waste regulated electrical equipment (REE) (i.e. air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors) generated in Hong Kong will be treated locally. As at early March 2021, there are a total of 17 facilities with e-waste disposal licences (including the WEEE·PARK operator) that can treat waste REE generated in Hong Kong. According to the permitted treatment capacity stipulated in the relevant licences, a total of about 136 500 tonnes of waste REE may be treated each year. As for glass containers, the 2 glass management contractors



engaged by the Government provide waste glass container collection and treatment services across the territory. The recycling target in the first year of the contract is 15 000 tonnes in total, and the Government's goal is to gradually increase the target to 50 000 tonnes a year. The glass recyclables, after treatment, are used for producing cement and eco-pavers, while some are exported for recycling. The recycled glass materials are also used as fill materials in different public works projects. Furthermore, the Government has indicated earlier that it would press ahead with a producer responsibility scheme on plastic beverage containers. On the recycling of yard waste, the EPD is developing the yard waste recycling centre (Y-PARK), which will initially collect and process yard waste arising mainly from government departments and the public works. The facility is expected to commence operation in the second quarter of 2021. Its treatment capacity is estimated at 11 000 tonnes in the first year and will gradually increase to 22 000 tonnes a year subsequently. Meanwhile, the Government will invite open tender in the first half of 2021 for the development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun. The pulping facility is expected to commence operation by 2024 with an initial annual treatment capacity of not less than 300 000 tonnes of local waste paper.

7. To strengthen on-site recycling support, the EPD started to establish the Green Outreach in late 2018 to collaborate closely with community partners to educate the public on the importance of waste reduction at source and assist them to practise proper waste separation at source and clean recycling, and to identify proper outlets for recyclables. The Green Outreach has launched the outreach pilot scheme in Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin since late 2018 and has extended the service to Southern District, Kowloon City, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun, Tai Po and Sai Kung since mid-2020. The Green Outreach will commence the outreaching service progressively in the remaining 9 districts in 2021. The staffing of the EPD for implementing the outreaching service has been gradually increased to about 200 staff, involving an annual expenditure of about \$100 million.
8. Over the past 3 years (i.e. 2018 to 2020), the EPD inspected some 2 240 container shipments at various ports altogether and intercepted a total of 279 containers involving illegal waste shipments, with 162 prosecutions completed so far. The total fine meted out by the Court amounts to some \$2.43 million. The types of illegal waste involved were mainly waste flat panel display units, waste batteries, waste printer toner/ink cartridges and disassembled printed circuit boards.
9. The Government launched the Recycling Fund in October 2015. As at January 2021, the Recycling Fund approved about 1 670 applications, involving a total funding of about \$600 million. Among others, the One-off Rental Support Scheme and the One-off Recycling Industry Anti-epidemic Scheme were launched under the Recycling Fund in 2019 and 2020 respectively to provide rental support and anti-epidemic subsidies to help the recycling industry cope with operational difficulties. The schemes have approved more than 1 300 applications and disbursed over \$206 million in total. The types and quantities of recyclables processed in other projects under the Industry Support Programme and the Enterprise Support Programme are set out in the table below:

<b>Type of recyclables</b>	<b>Quantity processed in the approved project (tonnes) <sup>(2)</sup></b>
Wood waste	54 900
Waste metals	37 100
Food waste/Waste cooking oil	32 400
Construction waste	45 700
Waste tyres	2 800
Waste paper	3 600
Waste plastics	10 000
WEEE	5 200
Used clothes	200
Others (including compact discs, beverage cartons and spent lubricating oil etc.)	2 800
<b>Total</b>	<b>194 700</b>

Note (2) The figures are rounded to the nearest hundred (figures as at the end of 2020).

10. The Government will inject an additional funding of \$1 billion to the Recycling Fund and extend the application period for the Fund to 2027 so as to render continuous support to the trade in enhancing its operational capabilities and efficiency, and provide assistance to the recycling industry which mainly comprises small and medium enterprises in coping with the latest needs of both the local and non-local markets and realising re-industrialisation. It is anticipated that more than 1 000 recycling enterprises will benefit from the measure. In order to assess the actual effectiveness of the approved projects under the Recycling Fund, the applicant of each approved project is required to enter into an agreement or undertaking with the EPD, which states clearly the project's key performance indicators (e.g. the additional quantity of recyclables or recycled products being processed, the reduced amount of waste disposed of at landfills etc.), and milestones of deliverables (e.g. installing new equipment, organising activities etc.). Such information must be recorded in detail in the progress reports, final report and audited accounts etc. submitted by the applicant. Reimbursements will only be made by phases upon satisfaction of the indicators as stated in the signed agreement by the applicant.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB064**

**(Question Serial No. 1958)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

With regard to the 3 strategic landfills in operation, will the Government advise this Committee on the following for the past 3 years:

1. the quantities (tonnes) of various types of waste received by the 3 strategic landfills each year in tabular form;
2. the quantities (tonnes) and proportion of waste delivered by land and by sea (if any) to the 3 strategic landfills each year, and the number of refuse collection vehicle trips to/from the 3 strategic landfills per day;
3. further to the above question, the number of vehicles entering the North East New Territories Landfill via the Lung Shan Tunnel among the others;
4. the number of complaints about various kinds of pollution (including odour, noise, wastewater, hygiene, etc.) received each year relating to the 3 strategic landfills, the investigation and follow-up actions, as well as whether any prosecutions have been made in respect of the complaints;
5. whether it has compiled statistics on or estimated the accumulated and average quantities of face masks disposed of each day across the territory since the outbreak of the pandemic, as well as whether the discarded face masks have caused pollution to the environment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 73)

Reply:

1. The quantities of various types of waste received by the 3 strategic landfills in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill (tonnes per day on average)			South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill <sup>(1)</sup> (tonnes per day on average)			West New Territories (WENT) Landfill (tonnes per day on average)		
	Municipal Waste	Overall Construction Waste	Special Waste	Municipal Waste	Overall Construction Waste	Special Waste	Municipal Waste	Overall Construction Waste	Special Waste
2018	3 487	1 317	242	0	2 140	0	7 940	624	345
2019	3 536	1 356	288	0	2 065	0	7 521	524	346
2020	4 888	1 224	252	0	2 001	0	5 921	194	260

Note:

(1) Since 6 January 2016, the SENT Landfill has only received construction waste.

- The quantities and proportion of waste delivered by land and by sea to the 3 strategic landfills in Hong Kong, and the number of refuse collection vehicle (RCV) trips entering the 3 strategic landfills per day in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	NENT Landfill		SENT Landfill		WENT Landfill <sup>(2)</sup>			Total Tonnes per day
	By land		By land		By land		By sea	
	Tonnes per day	No. of RCV trips per day	Tonnes per day	No. of RCV trips per day	Tonnes per day (%)	No. of RCV trips per day	Tonnes per day (%)	
2018	5 046	743	2 140	493	3 103 (35%)	340	5 806 (65%)	8 909
2019	5 180	733	2 065	475	2 707 (32%)	303	5 684 (68%)	8 391
2020	6 363	776	2 001	432	1 057 (17%)	194	5 318 (83%)	6 375

Notes:

(1) The figures in the table above have been rounded off.

(2) Only the WENT Landfill received waste delivered by sea.

- According to the survey conducted on the users of the NENT Landfill, about 70% of the vehicles entered the NENT Landfill via the Lung Shan Tunnel.
- The numbers and types of environmental complaints related to the 3 strategic landfills received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in the past 3 years are set out below:

#### NENT Landfill

Year	Number of complaints by type				
	Air	Noise	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2019	1	0	2	0	0
2020	1	0	0	0	0

### SENT Landfill

Year	Number of complaints by type				
	Air	Noise	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
2018	8	0	0	0	0
2019	13	0	0	0	1
2020	9	0	0	0	0

### WENT Landfill

Year	Number of complaints by type				
	Air	Noise	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
2018	8	0	4	0	4
2019	6	1	1	0	0
2020	4	0	0	0	1

The EPD investigated into each of the above complaints independently and followed up the cases in accordance with the legislation. Regarding an incident of leakage of wastewater from the WENT Landfill to the adjacent Tai Shui Hang River in 2018, the contractor of the landfill was convicted by the court and fined a total of \$28,000 for contravening the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and the Water Pollution Control (General) Regulations in November 2019. The EPD also exercised the relevant provisions of the landfill contract to require the contractor to make improvements and deduct part of its operation payment according to the mechanism for non-compliance with operation and environmental performance as stipulated in the contract.

- It is difficult for us to accurately provide the statistics on how many face masks have been used by Hong Kong people since the outbreak of the pandemic. Based on the estimation that around 4 to 6 million face masks are used in Hong Kong daily and each face mask weighs about 2 to 3 grams, the face masks disposed of at landfills every day will weigh some 10 to 15 tonnes.

Disposable face masks are mainly made of plastic materials, such as non-woven fabrics, filter layers and elastic strings etc., and waste plastics is the third largest constituent of municipal solid waste (MSW) in Hong Kong. In 2019, the amounts of MSW and waste plastics disposed of at landfills were about 11 100 tonnes and 2 300 tonnes per day respectively. On this basis, it is estimated that disposable face masks discarded during the pandemic account for about 0.1% of the MSW and 0.5% of the waste plastics disposed of at landfills.

As for the face masks used by the general public, they will be mainly collected along with the domestic waste by RCVs and sent to landfills directly or through refuse transfer stations. In the transfer stations, the waste will be conveyed to the purposely-built seal-tight containers via an automated conveyor system, and then transported by sea or land to the landfills for disposal. The landfill is designed and constructed as an enclosed containment incorporating multilayer composite liner system covering the entire area of the site, and leachate will be collected and properly treated. Under the enclosed environment in the landfill, the domestic waste will decompose and undergo anaerobic digestion. Thermal energy will be generated during the process and the temperature in the landfill will be increased, which will

help kill pathogens, including bacteria and viruses. Therefore, the disposal of face masks in landfills will not result in pollution or the spreading of viruses.

In response to the outbreak of the pandemic, the Government has been constantly reminding members of the public to fight the virus together in the past few months through various channels to maintain strict personal hygiene and appropriate social distance with others at all times, and make proper use of personal protective equipment (such as face masks). Used personal protective equipment should be properly discarded in lidded rubbish bins and must not be littered elsewhere to avoid causing health risk and adversely affecting the ecosystem.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB065****(Question Serial No. 1959)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the 7 refuse transfer stations (RTSs) in operation, will the Government advise this Committee on the following for the past 3 years:

1. What were the utilisation rates of the 7 RTSs?
2. What was the law enforcement situation in respect of refuse collection vehicles offences?
3. Please list in tabular form the average amount (tonnes) of waste received by the 7 RTSs each year.
4. Please list in tabular form the number of vehicular trips of refuse collection vehicles and waste-loaded container trucks to/from the 7 RTSs each year.
5. Has the Administration received any complaints about the RTSs each year? If yes, what were the number and types of complaints? Has the Administration conducted investigations, taken follow-up actions and instituted prosecutions in respect of these complaints?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)Reply:

1. The utilisation rates of the 7 refuse transfer stations (RTSs) over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

RTSs	Design capacity (tonnes/per day)	Utilisation rate <sup>(1) (3)</sup>		
		2018	2019	2020
West Kowloon	2 500	108%	108%	102%
Shatin <sup>(2)</sup>	1 200	138%	134%	137%
Island East	1 200	102%	99%	89%
Island West	1 000	115%	110%	104%

RTSs	Design capacity (tonnes/per day)	Utilisation rate <sup>(1) (3)</sup>		
		2018	2019	2020
North West New Territories	1 320	95%	97%	97%
North Lantau	1 200	55%	54%	49%
Outlying Islands	611	15%	14%	15%

Note: (1) Utilisation rate = Daily average quantity of municipal solid waste (MSW) received / design capacity x 100%

(2) Due to high utilisation rate of the Shatin RTS, additional mobile plant, including 3 highway tractors, 1 yard tractor and 4 trailers with containers, was procured for the RTS in 2018 by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to enhance its waste handling capacity.

(3) Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

2. The enforcement situation in respect of refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) offences over the past 3 years is as follows:

According to the Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) Regulation (Cap. 354 sub. leg. L), all compactor type RCVs entering a landfill or an RTS are required to be equipped with (i) a metal tailgate cover and (ii) a waste water sump tank which are proper and in good working condition in order to avoid leakage of leachate when travelling on roads. There are on-site EPD staff at RTSs to conduct inspections of the RCVs from time to time. Generally, if a compactor type RCV is found not meeting the aforementioned equipment requirements, EPD staff will give either an advice or warning to the driver and ask him/her to rectify the irregularities within an appropriate time frame (usually within 24 hours). Follow-up inspections will be taken when the concerning compactor type RCV enters any one of the landfills or RTSs again. The relevant enforcement statistics in respect of RCV offences over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Enforcement situation at RTSs		
	2018	2019	2020
No. of inspections	5 450	6 144	5 475
No. of advisory letters issued	20	22	16
No. of warning letters issued	9	8	7

As all the RCV drivers who had received an advisory or warning letter rectified the concerned irregularities within the time specified, no prosecution was instituted.

3. The amounts of MSW received by the RTSs over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

RTSs	Daily average amount of MSW received (tonnes) <sup>(5)</sup>		
	2018	2019	2020
West Kowloon <sup>(4)</sup>	2 700	2 712	2 548
Shatin	1 655	1 611	1 639



RTSs	Daily average amount of MSW received (tonnes) <sup>(5)</sup>		
	2018	2019	2020
Island East	1 225	1 186	1 073
Island West	1 153	1 097	1 043
North West New Territories	1 260	1 279	1 285
North Lantau	659	653	583
Outlying Islands <sup>(4)</sup>	90	85	92

Note: (4) Apart from MSW, the West Kowloon RTS also received on average about 499 (in 2018), 537 (in 2019) and 493 (in 2020) tonnes of grease trap waste per day. Besides, the Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities also received on average about 47 (in 2018), 32 (in 2019) and 23 (in 2020) tonnes of construction waste per day.

(5) Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

4. The daily average numbers of vehicular trips of RCVs delivering MSW to the RTSs over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

RTSs	Daily average number of vehicular trips of RCVs delivering MSW to RTSs <sup>(7)</sup>		
	2018	2019	2020
West Kowloon	671	688	681
Shatin	387	388	402
Island East	289	289	261
Island West	282	282	296
North West New Territories	275	284	282
North Lantau	128	126	106
Outlying Islands	137	122	132

The daily average numbers of vehicular trips of container trucks delivering waste from the RTSs to landfills by land over the past 3 years are tabulated below:

RTSs <sup>(6)</sup>	Daily average number of vehicular trips of container trucks delivering waste from RTSs to landfills <sup>(7)</sup>		
	2018	2019	2020
Shatin	74	73	73
North West New Territories	61	64	64

Note: (6) Only the Shatin RTS and the North West New Territories RTS delivered waste to landfills by land using container trucks. Other RTSs delivered waste to landfills by sea.

(7) Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

5. The numbers and types of complaints about the RTSs received by the EPD over the past 3 years are set out below:

Year	Numbers and types of complaints about the RTSs				
	Air	Noise	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
2018	11	2	0	0	0
2019	12	6	0	0	1 <sup>(8)</sup>
2020	5	1	0	0	0

Note: (8) The complaint is related to long waiting time for vehicles.

The EPD has carried out independent follow-up and investigation for each of the above complaints received, and has not found any violations of environmental protection ordinances or provisions of the operation contracts.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB066**

**(Question Serial No. 1960)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the work on vehicle emission reduction, will the Government inform this Committee of the following information for the past 3 years:

1. What were the percentages of the emissions from different types of vehicles in the total vehicle emissions?
2. Please list in tabular form the types and numbers of buses owned by various franchised bus companies on a yearly basis.
3. Please provide data on the age of the existing buses.
4. What was the effectiveness of the franchised bus low emission zones?
5. What are the number of vehicles expected to be involved in and the details of the scheme for progressively phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles by the end of 2023?
6. Ever since the Environmental Protection Department used roadside remote sensing equipment to detect vehicle emissions, what was the average number of vehicles issued with an Emission Testing Notice each month? Please provide a breakdown of figures by vehicle type.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) compiles the Hong Kong Air Pollutant Emission Inventory every year to analyse the distribution and trends of major air pollution sources in Hong Kong. The vehicle emission inventory for 2019 is still under compilation. The estimated percentages\* of emissions from different types of vehicles in the total vehicle emissions from 2016 to 2018 are tabulated as follows:

Year	Vehicle type	Percentage in the air pollutant emissions <sup>#</sup>				
		Respirable suspended particulates (RSP)	Fine suspended particulates (FSP)	Nitrogen oxides (NOx)	Volatile organic compounds (VOC)	Carbon monoxide (CO)
2016 *	Motorcycle	1%	1%	1%	65%	11%
	Taxi	0%	0%	21%	4%	28%
	Private car	6%	6%	3%	15%	26%
	Light goods vehicle	18%	18%	17%	2%	3%
	Medium & heavy goods vehicle	37%	37%	26%	4%	6%
	Private light bus	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	Public light bus	10%	10%	4%	6%	18%
	Non-franchised bus	10%	10%	8%	2%	2%
	Franchised bus	17%	17%	19%	1%	4%
Total in 2016		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2017 *	Motorcycle	1%	1%	1%	67%	11%
	Taxi	0%	0%	19%	4%	28%
	Private car	6%	6%	3%	14%	24%
	Light goods vehicle	17%	17%	18%	2%	3%
	Medium & heavy goods vehicle	37%	37%	28%	3%	6%
	Private light bus	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	Public light bus	8%	8%	4%	6%	20%
	Non-franchised bus	11%	11%	9%	2%	2%
	Franchised bus	19%	19%	17%	1%	4%
Total in 2017		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2018	Motorcycle	1%	1%	1%	70%	11%
	Taxi	0%	0%	18%	3%	29%
	Private car	6%	6%	3%	14%	23%
	Light goods vehicle	18%	18%	19%	2%	3%
	Medium & heavy goods vehicle	39%	39%	29%	3%	6%
	Private light bus	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	Public light bus	4%	4%	3%	6%	19%
	Non-franchised bus	12%	12%	9%	2%	2%
	Franchised bus	19%	19%	17%	1%	4%
Total in 2018		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

# May not add up to 100 due to rounding.

\* To provide more accurate emission data to facilitate the management of air quality, the EPD will constantly update the methodologies to compile emission inventories. By making reference to the practices of international environmental agencies, we will recalculate historical emission inventories whenever emission estimation methods are updated. As the more recent version of EMFAC-HK (version 4.2) is adopted for estimating and recalculating emissions from the Road Transport sector above, the data from 2016 to 2017 will be different from the estimates provided in the past.

2 and 3. The numbers and average age of licensed buses owned by each franchised bus company (FBC) in Hong Kong in the past 3 years are tabulated by vehicle emission standard as follows:

Bus company	Category	End of 2018	End of 2019	End of 2020
		Number of buses	Number of buses	Number of buses
The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited	Euro II	113	22	0
	Euro III	1 039	891	595
	Euro IV	93	93	107
	Euro V	2 827	2 823	2 846
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	5	220	442
	Electric bus	17	16	18
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4 094</b>	<b>4 065</b>	<b>4 008</b>
	<b>Average age</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Citybus Limited (Franchise for Hong Kong Island and Cross-Harbour Bus Network)	Euro II	0	0	0
	Euro III	9	0	0
	Euro IV	24	24	28
	Euro V	679	675	626
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	27	47	86
	Electric bus	6	5	4
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>744</b>
	<b>Average age</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Citybus Limited (Franchise for the Airport and North Lantau Bus Network)	Euro II	0	0	0
	Euro III	0	0	0
	Euro IV	0	0	0
	Euro V	221	221	183
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	12	20	40
	Electric bus	0	0	0
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>223</b>
	<b>Average age</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>

Bus company	Category	End of 2018	End of 2019	End of 2020
		Number of buses	Number of buses	Number of buses
New World First Bus Services Limited	Euro II	10	0	0
	Euro III	34	7	0
	Euro IV	38	38	38
	Euro V	512	528	533
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	64	108	115
	Electric bus	4	4	4
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>690</b>
	<b>Average age</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Long Win Bus Company Limited	Euro II	0	0	0
	Euro III	17	18	10
	Euro IV	32	32	18
	Euro V	208	225	206
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	0	0	0
	Electric bus	4	4	4
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>238</b>
	<b>Average age</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited	Euro II	0	0	0
	Euro III	17	13	12
	Euro IV	23	23	18
	Euro V	113	113	113
	Euro VI (including hybrid bus)	0	5	5
	Electric bus	2	2	2
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>150</b>
	<b>Average age</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>

4. The Government has set up franchised bus low emission zones (FBLEZs) at 3 busy road sections in Central, Causeway Bay and Mong Kok since 31 December 2015, allowing only low emission buses (i.e. buses meeting Euro IV or higher emission standards or Euro II and III buses retrofitted with selective catalytic reduction devices and diesel particulate filters) to ply the routes running through the FBLEZs.

To further improve roadside air quality within the FBLEZs, the Government has tightened the emission requirements of low emission buses in the 3 FBLEZs to Euro V emission standards from 31 December 2019. FBCs are required to deploy low emission buses meeting Euro V or above emission standards to routes running through the FBLEZs. According to the information provided by the FBCs, nearly all (above 99%<sup>1</sup>) of the franchised buses passing through the FBLEZs are low emission buses.

<sup>1</sup> In case of traffic congestion, vehicle breakdowns, traffic accidents and ad-hoc trips, etc., the FBCs may need to deploy non-low emission buses to FBLEZs occasionally in order to maintain normal bus service.

5. The EPD launched an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme in October 2020 to progressively phase out about 40 000 Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) (including goods vehicles, light buses and non-franchised buses) by the end of 2027, and has earmarked \$7.1 billion for offering an ex-gratia payment to the affected vehicle owners. During the implementation of the scheme, eligible vehicle owners are required to first scrap their Euro IV DCVs through vehicle scrapping companies registered under the scheme. They should then go to the Transport Department to cancel the registration of their DCVs on or before the deadlines specified in Table 1, and apply for the ex-gratia payment within 3 months after the cancellation of the vehicle's registration. Besides, the Government will cease to issue licences to the DCVs concerned after the deadlines as specified in Table 1, unless they can comply with the emission standards applicable to a DCV of the same class seeking first registration on the date of the vehicle licence application. There are about 16 000 Euro IV DCVs that were first registered from 2006 to 2008. They are expected to be progressively phased out by the end of 2023.

Table 1 Deadlines for Cancelling the Vehicle Registration of Euro IV DCVs covered by the Ex-gratia Payment Scheme

Year of first registration	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Deadline for cancelling the vehicle registration	31 December 2021	31 December 2022	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	31 December 2025	31 December 2026	31 December 2027

6. The EPD has been using mobile roadside remote sensing equipment to identify petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles emitting excessively since 1 September 2014. As at the end of February 2021, some 4.86 million vehicle counts have been monitored under the scheme and the average monthly number of emission testing notices (ETNs) issued is tabulated by vehicle type as follows:

Vehicle type	Average monthly no. of ETNs issued since the implementation of the scheme
Light goods vehicle	<1
Private car	About 87
Light bus	About 19
Taxi	About 212

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB067**

**(Question Serial No. 1961)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding local air pollution, will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. the major sources of the local air pollutants in the past 5 years;
2. the air pollution measured at various local air quality monitoring stations in the past 5 years; whether the results met the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO);
3. the number of deaths and the amount of medical expenditure caused by air pollution each year;
4. the current fuel mix for electricity generation, and the anticipated change in the fuel mix for electricity generation in the coming 10 years;
5. the expenditures allocated by the 2 power companies for purchasing new gas-fired generating units;
6. the details of the pilot scheme for electric ferries proposed by the Government?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

1. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) compiles the Hong Kong Air Pollutant Emission Inventory every year to analyse the distribution and trends of major air pollution sources in Hong Kong. The main emission sources of major air pollutants in Hong Kong (sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates (RSP), fine suspended particulates (FSP) and carbon monoxide) from 2014 to 2018 were vessels, power plants and vehicles, whereas the main sources of volatile organic compounds emissions were non-combustion sources (including the use of paints, printing inks and consumer products such as hair sprays, adhesives, etc.). The Emission Inventories for 2018 and before have been uploaded to the EPD website (the link is listed below). The Emission Inventories for 2019 and 2020 are still under compilation.

[https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/emission\\_inve.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/emission_inve.html)

2. The World Health Organization (WHO)'s "Air Quality Guidelines" (WHO Guidelines) have promulgated a set of "ultimate targets" and "interim targets" (ITs)



for various key air pollutants which enable governments to, having regard to their local circumstances, progressively tighten their air quality standards through adopting the ITs, and meet the WHO's "ultimate targets" eventually. At present, no area has fully adopted the WHO's "ultimate targets" as its statutory air quality standards. Half of Hong Kong's Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) have adopted the "ultimate targets" as specified in the WHO Guidelines, with the rest pitching at the WHO ITs.

According to the preliminary data recorded at various air quality monitoring stations (AQMSs) by the EPD in 2020, the concentrations of RSP, FSP and SO<sub>2</sub> all met the relevant Hong Kong's AQOs. Although the annual average concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) recorded at some AQMSs in 2020 exceeded the concentration limit of Hong Kong's AQOs, the annual average concentrations of ambient and roadside NO<sub>2</sub> have dropped by about 40% respectively from 2013 to 2020, indicating that the emission control measures implemented in recent years are effective. As for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), apart from the influence of regional photochemical smog, the vehicle emission control measures implemented in recent years have led to a reduction of vehicular emission of nitric oxide (NO), so there is less NO to react with and titrate O<sub>3</sub>, resulting in an increase of O<sub>3</sub> concentration level. The O<sub>3</sub> level at some general AQMSs in 2020 still exceeded the concentration limit.

The detailed data of air pollutants recorded at various AQMSs in Hong Kong have been uploaded to the EPD website. The link is as follows:

<https://cd.epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICDI/air/station/?lang=en>

3. The adverse health effects caused by air pollution mainly include hospital admissions, clinic visits as well as premature deaths in relation to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. According to the method developed by the Chinese University of Hong Kong under the study "Developing an Instrument for Assessing the Health and Economic Impacts of Air Pollution in Hong Kong" commissioned by the EPD and completed in 2016, based on the data of 2020, the projected number of premature deaths will be about 1 300, representing a decrease of about 79% as compared with the 6 300 cases in 2014; whereas the medical expenditure incurred due to hospital admissions and clinic visits will be about \$60.4 million, representing a decrease of about 71% as compared with the \$205 million incurred in 2014.
4. In the overall fuel mix for electricity generation in Hong Kong in 2020, gas-fired generation accounted for around 48%, coal-fired generation accounted for around 24%, and nuclear electricity imported from the Mainland and local renewable energy accounted for around 28%. In the coming decade, Hong Kong will continue to progressively phase down coal-fired generation. When the existing coal-fired generating units gradually retire, they will be replaced by gas-fired generating units and non-fossil fuel sources.
5. Under the 2018-23 Development Plans, the estimated total capital expenditures for the construction of the approved new gas-fired generating units by the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and The Hongkong Electric Company Limited are about \$6 billion and \$5 billion respectively.

6. The Government is preparing to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries (pilot scheme) in 4 in-harbour ferry routes with a view to testing the technical viability of adopting electric ferries (e-ferries) in Hong Kong, and exploring whether conventional ferries can be replaced by new energy ferries in the long run. The Government will provide full subsidies to the ferry operators for the construction of 4 brand new e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, as well as the operational, maintenance and repair expenditures involved for testing the e-ferries during the 24-month trial period. The Government has earmarked \$350 million for launching the pilot scheme. The actual expenditure will depend on the capital costs and operational costs of the e-ferries. Taking into account the lead time to construct the e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, we initially anticipate that the pilot scheme can commence in 2023.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB068****(Question Serial No. 1962)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding promotion of environmental protection by government departments, will the Government advise this Committee on the following for the past 5 years:

1. the amount of paper procured by government departments each year, among which the amount and percentage of recycled paper, as well as the respective amount of expenditure;
2. the expenditure on green procurement of various types of materials, and its percentage in the total material cost;
3. the main regions from which the environmental products procured were imported;
4. besides the aforesaid measures, the measures taken by government departments to lead by example in promoting environmental protection?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)Reply:

1. The details of the A3 and A4 paper procured by the Government Logistics Department for government bureaux/departments in the past 5 years are as follows:

Contract period	Item	Estimated contracted quantity (Ream#)	Contract amount (\$)
1 April 2015 to 31 May 2017	A. Woodfree paper*		
	A3	23 000	887,800.00
	A4	1 146 306	22,123,705.80
	B. Recycled paper		
	A3	73 000	2,876,200.00

Contract period	Item	Estimated quantity (Ream <sup>#</sup> )	contracted	Contract amount (\$)
	A4		2 951 038	58,135,448.60
26 May 2017 to 25 May 2019	A. Woodfree paper*			
	A3		21 875	656,250.00
	A4		1 079 981	16,199,715.00
	B. Recycled paper			
	A3		89 909	3,011,951.50
	A4		3 573 479	59,677,099.30
25 July 2019 to 24 July 2021	A. Woodfree paper*			
	A3		21 000	768,600.00
	A4		982 000	17,970,600.00
	B. Recycled paper			
	A3		94 000	3,440,400.00
	A4		3 853 000	70,509,900.00

# There are 500 pieces of paper in one ream.

\* The paper pulp of the woodfree paper procured is from sustainably managed forests and has no recycled content.

2. The expenditures of government departments on green procurement in 2020 are still being compiled. The expenditures from 2016 to 2019 by category are tabulated below:

Materials	Expenditure (\$)			
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Agriculture and horticulture	6,200,000	6,295,000	3,310,000	9,002,000
Building and construction supplies	9,405,000	35,017,000	19,170,000	12,667,000
Cleansing products	12,779,000	4,361,000	4,262,000	13,937,000
Computer equipment and products	65,524,000	188,164,000	289,659,000	433,432,000
Distilled water	437,000	5,838,000	1,140,000	104,261,000

Materials	Expenditure (\$)			
Electrical and gas appliances and light fittings	68,122,000	78,663,000	111,515,000	70,007,000
Fuel oils and hydrocarbon lubricants	200,634,000	7,206,000	390,921,000	7,240,000
Furniture	27,621,000	27,590,000	69,929,000	33,396,000
General stores and general services	1,086,000	2,943,000	1,610,000	9,635,000
Household goods	4,982,000	1,460,000	1,609,000	1,273,000
Office equipment	10,894,000	13,879,000	13,269,000	12,182,000
Packaging materials	1,870,000	1,433,000	2,007,000	3,064,000
Paper for printing and photocopying	25,989,000	113,419,000	29,552,000	137,875,000
Paper products other than those for printing and photocopying	30,062,000	35,759,000	55,805,000	23,690,000
Plastic and rubber products	21,688,000	36,031,000	22,854,000	26,574,000
Printing and publishing supplies	2,351,000	192,000	2,178,000	146,000
Shoes and boots	19,085,000	20,831,000	25,173,000	24,416,000
Stationery and office supplies	132,309,000	163,995,000	144,971,000	130,625,000
Telecommunication equipment and spares	16,157,000	26,137,000	8,389,000	68,324,000
Textile materials and garment	104,581,000	82,679,000	126,503,000	133,868,000
Transportation services	172,342,000	145,069,000	50,513,000	116,063,000
Vehicles and spare parts	191,636,000	181,339,000	390,967,000	642,719,000
Water using equipment	2,003,000	5,085,000	7,395,000	6,169,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,127,757,000</b>	<b>1,183,385,000</b>	<b>1,772,701,000</b>	<b>2,020,565,000</b>

3. The Government's procurement policy is to obtain goods and services at the best value for money through fair and open competition. We treat all tenderers equally. Suppliers from different regions are allowed to bid on an equal basis irrespective of the place of origin of the products so long as they can provide products fulfilling the green specifications. As procurement is handled by bureaux and departments themselves having regard to their needs, we do not have the relevant procurement information.
4. At present, the Government has internal circulars and guidelines which require departments to adopt good practices in environmental protection, such as waste reduction and recycling, energy and carbon reduction in their daily operations and preparation for conferences, exhibitions and events etc. To create a social atmosphere for inculcating a living culture of "bring your own bottle" in the public,

since 20 February 2018, sale of plastic bottled water measuring 1 litre or less has been progressively ceased in automatic vending machines (AVMs) at government premises. Over 90% of about 1 600 AVMs installed in government premises have put in place the above stop-sale arrangement. The remaining AVMs will gradually implement the stop-sale arrangement by renewing existing relevant contracts, lease/tenancy agreements or permissions, etc. The Government is progressively installing 500 more water dispensers in government venues. Subject to the actual work progress, it is expected that the number of water dispensers will be increased from originally about 2 700 units to about 3 200 units by 2022 for public use in government venues.

Moreover, starting from January 2019, the Government has taken the lead in banning plastic straws and polyfoam food containers in premises and canteens mainly serving government staff. Relevant departments, when signing new contracts and renewing existing contracts, will also require restaurant operators in government venues to avoid using disposable plastic tableware.

At the same time, the Government has led by example by adopting green procurement to promote environmental protection. The Government's Stores and Procurement Regulations require bureaux and departments to take environmental factors into account in setting out tender specifications and purchase green products as far as possible and where economically rational. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has developed the green specifications and guidelines for the goods and services commonly used by the Government after making reference to the practices and standards generally adopted in the market, and has provided training to frontline procurement staff, requiring bureaux and departments to practise green procurement in accordance with the relevant specifications. To enhance the overall performance of green procurement in the Government, the EPD will further expand the Government's green procurement list to cover more products and services by increasing the number of products and service from 150 at present to 183, as well as update the relevant green specifications in 2021-22. The EPD has been actively promoting green procurement by uploading the relevant information, such as the Government's latest green procurement list and the relevant specifications, green procurement tips as well as the local and international best practices onto the EPD's website for public reference.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB069**

**(Question Serial No. 1963)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the work of revitalising restored landfills, will the Government inform this Committee:

1. of the sizes, uses and expenditures of all the existing restored landfills;
2. of the applications received in respect of the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme;
3. further to the above question, of the applications approved and the funding involved;
4. of the planned uses of the restored landfills which are available for development up till now;
5. of the details of the existing scheme for provision of solar panels at the landfill and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 80)

Reply:

1. The locations, areas, afteruses and relevant expenditures of all the existing restored landfills are detailed at Annex 1.
- 2, 3 and 4. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is providing non-profit-making organisations and sports associations with funding support for the development of recreational facilities or other beneficial uses at restored landfills via the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme (the Funding Scheme), with a view to providing a practical alternative for the effective use of restored landfills. Among the proposals submitted, approval-in-principle has been granted to the proposal submitted by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs). The project proposes to revitalise approximately 2 hectares of flat area in the Tseung Kwan O Stage I Landfill into a camp site-cum-green education ground (named E-Co Village), so as to provide facilities for organising camping, green education and outdoor recreation activities, adventure training, farming and morning exercise, etc. The EPD is providing the TWGHs with funding support for the pre-construction activities for the

project, including site investigation, detailed design and tender documentation, etc. The EPD and the TWGHs consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs on the proposed project in November 2020. Members in general supported this project. The EPD intends to seek funding approval for the proposed project from the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee in this legislative year. Under the Funding Scheme, the ceiling of grant for the capital works of the proposed project is \$100 million.

In order to expedite the utilisation and development of restored landfills, the EPD is studying the provision of necessary infrastructure for the restored landfills, having regard to the surrounding environment and site constraints, so that they can be put to suitable beneficial afteruses more effectively in future. We commenced the consultancy study in February 2021 for a period of 18 months. In addition, if organisations or groups have any suitable proposals to develop self-funded recreational or sports facilities on restored landfills, and operate the facilities on a non-profit-making and self-financing basis with the support/consent of relevant policy bureaux and departments, we will actively consider and provide assistance as usual so that the restored landfills can be gainfully used and contribute to the community as soon as possible.

5. The EPD and the landfill contractor plan to launch a pilot solar power generation project at the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill (the Pilot Project), with a view to establishing the technical standards and exploring suitable development and mode of operation for the use of solar power generation at landfills in the long run. Under the Pilot Project, the SENT Landfill contractor will install solar panels with a generating capacity of 1 megawatt on a restored slope of about 1 hectare. The contractor will take up the design, construction and operation of the Pilot Project on a self-financing basis via the Feed-in Tariff Scheme. The relevant application for permission was approved in November 2020. The EPD is now finalising the arrangements and implementation details with the relevant departments and the contractor. It is expected that the Pilot Project will commence in mid-2021.

In addition, the above-mentioned E-Co Village project will be equipped with various green and energy conservation features, including solar panels. As the TWGHs is conducting detailed design for the project at present, the EPD does not have information on the estimated expenditure at the present stage.



**Areas, locations, revitalisation projects and relevant expenditures of 13 restored landfills**

<b>Restored landfill</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Current use</b>	<b>Expenditure of revitalisation project (\$m)</b>
1. Tseung Kwan O (TKO) Stage I	TKO Development Area 77, Sai Kung	68	(i) Football training centre	Not applicable (Note 1)
			(ii) Wan Po Road Pet Garden and car park	25.6
2. Pillar Point Valley	Mong Fat Street, Tuen Mun	65	Part of the site is developed into a temporary shooting range	Not applicable (Note 1)
3. Shuen Wan	Ting Kok Road, Tai Po	55	Temporary golf driving range	Not applicable (Note 1)
4. Tseung Kwan O Stage II/III	TKO Development Area 105, Sai Kung	42	Part of the site is used by government departments as a training field for drones	Nil
5. Gin Drinkers Bay	Kwai Hei Street, Kwai Chung	29	(i) Temporary cricket grounds	Not applicable (Note 1)
			(ii) Bicycle Moto Cross (BMX) Park	Not applicable (Note 1)
6. Siu Lang Shui	Siu Lang Shui Road, Tuen Mun	12	Mainly used for conservation of and overwintering for butterflies, and part of the Siu Lang Shui Landfill has been classified as "Site of Special Scientific Interest"	Nil
7. Jordan Valley	New Clear Water Bay Road, Jordan Valley	11	Jordan Valley Park	192.1
8. Ma Yau Tong Central	Lin Tak Road, Lam Tin	11	Part of the site is developed into a sitting-out area	4.6
9. Sai Tso Wan	Sin Fat Road, Lam Tin	9	Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground, including a grass pitch for football and baseball activities	46.4
10. Ngau Chi Wan	Fung Shing Street, Ngau Chi Wan	8	Ngau Chi Wan Park	169.5

<b>Restored landfill</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Current use</b>	<b>Expenditure of revitalisation project (\$m)</b>
11. Ma Yau Tong West	Tseung Kwan O Road, Lam Tin	6	Part of the site is developed into a sitting-out area	5.1
12. Ma Tso Lung	Pak Shek Au, North District	2	Stargazing campsite	Not applicable (Note 1)
13. Ngau Tam Mei	Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long	2	Village green area	Nil

Note 1: The costs are borne by non-governmental organisations, and the EPD does not have the relevant figures.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB070**

**(Question Serial No. 1964)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage containers, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. Why is there a delay in submitting the subsidiary legislation?
2. What is the total number of glass container collection points set up at housing estates across the territory at present?
3. What were the quantities of waste glass containers collected and the recycling rate in the past 5 years? What are the estimated quantities of waste glass containers to be collected and the estimated recycling rate for the coming 5 years?
4. What are the contract value, handling capacity and details of the 3 glass management contracts awarded by the Government?
5. Further to the above question, what are the actual monthly quantities of waste glass containers processed by the relevant contractors since the contracts have been awarded?
6. What penalties will be imposed if the contractors fail to process and deliver the required quantities of waste glass containers as stipulated in the contracts?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

One of the purposes of implementing the Producer Responsibility Scheme on glass beverage containers is to ensure the proper collection and treatment of glass beverage containers, hence turning waste into resources for full utilisation and alleviating the pressure on landfills. With the provision of regional waste glass containers collection and treatment services in all districts across the territory by the glass management contractors progressively since November 2017, the work concerned has been in execution. We have also completed the drafting of the relevant subsidiary legislation to provide for the operation details of the scheme, such as registration, submission of returns and payment of recycling levy by beverage suppliers. We will keep in view the social, economic and livelihood conditions with a view to tabling the subsidiary legislation at the Legislative Council for scrutiny in due course.

Through open tendering, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has appointed 2 contractors to undertake the collection and treatment services for waste glass containers in 3 regions, i.e. Hong Kong Island (including Islands District), Kowloon and the New Territories. Details of the contracts are summarised as follows:

Region	Tendering procedure	Contractor	Contract period	Estimated contract value (\$m)
Hong Kong Island & Islands District	Open	Baguio Waste Management & Recycling Ltd.	5-year contract (effective from November 2017)	170.8
New Territories	Open	Baguio Waste Management & Recycling Ltd.	5-year contract (effective from November 2017)	102.5
Kowloon	Open	Hong Kong Glass Reborn Limited	5-year contract (effective from May 2018)	91.5

Under the contracts, the recovery target set on the 2 contractors in the first year of the contract was 15 000 tonnes in total, and the Government's goal is to gradually attain the recovery target of 50 000 tonnes per year. From the commencement of waste glass containers collection services up to the end of 2020, the quantities of waste glass containers collected and the quantities of glass recyclables delivered under the 3 glass management contracts are as follows:

Glass management contract	Total quantity of waste glass containers collected (tonnes)	Total quantity of recyclables delivered* (tonnes)
Hong Kong Island (including Islands District)	16 407	14 993
New Territories	16 578	14 718
Kowloon	12 075	11 317
Total quantity	45 060	41 028

*[\*Note: Some of the glass recyclables are still temporarily stored in the treatment facilities of the glass management contractors for subsequent reuse and recycling as different materials.]*

The total quantities of waste glass containers recovered and the recovery rates in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Total quantity of waste glass containers recovered* (tonnes)	Recovery rate
2016	9 300	9.5%
2017	11 000	12.1%
2018	15 100	16.3%

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total quantity of waste glass containers recovered* (tonnes)</b>	<b>Recovery rate</b>
2019	21 000	22.3%
2020	Under compilation	

*[\*Note: The figures include the quantities of waste glass containers recovered under the voluntary recycling programmes and by private recyclers. The glass management contracts for Hong Kong Island (including Islands District) and the New Territories regions commenced in November 2017, and the contract for Kowloon region commenced in May 2018.]*

As at the end of 2020, there were about 1 900 waste glass container collection points at housing estates across the territory where containers were collected for treatment by the contractors.

If the contractor fails to meet the operational requirements under the contract, the Government may deduct the service fees for that year in accordance with the relevant terms. If the contractor has unsatisfactory performance continually and fails to comply with the contract requirements after warning is given, the EPD may terminate the contract concerned before it expires and arrange for re-tendering in accordance with relevant contract terms.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB071**

**(Question Serial No. 1965)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In the past 3 years, regarding local construction waste, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- the details of “Pilot Scheme for Retrofitting In-use Skips”;
- the number of complaints received by the Government about skips and enforcement actions taken;
- the amount of public fill generated in Hong Kong and the capacity of the public fill reception facilities each year;
- the number of complaints received about illegal disposal of construction waste in public places or rural areas each year;
- the number of proactive inspections conducted to combat the acts of illegal disposal of construction waste;
- the number of prosecutions against the persons concerned; and the penalties imposed;
- the measures that are in place to combat illegal disposal of construction waste and indiscriminate placement of skips?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

- (1) The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the skip operator trade jointly completed a trial scheme in the second half of last year to retrofit 30 in-use skips with fixtures that meet the road safety requirements as set by the Transport Department and the environmental requirements to test the durability, operability, etc. of the fixtures. After acquiring the know-how and experience in retrofitting and finalising the design of fixtures, the EPD will introduce the Pilot Scheme for Retrofitting In-use Skips to subsidise skip operators to retrofit around 300 in-use roadside skips for collecting construction waste with fixtures of the mentioned design, so as to enhance the road safety and environmental performance of skip operations.

- (2) The complaints about roadside skips received by the Government were usually related to road obstruction or illegal occupation of government land. Currently, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the Lands Department (LandsD) handle complaints against roadside skips in accordance with the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) and the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28) respectively. The numbers of public complaints about skips received by the HKPF and the LandsD as well as the enforcement actions taken in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Cases handled by the HKPF

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of public complaints	1 397	1 195	1 026
Number of skips removed <sup>1</sup>	3	4	1
Number of prosecutions <sup>2</sup>	6	5	1

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Advice and warnings were given by the HKPF under the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228), such that the majority of the skips under complaints were removed by the parties concerned within a few hours after issuance of the advice and warnings.
- <sup>2</sup> In the past 3 years, all cases were convicted and the people convicted were fined from \$1,000 to \$3,000 by the court.

Cases handled by the LandsD

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of public complaints	908	1 207	713
Number of skips removed <sup>1</sup>	6	3	8

Note:

- <sup>1</sup> The parties concerned had removed the other skips by themselves before the deadlines stated in the notices posted by the LandsD according to section 6 of the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28).

- (3) The quantities of public fill generated in Hong Kong and the quantities of public fill received at public fill reception facilities in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Public Fill Generated in Hong Kong (million tonnes)	Public Fill Received at Public Fill Reception Facilities <sup>1</sup> (million tonnes)
2018	16.6	12.3
2019	16.2	11.2
2020	The figure is still under compilation	12.1*

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> The remaining public fill has been transferred to construction sites for direct reuse.
- \* Provisional actual figure subject to adjustment

- (4) to (6)

The numbers of public complaints on illegal disposal of construction waste handled by the relevant government departments (including the EPD, the Agriculture, Fisheries

and Conservation Department, the Buildings Department, the Civil Engineering and Development Department, the Drainage Services Department, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Home Affairs Department, the LandsD, the Planning Department and the Highways Department (HyD)), as well as the numbers of inspections (including proactive inspections and complaints-follow up inspections), numbers of prosecutions and total fines in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

**Fly-tipping of construction waste in public places (including rural areas)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of public complaints <sup>1</sup>	9 876	9 347	5 993
Number of inspections	14 927	17 080	14 040
Number of prosecutions			
(1) Number of summonses issued	82	85	57
(2) Number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued <sup>2</sup>	54	42	54
Total fine (\$m) <sup>3</sup>	0.46	0.43	0.28

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Including multiple complaints which may arise from a single case.

<sup>2</sup> The fine level of the FPN is \$1,500.

<sup>3</sup> Total fine includes penalties for convictions by summonses and fixed penalties.

**Illegal land filling of construction waste on private land (including rural areas)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Number of public complaints <sup>1</sup>	376	331	413
Number of inspections	1 437	1 302	978
Number of prosecutions			
Number of summonses issued	105	73	121
Total fine (\$m)	2.42	5.24	3.19

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Including multiple complaints which may arise from a single case.

- (7) In combating fly-tipping of construction waste, the EPD has been maintaining close liaison with the relevant departments through inter-departmental collaboration, including exchange of intelligence, sharing of information and joint working meetings etc., to monitor the overall illegal waste disposal situation and make concerted efforts to combat illegal disposal activities according to the departments' purview and legislation. In order to step up efforts in combating illegal disposal of waste, the EPD will continue to review the enforcement strategy from time to time, and will progressively increase the installation of surveillance camera systems at the fly-tipping black spots to facilitate enforcement and enhance the deterrent effect. Meanwhile, apart from the manpower arrangement for the daily integrated enforcement duties, the EPD has further deployed manpower to set up 4 additional dedicated enforcement teams comprising a total of 16 staff members to conduct proactive patrols against waste disposal at various districts and handle the relevant complaints, which help expediting collection of evidence. In addition, the EPD has extensively applied Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and launched the "Fly-tipping Spotter App" in March 2020. Field inspectors can report abandoned construction



waste via the app during their patrols while photos and locations of the abandoned construction waste can be captured and uploaded onto the GIS platform instantly. This facilitates prompt clearance by the relevant departments, such as the HyD.

In combating indiscriminate placement of skips at roadside, the Government set up an inter-departmental Joint Working Group on Management of Roadside Skips led by the EPD in 2014 to formulate strategies and coordinate works and efforts of the relevant departments, with a view to enhancing the management and control of roadside skips. A term service contractor has been engaged by the EPD since 2017 to assist enforcement departments in speeding up the removal of skips which are found to be posing serious obstruction to traffic or imminent danger to the public, so as to enhance enforcement efficiency and the deterrent effect. Ongoing joint enforcement operations have been conducted by the relevant enforcement departments at a number of black spots with placement of idling skips, including Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung, Kowloon Bay, Kai Tak and Chai Wan areas, to step up efforts in combating the malpractice of indiscriminate placement of skips at roadside. In addition, through short-term tenancies, the Government has provided two sites in Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Siu Lang Shui in Tuen Mun for use by the skip operator trade to place idling skips since 2017, which also helps alleviate the problem of indiscriminate placement of idling skips at roadside.

- End -

**ENB072**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 1966)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department launched the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme in 2019 to support non-profit-making organisations to interact and co-operate with villagers in organising diverse and innovative conservation activities and revitalisation projects. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. the total number of projects approved so far; the funding involved;
2. the locations and amounts of funding of the approved projects;
3. whether there are statistics on the historical buildings in disrepair in the countryside at present;
4. whether it has co-operated with local village representatives to take forward the scheme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 83)

Reply:

1. Since the launch of the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) in October 2019, it has approved a total of 17 projects involving a total amount of funding of about \$100 million.
2. The 17 approved projects mainly involved locations in the remote countryside, including 7 "Priority Sites for Enhanced Conservation" under the New Nature Conservation Policy (Ramsar Site, Sha Lo Tung, Fung Yuen, Luk Keng, Ho Sheung Heung, Deep Bay Wetland outside Ramsar Site and Sham Chung), and remote countryside and villages in the Northeast New Territories and Sai Kung. The amount of funding approved for an individual project ranged from about \$2 million to about \$15 million. Details about individual approved projects are available on the CCFS's webpage ([https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/conservation/ccfs/ccfs\\_approved\\_projects.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/conservation/ccfs/ccfs_approved_projects.html)).
3. The Environmental Protection Department does not have any statistics on historical buildings in disrepair in the countryside at present. We will assess and consider the

historical and cultural value of the buildings during the process of examining the related CCFS projects.

4. The CCFS aims to support non-profit-making organisations to organise diverse and innovative conservation and revitalisation projects in collaboration with villagers. The organisations of the approved projects are required to maintain good communication with the villagers and stakeholders at the project sites and obtain their consent and co-operation as appropriate in order to take forward the approved projects smoothly.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB073**

**(Question Serial No. 1982)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government mentioned that it would continue to plan, co-ordinate and implement minor improvement works in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as priority areas. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 106)

Reply:

The Government established the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) under the Environmental Protection Department in July 2018 to co-ordinate countryside conservation projects and promote sustainable development of remote countryside. As a priority, the CCO will pursue countryside revitalisation in Lai Chi Wo as well as ecological conservation in Sha Lo Tung. It will review the progress and effectiveness of the related works from time to time, with the aim of extending the works progressively to other remote countryside areas.

