

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)288**

**(Question Serial No. 4799)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

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

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

Question:

Regarding the collection of household waste and management of public cleansing facilities under this programme, please advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) the annual expenditure on outsourcing the collection service for three-colour waste separation bins (three-colour bins) managed by the Department, the information on individual contractors hired and the respective number of three-colour bins they handled in 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively;
- 2) the whereabouts of the materials collected by the contractors, the quantities of materials (in kilograms) eventually recycled with a breakdown by type (i.e. paper, metals and plastics) and the quantities of materials (in kilograms) ended up being disposed of in landfills in 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively; and
- 3) the expenditure involved and to be involved in outsourcing the collection service for three-colour bins managed by the Department in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively.

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. 105)

Reply:

The information sought is provided as follows –

- 1) The previous two-year contract on the provision of collection service for recyclables, awarded to On Kee Metal Company, expired on 31 July 2014. The current two-year contract for the same service, awarded to Baguio Waste Management & Recycling Limited with a total contract value of about \$21.6 million, commenced on 1 August 2014. The contractor is required to provide collection service for some 2 850 sets of three-colour bins collecting waste paper, metal and plastics. These bins are placed in public places including streets, refuse collection points, public markets, bus termini, schools and venues managed by other government departments.

- 2) The quantity of recyclables collected by the contractor in 2013 and 2014 is given below -

Calendar Year	Paper (kilograms)	Metal (kilograms)	Plastic materials (kilograms)
2013	519 000	17 000	175 000
2014	508 000	26 000	348 000

Under the contract, the contractor should not dispose of the collected recyclables in any landfills or any other waste disposal facilities without the prior written consent of the Government. Under the previous contracts, the contractor was required to deliver all recyclables collected to recyclers approved by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department), whose names must appear on the list of recyclers published on the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)'s website. Under the current contract, the Department has introduced the following new tender terms for the purpose of improving the monitoring and control of the contractor's performance –

- (a) the contractor is required to use transparent plastic bags for collection of recyclables, and the bags should be printed with the words “used for collecting recyclable materials”; whereas notices showing “FEHD contractor providing collection service for recyclable materials” should be displayed on both sides of the body of its collection vehicles;
  - (b) the contractor is required to nominate up to two local recyclers to receive and recycle plastic recyclables when submitting their bids for the contracts. Each recycler nominated shall have independent capability and experience to properly process plastic recyclables at a designated recycling site. EPD will visit the designated recycling sites to check if the nominated recyclers meet the minimum requirements; and
  - (c) the Department may direct the contractor to change its recyclers if their performance is not satisfactory.
- 3) The expenditure involved in outsourcing the collection service for recyclables in 2014-15 is estimated to be \$8.8 million. The estimated expenditure in 2015-16 is \$10.4 million.

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