

Environmental Report 2003



食物環境衛生署
Food and Environmental
Hygiene Department



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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, set up on 1.1.2000, is responsible for the provision of environmental hygiene services and facilities, food safety control, import control on live food animals, management of food incidents and other public health issues like combating dengue fever or avian flu. Our work affects everyone in the community and has a direct impact on the environment. Our vision and mission are -

Vision

To work hand in hand with our community in building Hong Kong into a world-class metropolis renowned for its food safety and public hygiene.

Mission

To ensure that food is fit for human consumption and to maintain a clean and hygienic living environment for the people of Hong Kong.

In performing our roles in ensuring food safety and maintaining a clean and healthy environment for the people in Hong Kong, we are mindful of the need to protect the environment by ensuring the efficient use of resources and delivering our services in an environmentally responsible manner.

2003 has been a busy year for the department due to the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and other vector-borne diseases like dengue fever in Hong Kong. In the wake of these incidents, members of the public are more aware of their personal and community hygiene and the need to maintain a clean and hygienic environment. In this report, we will give an account on our environmental performance in 2003 so that our staff and stakeholders could better understand our efforts.

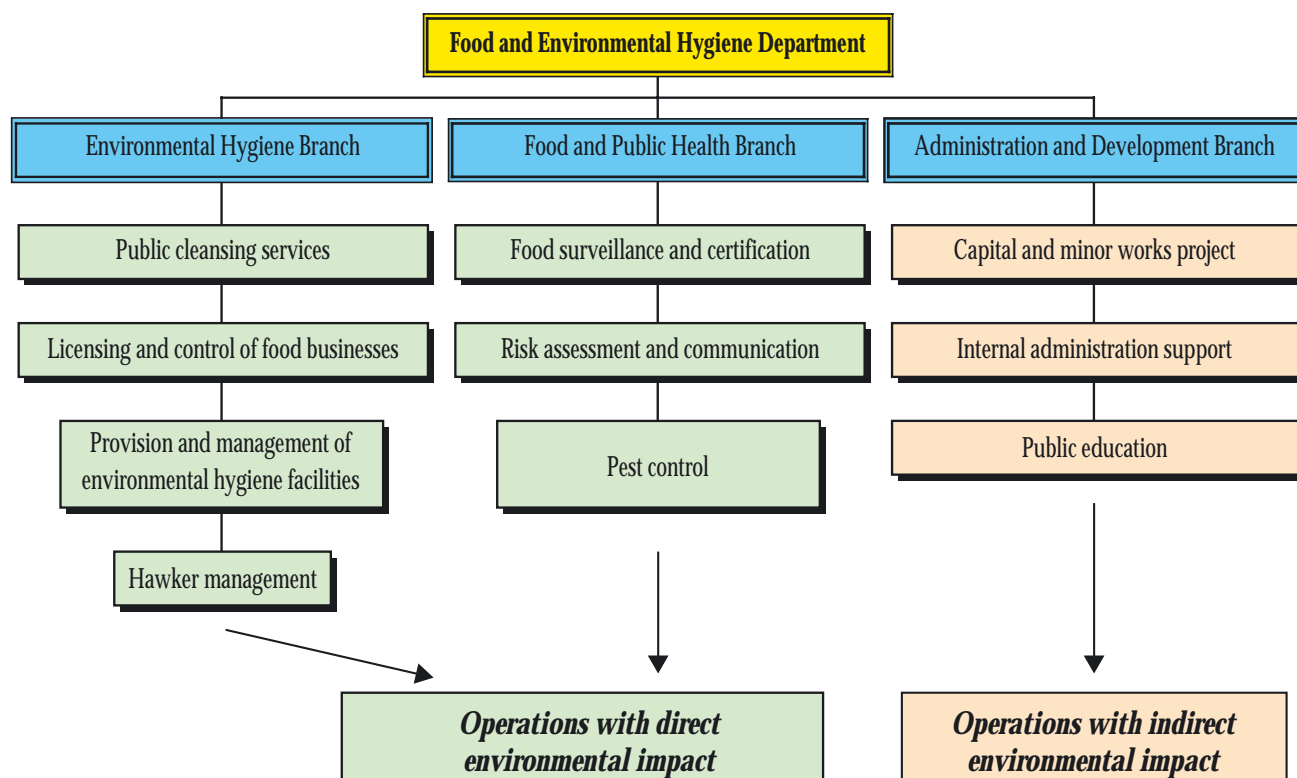


Chapter 2

PROFILE OF KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Our Services

We deliver our services through three branches - Environmental Hygiene, Food and Public Health, and Administration and Development. An overview of our operations that may have an impact on the environment is as follows -