Since its establishment, the CCO has been carrying out village road and toilet facilities improvement works at the 2 pilot areas mentioned above respectively. It has also commissioned a consultancy study to explore feasible options for sewage collection in Lai Chi Wo, and conducted geospatial surveys via photogrammetry. The CCO has been having discussions with other bureaux/departments to facilitate the application for licences for guesthouses and catering businesses in the countryside, etc. The CCO will continue to carry out site inspections, liaise and co-ordinate with relevant government departments, non-governmental organisations and stakeholders (including village representatives, Rural Committees concerned and green groups, etc.) to discuss and examine the feasibility of the above as well as other minor improvement works. The CCO will also consult the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation on the improvement of the infrastructure of Lai Chi Wo, Sha Lo Tung and other remote countryside areas.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB074**

**(Question Serial No. 1983)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has indicated that it would roll out a voluntary scheme for phasing out personal care and cosmetic products (PCCPs) containing microbeads. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. the progress;
2. whether it has compiled statistics on the types of PCCPs containing microbeads being sold in the market currently;
3. whether it has compiled statistics on the amount of microbeads in the water discharged into the sea by local sewage treatment works every day;
4. whether it will implement a labelling scheme to encourage manufacturers and agents of beauty and skin care products to affix labels to their products specifying if such products contain microbeads; and
5. whether it will educate the public on the impact of microbeads on the ecosystem and encourage the public to reduce the use of beauty and skin care products containing microbeads; if yes, of the details; if not, of the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 107)

Reply:

The Government is planning to launch a two-year voluntary scheme for phasing out personal care and cosmetic products (PCCPs) containing microbeads in 2021, including cooperation with the trade in implementing the "Microbead-free Charter". Participants, having regard to their operational conditions, can set their own targets and timetables for reducing or ceasing the production/importation/sale of PCCPs containing microbeads and strive to achieve the targets within the set timeframe. Moreover, we will follow up on the participants' phase-out progress and review the phase-out status of the PCCPs containing microbeads in the retail market. On the other hand, we will launch complementary publicity and education activities, so as to enhance public understanding of microbead-related subjects (including impacts on ecosystems). Besides, we will publicise online the information provided by the merchants on their microbead-free products, with a view to facilitating the purchase of such products by consumers.

We held a briefing for the trade in October 2020 to introduce the draft plan of the Charter and collected their feedback on the mode and design of the scheme. The trade responded positively and supported the implementation of the scheme in Hong Kong to phase out PCCPs containing microbeads. The Environmental Protection Department is now consolidating and analysing the trade's views on the implementation details, including the execution plan, product listing, monitoring methodology, implementation timetable, etc., to further enhance the scheme.

For some rinse-off personal care and beauty products, such as scrub, soap, shower gel, shampoo products and toothpaste, etc., microbeads are added to them in the production process for providing specific functions such as scrubbing, exfoliating or cleansing. We have employed market investigators under the Green Employment Scheme of the Environment Bureau to gain better understanding of the prevailing situation of the sale of PCCPs containing microbeads in the retail market and to collect relevant information for assessing the local phase-out rate of PCCPs containing microbeads. Nevertheless, most of the PCCPs in Hong Kong are imported products, with manufacturing bases set up at places outside Hong Kong, including some countries or regions that have already banned the manufacture of microbead-containing products. Therefore, the proportion of microbead-containing products is expected to be small in the Hong Kong market.

According to overseas literature, the removal rate of microplastics by chemically enhanced primary treatment (CEPT) is about 70% to 80% and is even higher for secondary treatment process. Currently, over 90% of sewage in Hong Kong is receiving CEPT or secondary treatment before being discharged. Most of the microbeads will remain in the sludge during the sewage treatment processes, and will be delivered to the waste-to-energy facility T·PARK for incineration. The Drainage Services Department also launched a survey in January 2021 to find out the amount of microplastics in local domestic sewage, treated effluent discharged from sewage treatment works and surface runoff in storm water drains.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB075****(Question Serial No. 1985)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expensesProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the collection of waste medicines in Hong Kong, will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. the quantity of medicines disposed of at landfills in each of the past 5 years;
2. the existing places for collecting waste medicines from the public;
3. whether there are any programmes for collecting waste medicines from the community; if yes, on the details; if not, on the reasons;
4. the quantity of waste medicines collected from organisations like hospitals and clinics;
5. the quantity of medicines disposed of by institutions; and
6. the quantity of waste medicines handled by the Government and the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)Reply:

1. The Government mainly treats waste medicines at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre by incineration. Generally, waste medicines are disposed of at landfills only when the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre is under maintenance. Some small amounts of waste which cannot be treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre are also disposed of at landfills, such as medicine containers. In the past 5 years, the quantities of medicine waste disposed of at landfills and incinerated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre are tabulated as follows:

Year	Quantity of medicine waste disposed of at landfills (tonnes)	Quantity of medicine waste treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (tonnes)
2016	9	695
2017	4	681

Year	Quantity of medicine waste disposed of at landfills (tonnes)	Quantity of medicine waste treated at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (tonnes)
2018	3	848
2019	12	990
2020	7	852

- 2 and 3. In accordance with the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354), waste medicines and injections generated by healthcare institutions such as hospitals and clinics are classified as chemical waste. The storage, collection, transport and disposal of such waste has to meet the stringent requirements laid down in the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354C). These control measures do not apply to the disposal of medicines and injections arising from households. Given the generally small quantities of household residual medicine and injections, they are currently being handled together with general domestic solid wastes. The Government has no plans to provide household residual medicines collection services.

For safe medication practice, the Department of Health (DH) and the Hospital Authority (HA) will not use medicines returned from patients and will not collect unused medicines from patients. The DH and the HA will offer necessary advice upon patients' enquiries on disposal of unused medicines. The HA has established procedures for its pharmacies to dispose of medicines as chemical waste in accordance with the relevant regulation under the Waste Disposal Ordinance.

- 4 and 5. In the past 5 years, the quantities of waste medicines collected from organisations like hospitals, clinics and institutions are as follows:

Year	Quantity of waste medicines collected (tonnes)	
	From hospitals and clinics#	From institutions*
2016	50	9
2017	58	11
2018	64	12
2019	65	14
2020	63	15

# including hospitals, clinics and other medical service providers.

\* including Residential Care Homes, Child Care Centres, Youth and Community Service Centres, and other Social Welfare Organisations.



6. The quantities of waste medicines handled by the Government are listed in part (1) above. The expenditures involved in handling waste medicines by the Government are tabulated as follows:

Year	Expenditure involved in handling medicine waste at landfills (\$)	Expenditure involved in handling medicine waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (\$)
2015-16	1,100	3,959,100
2016-17	500	5,120,300
2017-18	400	6,596,400
2018-19	1,500	7,667,000
2019-20	950	9,743,500

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB076**

**(Question Serial No. 3053)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding reduction of plastics, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. What were the quantities of plastics generated and their recovery rates in the past 5 years?
2. What were the percentages of plastic tableware in the waste plastics disposed of in the past 5 years?
3. What were the percentages of plastic bags in the waste plastics disposed of in the past 5 years?
4. The Government has indicated that it would consult the public on the outcome of the review of the plastic shopping bag charging scheme. What are the details and the timetable?
5. The Government is studying the implementation of the control on disposable plastic tableware. What are the details?
6. The Government has indicated that it would promote and encourage reduction in the use of plastic packaging materials in collaboration with the retail trade. What are the details and the effectiveness?
7. Further to the above question, what is the increase in the disposal quantity of packaging materials during the pandemic?
8. The Government has introduced a two-year Pilot Scheme on Collection and Recycling Services of Plastic Recyclable Materials to collect waste plastics from the domestic source. What are the details and the expenditure?
9. What are the details of the pilot scheme on the application of reverse vending machines to be launched by the Government? What are the locations and the effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)

Reply:

According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the quantities of waste plastics generated, their recovery rates and the percentages of plastic tableware (including polyfoam tableware) and plastic bags in the waste plastics disposed of between 2015 and 2019 are shown in the table below. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation.

Year	Waste plastics		Percentage in waste plastics disposed of	
	Quantity generated (thousand tonnes)	Recovery rate	Plastic tableware (including polyfoam tableware)	Plastic bags
2015	891	11%	8%	30%
2016	906	14%	9%	32%
2017	891	13%	10%	37%
2018	919	7%	9%	36%
2019	924	8%	9%	33%

The EPD has implemented various measures on the promotion of “plastic-free” and “reduction of waste plastics”. Details of relevant measures are consolidated as follows:

Regarding plastic shopping bag (PSB), we have largely completed the review on PSB Charging Scheme, including enhancement of the scope of exemption and the charging level under the Scheme. We will consult the public in due course to map out the way forward.

In order to tackle the disposable plastic tableware issue in the long run, we have conducted a study on the feasibility, scope and mechanism of the control of disposable plastic tableware. The study is substantially completed. Given that phased legislative control is the typical approach adopted in different places currently according to their own circumstances, and having regard to the local situations, the consultant’s initial findings suggest that measures should be implemented to regulate the use of various types of disposable plastic tableware by the catering sector. A ban on the distribution of disposable plastic tableware for dine-in and takeaway services in eateries may be implemented in phases with exemptions under special circumstances. We will consult the trades, the public and relevant stakeholders later this year to map out the way forward. Subject to the views received and the ensuing legislative procedures, we hope that the first phase of regulation can be implemented in around 2025.

Regarding the promotion of reducing the use of plastic packaging materials, we have been maintaining close liaison with the retail industry and other key stakeholders to jointly explore and implement some practical measures. At the same time, we will continue to promote simple packaging, waste reduction at source; and encourage green business and consumption through publicity, education and other various means.

Furthermore, in January 2020, we rolled out a two-year Pilot Scheme on Collection and Recycling Services of Plastic Recyclable Materials (the Pilot Scheme) in Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin successively, through which contractors are engaged under service contracts to provide free collection and treatment service of non-commercial and non-industrial waste plastics from registered public and private housing estates, schools, public institutions, Recycling Stores (formerly known as Community Recycling Centres) and Recycling Stations (formerly known as Community Green Stations) in the districts, etc. for production of recycled raw materials or products. As at January 2021, about 410 premises such as housing estates and buildings in the 3 districts have registered for the Pilot Scheme, covering about half of the population in the districts and the total quantity of recyclables recovered has reached about 610 tonnes. The Pilot Scheme is undertaken by 13 non-directorate staff (including Environmental Protection Officer and Environmental Protection Inspector grades) and the estimated total expenditure in 2021-22 is about \$25 million.

The EPD rolled out a one-year Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) Pilot Scheme progressively in early 2021 to test out the application of RVMs in Hong Kong. A total of 60 RVMs would be set up in phases at locations such as public places and government facilities with suitable foot traffic, with an instant rebate (\$0.1 per plastic beverage container) provided via e-payment platforms to encourage the public to return used plastic beverage containers for recycling. As at mid-March, 40 RVMs have commenced service and over 300 000 plastic beverage containers have been collected in total. The remaining 20 RVMs would be in place by the end of March. The locations of the RVMs have been shown on the dedicated website [www.hkrvm.com.hk](http://www.hkrvm.com.hk) for public viewing. The RVM Pilot Scheme is still at an initial stage. We will closely monitor its implementation and review its effectiveness in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB077**

**(Question Serial No. 3054)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

On promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and public transport in Hong Kong, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. How many vehicle owners have enjoyed the first registration tax (FRT) concessions since April 2017? What is the amount of the concessions? Please set out the number of vehicles granted with the FRT concessions by brand.
2. Since the implementation of the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme, how many vehicle owners have enjoyed the FRT concessions?
3. How many vehicles are owned by various government departments? What is the percentage share of EVs?
4. How many vehicles will be procured by various government departments this year? Among them, what is the percentage share of EVs? What is the average price of the vehicles?
5. The Government has allocated \$120 million to provide over 1 000 additional public EV chargers at government car parks. What are the preliminary selected sites? What are the progress and the details of the scheme?
6. What is the current number of government car parks in various districts? What are the numbers of parking spaces installed with EV chargers in these car parks and their respective percentages?
7. What is the effectiveness of the trials under the New Energy Transport Fund? What measures have been put in place after the review?
8. The Government mentioned that it would promote the use of electric public light buses. What are the details and the timetable?
9. The Government has launched a \$2 billion pilot scheme to subsidise the installation of EV charging facilities in private buildings. What is the effectiveness?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

- 1 and 2. During the period from April 2017 to February 2021, there were 8 458 cases in which first registration tax (FRT) concessions were granted for electric vehicles (EVs). Among them, 7 407 were cases under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme<sup>1</sup>, involving a total amount of \$1.72 billion.

The number of EVs granted with the FRT concessions by brand is tabulated below:

<b>Brand</b>	<b>No. of EVs granted with the FRT concessions*</b>
AUDI	34
BMW	156
BYD	12
DAYANG	14
DFSK	16
ENERGICA	2
FAW	1
HYSTER	1
HYUNDAI	828
JAGUAR	21
JOYLONG	24
KIA	402
KING LONG	2
KOMATSU	1
LINDE	2
MERCEDES BENZ	71
MINI	1
NISSAN	701
PORSCHE	176
RENAULT	171
RIEJU	6
SMART	80
STILL	4
TAYLOR DUNN	3
TESLA	5 564
TOYOTA	17
UGBEST	6
VMAX	1
VOLKSWAGEN	139
ZERO	2

\* Excluding electric franchised buses as no FRT is required to be paid for franchised buses.

<sup>1</sup> The “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme was introduced on 28 February 2018.

3. According to the data provided by the Government Logistics Department (GLD), there was a total of 6 705 vehicles in various government departments as at the end of December 2020. Among them, there was a total of 2 352 specialised vehicles (such as refuse collection vehicles), accounting for about one-third of the overall government fleet. However, the choices of electric specialised vehicle models in the market were limited. In respect of cars, there was a total of 1 577 cars in the government fleet, among which 133 were EVs, accounting for 8.4% of the total number of cars in the Government.
4. According to the data provided by the GLD, the various government departments procured a total of 446 vehicles<sup>2</sup> in 2020, among which 196 were cars, including 12 EVs, accounting for 6.1% of the total. The average price of the EVs was \$278,000 each.
5. The Government allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks managed by the Transport Department (TD), the Government Property Agency (GPA), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Tourism Commission (TC) which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. The car parks involved are tabulated at Annex 1. Among them, 169 medium chargers were installed in 2019-20. About 570 and 460 medium chargers are planned to be installed in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively.
6. The numbers of government car parks in various districts managed by the TD, the GPA, the LCSD and the TC, the numbers of their parking spaces installed with EV chargers and the respective percentages as at the end of February 2021 are tabulated at Annex 2.
7. The Government has put in place a New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) (previously known as Pilot Green Transport Fund (PGTF)) since March 2011 to encourage the transport sector to try out and use green innovative transport technologies. As at the end of January 2021, the NET Fund has approved a total of 196 trials, involving 138 electric light goods vehicles (LGVs), 14 single-deck electric buses, 4 double-deck electric buses, 3 electric taxis, 3 electric light buses (LBs), 1 electric medium goods vehicle (MGV) (tractor), 48 hybrid LGVs, 27 hybrid MGVs, 26 hybrid LBs, 2 single-deck hybrid buses, 1 set of solar air-conditioning system for a bus, 4 sets of electric inverter air-conditioning systems for buses, the retrofitting of 3 in-use ferries each with a set of diesel-electric propulsion system to replace their old-type of diesel engines and the retrofitting of 1 in-use ferry with a seawater scrubber, with a total subsidy of about \$154 million.

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<sup>2</sup>Excluding specialised vehicles.

To further encourage the transport sector to test and more widely use green innovative transport technologies, the Government reviewed the scope of the NET Fund and expanded its scope to cover the Applications for Trial (AT) and the Applications for Use (AU) in 2020. Applications under the original scope of the PGTF are categorised as AT, while a new section, AU, is created to subsidise the transport sector and charitable/non-profit making organisations to directly procure products of technologies that have been proved under AT to be relatively mature and suitable for local adoption. The scope of AT has also been expanded to cover a variety of commercial transport tools including goods vehicles, taxis, LBs, buses, vessels, motorcycles, non-road vehicles, or the aforesaid transport tools of charitable/non-profit making organisations providing services to their clients. The subsidy cap for an application is increased from \$9 million to \$10 million, and the subsidy level for setting up a related supporting system, such as charging facilities, is raised from 50% to 75%.

8. The Government has earmarked \$80 million to subsidise about 40 electric public light buses (e-PLBs) and the associated charging facilities to implement a pilot scheme for e-PLBs. Since no electric light bus models available in the local market can meet the daily operational requirements of PLBs, we engaged a consultant in 2019 to conduct a study in order to develop the basic specifications and requirements for e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities that suit Hong Kong's operating environment, identify suitable PLB routes for trial under the pilot scheme and consult the PLB trade about their intention of joining the pilot scheme and using e-PLBs. We released the Technical Guidelines for Electric Public Light Buses (Fast Charging Type) and the Associated Charging Facilities in 2020 according to the recommendations of the above study. We will consider the consultant's recommendations and determine the routes for the trial within this year. We have liaised with different PLB manufacturers. However, given the lead time to develop and manufacture e-PLBs that suit Hong Kong, it is anticipated that the pilot scheme will commence officially in 2023. By then, e-PLBs running on various routes will be put on trial for about 12 months. After the completion of the trial, we will review the performance of the e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities, so as to formulate policies on promotion of e-PLBs.
9. The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor.



**The car parks in which EV chargers are planned to be installed by the Government**

Department		District	Car park	No. of EV chargers to be installed
TD	1.	Southern	Aberdeen Car Park	About 650 in total
	2.	Central & Western	Kennedy Town Car Park	
	3.		Rumsey Street Car Park	
	4.	Kwai Tsing	Kwai Fong Car Park	
	5.	Eastern	Shau Kei Wan Car Park	
	6.	Wong Tai Sin	Sheung Fung Street Car Park	
	7.	Wan Chai	Tin Hau Car Park	
	8.	Tsuen Wan	Tsuen Wan Car Park	
GPA	9.	Eastern	North Point Government Offices	About 200 in total
	10.	Central & Western	Queensway Government Offices	
	11.	Sha Tin	Sha Tin Government Offices	
	12.	North	North District Government Offices	
	13.	Tuen Mun	Tuen Mun Government Offices	
	14.	Sai Kung	Sai Kung Government Offices	
	15.	Sham Shui Po	Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices	
	16.	Kowloon City	Trade and Industry Tower	
LCSD	17.	Central & Western	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	About 310 in total
	18.		Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre	
	19.	Eastern	Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground	
	20.		Island East Sports Centre	
	21.	Southern	Deep Water Bay Beach	
	22.		Ap Lei Chau Waterfront Promenade	
	23.	Wan Chai	Wong Nai Chung Gap Children's Playground	
	24.	Kwun Tong	Kowloon Bay Park	
	25.		Ping Shek Playground	
	26.		Shun Lee Tsuen Park	
	27.		Lei Yue Mun Municipal Services Building	

Department		District	Car park	No. of EV chargers to be installed
	28.	Sham Shui Po	Lai Chi Kok Park	
	29.		Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	
	30.		Cornwall Street Park	
	31.		Lung Cheung Road Lookout	
	32.		Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground	
	33.	Wong Tai Sin	Po Kong Village Road Park	
	34.	Yau Tsim Mong	Kowloon Park	
	35.	Islands	Tung Chung Municipal Services Building	
	36.		Tsing Yi Southwest Leisure Building	
	37.		Tsing Yi Northeast Park	
	38.	Kwai Tsing	Tsing Yi Sports Ground and Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	
	39.		Kwai Chung Sports Ground	
	40.		Hing Fong Road Playground	
	41.		Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	
	42.		North District Sports Ground	
	43.	North	Wo Hing Sports Centre	
	44.		Po Wing Road Sports Centre	
	45.		Fanling Swimming Pool	
	46.		Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	
	47.	Sai Kung	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	
	48.		Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre	
	49.		Siu Lek Yuen Road Playground	
	50.		Sha Tin Sports Ground and Yuen Wo Playground	
	51.		Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool and Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre	
	52.	Sha Tin	Sha Tin Town Hall	
	53.		Hong Kong Heritage Museum	
	54.		Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	
	55.		Ma On Shan Sports Ground	
	56.		Yuen Chau Kok Complex	
	57.		Tai Po Sports Ground	
	58.	Tai Po	Tai Po Complex	
	59.		Kwong Fuk Park	

<b>Department</b>		<b>District</b>	<b>Car park</b>	<b>No. of EV chargers to be installed</b>
	60.	Tsuen Wan	Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	
	61.		Shing Mun Valley Sports Ground	
	62.	Tuen Mun	Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool	
	63.		Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	
	64.		Yau Oi Sports Centre	
	65.	Yuen Long	Yuen Long Swimming Pool	
	66.		Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool & Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre	
	67.		Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground	
	68.		Tin Yip Road Park	
	69.		Fung Kam Street Sports Centre	
TC	70.	Kowloon City	Kai Tak Cruise Terminal	About 40 in total

Remark: The number of EV chargers listed in the table is a preliminary estimate and the actual number will be affected by factors such as available electricity at venues, availability of venues and other restrictions.

**The numbers of parking spaces installed with EV chargers and their respective percentages**

Department	District		Car park	No. of private car parking spaces	No. of parking spaces installed with charging facilities	Percentage
TD	Southern	1.	Aberdeen Car Park	293	44*	15.0%
	Central & Western	2.	Kennedy Town Car Park	195	59*	30.3%
		3.	Rumsey Street Car Park	835	35+75*	13.2%
		4.	Star Ferry Car Park	377	39	10.3%
		5.	City Hall Car Park	170	30	17.6%
		Kwai Tsing	6.	Kwai Fong Car Park	531	94
	Eastern	7.	Shau Kei Wan Car Park	385	35+81*	30.1%
	Wong Tai Sin	8.	Sheung Fung Street Car Park	267	35+47*	30.7%
	Wan Chai	9.	Tin Hau Car Park	428	162	37.9%
	Tsuen Wan	10.	Tsuen Wan Car Park	545	162	29.7%
GPA	Eastern	11.	North Point Government Offices	95	29	30.5%
	Central & Western	12.	Queensway Government Offices	163	48	29.4%
	Sha Tin	13.	Sha Tin Government Offices	124	20+54*	59.7%
	North	14.	North District Government Offices	103	15+11*	25.2%
	Tuen Mun	15.	Tuen Mun Government Offices	42	22*	52.4%
	Sai Kung	16.	Sai Kung Government Offices	70	27	38.6%
	Sham Shui Po	17.	Cheung Shai Wan Government Offices	250	35+36*	28.4%
	Kowloon City	18.	Trade and Industry Tower	24	20	83.3%

Department	District		Car park	No. of private car parking spaces	No. of parking spaces installed with charging facilities	Percentage
	Wan Chai	19.	Wanchai Tower, Immigration Tower and Revenue Tower	157	30	19.1%
	Islands	20.	Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port	673	91	13.5%
LCSD	Central & Western	21.	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	38	12	31.6%
		22.	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Ground	15	6	40.0%
	Eastern	23.	Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground	55	15*	27.3%
		24.	Island East Sports Centre	83	6*	7.2%
	Southern	25.	Deep Water Bay Beach	12	3*	25.0%
		26.	Ap Lei Chau Waterfront Promenade	25	6*	24.0%
	Wan Chai	27.	Wong Nai Chung Gap Children's Playground	57	4*	7.0%
	Kwun Tong	28.	Kowloon Bay Park	22	11*	50.0%
		29.	Ping Shek Playground	28	10*	35.7%
		30.	Shun Lee Tsuen Park	53	4	7.5%
		31.	Lei Yue Mun Municipal Services Building	47	6*	12.8%
	Sham Shui Po	32.	Lai Chi Kok Park	19	5*	26.3%
		33.	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	12	10*	83.3%
		34.	Cornwall Street Park	15	2*	13.3%
35.		Lung Cheung Road Lookout	11	6*	54.5%	
36.		Shek Kip Mei Park	47	2	4.3%	

Department	District		Car park	No. of private car parking spaces	No. of parking spaces installed with charging facilities	Percentage
	Wong Tai Sin	37.	Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground	6	3+1*	66.7%
		38.	Po Kong Village Road Park	44	3*	6.8%
	Yau Tsim Mong	39.	Kowloon Park	18	2*	11.1%
	Islands	40.	Tung Chung Municipal Services Building	30	9*	30.0%
	Kwai Tsing	41.	Tsing Yi Southwest Leisure Building	15	9+3*	80.0%
		42.	Tsing Yi Northeast Park	31	4*	12.9%
		43.	Tsing Yi Sports Ground and Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	52	3*	5.8%
		44.	Kwai Chung Sports Ground	19	3*	15.8%
		45.	Hing Fong Road Playground	13	1*	7.7%
	North	46.	Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	22	2*	9.1%
		47.	North District Sports Ground	26	6*	23.1%
		48.	Wo Hing Sports Centre	16	4*	25.0%
		49.	Po Wing Road Sports Centre	24	3	12.5%
		50.	Fanling Swimming Pool	17	5*	29.4%
	Sai Kung	51.	Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	11	2*	18.2%
		52.	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	51	2*	3.9%
		53.	Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre	12	6*	50.0%

Department	District		Car park	No. of private car parking spaces	No. of parking spaces installed with charging facilities	Percentage
	Sha Tin	54.	Siu Lek Yuen Road Playground	14	4*	28.6%
		55.	Sha Tin Sports Ground and Yuen Wo Playground	69	6	8.7%
		56.	Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool and Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre	32	3*	9.4%
		57.	Sha Tin Town Hall	37	6*	16.2%
		58.	Hong Kong Heritage Museum	38	3*	7.9%
		59.	Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	31	6	19.4%
		60.	Ma On Shan Sports Ground	61	4*	6.6%
		61.	Yuen Chau Kok Complex	25	11	44.0%
	Tai Po	62.	Tai Po Sports Ground	31	3	9.7%
		63.	Tai Po Complex	104	5*	4.8%
		64.	Kwong Fuk Park	35	5*	14.3%
	Tsuen Wan	65.	Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	15	2*	13.3%
		66.	Shing Mun Valley Sports Ground	33	3*	9.1%
		67.	Tsuen Wan Sports Centre	15	3	20.0%
		68.	Wai Tsuen Sports Centre	18	3	16.7%
	Tuen Mun	69.	Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool	27	9*	33.3%
		70.	Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	32	3*	9.4%
		71.	Yau Oi Sports Centre	14	3*	21.4%

Department	District		Car park	No. of private car parking spaces	No. of parking spaces installed with charging facilities	Percentage
	Yuen Long	72.	Yuen Long Swimming Pool	14	3*	21.4%
		73.	Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool & Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre	10	10*	100.0%
		74.	Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground	28	18*	64.3%
		75.	Tin Yip Road Park	17	9*	52.9%
		76.	Fung Kam Street Sports Centre	15	15*	100.0%
TC	Kowloon City	77.	Kai Tak Cruise Terminal	138	42+2*	31.9%
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>7 526</b>	<b>1 696</b>	<b>22.5%</b>

Note: \* Installation of these chargers is expected to be completed in 2021-22.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB078**

**(Question Serial No. 3055)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, will the Government advise this Committee on the following for the past 3 years:

1. What were the Government's annual expenditure and manpower involved?
2. What enforcement actions were taken against unauthorised disposal of electronic equipment?
3. Please set out in tabular form the design capacity of the plant and actual quantity processed in respect of various types of regulated electrical equipment (REE).
4. Further to the above question, how were the processed materials treated? Was the income from sale of the materials earned by the suppliers?
5. What were the quantities of electrical equipment processed by the Government-commissioned operators since their establishment by type of electrical equipment?
6. What was the frequency of collection services provided by the service operators? Within how many days from the day when a request was made would the equipment be collected on average?
7. How many complaints have been received by the Government about the services provided by the service operators?
8. How many local licensed operators that process REE are there at present? What are their processing capacities?
9. The Administration invited tenders for the service contract for treatment and recycling of washing machines in 2019. What were the details?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)

Reply:

1. The Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WPRS) has been fully implemented since 2018, covering regulated electrical equipment (REE) including air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors. The Waste Electrical and

Electronic Equipment Treatment and Recycling Facility (WEEE·PARK), developed by the Government to underpin the WPRS, was fully commissioned in March 2018. The actual operating cost of WEEE·PARK for the past 3 years are as follows:

Financial Year	Actual operating cost (\$m)
2017-18	28
2018-19	165
2019-20	220

The Waste Management Policy Division of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is responsible for handling various waste management policies and projects, such as the producer responsibility schemes on waste electrical and electronic equipment, glass beverage containers and plastic beverage containers. There is no breakdown of the expenditure and manpower resources involved in taking forward these schemes.

2. The EPD has been vigorously combating fly-tipping activities, especially those involving disposal of construction waste and commercial and industrial waste. Apart from conducting irregular surprise inspections, the EPD has also installed surveillance camera systems at about 160 fly-tipping locations across the territory to facilitate law enforcement. Over the past few years, no fly-tipping of large quantities of e-waste has been found by the EPD. In addition, there are already established arrangements between the EPD and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). If abandoned REE is found on street, staff of the FEHD will temporarily place such e-waste at designated refuse collection points, and then notify the WEEE·PARK operator to collect and deliver it to WEEE·PARK for proper treatment and recycling.
3. The design capacity of WEEE·PARK is about 30 000 tonnes per year, roughly half of the amount of waste REE generated in Hong Kong every year. If necessary, appropriate adjustment can be made to the processing lines of the plant to increase their capacity to properly treat the waste REE generated locally. The breakdown of waste REE treated by WEEE·PARK over the past 3 years is as follows:

REE	Amount processed in 2018* (tonnes)	Amount processed in 2019 (tonnes)	Amount processed in 2020 (tonnes)
Washing machine	4 595	11 320	10 627
Refrigerator	2 230	4 960	5 498
Air-conditioner	1 420	3 530	3 050
Television	1 270	1 840	2 204
Computer products	1 315	2 330	2 004
Total	10 830	23 980	23 383

\*Including the amount processed during January to July 2018 before the full implementation of the WPRS

4. Waste electrical and electronic equipment is turned into valuable secondary raw materials after treatment. In accordance with the contractual requirements, the

WEEE·PARK operator would make its own arrangements to transfer these secondary raw materials to suitable recyclers for recycling.

5. From the implementation of the WPRS on 1 August 2018 up to the end of December 2020, WEEE·PARK processed a total of 54 468 tonnes of waste REE. The breakdown is as follows:

REE	Amount processed from August 2018 to the end of December 2020 (tonnes)
Washing machine	24 997
Refrigerator	12 118
Air-conditioner	7 550
Television	4 694
Computer products	5 109
Total	54 468

6. The breakdown of collection service requests handled by the WEEE·PARK operator over the past 3 years is as follows:

Year	Collection service requests (Number)
August to December 2018	83 700
2019	195 000
2020	215 600

Regarding the statutory free removal service, the operator has now been able to collect waste REE from customers in 3 working days after receiving service requests from sellers, at the time slot requested by customers, in over 99.9% of the cases. As regards the free collection service outside the statutory removal service (i.e. no new electrical equipment is purchased), the operator is able to collect the waste REE in about 1 week or a shorter time after receiving the telephone appointments in over 99.9% of the cases.

7. The numbers of complaints received by the EPD about the services provided by the WEEE·PARK operator over the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Number of complaints
August to December 2018	25
2019	53
2020	21

8. As at early March 2021, there are a total of 17 facilities with valid waste disposal licences for e-waste across the territory (including the WEEE·PARK operator). According to the permitted capacity stipulated in the licences, a total of about 136 500 tonnes of waste REE can be processed each year.

9. To enable a more balanced development of the recycling industry and encourage market participation in the recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment, we conducted an open tender exercise in April 2019 to appoint a recycler with a waste disposal licence for e-waste to provide treatment and recycling services for washing machines collected outside the statutory removal service required under the WPRS. The contract was awarded in September 2019 and ended in late December 2020, during which about 1 950 tonnes of waste washing machines had been processed in total.

Subsequently, another eighteen-month contract for treatment of washing machines was awarded in December 2020 through open tendering, with an average capacity of 150 tonnes per month.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB079**

**(Question Serial No. 0270)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has launched the Ex-gratia Payment Scheme for Phasing Out Pre-Euro IV Diesel Commercial Vehicles and the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme for electric private cars. Please provide the numbers of applications submitted and approved and the amounts of funding involved for the Schemes. Please set out the information in detail.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched an incentive-cum-regulatory scheme in March 2014 to phase out progressively some 82 000 pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) with a funding of \$11.4 billion for offering an ex-gratia payment to the affected vehicle owners. The ex-gratia payment applications closed on 30 June 2020. About 79 000 DCVs have been granted an ex-gratia payment, accounting for about 96% of the eligible vehicles, and involving a subsidy amount of about \$10.6 billion.

In addition, the Government introduced the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme (the Scheme) on 28 February 2018 to encourage private car (PC) owners to choose electric vehicles when they need to replace their cars. Purchasers of electric private cars (e-PCs) who scrap and de-register their eligible old PCs and then first register a new e-PC can enjoy a higher first registration tax (FRT) concession.

Since the introduction of the Scheme and up to the end of February 2021, a total of 7 654 applications (accounting for 90% of first registered new e-PCs during the same period) were received by the Transport Department, among which 7 524 were approved, 48 were under processing and 82 were rejected for not complying with the eligibility criteria. The FRT concession involved amounted to about \$1.618 billion.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB080**

**(Question Serial No. 0906)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Administration promotes the use of new energy vehicles, including electric vehicles (EVs), to replace all petrol vehicles. Will the Administration consider relaxing the restrictions on the relevant subsidies? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure to be involved?

Many people from the automobile industry have pointed out that there are relatively few EV models at present, but the formalities for the registration and importation of parallel imported vehicles are complicated. Will the Administration consider relaxing the importation procedures to encourage more citizens to switch to EVs? If yes, what are the details and timetable, and the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

For the promotion of the use of electric private cars (e-PCs), the Government's standing policy is to encourage the public to use public transport as far as possible, and should they need to acquire private cars, choose e-PCs. The Government's main supporting measures include offering the first registration tax (FRT) concessions for e-PCs. It is stated in this year's Budget that the FRT concession cap under the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme (the Scheme) will be increased from \$250,000 to \$287,500, whereas the FRT concession cap for e-PCs in general is maintained at \$97,500. The above concessions will remain effective until 31 March 2024. Currently, amongst the 14 brands of e-PC available in the local market, 10 of them already provide models that can enjoy full waiver of FRT under the Scheme. Moreover, as 90% of the new e-PC owners have joined the Scheme since its introduction, the Government is of the view that the current arrangements have offered appropriate financial incentives to encourage the public to acquire e-PCs instead, and has no plan to relax the FRT concession arrangement for private cars at this stage.

With the rapid development of the electric vehicle (EV) technologies in recent years, in particular the gradual maturity of the e-PC technologies, as at February 2021, nearly 40 e-PC models with type approval from the Transport Department (TD) are available in the

local market, up from the 10-odd models in March 2018. At present, the vehicles imported into Hong Kong are mainly those imported by way of type approval through registered manufacturers or through individual/parallel import. To cater for the popularisation of EVs and facilitate the introduction of more EVs, the TD updated the construction safety approval requirements for EVs in November 2019, providing alternative means for parallel imported EVs to demonstrate their compliance with the safety requirements, including submission of the relevant documents issued by the manufacturer for approval of the electrical system, or submission of a test report issued by a laboratory accredited under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme or a registered professional engineer, certifying that the vehicle has fulfilled the technical requirements.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB081**

**(Question Serial No. 0917)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Administration intends to phase out petrol vehicles in 2035, and will subsidise installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities in housing estates. What are the estimated number of housing estates and the amount of subsidies to be involved? Please also advise on the number of EV charging facilities to be installed at public places for the next decade, as well as the anticipated amount of funding and manpower involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

Regarding the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure in housing estates, the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner.

As for the public charging networks, the Government allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks managed by the Transport Department, the Government Property Agency, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Tourism Commission which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. The Government's targets are to have no less than 5 000 public chargers to be provided by public and private organisations in 2025, and to further double the number afterwards. To achieve these targets, the Government will continue to explore different options for the installation of charging facilities for public use. Given the increasing demand, the marketisation of charging service will also provide more public charging facilities. The work as a whole in this respect will be absorbed by the existing



resources of the Environmental Protection Department. Where necessary in future, we will seek additional resources according to the established mechanism.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB082****(Question Serial No. 0949)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

To encourage more carriers to switch to cleaner fuels when berthing in Hong Kong waters, the Administration has reduced the berthing fees charged on ocean-going vessels using low sulphur fuel while at berth in Hong Kong. What was the total amount of subsidy in each of the past 3 years?

At present, the Government provides a wide range of subsidies for land vehicles using green energy, but the pollution caused by vessels at sea is actually greater than that by land transport, thus causing greater impact on the environment. Does the Administration have any measures in place to reduce marine pollution? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure involved? If no, what are the reasons? Will more measures be introduced in future to improve the relevant problems? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure to be involved? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched the Port Facilities and Light Dues Incentive Scheme (the Incentive Scheme) in September 2012 to encourage the use of low sulphur fuel by ocean-going vessels (OGVs) while berthing in Hong Kong waters to improve air quality. The Incentive Scheme ended on 31 March 2018. Statistics on participation in the Incentive Scheme in the 3 years before the scheme ended are listed in the table below:

Year	Number of calls by vessels participating in the Incentive Scheme	Percentage share in the incoming OGV-calls	Amount of port facilities and light dues concession (\$m)
2016	19 410	76.5	86.06
2017	20 354	83.9	98.18
January to March 2018	5 056	87.2	23.95

The EPD reduces the emissions of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates from vessels through controlling the sulphur content of marine fuel to improve air quality. The sulphur content of locally supplied marine light diesel has been capped at 0.05% since 1 April 2014. In addition, OGVs are required to switch to fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% while at berth since 1 July 2015. To further improve air quality, starting from 1 January 2019, all vessels (including OGVs, river trade and local vessels) are required to use compliant fuel, such as fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% or liquefied natural gas, irrespective of whether they are sailing or berthing in Hong Kong waters. The work on enforcing the above regulations is absorbed by the existing resources of the EPD.

Moreover, the Government will launch pilot schemes for electric ferries (e-ferries) and hybrid ferries serving in in-harbour and outlying island routes respectively with a view to testing the technical viability of adopting them in Hong Kong, and exploring whether conventional ferries can be replaced by new energy ferries in the long run to further reduce emissions from vessels.

The EPD is preparing to trial e-ferries in 4 in-harbour ferry routes, and will provide full subsidies to the ferry operators for the construction of 4 brand new e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, as well as the operational, maintenance and repair expenditures involved for testing the e-ferries during the 24-month trial period. The Government has earmarked \$350 million for launching the pilot scheme. The actual expenditure will depend on the capital costs and operational costs of the e-ferries. Taking into account the lead time to construct the e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, we initially anticipate that the pilot scheme can commence in 2023. The work on implementing the pilot scheme is absorbed by the existing resources of the EPD.

In addition, the Transport Department will provide full subsidies to the operators of 6 major outlying island ferry routes for the construction of 6 new hybrid ferries through the new Vessel Subsidy Scheme (VSS) for outlying island ferry routes, and will provide full subsidies to the operators to carry out a 16-month trial on the hybrid vessels during the initial phase of the VSS.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB083**

**(Question Serial No. 1243)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In this Programme, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) indicated that it would continue to implement the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

- a) Do the number of car parks and the total number of parking spaces in private residential buildings which intend to participate in the Scheme meet the targets of the Scheme?
- b) In the Budget, it is pointed out that the new registration of fuel-propelled private cars will cease in 2035 or earlier. Will the EPD set a target to tie in with the Budget such that more than half of the public and private car parking spaces in Hong Kong will be provided with EV charging-enabling infrastructure by 2035? If yes, what is the timetable?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kin-por (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- a) Regarding installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure in housing estates, the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor.

- b) Regarding installation of charging-enabling infrastructure in new private buildings, the Government has tightened the arrangements for gross floor area (GFA) concessions since 2011, such that only underground car parks provided with EV charging-enabling infrastructure for all parking spaces can be exempted from the GFA calculations. For above-ground private car parks provided with EV charging-enabling infrastructure, 50% GFA concessions will be granted. Currently, more than 68 000 approved parking spaces will be provided with charging-enabling infrastructure. We will consider adjusting the requirement for installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of new buildings, so that the infrastructure will cover all parking spaces of new private buildings and provide the power supply required for medium chargers. Coupled with the EHSS, we aim to promote installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for at least 150 000 parking spaces of private residential and commercial buildings by 2025.

As for the public charging networks, the Government allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks managed by the Transport Department, the Government Property Agency, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Tourism Commission which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. The Government's targets are to have no less than 5 000 public chargers to be provided by public and private organisations in 2025, and to further double the number afterwards. Meanwhile, the Government will continue to explore different options for installation of charging facilities for public use. Given the increasing demand, the marketisation of charging service will also promote the long-term sustainable development of EV charging service.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB084****(Question Serial No. 2743)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) Waste (4) Water (6) Nature ConservationControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The Environmental Protection Department has always released the figures on marine refuse collected by the 4 government departments (the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Marine Department (MD)) ([https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean\\_shorelines/statistics.html](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clean_shorelines/statistics.html)), but the latest figures for 2020 has not been released yet. Will the Administration provide the figures?

(1) Please provide in tabular form the following information: the annual amount of marine refuse collected from 2019 to 2021 (unit: tonnes).

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
LCSD - Gazetted Beaches					
MD - Hong Kong Waters					
FEHD - Ungazetted Beaches/Unallocated Coastal Areas					
AFCD - Marine Parks/Reserve*					
Total amount					

(2) Please provide in tabular form the following information: the numbers of coastal cleanup activities initiated by the public or organised by green groups and the amounts of refuse (including shoreline refuse and floating refuse) collected from 2017 to 2021 (unit: tonnes).

	Number of coastal cleanup activities	Amount of refuse
2017		
2018		
2019		
2020		
2021		

(3) The staff establishment and expenditure of the coastal cleanup activities undertaken by the Administration, including those by outsourced companies (if applicable).

(4) Please provide the distribution of shoreline refuse and floating refuse from 2017 to 2021 (by weight).

Department	Type of refuse	Percentage	Total amount
LCSD	-Shoreline		
	-Floating		
FEHD	-Shoreline		
	-Floating		
AFCD	-Shoreline		
	-Floating		
MD	-Shoreline		
	-Floating		

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 140)

Reply:

(1) The annual amounts of marine refuse collected from 2017 to January 2021 (unit: tonnes) are as follows:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (January)
LCSD - Gazetted Beaches	2 724	2 618	2 360	2 071	132
MD - Hong Kong Waters	11 642	11 534	11 006	10 327	1 638 cubic metres <sup>#</sup>
FEHD - Ungazetted Beaches/Unallocated Coastal Areas	804	1 014	1 213	1 123	58
AFCD - Marine Parks/Reserve	358	295	283	280	21
Total amount	15 528	15 461	14 862	13 801	211 and 1 638 cubic metres <sup>#</sup>

# In line with the practice of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the quantity of marine refuse collected is estimated in cubic metres starting from 1 January 2021.

- (2) The numbers of coastal cleanup activities initiated by the public or organised by green groups from 2017 to 2021 are as follows. As these coastal cleanup activities were voluntary in nature, only a few organisations or groups would submit marine refuse data cards to the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) after completion of the activities, so the EPD cannot provide the total amount of refuse collected by the relevant activities.

	Number of coastal cleanup activities (Note)
2017	213
2018	425
2019	442
2020	166
2021 (as at 8 March)	20

Note: Only the coastal cleanup activities initiated by the public or those organised by green groups with prior notification to the EPD through the Clean Shorelines Liaison Platform and those organised by the EPD (i.e. Shorelines Cleanup Day) were counted.

- (3) As matters related to the coastal cleanup activities are part of the routine work of the staff of the EPD, there is no breakdown of the staff establishment and expenditure involved. To step up the promotion as well as education and encourage more members of the public and organisations to participate in coastal cleanup activities, the EPD has outsourced the work for organising the activities to event contractors since December 2018 to increase the number of Shorelines Cleanup Day. A total of 48 coastal cleanup activities were organised from December 2018 to February 2020 under the contract. The contract expenditure was about \$550,000.
- (4) The distribution of shoreline refuse and floating refuse from 2017 to January 2021 (by weight) is as follows.

Department	Type of refuse	Percentage (Note)	Total amount (tonnes)
LCSD	-Shoreline -Floating	100% Not applicable	9 905
FEHD	-Shoreline -Floating	100% Not applicable	4 212
AFCD	-Shoreline -Floating	100% Not applicable	1 237
MD	-Shoreline -Floating	Not applicable 100%	44 509 and 1 638 cubic metres <sup>#</sup>

Note: The LCSD, the FEHD and the AFCD are mainly responsible for collecting shoreline refuse while the MD is responsible for collecting floating refuse.



# In line with the practice of the IMO, the quantity of marine refuse collected is estimated in cubic metres starting from 1 January 2021.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB085****(Question Serial No. 3272)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

What were the amounts of construction waste (in tonnes) that was delivered to landfills in the past 5 years? If the relevant information is not available, when will the statistics be compiled and published?

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Construction waste						

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pierre (LegCo internal reference no.: 158)Reply:

The overall amounts of construction waste that was delivered to landfills in the past 5 years are tabulated below:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Construction waste ( '000 tonnes)	1 619	1 536	1 489	1 440	1 251

The statistics for construction waste in 2021 are still under compilation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB086**

**(Question Serial No. 2114)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under the novel coronavirus pandemic, prohibition on group gatherings and restrictions are often imposed on catering premises. Many citizens have therefore opted for takeaway meals, causing an increase in the use and disposal of plastic tableware. Will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. What were the quantities of plastics generated and their recovery rates in the past 3 years? What were the percentages of plastic tableware, plastic bags and waste plastic packaging in the waste plastics disposed of?
2. Among the plastics recovered, what were the percentages of the plastics that could be recycled or sold; and what was the percentage of the plastics that could not be recycled and was disposed of at landfills directly?
3. What are the details of the Government's study on the implementation of the control of disposable plastic tableware?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- 1 and 2. According to the reports on "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong" compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the quantities of waste plastics generated, their recovery rates and the percentages of plastic tableware (including polyfoam tableware) and plastic bags in the waste plastics disposed of between 2017 and 2019 are shown in the table below. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation. The EPD does not compile breakdown figures on waste plastic packaging.

Year	Waste plastics		Percentage in waste plastics disposed of	
	Quantity generated (thousand tonnes)	Recovery rate	Plastic tableware (including polyfoam tableware)	Plastic bags
2017	891	13%	10%	37%
2018	919	7%	9%	36%
2019	924	8%	9%	33%

The recovery rate for waste plastics has shown a downward trend in recent years. This is mainly due to the challenging conditions of the international recycling markets that persisted for years. In addition, nearby economies have been progressively tightening and imposing stricter import controls in recent years. Local recyclables not meeting the import requirements could no longer enter such places for further processing. In response, the local recycling industry has gradually upgraded its mode of operation from exporting after simple baling in the past to recycling waste plastics by turning them into raw materials. The quantity of waste plastics recycled locally in 2019 rose by 33% when compared with that in 2018 (from 55 800 tonnes to 74 400 tonnes), and the recovery rate also reverted to an increase. The EPD does not have the relevant statistics on the percentages of the plastics recovered that can be recycled, sold or are disposed of at landfills.

3. In order to tackle the disposable plastic tableware issue in the long run, we have conducted a study on the feasibility, scope and mechanism of the control of disposable plastic tableware. The study is substantially completed. Given that phased legislative control is the typical approach adopted in different places currently according to their own circumstances, and having regard to the local situations, the consultant's initial findings suggest that measures should be implemented to regulate the use of various types of disposable plastic tableware by the catering sector. A ban on the distribution of disposable plastic tableware for dine-in and takeaway services in eateries may be implemented in phases with exemptions under special circumstances. We will consult the trades, the public and relevant stakeholders later this year to map out the way forward. Subject to the views received and the ensuing legislative procedures, we hope that the first phase of regulation can be implemented in around 2025.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB087**

**(Question Serial No. 2115)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. What were the quantities of various types of recyclables, including waste electrical and electronic equipment, plastics and paper, imported/exported in the past 3 years?
2. What were the quantities of various types of recyclables recovered locally and the recovery rates?
3. What is the current recycling capacity of EcoPark and what is the percentage of the capacity in the total quantity recovered?
4. What is the percentage of various types of recyclables that can be recycled and processed locally?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. According to the external merchandise trade statistics compiled by the Census and Statistics Department, the recyclables imported and exported in the past 3 years mainly involved ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals, paper and plastics. Since waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) does not have a corresponding commodity classification code under the current Hong Kong Harmonised System, the relevant information is not available. From 2018 to 2020, the quantities of ferrous metals imported were 300 000, 210 000 and 140 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of non-ferrous metals imported were 250 000, 430 000 and 250 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of paper imported were 100 000, 30 000 and 20 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of plastics imported were 600 000, 610 000 and 300 000 tonnes respectively. During the same period, the quantities of ferrous metals exported (including re-exports and domestic exports) were 1 290 000, 960 000 and 820 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of non-ferrous metals exported were 340 000, 440 000 and 320 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of paper exported were 720 000, 540 000 and 450 000 tonnes respectively; the quantities of plastics exported were 290 000, 230 000 and 110 000 tonnes respectively.

2. The statistics on the quantities of the major types of recyclables recovered and the recovery rates in 2018 and 2019 are tabulated as follows. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still being compiled.

Major type of recyclables	Quantity recovered (thousand tonnes)		Recovery rate	
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Ferrous metals	789	754	91%	91%
Non-ferrous metals	127	137	85%	88%
Paper	695	532	41%	35%
Plastics	64	77	7%	8%
WEEE	42	47	63%	69%

- 3 and 4. Hong Kong relies heavily on service industries, and has very limited capacity to utilise raw or recycled materials in local production. As a result, local recyclables have mainly been for export. In 2019, the types of recyclables recovered and processed locally included plastics (74 000 tonnes), food waste (46 000 tonnes), electrical and electronic equipment (43 000 tonnes), glass (17 000 tonnes), rubber tyres (7 000 tonnes) and yard waste (2 000 tonnes). The Government will further strengthen the supporting recycling network, provide stable collection service, enhance the local capability of transforming waste into resources/energy, facilitate the construction of recycling facilities, steer the market towards higher value-added products, and identify stable market outlets, thereby laying the foundation progressively for the development of a circular economy. We will also support the recycling industry to strengthen their operational capabilities with innovation and technologies, so that they can withstand the impacts brought about by market fluctuations.

The quantities of recyclables processed at EcoPark in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Quantity processed <sup>(1)</sup> (tonnes)
2018	213 000
2019	185 000
2020	184 000

Note (1) Quantities processed are rounded to the nearest thousand.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB088****(Question Serial No. 2116)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

How many projects were funded by the Recycling Fund in each of the past 5 years? Please set out the title, person-in-charge, amount of funding, content, types of recyclables and quantities processed of the various projects. What are the number of applications still being processed at present and the reasons for rejecting the projects?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)Reply:

In the past 5 years (i.e. the financial years from 2016-17 to 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)), the Recycling Fund (the Fund) approved over 1 600 projects, involving a total funding of about \$540 million. Among others, the One-off Rental Support Scheme and the One-off Recycling Industry Anti-epidemic Scheme were launched under the Fund in 2019 and 2020 respectively to provide rental support and anti-epidemic subsidies to help the recycling industry cope with operational difficulties. The schemes have approved more than 1 300 applications and disbursed over \$206 million in total. Various types of recyclables are involved in other projects under the Industry Support Programme and Enterprise Support Programme, including waste paper, plastics, metals, wood and food waste etc. The numbers of projects subsidised by the Fund under different application programmes each year are as follows:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Enterprise Support Programme</b>	<b>Industry Support Programme</b>	<b>Standard Project</b>
2016-17	6	3	34
2017-18	6	3	70
2018-19	6	4	46
2019-20	163*	11	53
2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	1 160#	4	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 341</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>222</b>

41 applications, which have been withdrawn by the applicants, are excluded from the above table.

\* 144 applications for the One-off Rental Support Scheme were included in the figures for 2019-20.

# 1 159 applications for the One-off Rental Support Scheme and the One-off Recycling Industry Anti-epidemic Scheme were included in the figures for 2020-21.

