

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 2428)**

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:

Regarding the trial scheme to regulate disposal arrangement of waste generated by food premises, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. What is the effectiveness of the two-phase trial scheme so far?
2. What are the staff establishment and expenditure involved in implementing the scheme?
3. The municipal solid waste (MSW) charging will be implemented by phases this year. During the trial scheme, did the Food and Environmental Department receive any complaints on members of the public putting refuse in the waste containers of food premises? Has the Department studied whether such situation will occur upon the implementation of MSW charging? Are there any response measures in place? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?
4. Is there any plan of regularising the trial scheme as soon as possible to provide facilitation for food premises?
5. It has been reported in the media that restaurants are generally facing the problem of insufficient space in respect of food waste recycling. In this connection, will the Department consider enhancing the trial scheme to allow food premises to place large-sized food waste recycling bins in rear lanes to facilitate recycling and enhance recycling efficiency? If yes, what are the details? If no, what is/are the reason(s)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Hei, Edward (LegCo internal reference no.: 68)

Reply:

1. Since 2022, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has launched a trial scheme in various districts to allow licensed food premises to place large-size waste containers in their connected rear lanes under specific conditions for temporary storage of waste until collection by the cleaning workers hired by the food premises. The operation of the scheme has been generally smooth since its implementation. With the co-operation of the licensees of the food premises and under the supervision of FEHD staff, the hygiene condition and refuse accumulation problem of the rear lanes concerned have improved, thereby reducing the risk of rodent infestation. The overall results of the scheme are satisfactory.

2. The implementation work is undertaken by staff of the respective District Environmental Hygiene Offices without additional manpower and expenditure provided.
3. FEHD has not received any complaints on members of the public putting refuse in the waste containers placed under the scheme. FEHD will closely monitor the situation after the implementation of waste charging and remind the licensees of food premises to properly manage their waste containers placed in rear lanes.
4. The scheme has now been extended to a total of 28 rear lanes in various districts across the territory. It will be further extended to other suitable rear lanes in the future. Food premises are welcome to actively participate in the scheme so as to improve the environmental hygiene and tackle the rodent problem in rear lanes.
5. To encourage food waste recycling among restaurants and improve the environmental hygiene of the rear lanes, since June 2023, FEHD has collaborated with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to place covered food waste recycling bins at 5 rear lanes under the scheme on a trial basis for collection of food waste generated by restaurants connected to the rear lanes. Currently, food waste recycling bins are placed at 5 rear lanes located in Tai Kok Tsui, Kwai Chung, To Kwa Wan and Tsuen Wan. Apart from the rear lanes under the scheme, EPD is progressively setting up food waste collection points at refuse collection points (RCPs) under FEHD to facilitate the recycling of food waste of restaurants. As at February 2024, food waste recycling points were set up at 58 RCPs, and the number is planned to increase to about 100 in the second quarter of 2024. In addition, EPD has set up mobile booths or trucks at locations concentrated with restaurants in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Tai Po and Sha Tin districts to collect food waste from “food and beverage clusters” in these 4 districts. This initiative will be progressively expanded to other districts on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon in the second quarter of 2024. Nearby restaurants can also deliver their food waste to the collection points for recycling. There is no restriction on the amount of food waste delivered.

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