Environmental Hygiene Services

We strive to provide and maintain a clean and hygienic living environment for the people of Hong Kong. The range of environmental hygiene services we provide includes public cleansing service, licensing and control of food businesses, provision and management of environmental hygiene facilities and hawker management.

Public Cleansing Services

We are committed to keeping public places clean, tidy and free from litter. Direct public cleansing services range from street sweeping and washing, collection of household waste and street



waste, gully emptying, desludging, to managing public cleansing facilities like refuse collection points (RCPs), public toilets and bath-houses. These services are provided by our 3 800 cleansing staff and our private contractors whose services are under our close supervision.

We provide 18 000 litter containers, 454 dog latrines and 697 dog excreta collection bins throughout Hong Kong. There are 2 920 RCPs in Hong Kong for the temporary storage of street waste and household waste pending collection. Household waste is collected at least once a day at these RCPs and about 5 899 tonnes of household waste are collected daily by refuse collection vehicles managed either by ourselves or contractors.

Licensing and Control of Food Businesses

We license food businesses to safeguard public health and safety and conduct regular inspection to ensure hygiene standards of licensed food premises are met. We also take law enforcement actions such as prosecutions, summary arrests, imposition of court orders, daily fines and suspension or cancellation of licences against unhygienic premises.

Provision and Management of Environmental Hygiene Facilities

We are responsible for the management of a wide variety of environmental hygiene facilities for public convenience. In total, we manage 38 cooked food centers, 24 free-standing cooked food markets and 81 public markets, 306 public toilets, 28 public bathhouses, 11 public cemeteries, six crematoria and eight gardens of remembrance. In line with our commitment in providing a clean and hygienic environment for the people of Hong Kong, we will continue to improve and upgrade these facilities where necessary and resources permitting.

Hawker Management

On-street hawking is a social and economic activity with a long history and has become part of Hong Kong's way of life. Through licensing and enforcement of legislation, we wish to minimise the environmental nuisance caused by street trading activities.

Food and Public Health Services

We monitor the safety of imported and locally produced food to ensure that food available for human consumption is wholesome, unadulterated and properly labelled. We also aim to safeguard public health through testing and control of live food animals; to prevent vector-borne diseases and provide advice to the public on proper food and environmental hygiene practices. Our major areas of work having environmental impact include food surveillance and certification; risk assessment and communication; and pest control.



Food Surveillance and Certification

To ensure safety of food supply in Hong Kong, we undertake continuous monitoring, testing and enforcement action. Food samples are taken at import, wholesale and retail points for chemical, microbiological, radioactivity and toxicological tests to ascertain their fitness for human consumption. Pre-packaged food is also checked for compliance with food labelling laws.

Risk Assessment and Communication

We conduct risk assessment on food safety, set food standards and recommend food safety control measures. On risk communication, we introduce and promote the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to ensure food safety and provide food safety information to the public and the food industry on a regular basis.



Pest Control

We give advice on pest control and prevention to government departments and the general public. Our work includes surveillance and monitoring of pest problems to prevent local transmission and investigation of vector borne diseases. Operational services on pest control are carried out by district pest control sections.



Administration and Development Services

Planning of Capital and Minor Works Projects

We are responsible for the planning of new capital works projects and minor improvement works to existing departmental facilities such as markets, refuse collection points, public toilets and crematoria. We will continue to do our best in reducing the environmental impact during the construction and operational phases of these projects and include environmentally friendly facilities to minimise any adverse environmental impact as far as possible.