All applications were considered by the Advisory Committee on Recycling Fund with reference to a set of published vetting criteria. At present, the Fund is still processing about 90 applications. Over the past 5 years, about 500 applications in total were not approved by the Fund. Among them, about 450 were applications for the One-off Rental Support Scheme and the One-off Recycling Industry Anti-epidemic Scheme while 50 were projects applying for the Industry Support Programme and Enterprise Support Programme. The main reasons for rejecting the applications include:

- The project or company information submitted by the applicant was incomplete;
- The applicant did not meet the application eligibility;
- The project content was not within the coverage of the Fund;
- The applicant failed to provide the required documentary proof of rental agreements;
- The applicant's business did not process local recyclables;
- The project did not show that it could reduce disposal at landfills;
- The project was not practicable;
- The applicant failed to prove his/her ability in implementing the project;
- The project was not financially viable or sustainable; and
- The project was not cost-effective etc.

As for details of various projects funded by the Fund, please visit the following website:  
[https://www.recyclingfund.hk/en/news\\_approved.php](https://www.recyclingfund.hk/en/news_approved.php)

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB089**

**(Question Serial No. 2117)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the work on promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs), please set out the respective numbers of cases in which the first registration tax concessions were granted for buying EVs and the respective numbers of successful applications for the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

Regarding electric private cars (e-PCs), the first registration tax (FRT) for a total of 6 799 e-PCs was waived in full from 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017. During the period between 1 April 2017 and 28 February 2021, a total of 863 e-PCs were granted a FRT concession of up to \$97,500.

From the introduction of the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme on 28 February 2018 until 28 February 2021, the Transport Department received a total of 7 654 applications (accounting for 90% of the first registered new e-PCs over the same period), among which 7 524 were approved, 48 were being processed and 82 were rejected for not complying with the eligibility criteria.

As for other types of electric vehicles, the FRT for a total of 194 electric commercial vehicles and 32 electric motorcycles was waived in full from 1 January 2016 to 28 February 2021.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB090**

**(Question Serial No. 2118)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has launched the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to support installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of private residential buildings. Please advise on:

- 1 the numbers of applications received and approved under the Scheme;
- 2 the anticipated installation cost for each charging facility;
- 3 the anticipated number of additional charging-enabling infrastructure to be provided in various districts.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. We will know the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to each application and calculate the installation cost for each charging facility after the approved housing estate has completed the process of engaging the services of a consultant and a contractor to conduct the installation works through open tendering.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB091**

**(Question Serial No. 2119)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What were the numbers of complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department about illegal disposal of waste, the numbers of proactive inspections conducted and the numbers of prosecutions against illegal disposal of waste in the past 3 years (please list by district)?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

The numbers of complaints about illegal disposal of waste handled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), as well as the numbers of inspections conducted and the numbers of prosecutions in the past 3 years are as follows:

	Year											
	2018				2019				2020			
	Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of inspections	Number of prosecutions		Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of inspections	Number of prosecutions		Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of inspections	Number of prosecutions	
Number of summonses			Number of Fixed Penalty Notices	Number of summonses			Number of Fixed Penalty Notices	Number of summonses			Number of Fixed Penalty Notices	
<b>Annual total figures</b>	<b>2 819</b>	<b>12 254*</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>2 319</b>	<b>11 793</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>2 012</b>	<b>11 564</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>214</b>
Figures by district												
Central & Western	114	12 254*	2	1	95	236	0	0	75	389	10	0
Eastern	80		2	19	68	671	5	20	42	770	3	17
Southern	62		13	20	21	403	14	18	19	254	54	11
Wan Chai	153		0	4	131	478	0	2	69	252	0	0
Kowloon City	272		3	11	189	792	14	8	181	521	7	6
Kwun Tong	100		5	6	78	291	2	0	49	349	1	13
Sham Shui Po	291		1	33	283	892	4	27	185	859	4	57
Wong Tai Sin	33		0	1	41	202	5	2	24	295	7	2
Yau Tsim Mong	316		8	21	233	1 445	3	11	205	1 222	2	34
Islands	113		1	2	85	551	2	3	84	521	3	1
Kwai Tsing	119		65	69	86	667	42	26	59	939	55	45
North	190		8	0	174	707	6	3	180	813	11	8
Sai Kung	211		8	1	142	871	26	0	122	559	50	7
Sha Tin	72		0	15	104	376	7	25	99	623	7	4
Tai Po	215		1	17	144	819	2	14	146	754	2	4
Tsuen Wan	100		13	19	81	866	4	4	72	599	3	2
Tuen Mun	67		10	5	58	354	11	0	70	349	8	2
Yuen Long	311		44	2	306	1 172	33	10	331	1 496	62	1

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Including multiple complaints which may have arisen from a single case.

\* Breakdowns of the inspection numbers concerning illegal disposal of waste by district are available from 2019 onwards. Therefore, annual total figure is provided for the number of inspections in 2018.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB092**

**(Question Serial No. 2120)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government will continue to implement the pilot scheme on free collection of food waste from commercial and industrial sources, and will gradually expand the scheme to collect food waste from domestic sources. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What were the quantities of food waste generated from commercial and industrial as well as domestic sources and their recovery rates in the past 5 years? What were the quantities of food waste disposed of at landfills in the past 5 years?
2. Regarding reduction of food waste, what were the expenditure and manpower involved each year?
3. What were the annual quantities of commercial and industrial food waste recovered and the expenditures involved in the past 5 years?
4. What were the respective quantities of food waste recovered and the funding approved under the Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and the food waste reduction and recycling projects under the Community Waste Reduction Projects funded by the ECF in the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

1. According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the statistics on the respective quantities of food waste (including domestic as well as commercial and industrial (C&I) food waste) disposed of at landfills, generated and the recovery rates from 2015 to 2019 are tabulated below. The EPD does not have a breakdown of the food waste generated from domestic and C&I sources and the recovery rates. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation.

Year	Domestic food waste	C&I food waste	Overall municipal food waste		
	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day) (a)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day) (b)	Disposal quantity (tonnes per day) (c)=(a)+(b)	Quantity generated (tonnes per day)	Recovery rate
2015	2 397	985	3 382	3 420	1.1%
2016	2 326	1 274	3 600	3 643	1.2%
2017	2 363	1 299	3 662	3 702	1.1%
2018	2 418	1 147	3 565	3 639	2.0%
2019	2 286	1 067	3 353	3 479	3.6%

Note 1: The above figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

- 2 and 3. The EPD is implementing a number of initiatives to reduce food waste, including major projects such as the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign), the pilot scheme on free collection of food waste, etc. The manpower and supervision work involved in the past 5 years were absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The expenditures involved are tabulated below:

Year	Expenditure Involved (\$m)		
	Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign	Pilot scheme on collection of food waste	Engagement of contractors to provide training and assistance to the C&I sectors
2016-17	3.6	-	-
2017-18	4.0	-	-
2018-19	6.3	17.1	0.3
2019-20	4.0	25.4	0.4
2020-21 (Estimated expenditure)	3.6	34.2	0.6

Regarding food waste treatment, the Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O-PARK1) and the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works (STW) commenced operation in July 2018 and May 2019 respectively. The relevant supervision work is absorbed by the existing staff establishment of the EPD. The expenditures involved from the 2018-19 to 2020-21 financial years are tabulated below:

Year	Operating Expenditure (\$m)	
	Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O-PARK1)	Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial at Tai Po STW
2018-19	11	-
2019-20	47	5
2020-21 (Revised estimate)	58	11

4. Since 2011, the EPD has implemented the Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates through the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to support housing estates to install food waste composters and organise relevant educational and promotion activities, so as to encourage public participation in domestic food waste recycling. As at March 2021, a total of 36 housing estates have received funding support with a total amount of approved funding of about \$40 million. This funding scheme has been closed for applications. All funded private housing estates may continue to use the on-site food waste composters for converting part of the domestic food waste into compost for landscape planting. These estates are welcome to continue their efforts in separating food waste at source and join the pilot scheme on free food waste collection to be rolled out by the Government. The quantities of domestic food waste recovered and the funding approved under these projects in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Funding approved (\$m)	Quantity of food waste recovered (tonnes)
2016-17	2.20	469
2017-18	1.78	485
2018-19	3.27	389
2019-20	1.46	181
2020-21	0.23 (Note 2)	79 (Note 3)

Note 2: The amount of funding approved as at the end of December 2020. The ECF received an extension project application at the end of 2019 (before the funding scheme closed), and the amount (approximately \$230,000) was approved in 2020-21.

Note 3: The estimated quantity of food waste recovered as at the end of March 2021.

In addition, the EPD has also implemented food waste reduction and recycling projects under the Community Waste Reduction Projects funded by the ECF to subsidise the projects on reducing mainly domestic food waste. The quantities of food waste recovered and the funding approved under the food waste reduction and recycling projects in the past 5 years are as follows:



<b>Year</b>	<b>Funding approved (\$m)</b>	<b>Quantity of food waste recovered (tonnes)</b>
2016-17	0.86	170
2017-18	8.23	231
2018-19	3.71	188
2019-20	12.33	258
2020-21	1.21 <sup>(Note 4)</sup>	1 196 <sup>(Note 5)</sup>

Note 4: The amount of funding approved as at the end of December 2020.

Note 5: The estimated quantity of food waste recovered as at the end of March 2021, with a small portion of the domestic food waste recovered by on-site food waste composters. The major increase (about 1 000 tonnes) was brought about by 1 project in which food waste was collected from the food and beverage sectors and delivered to O·PARK1 for treatment.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB093**

**(Question Serial No. 2121)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government stated that it would continue to develop recycling facilities to handle yard waste and explore production of biochar from yard waste with a view to turning yard waste into energy and useful products. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the quantity of yard waste generated, its recovery rate and the amount of yard waste disposed of at landfills?
2. What is the expected commencement date of operation of the yard waste recycling centre Y·PARK? What is the percentage share of the planned amount of yard waste that can be handled each year in the total quantity of yard waste in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1. In the past few years, Hong Kong generated an average of about 180 tonnes of yard waste every day, mainly from construction works and daily clearance duties relating to routine vegetation maintenance. The overall recovery rate of yard waste was about 2% and the remaining yard waste was normally disposed of at landfills.
2. To promote recycling of yard waste with a view to reducing yard waste being disposed of at landfills, the Environmental Protection Department awarded a service contract for setting up and operating the yard waste recycling centre (Y·PARK) in late 2020. The facility is expected to commence operation in the second quarter of 2021. The facility's treatment capacity is estimated at about 11 000 tonnes (i.e. 30 tonnes per day on average) in the first year and will gradually increase to an average of about 22 000 tonnes (i.e. 60 tonnes per day on average) a year subsequently, accounting for about 35% of the average daily disposal quantity of yard waste.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB094****(Question Serial No. 2142)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (001) SalariesProgramme: (-) Not specifiedControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please advise this Committee:

1. of the numbers of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff members employed by the Environmental Protection Department and the relevant expenditures in the past 3 years; and
2. whether there are any establishment and expenditure ceilings on the NCSC staff members employed by the Director of Bureau; if yes, of the relevant establishment and expenditure ceilings.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)Reply:

Details of the full-time <sup>(Note 1)</sup> and part-time <sup>(Note 2)</sup> non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff employed by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) as at 30 June 2018, 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 are set out in the following table:

	Number of staff members		Expenditure (\$m) <sup>(Note3)</sup>
	Full-time	Part-time	
Position as at 30 June 2018	68	110	50.7
Position as at 30 June 2019	74	120	50.3
Position as at 30 June 2020	101	115	53.5

Under the NCSC Staff Scheme, Heads of bureaux/departments (B/Ds) may employ NCSC staff to meet changing operational and service needs. They include those: (a) which may be time-limited, seasonal, or subject to market fluctuations; or (b) which require staff to work less than the conditioned hours; or (c) which require tapping the latest expertise in a particular area from the labour market; or (d) where the mode of service delivery is under review or likely to be changed. Moreover, the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has set a ceiling for the number of NCSC staff members employed by B/Ds. For the employment of NCSC staff over and above the prescribed ceiling, B/Ds are required to seek approval from

the CSB. Subject to the above conditions, the EPD will employ NCSC staff having regard to the operational needs.

Note 1: “Full-time” employment means employment under a “continuous contract” as defined by the Employment Ordinance (EO). According to the EO, an employee is regarded as being employed under a “continuous contract” if he or she works continuously for the same employer for 4 weeks or more, with at least 18 hours in each week.

Note 2: “Part-time” employment means employment whereby the number of working hours of the NCSC staff is less than that under a “continuous contract” as defined by the EO. The number of part-time NCSC staff refers to those with employment contractual relations with the EPD as at 30 June of the subject year, and only some of them were called upon to perform duty on that date.

Note 3: The expenditure from 1 July of the preceding year to 30 June of the subject year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB095**

**(Question Serial No. 2178)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department has been proactively taking forward the GREEN@COMMUNITY project to promote waste reduction and recycling at the district level in recent years. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1 What is the number of GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities that have commenced operation at present? Where are they located?

2 What is the estimated operating cost for a GREEN@COMMUNITY facility on average? How many GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities will the Administration expect to develop across the territory eventually and what is the estimated maximum operating cost each year?

3 What are the monthly recycling performance targets of GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities? Does the actual recycling performance of the GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities in operation meet the expected targets? Please illustrate the situation according to the 8 types of recyclables collected.

4 How effective is the subsequent handling of recyclables of the GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities? (Please illustrate the situation according to the 8 types of recyclables collected.) Will the Administration provide quantifiable effectiveness indicators for reference?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 57)

Reply:

To strengthen recycling support at district level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is continuously expanding the new community recycling network, namely GREEN@COMMUNITY, which comprises 9 Recycling Stations focusing on both environmental protection education and recycling support, 22 Recycling Stores located in close proximity of residential areas, and more than 100 Recycling Spots operating at fixed locations on weekly schedules. All of which have commenced operation successively, covering all 18 districts in the territory and accepting different types of recyclables. The addresses of the various Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores are tabulated below while the specific locations of the 100-odd Recycling Spots can be found in the "Waste Less" mobile application.

<b>Recycling Stations</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Address</b>
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHA TIN	10 On Ping Street, Shek Mun
Eastern	GREEN@EASTERN	30 Oi Shun Road, Shau Kei Wan
Kwun Tong	GREEN@KWUN TONG	27 Sheung Yee Road, Kowloon Bay
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG	65 Tin Wah Road, Tin Shui Wai
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO	339 Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po
Tuen Mun	GREEN@TUEN MUN	9 Tuen Yee Street, Tuen Mun
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@KWAI TSING	12 Tam Kon Shan Road, Tsing Yi
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO	25 Dai Wah Street, Tai Po
Islands	GREEN@ISLANDS	1 Chung Mun Road, Tung Chung

<b>Recycling Stores</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Address</b>
Southern	GREEN@TIN WAN	Shun Fung Court, Ka Wo Street, Tin Wan
Wan Chai	GREEN@TIN HAU	Triumph Court, Electric Road, Tin Hau
Central & Western	GREEN@SAI YING PUN	113 First Street, Sai Ying Pun
	GREEN@SHEUNG WAN	Wing Hing Commercial Building, Sutherland Street, Sheung Wan
Tuen Mun	GREEN@SAN HUI	Ming Wai Building, Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road
North	GREEN@SHEK WU HUI	16 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui
	GREEN@FANLING	Flora Plaza, Pak Wo Road, Fanling
Sai Kung	GREEN@PO LAM	Metro City Plaza II, Yan King Road, Tseung Kwan O
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@CHEUNG SHA WAN	ONE NEW YORK, Castle Peak Road, Cheung Sha Wan
Kwun Tong	GREEN@YUE MAN SQUARE	Kwan Sen Mansion, Mut Wah Street
Eastern	GREEN@QUARRY BAY	East Pavilion, King's Road, Quarry Bay
Sha Tin	GREEN@TAI WAI	Tin Po Building, Chik Fuk Street
Kowloon City	GREEN@WALLED CITY	48 Lion Rock Road
	GREEN@TO KWA WAN	93 Pau Chung Street
	GREEN@HUNG HOM	83 Wuhu Street

<b>Recycling Stores</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Address</b>
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@SAN PO KONG	San Po Kong Mansion, Choi Hung Road
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@KWAI CHUNG	Kwai Po Building, Shek Yam Road (Lei Muk Road Entrance)
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LO TAK COURT	Cheong Wah Building, Castle Peak Road – Tsuen Wan
Yau Tsim Mong	GREEN@TAI KOK TSUI	Pak Sing Building, Tong Mi Road
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO MARKET	Central Plaza, Kwong Fuk Road
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG HUI	Far East Consortium Yuen Long Building, On Lok Road
Islands	GREEN@MUI WO	Silver Centre Building, Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road

In addition, it is expected that 2 new Recycling Stations, namely GREEN@SAI KUNG and GREEN@WAN CHAI, will commence operation in 2021-22 while the planning work of GREEN@WONG TAI SIN is in progress. The EPD is also reviewing the overall operation of Recycling Stores and the specific demand for recycling facilities in individual districts with a view to considering the provision of more Recycling Stores.

In the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years, the estimated expenditures for Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Estimated expenditure</b>	
	<b>Recycling Stations</b>	<b>Recycling Stores</b>
2020-21	\$42 million	\$127 million
2021-22	\$48 million	\$229 million

In 2020, the 9 Recycling Stations recovered a total of about 3 200 tonnes of recyclables, most of which were glass containers (about 60%) and electrical appliances and computer products (about 20%), and the remaining recyclables included waste paper, plastics, metals, compact fluorescent lamps, fluorescent tubes and rechargeable batteries, etc. Moreover, the 22 Recycling Stores that have progressively commenced operation in the fourth quarter of 2020 collected a total of more than 750 tonnes of recyclables in the first quarter of operation. Among the recyclables collected, about 70% were plastics, 15% were waste paper, 10% were glass containers, and the remaining recyclables were metals, regulated electrical equipment, small electrical appliances, compact fluorescent lamps, fluorescent tubes and rechargeable batteries, etc. Overall speaking, the operational performances of the Recycling Stations and the Recycling Stores were both able to meet the expected targets.

The operators of Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores are required to deliver the collected recyclables to downstream recyclers approved by the EPD for proper treatment and turning into resources, including recycling plastic materials in local recycling facilities. The arrangements for the subsequent processing of various types of recyclables are as follows:

Waste paper	The waste paper is exported for recycling into paper products by EPD's Waste Paper Collection & Recycling Services contractors or private recyclers.
Waste plastics	The waste plastics are recycled locally by the contractors of EPD's Plastic Recycling Pilot Scheme or private recyclers. After processing, the waste plastics are recycled into plastic raw materials or recycled plastic products.
Waste metals	The waste metals are sent to private recyclers for proper handling.
Glass containers	The glass containers are mainly sent to the glass management contractors engaged by the EPD for processing. The processed glass recyclable materials will be used for production of cement and eco-pavers, or used as fill materials in various public works projects. A small portion of the glass containers will also be sent to other private recyclers for recycling.
Regulated electrical equipment	The regulated electrical equipment are delivered to the contractor of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Treatment and Recycling Facility (WEEE-PARK) or licensed recyclers for proper handling, refurbishment or dismantling.
Non-regulated electrical equipment (such as small electrical appliances)	The non-regulated electrical equipment is delivered to EPD's service contractors or private recyclers for dismantling and recycling.
Rechargeable batteries	All rechargeable batteries are sent to the service contractor of the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Programme for export to overseas recycling facilities for proper handling.
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	All compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes are sent to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre for proper handling.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB096**

**(Question Serial No. 2179)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It was proposed by the Government in the 2020-2021 Budget that a \$200 million Green Tech Fund (GTF) would be set up to support research and development and application of decarbonisation and green technologies. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What is the progress of the GTF?
2. How many applications has the Administration received in total? Among these applications, are there any environmental protection technologies that have application values so that the Administration can make reference to and promote locally?
3. Besides the open tendering for the above Fund, will the Administration plan to make reference to advanced environmental protection technologies from the Mainland or overseas to assist Hong Kong in enhancing environmental protection? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 58)

Reply:

- 1-3. The first round of applications for the Green Tech Fund (GTF) was closed in February this year. A total of 191 applications have been received. The vetting results are expected to be announced in the middle of this year.

Apart from encouraging the research and development institutes in Hong Kong to develop low-carbon and green technologies that cater for the needs of Hong Kong's environment and market through the GTF, we will also closely monitor the developments in environmental protection technologies in the Mainland and overseas countries, and explore the adoption and promotion of innovative technologies that are applicable to Hong Kong. For instance, we will progressively introduce a smart recycling system, study the adoption of various renewable energy technologies and set up a three-dimensional air pollution monitoring network with light detection and ranging technology, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB097**

**(Question Serial No. 2180)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) is an important direction of development in advanced countries. Relevant government policies and associated support are indispensable. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. Studies show that in 2030, more than half of the vehicles in the world will be EVs; and nearly 100% of public transport vehicles in Shenzhen, China will be purely electricity-driven. What is the progress of the Administration in formulating Hong Kong's roadmap on the popularisation of EVs and the provision of EVs for use in private and public vehicles?
2. What were the numbers of registered private EVs in Hong Kong and their percentage shares in the total numbers of private cars in the past 3 years?
3. Apart from tax concessions, will additional expenditure be provided by the Administration to encourage the use of EVs, such as introducing concessionary parking fee?
4. Regarding public vehicles (including buses and light buses), what is the current take-up rate of EVs? How much resources are expected to be allocated in future by the Administration to achieve the electrification of public vehicles?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

1. The Environment Bureau announced Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles in March this year. Concerning electric private cars (e-PCs), the Government will stop new registration of fuel-propelled private cars, including different types of hybrid vehicles, in Hong Kong in 2035 or earlier. Also, the Government's target is to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with electric vehicle charging infrastructure by 2025. As for promotion of the use of electric public transport, the Government will conduct relevant trials proactively in the next few years to test the technical and commercial viability of different types of e-public transport for use in the local environment, so as to identify the best electrification options for Hong Kong. Furthermore, the Government will identify sites in a proactive manner to develop a

territory-wide quick charging network and designate charging bays for public transport at public transport interchanges in new development areas to prepare for the electrification of public transport in future. The Government will assess the situation as a whole in around 2025. Subject to the development of technologies and supporting facilities by then, a more concrete way forward and timetable for the promotion of e-public transport will be formulated.

2. The total numbers of registered e-PCs (excluding the e-PCs of the Government) in Hong Kong and their percentage shares in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total number of registered e-PCs</b>	<b>Percentage share of registered e-PCs in the total number of PCs</b>
2018	11 080	1.8%
2019	13 447	2.1%
2020	17 998	2.7%

3. For the promotion of e-PCs, the Government’s main supporting measures include offering the first registration tax (FRT) concessions for e-PCs. It is stated in this year’s Budget that the FRT concession cap under the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme (the Scheme) will be increased from \$250,000 to \$287,500, whereas the FRT concession cap for e-PCs in general is maintained at \$97,500. The FRT for electric commercial vehicles can be waived in full. The above concession arrangements will remain effective until 31 March 2024. Currently, amongst the 14 brands of e-PC available in the local market, 10 of them already provide models that can enjoy full waiver of FRT under the Scheme. Moreover, 90% of the new e-PC owners have joined the Scheme since its introduction. Besides the above-mentioned FRT concessions, currently, the annual vehicle licence fees for e-PCs are far lower than those for conventional private cars, and the electricity tariffs incurred for running e-PCs are also less expensive than the fuel charges incurred for running conventional private cars. In addition, enterprises which procure electric vehicles (EVs) can have full profits tax deduction for the capital expenditure on the vehicles in the first year of procurement. Therefore, the Government is of the view that the current arrangements have offered appropriate financial incentives to encourage the public to acquire EVs instead, and has no plan to add extra concessionary measures at this stage.
4. Regarding public transport, the electrification of franchised buses and public light buses is currently still in the trial stage. The Government has allocated \$180 million to fully subsidise the franchised bus companies (FBCs) to purchase a total of 36 single-deck electric buses for conducting a two-year trial to test out their operational performance, reliability and economic feasibility in local conditions. At present, 33 electric buses have commenced operation. The remaining 3 electric buses will commence the trial in 2021. For double-deck electric buses, the New Energy Transport Fund (previously named Pilot Green Transport Fund) approved the subsidy in November 2020 for The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited and Citybus Limited to conduct trials respectively on a total of 4 double-deck electric buses supplied by 2 manufacturers. It is expected that the trials will commence progressively in mid-2022. We will continue to monitor the performance of electric

buses on trial and keep in view the development in other places, so as to introduce more models that suit Hong Kong's operating environment in due course.

The Government has also earmarked \$80 million to subsidise about 40 electric public light buses (e-PLBs) and the associated charging facilities to implement a pilot scheme for e-PLBs. Since no electric light bus models available in the local market can fully meet the daily operational requirements of PLBs, we have liaised with different light bus manufacturers. However, given the lead time to develop and manufacture e-PLBs that suit Hong Kong, it is anticipated that the pilot scheme will commence officially in 2023. By then, e-PLBs running on various routes will be put on trial for about 12 months. After the completion of the trial, we will review the performance of the e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities, so as to formulate policies on promotion of e-PLBs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB098**

**(Question Serial No. 2181)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The progress of charger installation is crucial to the promotion of electric vehicles (EVs). In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. It is mentioned in last year's Budget that the Government would launch a \$2 billion pilot scheme to subsidise the installation of charging-enabling infrastructure in eligible car parks of existing private residential buildings. What is the total number of applications received by the Administration under the scheme so far? What is the number of buildings in which chargers have been successfully installed through the scheme? (Please tabulate with a breakdown by district)
2. Has the Government set up a database for the chargers across the territory, to record important information including locations, performance, ownership and maintenance of the chargers?
3. Installation of chargers is a brand-new huge industry in the Mainland and abroad, with keen competition and diversification of products. Will the Administration consider attracting enterprise development by way of public-private partnership or policies, so as to accelerate the popularisation of EVs locally?
4. Does the Administration have any blueprint for installation of chargers in various districts across the territory?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

1. The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor.

2. The Government has set up a database for public chargers across the territory to record, among others, information on the chargers including their locations, numbers, performance and charging standards for public reference. Please refer to the EPD website regarding “Promotion of Electric Vehicles in Hong Kong” for the database information.
3. With the increasing popularity of EVs, there are more and more companies engaging in the installation and operation of EV charging facilities in the market. In recent years, the Government has introduced a number of measures in relation to EV charging facilities, including the above EHSS, and addition of over 1 000 medium chargers at government car parks by 2022 (see Part 4 of the Reply for details). These measures can bring business opportunities to EV charging service operators. Besides, to promote marketisation of the EV charging services, the Government is studying the switching of the existing free service mode to fee-charging mode for public chargers provided at government car parks, and is formulating the fee-charging schemes, so as to encourage more EV charging service operators to provide the services on a commercial basis, thereby getting the community prepared for the transition to EVs.
4. The Environment Bureau announced Hong Kong’s first roadmap on the popularisation of EVs in March this year, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of EVs and their associated supporting facilities.

Regarding installation of charging-enabling infrastructure in new private buildings, the Government has tightened the arrangements for gross floor area (GFA) concessions since 2011, such that only underground car parks provided with EV charging-enabling infrastructure for all parking spaces can be exempted from the GFA calculations. For above-ground private car parks provided with EV charging-enabling infrastructure, 50% GFA concessions will be granted. Currently, more than 68 000 approved parking spaces will be provided with charging-enabling infrastructure. We will explore the adjustment of the requirement for EV charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of new buildings, so that all parking spaces of new private buildings are required to be provided with charging infrastructure that supports medium chargers. Coupled with the EHSS, our target is to have at least 150 000 parking spaces in private residential and commercial buildings equipped with EV charging infrastructure by 2025.

As for the public charging networks, the Government allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks

managed by the Transport Department, the Government Property Agency, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Tourism Commission which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. The Government's targets are to have no less than 5 000 public chargers to be provided by public and private organisations in 2025, and to further double the number afterwards.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB099****(Question Serial No. 2184)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Last year, the Government allocated an additional funding of \$800 million to the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) and expanded its funding scope to cover commercial vehicles. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. How many applications have been received by the NET Fund? What is the amount of subsidy granted? Please tabulate the figures to show the subsidies granted to commercial vehicles with a breakdown by type.

	Quantity	Amount of Subsidy
Commercial buses		
Commercial light buses		
Commercial vehicles		
Commercial ferries		

2. Please set out the names and amounts of subsidy of the top 10 organisations subsidised by the Fund.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

1. The Government has put in place a New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) (previously known as Pilot Green Transport Fund) since March 2011 to encourage the transport sector to try out and use green innovative transport technologies. As at the end of January 2021, the NET Fund has approved a total of 196 trials, involving 138 electric light goods vehicles (LGVs), 14 single-deck electric buses, 4 double-deck electric buses, 3 electric taxis, 3 electric light buses (LBs), 1 electric medium goods vehicle (MGV) (tractor), 48 hybrid LGVs, 27 hybrid MGVs, 26 hybrid LBs, 2 single-deck hybrid buses, 1 set of solar air-conditioning system for a bus, 4 sets of electric inverter air-conditioning systems for buses, the retrofitting of 3 in-use ferries each with a set of diesel-electric propulsion system to replace their old-type of diesel



engines and the retrofitting of 1 in-use ferry with a seawater scrubber, with a total subsidy of about \$154 million.

2. The subsidy cap for each application for trial is \$10 million, under which the subsidy cap for each new vehicle is \$3 million, and that for each new vessel is \$10 million. As for the installation of after-treatment emission reduction devices or fuel saving devices for conventional vehicles/vessels, the subsidy cap is \$1.5 million per device; and for the retrofitting of new energy engines or propulsion devices for conventional vessels, the subsidy cap is \$3 million per engine/device. Each transport operator can submit more than one applications to try out different green innovative transport technologies, but the total amount of subsidy cannot exceed \$12 million. To avoid hindering approved applicants from receiving competitive tenders, we will not disclose the amounts of subsidy for various types of products on trial, nor the amount of subsidy for individual approved trial.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB100**

**(Question Serial No. 2187)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under Programme 2, regarding the implementation of air and climate change policies, the financial provision increased by 62% from \$1.495 billion in 2020-21 to \$2.433 billion this year. Please advise this Committee on:

1. the reasons for the increase in the estimated expenditure;
2. the respective new estimated expenditures for the new measures for the air protection scheme by the Administration;
3. how the Administration plans to review the effectiveness of the measures.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

- 1 and 2. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to implement various air quality improvement measures outlined in "A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong" and coordinate the work for combating climate change in 2021-22 under the "Air and Climate Change" Programme. Under the "Air and Climate Change" Programme, the estimate for 2021-22 is \$937.3 million (62.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to an increase in cash flow requirements for continuing last year's non-recurrent projects, which include the following major projects:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Increase in Expenditure in the Estimate for 2021-22 [compared with the revised estimate for 2020-21] (\$m)</b>	<b>Details of Expenditure</b>	<b>Progress and Effectiveness</b>
Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs)	402	The Government has earmarked \$7.1 billion for the ex-gratia payment for affected vehicle owners. Subject to the progress of approving the ex-gratia payment, the estimated amount of payment to be disbursed this year is \$1.065 billion.	The ex-gratia payment scheme was rolled out on 19 October 2020 to progressively phase out about 40 000 Euro IV DCVs by the end of 2027. As at the end of February 2021, the Transport Department has received a total of about 3 800 applications for ex-gratia payment.
Implement the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to promote installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings	306	Subject to the costs and the progress of the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure in the approved car parks, the estimated amount of subsidy to be disbursed this year is \$306 million.	The EHSS has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Increase in Expenditure in the Estimate for 2021-22 [compared with the revised estimate for 2020-21] (\$m)</b>	<b>Details of Expenditure</b>	<b>Progress and Effectiveness</b>
Launch the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries (the Pilot Scheme)	100	The Government will provide full subsidies for the construction of 4 brand new electric ferries (e-ferries) and the associated charging facilities, as well as the operational, maintenance and repair expenditures to be incurred by ferry operators for the trial of e-ferries during the 24-month trial period. The Government has earmarked \$350 million for launching the Pilot Scheme. The estimated expenditure for this year is \$100 million.	The Government has established an inter-departmental working group to work out the details of the Pilot Scheme, oversee its progress and evaluate the performance of the new e-ferries. We expect to devise design proposals for e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, sign “subsidy agreements” for the Pilot Scheme with operators and conduct an open tender exercise for the construction of e-ferries in 2021-22.
Green Tech Fund	50	The estimated amount of funding for the approved projects this year is \$50 million.	The recipient organisations are required to submit progress reports and final reports to enable the EPD to evaluate whether the projects have achieved the expected targets and results.

- (3) The EPD evaluates the effectiveness of the implementation of measures in improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions through routine air quality monitoring and the compilation of emission inventories for air pollutants and greenhouse gases. The relevant work is part of the EPD’s routine work on improving air quality and combating climate change. There is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB101**

**(Question Serial No. 2188)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

According to the Budget, the Government plans to take forward the preparation for a pilot scheme on electric public light buses (e-PLBs). Please advise this Committee on:

- (1). the details of the preparatory work;
- (2). the expected completion time of the preparatory work by the Administration; and the way forward after completion;
- (3). whether the Administration has plans on the share of the e-PLBs in the coming 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)

Reply:

- (1) to (3) The Government has earmarked \$80 million to subsidise about 40 electric public light buses (e-PLBs) and the associated charging facilities to implement a pilot scheme for e-PLBs. Since no electric light bus models available in the local market can fully meet the daily operational requirements of PLBs, our preparatory work includes engaging a consultant in 2019 to conduct a study in order to develop the basic specifications and requirements for e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities that suit Hong Kong's operating environment, identify suitable PLB routes for trial under the pilot scheme and consult the PLB trade about their intention of joining the pilot scheme and using e-PLBs. We released the Technical Guidelines for Electric Public Light Buses (Fast Charging Type) and the Associated Charging Facilities in 2020 according to the recommendations of the above study. We will consider the consultant's recommendations and determine the routes for the trial within this year. We have liaised with different light bus manufacturers. However, given the lead time to develop and manufacture e-PLBs that suit Hong Kong, it is anticipated that the pilot scheme will commence officially in 2023. By then, e-PLBs running on various routes will be put on trial for about 12 months. After the completion of the trial, we will review the performance of the e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities, so as to formulate policies on promotion of e-PLBs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB102**

**(Question Serial No. 2189)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) was established in recent years. Please advise this Committee on:

- (1). the current establishment of the CCO;
- (2). the improvement works that are currently being implemented and to be implemented by the CCO;
- (3). how the Administration will follow up on the CCO's work in the areas of operation, accountability and performance review.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

- (1) The Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) was established in July 2018. The current establishment includes 24 civil service posts of various grades.
- (2) The main duties of the CCO are the co-ordination of various countryside conservation and revitalisation projects or minor improvement works to promote sustainable development of remote countryside. The CCO also provides secretariat support to the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme and works with other bureaux/departments to facilitate the application for licences for guesthouses and catering businesses in the countryside, etc. As a priority, the CCO has been pursuing countryside revitalisation in Lai Chi Wo, as well as ecological conservation in Sha Lo Tung since its establishment. The works include carrying out village road and toilet facilities improvement works, commissioning a consultancy study to explore options for sewage collection in Lai Chi Wo, conducting geospatial surveys via photogrammetry, etc. The CCO will continue to carry out site inspections, liaise and co-ordinate with relevant government departments, non-governmental organisations and stakeholders (including village representatives, Rural Committees concerned and green groups, etc.) to discuss and examine the feasibility of the above as well as other minor improvement works. The CCO will also consult the Advisory Committee on

Countryside Conservation (ACCC) on the improvement of the infrastructure of Lai Chi Wo, Sha Lo Tung and other remote countryside areas.

- (3) The routine operation of the CCO is managed by the Nature Conservation Division under the Environmental Protection Department. The CCO will report its work to and consult the ACCC regularly. The ACCC was established in July 2019 and is chaired by the Secretary for the Environment. Members of the ACCC comprise scholars, professionals, rural/district stakeholders, representatives of green groups as well as representatives of relevant government departments, etc. The CCO provides secretariat support to the ACCC.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB103**

**(Question Serial No. 2190)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government proposed a pilot scheme for electric ferries in the Budget. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1). When, where, by whom and which organisation(s) is the relevant scheme expected by the Government to be implemented?
- (2). What is the Government's specific support for the relevant scheme?
- (3). What are the indicators for reviewing the effectiveness of the pilot scheme for electric ferries? When will the scheme end?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

- (1) to (3) The Government is preparing to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries (pilot scheme) in 4 in-harbour ferry routes with a view to testing the technical viability of adopting electric ferries (e-ferries) in Hong Kong, and exploring whether conventional ferries can be replaced by new energy ferries in the long run. The Government will provide full subsidies to the ferry operators for the construction of 4 brand new e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, as well as the operational, maintenance and repair expenditures involved for testing the e-ferries during the 24-month trial period. The Government has earmarked \$350 million for launching the pilot scheme. The actual expenditure will depend on the capital costs and operational costs of the e-ferries.



The Government has established an inter-departmental working group to work out the details of the pilot scheme, oversee its progress and evaluate the performance of the new e-ferries. The ferry operators participating in the pilot scheme will collect and analyse the operational data of the e-ferries to evaluate their effectiveness and performance in terms of operation and environmental protection. Taking into account the lead time to construct the e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, we initially anticipate that the pilot scheme can commence in 2023.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB104****(Question Serial No. 2192)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The Environmental Protection Department manages 7 refuse transfer stations (RTSs) in Hong Kong where municipal solid waste is compacted and then transported to the landfills for disposal. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What were the numbers of complaints received by the Administration from the public about the issues arising from the transfer of refuse (e.g. wastewater and odour problems) in the past 3 years? Please tabulate the figures with a breakdown by the location of the RTSs.
2. What were the main contents of the complaints from the public?
3. Has the Administration proposed any mitigation measures? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 70)Reply:

- 1 and 2. The numbers, types and main contents of complaints about the refuse transfer stations (RTSs) received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) over the past 3 years are set out below with a breakdown by the location of the RTSs:

**2018**

RTSs <sup>(1)</sup>	Numbers and types of complaints about RTSs in 2018				
	Odour	Noise <sup>(2)</sup>	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
West Kowloon	1	0	0	0	0
Shatin	1	0	0	0	0
Island East	4	0	0	0	0
Island West	5	2	0	0	0
North Lantau	0	0	0	0	0

**2019**

RTSs <sup>(1)</sup>	Numbers and types of complaints about RTSs in 2019				
	Odour	Noise <sup>(2)</sup>	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
West Kowloon	1	0	0	0	0
Shatin	2	0	0	0	1 <sup>(3)</sup>
Island East	3	5	0	0	0
Island West	5	1	0	0	0
North Lantau	1	0	0	0	0

**2020**

RTSs <sup>(1)</sup>	Numbers and types of complaints about RTSs in 2020				
	Odour	Noise <sup>(2)</sup>	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
West Kowloon	0	0	0	0	0
Shatin	0	0	0	0	0
Island East	1	1	0	0	0
Island West	4	0	0	0	0
North Lantau	0	0	0	0	0

Note: (1) No complaint was received about the North West New Territories RTS and Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities in the past 3 years.

(2) The complaints were related to the noises emanated from loading and unloading the containers as well as operating the machines at the RTSs.

(3) The complaint was related to long waiting time for vehicles.

3. The complaints about the RTSs were mainly related to odour and noise. Therefore, we have implemented the following mitigation measures.

Concerning the odour control, the process of handling waste at the RTSs are conducted in an indoor environment of the tipping hall and the compactor hall, which are equipped with ventilation systems so as to ensure the environment in the RTSs are at negative-pressure condition to prevent odorous air leaking out from the halls as far as possible. The air in the halls is also cleaned by air scrubbers before discharge. The air scrubber systems being employed in the RTSs use a well-developed and proven technology (chemical scrubbing) to remove odour. This technology has been widely applied in many odour control systems. To maintain the effectiveness of the air scrubber systems in the RTSs, the RTS contractors are required to carry out inspections and maintenance works from time to time, replacing the aged ventilation ducts and exhaust fans. We also plan to further enhance the ventilation systems of the RTSs by installing additional exhaust fans, enhancing the control on the negative-pressure condition in the RTSs, and installing rapid-closing plastic shutters, which are interlocked with the waste compactors, at the gates of the compactor hall to prevent odour escape. Furthermore, concerning the potential odour control in respect of refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) and certain operation locations in the RTSs (e.g. the waiting area of RCVs and the loading area of containers), we have already installed additional air neutralisers at these locations to minimise the potential nuisance.

For the noise control, corresponding mitigation measures have been introduced, including stepping up the monitoring; ending the lifting operations of containers in

the berthing area by 11 p.m.; inspecting and maintaining the components of the lifting machinery regularly; and adjusting the sound level of the reversing alarm of the container trailers/lifters, etc. Meanwhile, contractors have already enhanced staff training to remind them to handle the containers as gentle as possible during loading and unloading to reduce the noise level.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB105**

**(Question Serial No. 2193)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government will consult the public on the way forward to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What is the time for launching the relevant consultation and how long will it last? What is the timetable for implementing "plastic-free" for tableware?
2. Will the Administration promote tableware made of greener materials to replace plastic tableware? If yes, what are the details?
3. Apart from adopting the producer responsibility schemes or "polluter pays" principle approach, will the Administration provide incentives to encourage restaurants or takeaway shops to cease the use of disposable plastic tableware?
4. The Administration had partnered with various organisations and introduced award schemes in the past to encourage members of the public to bring their own environmentally friendly tableware or reuse clean tableware. What is the next step the Administration will take to encourage members of the public to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware more effectively?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 71)

Reply:

1. In order to tackle the disposable plastic tableware issue in the long run, we have conducted a study on the feasibility, scope and mechanism of the control of disposable plastic tableware. The study is substantially completed. Given that phased legislative control is the typical approach adopted in different places currently according to their own circumstances, and having regard to the local situations, the consultant's initial findings suggest that measures should be implemented to regulate the use of various types of disposable plastic tableware by the catering sector. A ban on the distribution of disposable plastic tableware for dine-in and takeaway services in eateries may be implemented in phases with exemptions under special circumstances. We will consult the trades, the public and relevant stakeholders later this year to map out the way forward. Subject to the views received and the ensuing legislative

procedures, we hope that the first phase of regulation can be implemented in around 2025.

- 2-4. The Government has maintained contact with the catering sector and other stakeholders, encouraging the eateries to adopt various environmental measures to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware. If the use of disposable tableware is unavoidable, more environmentally friendly tableware made of non-plastic materials such as paper or plant-fibre should be used instead of disposable plastic ones to help reduce plastic pollution and ecological impact. Although the cost of non-plastic disposable tableware is slightly higher than that of similar plastic ones, when such products are widely accepted in the market, economic benefits arising from mass production can lower the price difference. Moreover, activities such as “no straw” and “bring your own tableware” can help avoid the use of any disposable tableware and achieve waste reduction at source.

The Government will continue to take forward various “plastic-free” campaigns to discourage the use of disposable plastic tableware, with a view to encouraging more members of the public and eateries to practise “plastic-free”. We will also step up publicity and promotional efforts to support the plan for phased regulation of disposable plastic tableware. The Government, businesses and the general public should join forces and work together to share the eco-responsibilities for reducing waste.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB106**

**(Question Serial No. 2235)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What were the numbers of complaints received by the Administration about illegal disposal of waste, as well as the numbers of persons arrested, the numbers of prosecutions, conviction rates, the maximum and minimum penalties and total amounts of fines in the past 3 years (please provide a breakdown by district)?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The numbers of complaints about illegal disposal of waste handled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), as well as the numbers of prosecutions, conviction rates, the numbers of offenders in the past 3 years with a breakdown by district are as follows:

	Year											
	2018				2019				2020			
	Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of prosecutions		Number of offenders	Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of prosecutions		Number of offenders	Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of prosecutions		Number of offenders
		Number of summonses	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) <sup>2</sup>			Number of summonses	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) <sup>2</sup>			Number of summonses	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) <sup>2</sup>	
	Conviction rates			Conviction rates				Conviction rates				
<b>Annual total</b>	<b>2 819</b>	<b>184</b> <b>/95%</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>2 319</b>	<b>180</b> <b>/99%</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>2 012</b>	<b>289</b> <b>/96%</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>503</b>
Number by district												
Central & Western	114	2 /50%	1	3	95	0 / Not applicable	0	0	75	10 /100%	0	10
Eastern	80	2 /100%	19	21	68	5 /100%	20	25	42	3 /100%	17	20
Southern	62	13 /100%	20	33	21	14 /100%	18	32	19	54 /98%	11	65
Wan Chai	153	0 / Not applicable	4	4	131	0 / Not applicable	2	2	69	0 / Not applicable	0	0
Kowloon City	272	3 /100%	11	14	189	14 /93%	8	22	181	7 /100%	6	13
Kwun Tong	100	5 /100%	6	11	78	2 /100%	0	2	49	1 /100%	13	14
Sham Shui Po	291	1 /0%	33	34	283	4 /100%	27	31	185	4 /75%	57	61



	Year											
	2018				2019				2020			
	Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of prosecutions		Number of offenders	Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of prosecutions		Number of offenders	Number of complaints <sup>1</sup>	Number of prosecutions		Number of offenders
		Number of summonses Conviction rates	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) <sup>2</sup>			Number of summonses Conviction rates	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) <sup>2</sup>			Number of summonses Conviction rates	Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) <sup>2</sup>	
Wong Tai Sin	33	0 / Not applicable	1	1	41	5 /80%	2	7	24	7 /100%	2	9
Yau Tsim Mong Islands	316	8 /100%	21	29	233	3 /100%	11	14	205	2 /100%	34	36
Kwai Tsing	113	1 /100%	2	3	85	2 /100%	3	5	84	3 /100%	1	4
North	119	65 /92%	69	134	86	42 /100%	26	68	59	55 /98%	45	100
Sai Kung	190	8 /100%	0	8	174	6 /100%	3	9	180	11 /100%	8	19
Sha Tin	211	8 /100%	1	9	142	26 /100%	0	26	122	50 /100%	7	57
Tai Po	72	0 / Not applicable	15	15	104	7 /100%	25	32	99	7 /100%	4	11
Tsuen Wan	215	1 /100%	17	18	144	2 /100%	14	16	146	2 /50%	4	6
Tuen Mun	100	13 /100%	19	32	81	4 /100%	4	8	72	3 /100%	2	5
Yuen Long	67	10 /100%	5	15	58	11 /100%	0	11	70	8 /100%	2	10
	311	44 /95%	2	46	306	33 /100%	10	43	331	62 /89%	1	63

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Including multiple complaints which may have arisen from a single case.

<sup>2</sup> The fine level of the FPN is \$1,500.

The maximum and minimum fines and the total amounts of fines for the convicted cases related to illegal disposal of waste prosecuted by the EPD in the past 3 years are as follows:

	<b>Year</b>		
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Maximum fines (\$) <sup>3</sup>	24,000	30,000	20,000
Minimum fines (\$) <sup>3</sup>	1,000	1,200	500
Total amount of fines (\$) <sup>4</sup>	1,222,400	934,000	1,127,000

Notes:

<sup>3</sup> The amounts were the maximum and minimum fines of the summons cases.

<sup>4</sup> Including summons and fixed penalty cases.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB107**

**(Question Serial No. 1060)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Recycling Fund, will the Administration advise on the following:

1. What were the numbers of projects funded by the Recycling Fund, the amounts of funding involved, and the types of recyclables involved in the projects in the past 3 years?
2. Does the Government have a mechanism in place to assess the effectiveness of the Recycling Fund?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. In the past 3 years (i.e. the financial years from 2018-19 to 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)), the Recycling Fund approved about 1 500 projects, involving a total funding of about \$500 million. Among others, the One-off Rental Support Scheme and the One-off Recycling Industry Anti-epidemic Scheme were launched under the Recycling Fund in 2019 and 2020 respectively to provide rental support and anti-epidemic subsidies to help the recycling industry cope with operational difficulties. The schemes have approved more than 1 300 applications and disbursed over \$206 million in total. Various types of recyclables are involved in other projects under the Industry Support Programme and Enterprise Support Programme, including waste paper, plastics, metals, wood and food waste etc.
2. In order to assess the actual effectiveness of the approved projects under the Recycling Fund, the applicant of each approved project is required to enter into a subsidy agreement or an undertaking with the Environmental Protection Department, which states clearly the progress indicators such as the key performance indicators (e.g. the additional quantity of recyclables or recycled products being processed, the reduced amount of waste disposed of at landfills, etc.), and milestones of deliverables (e.g. installing new equipment, organising activities, etc.) for the project. Such information must be recorded in detail in the progress reports, final report and audited

accounts, etc. submitted by the applicant. Reimbursements will be made in phases upon satisfaction of the progress indicators as stated in the signed subsidy agreement by the applicant.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB108****(Question Serial No. 1067)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Under the Environment and Conservation Fund, how many applications were received and approved in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20) for recycling commercial waste? Regarding these approved projects, what were the amounts of funding involved? What was the respective number of participating enterprises in each year?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)Reply:

The relevant statistics showing the Environment and Conservation Fund's support to non-governmental organisations to undertake community waste recovery projects for recycling commercial waste in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 are provided below:

	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
No. of applications received [Note 1]	99	36	54
No. of applications approved	46	53	48
Total provision approved in the year, the expenditure may span over a number of years (\$m)	4.13	2.81	5.66
No. of participating enterprises/commercial and industrial buildings [Note 2]	about 810 companies/shops and 930 buildings	about 960 companies/shops and 980 buildings	about 970 companies/shops and 1 030 buildings

[Note 1]: Some applications were processed in the following year.

[Note 2]: The figures include the number of participants of the approved projects in that year and that of the on-going projects that were approved in previous years.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB109**

**(Question Serial No. 1071)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding waste separation, food waste source separation, collection and recycling:

- 1) Please provide the amount of the funding allocated for and the number of projects applied for encouraging households to participate in waste separation, food waste collection and recycling in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2018, 2019 and 2020).
- 2) Regarding waste separation projects, please tabulate the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings participated in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2018, 2019 and 2020).
- 3) Regarding food waste collection projects, please tabulate the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings participated in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2018, 2019 and 2020).
- 4) Regarding recycling projects, please tabulate the total numbers of domestic units, housing estates and single-block buildings participated in each of the past 3 years (i.e. 2018, 2019 and 2020).
- 5) How will the Administration plan to further promote and encourage the use of the Environment and Conservation Fund by the community to promote environmental protection activities?
- 6) Will more economic incentives be provided to encourage the public to recycle food waste and plastic bottles, etc.? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- 1) - 4) Regarding separation, source separation, collection and recycling of waste and food waste, the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) has funded non-profit-making organisations to operate different projects, including Community Waste Reduction Projects, Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates, On-site Meal Portioning Projects in Schools and Source Separation of Waste Programme. The amounts of funding approved to projects from 2018-19 to 2020-21 are provided in the table below:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (as at end of December 2020)
<b><u>Source separation of domestic waste</u></b> [Note 1]			
No. of Projects	0	0	0
Total Amount of Funding (\$m)	0	0	0
No. of Participants [Note 2]	About 95 housing estates and 101 buildings [Note 3], covering about 135 000 households [Note 4]	About 95 housing estates and 101 buildings [Note 3], covering about 135 000 households [Note 4]	About 95 housing estates and 101 buildings [Note 3], covering about 135 000 households [Note 4]
<b><u>Food waste reduction and recovery</u></b>			
No. of Projects	19	20	10
Total Amount of Funding (\$m)	35.48	53.35	18.11
No. of Participants [Note 2]	About 21 housing estates (52 800 households) [Note 5], 126 schools and 44 community groups	About 12 housing estates (29 600 households) [Note 5], 127 schools, 87 community groups and 50 restaurants	About 10 housing estates (27 300 households) [Note 5], 129 schools, 98 community groups and 116 restaurants
<b><u>Waste recycling</u></b>			
No. of Projects	11	11	2 [Note 6]
Total Amount of Funding (\$m)	31.66	29.55	1.09
No. of Participants [Note 2]	About 27 housing estates, 3 790 buildings [Note 3], 5 schools, 9 community groups and 960 shops/companies	About 35 housing estates, 3 410 buildings [Note 3], 15 schools, 7 community groups and 970 shops/companies	About 17 housing estates, 2 460 buildings [Note 3], 21 schools, 50 community groups and 970 shops/companies

[Note 1]: The ECF has subsidised private housing estates/residential buildings to participate in the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste to encourage them to provide waste separation facilities on every building floor. The Building (Refuse Storage and Material Recovery Chambers and Refuse Chutes) (Amendment) Regulation 2008 requires for the provision of a refuse storage and material recovery room on every floor of new domestic buildings and the domestic part of new composite buildings from 2008, with the aim of facilitating separation of domestic waste at source for recycling. Hence in recent years, the ECF has not received new applications for the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste.

