

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)114****(Question Serial No. 2562)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Ms Irene YOUNG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department will enhance the hardware of refuse collection facilities in rural areas. Please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the current number and distribution of refuse collection points (RCPs) in rural areas and the number of which provided in the past 3 years; and
- 2) the effectiveness of providing RCPs in rural areas in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)Reply:

- 1) As at 31 December 2022, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department managed 844 village-type refuse collection points (RCPs)/RCPs with temporary structures in rural areas (the New Territories and outlying islands). 21 of these RCPs were provided in the past 3 years. Information on their numbers and distribution is as follows:

District	Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures
Kwai Tsing	22
Tsuen Wan	53
Tuen Mun	56
Yuen Long	180
North	152
Tai Po	105
Sha Tin	54
Sai Kung	134
Islands	88

- 2) Since 2020, solar-powered aluminium RCPs have been put on trial in rural areas to replace older RCPs. With the use of sensor-operated contactless openings, these RCPs feature touchless control in opening and are more convenient and hygienic in use. The enclosed design can also ensure hygiene and effective pest control. 132 RCPs out of those currently provided in rural and remote areas are solar-powered aluminium RCPs.

In addition, solar-powered mobile refuse compactors (MRCs) have been put on trial in rural sites with higher refuse yield since mid-2020. The MRCs can handle a larger amount of household waste each time, and reduce space required for refuse storage. At present, MRCs are provided at 17 suitable rural sites.

The Department will continue to improve the refuse collection facilities in rural areas. New refuse collection facilities will be provided progressively at 500 priority rural locations starting from 2023-24.

- End -