Public Education and Campaigns

We operate a Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre at Tsim Sha Tsui, organising publicity and educational programmes, and arranging exhibitions, outreaching programmes and seminars as part of the department's integrated approach to promote food safety and environmental hygiene. Awareness of environment protection is covered in our programme.

Messages on keeping a clean environment are put across to the public through various means. These include broadcast of television films and radio announcements, display of banners, posters and advertisements at prominent spots and holding of large-scale community functions.



Our Impact on the Environment

Operations and Services	Environmental Impact
Provision of public cleansing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public places are kept clean and tidy. - Wastes (street waste and household waste) are handled in an environmentally responsible manner.
Licensing and control of food businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pollutions from the operations of food businesses are kept to the minimum. - Hygiene standards of licensed food premises are under control to safeguard public health and safety.
Provision and management of environmental hygiene facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air and water pollutions are reduced through proper management of environmental hygiene facilities. - A clean and hygienic environment would be provided for the people of Hong Kong.
Hawker management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through licensing and enforcement of legislation, environmental nuisance caused by street trading activities is minimised.
Food safety and control - Food Surveillance and Certification program - Risk assessment and communication on food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure food safety in Hong Kong, which in turn reduce the amount of unwholesome food to be destroyed.
Pest control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimise pollution in pest control operations.
Planning of capital and minor works projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental impact of the planned facilities recognised and minimised as far as possible.
Office activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consumption of energy and resources (electricity, paper, water, stationery, etc.) and generation of solid waste which increase demand for landfill disposal will be closely monitored to reduce environmental impact.
Public education and campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance public awareness of the importance of environmental protection.

Chapter 3

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Our statement on environmental policy is as follows -

“The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is committed to ensuring that all our services are delivered in an environmentally responsible manner,

particularly in the collection,

recycling and reduction of household waste,

conservation of energy and water,

and prevention of air, noise,

water and soil pollution.

We will also promote green housekeeping

in premises under our management.”

Chapter 4

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

In line with Government's efforts in protecting the environment, we incorporate environmental considerations in the formulation of our policy and deliver our services in an environmentally responsible manner. The following is an account of our main objectives and performance in 2003.

OBJECTIVE: TO ACHIEVE WASTE REDUCTION IN OUR OPERATIONS

Our Performance

Household Waste Recycling in Waste Collection Programme

In support of the Government's Waste Reduction Framework Plan 1998-2007, we have provided collection services to 1 938 recycling points in public places, schools, clinics and government venues for the collection of waste paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles. All recyclables collected are delivered to waste recyclers for recycling.

Public support for this initiative is shown by the rise in the number of recyclables collected. During the year, the average weight of recyclable materials collected per month increased substantially as compared to the previous year.

Recyclable materials collected	Average monthly weight in 2002 (kilograms)	Average monthly weight in 2003 (kilograms)	% change
Waste paper	28 496	57 113	+100%
Aluminum cans	950	943	-0.7%
Plastic bottles	12 150	17 167	+41.3%

Use of Retread Tyres

In response to the Government's initiative on waste reduction and environmental protection, retread tyres are used on the departmental vehicle fleet whenever possible. The current ratio on brand-new tyres to retread tyres is 1:0.22. We plan to increase the ratio to 1:0.5 in the future.



Clean Hong Kong Programme

We have launched since December 2000 a three-year Clean Hong Kong Programme with a view to bringing about visible and sustainable improvements to the environmental hygiene through active cleansing operations, legislative amendment and enhanced law enforcement, public education and publicity efforts, and community and district involvement.

In the wake of the SARS outbreak, there has been growing awareness in the community of the importance of keeping a clean and healthy environment. The Government set up a special Team Clean task force in May 2003 to develop and take forward a series of proposals for entrenching a high level of public and environmental hygiene in Hong Kong. We are involved in spearheading the implementation of a wide range of environmental hygiene improvement measures, which include:

- cleansing and washing of public places and over 100 environmental blackspots;
- cleansing and washing of some 300 rear lanes and common parts of some 1 000 old tenement buildings and carrying out minor repair works and lime-washing;
- strengthening rodent and pest control services to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever; and
- cleansing of markets, cooked food centres and hawker sites, and collecting refuse at on-street dumping spots.