[Note 2]: The figures include the number of participants of the approved projects in that year and that of the on-going projects that were approved in previous years.

[Note 3]: It refers to the number of single-block buildings. This number is calculated separately and is not included in the number of housing estates.

[Note 4]: Rounded to the nearest thousand.

[Note 5]: The figures include the number of housing estates and households participating in the Food Waste Recycling Projects in Housing Estates which have used the composters funded by the ECF in that year. This funding scheme has been closed for applications in 2019, but all participating housing estates may continue to use the composters to turn part of their domestic food waste into compost for landscaping and planting applications.

[Note 6]: The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has regularised the funding support for the Community Recycling Centre projects previously funded by the ECF to set up 22 Recycling Stores in 18 districts across the territory through tendering.

- 5) Since establishment, the ECF has provided funding to support non-profit-making organisations to operate different educational, research, and other projects and activities in relation to environmental protection. Through organising seminars, sharing sessions and workshops for various environmental schemes, we further encourage the community to use the ECF. Information on projects funded by the ECF is uploaded to the relevant webpage for reference by the community and relevant parties. We also collaborate closely with district organisations to enhance promotion on use less, waste less, and waste recycling to build up a wider community recycling network. In addition, we will use the social media (e.g. Facebook) as a platform to further promote relevant information of the ECF and encourage the use of the ECF by the community to promote environmental protection activities.
- 6) To encourage the public and housing estates to participate in domestic food waste recycling, the Recycling Fund has launched solicitation theme for projects related to food waste recycling, which focus on supporting and subsidising residential buildings to adopt technologies in using smart recycling bins for collecting and recycling food waste, with a view to further enhancing the effectiveness of food waste recycling and raising public awareness of food waste recycling.

To encourage more people to practise resources separation and recycling, the EPD launched the GREEN\$ electronic participation incentive scheme in its Community Recycling Network in November 2020. GREEN\$ smart cards can be used in Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots. Members of the public dropping off recyclables at any one of the collection points or directly putting them into smart bins can earn GREEN\$ points and redeem gifts such as daily necessities.



So far, the new incentive scheme has attracted more than 35 000 families or individuals to become members, integrating the habit of waste reduction and recycling into their daily life.

To manage waste plastic beverage containers properly and effectively, the Government launched a public consultation on the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers (PPRS) on 22 February 2021. We propose to provide an economic incentive to encourage the public to return used plastic beverage containers for recycling. Reverse vending machines (RVMs) should also be moderately applied to enhance recovery efficiency. The EPD rolled out a one-year pilot scheme progressively in early 2021 to test out the application of RVMs in Hong Kong. A total of 60 RVMs would be set up in phases at locations such as public places and government facilities with suitable foot traffic, with an instant rebate (\$0.1 per plastic beverage container) provided via e-payment platforms to encourage the public to return used plastic beverage containers for recycling.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB110****(Question Serial No. 1292)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The number of electric vehicles (EVs) has increased from 184 to more than 18 500 over the past 10 years. Will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. the growth in number and rate of fuel-propelled private cars and EVs in each of the past 10 years; and
2. the numbers of EVs used by various government departments, the expenditures of various plans and the implementation schedule in the past 10 years, as well as the plans in the coming 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)Reply:

1. According to the data provided by the Transport Department (TD), the growth in number and rate of fuel-propelled private cars (PCs) and electric vehicles (EVs) in each of the past 10 years are tabulated below:

Year	No. of registered fuel-propelled PCs (net growth)	Fuel-propelled PC growth rate	No. of registered EVs (net growth)	EV growth rate
2011	471 507	/	309	/
2012	494 361 (+22 854)	4.8%	437 (+128)	41.4%
2013	517 680 (+23 319)	4.7%	548 (+111)	25.4%
2014	540 591 (+22 911)	4.4%	1 438 (+890)	162.4%
2015	564 080 (+23 489)	4.3%	4 067 (+2 629)	182.8%
2016	576 208 (+12 128)	2.2%	7 089 (+3 022)	74.3%
2017	589 777 (+13 569)	2.4%	10 950 (+3 861)	54.5%
2018	606 603 (+16 826)	2.9%	11 347 (+397)	3.6%
2019	614 783 (+8 180)	1.3%	13 743 (+2 396)	21.1%
2020	633 360 (+18 577)	3.0%	18 361 (+4 618)	33.6%

Note 1: The net growth in number is the number of registered vehicles as at 31 December in that year less the number of registered vehicles as at 31 December in the previous year.

Note 2: The number of government vehicles is not included as government vehicles do not require registration.

2. According to the data provided by the Government Logistics Department, a total of 292 EVs (including motorcycles, cars and vans but excluding specialised vehicles) were procured by various government bureaux and departments in the past 10 years, involving an expenditure of about \$76.8 million.

As at the end of December 2020, the government vehicle fleet had a total of 169 EVs, among which 133 were cars, accounting for about 8% of the total number of government cars, which was higher than the overall ratio (2.7%) of local electric private cars to the total number of private cars in the same period.

It is estimated that the Government will procure about 550 vehicles for various departments in 2021, including 306 cars. 28 cars will be EVs, accounting for about 9.2% of the total number of cars.

To demonstrate the commitment in pushing forward Hong Kong's transition to EVs, the Government is prepared to switch our vehicle fleet to EVs at a faster pace. We have just formulated a new policy to set EV as the standard for small and medium private cars to be procured or replaced, unless there are special circumstances such as operational needs that render the use of EVs technically infeasible. For other types of vehicles, EVs and other more environmentally friendly vehicles will be accorded priority for use by us. Senior government officials will also take the lead in switching their cars to EVs when their cars are replaced. We will also advance in tandem with the global development in exploring electrification of other types of specialised vehicles in the government fleet such as refuse collection vehicles and street washing vehicles, and will strike a balance between prudent use of public monies and taking the lead in promoting EVs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB111**

**(Question Serial No. 1293)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government launched the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme in October last year. It is expected that about 60 000 parking spaces in private residential buildings will be provided with electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure under the scheme in 3 years. Applications involving more than 50 000 parking spaces have been received so far. Please provide the information on the car parks in private residential buildings involved in the above applications, the number of EV charging-enabling infrastructure installed and the expenditure involved, the supporting facilities for EV charging-enabling infrastructure and the expected results.

Asked by: Hon CHIANG Lai-wan (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. We will know the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to each application after the approved housing estate has completed the process of engaging the services of a consultant and a contractor to conduct the installation works through open tendering. The power supply rating of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure to be installed under the EHSS will enable vehicle owners to install medium-speed chargers to charge their EVs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB112**

**(Question Serial No. 0833)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the fact that discharging wastewater by the catering industry is subject to control under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO), please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of enquiries about the licence granted under the WPCO that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) received from members of the catering industry in the past 5 years, and the relevant follow-up actions;
- (b) the details of the EPD's law enforcement in the past 5 years regarding compliance with the requirements under Cap. 358 by the catering industry (including the numbers of inspections conducted, complaints handled, prosecutions instituted and convicted cases); whether, in addition to taking law enforcement actions, the EPD has rendered support to members of the industry to assist them in complying with the relevant requirements;
- (c) the amount of resources allocated by the EPD in the past 5 years for the development of new technologies for treating oil and grease in wastewater; whether the EPD has evaluated the performance of the technologies for the recovery, treatment and recycling of oil and grease in wastewater;
- (d) whether the EPD has consulted members of the public on the booklet's contents; whether the booklet has been revised or updated; if so, the number of revisions made so far and the last revision date; if not, whether the EPD will revise the booklet on a regular basis to facilitate the promotion of new and effective technologies for oil and grease treatment; if the EPD will, the details; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (e) the channels through which the industry may learn about such new technologies for oil and grease treatment.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

- (a) Figures on the enquiries received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) from members of the catering industry in the past 5 years regarding the licence granted under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) for the discharge of wastewater are as follows:

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Enquiries	30	41	36	48	32

The enquiries mainly concerned whether a licence would be required and the related application procedures. Upon receipt of enquiries from the catering industry, the EPD always explains in detail the particulars required for making applications and renders necessary assistance.

- (b) Statistics on the EPD's enforcement actions taken under the WPCO (Cap. 358) in relation to the catering industry in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Inspections	1 897	1 696	1 653	1 775	1 198
Complaints <sup>Note</sup>	161	207	229	213	167
Prosecutions (Convictions)	6 (5)	3 (3)	3 (3)	7 (7)	2 (2)

Note: The figures do not include repeated cases and cases that are not substantiated.

In addition to taking enforcement actions, the EPD officers will also brief restaurant operators on the legal requirements concerned during their inspections. Relevant information on environmental protection as well as the WPCO provisions will also be provided through various channels such as seminars, dedicated websites and information leaflets to facilitate the catering industry's access to green information and guidelines on pollution control technologies. The relevant websites are as follows:

Green Restaurant:

<https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/greenrestaurant/>

Guidelines and References:

<https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/greenrestaurant/guidelines/guidelines.html>

- (c) Under the Recycling Fund, the Government supports the upgrading of the operational capabilities and efficiency of the recycling industry to promote the recovery, treatment and recycling of waste, including oil and grease in wastewater. The recycling industry is welcome to apply for subsidies under the Fund to use new technologies for treating oil and grease in wastewater. The Recycling Fund has approved 2 projects related to the recycling of grease trap waste in the past 5 years, involving a total funding of about \$2.8 million.

- (d) To facilitate compliance with the WPCO by the catering industry, the EPD has prepared and disseminated various publicity posters, green information booklets, guidelines and leaflets. All these have been uploaded to the aforesaid Green Restaurant website, furnishing members of the sector with recommendations on and solutions to pollution control. Among which, the booklet on “Grease Traps for Restaurants and Food Processors” published by the EPD in 1996 and the “Environmental Guidebook for the Restaurant Trade” jointly prepared with the catering industry in 2002 introduce various technologies for treating oil and grease in wastewater. As these materials are prepared for the purposes of reference and not policy-making, they are generally compiled in consultation or collaboration with the catering industry only, without any public consultation. The booklet on “Grease Traps for Restaurants and Food Processors” was revised and supplemented in 1999 and 2000 based on the experience gained by and the feedback from the catering industry.
- (e) Through constant participation in the Seminar on Restaurant Licensing organised by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the EPD delivers briefings and reference materials on relevant green information to the catering industry to facilitate its compliance with environmental legislation, including the requirements of WPCO. Besides, updated green information relating to the catering industry is duly uploaded to the Green Restaurant website set up by the EPD for reference by the industry. To further enhance the industry’s access to the latest pollution control equipment and technical support available in the market, the EPD has compiled the List of Environmental Pollution Control Equipment Suppliers/Contractors for the catering industry. The wastewater treatment facilities set out therein include relevant devices such as grease traps. The List has been uploaded to the Green Restaurant website:

[https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/sites/default/files/epd/english/greenrestaurant/suppliers/files/sc\\_contractorlist & disclaimer 202101p.pdf](https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/sites/default/files/epd/english/greenrestaurant/suppliers/files/sc_contractorlist_%20&%20disclaimer_202101p.pdf)

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB113**

**(Question Serial No. 0836)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the management of marine environment, please advise on:

(a) the respective numbers of inter-departmental clean-up operations and joint enforcement actions performed by the Task Force on Marine Refuse and the Task Force on Emergency Response to Marine Environmental Incidents under the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management in the past 3 years and the effectiveness of such actions; and

(b) the details of the existing notification mechanism on marine incidents between Hong Kong and Guangdong.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

(a) A total of 12 inter-departmental special clean-up operations were performed by the Task Force on Marine Refuse under the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management in the past 3 years, with over 260 tonnes of marine refuse collected in total. Most of the coastal sites involved are located in remote areas or with special refuse accumulation problems, such as a pebble beach at Pak Kok Tsui on Lamma Island, Shui Hau Beach on Lantau Island, a vacant site near to the shipyard at Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter, the coast of Tung Lung Island, the coast of Tap Mun, the coast of Soko Islands, Yi Pak Wan in Discovery Bay and the coast of Shelter Island. In respect of joint enforcement work, a total of 16 joint enforcement actions were carried out by the relevant departments and 11 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued to offenders in the past 3 years.

As for the Task Force on Emergency Response to Marine Environmental Incidents under the Inter-departmental Working Group on Marine Environmental Management, a total of 56 notifications were issued to the relevant departments (mainly include the Marine Department, the Environmental Protection Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Food and Environmental Hygiene



Department, the Government Flying Service and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department) under the Protocol for Handling Surge of Marine Refuse in Hong Kong in the past 3 years, so that they can make timely resource deployment to carry out clean-up actions.

- (b) Under the framework of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel, Hong Kong and Guangdong have been maintaining close liaison to jointly explore ways to handle marine refuse and marine environmental incidents, and to constantly review the arrangements for relevant cross-border collaboration with a view to further enhancing the incident notification mechanism. Since the trial run of the Notification and Alert System on Marine Refuse started in May 2017, Hong Kong and Guangdong have activated the system and issued notifications in a timely manner in response to major marine environmental incidents and heavy rainstorms so that both parties can suitably deploy resources and make corresponding preparation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB114****(Question Serial No. 0840)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding handling of refuse on various beaches and at sea, please advise on:

- (a) the staffing of the government departments responsible for the collection and cleaning up of marine refuse and the division of work among these departments;
- (b) the total amount of refuse collected by the Environmental Protection Department in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21) (please set out the information by existing zoning and by month).

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 67)Reply:

- (a) Various government departments collect and clean up marine refuse (including floating refuse and shoreline refuse) at the respective locations that are within their purview. The Marine Department (MD), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) have outsourced the cleansing services of marine refuse to cleansing contractors. Therefore, the collection of marine refuse does not involve any staffing of the Government. As for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), apart from outsourcing the work to cleansing contractors, its routine cleansing services also include collecting and cleaning up of marine refuse. No separate breakdown of the staffing involved is available.

- (b)(i) In the past 3 years, the total amount of floating refuse collected by the MD each month is tabulated below:

	<b>Total amount of floating refuse collected (tonnes)</b>		
	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>April</b>	863	856	830
<b>May</b>	896	930	892
<b>June</b>	1 008	1 001	989
<b>July</b>	1 051	1 062	1 022

	<b>Total amount of floating refuse collected (tonnes)</b>		
	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>August</b>	1 055	1 114	1 024
<b>September</b>	1 469	1 055	982
<b>October</b>	1 077	963	811
<b>November</b>	889	876	764
<b>December</b>	778	775	704
<b>January of the following year</b>	803	767	1 638 cubic metres <sup>#</sup>
<b>February of the following year</b>	756	738	Note
<b>March of the following year</b>	815	805	Note

Note: The figures are under compilation.

# In line with the practice of the International Maritime Organization, the quantity of marine refuse collected is estimated in cubic metres starting from 1 January 2021.

- (b)(ii) In the past 3 years, the total amount of shoreline refuse collected by the LCSD, the AFCD and the FEHD each month is tabulated below:

	<b>Total amount of shoreline refuse collected (tonnes)</b>		
	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>April</b>	258	310	275
<b>May</b>	266	349	308
<b>June</b>	344	353	382
<b>July</b>	339	366	322
<b>August</b>	363	386	331
<b>September</b>	536	356	303
<b>October</b>	436	327	270
<b>November</b>	327	279	244
<b>December</b>	287	268	233
<b>January of the following year</b>	294	263	211
<b>February of the following year</b>	260	257	Note
<b>March of the following year</b>	310	287	Note

Note: The figures are under compilation.

As the zoning demarcations adopted by various departments on cleaning up of marine refuse are different, the total amount of marine refuse collected cannot be further broken down by zone.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB115**

**(Question Serial No. 0862)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Water Quality Objectives, please advise on the following:

- (a) What are the details of the tests for the Water Quality Objectives? How will it be regarded as compliance with the Water Quality Objectives?
- (b) What are the definitions of marine waters and inland waters respectively?
- (c) How many cases of non-compliance with the Water Quality Objectives were there in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21) and what were the reasons?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

Hong Kong is divided into a total of 10 Water Control Zones (WCZs), each covering marine and inland waters and having a set of specific Water Quality Objectives (WQOs). "Marine waters" refer to all the waters connected to the sea, while "inland waters" refer to the environmental water bodies on land, including rivers, streams, watercourses, lakes, etc.

The WQOs are composed of a series of physical, chemical and biological parameters, and are used as the scientific benchmarks for measuring the state of health of the water environment and ecosystem to protect different beneficial uses of various waters. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) assesses WQO compliance rates every year based on data recorded at routine monitoring stations located within various waters of Hong Kong, making reference to relevant parameter limits and calculation methods as set out in the WQOs. The data are incorporated into the annual water quality reports.

The key WQOs for marine and inland waters are as follows:

- The key WQOs for marine waters:

Parameter	WQOs
Dissolved Oxygen (Depth-averaged)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥ 4 mg/L (for 90% of the samples collected during the year);</li> <li>Fish Culture Subzones and Mariculture Subzones: ≥ 5 mg/L (for 90% of the samples collected during the year)</li> </ul>
Dissolved Oxygen (Bottom)	≥ 2 mg/L (for 90% of the samples collected during the year)
Unionised Ammonia	Annual mean ≤ 0.021 mg/L
Total Inorganic Nitrogen	Specific to each WCZ: annual mean ranging from ≤ 0.1 mg/L to ≤ 0.7 mg/L
<i>E. coli</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary Contact Recreation Subzones, Fish Culture Subzones and Mariculture Subzones: annual geometric mean ≤ 610 cfu/100mL;</li> <li>Bathing Beach Subzones: annual (March to October) geometric mean ≤ 180 cfu/100mL</li> </ul>

- The key WQOs for inland waters:

Parameter	WQOs
pH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inland waters for abstraction for potable water supply: 6.5 - 8.5;</li> <li>Other inland waters: 6.0 - 9.0</li> </ul>
Suspended Solids	Annual median: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inland waters for abstraction for potable water supply: ≤ 20 mg/L;</li> <li>Other inland waters: ≤ 25 mg/L</li> </ul>
Dissolved Oxygen	≥ 4 mg/L
Chemical Oxygen Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inland waters for abstraction for potable water supply: ≤ 15 mg/L;</li> <li>Other inland waters: ≤ 30 mg/L</li> </ul>
Five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inland waters for abstraction for potable water supply: ≤ 3 mg/L;</li> <li>Other inland waters: ≤ 5 mg/L</li> </ul>

In the past 3 years (2018 to 2020), the overall average WQO compliance rates for marine and inland waters in Hong Kong were both 88%, which were within the range of normal fluctuations. The compliance rates were comparable to the relevant average rates (87% and 89%) in the past 5 years. The non-compliance of WQOs for marine waters in Hong

Kong was mainly observed in the land-locked waters with limited water exchange. The natural phenomenon of seasonal water column stratification could have resulted in changes in dissolved oxygen levels in the waters. The marine WQO compliance was also affected by the regional total inorganic nitrogen levels. Parts of certain rivers and watercourses in hinterlands were affected by discharges from livestock farms and surface runoffs from unsewered villages. In this connection, the Government will continue its efforts in implementing various pollution control measures and extending public sewer networks to unsewered villages so as to improve the WQO compliance rates.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB116**

**(Question Serial No. 0883)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding discharge from landfills, please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the expenditure and manpower establishment for handling discharge from landfills in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (b) How many times did the contractors responsible for handling discharge from landfills fail to meet the contractual requirements in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (c) What were the daily amounts of discharge from various major sewage treatment plants managed by the Drainage Services Department, leachate treatment plants at landfills managed by the Environmental Protection Department and sewage treatment facilities of power plants operated by the private sector, as well as the water quality monitoring data (including the annual mean of major water quality data and discharge limit indicated by the monitoring data of the facilities) in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?
- (d) Did any monitoring station detect exceedance over prescribed limits near the discharge points of sewage treatment plants in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21)?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

- (a) Management and monitoring of the operation of landfills are mainly carried out by the Environmental Infrastructure Division of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). We do not have a separate breakdown of the manpower resources required for individual tasks.
- (b) In the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21), the contractor of the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill failed to meet the contractual requirement on leachate discharge for 1 time in 2018-19. The EPD exercised the relevant provisions of the landfill contract to require the contractor to make improvements and deduct part of its operation payment according to the mechanism for non-compliance with operation and environmental performance objectives as stipulated in the contract. Besides, regarding an incident of leakage of wastewater from the WENT Landfill to the Tai Shui Hang River in 2018, the contractor of the landfill was convicted of contravening

the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) and the Water Pollution Control (General) Regulations by the court and fined a total of \$28,000 in November 2019.

- (c) The discharge flow rates, effluent quality monitoring data and discharge upper limits of the major sewage treatment works managed by the Drainage Services Department (DSD), leachate treatment plants at landfills managed by the EPD and sewage treatment facilities of power stations operated by the private sector in the past 3 years are set out in detail in the following tables.

**(1) Major Sewage Treatment Works Managed by the DSD**

Name	Maximum Discharge Limit in the WPCO Licence (x1000m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Annual Average of Effluent Quality as shown in the Facilities' Monitoring Data (Year 2018, 2019, 2020)		
		Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Total Nitrogen <sup>(1)</sup> (mg/L)
<b>Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment</b>				
<b>Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works</b>	4 000	2018: 62 2019: 55 2020: 43 (Upper limit: 150)	2018: 49 2019: 52 2020: 48 (Upper limit: 114)	Not Applicable
<b>Pillar Point Sewage Treatment Works</b>	525	2018: 96 2019: 76 2020: 79 (Upper limit: 360)	2018: 44 2019: 45 2020: 50 (Upper limit: 240)	Not Applicable
<b>Siu Ho Wan Sewage Treatment Works</b>	360	2018: 76 2019: 71 2020: 60 (Upper limit: 200)	2018: 62 2019: 62 2020: 63 (Upper limit: 200)	Not Applicable
<b>Sham Tseng Sewage Treatment Works</b>	50.5	2018: 37 2019: 34 2020: 27 (Upper limit: 220)	2018: 45 2019: 45 2020: 35 (Upper limit: 180)	Not Applicable
<b>Secondary Treatment</b>				
<b>Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works</b>	1 020	2018: < 5 2019: < 5 2020: < 6 (Upper limit: 40)	2018: < 7 2019: < 14 2020: < 13 (Upper limit: 60)	2018: < 11 2019: < 8 2020: < 8 (Upper limit: 35)
<b>Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works</b>	300 <sup>(3)</sup>	2018: < 5 2019: < 5 2020: < 5 (Upper limit: 40)	2018: < 9 2019: < 9 2020: < 7 (Upper limit: 60)	2018: < 10 2019: < 9 2020: < 9 (Upper limit: 35)
<b>Shek Wu Hui Sewage Treatment Works</b>	240	2018: < 5 2019: < 5 2020: < 5 (Upper limit: 40)	2018: < 7 2019: < 6 2020: < 6 (Upper limit: 60)	2018: < 7 2019: < 6 2020: < 6 (Upper limit: 28) <sup>(2)</sup>



Name	Maximum Discharge Limit in the WPCO Licence (x1000m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Annual Average of Effluent Quality as shown in the Facilities' Monitoring Data (Year 2018, 2019, 2020)		
		Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Total Nitrogen <sup>(1)</sup> (mg/L)
<b>Yuen Long Sewage Treatment Works</b>	105 <sup>(3)</sup>	2018: < 7 2019: < 6 2020: < 6 (Upper limit: 40)	2018: < 14 2019: < 9 2020: < 8 (Upper limit: 60)	Not Applicable
<b>Stanley Sewage Treatment Works</b>	34.7	2018: < 4 2019: < 5 2020: < 3 (Upper limit: 40)	2018: < 3 2019: < 3 2020: < 4 (Upper limit: 60)	2018: < 5 2019: < 5 2020: < 4 (Upper limit: 26) <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>Sai Kung Sewage Treatment Works</b>	24	2018: < 5 2019: < 5 2020: < 5 (Upper limit: 40)	2018: < 6 2019: < 6 2020: < 5 (Upper limit: 60)	2018: < 4 2019: < 6 2020: < 5 (Upper limit: 24)

**(2) Leachate Treatment Plants at Landfills Managed by EPD**

Name	Maximum Discharge Limit in the WPCO Licence (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Annual Average of Discharge Quality as shown in the Facilities' Monitoring Data (Year 2018, 2019, 2020)		
		Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Total Nitrogen <sup>(1)</sup> (mg/L)
<b>Pillar Point Valley Landfill</b>	2 600	2018: 5 2019: 8 2020: 10 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 7 2019: 7 2020: 5 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 76 2019: 75 2020: 86 (Upper limit: 100)
<b>Tseung Kwan O Stage I and Stage II/III Landfill</b>	1 450	2018: 9 2019: 8 2020: 5 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 6 2019: 6 2020: 5 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 52 2019: 67 2020: 67 (Upper limit: 200)
<b>Siu Lang Shui Landfill, Ma Tso Lung Landfill, Ngau Tam Mei Landfill and Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill <sup>(4)</sup></b>	480	2018: 22 2019: 41 2020: 18 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 7 2019: 6 2020: 10 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 69 2019: 44 2020: 50 (Upper limit: 200)

Name	Maximum Discharge Limit in the WPCO Licence (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Annual Average of Discharge Quality as shown in the Facilities' Monitoring Data (Year 2018, 2019, 2020)		
		Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Total Nitrogen <sup>(1)</sup> (mg/L)
Sai Tso Wan Landfill, Ngau Chi Wan Landfill, Jordan Valley Landfill, Ma Yau Tong West Landfill and Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill <sup>(5)</sup>	<u>Jordan Valley Landfill</u> 350	<u>Jordan Valley Landfill</u> 2018: 23 2019: 19 2020: 16 (Upper limit: 800)	<u>Jordan Valley Landfill</u> 2018: 31 2019: 28 2020: 59 (Upper limit: 800)	<u>Jordan Valley Landfill</u> 2018: 49 2019: 51 2020: 59 (Upper limit: 200)
	<u>Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill</u> 350	<u>Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill</u> 2018: Not Applicable 2019: 2 2020: Not Applicable (Upper limit: 800)	<u>Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill</u> 2018: Not Applicable 2019: 87 2020: Not Applicable (Upper limit: 800)	<u>Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill</u> 2018: Not Applicable 2019: 83 2020: Not Applicable (Upper limit: 200)
Shuen Wan Landfill <sup>(6)</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
West New Territories Landfill	3 000	2018: 11 2019: 17 2020: 21 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 35 2019: 19 2020: 42 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 106 2019: 104 2020: 86 (Upper limit: 200)
North East New Territories Landfill	3 000 <sup>(7)</sup>	2018: 25 2019: 20 2020: 17 (Upper limit: 400)	2018: 57 2019: 57 2020: 52 (Upper limit: 400)	2018: 113 2019: 111 (Upper limit for total nitrogen: 150) 2020: 53 (Upper limit for inorganic nitrogen: 100)
South East New Territories Landfill	2 000	2018: 11 2019: 12 2020: 13 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 58 2019: 37 2020: 35 (Upper limit: 800)	2018: 90 2019: 83 2020: 76 (Upper limit: 200)

### (3) Sewage Treatment Facilities of Power Stations

Name	Operator	Maximum Discharge Limit in the WPCO Licence (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Annual Average of Discharge Quality as shown in the Facilities' Monitoring Data (Year 2018, 2019, 2020)		
			Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Total Nitrogen <sup>(1)</sup> (mg/L)
<b>Castle Peak Power Station</b>	Castle Peak Power Company Limited	2 000	2018: 5 2019: <5 2020: <5 (Upper limit: 20)	2018: 8 2019: 6 2020: 5 (Upper limit: 30)	Not Applicable
<b>Black Point Power Station</b>	Castle Peak Power Company Limited	420	2018: <5 2019: <5 2020: <5 (Upper limit: 20)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>Lamma Power Station</b>	HK Electric	664	2018: <2 2019: <2 2020: <2 <sup>(8)</sup> (Upper limit: 20)	2018: 13 2019: 15 2020: 15 <sup>(8)</sup> (Upper limit: 30)	Not Applicable
<b>Penny's Bay Power Station (Standby facility)</b>	Castle Peak Power Company Limited	4 181	Not Applicable <sup>(9)</sup> (Upper limit: 20)	Not Applicable <sup>(9)</sup> (Upper limit: 30)	Not Applicable

- Notes:
- (1) Discharge upper limits and the water quality monitoring requirements are formulated based on the design of the sewage treatment facilities and the carrying capacity of the relevant receiving waters.
  - (2) The figure stated is the sum of the amounts of ammonia nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen and nitrite nitrogen in the water sample(s) collected.
  - (3) The maximum discharge limits in the WPCO Licence of the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works and Yuen Long Sewage Treatment Works were updated on 1 January 2020 and 1 December 2020 respectively.
  - (4) Leachate from these landfills is collected and delivered to the leachate treatment plant at Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill for collective treatment.
  - (5) Leachate from these landfills is collected and delivered to the leachate treatment plants at Jordan Valley Landfill and Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill for collective treatment, while the leachate treatment plant at Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill is operated only in wet seasons when necessary and there was no need for operation in 2018 and 2020.
  - (6) Leachate from the Shuen Wan Landfill is collected and delivered to the adjacent Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works for treatment.
  - (7) The maximum discharge limit in the WPCO Licence of the North East New Territories Landfill has been updated from 2 800 m<sup>3</sup> per day to 3 000 m<sup>3</sup> per day with effect from 30 September 2019, and "total nitrogen" has been changed to "inorganic nitrogen".
  - (8) Figures as at September 2020.
  - (9) The Penny's Bay Power Station is a standby facility and there is no discharge recorded from 2018 to 2020.

(d) All the discharge from the major sewage treatment works managed by the DSD, leachate treatment plants at landfills managed by the EPD, and sewage treatment

facilities of power stations operated by the private sector have to comply with the relevant requirements and treatment levels stipulated in the licence granted under the WPCO to ensure that the discharge will not cause any adverse impact on the surrounding environment. The Environmental Compliance Division of the EPD conducts inspections to the relevant facilities operated by the public and private sectors at irregular time intervals to check whether the facilities are in normal operation and in compliance with the discharge requirements in the licences issued. At present, the DSD also conducts regular water quality monitoring at different sewage treatment works. There are on-site EPD staff at all landfills to conduct regular environmental monitoring and to monitor the day-to-day operation of the facilities. The Government has not set up additional monitoring stations near the discharge points of sewage treatment plants to monitor discharge from sewage treatment plants.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB117**

**(Question Serial No. 1533)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department previously launched the “Reduce and Recycle 2.0” Campaign with public organisations to encourage the public to go green and support green recovery and a circular economy while fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from promoting waste reduction at source, the Campaign will step up calls on the public to make good use of the community recycling network and practise the green living concept of “Save More, Recycle More”. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. Please tabulate the details of the above campaign in various districts at the present stage, including the progress, sites selected, number of recycling bins, etc.;
2. Please set out the manpower and expenditure allocated for the “Reduce and Recycle 2.0” Campaign in various districts.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. With the support of the Environment and Conservation Fund, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) launched a two-year publicity and promotional campaign for waste reduction and recycling called “Reduce and Recycle 2.0” Campaign (the Campaign) in mid-2020. The Campaign educates the public on how to reduce waste as well as separate different types of waste for recycling, and to make good use of the community recycling network, namely GREEN@COMMUNITY, which is now being expanded by the EPD continuously, to recycle different types of recyclables, and to put into practice the concept of “Save More, Recycle More”. The Campaign is a territory-wide publicity campaign in which a new character, Greeny, is introduced to partner with the Environment Bureau’s ambassador Big Waster to disseminate knowledge about waste reduction and recycling. A TV Announcement of Public Interest was also produced to encourage members of the public to change their lifestyle habits and behaviour to practise the green living concept of “Use Less, Waste Less”.

The Campaign will promote various themes in phases. Launched in June last year, the first phase focused on promoting waste reduction at source and stepping up calls on the public to make good use of the new community recycling network and to put into practice the concept of “Save More, Recycle More”. The community recycling network with a brand new image comprises Recycling Stations that focus on both environmental protection education and recycling support; Recycling Stores that are located in close proximity of residential areas; and Recycling Spots that operate at fixed locations on weekly schedules. A total of 9 Recycling Stations and 22 Recycling Stores have commenced operation, and their addresses are tabulated below. As for the specific locations of the remaining 100-odd Recycling Spots, please refer to the “Waste Less” mobile application.

<b>Recycling Stations</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Address</b>
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHA TIN	10 On Ping Street, Shek Mun
Eastern	GREEN@EASTERN	30 Oi Shun Road, Shau Kei Wan
Kwun Tong	GREEN@KWUN TONG	27 Sheung Yee Road, Kowloon Bay
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG	65 Tin Wah Road, Tin Shui Wai
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO	339 Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po
Tuen Mun	GREEN@TUEN MUN	9 Tuen Yee Street, Tuen Mun
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@KWAI TSING	12 Tam Kon Shan Road, Tsing Yi
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO	25 Dai Wah Street, Tai Po
Islands	GREEN@ISLANDS	1 Chung Mun Road, Tung Chung

<b>Recycling Stores</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Address</b>
Southern	GREEN@TIN WAN	Shun Fung Court, Ka Wo Street
Wan Chai	GREEN@TIN HAU	Triumph Court, Electric Road
Central & Western	GREEN@SAI YING PUN	113 First Street
	GREEN@SHEUNG WAN	Wing Hing Commercial Building, Sutherland Street
Tuen Mun	GREEN@SAN HUI	Ming Wai Building, Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road
North	GREEN@SHEK WU HUI	16 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui
	GREEN@FANLING	Flora Plaza, Pak Wo Road
Sai Kung	GREEN@PO LAM	Metro City Plaza II, Yan King Road, Tseung Kwan O
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@CHEUNG SHA WAN	ONE NEW YORK, Castle Peak Road, Cheung Sha Wan
Kwun Tong	GREEN@YUE MAN SQUARE	Kwan Sen Mansion, Mut Wah Street
Eastern	GREEN@QUARRY BAY	East Pavilion, King's Road
Sha Tin	GREEN@TAI WAI	Tin Po Building, Chik Fuk Street
Kowloon City	GREEN@WALLED CITY	48 Lion Rock Road
	GREEN@TO KWA WAN	93 Pau Chung Street
	GREEN@HUNG HOM	83 Wuhu Street
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@SAN PO KONG	San Po Kong Mansion, Choi Hung Road
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@KWAI CHUNG	Kwai Po Building, Shek Yam Road (Lei Muk Road Entrance)
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LO TAK COURT	Cheong Wah Building, Castle Peak Road – Tsuen Wan
Yau Tsim Mong	GREEN@TAI KOK TSUI	Pak Sing Building, Tong Mi Road
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO MARKET	Central Plaza, Kwong Fuk Road
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG HUI	Far East Consortium Yuen Long Building, On Lok Road
Islands	GREEN@MUI WO	Silver Centre Building, Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road

2. The publicity activities for the second phase of the Campaign also commenced in late November last year, which focused on raising public awareness of plastic-free living, including the promotion of the Pilot Scheme on Reverse Vending Machines and the Pilot Scheme on Waste Plastics Collection and Recycling in three districts (i.e. Eastern District, Kwun Tong and Sha Tin), etc. Under the impact of the pandemic, the major publicity channels used are online platforms which include websites with high hit rates, social media platform pages and websites. Online games and the Big Waster Chatbot have also been rolled out to enhance interaction with the public. Subject to the development of the pandemic, regional activities will be organised later by the Green Outreach teams set up by the EPD, who will work in collaboration with community partners and the community recycling network, to disseminate the latest information on waste reduction and recycling and provide support to the public. The Campaign will focus on the promotion of food waste recycling at a later stage to tie in with Hong Kong's new milestone of converting food waste into energy.

The ECC has earmarked a total of about \$30 million in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to implement the relevant publicity and promotional campaigns. The EPD and the Publicity Working Group under the ECC will continue to carry out publicity work to tie in with the waste reduction and recycling strategies of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Division of the EPD and the ECC.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB118**

**(Question Serial No. 1534)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In the Budget previously announced by the Financial Secretary, more emphasis has been placed on electric vehicles (EVs) in respect of environmental protection. He stated that the Environment Bureau would announce the following month Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of EVs, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of EVs and their associated supporting facilities. The Government would also take the lead to use more EVs. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. What is the latest progress of the Government's work on promoting the recycling of waste EV batteries?
2. The Government launched the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme in October last year. It is expected that about 60 000 parking spaces in existing private residential buildings will be provided with EV charging-enabling infrastructure under the scheme in 3 years. What sites have been preliminary identified? What are the progress and the details of the Scheme?
3. Since the implementation of the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme, how many vehicle owners have been granted the first registration tax concessions?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. Retired electric vehicle (EV) batteries are chemical waste and their disposal is regulated under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) and its subsidiary Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354C). Currently, EV suppliers have engaged licensed collectors to collect the retired batteries of their brands' EVs. After proper preliminary treatment (e.g. sorting, discharging and insulating) and packaging, these retired EV batteries are exported to appropriate treatment facilities in Japan, Korea or Belgium for recycling. Although the age of most EVs in Hong Kong remains low

and the number of retired EV batteries remains small at this stage, as EVs are becoming more popular, the number of retired EV batteries will gradually increase. The Environment Bureau announced Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of EVs in March 2021, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of EVs and their associated supporting facilities, which include formulating a Producer Responsibility Scheme for retired EV batteries. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will maintain close liaison with EV suppliers and relevant stakeholders to explore a model of the Producer Responsibility Scheme for retired EV batteries that is applicable to local situations.

2. The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The EPD has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor.
3. The Government introduced the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme (the Scheme) on 28 February 2018 to encourage private car (PC) owners to choose EVs when they need to replace their cars. Purchasers of electric private cars (e-PCs) who scrap and de-register their eligible old PCs and then first register a new e-PC can enjoy a higher first registration tax (FRT) concession.

From the introduction of the Scheme until the end of February 2021, a total of 7 654 applications (accounting for 90% of first registered new e-PCs during the same period) were received by the Transport Department, among which 7 524 were approved, 48 were under processing and 82 were rejected for not complying with the eligibility criteria. The FRT concession involved amounted to about \$1.618 billion.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB119**

**(Question Serial No. 1535)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, one of the most important environmental protection projects in Hong Kong, was implemented with an objective to improve the water quality of Victoria Harbour. However, it came with a big price tag and did not go smoothly when the construction works commenced in 1995. Regarding the testing and improvement of the water quality of Victoria Harbour, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. What was the marine water quality grading of Victoria Harbour recorded in the past financial year?
2. What were the manpower involved and expenditure incurred by the Government for testing and improving the water quality of Victoria Harbour in the past financial year?
3. The Administration has formulated Sewerage Master Plans and has been developing appropriate sewerage infrastructural facilities. As stated by the Administration last year, the Government's public sewerage system had already covered over 93% of Hong Kong's population. Does the Government have any plan to increase the population coverage rate of the above Plans to 99%?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. The overall Water Quality Objective compliance rate of Victoria Harbour was 90% in 2020.
2. As the monitoring of the water quality of Victoria Harbour and the implementation of water quality improvement measures are part of the routine duties of the Environmental Protection Department and the Drainage Services Department, there is no breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved in this regard.

3. At present, public sewerage system has been provided in all urban areas in Hong Kong, and covers over 93% of the overall population in the urban and rural areas combined. This coverage rate is similar to those in other advanced countries or regions. The reasons for the remaining 7% of the population not yet covered by the public sewerage system are that the places of residence are in remote areas or the development of a public sewerage system cannot be proceeded in the light of the local residents' opinions. Nevertheless, these individuals are required to install and use appropriate sewage treatment facilities (e.g. septic tank systems or biological treatment facilities, etc.) for their places of residence. Looking ahead, subject to project progress and resources availability, we will continue to make reference to the Sewerage Master Plans to carry out different sewerage projects and implement the village sewerage programme with a view to increasing the coverage rate of the public sewerage system. The projects include those covered by a total funding approval of \$29 billion by the Legislative Council (LegCo) over the past 3 years for upgrading sewage treatment facilities and extending the public sewerage systems in North District, Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Sai Kung, Cheung Chau, Lantau Island, Peng Chau, Tsuen Wan and various districts in Kowloon. In addition, we are seeking funding approval of \$1.5 billion from the LegCo this year for projects on provision of sewerage to some villages in North District, Lamma Island and Lantau Island.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB120**

**(Question Serial No. 1536)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Administration will continue to plan and implement the various landfill extension projects. Please advise on the work progress of the West New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme and East New Territories Landfill Extension Scheme, as well as the estimated expenditure and the staffing for the 2021-22 financial year.

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

We are implementing the extension schemes of the 3 strategic landfills (i.e. the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill, the North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill and the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill). The work progress is as follows:

The SENT Landfill Extension Scheme

The extension works were commenced in 2018. The basic extension works are expected to be completed in 2021 and the landfill will then start receiving construction waste.

The NENT Landfill Extension Scheme

The open tender exercise for the extension works was conducted in 2020, and the basic extension works are expected to begin in 2021 with a view to starting waste intake in 2025.

The WENT Landfill Extension Scheme

The design and site investigation work of the consultancy study have been substantially completed, including the detailed examination of different landfill extension options and land requirements. We are seeking funding from the Legislative Council for the extension works. If the funding application is approved, we shall proceed with the subsequent work

as soon as possible, with a view to commencing the extension works in 2022 and waste intake in 2026.

The estimated total expenditure on the design, studies and preparatory works of all the extension schemes above in 2021-22 is \$88.208 million. As the above work is mainly undertaken by relevant staff of the Environmental Infrastructure Division of the Environmental Protection Department, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower resources required for individual projects.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB121**

**(Question Serial No. 3200)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Since the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WPRS) by the Government, members of the public have to pay the recycling fee for disposal of waste electrical equipment, including washing machines, refrigerators, televisions, air-conditioners, computers, printers, scanners and monitors, otherwise they will be subject to a fine for indiscriminate disposal of electrical equipment! If new household electrical appliances are purchased, an appointment has to be made with the sellers for recovery of waste electrical equipment of the same class. However, since the implementation of the WPRS, some people still said that disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) could be seen everywhere on the street, and the services provided by the service operators were unsatisfactory. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. Since the commencement of the WPRS, how many complaints have been received by the Government about the services provided by the service operators?
2. Please set out in tabular form the Government's manpower and expenditures involved in handling the WPRS for the past 3 financial years.
3. How many local licensed operators that process WEEE are there at present? What are their processing capacities?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. The Producer Responsibility Scheme on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WPRS) has been fully implemented since 2018, covering regulated electrical equipment (REE) including air-conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, televisions, computers, printers, scanners and monitors. Under the statutory requirements, when members of the public purchase REE, the sellers have to arrange for their customers a statutory free removal service to collect a used equipment of the

same class abandoned by the customers. The sellers may choose a service provider to provide the statutory free removal service. If a seller opts for the service provided by the operator of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Treatment and Recycling Facility (WEEE·PARK), the operator will, after receipt of a service request from the seller, collect the waste equipment 3 working days from the date of sale as requested by the customer. Members of the public also have the right to choose not to use the statutory removal service provided by the sellers, and hand over the waste REE to other recyclers instead. From the implementation of the WPRS on 1 August 2018 up to the end of December 2020, the WEEE·PARK operator processed a total of about 494 300 collection service requests, and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) received a total of 99 complaints about the service provided by the operator.

2. WEEE·PARK was fully commissioned in March 2018, and its actual operating costs for the past 3 years are as follows:

Financial Year	Actual operating cost (\$m)
2017-18	28
2018-19	165
2019-20	220

The Waste Management Policy Division of the EPD is responsible for handling various waste management policies and projects, such as the producer responsibility schemes on waste electrical and electronic equipment, glass beverage containers and plastic beverage containers, etc. There is no breakdown of the expenditure or manpower resources involved in taking forward these schemes.

3. As at early March 2021, there are a total of 17 facilities with valid waste disposal licences for e-waste across the territory (including the WEEE·PARK operator). According to the permitted capacity stipulated in the licences, a total of about 136 500 tonnes of waste REE can be processed each year.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB122**

**(Question Serial No. 0401)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Administration launched the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme in October last year. It is expected that about 60 000 parking spaces in existing private residential buildings will be provided with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure under the scheme in 3 years. Since the introduction of the scheme, applications involving more than 50 000 parking spaces have been received. Please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) What is the approval progress of the scheme?
- 2) Given that out of the 60 000 quotas, more than 50 000 applications have already been received in less than half a year since the introduction of the scheme, what is the existing balance of the \$2 billion subsidy?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The earmarked funding accounts for about 60% of the total commitment of the subsidy scheme. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. We will know the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to each application after the approved housing estate has completed the process of engaging the services of a consultant and a contractor to conduct the installation works through open tendering.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB123****(Question Serial No. 0538)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the promotion of the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in the community, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the number and speed of the EV chargers provided in government car parks at present (please list with a breakdown by 18 districts of Hong Kong)?
- (b) Does the Government have any plan to install more EV chargers in 2021-22? If yes, please list the information with a breakdown by 18 districts of Hong Kong. What is the expenditure to be involved?
- (c) What are the details of applications received after the launch of the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme last year, including the average amount of subsidy granted by the Administration to each application and the number of additional EV chargers installed?
- (d) What were the numbers of vehicles procured by various government departments and the percentages of EVs in them in 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21? What were the average vehicle prices?
- (e) What are the estimated number of vehicles to be procured by various government departments and the percentage of EVs in them in 2021-22?
- (f) Besides EVs, does the Government have any measures in place to promote the use of other types of environmentally-friendly vehicles in the community? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 84)Reply:

- (a) The numbers and speed of public electric vehicle (EV) chargers in government car parks with a breakdown by 18 districts of Hong Kong as at the end of December 2020 are as follows:

District	No. of chargers			Sub-total
	Standard	Medium	Quick	
Central & Western	52	139	0	191
Eastern	11	64	0	75

District	No. of chargers			
	Standard	Medium	Quick	Sub-total
Southern	0	0	0	0
Wan Chai	18	65	0	83
Kowloon City	63	20	0	83
Kwun Tong	41	0	0	41
Sham Shui Po	29	37	0	66
Wong Tai Sin	5	35	0	40
Yau Tsim Mong	0	0	0	0
Kwai Tsing	8	0	0	8
Tsuen Wan	7	168	3	178
Sai Kung	6	27	0	33
North	55	18	0	73
Tai Po	25	3	0	28
Sha Tin	40	36	0	76
Yuen Long	19	2	0	21
Tuen Mun	2	0	0	2
Islands	28	89	4	121
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1 119</b>

- (b) The Government allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks managed by the Transport Department, the Government Property Agency, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Tourism Commission which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. Among these, about 460 medium chargers are planned to be installed in 2021-22, and the estimated expenditure to be involved is \$48 million. The numbers of additional EV chargers to be installed in 2021-22 with a breakdown by 18 districts of Hong Kong are as follows:

District	No. of EV chargers to be installed
Central & Western	121
Eastern	84
Kowloon City	38
Sham Shui Po	41
Wong Tai Sin	50
Yau Tsim Mong	2
Kwai Tsing	29
Sai Kung	17
North	2
Sha Tin	69
Tuen Mun	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>

- (c) The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. We will know the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to each application after the approved housing estate has completed the process of engaging the services of a consultant and a contractor to conduct the installation works through open tendering.
- (d) According to the data provided by the Government Logistics Department, the numbers of vehicles procured by various government departments\*, the percentages of EVs in them and the average vehicle prices in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Number of vehicles procured	Cars		Average EV price (\$)
		Total	Percentage of EVs	
2018	542	224	3.1%	235,000
2019	273	96	4.2%	292,000
2020	446	196	6.1%	278,000

\* Excluding specialised vehicles

- (e) It is estimated that the Government will procure about 550 vehicles for various departments in 2021, including 306 cars. 28 cars will be EVs, accounting for about 9.2% of the total number of cars.
- (f) Besides promoting the use of EVs, the Government has all along been paying close attention to the development of new energy vehicles across the world, and keeps an open mind on the introduction of other new energy vehicles, such as hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles offer an attractive new energy vehicle alternative, especially for heavy commercial vehicles, given their long travel range and fast refueling comparing with battery EVs. However, given Hong Kong's high urban density, it would be a challenge to locate sufficient and proper sites for setting up necessary infrastructures such as hydrogen filling stations in addition to EV charging network. On the other hand, as battery EVs are more mature technologically, we will put more emphasis on battery EVs in the course of promoting Hong Kong's transition to adoption of new energy vehicles. We will keep abreast of the development of new energy vehicles and will refine our policy direction as required in good time.

The Government has put in place a New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) (previously known as Pilot Green Transport Fund) since March 2011 to subsidise the transport sector to try out green innovative transport technologies. Besides EVs, as

at the end of January 2021, the NET Fund has approved 71 trials for hybrid commercial vehicles, involving a total of 103 hybrid vehicles, including 48 light goods vehicles, 27 medium goods vehicles, 26 light buses and 2 single-deck buses.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB124**

**(Question Serial No. 0222)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the public consultation on the way forward to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware, what is the progress of the public consultation? As Mainland China will gradually impose “a ban or restriction on the production, sale and use” of single-use plastic products, and within this year, major cities must completely phase out plastic bags, and plastic product manufacturers have to cease the production of specified single-use plastic products, will the Administration allocate additional resources to study the legislation for phasing out plastic bags and formulate an implementation timetable for the complete phase-out of single-use plastic products?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

In recent years, many other countries or places have started to manage the use of plastic materials by various means, especially on single-use plastic products. The Government has been keeping a watch on the development in this area. Apart from the continuous promotion of “plastic-free” and “reduction of waste plastics” at source, we will also encourage the use of suitable alternatives and explore the strategy for handling single-use plastics.

Among these, in order to tackle the disposable plastic tableware issue in the long run, we have conducted a study on the feasibility, scope and mechanism of the control of disposable plastic tableware. The study is substantially completed. Given that phased legislative control is the typical approach adopted in different places currently according to their own circumstances, and having regard to the local situations, the consultant’s initial findings suggest that measures should be implemented to regulate the use of various types of disposable plastic tableware by the catering sector. A ban on the distribution of disposable plastic tableware for dine-in and takeaway services in eateries may be implemented in phases with exemptions under special circumstances. We will consult the trades, the public and relevant stakeholders later this year to map out the way forward. Subject to the

views received and the ensuing legislative procedures, we hope that the first phase of regulation can be implemented in around 2025.

Regarding plastic shopping bag (PSB), we have largely completed the review on PSB Charging Scheme, including enhancement of the scope of exemption and the charging level under the Scheme. We will consult the public in due course to map out the way forward.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB125**

**(Question Serial No. 0223)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is further announced in the 2020 Policy Address that Hong Kong will strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. Will the Government advise on the specific plan and the implementation timetable for achieving carbon neutrality? If not yet available, when will the Government announce the specific plan and the implementation timetable?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The 2020 Policy Address announced that Hong Kong would strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. To this end, the Government will update the "Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan" in the middle of this year to set out more proactive strategies and measures to reduce carbon emissions.

