

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**FHB(FE)229****(Question Serial No. 3718)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 251 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 219):

Regarding the utilisation of the recycle bins provided by the Department, please advise this Committee on the following:

- the total quantities of materials recovered from the recycle bins provided by the Department in each of the past three years, with a breakdown by type (i.e. waste paper, metals and plastics);
- the details of the whereabouts of the materials recovered from the recycle bins in each of the past three years, with a breakdown by type and their whereabouts (e.g. sold to recyclers or delivered to landfills); and
- whether the Department will consider allocating resources to provide additional recycle bins for other types of materials or waste in 2014-15; if yes, the details (e.g. the location and number of the bins to be provided and the estimated expenditure to be involved); if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

- The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) has placed some 1 990 sets of recyclables collection bins (RCBs) in public places (including streets, refuse collection points, public markets and bus termini) for collection of waste paper, metal and plastics. The provision of recyclables collection service has been outsourced to a private service provider, and the quantity of recyclables collected by the contractor (excluding the recyclables collected from some 1 300 sets of RCBs provided by other government departments and schools) in 2011, 2012 and 2013 is given below -

	Paper (tonnes)	Metal (tonnes)	Plastics (tonnes)
2011	44.6	4.4	102.4
2012	33	3.3	101.6
2013	26.8	3	112.7

- Under the contract, the contractor should not dispose of the recyclables collected in any landfills or any other waste disposal facilities without the prior written consent of the Government. The contractor is

required to deliver all recyclables collected to recyclers approved by the Department, whose names must appear on the list of recyclers published on the Environmental Protection Department's website.

- c) The Department's primary role in waste collection is to maintain environmental hygiene. In 2014-15, we will continue to support the "Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022" of the Environment Bureau in reducing municipal solid waste. The Department will continue to review the number and location of RCBs placed in public places. At present, we have no plans to provide additional collection bins for other types of recyclables.