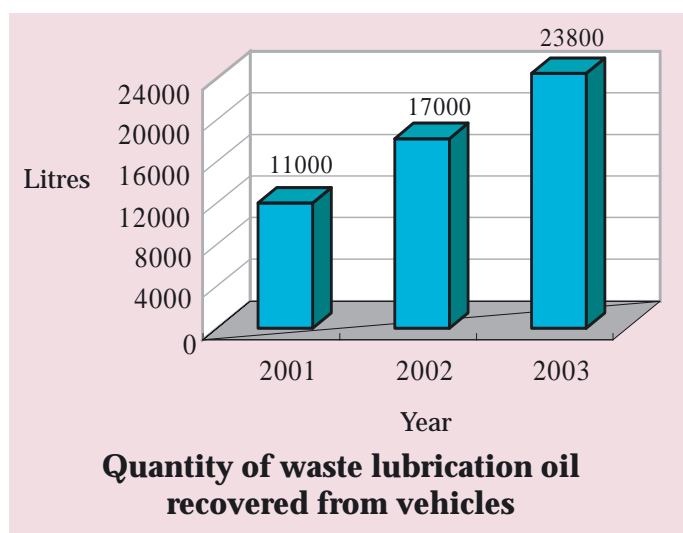


To increase the deterrent effect and stamp out unhygienic acts, the Government increased the fixed penalty for common cleanliness offences (i.e. littering, spitting, unauthorised display of bills or posters and fouling of street by dog faeces) from \$600 to \$1,500 with effect from 26 June 2003. A “zero-tolerance” approach was also adopted in law enforcement. During the year, we issue over 17 000 fixed penalty notices (including notices of fixed penalty of both \$600 and \$1,500). All these aim at reducing waste and improving the overall cleanliness of Hong Kong.

Chemical Waste Recovery and Waste Water Drainage at FEHD's Vehicle Depots

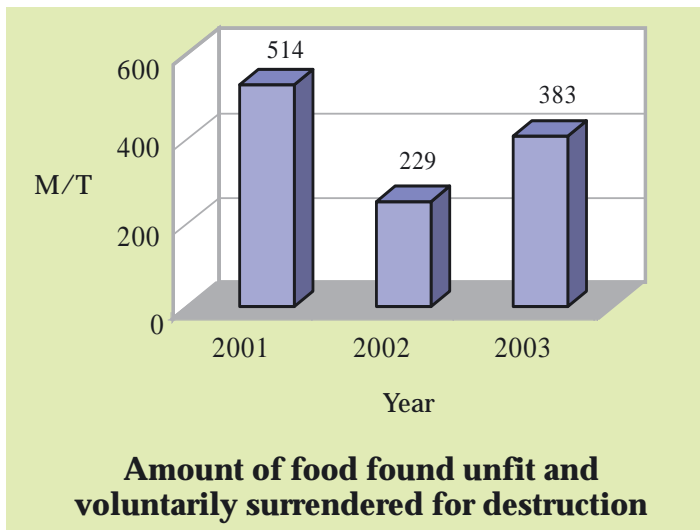
Waste lubrication oil, spent batteries and air conditioning refrigerants from FEHD vehicles are properly recovered and collected by approved contractors. During the year, we have increased the quantity of waste lubrication oil recovered from vehicles to 23 800 litres per annum, compared to 17 000 litres per annum in 2002. Proper drainage systems are also provided for our vehicle washing bays to avoid pollution to storm water drainage.

All the departmental depots are in compliance with the requirements under the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation and Water Pollution Control Ordinance and are issued with relevant licences by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).



Food Safety and Control

The amount and the way in which unwholesome food destroyed is interrelated with the overall environmental objective of producing less waste and mitigating nuisances arising from waste disposal. To this end, we exercise tight control on the import of certain categories of high-risk food including game, meat, poultry, milk and frozen confections. We also conduct food surveillance programme through sampling at different stages of the food supply chain - from import and manufacture to the wholesale and retail stages.