We will examine various means to reduce carbon emissions, which include exploring different types of zero-carbon energy and decarbonisation technology, enhancing the energy efficiency of both new and existing buildings, introducing more stringent energy efficiency standards, promoting zero-carbon vehicles and green transportation, and building large-scale waste-to-energy facilities. We will also develop green finance to boost investments conducive to reducing carbon emissions, and enhance public education and publicity to promote a low-carbon lifestyle.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB126**

**(Question Serial No. 0224)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. Please explain in detail the reasons why the revised estimate for 2020-21 is 14.3% lower than the approved estimate, and list the main items with a decrease in expenditure.
2. The increase of \$937.3 million (62.7%) in the 2021-22 Budget is attributable to the cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. Please list these non-recurrent projects and the required amount for each project.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The revised estimate of the Environmental Protection Department for 2020-21 is 14.3% lower than the approved estimate. This is mainly due to the reduction in the estimated expenditure for the following items:
  - (1) Provision for waste management initiatives, including waste paper collection and recycling, waste glass container recycling, "Recycling Stations" (formerly known as "Community Green Stations") project, pilot scheme on waste plastics collection and recycling;
  - (2) Fees for operation of waste management facilities; and
  - (3) Non-recurrent expenditure, including ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles and the cash flow for the approved projects under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme.
2. Under the Programme "Air and Climate Change", the estimate for 2021-22 is \$937.3 million (62.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. The estimated expenditures on the relevant projects for 2021-22 are tabulated as follows:

Major projects	2021-22 Estimate (\$m)
Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles	1,064.6
Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging-enabling Infrastructure in Car Parks of Existing Private Residential Buildings	306.0
Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	100.0
Green Tech Fund	50.0
New Energy Transport Fund	50.0
Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme	46.1
Trial of retrofitting Euro IV and V double-deck franchised buses with enhanced selective catalytic reduction systems	21.0

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB127****(Question Serial No. 0689)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the Government will take the lead to use more electric vehicles (EVs). Will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. the numbers of new EVs procured in each of the past 3 years;
2. the details of the plan to procure EVs in the coming 5 years;
3. the amount of money expected to be spent in each of the coming 5 years?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 75)Reply:

1.

According to the data provided by the Government Logistics Department, the numbers of new electric vehicles\* (EVs) procured by the Government in each of the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of EVs newly procured	7	6	12

\*Excluding specialised vehicles

2 and 3.

It is estimated that the Government will procure about 550 vehicles for various departments in 2021, including 306 cars. 28 cars will be EVs, accounting for about 9.2% of the total number of cars.

To demonstrate the commitment in pushing forward Hong Kong's transition to EVs, the Government is prepared to switch our vehicle fleet to EVs at a faster pace. We have just formulated a new policy to set EV as the standard for small and medium private cars to be procured or replaced, unless there are special circumstances such as operational needs that render the use of EVs technically infeasible. For other types of vehicles, EVs and other more environmentally friendly vehicles will be accorded priority for use by us. Senior government officials will also take the lead in switching

their cars to EVs when their cars are replaced. We will also advance in tandem with the global development in exploring electrification of other types of specialised vehicles in the government fleet such as refuse collection vehicles and street washing vehicles, and will strike a balance between prudent use of public monies and taking the lead in promoting EVs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB128**

**(Question Serial No. 0697)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the installation of over 1 000 additional medium chargers in government car parks by 2022, please advise on:

1. by location the number of chargers in each location;
2. the average installation cost for each charger;
3. whether the charging speed of the medium chargers intended to be installed at present can be raised when the technology is updated in future.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

1. The Government allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public electric vehicle (EV) charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks managed by the Transport Department (TD), the Government Property Agency (GPA), the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Tourism Commission (TC) which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. Please refer to the Annex for the selected sites for and number of these chargers.
2. The estimated average cost for the supply and installation of each EV charging facility is \$100,000. In addition to providing 7 kW medium chargers, the relevant cost is spent on laying of cables, installation of distribution boards, conduits and trunkings to provide sufficient power supply, as well as provision of smart meters, etc.
3. In general, the output power of medium charger is 7 kW. If the charging speed is to be raised (i.e. increasing output power of the charger), the medium charger has to be replaced by a charger with higher output power, the relevant power supply facilities, including cables, distribution boards, conduits and trunking, have to be upgraded and replaced to support the charger, and the power supply has to be upgraded, before the charging speed can be increased.

Generally speaking, EV owners should perform daily charging of their EVs at their home or workplaces. Public charging networks are set up for EV owners to meet occasional needs to top up their batteries on the way. By charging with medium chargers for less than an hour, EVs may run for at least another 30 km, implying that such chargers are sufficient to top up their batteries at times of occasional needs.

Moreover, the installation costs for EV chargers may vary depending on the circumstances of individual car parks. In general, the installation costs for quick chargers (50 kW) are about 5 to 10 times higher than those for medium chargers (7 kW). It is thus much more expensive to install quick chargers than medium chargers. Hence, medium chargers will still be the backbone of EV charging facilities to be installed by the Government at its car parks in future.

**The number and distribution of EV chargers planned to be installed by the Government**

Department	District		Location	No. of EV chargers to be installed
TD	Southern	1	Aberdeen Car Park	44
	Central & Western	2	Kennedy Town Car Park	59
	Central & Western	3	Rumsey Street Car Park	75
	Kwai Tsing	4	Kwai Fong Car Park	94
	Eastern	5	Shau Kei Wan Car Park	81
	Wong Tai Sin	6	Sheung Fung Street Car Park	47
	Wan Chai	7	Tin Hau Car Park	122
	Tsuen Wan	8	Tsuen Wan Car Park	134
GPA	Eastern	9	North Point Government Offices	14
	Central & Western	10	Queensway Government Offices	28
	Sha Tin	11	Sha Tin Government Offices	54
	North	12	North District Government Offices	11
	Tuen Mun	13	Tuen Mun Government Offices	22
	Sai Kung	14	Sai Kung Government Offices	7
	Sham Shui Po	15	Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices	41
	Kowloon City	16	Trade and Industry Tower	20
LCSD	Central & Western	17	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park	6
		18	Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre	12
	Eastern	19	Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground	3
		20	Island East Sports Centre	6
	Southern	21	Deep Water Bay Beach	3
		22	Ap Lei Chau Waterfront Promenade	6
	Wan Chai	23	Wong Nai Chung Gap Children's Playground	4
	Kwun Tong	24	Kowloon Bay Park	11
		25	Ping Shek Playground	8
		26	Shun Lee Tsuen Park	2
		27	Lei Yue Mun Municipal Services Building	2

Department	District		Location	No. of EV chargers to be installed
	Sham Shui Po	28	Lai Chi Kok Park	5
		29	Sham Shui Po Sports Ground	10
		30	Cornwall Street Park	2
		31	Lung Cheung Road Lookout	6
	Wong Tai Sin	32	Hammer Hill Road Sports Ground	17
		33	Po Kong Village Road Park	3
	Yau Tsim Mong	34	Kowloon Park	2
	Islands	35	Tung Chung Municipal Services Building	9
	Kwai Tsing	36	Tsing Yi Southwest Leisure Building	3
		37	Tsing Yi Northeast Park	4
		38	Tsing Yi Sports Ground and Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	3
		39	Kwai Chung Sports Ground	18
		40	Hing Fong Road Playground	1
	North	41	Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	2
		42	North District Sports Ground	6
		43	Wo Hing Sports Centre	10
		44	Po Wing Road Sports Centre	2
		45	Fanling Swimming Pool	5
	Sai Kung	46	Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	2
		47	Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground	2
		48	Tiu Keng Leng Sports Centre	6
	Sha Tin	49	Siu Lek Yuen Road Playground	4
		50	Sha Tin Sports Ground and Yuen Wo Playground	3
		51	Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool and Yuen Wo Road Sports Centre	3
		52	Sha Tin Town Hall	6
		53	Hong Kong Heritage Museum	3
		54	Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	15
		55	Ma On Shan Sports Ground	4
		56	Yuen Chau Kok Complex	6



Department	District		Location	No. of EV chargers to be installed
	Tai Po	57	Tai Po Sports Ground	3
		58	Tai Po Complex	5
		59	Kwong Fuk Park	3
	Tsuen Wan	60	Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	3
		61	Shing Mun Valley Sports Ground	3
	Tuen Mun	62	Tuen Mun North West Swimming Pool	9
		63	Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	3
		64	Yau Oi Sports Centre	3
	Yuen Long	65	Yuen Long Swimming Pool	3
		66	Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool & Tin Shui Wai Sports Centre	18
		67	Tin Shui Wai Sports Ground	3
68		Tin Yip Road Park	11	
69		Fung Kam Street Sports Centre	17	
TC	Kowloon City	70	Kai Tak Cruise Terminal	38

Remark: The number of EV chargers listed in the table is a preliminary estimate and the actual number will be affected by factors such as available electricity at venues, availability of venues and other restrictions.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB129**

**(Question Serial No. 0726)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the voluntary Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places, will the Government advise this Committee on the following information over the past 3 years:

1. a breakdown of the numbers of participating organisations by government department, subvented organisation, public transport facility and private organisation;
2. the staffing establishment of the Certification Scheme and the resources allocated;
3. whether the effectiveness of the Certification Scheme was reviewed; if yes, the details;
4. whether the statutory control over indoor air quality was reviewed; if yes, the details?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)

Reply:

The Government is committed to promoting the work on improving indoor air quality (IAQ), including enhancing public understanding and awareness of IAQ. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched a voluntary Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places (the Certification Scheme) in September 2003 to commend good IAQ management and encourage building/premises owners or property management companies to enhance the IAQ of their premises. Participating owners or property management companies are required to employ IAQ Certificate Issuing Bodies (CIBs) accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service to assess the air quality in their premises every year. The CIBs will issue certificates to the premises where the IAQ complies with the prevailing IAQ objectives.

1. The numbers of registered certificates issued to public and private organisations participating in the Certification Scheme are tabulated below:

Participating organisations	2018	2019	2020
Government department	638	685	609
Subvented organisation	164	183	137
Public transport facility	5	7	5
Private organisation	831	860	871
Total number	1 638	1 735	1 622

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPD has extended the grace period for the annual renewal of certificates from 3 months to 9 months since October 2019. The number of registered certificates for 2020 was reduced slightly as some organisations have deferred their renewal applications.

2. The EPD has engaged the Hong Kong Productivity Council to operate the IAQ Information Centre for vetting applications and registering IAQ certificates under the Certification Scheme, providing information and technical support, as well as promoting the Certification Scheme through seminars. In addition, the EPD has carried out publicity on different media, such as broadcasting promotional messages on radio, television and trains, putting up posters on buses, trams and trains, as well as organising roving exhibitions, in order to enhance public awareness of IAQ and the Certification Scheme. The EPD's total expenditures on the operation of the IAQ Information Centre, and promotion and publicity in the past 3 years are tabulated below. As for the manpower of the EPD, it was absorbed by the Department's existing resources.

Financial Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Expenditure (\$m)	4.9	4.84	4.92

3. Premises participating in the Certification Scheme include offices, shopping malls, club houses, theatres, halls, sports venues and libraries, etc. In the past 5 years, the number of registered certificates issued to premises participating in the Certification Scheme increased from about 1 300 in 2016 to about 1 600 in 2020, demonstrating that the Certification Scheme has been well recognised by various sectors.
4. The EPD has commissioned a consultant to study whether to impose legislative control on IAQ. The results of the study indicated that most of the countries or areas where IAQ was a matter of concern adopted a voluntary approach on IAQ management. If legislative control on IAQ is pursued, the problems in respect of apportionment of legal responsibility between premises owners and users would be difficult to resolve. The EPD will keep in close view the international developments on IAQ management, and will promote the Certification Scheme and enhance public understanding of IAQ through promotion as well as publicity and educational initiatives.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB130**

**(Question Serial No. 0727)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) takes forward projects to extend the 3 landfills. Will the Government advise this Committee on:

1. whether consultation has been conducted regarding the extension; the progress and results of the consultation;
2. the progress of various extension projects, and the expected completion time of the extension works;
3. the additional capacities of the respective landfills after extension;
4. the extended serviceable lives of the respective landfills?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 74)

Reply:

1. Since the existing capacities of the 3 strategic landfills would be exhausted progressively, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved in December 2014 the funding for the extension works of the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill and the North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill, as well as a design and related consultancy study for preparation of the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill extension project. As far as the planning and development of the landfill extension projects are concerned, we have been consulting relevant stakeholders (including District Councils, rural committees, neighbouring villages affected by the operation of the landfills, and local groups) through different channels, maintained liaison with them and proactively addressed their concerns. In as early as 2014, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) set up 3 District Liaison Groups to strengthen communication with local groups in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Sai Kung and North District on the management and operation of their waste treatment facilities, monitor the management and operation of waste treatment facilities in the districts, and follow up the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures. Regarding the extension projects of the SENT Landfill and NENT Landfill, we will continue to maintain communication with local groups and implement various improvement measures in the districts. As for the WENT Landfill extension project, we briefed stakeholders (including village

representatives of Lung Kwu Tan Village and Ha Pak Nai Village, the Tuen Mun and Ha Tsuen Rural Committees, and the Tuen Mun Area Committees) on the latest progress of the WENT Landfill extension project early this year, and are proactively following up their concerns.

2. The extension works of the SENT Landfill were commenced in 2018. The basic extension works are expected to be completed in 2021 and the landfill will then start receiving construction waste. The open tender exercise for the extension works of the NENT Landfill was conducted in 2020, and the basic extension works are expected to begin in 2021 with a view to starting waste intake in 2025. We are seeking funding from the Legislative Council for the extension works of the WENT Landfill, and the open tender exercise is expected to be conducted in 2021 at the earliest.
3. The expected additional capacities of the respective landfills after extension are as follows:

Extension of the SENT Landfill	6.5 million cubic metres
Extension of the NENT Landfill	19 million cubic metres
Extension of the WENT Landfill	76 million cubic metres

4. The estimated serviceable life of landfills depends on a number of variable factors, including external factors of population growth, district development, economic activities, effectiveness of waste reduction and recycling initiatives, development progress of other waste treatment and waste-to-energy facilities, and internal ones such as landfill design, mode of operation, rate of settlement, etc. As most of these factors are variable and dynamic in nature, the serviceable landfill life estimation needs to be reviewed from time to time according to the latest available information. It is expected that upon completion of all the landfill extensions, the landfills can cope with Hong Kong's need for ultimate waste disposal until the 2040s.

The Environment Bureau announced the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” (the Blueprint) on 8 February 2021 with the vision of “Waste Reduction · Resources Circulation · Zero Landfill”. Following the vision and strategy set out in the Blueprint, we will step up efforts in mobilising the entire community to practise waste reduction and take a multi-pronged approach to implement different initiatives, including taking forward various legislative proposals, implementing municipal solid waste (MSW) charging, introducing producer responsibility schemes, expanding central collection services on food waste and waste plastics, enhancing the community recycling network across the territory, supporting the recycling trade and strengthening publicity and education, with a view to achieving waste reduction and recycling on a considerably larger scale. On the other hand, we will transform waste into resources through further development of waste-to-resources/waste-to-energy facilities and build a circular economy. Assuming that enough waste-to-energy and waste-to-resources infrastructure with adequate treatment capacity can be in place by around 2035, we will no longer need to rely on direct disposal at landfills to handle our MSW. By then, only a small amount of waste that is non-combustible and cannot be recycled or reused will be directly sent to the landfills.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB131**

**(Question Serial No. 0728)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Since the introduction of the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme, how many applications have been received so far? What are the number of applications approved, the amount of subsidy for each application, the number of chargers installed and the charging speed?

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. We will know the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to each application after the approved housing estate has completed the process of engaging the services of a consultant and a contractor to conduct the installation works through open tendering. The power supply rating of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure to be installed under the EHSS will enable vehicle owners to install medium-speed chargers to charge their EVs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB132****(Question Serial No. 0729)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) NoiseControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The Administration tackles noise impact of existing roads through the retrofitting noise barrier programme. Will the Government advise this Committee on the number of noise barrier programmes under construction and planned for construction? Please list the sites concerned and the completion years.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 79)Reply:

Details of the projects under the retrofitting noise barrier programme are tabulated as follows:

## Projects under construction and planned for construction

	<b>Road section/location</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Expected completion year</b>
1	Tai Po Road (Sha Tin section)/ Sha Tin	In progress	2023
2	Long Tin Road/Yuen Long	In progress	2023
3	Po Lam Road North/ Tseung Kwan O	Funding application under preparation	2025
4	Po Ning Road/Tseung Kwan O	Funding application under preparation	2025

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB133**

**(Question Serial No. 1364)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

A) Please tabulate the numbers of various types of vehicles (e.g. electric, hybrid, petrol, diesel (EURO 4/EURO 5/EURO 6) vehicles, etc.) registered in Hong Kong currently and their emission standards with a breakdown by the year of first registration.

B) It is stated in paragraph 143 of the Budget Speech that the Government expects to cease the new registration of fuel-propelled private cars in 2035 or earlier. What are the standards adopted by the Administration for setting this target? How will the Administration achieve this target?

C) Has the Government also considered introducing the National VI standards or California standards so that more eligible environmentally-friendly vehicles can enter Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:



A) As at 28 February 2021, the numbers of various types of vehicles registered in Hong Kong with a breakdown by the year of first registration are tabulated as follows:

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol private car				Diesel private car			Electric private car	Total (Note 3)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V (Note 2)		
1950	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1952	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1954	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1958	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1960	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1961	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
1962	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
1963	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1964	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
1965	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
1966	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
1967	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
1968	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
1969	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	17
1970	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
1971	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
1972	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
1973	79	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	80
1974	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
1975	33	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	34
1976	40	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	42
1977	55	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	58
1978	51	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	55

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol private car				Diesel private car			Electric private car	Total (Note 3)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V (Note 2)		
1979	57	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	63
1980	89	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	94
1981	92	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	102
1982	74	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	80
1983	26	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	32
1984	30	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	41
1985	79	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	86
1986	133	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	163
1987	149	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	183
1988	211	0	0	0	55	0	0	0	266
1989	323	0	0	0	87	0	0	0	410
1990	398	0	0	0	116	0	0	0	514
1991	613	0	0	0	155	0	0	0	768
1992	627	0	0	0	104	0	0	0	731
1993	874	0	0	0	165	0	0	0	1 039
1994	1 200	0	0	0	170	0	0	0	1 370
1995	1 077	0	0	0	192	0	0	0	1 269
1996	1 175	0	0	0	149	0	0	0	1 324
1997	3 269	0	0	0	240	0	0	0	3 509
1998	3 591	0	0	0	114	0	0	0	3 705
1999	4 416	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4 417
2000	7 461	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7 461
2001	9 785	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9 785
2002	11 343	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	11 344
2003	10 434	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10 435
2004	15 796	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15 797

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol private car				Diesel private car			Electric private car	Total (Note 3)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V (Note 2)		
<b>2005</b>	17 844	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>17 844</b>
<b>2006</b>	0	20 486	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>20 486</b>
<b>2007</b>	0	27 016	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>27 016</b>
<b>2008</b>	0	29 819	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>29 819</b>
<b>2009</b>	0	24 734	0	0	0	80	0	0	<b>24 814</b>
<b>2010</b>	0	35 887	0	0	0	147	0	16	<b>36 050</b>
<b>2011</b>	0	38 307	0	0	0	102	0	63	<b>38 472</b>
<b>2012</b>	0	15 261	25 515	0	0	21	36	77	<b>40 910</b>
<b>2013</b>	0	0	42 609	0	0	0	345	60	<b>43 014</b>
<b>2014</b>	0	0	43 150	0	0	0	1 542	837	<b>45 529</b>
<b>2015</b>	0	0	45 493	0	0	0	1 587	2 588	<b>49 668</b>
<b>2016</b>	0	0	35 326	0	0	0	1 890	3 005	<b>40 221</b>
<b>2017</b>	0	0	16 702	18 256	0	0	4 246	3 857	<b>43 061</b>
<b>2018</b>	0	0	0	41 037	0	0	265	471	<b>41 773</b>
<b>2019</b>	0	0	0	35 692	0	0	28	2 420	<b>38 140</b>
<b>2020</b>	0	0	0	32 306	0	0	0	4 594	<b>36 900</b>
<b>2021</b> (as at 28 February)	0	0	0	4 408	0	0	0	700	<b>5 108</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>91 658</b>	<b>191 510</b>	<b>208 795</b>	<b>131 699</b>	<b>1 678</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>9 939</b>	<b>18 688</b>	<b>654 317</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles are used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: The number of vehicles includes vehicles which met the specified requirements under the transitional arrangement. According to the established practice of tightening the exhaust emission standards of newly registered vehicles in the past, the Environmental Protection Department will provide a transitional arrangement under which car dealers can process the diesel private cars (unsold vehicles) which have arrived in Hong Kong but not yet been first registered before the implementation of new emission standards.

Note 3: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol motorcycle		Electric motor cycle	Total (Note 2)
	Euro 3 or before	Euro 4		
1962	1	0	0	1
1964	1	0	0	1
1965	1	0	0	1
1966	2	0	0	2
1968	1	0	0	1
1969	4	0	0	4
1970	8	0	0	8
1971	7	0	0	7
1972	12	0	0	12
1973	14	0	0	14
1974	3	0	0	3
1975	3	0	0	3
1976	6	0	0	6
1977	11	0	0	11
1978	14	0	0	14
1979	38	0	0	38
1980	64	0	0	64
1981	120	0	0	120
1982	100	0	0	100
1983	81	0	0	81
1984	45	0	0	45
1985	61	0	0	61
1986	87	0	0	87
1987	133	0	0	133
1988	223	0	0	223
1989	350	0	0	350
1990	392	0	0	392

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol motorcycle		Electric motor cycle	Total (Note 2)
	Euro 3 or before	Euro 4		
1991	531	0	0	531
1992	606	0	0	606
1993	759	0	0	759
1994	1 030	0	0	1 030
1995	1 121	0	0	1 121
1996	1 281	0	0	1 281
1997	1 598	0	0	1 598
1998	1 430	0	0	1 430
1999	1 647	0	0	1 647
2000	1 683	0	0	1 683
2001	2 118	0	0	2 118
2002	2 442	0	0	2 442
2003	2 669	0	0	2 669
2004	2 972	0	0	2 972
2005	2 857	0	0	2 857
2006	2 895	0	0	2 895
2007	3 116	0	0	3 116
2008	3 013	0	0	3 013
2009	2 128	0	0	2 128
2010	2 388	0	1	2 389
2011	2 836	0	0	2 836
2012	3 310	0	2	3 312
2013	4 142	0	3	4 145
2014	4 920	0	7	4 927
2015	5 901	0	0	5 901
2016	5 478	0	2	5 480
2017	5 780	0	2	5 782
2018	5 269	0	0	5 269

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol motorcycle		Electric motor cycle	Total (Note 2)
	Euro 3 or before	Euro 4		
<b>2019</b>	6 462	0	0	<b>6 462</b>
<b>2020</b>	6 899	2 440	25	<b>9 364</b>
<b>2021</b> (as at 28 February)	0	1 198	3	<b>1 201</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>91 063</b>	<b>3 638</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>94 746</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol taxi	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) taxi				Total (Note 2)
	Euro V	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	
<b>1999</b>	0	5	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>2000</b>	0	312	0	0	0	<b>312</b>
<b>2001</b>	0	1 747	0	0	0	<b>1 747</b>
<b>2002</b>	0	732	0	0	0	<b>732</b>
<b>2003</b>	0	635	0	0	0	<b>635</b>
<b>2004</b>	0	305	0	0	0	<b>305</b>
<b>2005</b>	0	296	0	0	0	<b>296</b>
<b>2006</b>	0	0	301	0	0	<b>301</b>
<b>2007</b>	0	0	284	0	0	<b>284</b>
<b>2008</b>	0	0	500	0	0	<b>500</b>
<b>2009</b>	0	0	315	0	0	<b>315</b>
<b>2010</b>	0	0	370	0	0	<b>370</b>
<b>2011</b>	0	0	247	0	0	<b>247</b>
<b>2012</b>	0	0	120	143	0	<b>263</b>
<b>2013</b>	1	0	0	639	0	<b>640</b>
<b>2014</b>	0	0	0	1 590	0	<b>1 590</b>
<b>2015</b>	0	0	0	2 239	0	<b>2 239</b>
<b>2016</b>	2	2	0	1 735	0	<b>1 739</b>
<b>2017</b>	0	0	0	937	948	<b>1 885</b>
<b>2018</b>	0	0	0	0	1 743	<b>1 743</b>
<b>2019</b>	0	0	0	0	1 097	<b>1 097</b>
<b>2020</b>	0	0	0	0	797	<b>797</b>
<b>2021</b> (as at 28 February)	0	0	0	0	121	<b>121</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 034</b>	<b>2 137</b>	<b>7 283</b>	<b>4 706</b>	<b>18 163</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	LPG public light bus			Diesel public light bus				Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	
2000	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
2001	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2002	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	133
2003	203	0	0	0	0	0	0	203
2004	514	0	0	1	0	0	0	515
2005	949	0	0	0	0	0	0	949
2006	38	18	0	0	3	0	0	59
2007	0	48	0	0	54	0	0	102
2008	0	116	0	0	48	0	0	164
2009	0	73	0	0	12	0	0	85
2010	0	121	0	0	36	0	0	157
2011	0	49	0	0	7	0	0	56
2012	0	12	22	0	4	7	0	45
2013	0	0	28	0	0	16	0	44
2014	0	0	52	0	0	38	0	90
2015	0	0	91	0	0	70	0	161
2016	0	0	101	0	0	113	0	214
2017	0	0	167	0	0	53	0	220
2018	0	0	335	0	0	159	1	495
2019	0	0	338	0	0	142	0	480
2020	0	0	147	0	0	12	0	159
2021 (as at 28 February)	0	0	12	0	0	3	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 841</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>1 293</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4 351</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.



Year of first registration (Note 1)	LPG private light bus			Diesel private light bus				Electric private light bus	Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI		
2000	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
2001	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2002	18	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	20
2003	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2004	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
2005	24	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	25
2006	12	7	0	1	4	0	0	0	24
2007	0	24	0	0	66	0	0	0	90
2008	0	75	0	0	117	0	0	0	192
2009	0	76	0	0	41	0	0	0	117
2010	0	73	0	0	68	0	0	0	141
2011	0	40	0	0	109	0	0	0	149
2012	0	17	46	0	46	117	0	0	226
2013	0	0	82	0	0	212	0	0	294
2014	0	0	91	0	0	338	0	0	429
2015	0	0	35	0	0	367	0	0	402
2016	0	0	100	0	0	219	0	4	323
2017	0	0	97	0	0	171	0	1	269
2018	0	0	130	0	0	270	2	0	402
2019	0	0	111	0	0	156	1	1	269
2020	0	0	76	0	0	67	1	0	144
2021 (as at 28 February)	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>1 927</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3 560</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol light goods vehicle				Diesel light goods vehicle				Electric light goods vehicle	Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI		
1985	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1986	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1987	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1988	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
1989	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
1990	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
1991	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
1992	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1993	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6
1994	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
1995	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
1996	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1997	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
1998	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
1999	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
2000	28	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	30
2001	19	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	27
2002	14	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	18
2003	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	12
2004	5	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	17
2005	9	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	19
2006	33	0	0	0	26	199	0	0	0	258
2007	0	63	0	0	0	3 818	0	0	0	3 881
2008	0	25	0	0	0	4 548	0	0	0	4 573
2009	0	18	0	0	0	1 993	0	0	0	2 011
2010	0	19	0	0	0	3 354	0	0	0	3 373
2011	0	66	0	0	0	3 852	0	0	1	3 919
2012	0	8	63	0	0	3 677	497	0	1	4 246

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol light goods vehicle				Diesel light goods vehicle				Electric light goods vehicle	Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI		
<b>2013</b>	0	0	36	0	0	0	5 683	0	10	<b>5 729</b>
<b>2014</b>	0	0	39	0	0	0	8 168	0	19	<b>8 226</b>
<b>2015</b>	0	0	10	0	0	0	8 637	0	11	<b>8 658</b>
<b>2016</b>	0	0	32	0	0	0	6 670	0	10	<b>6 712</b>
<b>2017</b>	0	0	62	0	0	0	6 544	0	12	<b>6 618</b>
<b>2018</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	1 546	4 813	16	<b>6 376</b>
<b>2019</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6 533	42	<b>6 575</b>
<b>2020</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4 073	34	<b>4 108</b>
<b>2021</b> (as at 28 February)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	583	6	<b>589</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>21 441</b>	<b>37 745</b>	<b>16 002</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>76 038</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Diesel medium goods vehicle				Electric medium goods vehicle	Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI		
1998	1	0	0	0	0	1
1999	1	0	0	0	0	1
2000	3	0	0	0	0	3
2001	1	0	0	0	0	1
2002	3	0	0	0	0	3
2003	3	0	0	0	0	3
2004	5	0	0	0	0	5
2005	5	0	0	0	0	5
2006	4	339	0	0	0	343
2007	0	1 521	0	0	0	1 521
2008	0	2 020	0	0	0	2 020
2009	0	793	0	0	0	793
2010	0	2 227	0	0	0	2 227
2011	0	2 323	0	0	0	2 323
2012	0	868	1 213	0	0	2 081
2013	0	0	2 768	0	0	2 768
2014	0	0	4 237	0	0	4 237
2015	0	0	4 711	0	0	4 711
2016	0	0	3 267	0	0	3 267
2017	0	0	3 267	0	0	3 267
2018	0	0	2 551	385	0	2 936
2019	0	0	0	2 177	0	2 177
2020	0	0	0	1 060	1	1 061
2021 (as at 28 February)	0	0	0	143	0	143
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10 091</b>	<b>22 014</b>	<b>3 765</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35 897</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Diesel heavy goods vehicle				Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI	
1997	1	0	0	0	1
1998	1	0	0	0	1
2002	1	0	0	0	1
2006	0	8	0	0	8
2007	0	57	0	0	57
2008	0	98	0	0	98
2009	0	121	0	0	121
2010	0	351	0	0	351
2011	0	512	0	0	512
2012	0	253	450	0	703
2013	0	0	677	0	677
2014	0	0	711	0	711
2015	0	0	1 018	0	1 018
2016	0	0	791	0	791
2017	0	0	688	0	688
2018	0	0	502	50	552
2019	0	0	0	236	236
2020	0	0	0	257	257
2021 (as at 28 February)	0	0	0	56	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1 400</b>	<b>4 837</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>6 839</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Diesel non-franchised public bus				Electric non-franchised public bus	Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI		
2001	3	0	0	0	0	3
2002	13	0	0	0	0	13
2003	2	0	0	0	0	2
2006	1	28	0	0	0	29
2007	0	239	0	0	0	239
2008	0	445	0	0	0	445
2009	0	291	0	0	0	291
2010	0	411	0	0	0	411
2011	0	442	0	0	0	442
2012	0	206	425	0	0	631
2013	0	0	482	0	0	482
2014	0	0	697	0	1	698
2015	0	0	729	0	1	730
2016	0	0	799	0	0	799
2017	0	0	648	0	2	650
2018	0	0	526	93	0	619
2019	0	0	98	347	2	447
2020	0	0	101	71	0	172
2021 (as at 28 February)	0	0	66	21	0	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2 062</b>	<b>4 571</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 190</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Diesel private bus				Electric private bus	Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI		
<b>2002</b>	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>2006</b>	1	5	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
<b>2007</b>	0	20	0	0	0	<b>20</b>
<b>2008</b>	0	24	0	0	0	<b>24</b>
<b>2009</b>	0	42	0	0	0	<b>42</b>
<b>2010</b>	0	64	0	0	0	<b>64</b>
<b>2011</b>	0	23	0	0	0	<b>23</b>
<b>2012</b>	0	44	41	0	0	<b>85</b>
<b>2013</b>	0	0	55	0	1	<b>56</b>
<b>2014</b>	0	0	50	0	0	<b>50</b>
<b>2015</b>	0	0	63	0	1	<b>64</b>
<b>2016</b>	0	0	89	0	0	<b>89</b>
<b>2017</b>	0	0	67	0	0	<b>67</b>
<b>2018</b>	0	0	49	1	0	<b>50</b>
<b>2019</b>	0	0	45	19	0	<b>64</b>
<b>2020</b>	0	0	31	4	0	<b>35</b>
<b>2021</b> (as at 28 February)	0	0	16	1	0	<b>17</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>757</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

Year of first registration (Note 1)	Diesel franchised bus				Electric franchised bus	Total (Note 2)
	Euro III or before	Euro IV	Euro V	Euro VI		
2000	2	0	0	0	0	2
2001	9	0	0	0	0	9
2002	2	0	0	0	0	2
2003	138	0	0	0	0	138
2004	175	0	0	0	0	175
2005	53	0	0	0	0	53
2006	104	18	0	0	0	122
2007	0	72	0	0	0	72
2008	0	50	0	0	0	50
2009	0	95	0	0	0	95
2010	0	221	0	0	0	221
2011	0	333	0	0	0	333
2012	0	117	137	0	0	254
2013	0	0	453	0	0	453
2014	0	0	446	0	0	446
2015	0	0	857	0	8	865
2016	0	0	836	0	5	841
2017	0	0	684	0	15	699
2018	0	0	564	83	5	652
2019	0	0	0	313	1	314
2020	0	0	0	289	0	289
2021 (as at 28 February)	0	0	0	69	0	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>3 977</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6 154</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.



Year of first registration (Note 1)	Petrol specialised vehicle	Diesel specialised vehicle	Electric specialised vehicle	LPG specialised vehicle	Others	Total (Note 2)
1980	0	1	0	0	0	1
1986	0	1	0	0	0	1
1987	0	1	0	0	0	1
1988	0	3	0	0	0	3
1989	0	0	1	0	0	1
1990	1	4	0	0	0	5
1991	0	12	1	0	0	13
1992	0	11	0	0	0	11
1993	0	14	0	0	0	14
1994	1	20	0	0	0	21
1995	1	20	0	0	2	23
1996	5	25	0	0	0	30
1997	2	28	0	0	0	30
1998	5	25	0	0	0	30
1999	0	30	0	2	0	32
2000	0	30	0	2	0	32
2001	1	44	1	1	0	47
2002	1	33	0	1	0	35
2003	4	33	0	1	0	38
2004	3	51	3	5	0	62
2005	4	65	2	6	0	77
2006	3	26	6	10	0	45
2007	9	23	3	13	0	48
2008	4	75	3	7	0	89
2009	2	51	5	13	0	71
2010	2	51	5	14	0	72
2011	2	79	11	9	0	101
2012	0	68	10	7	0	85
2013	5	112	15	7	0	139
2014	3	75	6	5	0	89
2015	1	81	7	12	0	101
2016	1	152	4	18	0	175
2017	0	114	11	19	0	144
2018	1	145	5	17	0	168
2019	2	128	5	13	0	148
2020	0	98	9	12	0	119
2021 (as at 28 February)	0	12	0	0	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1 741</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 113</b>

Note 1: The first registration dates of the vehicles will be used for distinguishing vehicles of different emission standards.

Note 2: Hybrid electric (commonly known as “hybrid”) vehicles are included in their corresponding fuel types.

- B) A number of leading economies in electric vehicle (EV) adoption have announced targets for 100% zero emission vehicle sales for private cars (PCs) in the next decade or two. Many car manufacturers have also set a target year for terminating the production of fuel-propelled PCs. Taking into account the global trend to promote EVs, the Environment Bureau announced Hong Kong's first "Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles" in March, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of EVs and their associated supporting facilities. The key measures include ceasing the new registration of fuel-propelled PCs, including plug-in hybrids and non plug-in hybrids, in 2035 or earlier. This target will prompt stakeholders to prepare for better transition to EVs. For instance, public and private organisations can plan for charging facilities accordingly, while more models of e-PCs of different price levels and performance can be timely introduced into the market. Furthermore, post-secondary institutions and the Vocational Training Council can offer training and re-training to professionals and technicians in the repair and maintenance sector. Car manufacturers and importers can also plan for the recycling arrangement of EV batteries with the recycling trade. We anticipate that EV technologies, in particular those on commercial and heavy vehicles, will continue to develop rapidly in the years to come. The strategies of promoting EVs will also have to be adjusted, taking into account technological, environmental, social and economic developments. In this connection, the Roadmap is a document keeping up with the times. We will review the strategies, measures and effectiveness in the Roadmap around every 5 years and provide a timely update in order to achieve the target.
- C) To improve roadside air quality and protect public health, our standing policy is to tighten the emission standards of first-registered motor vehicles, with reference to latest international developments and the supply of compliant vehicles to Hong Kong. The Government has tightened the emission standards for first-registered motor vehicles (except for diesel PCs, motorcycles and tricycles) from Euro V to Euro VI in phases starting from 1 July 2017, and for first-registered diesel PCs from California LEV II to LEV III starting from 1 October 2017. As for first-registered motorcycles, their emission standards have been tightened to Euro 4 starting from 1 October 2020. In assessing vehicle type approval (exhaust emission) applications, we also accept vehicle emission standards of other places (such as the Mainland China, the USA or Japan) of equivalent or higher stringency as the above statutory emission standards.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB134****(Question Serial No. 2052)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme, please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the respective number of quick, medium and slow electric vehicle (EV) chargers across the territory at present;
- (b) the number of applications received, the number of additional charging facilities provided under the Scheme (please list by quick, medium and slow EV charger), and the number of housing estates involved since the introduction of the Scheme.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)Reply:

- (a) The numbers of public electric vehicle (EV) chargers with a breakdown by 18 districts of Hong Kong as at the end of December 2020 are as follows:

District	No. of public chargers			
	Standard	Medium	Quick	Sub-total
Central & Western	63	159	42	264
Eastern	25	110	56	191
Southern	4	17	34	55
Wan Chai	66	118	37	221
Kowloon City	66	30	18	114
Kwun Tong	554	208	65	827
Sham Shui Po	35	123	74	232
Wong Tai Sin	24	48	12	84
Yau Tsim Mong	69	120	67	256
Kwai Tsing	21	20	34	75

District	No. of public chargers			Sub-total
	Standard	Medium	Quick	
Tsuen Wan	18	182	37	237
Sai Kung	24	52	33	109
North	73	28	12	113
Tai Po	28	6	5	39
Sha Tin	72	67	50	189
Yuen Long	56	33	18	107
Tuen Mun	12	19	20	51
Islands	42	116	29	187
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 252</b>	<b>1 456</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>3 351</b>

- (b) The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. The power supply rating of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure to be installed under the EHSS will enable vehicle owners to install medium-speed chargers to charge their EVs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB135**

**(Question Serial No. 2053)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Administration launched the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme in 2019. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

- (a) the numbers of applications received and approved so far since the launch of the scheme;
- (b) the expenditure and establishment for the 2021-22 financial year.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

- (a) The Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) has received a total of 28 applications since its establishment in October 2019, among which 17 were approved. For the remaining applications, 4 were assessed to be ineligible and the other 7 were not supported by the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation (ACCC).
- (b) The estimate for the CCFS for 2021-22 is \$80 million, which is mainly used to cover the cash flow requirement of approved projects under the CCFS in the year. The Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) under the Environmental Protection Department provides secretariat support to the CCFS. There are 24 civil service posts of various grades in the CCO responsible for implementing the CCFS; providing secretariat support to the ACCC; carrying out suitable minor improvement works in the 2 pilot areas (Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung); discussing with other bureaux/departments to facilitate the application for licences for guesthouses and catering businesses in the countryside, with a view to improving the infrastructure of Lai Chi Wo, Sha Lo Tung and other remote countryside areas.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB136****(Question Serial No. 2054)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

With regard to the usage of landfills, please inform this Committee for the past 3 years:

(a) of the number of refuse collection vehicle trips per day for waste delivery to various landfills by land;

(b) of the respective number of complaints received about the 3 landfills. Please list the numbers by odour, noise, water quality and others.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)Reply:

(a) The quantities and proportion of waste delivered by land and by sea to the 3 strategic landfills in Hong Kong, and the number of refuse collection vehicle (RCV) trips entering the 3 strategic landfills per day in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill		South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill <sup>(2)</sup>		West New Territories (WENT) Landfill <sup>(3)</sup>			
	By land		By land		By land		By sea	Total
	Tonnes per day	Number of RCV trips per day	Tonnes per day	Number of RCV trips per day	Tonnes per day (%)	Number of RCV trips per day	Tonnes per day (%)	Tonnes per day
2018	5 046	743	2 140	493	3 103 (35%)	340	5 806 (65%)	8 909
2019	5 180	733	2 065	475	2 707 (32%)	303	5 684 (68%)	8 391
2020	6 363	776	2 001	432	1 057 (17%)	194	5 318 (83%)	6 375

## Notes:

- (1) The figures in the table above have been rounded off.
- (2) Since 6 January 2016, the SENT Landfill has only received construction waste.
- (3) Only the WENT Landfill received waste delivered by sea.

- (b) The numbers and types of environmental complaints related to the 3 strategic landfills received by the Environmental Protection Department in the past 3 years are set out below:

NENT Landfill

Year	Number of complaints by type				
	Air	Noise	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2019	1	0	2	0	0
2020	1	0	0	0	0

SENT Landfill

Year	Number of complaints by type				
	Air	Noise	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
2018	8	0	0	0	0
2019	13	0	0	0	1
2020	9	0	0	0	0

WENT Landfill

Year	Number of complaints by type				
	Air	Noise	Wastewater	Waste	Miscellaneous
2018	8	0	4	0	4
2019	6	1	1	0	0
2020	4	0	0	0	1

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB137**

**(Question Serial No. 2055)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the development of a community recycling network, please advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure in this respect for 2021-22?
- (b) Please set out the number of collection points, with a breakdown by District Council district.
- (c) What were the quantities of recyclables collected through the community recycling network in the past 3 years?
- (d) Please set out the number of collection points to be added in 2021-22, with a breakdown by District Council district.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

To strengthen the support for waste reduction and recycling at district level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is actively expanding the new community recycling network, namely GREEN@COMMUNITY, by setting up Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores, as well as their Recycling Spots operating at fixed locations on weekly schedules in 18 districts across the territory. In 2021-22, the estimated expenditure in this regard is about \$277 million.

The distribution of the 9 Recycling Stations and the 22 Recycling Stores in the 18 districts across the territory is tabulated below. As for the specific locations of the remaining 100-odd Recycling Spots, please refer to the "Waste Less" mobile application.

**Hong Kong Island**

Eastern District	GREEN@EASTERN, GREEN@QUARRY BAY
Central & Western District	GREEN@SHEUNG WAN, GREEN@SAI YING PUN
Southern District	GREEN@TIN WAN
Wan Chai	GREEN@TIN HAU



### **Kowloon**

Kowloon City	GREEN@WALLED CITY, GREEN@TO KWA WAN, GREEN@HUNG HOM
Kwun Tong	GREEN@KWUN TONG, GREEN@YUE MAN SQUARE
Sham Shui Po	GREEN@SHAM SHUI PO, GREEN@CHEUNG SHA WAN
Wong Tai Sin	GREEN@SAN PO KONG
Yau Tsim Mong	GREEN@TAI KOK TSUI

### **New Territories**

Islands	GREEN@ISLANDS, GREEN@MUI WO
Kwai Tsing	GREEN@KWAI TSING, GREEN@KWAI CHUNG
North District	GREEN@FANLING, GREEN@SHEK WU HUI
Sai Kung	GREEN@PO LAM
Sha Tin	GREEN@SHA TIN, GREEN@TAI WAI
Tai Po	GREEN@TAI PO, GREEN@TAI PO MARKET
Tsuen Wan	GREEN@LO TAK COURT
Tuen Mun	GREEN@TUEN MUN, GREEN@SAN HUI
Yuen Long	GREEN@YUEN LONG, GREEN@YUEN LONG HUI

The total quantities of recyclables collected by the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores in the past 3 years are set out below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recycling Stations and their Recycling Spots (tonnes)</b>	<b>Recycling Stores (Note 1) and their Recycling Spots (tonnes)</b>
2020	about 3 200	about 750
2019	about 2 800	-
2018	about 2 100	-

Note 1: 22 Recycling Stores have gradually started operation since the fourth quarter of 2020.

In addition, it is expected that 2 new Recycling Stations, namely GREEN@SAI KUNG and GREEN@WAN CHAI, will commence operation in 2021-22. The EPD is reviewing the operation of Recycling Stores and the specific demand for recycling facilities in individual districts with a view to considering the provision of more Recycling Stores.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB138**

**(Question Serial No. 2056)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in the Budget Speech that the Government will take the lead to use more electric vehicles (EVs). In this connection, will the Administration advise this Committee on the following:

- (a) What are the respective numbers of fuel-propelled vehicles and EVs in the government fleet at present?
- (b) What are the respective numbers of fuel-propelled vehicles and EVs expected to be procured by the Government in 2021-22?
- (c) Apart from EVs, will the Government consider using other environmentally-friendly vehicles when promoting new energy transport? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (a) According to the data provided by the Government Logistics Department, as at the end of December 2020, there were a total of 6 536 fuel-propelled vehicles and 169 electric vehicles (EVs) in the government fleet, among which 133 were cars, accounting for about 8% of the total number of government cars, which was higher than the overall ratio (2.7%) of local electric private cars to the total number of private cars in the same period.
- (b) It is estimated that the Government will procure about 550 vehicles for various departments in 2021, including 306 cars. 28 cars will be EVs, accounting for about 9.2% of the total number of cars.
- (c) Besides promoting the use of EVs, the Government has all along been paying close attention to the development of new energy vehicles across the world, and keeps an open mind on the introduction of other new energy vehicles, such as hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles offer an attractive new energy vehicle alternative, especially for heavy commercial vehicles, given their long travel range and

fast refueling comparing with battery EVs. However, given Hong Kong's high urban density, it would be a challenge to locate sufficient and proper sites for setting up necessary infrastructures such as hydrogen filling stations in addition to EV charging network. On the other hand, as battery EVs are more mature technologically, we will put more emphasis on battery EVs in the course of promoting Hong Kong's transition to adoption of new energy vehicles. We will keep abreast of the development of new energy vehicles and will refine our policy direction as required in good time.

The Government has put in place a New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) (previously known as Pilot Green Transport Fund) since March 2011 to subsidise the transport sector to try out green innovative transport technologies. Besides EVs, as at the end of January 2021, the NET Fund has approved 71 trials for hybrid commercial vehicles, involving a total of 103 hybrid vehicles, including 48 light goods vehicles, 27 medium goods vehicles, 26 light buses and 2 single-deck buses.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB139****(Question Serial No. 2057)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding waste management and resources recovery, please advise on:

- (a) the quantities of the 8 types of recyclables recovered in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) whether the whereabouts of recyclables have been traced to ensure that the recyclables recovered would be delivered to the appropriate facilities for recycling; if yes, of the details; if not, of the reasons.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)Reply:

- (a) With the support of the Environment and Conservation Fund, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Environmental Campaign Committee launched a two-year publicity and promotional campaign for waste reduction and recycling called "Reduce and Recycle 2.0" Campaign in mid-2020. The Campaign educates the public on how to reduce waste as well as separate the 8 common types of recyclables (including plastics, glass bottles, paper, metals, regulated electrical equipment (REE), small electrical appliances, rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent lamps and fluorescent tubes) for recycling, so as to put into practice the concept of "Save More, Recycle More".

According to the reports on "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong" compiled by the EPD, the statistics on the quantities of the above 8 types of recyclables recovered from municipal solid waste in the past 3 years are set out as follows. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation.

Type of recyclables	2017	2018	2019
	thousand tonnes		
Paper	792	695	532
Metals	834	916	892
Plastics	116	64	77
Glass <sup>(1)</sup>	11	15	21

Type of recyclables	2017	2018	2019
	thousand tonnes		
REE and small electrical appliances <sup>(2)</sup>	49	42	47
Compact fluorescent lamps and fluorescent tubes <sup>(3)</sup>	Not applicable		
Rechargeable batteries <sup>(3)</sup>	Not applicable		

Notes:

- (1) Glass beverage bottles recovered for reuse through deposit-and-refund system operated by local beverage manufacturers are not included.
  - (2) The EPD does not have a breakdown of the quantities of REE and small electrical appliances recovered.
  - (3) The reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the EPD do not have the figures on the quantities of compact fluorescent lamps and fluorescent tubes and rechargeable batteries recovered. The compact fluorescent lamps and fluorescent tubes and rechargeable batteries are recovered through recycling programmes funded and managed by the trade:
    - (a) The recycling programmes managed by the trade collected 437 000 pieces, 478 000 pieces and 454 000 pieces of compact fluorescent lamps and fluorescent tubes in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively;
    - (b) The recycling programmes managed by the trade collected and treated 126 tonnes, 73 tonnes and 40 tonnes of rechargeable batteries in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- (b) The EPD has introduced collection and recycling services for different types of recyclables, such as waste plastics, waste paper, waste glass containers, REE, etc. Contractors are required under relevant service contracts to properly process the recyclables collected instead of disposing of them as waste, and their service fee is calculated on the basis of the actual quantity recovered. Likewise, the 8 types of recyclables collected by the community recycling network, namely GREEN@COMMUNITY, under the EPD must be delivered to downstream recyclers approved by the EPD for processing in accordance with relevant service contracts. As for the private recycling services arranged by property management companies, residents’ associations, etc., the Green Outreach of the EPD will provide on-site support to them on waste reduction and recycling, including assisting them to find downstream recyclers for proper processing and recycling of the recyclables.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB140**

**(Question Serial No. 1578)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 under this Programme that the Department will “continue to implement the territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services to collect waste paper for further processing and selling to various markets for recycling, to ensure a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper”. Please advise on the following:

- (a) What were the quantity recovered and re-use rate of local waste paper in the past year?
- (b) Which markets are the outlet for local waste paper at the present stage?
- (c) Can the revenue from sale of recycled paper cover the collection and recycling costs?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

According to the reports on “Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong” compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the quantity of waste paper recovered was 530 000 tonnes and the recovery rate was 35% in 2019. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation. Local waste paper is mainly delivered outside Hong Kong, including Southeast Asia, for recycling.

In recent years, the downturn of the external recycling market has adversely affected our local overall recycling performance, posing a huge challenge to our recycling industry. To enhance the quality and quantity of local recycled waste paper, promote the sustainable development of the local waste paper recycling industry and ensure a steadier income for frontline waste paper collectors, the EPD launched the waste paper collection and recycling services for the first time in September 2020 and awarded service contracts to 17 contractors through open tendering to collect waste paper (cardboards, newspapers and office papers) from street corner recycling shops, mobile recyclers, frontline collectors, etc. across the territory. The waste paper will undergo a process of screening, sorting and baling, etc. locally before being sold to various markets for recycling to paper products, thus turning waste into resources. Since the launch of the central collection and recycling services, the waste paper recycling market has been active and the response has been positive. The

income of the contractors is now sufficient to cover their recycling cost and support their continuous operation. The frontline market price of waste paper has also increased gradually, stabilising the income of the frontline collectors.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB141**

**(Question Serial No. 2500)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. Please advise on the overall Water Quality Objective compliance rates of Victoria Harbour over the past 3 years, as well as the target for this year.
2. Please give an account of the staffing, salaries and total expenditures involved in the water quality monitoring programme over the past 3 years and to be involved in the coming year.
3. Please give an account of the Government's work to enhance and improve the marine water quality, in particular the water quality of Victoria Harbour, as well as the expenditures involved/to be involved over the past 3 years and in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 167)

Reply:

In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the overall Water Quality Objective compliance rates of Victoria Harbour were 97%, 97% and 90% respectively. It is anticipated that the figure for the coming year will remain at a similarly high level.

In the past 3 years (i.e. the 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years), the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) implemented a water quality monitoring programme through a total of 291 monitoring stations to monitor regularly inland water quality in 30 rivers, marine water quality and sediment in 10 water control zones, as well as water quality in 41 gazetted beaches and 3 non-gazetted beaches. The relevant work was undertaken by 2 teams each led by a Senior Environmental Protection Officer, and supported by an environmental microbiology laboratory conducting *E. coli* tests for water samples. The staff establishment was about 45, and the total expenditure on the territory-wide routine water quality monitoring programme over the past 3 years was about \$19.6 million. It is anticipated that the staff establishment and expenditure to be involved will be similar in the coming year.

