

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EEB(F)161****(Question Serial No. 3791)**Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not specifiedProgramme: (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related ServicesControlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Donald NG)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and EcologyQuestion:

With regard to the provision of refuse collection points (RCPs) at rural locations, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many RCPs are there in rural areas, how are they distributed (how many of which are fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design) and what is their coverage rate?
- (b) What is the normal utilisation rate of the above refuse collection facilities (in normal function and under operation)? What is the mean time to repair in case of failures?
- (c) How many refuse blackspots in rural areas over the territory have been installed with closed-circuit televisions?
- (d) What is the effectiveness of providing RCPs in rural areas?

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 81)

Reply:

- (a) In 2024, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department managed 864 village-type refuse collection points (RCPs)/RCPs with temporary structures in rural areas (i.e. in the New Territories and outlying islands) and 258 fully-enclosed refuse collection facilities with new design (newly-designed refuse collection facilities) therein, including solar-powered mobile refuse compactors (SMRCs), solar-powered compacting refuse bins (SCRBs) and solar-powered/foot-pedal type aluminium RCPs (aluminium RCPs). Information on their number and distribution is as follows:

District	Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures*
Kwai Tsing	22(2)
Tsuen Wan	53(12)
Tuen Mun	56(8)
Yuen Long	190(94)
North	154(35)
Tai Po	105(35)

District	Number of village-type RCPs/ RCPs with temporary structures*
Sha Tin	54(17)
Sai Kung	134(30)
Islands	96(25)

* Figures in brackets are the numbers of newly-designed refuse collection facilities

- (b) The operation of newly-designed refuse collection facilities has been generally smooth so far. The Department has, under the procurement contracts of newly-designed refuse collection facilities, required the service contractor to provide regular inspection, maintenance and repair services within a specified period. Apart from routine clearance of refuse collected by the refuse collection facilities, the Department's staff will also check the operation and effectiveness of these facilities. If failure or damage is detected, the contractor will be notified immediately for follow-up and repair so as to ensure the proper operation of the facilities. Depending on the requirements of individual contracts, the service contractor shall conduct on-site inspection and follow-up action within 24 or 48 hours, and complete the repair work in 5 or 7 days after the inspection. As the routine maintenance and repair of the facilities or the replacement of spare parts for individual inlet openings can normally be completed within the same day, there is generally no interruption on the provision of services.
- (c) In 2024, about 470 illegal refuse deposit blackspots in various districts across the territory have been installed with Internet Protocol cameras, 189 of which are located in rural areas. The Department will institute prosecutions or plan more effective enforcement actions through analysis of information from the video footage, so as to enhance enforcement efficiency.
- (d) The Department attaches importance to refuse collection services and facilities in rural areas and has been actively exploring and applying different technologies and pragmatic designs to enhance the quality and efficiency of refuse collection services and environmental hygiene. Equipped with an auto sensor or an electronic foot pedal for touchless control of the inlet, the SCRBs and aluminium RCPs are more convenient and hygienic to use than the conventional large-sized lidded waste containers. The fully-enclosed design can also prevent pest infestation as well as odour problem, which may occur if the lids in the conventional containers are not properly closed. Moreover, these SCRBs are equipped with an auto compacting function which will compact refuse when the refuse yield reaches a certain level, so that the capacity for refuse storage can be doubled. A 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), and is suitable to be provided at rural locations with a higher refuse yield and sufficient space. It can substantially reduce the number of large-sized waste containers required and effectively improve environmental hygiene.

According to the Department's evaluation, the placing of newly-designed refuse collection facilities can help mitigate the problem of illegal deposit of refuse and improve the hygiene condition in rural areas. There is generally positive feedback from the community stakeholders, who opine that the new facilities can effectively enhance the environmental hygiene of rural areas.

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