The amount of food found unfit and voluntarily surrendered for destruction in 2001, 2002 and 2003 was 514 metric ton (M/T), 229 M/T and 383 M/T respectively. We would continue to closely monitor the disposal of unfit food to ensure compliance with EPD guidelines.

OBJECTIVE : TO MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Our Performance

Licensing Control and Enforcement on the Operation of Food Premises

To ensure that waste generated from the operation of food premises is properly handled, we conduct regular inspection to licensed food premises to check that -

- grease traps installed in food premises are functioning properly to prevent discharge of oil or grease into public drains or sewers;
- plumbing systems in food premises are properly maintained to prevent discharge of offensive or noxious effluents into public places;
- fumes and hot air are discharged in such manner as not to be a nuisance. Metal hood, air-ducts, extraction fans, grease filters/water scrubbers of exhaust systems are maintained in good order;
- waste is properly stored in dustbins for collection; and
- no smoking area together with sufficient and proper no smoking signs are provided in restaurants having more than 200 seats for customers.

Enforcement action will be taken on those food premises not complying with licensing conditions. During the year, we conduct 304 966 inspection to food premises and take 5 390 prosecution actions against food premises.

Cremation Services

To control the quality and volume of emissions generated from cremation services, we have

- regularly serviced and maintained cremators through Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD);
- installed a Telemetry and Monitoring System with online computerised network supplying information to EPD for monitoring the pollution level to make sure that it is operating within the statutory limit. Monitoring systems with temperature recorders are installed in major crematoria;
- used the ultra-low sulphur (0.05%) diesel for cremators using diesel; and
- enlisted the support of the public and funeral service operators to use environmentally friendly coffins through the issue of pamphlets and regular meetings with the funeral trade.

On cremation facilities, the new facilities of Kwai Chung Crematorium were commissioned in late March 2003 while those for the Fu Shan Crematorium would be scheduled for commissioning in October 2004. Whenever practicable, we would introduce environmentally friendly facilities with increased capacity and speed for cremation to enhance efficiency and minimise environmental nuisances.



Environmental Hygiene Facilities

As part of the on-going efforts to improve the living environment, we continue to replace temporary roadside refuse collection points (RCPs) with off-street facilities in enclosed buildings equipped with modern deodorizing installations to minimise any possible environmental nuisance to nearby residents. Works for the RCP at Hing Shing Road, Kwai Chung have commenced in late 2003 for completion in 2005. Besides, improvement works to 51 public toilets have been completed in 2003 under the Public Toilet Improvement Programme while improvement works to about 70 public toilets/aqua privies are in progress or under planning.



The drainage systems in our facilities including markets, hawker bazaars and RCPs are checked regularly to minimise the effect of water pollution. All cooked food markets have proper drainage systems with grease traps to prevent the discharge of pollutants into surface channels.

Pest Control

In the prevention and control of public health pests, we have adopted an Integrated Pest Management approach to rationalise the work to minimise the impact of pest prevention and control on non-target animals and the environment. It includes finding out the causes of pest infestation and then determining the choice of control methods. Pest control operations are evaluated regularly and will be terminated if no longer necessary. Advice on environmental improvement for solving pest problems is given to the parties concerned.

Environmentally friendly methodologies, technologies and products are used. Non-chemical agents will be considered before adopting the use of pesticides. We are also very cautious in the choice of pesticides so that pest disinfestations are carried out effectively and with the least impact on the environment. To minimise the detrimental effect to non-target living organisms, we choose synthetic pyrethroid insecticides which generate less hazards to human beings. Pests and nuisance-causing animals are disinfested judiciously to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the ecological system. The control measures include a choice of physical, environmental, biological, legal or chemical methods.

Mosquito Control

In mosquito control, we continue to adopt non-chemical means as far as possible. Mosquito breeding can be forestalled by killing the insect at its adult or/and larval/pupal stages. We strive to improve the environment so that it becomes unfavourable for mosquitoes to breed. We apply larvicidal oil or pesticide strictly on a need basis and to specific spots only.