Since 2018, the Finance Committee has already approved a total of about \$33.5 billion for the Government to conduct 22 major sewerage infrastructure projects, including the



upgrading of existing sewage treatment works, extension of public sewer network, construction of dry weather flow interceptors and rehabilitation of ageing underground sewers, etc. Among them, 7 projects are related to the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone. In the coming year, the Government will continue to apply for \$3 billion from the Finance Committee to launch another 6 sewerage infrastructure projects, 1 of which is related to the Victoria Harbour Water Control Zone.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB142**

**(Question Serial No. 2516)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Chief Executive mentioned in the 2018 Policy Address that more water dispensers would be installed in government venues to inculcate a “bring your own bottle” culture. In this connection, please advise on the following:

What were the numbers of public water dispensers in government venues in the past 3 years, and what are the estimated number of additional public water dispensers to be installed in the coming year (broken down by department responsible for management of the venues), as well as the expenditures involved?

What measures have been taken over the past 3 years/will be taken in the coming year to encourage members of the public to bring their own bottles, and the expenditures involved/to be involved?

Facing the novel coronavirus pandemic, members of the public are concerned about the health risk of using water dispensers in public venues. What responding measures have been/will be implemented by the Government?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

To inculcate a living culture of “bring your own bottle” in the public, the Government has been progressively installing 500 more water dispensers in government venues since 2019 and the target is to increase the number of water dispensers to about 3 200 units by 2022 for public use in government venues. The Government has earmarked some \$82 million and \$32 million respectively for the costs of installing 500 new water dispensers and procuring their five-year maintenance service. We have already completed the installation of the first batch of about 100 water dispensers. Currently, there are about 2 800 water dispensers serving the public in government venues. They are mostly installed at the active leisure facilities under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, such as sports centres, sports grounds and swimming pools, etc. Subject to the actual work progress, it is expected that the second batch of about 200 additional water dispensers will be installed within 2021. The distribution of the first batch of water dispensers installed is as follows:

Department responsible for managing the venues	Number of water dispensers
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	83
Home Affairs Department	14
Other departments	7
Total	104

Since 20 February 2018, sale of plastic bottled water measuring 1 litre or less has been progressively ceased in automatic vending machines (AVMs) in government venues. Over 90% of about 1 600 AVMs installed in government premises have put in place the above stop-sale arrangement. The remaining AVMs will gradually implement the stop-sale arrangement by renewing existing relevant contracts, lease/tenancy agreements or permissions etc. Besides, the Environmental Protection Department will launch a pilot scheme to encourage students to inculcate a living culture of “bring your own bottle”. We will provide smart water dispensers with their exteriors designed by students to about 80 primary and secondary school campuses via contractors, and support the schools to carry out relevant education and experiential activities, such as signing a charter to cease the sale of bottled water, for conveying green messages such as waste reduction at source and clean recycling to students in an interactive approach. We have largely completed the tendering work and anticipate that the scheme will commence progressively in mid-2021. The estimated total expenditure of this project is about \$25 million.

The Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health has updated the Health Advice on Using Water Dispensers in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Various government departments will follow the advice to manage the water dispensers in government venues, such as performing regular cleaning and disinfection according to manufacturer’s recommendations, performing regular flushing on a daily basis or according to manufacturer’s recommendations to minimise microbial growth, displaying signage of relevant health advice in conspicuous areas, etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB143****(Question Serial No. 2567)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

What was the number of ocean-going vessels (OGVs) at berth in each of the past 5 years? What were the numbers of surprise inspections to OGVs conducted by the Environmental Protection Department to ensure that the vessels had complied with the Air Pollution Control (Ocean Going Vessels) (Fuel at Berth) Regulation? How many non-compliance cases were discovered? How many people were prosecuted and convicted?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)Reply:

To reduce emissions from vessels, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) implemented the Air Pollution Control (Fuel for Vessels) Regulation on 1 January 2019, requiring all vessels (including ocean-going vessels (OGVs), river trade and local vessels) to use compliant fuel, such as fuel with sulphur content not exceeding 0.5% or liquefied natural gas, irrespective of whether they are sailing or berthing in Hong Kong waters. The Air Pollution Control (Ocean Going Vessels) (Fuel at Berth) Regulation, which took effect from 1 July 2015, was superseded by the Air Pollution Control (Fuel for Vessels) Regulation on 1 January 2019.

According to records, the numbers of OGVs at berth in the past 5 years are set out in the table below:

Year	Number of OGVs at berth
2016	25 372
2017	24 252
2018	23 463
2019	23 772
2020	19 606

To ensure that OGVs comply with the Regulation, in accordance with international practices, the EPD conducts surprise inspections to OGVs at berth, including the inspection of fuel-switch records and collection of fuel samples for analysing the sulphur content when necessary. The inspection results showed that most vessels had complied with the regulation and had switched to use low-sulphur marine fuel before entering Hong Kong waters. The information on the inspections and prosecutions is set out in the table below:

Regulation	Air Pollution Control (Ocean Going Vessels) (Fuel at Berth) Regulation	Air Pollution Control (Fuel for Vessels) Regulation
Inspection date	From 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2018	From 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020
Number of vessels inspected	383	220*
Number of prosecutions	6	3
Amount of fines	\$5,000 to \$15,000	\$5,000 to \$10,000

\* Under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPD suspended the inspections to OGVs starting from February 2020 to safeguard the health of crew members and enforcement officials and to prevent the virus from spreading in the community. As a result, the number of inspections to the vessels in the period has declined. During this period, the EPD has requested the vessels to submit bunker delivery notes, logbooks, and fuel testing reports issued by the third party (if applicable) through electronic means for preliminary screening. Up till now, the vessels have complied with the Air Pollution Control (Fuel for Vessels) Regulation, and have used low-sulphur fuel within Hong Kong waters. The EPD will review the above arrangements in a timely manner having regard to the latest pandemic situation.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB144**

**(Question Serial No. 2582)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What is the latest implementation progress of the pilot scheme for electric ferries? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 120)

Reply:

The Government is preparing to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries (pilot scheme) in 4 in-harbour ferry routes with a view to testing the technical viability of adopting electric ferries (e-ferries) in Hong Kong, and exploring whether conventional ferries can be replaced by new energy ferries in the long run. The Government will provide full subsidies to the ferry operators for the construction of 4 brand new e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, as well as the operational, maintenance and repair expenditures involved for testing the e-ferries during the 24-month trial period. The Government has earmarked \$350 million for launching the pilot scheme. The actual expenditure will depend on the capital costs and operational costs of the e-ferries.

The Government has established an inter-departmental working group to work out the details of the pilot scheme, oversee its progress and evaluate the performance of the new e-ferries. We expect to devise design proposals for e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, sign “subsidy agreements” for the pilot scheme with operators and conduct an open tender exercise for the construction of e-ferries in 2021-22. Taking into account the lead time to construct the e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, we initially anticipate that the pilot scheme can commence in 2023. The work on implementing the pilot scheme is absorbed by the existing resources of the Environmental Protection Department.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB145**

**(Question Serial No. 2592)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the progress of the Community Green Stations (CGSs) implemented in 18 districts across the territory, please advise on;  
the staffing establishment tasked/to be tasked with implementing and monitoring the CGSs and the expenditure involved/to be involved in the past 3 years and the coming year;  
the quantities of recyclables collected by each of the CGSs (please provide a breakdown by type of recyclables), the numbers of educational activities organised and the numbers of visitors in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 139)

Reply:

To strengthen recycling support at district level, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is continuously expanding the new community recycling network, namely GREEN@COMMUNITY, which comprises 9 Recycling Stations focusing on both environmental protection education and recycling support, 22 Recycling Stores located in close proximity of residential areas, and more than 100 Recycling Spots operating at fixed locations on weekly schedules. All of which have commenced operation successively, covering all 18 districts in the territory and accepting different types of recyclables.

The 22 Recycling Stores that have progressively commenced operation in the fourth quarter of 2020 collected a total of more than 750 tonnes of recyclables in the first quarter. Among the recyclables collected, about 70% were plastics, 15% were waste paper, 10% were glass containers, the remaining recyclables were metals, regulated electrical equipment, small electrical appliances, compact fluorescent lamps, fluorescent tubes and rechargeable batteries, etc. The Recycling Stores have attracted more than 50 000 visitors. Moreover, the quantities of various types of recyclables collected, the numbers of educational activities organised and the numbers of visitors in respect of the Recycling Stations in the past 3 years are set out below:

	2018	2019	2020
Quantity of various types of recyclables collected (tonnes)			
Electrical appliances and computer products	304	432	562
Glass containers	1 556	1 947	2 008
Rechargeable batteries	5	7	9
Compact fluorescent lamps/fluorescent tubes	16	23	22
Waste paper	90	149	275
Waste plastics	59	126	240
Waste metals	13	23	47
Number of visitors and number of educational activities organised			
Approximate number of visitors	320 200	498 500	483 500
Number of educational activities	1 202	1 514	871

At present, a total of 26 non-directorate professional staff are tasked with implementing and monitoring the operation of the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores, including 24 permanent posts and 2 time-limited posts. The total operating expenditures and estimated expenditures for Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores under the GREEN@COMMUNITY are set out below:

Financial year	Expenditure/estimated expenditure (Note 1)	
	Recycling Stations	Recycling Stores
2018-19	\$24 million	Not applicable (Note 2)
2019-20	\$31 million	Not applicable (Note 2)
2020-21	\$42 million	\$127 million
2021-22	\$48 million	\$229 million

Note 1: Including the 100-odd Recycling Spots operated by the Recycling Stations and Recycling Stores.

Note 2: 22 Recycling Stores have progressively commenced operation in the fourth quarter of 2020.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB146**

**(Question Serial No. 0330)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 147 of the Budget Speech that the Government will inject an additional funding of \$1 billion to the Recycling Fund and extend the application period to 2027 so as to render continuous support to the trade in enhancing its operational capabilities and efficiency. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the number of applications received by the Fund, the number of projects approved, the amount of funding involved, the types of recyclables collected in the projects and their quantities processed so far?
2. According to the report on "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong" published at the end of last year, the disposal rate of municipal solid waste was 1.47 kg/person/day in 2019, which lags quite far behind the target of reducing it to 0.8 kg in 2022 as proposed in "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022". Has the Administration assessed the reasons for the slow progress in waste reduction? If yes, what follow-up actions have been taken?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. The Government launched the Recycling Fund in October 2015. As at January 2021, the Recycling Fund approved about 1 670 applications, involving a total funding of about \$600 million. Among others, the One-off Rental Support Scheme and the One-off Recycling Industry Anti-epidemic Scheme were launched under the Recycling Fund in 2019 and 2020 respectively to provide rental support and anti-epidemic subsidies to help the recycling industry cope with operational difficulties. The schemes have approved more than 1 300 applications and disbursed over \$206 million in total. The types and quantities of recyclables processed in other projects under the Industry Support Programme and Enterprise Support Programme are set out in the table below:

Type of recyclables	Quantity processed in the project (tonnes) <sup>(1)</sup>
Wood waste	54 900
Waste metals	37 100
Food waste/Waste cooking oil	32 400
Construction waste	45 700
Waste tyres	2 800
Waste paper	3 600
Waste plastics	10 000
Waste electrical and electronic equipment	5 200
Used clothes	200
Others (including compact discs, beverage cartons and spent lubricating oil, etc.)	2 800
<b>Total</b>	<b>194 700</b>

Note (1): The figures are rounded to the nearest hundred (figures as at the end of 2020).

- In May 2013, the Government unveiled the “Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022” to tackle waste problems from a resources circulation perspective, and to achieve the goal of “Use Less, Waste Less” through various initiatives in three main aspects, namely policies and legislation, social mobilisation and investing in infrastructure. Except for the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Charging Bill that is being examined by the Legislative Council, other key actions have been carried out with good progress. Additional initiatives have also been introduced. Despite the fact that each of the initiatives brings certain effectiveness, the implementation progress and the actual effectiveness of policies and measures are subject to many factors such as economic development, the extent and pace of behavioural changes of the general public as well as stakeholders’ support for the measures and their participation etc. In particular, the implementation of MSW charging is crucial to the Government’s overall waste reduction strategy and is an essential basis for setting the target of the per capita disposal rate. While striving to implement various initiatives, we have also faced many unprecedented and unpredictable challenges. For instance, the downturn in external recycling market have affected the global recycling performance, including that of Hong Kong. All these factors will affect the achievement of the waste reduction target. On the whole, bolder measures are required to promote waste reduction and the key rests with MSW charging.

The Government announced a new long-term strategy blueprint on waste management entitled the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” on 8 February this year. Setting out the vision of “Waste Reduction · Resources Circulation · Zero Landfill”, the blueprint outlines the strategies, goals and measures to tackle the challenge of waste management up to 2035, including stepping up efforts to mobilise the entire community to practise waste reduction and implementing measures for achieving waste reduction and recycling on a considerably larger scale, thereby promoting

transformation of waste into resources, and formulating strategies to progressively move away from over-reliance on landfills.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB147**

**(Question Serial No. 0331)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Department's work on promoting the reduction and recycling of food waste, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What were the disposal quantities and recovery rates of commercial and industrial food waste and domestic food waste and their percentages in the municipal solid waste over the past 3 years?
2. The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign was officially launched in 2013. What are the staffing responsible for the Campaign and the total estimated expenditure for 2021-22? Is there any review on whether the effectiveness of the Campaign meets expectations?
3. The Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK1) has commenced operation since mid-2018. What is the annual operating expenditure of the facility? What is the average quantity of food waste handled each month? Does the quantity recovered meet the expected quantity?
4. What are the respective amounts of biogas (to be used for power generation) and compost produced by the facility? Can all the compost produced be used up for landscaping and agricultural applications?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. According to the reports on "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong" compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the quantities of food waste (including domestic food waste and commercial and industrial (C&I) food waste) disposed of at landfills, their recovery rates, and their percentages in the municipal solid waste (MSW) from 2017 to 2019 are tabulated below. The EPD does not have a breakdown of the recovery rates by food waste from domestic and C&I sources. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation.

Year	Domestic food waste	C&I food waste	Overall MSW		
	Daily quantity of disposal (tonnes)	Daily quantity of disposal (tonnes)	Daily quantity of disposal (tonnes)	Percentage in MSW	Recovery rate
2017	2 363	1 299	3 662	34.1%	1.1%
2018	2 418	1 147	3 565	31.2%	2.0%
2019	2 286	1 067	3 353	30.3%	3.6%

2. The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign) has been promoting a “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture and encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste at source in the community through various schemes and activities since its launch in 2013. The contents of the Campaign and the major deliverables include:

The Food Wise Charter – As at February 2021, about 980 organisations have signed the Food Wise Charter and are committed to reducing food waste at source. The signees include public organisations and public utilities, C&I sectors, food and beverage sectors, hotel sector, property development and management sectors, tertiary education institutions, secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens, etc.

The Food Wise Eateries Scheme – The Scheme aims to encourage the food and beverage sectors to reduce food waste at source together with customers through offering food in different portion sizes and adopting food waste reduction measures. As at February 2021, about 320 and 800 eateries have been awarded with gold class and silver class status respectively.

“Food Wise” Talk – As at February 2021, 127 “Food Wise” talks were held by the Government with a total of over 11 600 participants. The talks helped promote the “Food Wise” messages and mainly introduced food waste issues, reduction of food waste at source, treatment of food waste, food waste separation and recycling, promotion of using less disposable plastic tableware, etc.

The “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages – The “Big Waster” symbolising food wastage in the Campaign has strengthened interaction with the public through the Facebook and Instagram pages in which relevant information, including details about food waste reduction, is provided. Up to February 2021, the “Big Waster” Facebook has received more than 69 000 “likes” and there are over 10 900 “followers” on Instagram.

Publicity activities – To publicise messages related to reduction of food waste and promotion of using less disposable plastic tableware through online platforms and mobile applications, public transport network, television and radio stations, “Big Waster” posters, leaflets and slogans.

We are pleased to see that since the implementation of the Campaign, the per capita disposal of domestic food waste has decreased by 17% from 0.37 kg per day in 2013 to 0.30 kg in 2019. The Government will continue to promote the “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture through enhancing the above schemes and activities. In 2021-22, the estimated total expenditure on the Campaign is about \$6.4 million, and the manpower involved will be absorbed by the existing establishment.

3. The Organic Resources Recovery Centre Phase 1 (O·PARK1) treated an average of 2 847 tonnes of food waste each month in 2020. The total operating expenditure in 2020-21 was about \$58 million.

The EPD has launched the first phase of the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection (the Pilot Scheme) since July 2018, focusing on food waste generated from the C&I and public sectors with a view to drawing up the major operation and logistics arrangements for the collection and delivery of food waste to O·PARK1 which commenced operation in the same month. As local economic activities in the C&I sectors have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the harder-hit catering industry, there is a drop in the overall quantity of food waste generated in Hong Kong. However, with the continuous active support and participation of C&I organisations in the Pilot Scheme, O·PARK1 has managed to receive around 90 to 100 tonnes of food waste each day, and the quantity has progressively risen to about 110 tonnes recently, making the anticipated progress. We plan to roll out the second phase of the Pilot Scheme on a larger scale this year, and will progressively collect domestic food waste on a trial basis, in the hope that the daily quantity of food waste collected will gradually reach 250 tonnes in 2022. The food waste collected will be delivered to O·PARK1 and the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works for the Food Waste/Sewage Sludge Anaerobic Co-digestion Trial Scheme for treatment, thereby transforming waste into energy.

4. With the adoption of biodegradation technologies in O·PARK1, food waste is transformed into energy and resources. In 2020, O·PARK1 treated a total of about 34 000 tonnes of food waste; and generated about 4.6 million cubic metres of biogas and 8 million kWh of electricity. The facility also produced about 1 300 tonnes of compost, all of which were used within the facility and distributed to local horticultural companies and government departments, etc. for landscaping and greening applications.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB148**

**(Question Serial No. 0382)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The estimated financial provision under this Programme for 2021-22 is \$4.9255 billion, representing an increase of 15.9% over 2020-21. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the reasons for the increase in the estimated financial provision for 2021-22? What priority tasks will be enhanced primarily with the financial provision?
2. One of the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 is to continue to take forward the legislative proposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. What are the expenditure and staffing to be involved in the work concerned?
3. The two targets, amongst others, of the "Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035" are to reduce the per capita MSW disposal by 40% to 45%, and to increase the recovery rate to 55%. If the legislative work for MSW charging cannot be completed within this legislative year, how much impact will it have on the relevant targets?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

1. The estimated financial provision under Programme "Waste" for 2021-22 is \$675.5 million (15.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly for enhancing the following priority tasks:
  - (1) waste management initiatives, including expanding the community recycling network, extending the application of smart recycling system, implementing food waste collection service in the territory, taking forward the preparatory work for municipal solid waste charging (MSW charging); and
  - (2) operation of waste management facilities.
2. We will continue to facilitate the scrutiny of the bill on MSW charging by the relevant Bills Committee of the Legislative Council so as to implement MSW charging according to the "polluter pays" principle. No matter whether the bill will be passed in the current legislative session, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will

continue to carry out publicity and educational work and other preparatory work for the implementation of MSW charging, which include preparing relevant complementary systems, such as a manufacturing, inventory and distribution system for the designated garbage bags/labels, with some 4 000 sales points in the territory; upgrading the infrastructure at the waste reception facilities at landfills and refuse transfer stations to implement the charging mode of “gate-fee”; and carrying out Community Involvement Projects and pilot projects on MSW charging in different types of premises so that participants can try out MSW charging in actual settings and gain first-hand experience in quantity-based charging, which will promote the awareness and acceptance of different stakeholders and members of the public towards waste reduction and MSW charging and prepare them for the implementation of MSW charging in future.

The implementation of the above work by the EPD in the 2021-22 financial year will involve 55 posts. The estimated annual expenditure on salaries involved is about \$45 million, while about \$64 million has been earmarked for the preparatory work for MSW charging.

3. To achieve the waste reduction and recovery targets in the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” (the Blueprint), it is crucial for the entire society to support and actively participate in various government policies on waste reduction and recycling. To effectively delink the close relationship between the amount of waste disposal and economic growth, hence achieving a significant reduction in disposal and an increase in the amount of recycling, society as a whole must support the implementation of bold policies and legislation to achieve the target. MSW charging is the main driving force behind waste reduction, which is crucial to motivating enterprises and the public to practise waste reduction and recycling proactively. According to overseas experience, the amount of waste disposal will be effectively reduced by about 30% when quantity-based charging is implemented initially. Therefore, whether the waste reduction and recovery targets in the Blueprint can be achieved mainly depends on the introduction and implementation of MSW charging as well as other waste reduction and recycling initiatives, including implementing new producer responsibility schemes, expanding recycling network and services, developing new waste management facilities and stepping up on publicity and public education work, etc.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB149**

**(Question Serial No. 0645)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 124 of the 2020 Policy Address that to support “green recovery”, the Environment Bureau is adopting various new environmental protection measures, such as subsidising existing private residential estates to install electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks, expanding the recycling network in all 18 districts in Hong Kong, and introducing the Green Tech Fund, etc. This will not only continuously improve the local environment, but will also create green employment and economic opportunities. It is expected that thousands of jobs will be created with these measures. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the estimated expenditures to be involved in the relevant new environmental protection measures respectively, and the details of the specific economic benefits, economic opportunities and green employment opportunities to be created by these measures respectively in 2021-22?
2. Does the direct economic contribution (value added) of these new environmental protection measures include the direct economic contribution (value added) of environmental industries as defined by the Census and Statistics Department? If yes, what is the estimated proportion of the direct economic contribution of environmental industries in the overall figure?
3. Do these green employment opportunities include the employed population of environmental industries as defined by the Census and Statistics Department? If yes, what is the proportion of environmental industries in the overall figure?
4. What criteria are adopted to assess the effectiveness of the relevant measures in promoting “green recovery” in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

1 and 4. As the novel coronavirus pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to our economy, all departments of the Hong Kong SAR Government are committed to boosting the economy and creating job opportunities for various sectors and trades. The Environment Bureau has adopted a number of new measures on the promotion of

cleaner energy and renewable energy, energy efficiency and green building, green transportation, waste reduction and recycling, green infrastructure, and green innovative technologies. These measures will create green economic and employment opportunities and promote a green recovery.

To promote cleaner energy, the Government has set aside a total of \$3 billion to install small-scale renewable energy systems at government premises and launched the \$300 million Solar Harvest to install solar energy generation systems for schools and welfare organisations. To help various sectors save energy and reduce carbon emissions, the Government introduced the \$600 million Green Schools 2.0 - Energy Smart programme and the \$150 million Green Welfare NGOs programme to conduct energy audits and install energy-saving devices for primary and secondary schools and social welfare organisations. In terms of energy efficient infrastructure, the Government will construct an additional district cooling system in the Kai Tak Development Area, and new district cooling systems in Tung Chung New Town Extension (East) and Kwu Tung North New Development Area respectively. The total construction cost of the 3 projects is about \$14 billion.

In order to promote green transportation, the Government set aside more than \$10 billion last year to launch a series of measures, including the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme and the \$7.1 billion ex-gratia payment scheme to phase out about 40 000 Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles.

On waste management, the Government has implemented various measures on waste reduction and recycling, including collection and recycling services for waste paper, food waste and waste plastic, GREEN@COMMUNITY's recycling network including Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and Recycling Spots, and the reverse vending machine pilot scheme for plastic beverage containers.

As for other environment improvement works, the Government will commence a number of green infrastructure projects in the coming 3 years, including construction and upgrading of sewerage treatment works, improvement and expansion of sewerage systems, rehabilitation of ageing sewers, installation of dry weather flow interceptors and retrofitting of noise barriers or enclosures at suitable existing road sections. The above green infrastructure projects are estimated to involve a total expenditure of about \$14 billion.

A lot of green construction relies on innovative technologies. In view of this, the Government has set up a \$200 million Green Tech Fund to provide better and more focused funding support to research and development projects which can help Hong Kong decarbonise and enhance environmental protection. At the same time, it can create hundreds of job opportunities. We will also explore the adoption of innovative technologies that are applicable to Hong Kong. For instance, we will progressively introduce a smart recycling system and set up a three-dimensional air pollution monitoring network with light detection and ranging technology, etc.

The measures listed above involve short and medium term investments. The total estimated expenditure for 2021-22 is about \$6.3 billion.

Although the effects of the various measures on the promotion of green recovery, such as accelerating the development of environmental industries, may not be quantified easily, new jobs created can be regarded as one of the indicators. As a whole, the above-mentioned resources devoted by the Government can create more than 5 000 employment opportunities in the coming few years. The Government's policy on carbon reduction in electricity generation will also drive investment in the private sector (for instance, the power companies will build cleaner power generating facilities and the community is actively developing distributed renewable energy systems for the Feed-in-Tariff Scheme), thus creating another 5 000 employment opportunities.

- 2-3. According to the Census and Statistics Department, environmental industries in Hong Kong mainly include sewerage and waste management, environmental engineering and consultancy services as well as import/export and wholesale trading of waste and scrap, and therefore also include the above relevant measures. Based on an analysis of the Census and Statistics Department in 2019, the value added of environmental industries was about \$9.9 billion (or 0.4% of the Gross Domestic Product) and the environmental industries employed 44 670 persons (or 1.2% of total employment) in 2019.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB150**

**(Question Serial No. 0649)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has set up a \$200 million Green Tech Fund to support research and development (R&D) and application of decarbonisation and green technologies, and the sharing of R&D findings. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. How many applications have been received so far? Among the applications received, how many projects fall under the 4 priority areas, namely decarbonisation and energy saving, green transport, waste management, and air and water quality? What are the details of the applications not falling within these 4 areas?
2. Besides the Green Tech Fund, did the Government provide funding support to green R&D projects in the past financial years? If yes, please set out the details, including the relevant R&D projects, the R&D findings and the amounts of funding.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

1. The first round of applications for the Green Tech Fund (GTF) was closed in February this year. A total of 191 applications have been received and all projects fall under the 4 priority areas (namely decarbonisation and energy saving, green transport, waste management, and air and water quality).
2. Besides the GTF, the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) and the Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) also provide funding support to research projects related to environmental protection. In the past 3 years, the funding scheme "Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Projects" under the ECF approved a total of 41 projects related to green technology, involving a funding amount of about \$30 million. The relevant approved projects, the names of the organisations and the amounts of funding approved are set out at Annex 1. Administered by the Innovation and Technology Commission, the ITF has approved a total of 39 research and development projects in the area of environmental technology,

involving a funding amount of about \$120 million. The relevant approved projects and the amount of funding approved for each project are set out at Annex 2.

Environment and Conservation Fund  
Approved Projects Related to Green Technology  
2018-19 Financial Year

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
1.	City University of Hong Kong	A Dye-assisted Paper-based Assay for Fast and Reliable Detection of Biototoxicity for Anaerobic Digestion	\$499,500.00
2.	Hong Kong Baptist University	Developing More Integrated Organic Wastes Treatment in Hong Kong – Anaerobic Co-digestion of Food Wastes and Slaughterhouse Waste	\$500,000.00
3.	Hong Kong Baptist University	Biochar Assisted Co-digestion of Food Waste and Sludge for Enhancing Organic Loading Efficiency: A Special Reference to Hong Kong	\$1,160,220.00
4.	Jockey Club Heavy Vehicle Emissions Testing and Research Centre, Vocational Training Council	Evaluation of Eco-driving Technology for Reducing Fuel Consumption and Emissions	\$496,173.00
5.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Demonstration of High Performance Thermal Energy Storage Technology Using Novel Phase Change Nano-emulsion for Energy Conservation	\$1,770,400.00
6.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Automated Airborne Drone for Beach Wastes Recycling	\$1,213,600.00
7.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Novel Recycling of Incinerated Sewage Sludge Ash from T-PARK and Waste Bentonite as a High-performance Adsorbent for Wastewater Treatment	\$1,315,800.00
8.	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Developing a Multiplex PCR Assay for Rapid and Quantitative Differentiation between E. coli and Cryptic Escherichia in the Aquatic Environments	\$495,000.00
9.	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Drone-based Remote Sensing of Coastal Water Quality for Monitoring of Algal Blooms	\$499,572.00

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
10.	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Converting Organic Municipal Solid Waste into Biochar for Application in Ecological Restoration	\$2,250,312.00
11.	The University of Hong Kong	Recycling and Re-utilisation of Toxic Materials in Solar Cells for Promoting Sustainable Energy Use and Environment Protection	\$499,000.00
12.	The University of Hong Kong	Ultralong, Suspended Perovskite Nanowires for Thermoelectric Devices	\$494,000.00
13.	The University of Hong Kong	Reducing Fuel Consumption and CO <sub>2</sub> Emission of Automotive by Harvesting Waste Heat from Engine	\$499,500.00
		<b>Subtotal (I) :</b>	<b>\$11,693,077.00</b>

2019-20 Financial Year

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
1.	City University of Hong Kong	Study and Development of an Advanced Solid Desiccant Cooling System for Hong Kong Buildings	\$486,000.00
2.	Hong Kong Baptist University	Valorisation of Non-recyclable Paper Wastes by Hydrothermal Liquefaction	\$488,000.00
3.	Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Vocational Training Council	Simultaneous Valorisation of Plastic Waste and Discarded Electric Vehicle Batteries via Co-hydrothermal Treatment for Energy Storage Applications	\$1,205,466.00
4.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Reduction of Microplastics Contaminants by Enhanced Entrapment with Environmental Bacterial Biofilms	\$489,000.00
5.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Smart and Sustainable Drainage Network in Hong Kong Using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Techniques	\$1,943,000.00

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
6.	The University of Hong Kong	Single-ion Conducting Network Polymers as the Viable Electrolytes for Lithium Metal Battery – A Key Technology toward High Capacity Battery	\$499,500.00
7.	The University of Hong Kong	Feasibility Study of Using 2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation Biodiesel (HVO) as Motor Fuel in Hong Kong	\$1,145,000.00
8.	The University of Hong Kong	Reducing Construction Waste in Hong Kong through Adopting Innovative Modular Integrated Construction (MiC)	\$482,500.00
9.	The University of Hong Kong	Big Data-based “AI Inspector” for Gauging Inert Contents at the Off-site Construction Waste Sorting Facilities in Hong Kong	\$485,000.00
		<b>Subtotal (II) :</b>	<b>\$7,223,466.00</b>

2020-21 Financial Year

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
1.	City University of Hong Kong	Investigation of nanobubble flotation to remove micro/nano plastic from Sewage Treatment Works (STWs) in Hong Kong	\$500,000.00
2.	City University of Hong Kong	Application of machine learning techniques in predicting primary and secondary organic aerosols	\$497,180.00
3.	City University of Hong Kong	Surface engineering of large-size 3D porous micro-nanostructures for synergistic solar-driven seawater evaporation and hydrogen production	\$499,640.00
4.	City University of Hong Kong	Electrocatalytic degradation of refractory organics in active landfill leachate to enhance the sequencing batch reactor (SBR) denitrification process	\$497,000.00



	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
5.	Hong Kong Baptist University	Comparative study on subcritical hydrothermal treatment as pre- and post- treatment of anaerobic digestion - Opportunities for the improvement of food waste treatment technology in Hong Kong	\$497,200.00
6.	Hong Kong Baptist University	Liquefaction of organic construction waste	\$478,100.00
7.	Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong, Vocational Training Council	Wood waste derived anti-bacterial and biodegradable nano-fibers for filtration applications	\$499,555.60
8.	The Education University of Hong Kong	Identification, characterisation, and process modification for enhancing removal efficiency of microplastics in sewage treatment works with different designs in Hong Kong	\$1,000,000.00
9.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Development of efficient and robust photocatalysts for hydrogen production technology for reducing fossil fuel consumption and emissions	\$500,000.00
10.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Biomass-waste-derived carbon as advanced anodes for Na- and K- ion batteries	\$496,400.00
11.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hydrothermal carbonisation for recycling organic waste into biochar for soil improvement in Hong Kong	\$1,216,383.00
12.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Transparent wood for energy saving applications: coated wood glass – From fabrication to technology demonstration	\$850,000.00
13.	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Detection of methane fugitive emissions from landfills using drone based hyperspectral remote sensing	\$499,200.00
14.	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Solar-harvesting transparent smart window for building applications	\$482,592.00

	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
15.	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Engineering cyanobacteria from Hong Kong waters to produce biofuel – A key technology towards renewable energy and carbon reduction	\$900,000.00
16.	The Open University of Hong Kong	Monitoring of the impact of the upgrade project of the Yuen Long Wastewater Treatment Works on the antibiotics concentration and the microbial community in the Shan Pui River and the Mai Po Nature Reserve (Phase 1 – Baseline establishment)	\$500,000.00
17.	The University of Hong Kong	Advanced machine vision guided aquatic surface vehicles for refuse monitoring and capturing in watercourses	\$496,000.00
18.	The University of Hong Kong	Design of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in hilly areas of Hong Kong	\$496,000.00
19.	The University of Hong Kong	Feasibility study of using dredged marine deposits stabilised with coal fly ash as fill materials for geotechnical projects in Hong Kong	\$490,000.00
		<b>Subtotal (III):</b>	<b>\$11,395,250.60</b>
		<b>Grand Total (I) + (II) + (III):</b>	<b>\$30,311,793.60</b>

Innovation and Technology Fund  
Approved Projects In the Area of Environmental Technology  
2018-19 Financial Year

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
1.	Development Of High Efficiency RF Plasma System For High Concentrated Organic Wastewater Treatment	\$1,400,000.00
2.	Development of a Combinative Product Separation and Waste Remediation Pilot-scale System Unit for Efficient Electroplating Process	\$1,133,300.00
3.	Design and Development of a Novel Membrane Distillation Process for Textile Wastewater Treatment and Reuse for Zero Liquid Discharge	\$677,143.00
4.	Assessment of the Sustainability of Fluorous Compounds with Short-Chain Perfluoroalkyl Groups	\$1,338,600.00
5.	Optimization of the Performance of a Small-scale Foodwaste Treatment System by Tuning the Microbial Populations	\$997,625.00
6.	Development of Recycling Technology of Soy Residue and Spent Coffee Grounds into Extract and Nano Porous Materials	\$1,271,960.00
7.	Development of Biodegradable Cutlery and Food Tray Using Plant Stem Based Material	\$1,469,450.00
8.	Textile Waste Recycling by Biological Method (Phase II)	\$12,782,633.00
9.	The Self-Cleaning Anti-Reflection Coating on PV Panels Based on TiO <sub>2</sub>	\$1,517,600.00
10.	Nano cellulose impregnated plant fibers (NCIF) as a new class of barrier materials for the food packaging industry	\$7,415,270.00
11.	Integration of Next-Generation Rhamnolipid Production into Anaerobic Digestion: New Prospects for Advanced Biorefineries	\$1,271,900.00
	<b>Sub-total (I):</b>	<b>\$31,275,481.00</b>

2019-20 Financial Year

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
1.	Development of Innovative Containerised System for in-situ Recycling of Food Waste	\$2,121,175.00
2.	Low-dimensional Metal Oxide-Assembled Monolithic Catalysts for VOC Remediation	\$1,380,000.00
3.	Innovative Fire-Spalling-Proof Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC)	\$622,345.50
4.	Investigation and Demonstration to Convert Camellia Oleifera Shell Biomass into Functional Bio-composites	\$947,140.00
5.	Development of a ClO <sub>2</sub> -UV/Chlorine Advanced Treatment Process for Provision of Clean Water	\$1,399,262.00
6.	Treatment of Fat, Oil and Grease (FOG) Contaminated Water and Their Recovery for Recycle	\$1,398,400.00
7.	AiPollut Watcher – to Watch Street Air Pollution with Intelligent Eyes	\$1,399,492.50
8.	High Sensitive and Selectivity Plasmonic Systems for Ultrafine Particulate Matter (PM) 0.1 and 0.3 Detection	\$1,383,330.40
9.	Smart Noise Logger-based Leak Diagnosis System	\$2,313,225.00
10.	Developing a catalytic pyrolysis process to produce diesel from mixed waste plastic with modified magnetic nano-clay/ash catalysts	\$1,498,050.00
11.	Development of Biodegradable Nanocellulose Materials	\$2,799,905.00
12.	Development of Biodegradable Single-use Delivery Container, Disposable Hotel Personal-care & Reusable In-flight Tableware Using Plant Stem Based Materials	\$1,752,700.00
13.	NAMI Hot Water Soluble Biodegradable Materials	\$5,709,750.00
14.	NAMI Biodegradable Composite	\$5,424,550.00
15.	Development of Monocoque Low Platform Electric Minibus with Assisted Braking System	\$6,302,914.00
16.	Tree Monitoring Sensor	\$840,663.00
	<b>Sub-total (II):</b>	<b>\$37,292,902.40</b>

2020-21 Financial Year

	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount of Funding Approved</b>
1.	Development Of Environmental Friendly Multifunctional Protective Coating Based On Bionic Functional Interface	\$899,300.00
2.	Impact assessment of mosquito-repellent softener on conventional wastewater treatment processes and development of advanced technologies for pyrethroids removal	\$449,075.00
3.	Intelligent Sensing System for Boiler Energy Saving and Pollutant Emission Monitoring	\$2,132,100.00
4.	Precision Manufacturing and Bioactivation of Artificial Reefs to Facilitate Coral Restoration	\$1,952,815.00
5.	NAMI Biodegradable Non-woven Replacement Material	\$6,149,050.00
6.	NAMI Nanocomposite Hydrophobic Oleophobic Biodegradable Packaging	\$4,956,431.00
7.	High Resolution Numerical Weather Simulation: A commercial service platform for commercial/public sectors, with a sample application on pollution control	\$4,041,500.00
8.	The creation of safe battery with high energy and power density	\$8,183,881.50
9.	Development of rechargeable NiMH battery with wide operating temperature beyond current rechargeable battery technology by using advanced cathode, anode materials	\$6,309,066.50
10.	High energy pulse fiber laser for free space sensing applications	\$1,384,425.00
11.	R&D of a 28-seat Low-Entry and Lightweight Full Electric Minibus with AI-Enhanced ADAS and Geofencing Systems	\$8,890,000.00
12.	Development of High Efficient Hydrogen Fuel Cell Hybrid System for Electric Forklifts	\$7,132,000.00
	<b>Sub-total (III):</b>	<b>\$52,479,644.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total (I) + (II) + (III):</b>	<b>\$121,048,027.40</b>

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB151****(Question Serial No. 0293)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

By the first quarter of 2021, the Government will formulate Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles (EVs), setting out long-term policies and plans for promoting EVs and their associated supporting facilities, and exploring the feasibility of setting targets on banning the sale of conventional fuel-propelled private cars (PCs). In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the numbers of newly registered PCs and electric PCs in Hong Kong from January 2020 till now (with a breakdown by brand)?
2. What is the total number of public EV chargers across the territory at present? Please set out the figures with a breakdown by district.
3. Regarding the \$2 billion pilot subsidy scheme to subsidise the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of eligible residential buildings, what are the latest progress and the details of the scheme?
4. Has the Government examined whether there are sufficient parking spaces reserved for EVs in Hong Kong? What is the ratio of parking spaces reserved for EVs to general car parking spaces?
5. Will the Government provide safety guidelines to private car parks on managing EV parking spaces? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)Reply:

1. According to the statistics provided by the Transport Department (TD), for the period from 1 January 2020 to 28 February 2021, the number of first registered electric private cars (e-PCs) and the total number of private cars (PCs) in Hong Kong were 5 295 and 42 175 respectively and their breakdown by brand is tabulated below:

Brand	Number of first registered vehicles	
	e-PCs	PCs in total
ABARTH	0	5
ALFA ROMEO	0	17

Brand	Number of first registered vehicles	
	e-PCs	PCs in total
ALPINA	0	1
ALPINE	0	4
ANDERSEN	0	1
ASTON MARTIN	0	27
AUDI	34	1 055
AUSTIN	0	1
B.M.W.	0	4 322
BENTLEY	0	123
BIRKIN	0	2
BMW I	34	39
CATERHAM	0	1
CHEVROLET	0	1
CHRYSLER	0	3
CITROEN	0	32
COBRA	0	1
DAIHATSU	0	27
DATSUN	0	5
DAX	0	1
DFSK	0	123
EUNOS	0	2
FERRARI	0	56
FIAT	0	4
FORD	0	19
HONDA	0	5 783
HYUNDAI	367	516
INFINITI	0	3
ISUZU	0	1
JAGUAR	6	81
JEEP	0	11
KIA	225	743
LAMBORGHINI	0	60
LANCIA	0	1
LANDROVER	0	455
LEXUS	0	1 418
LOTUS	0	14
M.G.	0	3
MASERATI	0	129
MAXUS	0	1
MAYBACH	0	1
MAZDA	0	919
MCLAREN	0	33
MERCEDES BENZ	71	5 251
MINI	0	493
MITSUBISHI	0	263
MITSUOKA	0	2
MOKE	0	3

Brand	Number of first registered vehicles	
	e-PCs	PCs in total
MORGAN	0	1
NISSAN	254	1 874
PEUGEOT	0	31
PORSCHE	176	1 042
PRINCE	0	1
RENAULT	38	51
RILEY	0	2
ROLLS ROYCE	0	31
ROVER	0	30
SMART	35	35
SSANGYONG	0	2
SUBARU	0	746
SUZUKI	0	936
TESLA	4 017	4 017
TOYOTA	0	10 561
VANDEN PLAS	0	1
VOLKSWAGEN	38	358
VOLVO	0	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 295</b>	<b>42 175</b>

Note: Government electric vehicles (EVs) are not included in the numbers as government vehicles are not required to be registered.

2. The numbers of public EV chargers with a breakdown by 18 districts of Hong Kong as at the end of December 2020 are as follows:

District	Number of public chargers
Central & Western	264
Eastern	191
Southern	55
Wan Chai	221
Kowloon City	114
Kwun Tong	827
Sham Shui Po	232
Wong Tai Shin	84
Yau Tsim Mong	256
Kwai Tsing	75
Tsuen Wan	237
Sai Kung	109
North	113
Tai Po	39
Sha Tin	189
Yuen Long	107



District	Number of public chargers
Tuen Mun	51
Islands	187
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 351</b>

3. The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been open for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor.
4. The TD has, on a trial basis, designated some of the parking spaces equipped with EV chargers for exclusive use by EVs at 4 of its government car parks (i.e. Rumsey Street Car Park, Star Ferry Car Park, City Hall Car Park and Tin Hau Car Park) since August 2020. Any non-EVs occupying the reserved parking spaces will be impounded and an impounding charge of \$320 has to be settled in order to get the vehicles released. The numbers of parking spaces reserved for EVs under the trial scheme are tabulated below:

Car park managed by the TD	Number of parking spaces reserved for EVs
Rumsey Street	14
Star Ferry	16
City Hall	12
Tin Hau	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

At present, the Government has not conducted any study on the optimum number of parking spaces reserved for EVs in Hong Kong or their relative proportion to general parking spaces. The Government will examine the arrangements for car parking spaces of various purposes.

5. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department has prepared the “Technical Guidelines on Charging Facilities for Electric Vehicles”, which sets out the statutory requirements and general technical guidelines for installation of charging facilities for EVs, for reference by the public and the trade.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB152**

**(Question Serial No. 0294)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the preparation for setting up a 3-D air pollution monitoring network, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the estimated staffing and expenditure to be allocated in 2021-22?
2. What is the current progress of the preparation? Has an open tender invitation been conducted for the major cost items of the light detection and ranging (LiDAR) systems? If yes, have any difficulties been encountered in the process? What are the solutions?
3. Will the Government collaborate with the Guangdong authorities to tackle the ozone and suspended particulates problem in the region, including whether the Guangdong authorities will set up their own 3-D air pollution monitoring network with similar equipment to collect data, which can complement the data collected by the LiDAR systems in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- 1 and 2. The 3-D air pollution monitoring network adopts light detection and ranging (LiDAR) systems to monitor the formation and transportation of air pollutants at high altitudes. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is conducting short-term pilot studies on various types of LiDAR systems at some testing locations to understand their operational requirements and performance. Concurrently, we are also in the process of a site selection exercise for the 3-D monitoring network and are carrying out the procedures for procuring instruments. The estimated expenditure to be involved in 2021-22 is about \$21 million. The relevant work is undertaken by existing staff of the EPD. There is no breakdown of the manpower involved in this project.

3. The Guangdong Provincial Government is also establishing a similar 3-D air pollution monitoring system in its province. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government will explore the joint establishment of a Greater Bay Area Air Pollutant LiDAR Monitoring Network to tackle local and regional air pollution problems.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB153**

**(Question Serial No. 1998)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding Programme (2), the Environmental Protection Department will “continue to implement the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings”. Will the Administration advise this Committee on: (i)the total number of applications that have been received; (ii)the number of applications that have been approved; (iii)the total amount of subsidies granted to the approved projects since the introduction of the scheme; and (iv)the funding balance of the scheme?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The earmarked funding accounts for about 60% of the total commitment of the subsidy scheme. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. We will know the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to each application after the approved housing estate has completed the process of engaging the services of a consultant and a contractor to conduct the installation works through open tendering.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB154**

**(Question Serial No. 2388)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

As mentioned in the Budget, the Government launched the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme in October 2020. It is expected that about 60 000 parking spaces in existing private residential buildings will be provided with electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure under the scheme in 3 years. It is also revealed that applications involving more than 50 000 parking spaces have been received so far. What were the numbers of applications approved and rejected from October 2020 to March 2021? (Please list with a breakdown by month.)

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively after confirming that the applicants have submitted the necessary documents and verifying by on-site inspections that the car parks have met the eligibility criteria. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. So far, no application has been rejected.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB155****(Question Serial No. 2389)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The amount of special wastes treated in recent years, including the tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at T-PARK, has been mentioned in the Budget. Why is the tonnage of sewage sludge treated in 2020 fewer than that of 2019? What are the reasons for the decrease in the estimated tonnage of sewage sludge treated in 2021 as compared with those in the previous 2 years?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)Reply:

Domestic and trade effluent in the whole territory is treated by the sewage treatment works managed by the Drainage Services Department. The sewage sludge generated during the treatment process is transferred to T-PARK for proper treatment. In recent years, the total quantity of sewage sludge treated annually was between 392 221 tonnes and 378 428 tonnes (see table below). There is a small fluctuation in the quantity every year. The total quantity of sewage sludge treated in 2020 slightly dropped by 1.5% as compared with that in 2019. The changes are not statistically significant.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total quantity of sewage sludge treated (tonnes)</u>
2017	386 208
2018	392 221
2019	384 038
2020	378 428

The estimated tonnage of sewage sludge treated in 2021 is assessed by rounding the actual tonnage of sewage sludge treated in 2020 to the nearest hundred.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB156****(Question Serial No. 2428)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the law enforcement work under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

What were the numbers of complaints received and prosecutions instituted by the Environmental Protection Department against air pollution caused by (a) factories, (b) polluting processes and products, (c) motor vehicles, (d) vessels, (e) non-road mobile machinery, (f) asbestos and (g) other sources in the past 3 years? (Please list with a breakdown by year.)

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)Reply:

From 2018 to 2020, the numbers of complaints received and prosecutions instituted by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) against air pollution are tabulated as follows:

Types of complaints	2018		2019		2020	
	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions
(a) Factories Note 1	369	3	258	11	238	13
(b) Polluting processes and products Note 2	2 849	54	2 545	56	2 113	25
(c) Motor vehicles Note 3	5 616	46	6 471	36	4 040	9
(d) Vessels	5	2	3	4	6	1
(e) Non-road mobile machinery	10	1	27	2	25	0

Types of complaints	2018		2019		2020	
	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions
(f) Asbestos	153	46	157	31	123	28
(g) Other sources <sup>Note 1</sup>	1 326	8	1 443	0	1 327	0

Note 1: Upon receipt of an air pollution complaint, staff of the EPD will conduct a site investigation and make an assessment in accordance with the relevant criteria under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (the Ordinance). If air pollution or nuisance is found, a statutory notice will be issued to the person-in-charge in accordance with the Ordinance, requiring that person to take measures to reduce emission of air pollutants by a specified deadline. The EPD officers will conduct an inspection again after the deadline. If the person concerned has failed to comply with the requirements under the statutory notice, prosecution action will be taken.

Note 2: Polluting processes include construction works, cooking process, open burning, paint spraying, cement handling and burning of joss sticks; whereas polluting products include products containing volatile organic compounds.

Note 3: Under the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Ordinance, drivers are prohibited from leaving their vehicle engines idling for more than 3 minutes in any sixty-minute period. This Ordinance empowers Environmental Protection Inspectors of the EPD and Traffic Wardens of the Police Force to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to offending drivers. The prosecution figures in this regard refer to the numbers of FPNs issued.

Besides, under the Smoky Vehicle Control Programme and the Strengthened Emission Control of Petrol and Liquefied Petroleum Gas Vehicles Programme, the EPD will issue an Emission Testing Notice (ETN) to the owner of a vehicle found to have excessive smoke or emissions, requiring the owner to rectify the emission problem and have the vehicle passed the emission test at a Designated Vehicle Emission Testing Centre within 12 working days, so as to confirm that the vehicle emission problem has been rectified. Vehicles failing the emission test as scheduled will have their licences cancelled by the Transport Department. The numbers of ETNs issued by the EPD in 2018, 2019 and 2020 are provided as follows:

Year	ETNs issued under the Strengthened Emission Control of Petrol and Liquefied Petroleum Gas Vehicles Programme	ETNs issued under the Smoky Vehicle Control Programme
2018	5 784	2 044
2019	5 332	1 333
2020	2 655	491

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB157****(Question Serial No. 2445)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (4) WaterControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

In respect of the enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO), will the Government advise this Committee on the following:  
Please provide the data on enforcement in respect of water pollution control in the table below.

Year/ Enforcement of the WPCO	Total number of complaints received	Number of complaints rejected	Number of outstanding complaints	Number of self-initiated detailed investigations or inspections carried out without receiving complaints	Number of licences cancelled
2018 (Actual)					
2019 (Actual)					
2020 (Actual)					
2021 (Estimate)		Not applicable	Not applicable		Not applicable

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 84)Reply:

The data relating to the enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is as follows:

Year	Total number of complaints received <sup>Note 1</sup>	Number of complaints rejected <sup>Note 2</sup>	Number of outstanding complaints	Number of self-initiated inspections carried out without receiving complaints	Number of licences cancelled
2018 (Actual)	2 731	Not applicable	0	6 067	319
2019 (Actual)	2 654		0	6 204	281
2020 (Actual)	3 026		44 <sup>Note 3</sup>	3 791	193
2021 (Estimate)	3 000		Not applicable	5 400	Not applicable

Note 1: The figures do not include repeated cases and cases that are not substantiated.

Note 2: There is no rejected complaint as the EPD will follow up on each and every case.

Note 3: The investigation work of these cases has been largely completed. However, as the problems in some cases are generally more complicated, it takes a longer time to follow up and carry out maintenance and improvement works etc. As such, these complaints are still outstanding.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB158****(Question Serial No. 2446)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (3) NoiseControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the noise control work, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

What were the numbers of complaints received and prosecutions instituted by the Environmental Protection Department against noise from (a) domestic premises and (b) public places for the past 5 years? (Please list with a breakdown by year and type of premises.)

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)Reply:

The numbers of complaints received and prosecutions instituted by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) against noise emanated from domestic premises and public places in each of the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Domestic premises		Public places			
	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions Note 1	General		Near shops	
			No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions Note 1	No. of complaints	No. of prosecutions Note 2
2016	147	0	80	0	146	0
2017	189	0	336	0	197	0
2018	222	0	401	0	370	26
2019	162	0	421	0	355	45
2020	290	0	422	0	427	15

Note 1: Noise from domestic premises and general public places is controlled under sections 4 and 5 of the Noise Control Ordinance (NCO), and the enforcement work against such noise is mainly carried out by the Police. Upon receipt of the relevant noise complaints, the EPD will approach the complainants to understand

the situation, explain the regulatory arrangements of the NCO to them, and refer the cases to the Police for follow-up enforcement as appropriate. The EPD will also provide the contact telephone number of the police station in the district concerned to the complainants to facilitate their contact with the Police for immediate follow up when necessary.

