

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EEB(F)053

(Question Serial No. 1786)

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

With regard to fly-tipping in rural areas in the New Territories, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) How many refuse collection points are there in rural areas and how are they distributed?
- (2) How many collection points for recyclables in rural areas and how are they distributed?
- (3) What is the average cost of each refuse compactor under the “pilot scheme of using solar-powered refuse compactors” implemented by the Government?
- (4) Further to the above question, what are the damage rates of the refuse compactors so far? What is the mean time to repair?
- (5) How many refuse blackspots in rural areas have been installed with closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs)? What is their effectiveness? Will installation of additional CCTVs be considered in the future?
- (6) What is the progress of the installation of global positioning systems in such vehicles as dump trucks by the Government?
- (7) In the light of the waste charging scheme to be implemented this year, what are the targeted measures in place to tackle the problem of fly-tipping in rural areas?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (1) In 2024, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) managed 864 village-type refuse collection points (RCPs)/RCPs with temporary structures in rural areas (i.e. in the New Territories and outlying islands). Information on their number and distribution is as follows:

District	Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures
Kwai Tsing	22
Tsuen Wan	53
Tuen Mun	56

District	Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures
Yuen Long	190
North	154
Tai Po	105
Sha Tin	54
Sai Kung	134
Islands	96

- (2) As at the end of 2024, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has provided around 1 100 sets of kerb-side recycling bins in rural areas to facilitate the residents in rural areas to recycle the most common recyclables (i.e. plastics, waste paper and metals).

Information on the distribution of kerb-side recycling bins in various districts is tabulated as follows:

District	Number of kerb-side recycling bins (sets)
Central & Western	0
Eastern	0
Southern	2
Wan Chai	0
Islands	134
Kowloon City	0
Wong Tai Sin	0
Kwun Tong	0
Sham Shui Po	0
Yau Tsim Mong	0
Sha Tin	81
Tai Po	167
North	184
Sai Kung	179
Tsuen Wan	63
Kwai Tsing	16
Yuen Long	198
Tuen Mun	72
Total	1 096

- (3)&(4) To further enhance the hardware of refuse collection facilities in rural areas and improve the environmental hygiene in the vicinity, since 2020, FEHD has launched a pilot scheme by placing solar-powered mobile refuse compactors (SMRCs) in RCPs in rural areas with a higher refuse yield. Each SMRC can handle around 4 to 8 tonnes of household refuse each time (equivalent to the capacity of 40 to 80 660-litre waste containers), which can greatly reduce the space for storing refuse. The enclosed design can effectively prevent pest infestation and remove odour, which is suitable to be provided at rural locations with a higher refuse yield and sufficient space. There is generally positive feedback from the community stakeholders, who opine that the new facilities can effectively enhance the environmental hygiene of rural areas. Up till present, SMRCs have been provided at 19 suitable rural locations. The average monthly service charge for each SMRC is \$27,100.

FEHD staff will inspect the operation of SMRCs regularly and inform the service contractor for repair and maintenance as necessary to ensure smooth operation of the facilities. In 2024, there were 8 cases of SMRC faults and the contractors were able to carry out repair works within the specified time (normally not more than 24 hours) as stated in the contract.

- (5) In 2024, about 470 illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts across the territory have been installed with Internet Protocol (IP) cameras, 189 of which are located in rural areas. In 2024, 3 957 Fixed Penalty Notices and 1 250 summonses were issued to offenders based on the information from the video footage of the IP cameras. FEHD will continue to review the situation of illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts (including rural areas) and deploy IP cameras effectively having regard to the actual needs and available resources. For instance, to combat littering from vehicles by irresponsible drivers or passengers, IP cameras have been installed on roads with central dividers at over 30 suitable locations across the territory in recent months. The footage captured will be used for prosecution so as to enhance law enforcement efficiency.
- (6) The Government has taken the lead to require contractors to install Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices in all their construction waste collection vehicles under larger-scale public works contracts. EPD has, in collaboration with the Development Bureau, co-ordinated with relevant works departments to install the above-mentioned devices in construction waste collection vehicles under over 50 public works contracts on a trial basis. The relevant project offices will strengthen the monitoring of vehicles installed with GPS tracking devices under their contracts as appropriate and necessary. EPD will continue to pursue the adoption of GPS in construction waste collection vehicles under suitable public works contracts to enhance management of construction waste.
- (7) The Government announced the suspension of the implementation of the municipal solid waste (MSW) charging scheme at the end of May 2024. We are currently reviewing the scheme and plan to report to the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs in mid-2025 on the progress of relevant work and the Government's views on the implementation of MSW charging scheme.