In preventing malaria transmission, an environmental control approach has been adopted and found to be successful. The prevention programme is mainly confined to densely populated areas with a high risk of malaria transmission. In the year, the control programme against malaria transmissible mosquitoes, covering a total of 647 streams is reported with favorable result. There was no evidence of local transmission of malaria.



In areas where malaria vector mosquitoes are detected but with a low population, mosquito larvae eating fishes are released to abate mosquito breeding. To further reduce the impact on the environment, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* are used for killing mosquito larvae. *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* produce crystal proteins which can be converted into toxins in the gut of the mosquito larva. The toxins act on larvae of limited species including mosquitoes, blackflies and non-biting midges.

Rodent Control

We continue our efforts in containing rodent problems through regular inspection and disinfestations and organising theme talks, exhibition. In drawing up rodent disinfestation programmes, we always take into account the environmental concern. Anticoagulants are used although it takes a longer time to kill rodent. With the right dosage, chosen bait, selected baiting locales and a well-designed baiting programme, the use of anticoagulants is considered much safer than acute rodenticides. Trapping of rodents is preferred to using chemicals. During the year, we laid poison baits at 447 696 points, set 2 424 traps and disposed of 40 342 rodents.



OBJECTIVE : TO PROMOTE GREEN HOUSEKEEPING WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

Apart from delivering our services in an environmentally responsible manner to the public, we are also aware of the importance of good green housekeeping and raising environmental awareness. To promote a green office environment and strive for continual improvement in the efficient use of resources, we regularly remind our staff of good green housekeeping practices and organise education programmes and campaigns.

Our Performance

Green Drive

To sustain the momentum and the effort that has been put into green management and to improve green housekeeping especially in the area of energy consumption, we launch a Green Drive in the year. Seminars on good green housekeeping practices and energy conservations are organised to raise staff awareness on green management.

Green Ambassadors Scheme

We appoint 61 Green Ambassadors and 36 Green Assistants in the department to co-ordinate the implementation of green housekeeping practices in each district and section and to monitor the effectiveness of such practices. To assist the Green Ambassadors and Green Assistants to carry out their duties, we

- distribute an information kit to the Green Ambassadors to enhance their understanding on green management;
- arrange briefing, trainings and two experience-sharing sessions for Green Ambassadors;
- encourage Green Ambassadors and Green Assistants to attend seminars on energy savings organised by the EMSD;
- set up a Green Management Corner in the department's Intranet. Useful tips on paper saving, energy saving and how to conduct green checks are placed on the corner; and
- set up a Green Management database on the department's bulletin board to collect data on the consumption of electricity and paper and the amount of waste collected for recycling in each district / section.

Managing Paper Consumption

During the year, we publish the “Guideline on Economy Use of Paper” and introduce control mechanisms on the printing volume of publications and publicity materials to remind all staff to be more prudent in the use of paper in their daily work. We continue practising paper-saving measures like using paper on both sides, keeping photocopying to the minimum and communicating by email. Circulars, telephone directories, reference materials or information are disseminated by email and e-bulletin boards in place of hard copies.



Despite all the efforts, we record an increase of 12.5% in paper consumption in 2003 as compared to 2002. Probably the increase in workload and the special operational needs in connection with the outbreak of SARS and Avian Flu in early 2003 have led to the substantial increase in paper consumption as more written communication are issued to our stakeholders (e.g. letters issued to market stall holders/ restaurant licencees to inform them on the special cleansing operations / preventive measures on SARS and Avian Flu) and additional operational instructions and guidelines are issued to staff.