Note 2: For annoying noise from peddling by shops in nearby public places, the EPD will carry out enforcement in accordance with the NCO.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB159****(Question Serial No. 2618)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Please set out the numbers of the first registered private cars in the past 5 years with a breakdown by electric, petrol and diesel vehicles. Has the Government evaluated the effects of a significant reduction of first registration tax concessions for electric private cars on curbing the growth in private car fleet? If yes, what are the results of evaluation? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)Reply:

According to the figures provided by the Transport Department, the numbers of first registered petrol private cars (PCs), diesel PCs and electric PCs (e-PCs) in the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of first registered vehicles in the year		
	Electric PC	Petrol PC	Diesel PC
2016	3 020	36 266	1 896
2017	3 860	35 536	4 246
2018	471	41 551	265
2019	2 423	35 858	28
2020	4 595	32 441	0

Note: Government electric vehicles (EVs) are not included as government vehicles are not required to be registered.

The Government introduced the “One-for-One Replacement” Scheme (the Scheme) on 28 February 2018 to encourage PC owners to choose EVs when they need to replace their cars. Purchasers of e-PCs who scrap and de-register their eligible old PCs and then first register a new e-PC can enjoy a higher first registration tax (FRT) concession. It is also stated in this year’s Budget that the FRT concession cap under the Scheme will be increased

from \$250,000 to \$287,500, whereas the FRT concession cap for e-PCs in general is maintained at \$97,500. The above concessions will remain effective until 31 March 2024.

Since its introduction, 90% of the new e-PC owners have joined the Scheme. Under the Scheme, PC owners are required to scrap and de-register their eligible old PCs, thus there will not be a growth in PC fleet. If FRT concessions for e-PCs were to be significantly reduced, it is believed that those who are in need of car replacement would opt for petrol PCs rather than e-PCs. This would only affect the popularisation of EVs while the targets of curbing the overall growth of PCs and improving the roadside air quality could hardly be achieved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB160**

**(Question Serial No. 2626)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the work to “promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles (EVs)”, please set out the respective numbers of cases in which the First Registration Tax was waived for buying EVs in the past 5 years. Please provide the data in the table below.

Vehicle Type	Electric private car		Electric commercial vehicle		Electric motor cycle		Electric motor tricycle	
	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived
2015								
2017								
2018								
2019								
2020								

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 95)

Reply:

The numbers of first registered electric vehicles by vehicle type and the total amounts of first registration tax waived in the past 5 years are as follows:

Year	Vehicle Type							
	Electric private car		Electric commercial vehicle		Electric motor cycle		Electric motor tricycle	
	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived (\$m)	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived (\$m)	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived (\$m)	Quantity	Total amount of tax waived (\$m)
2016	3 020	1,975.37	25	1.07	2	0.09	0	0
2017	3 860	3,149.41	42	1.37	2	0.11	0	0
2018	471	79.85	26	1.07	0	0	0	0
2019	2 423	477.96	51	3.15	0	0	0	0
2020	4 595	987.06	44	2.69	25	0.52	0	0

Note: Government vehicles are not included as they are not required to pay first registration tax.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB161****(Question Serial No. 2628)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

The Environmental Protection Department has stated that it would “continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles”. What was the number of additional charging facilities installed in Hong Kong in each of the past 3 years?

Regarding the statement “continue to implement the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings”, how many applications have been received since the launch of the EHSS? What is the number of approved applications? What is the number of additional charging facilities installed? What is the amount of subsidy involved?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 96)Reply:

The numbers of additional public electric vehicle (EV) chargers (including the chargers open for public use at car parks managed by the government and private sector) and their total numbers in the past 3 years are as follows:

Year	Total number of public EV chargers	Difference with the number in the previous year
2018	2 166	+304
2019	2 929	+763
2020	3 351	+422

The \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020. The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. From the introduction of the EHSS up till

the end of February 2021, about 200 applications involving more than 55 000 parking spaces have been received. The Environmental Protection Department has started issuing notices to the approved car parks progressively since February 2021. The approved car parks can proceed with procuring the services of a consultant to design and monitor the installation works of the EV charging-enabling infrastructure carried out by the contractor. We will know the actual amount of subsidy to be granted to each application after the approved housing estate has completed the process of engaging the services of a consultant and a contractor to conduct the installation works through open tendering.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB162****(Question Serial No. 2640)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Regarding the “provision of air quality information and Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) to the public” mentioned in the Estimates, please advise on the following:

What was the number of days on which AQHI in Hong Kong attained “Low (1-3)” level in each of the past 5 years?

What is the expenditure earmarked by the Government this year for the maintenance or improvement of air quality?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 106)Reply:

The numbers of days on which the Air Quality Health Index recorded at the general and roadside air quality monitoring stations (AQMSs) of the Environmental Protection Department fell under the “Low (1-3)” health risk category throughout the day in the past 5 years (2016 to 2020) are set out respectively in the following table:

Year	General AQMSs	Roadside AQMSs
2016	70	31
2017	89	23
2018	81	27
2019	72	39
2020	105	85

In 2021-22, the total estimated expenditure under the Air Programme is \$2.433 billion. Most of the estimated expenditure will be used for implementing various air quality improvement measures, including implementing the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings, providing ex-gratia payments to progressively phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles, subsidising the transport sectors to test out and make wider use of green transport technologies through the New Energy Transport Fund,

implementing a pilot scheme for electric public light buses, conducting a trial of retrofitting Euro IV and Euro V double-deck diesel franchised buses with emission reduction systems, installing medium chargers at government car parks and launching a pilot scheme for electric ferries, etc. In addition, the estimated expenditure will also be used for monitoring the air quality and implementing measures to control emissions from various air pollution sources, so as to improve the air quality. This includes expenditure for operating and maintaining AQMSs, setting up a 3-D air pollution monitoring network, deploying roadside remote sensing equipment to detect the emissions of petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles, mandating vessels to use compliant fuel within Hong Kong waters, and the continuous collaboration with the Guangdong Provincial Government on the implementation of the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB163**

**(Question Serial No. 1087)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget Speech that the work regarding the roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles includes expanding the electric vehicle charging network and promoting its marketisation. Does the work include promoting the popularisation of the charging facilities for electric commercial vehicles? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon POON Siu-ping (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

The Environment Bureau announced Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of electric vehicles (EVs) in March this year, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of EVs and their associated supporting facilities.

It is common around the globe for e-private car (e-PC) owners to charge their cars at home, work place or places they travel to regularly. Charging private cars overnight also helps balance the demand for electricity between day and night. For e-PCs, the public charging network should only provide ad hoc top-up charging services in case of occasional needs. On the other hand, subject to varied operational requirements, different types of commercial EVs should adopt different charging arrangements, with a view to maximising the cost effectiveness. For larger vehicles such as coaches, goods vehicles and other commercial vehicles, the optimal arrangement will be to equip their depots or usual overnight parking spaces with charging facilities. Before there is further breakthrough in battery capacity and charging technology, high usage drivers could top up the batteries of their vehicles during daytime at conveniently located quick charging facilities. As for high usage public transports including public light buses and franchised buses that are required to run long hours and mileage, the provision of quick charging facilities at their termini, stations or public transport interchanges can facilitate opportunity charging in addition to overnight charging. For taxis, due to their almost non-stop daily operation and the lack of fixed routes, they need to be supported by a territory-wide quick charging network so that the e-taxi drivers can top up the batteries of their vehicles quickly at different places.

However, as battery capacity and charging technology are still under development, opportunity charging may only be a transitional arrangement in the long run.

Hence, we need to introduce different charging arrangements for different types of EVs, and progressively marketise the charging services, taking into account the scarce land resources in Hong Kong and the role of the Government in promoting adoption of EVs. Through trials on different e-public transports, we will examine various charging patterns and charging technologies, and look into how the market can construct and operate quick charging facilities as a business to best address the charging needs of different vehicles.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB164****(Question Serial No. 1775)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (1) WasteControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

What were the quantities of plastics generated and their recovery rates in Hong Kong in the past 5 years? Regarding the promotion of reducing the use of i) plastic packaging materials; ii) disposable plastic tableware; iii) food waste, what are the specific measures? What are the expenditures and manpower involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 84)Reply:

According to the reports on "Monitoring of Solid Waste in Hong Kong" compiled by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the statistics on the quantities of waste plastics generated and their recovery rates from 2015 to 2019 are shown in the table below. The relevant statistics for 2020 are still under compilation.

Year	Waste plastics	
	Quantity generated (thousand tonnes)	Recovery rate
<b>2015</b>	891	11%
<b>2016</b>	906	14%
<b>2017</b>	891	13%
<b>2018</b>	919	7%
<b>2019</b>	924	8%

The recovery rate for waste plastics has shown a downward trend in recent years. This is mainly due to the challenging conditions of the international recycling markets that persisted for years. In addition, nearby economies have been progressively tightening and imposing stricter import controls in recent years. Local recyclables not meeting the import requirements could no longer enter such places for further processing. In response, the local recycling industry has gradually upgraded its mode of operation from exporting after simple baling in the past to recycling waste plastics by turning them into raw materials. The quantity of waste plastics recycled locally in 2019 rose by 33% when compared with

that in 2018 (from 55 800 tonnes to 74 400 tonnes), and the recovery rate also reverted to an increase.

- (i) Regarding the promotion of reducing the use of plastic packaging materials, we have been maintaining close liaison with the retail industry and other key stakeholders to jointly explore and implement some practical measures. At the same time, we will continue to promote simple packaging, waste reduction at source; and encourage green business and consumption through publicity, education and other various means. The relevant work is an integral part of the EPD's work and the expenditure and manpower are absorbed by its existing resources and establishment.
- (ii) Regarding the promotion of reducing the use of disposable plastic tableware, starting from January 2019, the Government has taken the lead in banning plastic straws and polyfoam food containers in premises and canteens mainly serving government staff. Relevant departments, when awarding new contracts and renewing existing contracts, will stipulate the requirement for restaurant operators in suitable government venues to avoid using disposable plastic tableware. The relevant work is an integral part of the Government's work and the expenditure is absorbed by its existing resources.

Ordering takeaway food and beverage has become more and more popular, especially during the pandemic. To maintain social distancing, members of the public will choose to order takeaways more and use disposable plastic tableware. The EPD and the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) have introduced a number of promotion initiatives through different channels since March last year, urging members of the public to support "Plastic-Free Takeaway" while fighting the pandemic. The initiatives include:

- promoting the message of "plastic-and-disposable-free" to the members of the public by placing advertisements on a number of online platforms, video sharing platforms and mobile applications. The expenditure involved is about \$1.7 million, among which \$40,000 is funded by the ECC.
- carrying out the first phase of promotion through the public transport network with the slogan "Stay home to fight the pandemic, opt out of disposable tableware for takeaway". Advertisements have been posted via 3 bus companies and the Hong Kong Tramways Limited. The expenditure involved is about \$2.74 million, among which \$350,000 is funded by the ECC.
- carrying out the second phase of promotion through the public transport network with the slogan "Go green in fighting the pandemic, support plastic-free takeaway". Advertisements have been posted via 3 bus companies and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited. The expenditure involved is about \$4.77 million, among which \$170,000 is funded by the ECC.
- providing the public with everyday guidelines on waste reduction during the pandemic to further promote the "Food Wise and Waste Less" culture and discourage the use of disposable plastic tableware through product placement, television dramas and radio dramas, etc. of various local TV stations and radio



stations. The expenditure involved is about \$4.24 million, among which \$100,000 was funded by the ECC.

To cultivate the “plastic-free” culture in schools, the EPD has earmarked not less than \$4.5 million under the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) for rolling out the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Necessary Equipment for “Plastic-free” School Lunch to subsidise about 50 schools to purchase and install the “Four Treasures” (refrigerators, steam cabinets, dishwashers and disinfection machines), so as to encourage students to bring their own lunches using reusable food containers. The scheme was open for application from all primary and secondary schools from September to November 2020. The applications are currently being processed.

To facilitate wider adoption of the “plastic-free” lunch arrangement by schools, the EPD, in collaboration with the Education Bureau and the Department of Health (DH), has updated the Handbook of Selection of Lunch Suppliers (the Handbook), which includes encouraging schools to incorporate service requirements concerning the use of reusable food containers and tableware in the tender, with a view to making a full-scale use of reusable food containers and tableware for school lunches by the 2023/24 school year. The DH has also released the updated Handbook in September 2019. The relevant work is an integral part of the Government’s work and the expenditure is absorbed by its existing resources.

The manpower involved for the above-mentioned work is absorbed by the existing establishment.

- (iii) The Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign (the Campaign) has been promoting the “Food Wise and Waste Less” culture and encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste at source in the community through various schemes and activities since its launching in 2013. The contents of the Campaign include:
- The Food Wise Charter – As at February 2021, about 980 organisations have signed the Food Wise Charter and are committed to reducing food waste at source. The signees include public organisations and public utilities, C&I sectors, food and beverage sectors, hotel sector, property development and management sectors, tertiary education institutions, secondary schools, primary schools and kindergartens, etc.
  - The Food Wise Eateries Scheme – The Scheme aims to encourage the food and beverage sectors to reduce food waste at source together with customers through offering food in different portion sizes and adopting food waste reduction measures. As at February 2021, about 320 and 800 eateries have been awarded with gold class and silver class status respectively.
  - “Food Wise” Talk – As at February 2021, 127 “Food Wise” talks were held by the Government with a total of over 11 600 participants. The talks helped promote the “Food Wise” messages and mainly introduced food waste issues, reduction of food waste at source, treatment of food waste, food waste separation and recycling, promotion of using less disposable plastic tableware, etc.

- The “Big Waster” Facebook and Instagram pages – The “Big Waster” symbolising food wastage in the Campaign has strengthened interaction with the public through the Facebook and Instagram pages in which relevant information, including details about food waste reduction, is provided. Up to February 2021, the “Big Waster” Facebook has received more than 69 000 “likes” and there are over 10 900 “followers” on Instagram.
- Publicity activities – To publicise messages related to reduction of food waste and promotion of using less disposable plastic tableware through online platforms and mobile applications, public transport network, television and radio stations, “Big Waster” posters, leaflets and slogans.
- Deducting the expenditures for the above-mentioned “Plastic-Free Takeaway” promotion initiatives, the expenditure for the above items in 2020-21 was about \$3.6 million.

In addition, the EPD launched the Pilot Programme on Provision of Small Food Waste Composters at School (Pilot Programme) (Phase One) in 2018 with the ECF’s funding support of \$1.37 million to provide 90 participating schools with small food waste composters, education kits and information for educational activities, with the aim of assisting primary and secondary schools to cultivate the “Food Wise” culture among teachers and students, and demonstrating the recycling of food waste into compost for use in planting on campus. Participating schools have started using the small food waste composters to recycle food waste since March 2019.

The EPD had further earmarked \$1.7 million under the ECF and rolled out the Pilot Programme (Phase Two) in 2020 to continue to provide small food waste composters to the schools interested in participating in the Pilot Programme for education and demonstration purposes. The Pilot Programme (Phase Two) was open for application from all primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong from September to November 2020. A total of 58 applications from schools were approved. The EPD is currently preparing for the tendering exercise for the procurement of small food waste composters.

The manpower involved for the above-mentioned work is absorbed by the existing establishment.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB165**

**(Question Serial No. 1786)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Environmental Protection Department will consult the public and map out the way forward for the producer responsibility scheme on plastic beverage containers, and operate a pilot scheme. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. When is the pilot scheme expected to commence?
2. What are the staffing and expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 85)

Reply:

1. The Government launched a public consultation on the Producer Responsibility Scheme on Plastic Beverage Containers (PPRS) on 22 February 2021. To pave the way for the future implementation of the PPRS, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) rolled out a one-year pilot scheme progressively in early 2021 to test out the application of reverse vending machines (RVMs) in Hong Kong. A total of 60 RVMs would be set up in phases at locations such as public places and government facilities with suitable foot traffic, with an instant rebate (\$0.1 per plastic beverage container) provided via e-payment platforms to encourage the public to return used plastic beverage containers for recycling.
2. The estimated expenditure on the pilot scheme for the 2021-22 financial year is about \$14.5 million, mainly for engaging a contractor to carry out the scheme. As launching the pilot scheme is an integral part of the work of the Waste Management Policy Division under the EPD, there is no separate breakdown of the manpower involved in this work.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB166**

**(Question Serial No. 3234)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that the Environmental Protection Department will gauge the public's views on enhancing the Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme. What are the expected dates of commencement and completion of the work?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 86)

Reply:

We have largely completed the review on Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme, including enhancement of the scope of exemption and the charging level under the Scheme. We will consult the public in due course to map out the way forward.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB167****(Question Serial No. 0447)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 under Programme (2), that the Department will continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles. In this regard, please advise this Committee:

1. types and numbers of electric vehicles procured by various government bureaux and departments and the expenditures involved in the past 5 years;
2. whether the Government will play the role of an initiator to purchase more electric vehicles to showcase energy efficient for the private sector, in supporting of Hong Kong's transition to carbon neutrality.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)Reply:

1. According to the data provided by the Government Logistics Department, the number of electric vehicles\* (EVs) procured by government departments by vehicle type and the amount of expenditure involved in each of the past 5 years are tabulated below:

Year	Electric car	Electric van	Expenditure involved (\$m)
2016	10	5	3.99
2017	7	-	1.68
2018	7	-	1.65
2019	4	2	1.75
2020	12	-	3.34

\*Excluding specialised vehicles

2. To demonstrate the commitment in pushing forward Hong Kong's transition to EVs, the Government is prepared to switch our vehicle fleet to EVs at a faster pace. We have just formulated a new policy to set EV as a standard for small and medium private cars to be procured or replaced, unless there are special circumstances such as operational needs that render the use of EVs technically infeasible. For other types of

vehicles, EVs and other more environmentally friendly vehicles will be accorded priority for use by us. Senior government officials will also take the lead in switching their cars to EVs when their cars are replaced. We will also advance in tandem with the global development in exploring electrification of other types of specialised vehicles in the government fleet such as refuse collection vehicles and street washing vehicles, and will strike a balance between prudent use of public monies and taking the lead in promoting EVs.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB168**

**(Question Serial No. 0467)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (4) Water

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding compliance with Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for marine waters, the rates for 2020 and 2021 are 3% lower than the rate for 2019, will the Department advise on the following:

1. What are the reasons for the decrease in the WQOs compliance rate?
2. Regarding the Department's co-operation with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary water quality management issues and protection of the marine environment, is there any area where improvements can be made? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 77)

Reply:

1. The marine water quality in Hong Kong and the annual compliance with Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) are subject to influence by various factors, including hydrographic condition, weather change, seasonal change in the background level in the region, etc. Therefore, small annual fluctuations are normal. In 2020, the overall WQO compliance rate for marine waters was 86%, which is within the range of normal fluctuation. The compliance rate is comparable to the average rate of 87% in the past 5 years and no abnormality has been detected.
2. Under the framework of the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Environmental Protection and Combating Climate Change, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Department of Ecology and Environment of Guangdong Province completed a Pearl River Estuary Regional Water Quality Joint Management Planning Advance Study at the end of 2014. The objective of the study is to assess the pollution load carrying capacity of the Pearl River Estuary by using the Pearl River Delta water quality model in order to provide a scientific basis for water quality management of the estuary. Following the recommendations of the study, both sides jointly formulated the Pearl River Estuary Water Quality Management Co-operation Plan (Co-operation Plan) at the end of 2016. Hong Kong and

Guangdong will continue to work together to take forward measures to reduce pollutant discharge according to the specific work plans of the Co-operation Plan, as well as to communicate and exchange monitoring data on the water quality of the estuary and coastal waters, so as to achieve the common goal of protecting the water quality of the estuary.

Hong Kong and Guangdong set up the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel in 2016 to enhance exchange and communication on various regional marine environmental matters, including formulation of strategies for tackling marine refuse and marine environmental incidents, setting up of a Notification and Alert System on Marine Refuse, sharing of experience, etc. Upon the launch of a trial of the System in May 2017, the mechanism has enabled one side to activate the system and immediately notify the other in the event of any significant marine environmental incident or heavy rainstorm, facilitating timely resource deployment and preparation made by relevant departments.

In addition, the EPD and the Shenzhen Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau completed the review of the Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Water Pollution Control Joint Implementation Programme (the JIP) at the end of 2016. Both sides have reviewed the latest development planning and water quality condition in the Deep Bay catchment area and the progress of various water pollution control measures, and have predicted the future water quality of Deep Bay. The results indicated that there had already been a reduction in the amount of pollutants discharged into Deep Bay and a material improvement in water quality. Hong Kong and Shenzhen will continue to implement the jointly formulated JIP (2016 revised version) to make continuous improvement to the water quality of Deep Bay.

In the coming year, the Government will continue to maintain close cooperation with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary water quality management and marine environment protection.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB169**

**(Question Serial No. 0472)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the item “continue to implement the territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services to collect waste paper for further processing and selling to various markets for recycling, to ensure a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper”, will the Department advise on the following:

1. What are the major markets and the top 3 markets for selling waste paper from Hong Kong?
2. The Mainland had refused to import waste paper from Hong Kong. By what means can Hong Kong ensure a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper?
3. In the long run, is there any plan to locally absorb the waste paper generated? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 78)

Reply:

In 2020, approximately 440 000 tonnes of local waste paper was delivered outside Hong Kong for recycling, including Southeast Asia, etc.

To diversify outlets for local waste paper recycling, not only does the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) assist the local waste paper industry to develop sales markets in different regions, it also explores various ways to allow more waste paper to be recycled and transformed into resources locally. The EPD launched the territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services in September 2020, through which waste paper collected is further processed and then sold to other markets for recycling into paper products. It is also mentioned in the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” announced by the Government on 8 February 2021 that the Government will turn waste paper into resources in a more efficient and cost effective manner, which includes inviting open tender in the first half of 2021 for the development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun. The pulping facility is expected to commence operation by 2024 with an initial annual treatment capacity of not less than 300 000 tonnes of local waste paper.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB170**

**(Question Serial No. 1591)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

During 2021-22, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles. In this connection, will the Administration advise on the relevant details (including the progress of enhancing the charging network in the past 3 years), indicators, timetable and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

To promote the use of new energy vehicles, the Government has implemented various measures, which include offering first registration tax (FRT) concessions for electric vehicles (EVs) and implementing the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme. The Government also subsidises the transport sectors to test out green innovative transport technologies through the New Energy Transport Fund (formerly known as Pilot Green Transport Fund) while promoting the establishment and enhancement of the charging network.

Regarding the enhancement of the charging network, the Government allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks managed by the Transport Department, the Government Property Agency, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Tourism Commission which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. Among them, 169 medium chargers were installed in 2019-20. About 570 and 460 medium chargers are planned to be installed in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively.

The Government's expenditures on enhancing public charging facilities, electricity costs and maintenance costs of the charging facilities in the past 3 years, and the estimated expenditure and costs for 2021-22 are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Expenditure on enhancing public charging facilities (\$m)</b>	<b>Electricity costs of charging facilities (\$m)</b>	<b>Maintenance costs of charging facilities (\$m)</b>
2018-19	--*	1.007	0.093
2019-20	5.33	0.944	0.279
2020-21	31.36	0.841**	0.241**
2021-22#	48	1.7	1

\* The Government was proceeding with the preparatory work for the above scheme with an allocation of \$120 million for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in this financial year and the installation works were planned to commence in 2019-20.

\*\* Relevant electricity and maintenance costs as at the end of February 2021.

# Estimated figures.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB171**

**(Question Serial No. 1592)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Noise

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

During 2021-22, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to promote good practices to prevent or minimise road traffic noise problems at the planning stage. Will the Administration advise on the measures to be taken, the stakeholders involved, and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

To pre-empt and mitigate road traffic noise problems, project proponents are required by the Government to conduct noise impact assessments and adopt appropriate design and noise mitigation measures during the planning stage of new development projects (such as roads, housing and new towns). The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will provide professional comments in the planning stage of projects to relevant stakeholders (including developers, the Housing Department, environmental consultants, the building industry and the project proponents of roads and infrastructure projects for new towns), with a view to pre-empting and mitigating the potential traffic noise problems. It is expected that the EPD will continue to provide about 1 600 professional comments for proposed development projects in 2021.

The EPD has all along committed to developing innovative noise mitigation measures for local use, such as use of acoustic window designs which can effectively reduce traffic noise while maintaining ventilation. The EPD published the "Practice Note on Application of Acoustic Windows" in November 2020 to facilitate understanding of the design and application of innovative acoustic windows among professionals (such as environmental consultants and the building industry). In addition, the EPD has organised a series of seminars to introduce and encourage the industry to adopt innovative acoustic window designs for mitigating road traffic noise impact on new residential development projects. The EPD will continue to provide professional advice to the industry on the application of innovative noise mitigation designs in 2021, and will timely review and update the Practice Note.

As the provision of professional comments on pre-empting and mitigating road traffic noise problems is part of the routine duties of the EPD, there is no separate breakdown of the related expenditure.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB172****(Question Serial No. 1593)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (4) WaterControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

During 2021-22, the Environmental Protection Department will continue to improve the water quality of Victoria Harbour. Will the Administration advise on the measures to be taken, the stakeholders involved and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)Reply:

The Government has all along been attaching great importance to improving the water quality of Victoria Harbour and has devoted significant resources to improve the sewage collection and treatment systems through implementing the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme. These efforts have brought noticeable improvement in the water quality of Victoria Harbour. To further enhance the quality of coastal waters of Victoria Harbour, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Drainage Services Department (DSD) and the Buildings Department (BD) are now progressively implementing targeted pollution control measures, including implementation of projects for construction and modification of dry weather flow interceptors, upgrading of sewage treatment works, provision of public sewers, and rehabilitation of ageing underground sewers, and rectification of sewerage misconnections, etc.

The estimated expenditures for 2021-22 on the relevant works projects being implemented by the DSD and those pending funding approval by the Finance Committee are tabulated below:

<b>Project title of works being implemented</b>	<b>Expected completion year</b>	<b>2021-22 (Estimate) (\$m)</b>
Construction of Dry Weather Flow Interceptor at Cherry Street box culvert	2022	65.56
Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Sewerage – Phase 1	2022	20.00

<b>Project title of works being implemented</b>	<b>Expected completion year</b>	<b>2021-22 (Estimate) (\$m)</b>
Rehabilitation of Trunk Sewers in Kowloon, Shatin and Sai Kung	2022	60.00
Upgrading of Kwun Tong Preliminary Treatment Works	2022	66.16
Enhancement Works for Kwun Tong Sewage Pumping Station	2022	107.20
Sewerage to Lei Yue Mun Village	2023	34.69
Rehabilitation of Underground Sewers Stage 1	2022	56.20
Upgrading of Central and East Kowloon Sewerage – Phase 3	2024	127.38
Upgrading of West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Sewerage – Phase 2	2027	86.00
West Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Village Sewerage – Phase 1	2024	19.19
Rehabilitation of Underground Sewers Stage 2	2025	11.81
Sewerage for Ma Yau Tong Village, Tseung Kwan O	2024	12.40
<b>Project title of works pending funding approval by the Finance Committee</b>	<b>Expected completion year</b>	<b>2021-22 (Estimate) (\$m)</b>
Construction and Rehabilitation of Trunk Sewage Rising Mains in Yau Tong	2026	1.84

As for rectification of sewerage misconnections, the EPD will continue with the inspection work relating to water pollution control. When following up on each case, the investigation staff will trace the effluent discharge routing to confirm the pollution source(s). If there is sufficient evidence, the EPD shall instigate prosecution against the suspected illegal discharger(s). When a misconnection is found in public sewers or foul sewers of private buildings during investigation, the case will be referred to the DSD and the BD respectively for follow-up to rectify the misconnection. As the inspection work relating to water pollution control is part of the routine duties of the EPD, there is no separate breakdown of the related expenditure.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB173**

**(Question Serial No. 1594)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

As stated by the Environmental Protection Department, it will continue to pre-empt environmental problems through processing the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance applications and enforcement of permit conditions during 2021-22. Will the Administration advise on the measures to be taken, the stakeholders involved and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) is to avoid, minimise and control the adverse impact on the environment of designated projects through the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and the environmental permit system.

The EIA process in Hong Kong is professional, objective and open. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has set up a dedicated team to administer the EIA process, including approving the applications for EIA study briefs, EIA reports and environmental permits, etc. When processing the applications for EIA study briefs and approving EIA reports, the EPD follows strictly the requirements of the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process issued under EIAO. We will also consult the relevant government departments and conduct statutory public inspection process, including consulting the public and the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE), before making any approval decisions so as to comply with the requirements of EIAO. All EIA study briefs, EIA reports and environmental permits are uploaded to the EPD's website for public inspection, so as to ensure impartiality of the EIA findings and all approval decisions.

When issuing environmental permits, the EPD will impose project specific conditions according to the individual circumstances of each case to request the permit holders to enhance the design of the designated projects and ensure the compliance with all statutory requirements for environmental protection during both construction and operation phases of



the projects. After issuing the permits, the EPD will carry out site inspections and take enforcement actions if violations are identified. At the same time, the EPD will scrutinise the Environmental Monitoring and Audit Reports submitted by permit holders.

Stakeholders from different sectors are involved during the implementation of EIAO, including project proponents (such as the government works departments, public utilities and private companies, etc.), environmental permit holders, consultant companies, contractors of the projects, the ACE, the public and the authorities participating in approving EIA reports. In order to provide support to the industry and enhance environmental protection, the EPD has implemented a series of measures, including launching an EIA website, issuing guidance notes, providing professional advice at the early stage of EIA study, organising training and seminars, etc., and to better co-ordinate the work of various government departments during the EIA process with a view to meeting the requirements of EIAO more efficiently.

As the above work is an integral part of the EPD's routine work on handling matters on designated projects and integrated enforcement, we do not have separate breakdowns of the expenditure involved.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB174**

**(Question Serial No. 1595)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environmental Protection Department's provision under this Programme for 2021-22 is \$63.8 million (102.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent project. Will the Administration advise on the relevant details?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The non-recurrent expenditure item under this Programme refers to the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) launched by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in October 2019 to support non-profit-making organisations to implement countryside conservation and revitalisation projects. In the 2021-22 Estimates, the provision is mainly used to cover the cash flow requirement of approved projects under the CCFS in the financial year. The main reasons for the comparatively large increase are that the revised estimate for 2020-21 is lower than the original estimate, and enhancement measures (such as raising the funding cap for specific types of projects, etc.) will be introduced to the CCFS in the coming financial year. These enhancement measures are expected to encourage more CCFS applications, and we therefore estimate a higher cash flow requirement for the coming year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB175**

**(Question Serial No. 0184)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Government's plan to continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles (EVs), and enhance the charging network for EVs, please advise on the following:

1. EVs have entered the market for some time. What are the anticipated number of waste batteries from retired EVs and the estimated resources to be involved each year in the coming 5 years?
2. Will EV manufacturers or agents be mandatorily required to recycle and handle waste EV batteries? If yes, when? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 133)

Reply:

- 1 and 2. Retired electric vehicle (EV) batteries are chemical waste and their disposal is subject to control under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354) and its subsidiary Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation (Cap. 354C). Currently, EV suppliers have engaged licensed collectors to collect the retired batteries of their brands' EVs. After proper preliminary treatment (e.g. sorting, discharging and insulating) and packaging, these retired EV batteries are exported to appropriate treatment facilities in Japan, Korea or Belgium for recycling. Although the age of most EVs in Hong Kong remains low and the number of retired EV batteries remains small at this stage, as EVs are becoming more popular, the number of retired EV batteries will gradually increase. The Environment Bureau announced Hong Kong's first roadmap on the popularisation of EVs in March 2021, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of EVs and their associated supporting facilities, which include formulating a Producer Responsibility Scheme for retired EV batteries. The Environmental Protection Department will maintain close liaison with EV suppliers and relevant stakeholders to explore a model of the Producer Responsibility Scheme for retired EV batteries that is applicable to local situations.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB176**

**(Question Serial No. 0185)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government will inject an additional funding of \$1 billion to the Recycling Fund and extend the application period to 2027 so as to render continuous support to the trade, particularly the small and medium enterprises, in enhancing its operational capabilities and efficiency as well as coping with the latest needs of both the local and non-local markets. It is expected that more than 1 000 businesses will benefit from the measure. Please advise on the following:

1. Will the additional funding of \$1 billion be allocated pro rata to different funding programmes (such as the Enterprise Support Programme, Industry Support Programme, Standard Project, etc.)? If yes, what are the details?
2. It is proposed in the 2020-21 Government Budget that \$100 million will be allocated to provide rental subsidy for 6 months to local recycling enterprises. What are the number of applications received and the cases approved so far? What is the amount of funding granted? What are the main reasons for applications being rejected?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 134)

Reply:

1. The Government does not plan to allocate the additional funding of \$1 billion pro rata to different funding programmes (such as the Enterprise Support Programme, Industry Support Programme, Standard Project etc.) so that the funding can be more flexibly used to support different development needs of the recycling industry. The Recycling Fund will continue to encourage the industry through various types of funding to transform and upgrade their operations with technologies, so as to complement the waste management policy objective, support the realisation of re-industrialisation and facilitate the development of a circular economy.
2. It was announced in the 2020-21 Government Budget that, in order to support the recycling industry to ride out the difficult times, the Government would earmark \$100 million for the extension of 6 months for the One-off Rental Support Scheme (the Scheme) launched under the Recycling Fund in December 2019. The Scheme, which

provided rental subsidies for 1 year from October 2019 to September 2020, received a total of 591 applications. The Recycling Fund finally approved 352 applications with reference to the published vetting criteria, and the funding amount involved was about \$93 million. The main reasons for applications being rejected include: the applicants did not process local recyclables; the applicants purely engaged in trading of recyclables without any actual processing; the applicants failed to provide the required documentary proof of rental agreements etc.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB177**

**(Question Serial No. 0187)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government will earmark \$80 million for green public light bus (PLB) operators to embark on a pilot scheme on electric PLBs from 2023. Meanwhile, the Government will also earmark \$350 million to provide subsidies for ferry operators to conduct trials on electric ferries serving in-harbour routes of the Victoria Harbour from 2023. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. Regarding the amount of \$350 million earmarked for the pilot scheme for electric ferries within Victoria Harbour, what is the estimated duration of the scheme and how many ferries are involved?
2. Regarding the amount of \$80 million earmarked for green PLB operators to conduct a pilot scheme on electric PLBs in 2023, please explain why it is not until 2023 that the scheme will be conducted. If the pilot scheme is successful, when will electric PLBs formally come into use?
3. How effective was the trial of electric buses by franchised bus companies that was launched years ago? What was the amount of funding allocated by the Government? Will the Government continue to allocate resources for promotion of the trial scheme? Is there any concrete timetable for the use of electric buses in phases in providing public transport services?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 136)

Reply:

1. The Government is preparing to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries (pilot scheme) in 4 in-harbour ferry routes with a view to testing the technical viability of adopting electric ferries (e-ferries) in Hong Kong, and exploring whether conventional ferries can be replaced by new energy ferries in the long run. The Government will provide full subsidies to the ferry operators for the construction of 4 brand new e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, as well as the operational, maintenance and repair expenditures involved for testing the e-ferries during the 24-month trial period.

Taking into account the lead time to construct the e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, we initially anticipate that the pilot scheme can commence in 2023.

2. The Government has earmarked \$80 million to subsidise about 40 electric public light buses (e-PLBs) and the associated charging facilities to implement a pilot scheme for e-PLBs. Since no electric light bus models available in the local market can fully meet the daily operational requirements of PLBs, we engaged a consultant in 2019 to conduct a study in order to develop the basic specifications and requirements for e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities that suit Hong Kong's operating environment, identify suitable PLB routes for trial under the pilot scheme and consult the PLB trade about their intention of joining the pilot scheme and using e-PLBs. We released the Technical Guidelines for Electric Public Light Buses (Fast Charging Type) and the Associated Charging Facilities in 2020 according to the recommendations of the above study. We will consider the consultant's recommendations and determine the routes for the trial within this year. We have liaised with different light bus manufacturers. However, given the lead time to develop and manufacture e-PLBs that suit Hong Kong, it is anticipated that the pilot scheme will commence officially in 2023. By then, e-PLBs running on various routes will be put on trial for about 12 months. After the completion of the trial, we will review the performance of the e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities, so as to formulate policies on promotion of e-PLBs.
3. The Government has allocated \$180 million to fully subsidise the franchised bus companies (FBCs) to purchase a total of 36 single-deck electric buses for conducting a two-year trial to test out their operational performance, reliability and economic feasibility in local conditions. At present, 33 electric buses have commenced operation. The remaining 3 electric buses are expected to commence the trial in 2021. Preliminary findings of the trial show that the driving performance of the single-deck electric buses is generally comparable with that of conventional buses. However, the driving range of an electric bus after a full charge (approximately 3 to 4 hours) cannot meet the normal daily requirement of most of the single-deck bus routes of about 200 to 300 km. In this connection, we will try to install charging facilities at the existing bus termini or public transport interchanges for top-up charging of the battery-electric buses in daytime.

We are subsidising Citybus Limited (Citybus) and New World First Bus Services Limited to install 8 new charging facilities at the MTR Hong Kong Station, Central Piers and Kai Tak Cruise Terminal Bus Terminus, so as to facilitate top-up charging for single-deck battery-electric buses in daytime, improve driving range for full-day operation and see whether the mode of daytime charging can cope with the high operation frequency of bus service in Hong Kong.

By conducting trials of single-deck electric buses in the past few years, the FBCs have acquired a fair amount of experience in the use of the buses. Some bus companies are actively procuring single-deck electric buses to conduct more trials or replace some of the retiring diesel buses.

For double-deck electric buses, the New Energy Transport Fund (previously named Pilot Green Transport Fund) approved the subsidy in November 2020 for The



Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited and Citybus to conduct trials respectively on a total of 4 double-deck electric buses supplied by 2 manufacturers. It is expected that the trials will commence progressively in mid-2022.

The feasibility of deploying electric bus services throughout or in individual areas of Hong Kong depends very much on the maturity of development of electric bus technologies, their prices and suitability for use in Hong Kong. It is incumbent upon us to fully test and prove that the relevant technology is suitable for the local environment and the actual modus operandi of the public transport sector before introduction of electric buses on a large scale. We will continue to monitor the performance of electric buses on trial and keep in view the development in other places, so as to introduce more models that suit Hong Kong's operating environment in due course.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB178**

**(Question Serial No. 1129)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government plans to develop a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun and invite tenders, so as to diversify outlets for our local waste paper. Please advise on the following:

1. What were the occupancy rates of and rental incomes from EcoPark Phase I and Phase II for the past year?
2. How many years are there in a normal tenancy period of leasing the EcoPark lots? Has there been any surrender of tenancy for the past 2 years? If so, what were the reasons?
3. What is the timing for inviting tenders for the modern pulping facility project? When the project commences operation, what will be the estimated amount of waste paper that can be handled per month and its percentage in the waste paper of Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 132)

Reply:

1. Located on Lung Mun Road in Tuen Mun, EcoPark has been developed in 2 phases to provide a total of 14 hectares of rentable area for the environmental industry. In 2020, a total of 12 lots in EcoPark had been leased to private recyclers for recycling the materials recovered, while the remaining 1 lot was used for temporary processing of yard waste for recycling. After deducting the amount of rent concession granted in the light of the financial difficulties and the pandemic, the yearly rental income of EcoPark in 2020 was about \$7.9 million.
2. Currently, the length of tenancy period for EcoPark is normally 20 years. In 2019, a tenant moved out of EcoPark due to lease expiry, and the subject lot was put up for open tendering in accordance with the established procedures, and was subsequently leased to another tenant in the same year. Besides, in early 2021, 2 tenants made an arrangement to surrender their tenancies due to deterioration of operating conditions of the recyclable market and financial considerations. Upon completion of all the formalities for the surrender of tenancies, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will arrange for letting of the lots concerned by tendering in due course.

3. The EPD is actively preparing for the development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun. It is expected that the EPD will invite open tender in the first half of 2021, and the facility will commence operation by 2024, with an initial annual treatment capacity of not less than 300 000 tonnes of local waste paper. Given that about 533 000 tonnes of waste paper were recovered locally in 2019, the treatment capacity of 300 000 tonnes accounts for about 56% of the total quantity of waste paper recovered.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB179****(Question Serial No. 1796)**Head: (44) Environmental Protection DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Air and Climate ChangeControlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for the EnvironmentQuestion:

Under Air and Climate Change, the estimate of \$2.433 billion for 2021-22 represents a significant increase of \$937 million (or 62.7%) over the revised estimate of \$1.495 billion for 2020-21. What are the specific reasons for the significant increase in the expenditure, and the details of the increased expenditure?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)Reply:

Under the Programme "Air and Climate Change", the estimate for 2021-22 is \$937.3 million (62.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. Relevant projects and the increase are tabulated as follows:

Major non-recurrent projects	Increase in estimate for 2021-22 over the revised estimate for 2020-21 (\$m)
Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles	401.6
Pilot Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging-enabling Infrastructure in Car Parks of Existing Private Residential Buildings	306.0
Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	98.1
Green Tech Fund	50.0
New Energy Transport Fund	39.6
Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme	22.8
Trial of retrofitting Euro IV and V double-deck franchised buses with enhanced selective catalytic reduction systems	21.0

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB180**

**(Question Serial No. 1797)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The provision for nature conservation of \$126 million for 2021-22 increased significantly by \$63 million (102.6%) over the revised estimate of \$62 million for 2020-21. What are the specific reasons for the significant increase and the details of the increased expenditure?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

The increase in the provision for nature conservation for 2021-22 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for a non-recurrent expenditure item under this Programme. This non-recurrent expenditure item refers to the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme (CCFS) launched by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in October 2019 to support non-profit-making organisations to implement countryside conservation and revitalisation projects. In the 2021-22 Estimates, the provision is mainly used to cover the cash flow requirement of approved projects under the CCFS in the financial year. The main reasons for the comparatively large increase are that the revised estimate for 2020-21 is lower than the original estimate, and enhancement measures (such as raising the funding cap for specific types of projects, etc.) will be introduced to the CCFS in the coming financial year. These enhancement measures are expected to encourage more CCFS applications, and we therefore estimate a higher cash flow requirement for the coming year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB181**

**(Question Serial No. 0627)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the promotion of the use of electric vehicles (EVs), it is proposed in the 2021-22 Budget that the first registration tax (FRT) concessions for electric private cars (e-PCs) under the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme will be raised by 15% from \$250,000 to \$287,500. To enhance the promotion of the use of EVs, will the Government consider further raising the FRT concessions of the Scheme? If yes, what are the details? If no, what measures are in place to expedite the use of EVs to support the ceasing of the new registration of fuel-propelled private cars in 2035? In addition, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will expand and enhance the charging network for EVs in 2021-22. What are the work plan and estimated expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

For the promotion of electric private cars (e-PCs), the Government's standing policy is to encourage the public to use public transport as far as possible, and should they need to acquire private cars, choose e-PCs. The Government's main supporting measures include offering the first registration tax (FRT) concessions for e-PCs. It is stated in this year's Budget that the FRT concession cap under the "One-for-One Replacement" Scheme (the Scheme) will be increased from \$250,000 to \$287,500, whereas the FRT concession cap for e-PCs in general is maintained at \$97,500. The above concessions will remain effective until 31 March 2024. Currently, amongst the 14 brands of e-PC available in the local market, 10 of them already provide models that can enjoy full waiver of FRT under the Scheme. Moreover, as 90% of the new e-PC owners have joined the Scheme since its introduction, the Government is of the view that the current arrangements have offered appropriate financial incentives to encourage the public to acquire e-PCs instead, and has no plan to further raise the FRT concessions under the Scheme at this stage.

Apart from offering financial incentives, the Government also promotes the establishment and enhancement of the e-PC charging networks, amongst which the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme (EHSS) has been launched for application since 21 October 2020.

The EHSS will run for about 3 years with a view to subsidising the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging-enabling infrastructure for more than 60 000 parking spaces in existing private housing estates, thereby providing the parking space owners with greater convenience in installing EV chargers of their choice for charging EVs at home in future in a simple and easy manner. The Government also allocated \$120 million in 2019-20 for extending the public EV charging networks at government car parks in 3 years, including the installation of additional medium chargers at the car parks managed by the Transport Department, the Government Property Agency, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and the Tourism Commission which are open to the public. Over 1 000 additional public chargers are expected to be in place by 2022, bringing the total number of public chargers to about 1 800. Among these, about 460 medium chargers are planned to be installed in 2021-22, and the estimated expenditure to be involved is \$48 million.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB182**

**(Question Serial No. 0628)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is indicated on the website of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) that 196 trials are funded by the New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) at present. What are the latest progress and results of the trials on various transport tools? Among these trials, light goods vehicles have been tested the most, including 138 electric light goods vehicles and 48 hybrid light goods vehicles. Will the Government set a maximum number of approved trials for each type of transport tools to avoid favouring a certain transport tool in granting the subsidy under the NET Fund? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons? In 2021-22, the EPD will continue to encourage the transport sectors to make use of the NET Fund to try out and widely use green innovative transport technologies. What are the relevant plans, and the manpower and estimated expenditure to be involved?

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

The Government has put in place a New Energy Transport Fund (NET Fund) (previously known as Pilot Green Transport Fund) since March 2011 to encourage the transport sector to try out and use green innovative transport technologies. As at the end of January 2021, the NET Fund has approved a total of 196 trials, involving 138 electric light goods vehicles (e-LGVs), 14 single-deck electric buses, 4 double-deck electric buses, 3 electric taxis, 3 electric light buses (LBs), 1 electric medium goods vehicle (MGV) (tractor), 48 hybrid LGVs, 27 hybrid MGVs, 26 hybrid LBs, 2 single-deck hybrid buses, 1 set of solar air-conditioning system for a bus, 4 sets of electric inverter air-conditioning systems for buses, the retrofitting of 3 in-use ferries each with 1 set of diesel-electric propulsion (DEP) system to replace their old-type of diesel engines and the retrofitting of 1 in-use ferry with a seawater scrubber, with a total subsidy of about \$154 million.

As at the end of January 2021, a total of 140 approved trials under the NET Fund have commenced and 106 of them have completed the trials. The latest trial results of various transport tools are as follows:



### Electric vehicles

For those electric commercial vehicles (e-CVs) trialled under the NET Fund, they could save 31% to 91% of their energy costs on an individual vehicle basis as compared with their conventional counterparts, excluding the models which are no longer available on the market. However, most of the e-CVs have limitations such as high production cost of batteries, limited service life, long charging time and/or low energy density of the batteries. Thus, the driving range and charging time of most e-CVs are yet to be able to fully cope with the requirements of the local transport sectors (e.g. LBs, taxis and buses). Among various e-CVs, e-LGVs are more likely to gain popularity in Hong Kong and are suitable for operators who require relatively lower daily mileage and payload. With the advancement in technology, several models of e-LGVs which offer over 300 km driving range and over 1 000 kg payload are available on local market since 2018. Trials of these models have already been carried out under the NET Fund.

### Hybrid vehicles

The trial result shows that no more than 32% and 13% of fuel costs are saved respectively by diesel hybrid goods vehicles and hybrid buses as compared with their conventional counterparts. For diesel hybrid LBs, excluding the models which are no longer available on the market, their fuel economy is 16% to 43% higher than that of conventional liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) LBs. However, as the price of diesel is 3 to 4 times the price of LPG, the fuel cost for diesel hybrid LBs is 60% to 126% higher than that for LPG LBs.

### Ferries

Regarding projects on ferry technologies, the DEP system could save 2.4% of the fuel cost and the emissions of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons (HC) as well as the smoke opacity could be reduced by 69%, 80% and 68% respectively as a more environment-friendly diesel engine is used when changing the system. As for the seawater scrubber, its operation increased the total fuel consumption of the ferry by 2.4%. When adopting the DEP system, the seawater scrubber could further reduce HC emission and smoke opacity by 5% respectively. In conclusion, compared with the effectiveness of using the DEP system and tightening of statutory sulphur content in fuel from 0.5% to 0.05%, the emission reduction effect of the seawater scrubber became insignificant, and its operation would also increase the total fuel consumption of the ferry.

### Other technologies

The trial of 1 solar air-conditioning system for a single-deck bus was also completed under the NET Fund, with the result indicating 10% saving of fuel cost. In addition, the trial results of 3 electric inverter air-conditioning systems for single-deck buses indicated a decrease of 34% in fuel cost to an increase of 8% in fuel cost.

Currently, limits are set on the trials of each type of green innovative transport technologies under the NET Fund, and the said limits are subject to factors such as product supply of that type of technology on the market and feasibility of extensive application by the transport sectors, in order to test the actual performance of different products used by different local trades under different operating environments and modes of operation. The Government will proceed with the setting of the limits after consulting with the New Energy Transport Fund Steering Committee. As for new energy light goods vehicles, the maximum numbers of electric light goods vehicles and hybrid light goods vehicles to be tested are 180 and 90 respectively.

The Government expanded the funding scope of the NET Fund in September 2020 to cover new energy commercial motorcycles, non-road vehicles and vessels with a view to allowing more transport sectors to try out green innovative transport technologies with the NET Fund. In 2021-22, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue to explore ways to further promote trial and wider use of green innovative transport technologies by the transport sectors; introduce the NET Fund to the transport sectors from time to time and share the trial results through different activities to encourage them to make use of the NET Fund to try out and widely use green innovative transport technologies; continue to monitor the performance of various technology products under trial, announce the results of completed trial reports and provide timely reports on the updates to the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council; and continue to keep in view the development in other places and encourage suppliers to introduce more new energy transport technologies that are suitable for use in Hong Kong.

The manpower and expenditure required for operating the NET Fund will be absorbed by the existing resources of the EPD.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB183**

**(Question Serial No. 0629)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise this Committee on the latest progress of the implementation of the pilot scheme for electric public light buses by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD); the work objectives, work details, estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved in 2021-22 in EPD's preparation for the implementation of the pilot scheme.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

The Government has earmarked \$80 million to subsidise about 40 electric public light buses (e-PLBs) and the associated charging facilities to implement a pilot scheme for e-PLBs. Since no electric light bus models available in the local market can fully meet the daily operational requirements of PLBs, we engaged a consultant in 2019 to conduct a study in order to develop the basic specifications and requirements for e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities that suit Hong Kong's operating environment, identify suitable PLB routes for trial under the pilot scheme and consult the PLB trade about their intention of joining the pilot scheme and using e-PLBs. We released the Technical Guidelines for Electric Public Light Buses (Fast Charging Type) and the Associated Charging Facilities in 2020 according to the recommendations of the above study. We will consider the consultant's recommendations and determine the routes for the trial within this year. We have liaised with different light bus manufacturers. However, given the lead time to develop and manufacture e-PLBs that suit Hong Kong, it is anticipated that the pilot scheme will commence officially in 2023. By then, e-PLBs running on various routes will be put on trial for about 12 months. After the completion of the trial, we will review the performance of the e-PLBs and the associated charging facilities, so as to formulate policies on promotion of e-PLBs. The overall workload for the pilot scheme is absorbed by the existing resources of the Environmental Protection Department and undertaken by 3 time-limited non-directorate posts for a period of 7 years from 2020-21.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB184**

**(Question Serial No. 0630)**

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Air and Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise this Committee on the latest progress of the implementation of the pilot scheme for electric ferries by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD); the work objectives, work details, estimated manpower and expenditure to be involved in 2021-22 in EPD's preparation for the implementation of the pilot scheme.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The Government is preparing to launch a pilot scheme for electric ferries (pilot scheme) in 4 in-harbour ferry routes with a view to testing the technical viability of adopting electric ferries (e-ferries) in Hong Kong, and exploring whether conventional ferries can be replaced by new energy ferries in the long run. The Government will provide full subsidies to the ferry operators for the construction of 4 brand new e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, as well as the operational, maintenance and repair expenditures involved for testing the e-ferries during the 24-month trial period. The Government has earmarked \$350 million for launching the pilot scheme. The actual expenditure will depend on the capital costs and operational costs of the e-ferries.

