

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)101

(Question Serial No. 3160)

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 (Ms Irene YOUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

It is mentioned under the Programme that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will continue to explore and apply new technology and automation to enhance environmental hygiene services. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

In the past 3 years, what were the numbers of the new technologies and automation techniques applied to enhance environmental hygiene services? What was the expenditure involved in each new technology and automation technique?

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

Reply:

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has been proactively applying technologies to enhance environmental hygiene services through the use of machines and automation. From 2020-21 to 2022-23 (as at February 2023), the technologies used for stepping up the clearance and collection of refuse and assisting in law enforcement operations, as well as the expenditure for each project are as follows:

Technological application for enhancing environmental hygiene service	Effectiveness	Expenditure		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as at February 2023)
Internet Protocol (IP) Cameras	IP cameras have been installed at over 400 spots with illegal deposit of refuse in various districts across the territory to step up surveillance against	Around \$16.96 million	Around \$10.35 million	Around \$7.13 million

Technological application for enhancing environmental hygiene service	Effectiveness	Expenditure		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as at February 2023)
	such offence and assist in law enforcement.			
360 Degrees Cameras	360 degrees cameras have been installed at 15 remote sites to monitor the accumulation of marine refuse washed ashore so that the Department can adjust the frequency of clean-up actions as appropriate.	Around \$1.03 million	Around \$880,000	Around \$750,000
Solar-powered Aluminium Refuse Collection Points (RCPs)	Solar-powered aluminium RCPs are provided at 132 rural sites. They feature the use of sensor-operated contactless inlet openings and provision of ventilation and illumination equipment to enhance odour and pest control. The Department will provide these facilities at other suitable sites.	Around \$2.66 million	Around \$1.62 million	Around \$13.48 million
Solar-powered Compacting Refuse Bins (CRBs) and Solar-powered Mobile Refuse Compactors (MRCs)	Solar-powered CRBs are provided at 32 rural and remote sites while solar-powered MRCs are provided at 17 sites to increase the refuse handling capacity and reduce space required for refuse storage. The Department will progressively extend the use of these facilities to other suitable sites.	Around \$4.08 million	Around \$1.35 million	Around \$8.96 million
Atomised Ozonated Water Technology	The technology has been put on trial at 6 RCPs. As the results are just mediocre, its wider use has not been further pursued.	Around \$390,000	Around \$390,000	Around \$150,000
Mini-mechanical Sweepers	The sweepers have been put on trial in a number of districts in the New Territories. As they	Around \$470,000	Around \$620,000	Around \$210,000

Technological application for enhancing environmental hygiene service	Effectiveness	Expenditure		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (as at February 2023)
	are versatile and efficient, the Department has extended their use at other suitable districts so as to enhance street sweeping effectiveness progressively.			
Street Leaf Vacuum Cleaners	The cleaners have been put on trial in a number of districts in the New Territories. As the results are just mediocre, their wider use has not been further pursued.	No separate breakdown	No separate breakdown	No separate breakdown
On-board Refuse Bin Cleaners (RBCs)	Fully enclosed on-board RBCs equipped with hot water or disinfectants for washing and disinfection of refuse bins have been put on trial for enhancing refuse bin cleaning effectiveness.	No separate breakdown	No separate breakdown	No separate breakdown

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