Managing Electricity Consumption

As part of the Green Drive, we implement a series of energy saving measures and review our operations regularly to identify areas for savings -

- re-circulating the Guidelines on energy conservation to remind our staff of energy saving practices including switching off unnecessary lightings, air-conditioning and equipment when not in use.
- distributing energy saving stickers for display at conspicuous places in the offices to enhance staff awareness on energy conservation.
- standardizing the indoor temperature setting of all offices to 24°C and that of air-conditioned markets and cooked food centres to not lower than 23°C.
- designating staff to conduct regular green checks.
- reviewing the tariff systems used in FEHD venues and switch to more cost-effective ones where appropriate.
- using as a norm energy saving lightings in our office and facilities. We also promote the use of energy saving bulbs instead of tungsten light bulbs by stall owners in our markets and cooked food centers.
- holding of regular discussions with EMSD staff to identify energy saving opportunities. Various energy saving projects ranging from lighting retrofit, air-conditioning plant replacement to installation of evaporative cooling system in air-cooled chillers were implemented.
- inviting EMSD to conduct energy audits and follow up the recommendations such as replacing conventional ballast with electronic ballast, conducting illumination reviews and adopting effective tariff system after the audits. In the year, we visit nine venues to check the progress on the implementation of energy audits and are pleased to note that good housekeeping practices are generally adopted in these venues.
- initiating goodwill visits to our facilities apart from the energy audits to assist venue staff to review the effectiveness of their green housekeeping practices and whether there is scope for further savings. In the year, we visit four crematoria and propose energy savings measures where appropriate. In addition to achieving a modest reduction in energy consumption in these venues, the visits have enhanced staff awareness on energy conservation.



A lot of improvement works have been completed in the year to enhance our service and our facilities. Examples include major improvement works in ventilation system and lightings in existing markets and cooked food centres, upgrading of facilities at our crematoria and addition of adequate and modern facilities in our public toilets such as electric hand dryers, exhaust fans and improved lightings. While these upgrading works and projects will enhance the quality of our services provided to the public, these will also bring about an increase in our electricity consumption. Besides, the increase in workload and the temporary measures introduced during

the SARS outbreak in 2003 have also inflated our electricity consumption. As a result, despite the implementation of a number of energy saving measures in the department, we still record an increase of 1.39% in the electricity bill from FY 02/03 to FY 03/04. However, we are pleased to note that the increasing trend of energy consumption in the department has been stabilised from about 10% per year to less than 2% in 2003.

Promoting 3-R Principle

We promote the principle of “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” to our staff and encourage them to practise it in daily work. Stationery such as envelopes is reused as far as possible. Toner cartridges and waste paper are collected for recycling. During the year, we collect 18 199 kg of waste paper which represent an increase of 29.6% over the previous year.

Using More Green Products

We continue our efforts in using and purchasing more green products. Green products such as photocopying papers made from recycled material / renewable forests, recyclable toner cartridges for printers, clutch pencil and lead refill, recycle pencil, mercury-free batteries and environmentally friendly soap in liquid and cake form are maintained as our standard stock items to meet daily operational requirement.

Maintaining No-smoking Workplace Policy

We maintain a smoke-free workplace policy in all offices as well as government vehicles.

Incorporating Environmental Considerations in the Use of Departmental Vehicles

We procure vehicles with engines that meet the latest legislative environmental standard. The vehicles we procured since 2001 were of Euro III emission standard. A total of 80 light buses running on LPG had been put into use to replace the diesel engine vehicles, representing nearly half of the total number of light buses in our vehicle fleet, as compared to only 4% in 2002. All the light buses will be gradually replaced by LPG ones.

Our vehicles are maintained on schedule to minimise the emission of excessive fumes and particles.

We instruct our drivers to comply with the air control guidelines such as switching off the engine while waiting.

We participate actively in trials that facilitate assessment of pollutant reduction devices on vehicles, especially those for heavy-duty vehicles like refuse collection vehicles. We will continue to work together with EMSD and Government Logistics Department to explore the feasibility of using pollutant reduction devices to protect the environment.

廢紙回收箱



OBJECTIVE : TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND CAMPAIGNS

Our Performance

Internal

To increase the environmental awareness among our staff, we organise two in-house environmental workshops on Green Office and Waste Reduction with the assistance from Environmental Protection Department and encourage our staff to participate in seminars and trainings in environmental management. In addition, we support green initiatives launched by other Government departments and organisations like the “Community Chest Green Day”, “No Plastic Bag, Please” and the “No Smoking Day in Workplace” Campaigns.