The Government has established an inter-departmental working group to work out the details of the pilot scheme, oversee its progress and evaluate the performance of the new e-ferries. We expect to devise design proposals for e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, sign "subsidy agreements" for the pilot scheme with operators and conduct an open tender exercise for the construction of e-ferries in 2021-22. Taking into account the lead time to construct the e-ferries and the associated charging facilities, we initially anticipate that the pilot scheme can commence in 2023. The work on implementing the pilot scheme is absorbed by the existing resources of the Environmental Protection Department.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB185**

**(Question Serial No. 0842 )**

Head: (100) Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Port Services (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Carol YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the collection of refuse from locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels, please advise on:

- (a) the staffing, expenditure and number of vessels involved in collecting refuse from fishing vessels, locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels, either by staff of the Marine Department (MD) or the contractor it engaged, in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21); and the staffing, expenditure and number of vessels involved in collecting refuse in various typhoon shelters in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21);
- (b) the mechanism adopted by MD for collecting refuse in various typhoon shelters, and the daily collection schedules;
- (c) whether MD will consider providing additional notification channels or establishing a mechanism in addition to the 24-hour hotline replied by officers on duty, email and fax so as to improve the service for collecting refuse for fishing vessels in typhoon shelters;
- (e) the total quantities of marine refuse collected by MD in the past 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21) and the total quantities of refuse collected in typhoon shelters (please provide the information by month); and
- (f) the number of notifications issued by the notification and alert system on marine refuse since its setting up under the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel, with the extent of its effectiveness; and the way to an enhanced cross-border collaboration between Guangdong and Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 69)

Reply:

- (a) MD signed the existing contract for marine refuse cleansing services with the contractor for a term of five years commencing 1 October 2017 and ending 30 September 2022, involving a contract expenditure of about \$447 million.

Currently, the contractor is providing a fleet of about 80 vessels of various types for marine refuse cleansing and support to clean up marine refuse in Hong Kong waters on a daily basis (including Sundays and public holidays), which includes offering domestic refuse collection service to vessels berthed in typhoon shelters, anchorages and small boat anchorage areas. The contract for the marine refuse cleansing services includes cleaning up floating refuse, collecting domestic refuse from vessels, managing refuse collection points and transporting refuse to landfills for disposal, etc. Since the overall contract cost includes the staffing, expenditure and number of vessels involved in collecting refuse from fishing vessels, locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels in typhoon shelters, there is no separate breakdown for such items.

As for the staffing of MD, there are mainly 10 Marine Inspector IIs and four patrol launches responsible for the inspection of sea water cleanliness across the territory and for monitoring of the performance of the contractor, as well as redeploying resources in accordance with the actual needs to address the floating refuse problems in various districts.

- (b) Currently, the marine refuse cleansing contractor of MD has refuse collection boats stationed in major typhoon shelters such as Sam Ka Tsuen, Shau Kei Wan, Causeway Bay, To Kwa Wan, New Yau Ma Tei, Tuen Mun, Sai Kung, Cheung Chau and Shuen Wan for collecting refuse from vessels at those typhoon shelters at least once a day. The refuse collection boats of the contractor generally sail through the typhoon shelters in the morning period to collect refuse from vessels. Vessels berthed in the typhoon shelters may also make calls to MD or the contractor for arranging refuse collection service. Since the end of 2015, the frequency of collecting refuse from vessels in Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter has been increased to twice a day, i.e. once in the morning and once in the afternoon.
- (c) Apart from the 24-hour hotlines (2385 2791 or 2385 2792) manned by duty officers, MD's contractor has set up a hotline (3527 3929) to facilitate the arrangements for refuse collection service. At meetings before fishing moratorium and Chinese New Year, MD will also inform those in need, via the attending representatives of various organisations, of the available channels to provide information by email (admpcu@mardep.gov.hk) or by fax (2543 6877) for arranging refuse collection service. MD will continuously monitor the use of the various notification channels.
- (e) The quantities of marine refuse (including floating refuse, refuse collected from ships, and refuse collected from locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels) collected in the past three years are as follows:

**2018**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Floating refuse (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Refuse collected from ships (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Refuse collected from locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels (in tonnes)</b>
January	830.0	209.9	151.9
February	786.4	198.0	168.8
March	831.4	209.7	161.0
April	862.9	201.6	160.4
May	895.9	219.0	189.1
June	1 008.2	194.1	195.9
July	1 050.7	206.9	201.5
August	1 055.0	203.2	186.6
September	1 469.1	188.3	175.3
October	1 077.4	209.8	178.7
November	889.0	199.7	162.3
December	778.3	208.7	169.1
Full year	11 534.3	2 448.9	2 100.6

**2019**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Floating refuse (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Refuse collected from ships (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Refuse collected from locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels (in tonnes)</b>
January	803.3	208.8	179.5
February	756.0	188.6	165.8
March	815.1	207.4	175.6
April	855.6	202.3	173.5
May	930.2	209.2	196.4
June	1 000.7	201.5	192.9
July	1 061.9	202.3	190.8
August	1 114.4	202.5	186.1
September	1 055.1	201.4	165.9
October	963.0	209.3	170.3
November	876.0	202.1	164.1
December	775.1	208.2	167.5
Full year	11 006.4	2 443.6	2 128.4

2020

<b>Month</b>	<b>Floating refuse (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Refuse collected from ships (in tonnes)</b>	<b>Refuse collected from locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels (in tonnes)</b>
January	767.1	209.4	181.4
February	737.6	194.9	169.4
March	804.8	208.1	177.3
April	829.7	200.6	171.8
May	891.9	207.7	189.8
June	988.8	198.9	187.8
July	1 021.8	209.1	196.0
August	1 023.6	194.6	175.0
September	981.8	202.2	172.9
October	811.1	195.3	158.3
November	764.4	201.3	164.9
December	704.2	209.1	155.6
Full year	10 326.8	2 431.2	2 100.2

The refuse from locally-licensed vessels and river trade vessels is mainly collected in typhoon shelters, with only a small quantity collected in small boat anchorage areas. MD does not maintain separate statistics on the quantities of refuse collected in individual typhoon shelters and small boat anchorage areas. The quantities of refuse collected in typhoon shelters are therefore not separately accounted for.

- (f) Under the framework of the “Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Environmental Management Special Panel”, the Government has been maintaining close liaison with Guangdong to jointly explore ways to handle marine refuse and marine environmental incidents, and review on a regular basis arrangements for relevant cross-border collaboration with a view to further enhancing the incident notification mechanism. Since the trial run of the “Notification and alert system on marine refuse” in May 2017, Hong Kong and Guangdong have activated the system and issued notifications in a timely manner in response to major marine environmental incidents or heavy rainfall so that both parties can suitably deploy resources and make corresponding preparation. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) issued a total of 22 notifications to Guangdong due to inclement weather and environmental incidents. Furthermore, Hong Kong and Guangdong cooperated to organise coastal clean-up activities for the first time in 2019 to jointly promote the messages of keeping the shoreline clean and protecting the ocean together. Due to the epidemic, plans for joint activities between Hong Kong and Guangdong last year were postponed.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB186**

**(Question Serial No. 3105)**

Head: (100) Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine (Carol YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In terms of harbour cleansing and collecting refuse from ships and floating refuse, please advise on whether the Marine Department (MD) will introduce innovative technologies to facilitate the handling of relevant works in 2021-22; if so, what are the details and what are the expenses involved for each technology; if not, what are the reasons, and will innovative technologies applied abroad in harbour cleansing and collecting refuse from ships and floating refuse be explored to determine which of them can Hong Kong draw lessons from?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

In 2021, MD will place floating booms in Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter to intercept floating refuse. MD is also planning to enhance the monitoring of sea water cleanliness by using drones. Two drones have already been acquired and are currently under testing. Monitoring with drones is expected to commence in Q2 of 2021. The floating booms and drones were purchased previously, with a total cost of approximately \$400,000.

MD will continue to explore innovative technologies applied to harbour cleansing and collecting refuse from ships and floating refuse in other regions. We will keep an open mind and proactively consider methods which are conducive to marine refuse handling, suitable for placement and usage in Hong Kong waters, and at the same time will not pose a problem for navigation safety or a safety risk at sea.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB187**

**(Question Serial No. 1368)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent  
Programme: (3) Sustainable Development  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

This year's estimate is 129.9% higher than last year's revised estimate. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Sustainable Development Fund. Please provide the work plans and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the Sustainable Development Fund for this year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

Projects funded by the Sustainable Development Fund (the Fund) aim at enhancing public awareness of the principles of sustainable development and encouraging sustainable practices among members of the public. The Environment Bureau is responsible for monitoring the operation of the Fund. Since the establishment of the Fund, a total of 74 projects have been approved for funding support. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the projects that are still in progress in the 2021-22 financial year.

Meanwhile, we are conducting the preparatory work for the next round of applications for the Fund. After reviewing the use of the funding by the approved projects, it is estimated that the amount of funding available in the 2021-22 financial year is about \$30 million, which will be used to step up the promotion of low-carbon living in the community.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB188**

**(Question Serial No. 1957)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the promotion of the local use of solar energy, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. What is the current percentage of electricity generated locally by solar energy? Will a target be set for that percentage?
2. How many solar panels are there in government buildings? What are their respective locations and annual power generation?
3. What were the projects involving installation of solar panels subsidised by the Environment and Conservation Fund in the past 3 years?
4. The Government has set aside \$1 billion for departments to install renewable energy facilities. What are the details and the progress? What are the new selected sites for installation of additional solar panels?
5. As stated in the Budget, the Government will set aside an extra \$1 billion on more than 80 projects to install additional small-scale renewable energy systems at government buildings and infrastructure. What are the details and the implementation timetable?
6. As mentioned in the Budget, \$150 million will also be set aside to conduct energy audits and install energy-saving appliances for non-governmental organisations subvented by the Social Welfare Department. What are the details and the implementation timetable?
7. To promote the development of renewable energy and the use of energy-efficient building installations in buildings, tax incentives are provided for capital expenditures spent on the related installations. In this connection, what were the number of applications, the amounts of expenditure involved and the details in the past 3 years?
8. What measures (e.g. providing subsidies to members of the relevant recycling industry) are in place to dispose of waste solar panels, so as to prevent such waste from polluting the environment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 72)

Reply:

1. According to the Hong Kong Energy End-use Data, renewable energy (RE) accounted for roughly 0.2% of electricity consumption in 2018. This included the solar energy

used to heat water, and electricity generated by photovoltaic panels, wind and hydro power systems and waste-to-energy facilities. We do not have the breakdowns.

Generally speaking, the generation of RE relies on natural resources, such as solar, wind and hydro power. However, the physical environment of Hong Kong has imposed a large number of constraints on the wide application of such RE. As set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2030+, based on currently mature and commercially available technologies, our estimate is that Hong Kong has a realisable RE potential of about 3%-4% (as a percentage of Hong Kong's total electricity consumption) arising from wind, solar energy and waste-to-energy that can be exploited between now and 2030, with solar energy accounting for about 1%-1.5%. However, we still face many technical and financial challenges in fully exploiting such RE potential, and there will also be impact on tariffs. In view of the advancement of RE technologies, we will continue to review the potential to develop RE in Hong Kong. Nonetheless, due to the above uncertainties, it is not yet appropriate to set a target for RE (including that for solar energy) in the fuel mix for electricity generation at this stage.

2. The solar panel projects completed by the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) in the past 5 years (from 2016-17 to 2020-21) at government buildings and public facilities are tabulated below:

<b>Name of government buildings/ public facilities</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Annual power generation (kWh)*</b>
Reprovisioning of Yaumatei Specialist Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Hospital	June 2016	16 000
Redevelopment of Tai Lam Centre for Women	November 2016	25 000
Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Ma Kam Chan Memorial Primary School (in Area 36, Fanling)	July 2017	5 000
A school for social development for girls at Choi Hing Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	August 2017	3 000
Hong Kong Children's Hospital	September 2017	5 000
Two special schools at Sung On Street, To Kwa Wan	December 2017	3 000
Relocation of New Territories West Regional Office and Water Resources Education Centre of Water Supplies Department to Tin Shui Wai	February 2018	24 800
Staff quarters for Immigration Department at Heng Lam Street, Kowloon	September 2018	4 300
Pun U Association Wah Yan Primary School/North Point Methodist Primary School on Pak Fuk Road	September 2018	7 900
A special school near Hoi Lai Estate, Sham Shui Po	September 2018	5 000

<b>Name of government buildings/ public facilities</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Annual power generation (kWh)*</b>
Rank and file quarters for Customs and Excise Department at Yau Yue Wan Village Road, Tseung Kwan O	October 2018	19 700
Reprovisioning of Pak Tin community hall and special child care centre-cum-early education and training centre in Pak Tin Estate redevelopment site, Sham Shui Po	January 2019	4 600
Government Complex in Area 14 (Siu Lun), Tuen Mun	February 2019	6 300
West Kowloon Government Offices	March 2019	11 000
Renovation works for the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices for office use by the Department of Justice and law-related organisations	April 2019	13 000
Redevelopment of Kwun Tong Staff Quarters at Tseung Kwan O Road, Kowloon	April 2019	5 000
A 30-classroom primary school at Site KT2b, Development at Anderson Road, Kwun Tong	May 2019	7 200
A 30-classroom secondary school at Site 1A-2, Kai Tak Development	May 2019	8 300
Sports Centre in Area 24D, Sha Tin	June 2019	11 800
Staff quarters for Correctional Services Department at Tin Wan, Aberdeen	September 2019	600
A special school for students with mild, moderate and severe intellectual disabilities in Area 108, Tung Chung	September 2019	7 200
Construction of Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point (BCP) – BCP Buildings and Associated Facilities	October 2019	15 000
Development of a bathing beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po	April 2020	1 600
Kowloon East Regional Headquarters and Operational Base-cum-Ngau Tau Kok Divisional Police Station	May 2020	20 200
Reprovisioning of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department Sai Yee Street Environmental Hygiene offices-cum-vehicle depot at Yen Ming Road, West Kowloon Reclamation Area	July 2020	93 100

<b>Name of government buildings/ public facilities</b>	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Annual power generation (kWh)*</b>
Sports centre, 5-a-side soccer pitch and public library facilities at Northwest Kowloon Reclamation Site 6, Sham Shui Po	January 2021	9 800
Open space in Areas 47 and 48, North District	March 2021	3 300

\* The figure denotes the estimation of annual power generation made during the design stage of the solar panel projects.

3. Information on the solar panel projects subsidised by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) in the past 3 years (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21) is set out below:

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>Number of projects approved</b>	3 <sup>#</sup>	2 <sup>#</sup>	1 <sup>#</sup>
<b>Amount of subsidies (HK\$)</b>	\$619,900	\$100,000	\$29,400

# To implement the policy of promoting the use of RE announced by the Chief Executive in the 2018 Policy Address, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has launched Solar Harvest since 2019-20 to provide eligible schools and welfare non-governmental organisations with one-stop service by installing small-scale solar systems for them free of charge. This initiative provides a more suitable alternative for ECF applicants who are interested in installing solar panels.

4. and 5.

Since 2017-18, the Government has earmarked a total of \$2 billion to install small-scale RE systems at government premises. More than \$1.5 billion has been approved so far for more than 130 projects. The 2021-22 Budget has proposed to earmark an additional \$1 billion for this purpose. Together with the \$2 billion previously earmarked for the same type of works, this measure will have an accumulated provision of \$3 billion, showing the Government's determination in deep decarbonisation.

Among the 130-odd approved projects, about 50 projects have been completed. The remaining ones are planned to commence in the coming year. The ArchSD is responsible for projects in government buildings (including government offices, government schools, government quarters, recreation grounds-cum-rest gardens, disciplined services facilities, etc.), while relevant departments including the Drainage Services Department, the Water Supplies Department and the Highways Department, etc. are responsible for projects in government infrastructure (including multiple sewage treatment works, reservoirs, pump houses, pedestrian links, etc.).

These 130-odd projects include waste-to-energy projects, solar power systems and hydropower systems, which are expected to generate a total of about 21 million kWh of electricity each year, with the waste-to-energy projects, solar power systems and hydropower systems generating 17 million kWh, 3 million kWh and 1 million kWh of electricity respectively each year.

Developing local RE is one of the means for achieving carbon neutrality in Hong Kong. Installing these facilities at government premises is a good way to optimise the favourable conditions offered by the premises and demonstrates that the Government is taking the lead in this respect. The EMSD and the ArchSD will continue to invite departments to submit their plans for RE projects. According to past experience, we estimate that the additional \$1 billion can take forward over 80 more projects in the coming few years, which can generate a total of about 6 million kWh of electricity each year. The actual situation will depend on the concrete proposals of the departments.

6. A new Green Welfare NGOs programme will commence in 2022-23 for a period of 5 years to conduct energy audits and install more energy efficient variable-speed air-conditioners and light emitting diode (LED) lighting at the premises of eligible welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) free of charge, with a view to enhancing the energy performance of these premises and actively promoting energy conservation and carbon reduction. The targets of Green Welfare NGOs are some 1 000 premises operated by more than 160 welfare NGOs regularly subvented by the Social Welfare Department, including venues for elderly, family, youth and rehabilitation services, etc. Subject to the response of the welfare NGOs and the progress of the programme, it is expected that energy audits will be conducted and energy-saving appliances will be installed for 300 premises of welfare NGOs, resulting in a total electricity saving of 5 million kWh each year.
  
7. The number of applications received by the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) for concessionary tax deductions in relation to environmental protection installations and the total deductions granted in the past 3 years are set out in the table below:

<b>Year of assessment</b>	<b>Number of applications for deductions</b>	<b>Total deductions (\$m)</b>
2016/17	7	32.2
2017/18	8	8.7
2018/19	22	1,007.0

The IRD does not have the yearly statistics for the year of assessment 2019/20 as the assessment cycle has not been completed.

8. Solar photovoltaic panels do not have moving parts, and normally can be used for more than 25 years. Although there is no imminent need to handle or recycle large quantities of solar photovoltaic panels in Hong Kong at present, the Government will keep making reference to international trends and practices, including the technologies

for and experiences in recycling solar photovoltaic panels, and will continue to closely monitor the local usage of solar photovoltaic panels, so as to formulate a suitable solution for Hong Kong in a timely manner.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB189**

**(Question Serial No. 0006)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please list the estimated expenditures on the salaries and allowances payable to the Director of Bureau, the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant in 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

For budgetary purposes, we have reserved \$4.08 million, \$3.13 million and \$1.46 million respectively for the salaries of the Secretary for the Environment (SEN), the Under Secretary for the Environment and the Political Assistant to SEN, as well as \$18,000 for Mandatory Provident Fund contribution for each of them in 2021-22.

Other than the provision of subsistence allowance for overseas duty visits comparable to that for civil servants of equivalent rank, we do not have any estimated expenditure on other allowances payable to politically appointed officials in 2021-22.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB190**

**(Question Serial No. 2862)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (001) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please provide a list of the destinations, dates and number of duty visits outside Hong Kong made by the Secretary last year and the actual expenditures incurred.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Chung-tai (LegCo internal reference no.: 251)

Reply:

The Secretary for the Environment did not conduct any duty visits outside Hong Kong last year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB191****(Question Serial No. 2141)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (001) Salaries

Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please advise this Committee:

1. of the numbers of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff members employed by the Director of Bureau's Office (Environment Bureau) and the relevant expenditures in the past 3 years; and
2. whether there are any establishment and expenditure ceilings on the NCSC staff members employed by the Director of Bureau; if yes, of the relevant establishment and expenditure ceilings.

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

Details of the full-time <sup>(Note 1)</sup> and part-time <sup>(Note 2)</sup> non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff employed by the Office of the Secretary for the Environment as at 30 June 2018, 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020 are set out in the following table:

Year	Number of staff members		Expenditure (\$m) <sup>(Note3)</sup>
	Full-time	Part-time	
Position as at 30 June 2018	1	-	0.1
Position as at 30 June 2019	2	-	0.7
Position as at 30 June 2020	3	-	1.0

Under the NCSC Staff Scheme, Heads of bureaux/departments (B/Ds) may employ NCSC staff to meet changing operational and service needs. They include those: (a) which may be time-limited, seasonal, or subject to market fluctuations; or (b) which require staff to work less than the conditioned hours; or (c) which require tapping the latest expertise in a particular area from the labour market; or (d) where the mode of service delivery is under review or likely to be changed. Moreover, the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has set a ceiling for the number of NCSC staff members employed by B/Ds. For the employment of NCSC staff over and above the prescribed ceiling, B/Ds are required to seek approval from

the CSB. Subject to the above conditions, the Office of the Secretary for the Environment will employ NCSC staff having regard to the operational needs.

Note 1: “Full-time” employment means employment under a “continuous contract” as defined by the Employment Ordinance (EO). According to the EO, an employee is regarded as being employed under a “continuous contract” if he or she works continuously for the same employer for 4 weeks or more, with at least 18 hours in each week.

Note 2: “Part-time” employment means employment whereby the number of working hours of the NCSC staff is less than that under a “continuous contract” as defined by the EO. The number of part-time NCSC staff refers to those with employment contractual relations with the Office of the Secretary for the Environment as at 30 June of the subject year, and only some of them were called upon to perform duty on that date.

Note 3: The expenditure from 1 July of the preceding year to 30 June of the subject year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB192**

**(Question Serial No. 2185)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Government has installed additional small-scale renewable energy systems at government buildings and infrastructure previously. It is mentioned in the 2021/2022 Budget that the Government has planned to set aside \$150 million to install energy-saving appliances, free of charge, for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) subvented by the Social Welfare Department. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the respective types of energy-saving appliances installed in various government departments? What are the respective expenses for installing the appliances for various departments?
2. How much energy is saved by the relevant energy-saving appliances for various departments?
3. It is expected that the Administration will earmark \$150 million to install energy-saving appliances for NGOs. How many organisations are expected to be benefited from this? Are there expected outcome indicators for reference?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 64)

Reply:

- 1 and 2. The Government has carried out energy saving projects in various departments, including the retrofitting of more energy-efficient air-conditioning and lighting systems, for example, light emitting diode (LED) lighting and floodlights, etc. In 2020-21, the estimated expenses for the energy saving projects were about \$75 million and 2.5 million kWh of electricity was expected to be saved annually by the relevant energy saving projects.
3. A new Green Welfare NGOs programme will commence in 2022-23 for a period of 5 years to conduct energy audits and install more energy efficient variable-speed air-conditioners and LED lighting at the premises of eligible welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) free of charge, with a view to enhancing the energy performance of these premises and actively promoting energy conservation and carbon reduction. The targets of Green Welfare

NGOs are some 1 000 premises operated by more than 160 welfare NGOs regularly subvented by the Social Welfare Department, including venues for elderly, family, youth and rehabilitation services, etc. Subject to the response of the welfare NGOs and the progress of the programme, it is expected that energy audits will be conducted and energy-saving appliances will be installed for 300 premises of welfare NGOs, resulting in a total electricity saving of 5 million kWh each year.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB193****(Question Serial No. 2232)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. What was the number of new buildings that signed up for the Charter on External Lighting (the Charter) in the past year?
2. What was the number of complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) last year regarding light pollution in all 18 districts in Hong Kong? Please provide a breakdown of the complaints by commercial building, commercial and residential building and residential building; and the number of cases that have been successfully resolved.
3. Regarding legislative control on light pollution, does the Bureau have any timetable at present?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

In 2020, about 140 new participants signed up for the Charter on External Lighting (the Charter).

The numbers of complaint cases against external lighting received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in 2020 are shown below. Nearly 40% of these cases were related to lighting installations for safety, security and operational purposes (i.e. outside the scope of the Charter), while the remaining ones were related to installations for decorative, promotional and advertising purposes. The EPD does not have a breakdown of the complaint cases by type of buildings.

District	Complaint cases
Central and Western	37
Wan Chai	48
Eastern	19
Southern	10
Yau Tsim Mong	50

District	Complaint cases
Sham Shui Po	16
Kowloon City	34
Wong Tai Sin	7
Kwun Tong	23
Tsuen Wan	22
Tuen Mun	11
Yuen Long	18
North	8
Tai Po	8
Sai Kung	16
Sha Tin	21
Kwai Tsing	17
Islands	8
Total	373

Upon receipt of complaints against light nuisance, the EPD will relay the complainants' concerns and requests to the persons responsible for the lighting installations in question, and if applicable, advise them to refer to the "Guidelines on Industry Best Practices for External Lighting Installations" and take appropriate measures to minimise the impact of the lighting installations on the residents in the vicinity. Most of the persons responsible for the lighting installations will, upon receipt of complaints, adopt measures to minimise light nuisance as far as practicable.

To review the effectiveness of the Charter, the Working Group on External Lighting appointed by the Government has engaged consultancies to conduct an opinion survey, to measure the changes of illumination level in different districts in Hong Kong, and to look into regulatory arrangements adopted by other cities for external lighting installations. The assessment is underway. The Environment Bureau will consider the next step having regard to the assessment results.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB194**

**(Question Serial No. 1059)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What is the number of applications for the Green Tech Fund? How many jobs have been created in this regard? How many government buildings and infrastructure will be installed with additional small-scale renewable energy systems in 2021-22? What is the relevant staffing?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The first round of applications for the Green Tech Fund was closed in February this year. A total of 191 applications have been received. The vetting results are expected to be announced in the middle of this year. As no projects have been approved yet, information regarding the jobs to be created by the approved projects is not available.

Since 2017-18, the Government has earmarked a total of \$2 billion to install small-scale renewable energy (RE) systems at government premises. More than \$1.5 billion has been approved so far for more than 130 projects. The 2021-22 Budget has proposed to earmark an additional \$1 billion for this purpose. Among the 130-odd approved projects, about 50 projects have been completed. The remaining projects are planned to commence in the coming year. The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) is responsible for projects in government buildings while the relevant departments including the Drainage Services Department, the Water Supplies Department and the Highways Department, etc. are responsible for projects in government infrastructure. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and ArchSD will continue to invite departments to submit their plans for RE projects according to the established procedure in 2021-22. The number of approved projects in the said financial year is therefore not yet available. The staff cost required for installing small-scale RE systems at existing government premises is absorbed by existing resources.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB195**

**(Question Serial No. 1119)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (3) Sustainable Development  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under this programme, one of the responsibilities of the Environment Bureau (ENB) is to promote sustainable development in Hong Kong. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the amount of expenditure used in carrying out the related work in 2020-21 and its effectiveness. Please provide a breakdown of the programmes and the outcomes. What are the work plans and timetable of the ENB for promoting sustainable development in Hong Kong in 2021-22? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 48)

Reply:

To promote public awareness of sustainable development, the Environment Bureau (ENB) has been assisting the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) in carrying out various public education and publicity activities. The major programmes in progress are as follows:

(1) Sustainable Development School Outreach Programme

This programme aims at promoting the concepts and practices of sustainable development among secondary school students through organising seminars, workshops and drama performances in schools. In the 2020/21 school year, the programme was extended to primary schools on a pilot basis. A total of 95 schools (71 secondary schools and 24 primary schools) enrolled for 29 seminars, 32 workshops and 82 drama performances, with an estimated participation of 24 000 teachers and students (the actual number would be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic). The expenditure involved in the 2020-21 financial year was about \$700,000.

(2) Sustainable Development School Award Programme

This programme is a biennial school year programme which aims at encouraging schools to participate in and organise sustainable development related activities so that students can put sustainable development concepts into practice in schools and in the community. A

total of 54 schools have enrolled for the current round (2020/21 and 2021/22 school years) of the programme, with an estimated participation of 100 000 teachers, students and members of the community (the actual number would be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic). The expenditure involved in the 2020-21 financial year was about \$110,000.

The above 2 programmes relating to the education and publicity of sustainable development will continue to be implemented in the 2021-22 financial year. The ENB has earmarked about \$1.8 million for these programmes, and the specific allocations will be subject to the actual needs of various programmes.

### (3) Sustainable Development Fund

Projects funded by the Sustainable Development Fund (the Fund) aim at enhancing public awareness of the principles of sustainable development and encouraging sustainable practices among members of the public. The ENB is responsible for monitoring the operation of the Fund. Since the establishment of the Fund, a total of 74 projects have been approved for funding support. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the projects that are still in progress in the 2021-22 financial year.

Meanwhile, we are conducting the preparatory work for the next round of applications for the Fund. After reviewing the use of the funding by the approved projects, it is estimated that the amount of funding available in the 2021-22 financial year is about \$30 million, which will be used to step up the promotion of low-carbon living in the community.

The ENB has also organised Sustainable Development workshops and Computer-Aided Sustainability Evaluation Tool (CASET) training courses internally within the Government, so as to enhance the awareness of staff from various departments about the concept of sustainable development and their ability in applying the sustainability evaluation tool. About 276 government staff participated in workshops and training courses in 2020 and the expenditure involved was \$4,500.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB196****(Question Serial No. 0220)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the electricity charges relief introduced since 2019, please set out the numbers of customers of the 2 power companies which have fully utilised the monthly relief and the numbers of residential households which have not used up their electricity charges relief respectively by month.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Since January 2019, the Government has been crediting a monthly electricity charges relief of \$50 to each eligible residential electricity account for 60 consecutive months for the purpose of offsetting the billed electricity charges under the same account. Any unused credit in a month can be carried forward to cover billed electricity charges under the same account until 31 December 2023 or the closure of the account (whichever is earlier).

As at 28 February 2021, the numbers of accounts benefited from the Electricity Charges Relief Scheme and the numbers of accounts which had not fully used up their credited electricity charges relief are as follows:

	Numbers of accounts benefited	Numbers of accounts which had not fully used up their credited electricity charges relief
CLP Power Hong Kong Limited	About 2.33 million	About 1.56 million
The Hongkong Electric Company, Limited	About 470 000	About 60 000

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB197**

**(Question Serial No. 0221)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the Charter on External Lighting, will the Government advise this Committee on the following for the past 3 years:

1. the list of participants each year;
2. the number of inspections conducted by the Administration on whether the participants had breached the Charter each year;
3. the number of complaints concerning non-compliance of the Charter received each year;
4. whether a review on the effectiveness of the Charter is being conducted, and whether the review has been completed; if yes, of the review findings; if not, of the time when the review will be completed?

Besides, please list out the complaints against nuisance caused by external lighting for each year between 2018 and 2020 with a breakdown by 18 districts.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Wai-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

Since the Charter on External Lighting (the Charter) took effect in April 2016, about 5 000 participants from different sectors have signed up for the Charter, including building management, property development, hotels and catering, retail, banking, telecommunications, real estate agencies, as well as schools, public utilities and public/non-governmental organisations. Although signing up for the Charter is voluntary, a significant majority of the participants take their pledge seriously. Our on-site compliance checks show that nearly 99% of the participants have been able to follow the switch-off requirement. The constantly updated list of Charter participants is available on the website [www.charteronexternallighting.gov.hk](http://www.charteronexternallighting.gov.hk).

To review the effectiveness of the Charter, the Working Group on External Lighting appointed by the Government has engaged consultancies to conduct an opinion survey, to measure the changes of illumination level in different districts in Hong Kong, and to look into regulatory arrangements adopted by other cities for external lighting installations. The

assessment is underway. The Environment Bureau will consider the next step having regard to the assessment results.

The numbers of complaint cases against external lighting received by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in the past 3 years are shown below. Over 30% of these cases were related to lighting installations for safety, security and operational purposes (i.e. outside the scope of the Charter), while the remaining ones were related to installations for decorative, promotional and advertising purposes.

Year \ District	2018	2019	2020
Central and Western	44	43	37
Wan Chai	41	53	48
Eastern	37	32	19
Southern	25	9	10
Yau Tsim Mong	56	58	50
Sham Shui Po	36	27	16
Kowloon City	33	66	34
Wong Tai Sin	5	7	7
Kwun Tong	16	18	23
Tsuen Wan	23	16	22
Tuen Mun	24	17	11
Yuen Long	28	23	18
North	13	3	8
Tai Po	16	6	8
Sai Kung	32	13	16
Sha Tin	15	21	21
Kwai Tsing	28	9	17
Islands	5	15	8
Total	477	436	373

About 60 complaints were related to the non-compliance with the Charter requirements by the participants. Upon receipt of complaints against light nuisance, the EPD will relay the complainants' concerns and requests to the persons responsible for the lighting installations in question, and if applicable, advise them to refer to the Guidelines on Industry Best Practices for External Lighting Installations and take appropriate measures to minimise the impact of the lighting installations on the residents in the vicinity. Most of the persons responsible for the lighting installations will, upon receipt of complaints, adopt measures to minimise light nuisance as far as practicable.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB198**

**(Question Serial No. 0374)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What is the plan for promoting the Energy Saving for All 2020 Campaign this year? Is there any difference between the relevant budget and manpower in this year and those in 2019? If yes, what is the difference?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

The Energy Saving for All 2020 Campaign comprised the Energy Saving Charter 2020, the 4T Charter, the award presentation ceremony of the Energy Saving Championship Scheme 2019, as well as the relevant experience sharing sessions. It aimed at encouraging different sectors of the community to join hands together in saving energy and combating climate change. The Energy Saving for All 2020 Campaign was implemented with the prevailing manpower. As the launching ceremony of the Campaign and the Energy Saving Championship Scheme 2020 were cancelled due to the pandemic, the total expenditure on the Energy Saving for All 2020 Campaign was reduced by about \$2 million when compared with 2019.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB199**

**(Question Serial No. 0375)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Is there any plan this year to reduce the impacts of light pollution?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Che-cheung (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

Since the Charter on External Lighting (the Charter) took effect in April 2016, about 5 000 participants from different sectors have signed up for the Charter. To review the effectiveness of the Charter, the Working Group on External Lighting appointed by the Government has engaged consultancies to conduct an opinion survey, to measure the changes of illumination level in different districts in Hong Kong, and to look into regulatory arrangements adopted by other cities for external lighting installations. The assessment is underway. The Environment Bureau will consider the next step having regard to the assessment results.

In addition, upon receipt of complaints against light nuisance caused by external lighting, the Environmental Protection Department will relay the complainants' concerns and requests to the persons responsible for the lighting installations in question, and if applicable, advise them to refer to the "Guidelines on Industry Best Practices for External Lighting Installations" and take appropriate measures to minimise the impact of the lighting installations on the residents in the vicinity. Most of the persons responsible for the lighting installations will, upon receipt of complaints, adopt measures to minimise light nuisance as far as practicable.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB200**

**(Question Serial No. 2534)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

How many meetings have been held by the Working Group on External Lighting (the Working Group) in the past 3 years? What was the number of attendance for each member? Since the establishment of the Working Group in 2018, how many public engagement forums have been organised regarding the review of the effectiveness of the Charter on External Lighting, and what was the number of participants in each forum?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

To review the effectiveness of the Charter on External Lighting, the Working Group on External Lighting (the Working Group) appointed by the Government has engaged consultancies to conduct an opinion survey, to measure the changes of illumination level in different districts in Hong Kong, and to look into regulatory arrangements adopted by other cities for external lighting installations. To gauge the public's views on measures to manage external lighting and the future development, the Working Group has conducted telephone and street surveys, collected written submissions from the public, held focus group meetings, and organised 3 public engagement forums on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories. About 60 participants attended the forums. Since its establishment in August 2018, the Working Group has held 6 meetings. The overall attendance rate was 74%.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****ENB201****(Question Serial No. 2585)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (2) Power

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

1. Please provide the numbers of complaint cases received about external lighting in the past 3 years (with a breakdown by District Council district), and the number of which involved non-compliance with the Charter on External Lighting (the Charter) by the Charter participants;
2. Please provide the numbers of participants signing up for the Charter in the past 3 years (with a breakdown by District Council district, public organisation, private organisation);
3. What measures have been put in place by the Administration to encourage more organisations to sign up for the Charter and to further reduce nuisance caused by external lighting in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 127)

Reply:

The numbers of complaint cases against external lighting received by the Environmental Protection Department in the past 3 years are shown below. Over 30% of these cases were related to lighting installations for safety, security and operational purposes (i.e. outside the scope of the Charter on External Lighting (the Charter)), while the remaining ones were related to installations for decorative, promotional and advertising purposes. About 60 complaints were related to the non-compliance with the Charter requirements by the participants.

District \ Year	2018	2019	2020
Central and Western	44	43	37
Wan Chai	41	53	48
Eastern	37	32	19
Southern	25	9	10
Yau Tsim Mong	56	58	50
Sham Shui Po	36	27	16

District \ Year	2018	2019	2020
Kowloon City	33	66	34
Wong Tai Sin	5	7	7
Kwun Tong	16	18	23
Tsuen Wan	23	16	22
Tuen Mun	24	17	11
Yuen Long	28	23	18
North	13	3	8
Tai Po	16	6	8
Sai Kung	32	13	16
Sha Tin	15	21	21
Kwai Tsing	28	9	17
Islands	5	15	8
Total	477	436	373

Since the Charter took effect in April 2016, about 5 000 participants from different sectors have signed up for the Charter. The distribution of the Charter participants in various districts is shown below. Public organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), schools and tertiary institutions accounted for about 7% of all Charter participants. The remaining ones were private organisations.

District	Distribution Ratio <sup>Note</sup>
Central and Western	10%
Wan Chai	10%
Eastern	8%
Southern	5%
Yau Tsim Mong	13%
Sham Shui Po	5%
Kowloon City	7%
Wong Tai Sin	3%
Kwun Tong	6%
Tsuen Wan	5%
Tuen Mun	4%
Yuen Long	6%
North	3%
Tai Po	3%
Sai Kung	3%
Sha Tin	5%

<b>District</b>	<b>Distribution Ratio</b> <sup>Note</sup>
Kwai Tsing	4%
Islands	1%
Total	100%

Note: The percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

The Environment Bureau (ENB) has been liaising with various trade associations and NGOs to invite owners or responsible persons of external lighting installations to sign up for the Charter and to encourage other business partners to sign up for the Charter. In addition, the ENB has published a list of participants on the Charter's website and has distributed labels and certificates to participants for display at their properties/shops to raise public awareness of the Charter.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB202**

**(Question Serial No. 0646)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 146 of the Budget Speech that the Government will set aside an extra \$1 billion for more than 80 projects to install additional small-scale renewable energy (RE) systems at government buildings and infrastructure. In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1. the details of the plan for installing RE facilities with the additional \$1 billion, including the list of the buildings and infrastructure to be installed with the relevant facilities, the types of the RE systems of the relevant facilities, the amount of electricity generated by these RE systems, and the percentages of the aforesaid electricity generation in the current amount of electricity generated by RE and total electricity generation in Hong Kong;
2. the implementation details of the programme on installation of RE facilities for government departments and community facilities using the total provision of \$2 billion as mentioned in the 3 previous Budgets (from 2017 to 2020), including the amount of funding used so far, the buildings and facilities which had been installed with the relevant facilities, the types of the RE systems which had been installed, the amount of electricity generated by these RE facilities, and the percentages of the aforesaid electricity generation in the current amount of electricity generated by RE and total electricity generation in Hong Kong;
3. the contributions made by the aforesaid programme on installation of RE facilities for government departments towards the Government's new target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 in Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

Since 2017-18, the Government has earmarked a total of \$2 billion to install small-scale renewable energy (RE) systems at government premises. More than \$1.5 billion has been approved so far for more than 130 projects. The 2021-22 Budget has proposed to earmark an additional \$1 billion for this purpose. Together with the \$2 billion previously earmarked for the same type of works, this measure will have an accumulated provision of \$3 billion, showing the Government's determination in deep decarbonisation.

Among the 130-odd approved projects, about 50 projects have been completed. The remaining ones are planned to commence in the coming year. The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) is responsible for projects in government buildings (including government offices, government schools, government quarters, recreation grounds-cum-rest gardens, disciplined services facilities, etc.), while relevant departments including the Drainage Services Department, the Water Supplies Department and the Highways Department, etc. are responsible for projects in government infrastructure (including multiple sewage treatment works, reservoirs, pump houses, pedestrian links, etc.).

These 130-odd projects include waste-to-energy projects, solar power systems and hydropower systems, which are expected to generate a total of about 21 million kWh of electricity each year, with the waste-to-energy projects, solar power systems and hydropower systems generating 17 million kWh, 3 million kWh and 1 million kWh of electricity respectively each year. The total of 21 million kWh of electricity generated accounts for about 10% of the amount of electricity currently generated by RE in Hong Kong and about 0.05% of Hong Kong's total electricity consumption.

Developing local RE is one of the means for achieving carbon neutrality in Hong Kong. Installing these facilities at government premises is a good way to optimise the favourable conditions offered by the premises and demonstrates that the Government is taking the lead in this respect. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and the ArchSD will continue to invite departments to submit their plans for RE projects. According to past experience, we estimate that the additional \$1 billion can take forward over 80 more projects in the coming few years, which can generate a total of about 6 million kWh of electricity each year. The actual situation will depend on the concrete proposals of the departments.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB203**

**(Question Serial No. 0647)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 146 of the Budget Speech that the Government will set aside \$150 million to conduct energy audits and install energy-saving appliances, free of charge, for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) subvented by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). In this connection, please advise this Committee on:

1. the implementation details of the programme, including the implementation timetable, the expected number of beneficiary NGOs, the types of the renewable energy (RE) appliances to be installed, and the amount of electricity that can be generated by the RE appliances;
2. the details of the small-scale solar RE systems installed for eligible schools and welfare NGOs subvented by SWD since the Administration launched the Solar Harvest in 2019, including the respective numbers of beneficiary schools and NGOs, the amount of subsidy involved and the amount of electricity generated by RE in each year.

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

1. A new Green Welfare NGOs programme will commence in 2022-23 for a period of 5 years to conduct energy audits and install more energy efficient variable-speed air-conditioners and light emitting diode (LED) lighting at the premises of eligible welfare non-governmental organisations (NGOs) free of charge, with a view to enhancing the energy performance of these premises and actively promoting energy conservation and carbon reduction. The programme does not include the installation of renewable energy equipment. The targets of Green Welfare NGOs are some 1 000 premises operated by more than 160 welfare NGOs regularly subvented by the Social Welfare Department, including venues for elderly, family, youth and rehabilitation services, etc. Subject to the response of the welfare NGOs and the progress of the programme, it is expected that energy audits will be conducted and energy-saving appliances will be installed for 300 premises of welfare NGOs, resulting in a total electricity saving of about 5 million kWh each year.
2. Solar Harvest has been implemented since 2019-20. Under Solar Harvest, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) installs small-scale solar

energy generation systems free of charge for eligible schools and welfare NGOs. In 2019-20, the EMSD carried out works for 50 schools with an expenditure of about \$12.27 million. In 2020-21, the revised estimated expenditure was about \$36.45 million for carrying out works for about 135 schools and welfare NGOs. As the works are still in progress, the EMSD is unable to provide final expenditure figures for 2020-21 at the moment. The estimated total annual electricity generation of the aforesaid 185 projects is about 1.65 million kWh.

- End -



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB204**

**(Question Serial No. 0648)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (3) Sustainable Development  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The aim of Programme (3) "Sustainable Development" is to promote sustainable development in Hong Kong. It is stated in the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision that the provision for 2021-22 under Programme (3) is \$36.1 million (129.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Sustainable Development Fund to step up the promotion of low-carbon living. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. Under Programme (3), the revised estimate for 2020-21 is 22.8% lower than the original estimate. What are the reasons?
2. What were the expenditures on promotion of low-carbon living in the past 3 years and the details of the expenditures?
3. What are the estimated expenditure for 2021-22 on promotion of low-carbon living and the details of the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

1. Under Programme (3), the revised estimate for 2020-21 is lower than the original estimate. This is mainly due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the work progress and the change in time schedule for filling the vacant posts.
2. The Environment Bureau (ENB) provides secretariat support to the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC), and assists the SDC in implementing education and publicity programmes to promote public awareness of the principles of sustainable development (SD). The details of the expenditures on promotion of low-carbon living in the past 3 years are set out below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>Sustainable Development School Outreach Programme</b> (Note 1)	This programme aims at promoting the concepts and practices of SD among students through organising talks, workshops and drama performances in schools.		
Number of participating schools	86	36	95
Number of participating teachers and students	About 25 000	About 8 500	Estimated to be about 24 000
Number of talks	17	8	29
Number of workshops	11	2	32
Number of drama performances	79	29	82
Expenditure involved (Note 2)	About \$760,000	About \$740,000	About \$700,000
<b>Sustainable Development School Award Programme</b> (Note 3)	This programme aims at encouraging schools to participate in and organise SD related activities so that students can put SD concepts into practice in schools and in the community. As this is a biennial school year programme, the expenditure was calculated by combining the expenditures for the two years.		
Number of participating schools	50		54
Number of participating teachers, students and members of the community	About 100 000		Estimated to be about 100 000
Expenditure involved	About \$820,000		About \$110,000

Note 1: The numbers of participating schools, teachers and students of this programme and the numbers of talks, workshops and drama performances were calculated based on each school year; whereas the expenditures involved were calculated based on financial year.

Note 2: In the 2019/20 school year, the number of participating schools, teachers and students and the number of activities organised dropped substantially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, as the school year spanned 2 financial years, the expenditure for the 2019-20

financial year was not affected significantly. In the 2020/21 school year, the programme was extended to primary schools on a pilot basis and a total of 95 schools (71 secondary schools and 24 primary schools) enrolled. The expected increase in expenditure has been reflected in the estimate for the 2021-22 financial year. The number of teachers and students participating in the programme in this school year is an estimated number, and the actual number would be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Note 3: The numbers of participating schools, teachers, students and members of the community of this programme were calculated based on the relevant round (which included two school years); whereas the expenditure involved for the relevant round included the expenditures for the two relevant financial years. The number of teachers, students and members of the community participating in this round of programme is an estimated number, and the actual number would be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the ENB and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) have been promoting the message of low-carbon living to the public through promotional leaflets, television and radio broadcasts, video clips, posters and dedicated websites over the past 3 years. We also launched the Low Carbon Living Calculator in 2018 to encourage members of the public to assess their individual carbon emissions, which can help users understand how they may reduce carbon emissions in their daily life. Such work was supported by the recurrent expenditure of the ENB and the EPD and there is no separate breakdown of such expenditure.

3. In 2021-22, the SDC will continue to conduct education and publicity work to promote SD, mainly on low-carbon living. The work in this aspect includes the Sustainable Development School Outreach Programme and the Sustainable Development School Award Programme. The estimated expenditure in 2021-22 is about \$1.8 million and the specific allocations will be subject to the actual needs of each programme.

Furthermore, the SDC is also responsible for vetting applications for the Sustainable Development Fund (the Fund) and monitoring the use of the Fund. Funding support can enhance public awareness of the principles of SD and encourage sustainable practices among members of the public. Since the establishment of the Fund, a total of 74 projects have been approved for funding support. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the projects that are still in progress in the 2021-22 financial year. We are also conducting the preparatory work for the next round of applications for the Fund. After reviewing the use of funding by the approved projects, it is estimated that the amount of funding available in the 2021-22 financial year is about \$30 million, which will be used to step up the promotion of low-carbon living in the community.

Meanwhile, the EPD will continue to promote low-carbon living and enhance public education and publicity as an integral part of the work on addressing climate change. As the manpower and expenditure involved are met by the recurrent expenditure of the EPD, there is no separate breakdown of such expenditure.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB205**

**(Question Serial No. 3148)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (1) Director of Bureau's Office  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please provide the balance, government injection amount, investment or other income and total expenditure of the following funds for 2019-20. If there are other funds within the purview of the Bureau not being listed below, please also provide information as per the items above.

1. Environment and Conservation Fund
2. Pilot Green Transport Fund
3. Sustainable Development Fund
4. Recycling Fund

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 82)

Reply:

There are 4 funds under the purview of the Environment Bureau, namely Environment and Conservation Fund, New Energy Transport Fund (known as Pilot Green Transport Fund before September 2020), Sustainable Development Fund and Recycling Fund. The amount of capital injections as at 31 March 2020, the balance as at end of 2019-20, investment or other income for 2019-20, and the total expenditure of the funds are set out in the table below.

Name of fund	Total amount of capital injections (as at 31 March 2020)	Balance as at end of 2019-20	Investment or other income for 2019-20	Total expenditure (as at 31 March 2020)
Environment and Conservation Fund	\$6.735 billion (Note 1)	\$5.9 billion	\$183 million	(Note 2)
New Energy Transport Fund	\$300 million	\$233 million	(Note 3)	\$67 million
Sustainable Development Fund	\$100 million	\$36 million	(Note 3)	\$64 million
Recycling Fund	\$1 billion	\$713 million	(Note 4)	\$287 million

Note 1: The amount of government injection at the time of the establishment of the Environment and Conservation Fund was \$50 million. 6 additional government injections were made subsequently in 1998, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2013. The total amount of capital injection was \$6.735 billion. The Government injected \$5 billion into the fund in 2013, which serves as seed money to generate annual investment returns to support long-term operation of the fund.

Note 2: In 2019-20, the total grant approved under the Environment and Conservation Fund was \$253 million.

Note 3: Balance was kept in the General Revenue Account, and the investment was not carried out by the Environment Bureau.

Note 4: Balance was kept in the General Revenue Account, and the investment was not carried out by the Environment Bureau. In addition, a small amount of interest derived from the funding for the year, which was deposited in a specific bank account for the Recycling Fund, would be appropriated to the Recycling Fund.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB206**

**(Question Serial No. 2410)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (2) Power  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is stated in the Controlling Officer's Report that the Environment Bureau will follow up the implementation of the "Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong's Built Environment 2015~2025+". According to the said document, the target is to achieve an energy intensity reduction by 40% by 2025 using 2005 as the base. Also, the Government is seeking to achieve the target of 5% electricity reduction in government buildings by 2020.

What is the current progress of the implementation of the "Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong's Built Environment 2015~2025+"? What was the percentage of the actual change in the energy intensity over the past 5 years? What was the percentage of the overall electricity saving target of government buildings over the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

The Government issued the "Energy Saving Plan for Hong Kong's Built Environment 2015~2025+" in 2015, setting a target of reducing energy intensity by 40% in 2025 as compared with the level in 2005. Up till now, the energy intensity of Hong Kong has been reduced by over 30%.

The Government has set an example by setting a target of reducing electricity consumption in government buildings by 5% in 5 years from 2015-16 to 2019-20, using comparable operating conditions in 2013-14 as the base. The Government has already achieved the target 1 year earlier in 2018-19 and the final saving reached 7.8% in 2019-20.

- End -

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**ENB207**

**(Question Serial No. 1620)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment Bureau  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified  
Programme: (3) Sustainable Development  
Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment (Maisie CHENG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Environment Bureau's provision for 2021-22 under this programme is \$36.1 million (129.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Sustainable Development Fund to step up the promotion of low-carbon living. Will the Administration advise on the measures adopted in this regard and a breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

Projects funded by the Sustainable Development Fund (the Fund) aim at enhancing public awareness of the principles of sustainable development and encouraging sustainable practices among members of the public. The Environment Bureau is responsible for monitoring the operation of the Fund. Since the establishment of the Fund, a total of 74 projects have been approved for funding support. We will continue to monitor the implementation of the projects that are still in progress in the 2021-22 financial year.

Meanwhile, we are conducting the preparatory work for the next round of applications for the Fund. After reviewing the use of the funding by the approved projects, it is estimated that the amount of funding available in the 2021-22 financial year is about \$30 million, which will be used to step up the promotion of low-carbon living in the community.

- End -