External

The Health Education Exhibition and Resource Centre organises talks and health education activities for kindergarten, primary and secondary school students, the elderly, new arrivals and members of the public. Apart from messages on personal hygiene, food hygiene and environmental hygiene, the economical use of paper and waste reduction are also covered. A total of 2, 307 talks and activities were organised in 2003.

During the year, in collaboration with other Government departments, we organise the “Anti-rodent Campaign” and the “Anti-mosquito Campaign” carrying respectively the themes of “Prevent Disease, Eliminate Rodent Nuisance” and “Beware of Dengue Fever. Act Now”. The campaigns have enhanced public awareness of the importance of rodent and mosquito prevention.

Chapter 5

THE WAY FORWARD

Our management and staff place great importance on environmental issues and initiatives and monitors related performance and achievement closely. To strive for continuous improvement, the management will -

- monitor the effectiveness of the green measures we have put in place, and modify and improve them as and when necessary.
- review our environmental objectives regularly and incorporate new techniques that bring about good environmental impact when delivering our services; and
- promote staff awareness of and knowledge on environmental issues and support green initiatives and campaigns organised by other organisations.

Towards a Better Environment

Looking ahead, we plan to take forward the following environmental initiatives, which hopefully will bring about good environmental impacts and lead us to a better environment.

Upgrading of Cremation Facilities

On top of the replacement of cremators at Kwai Chung in March 2003 and Fu Shan in October 2004, we are planning for the replacement of cremators at Diamond Hill and Wo Hop Shek, which amongst other improvements, will also help minimise environmental nuisances.

Improvement of Refuse Collection Points and Public Toilets

To further improve our facilities, we plan to build more off-street RCPs equipped with features to minimise environmental nuisance to nearby residents and introduce improvement works to public toilets and aqua privies. Works for the RCP at Hing Shing Road, Kwai Chung commenced in late 2003 for completion in 2005. The RCP at Yee Kuk Street has been scheduled for redevelopment in mid 2004. In addition, upgrading works to 48 RCPs in the New Territories to enhance pollution control are being implemented with 19 projects completed in 2003. Improvement works to about 70 public toilets and aqua privies are in progress or under planning.

Pest Control

We will continue to adopt an integrated approach in pest control operations, putting equal emphasis on effective use of pesticides and continuous improvement of environmental hygiene. We update pest control methodologies and technologies regularly, making reference to the World Health Organisation's latest recommendations. In 2004, we will continue



to organise the “Anti-mosquito Campaign” and “Anti-rodent Campaign” to promote public awareness of mosquito and rodent prevention for a better living environment.

Using Transport Efficiently

The department has installed electronic vehicle monitoring devices to its 200 special purpose vehicles to monitor the performance of the vehicle fleet since 2002. This can help maximise the utilisation of the vehicles and in turn reduce fuel consumption and pollutants as a result.



Retrofitting of Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOC) on Diesel Vehicles

With a view to minimising the environmental impact of diesel vehicles, we have commenced retrofitting Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOC) on all Euro I & II emission standard diesel vehicles of our vehicle fleet and the retrofitting work is expected to be completed by late 2004.

Green Drive

Good green housekeeping is an effective means to ensure efficient use of resources. In the coming year, we will continue to work with our green ambassadors in implementing green housekeeping practices and promoting staff awareness of paper savings and waste recycling.

On energy conservation, we will continue our efforts in containing energy consumption in the department in the coming year. As a continuation of the programme in 2003, we will follow up on the review of tariff system for those accounts with high electricity consumption and continue our goodwill visits to the crematorium to identify energy saving measures. In partnership with EMSD, we will schedule more energy audits, arrange energy saving briefings to venue green managers and staff and explore further energy saving initiatives.



Comments and Suggestions

This report can be viewed at our homepage at www.fehd.gov.hk. Comments and suggestions on the report are most welcome. Please write to our Green Manager at Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 45/F, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong or email us at fehdaqgen@feh.gov.hk.