

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director of Environmental Protection will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2023–24 **\$9,505.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2023–24 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 120 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 reducing by 11 posts to 2 109 posts as at 31 March 2024..... **\$1,264.3m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 36 directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 and as at 31 March 2024.

Commitment balance..... **\$10,724.3m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

<p>Programme (1) Waste Programme (2) Air Programme (3) Noise Programme (4) Water Programme (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning</p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).</p>
---	--

Detail

Programme (1): Waste

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)Δ	4,661.5	5,151.8	4,897.2 (–4.9%)	6,069.3 (+23.9%)
				(or +17.8% on 2022–23 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figures exclude relevant provisions for general administrative support services which have been transferred to Head 137 — Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) due to the re-organisation of the Environment Branch of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department with effect from 1 January 2023.

Aim

2 The aim is to develop and implement a waste-to-resources management strategy for Hong Kong to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, as well as to safeguard the health and welfare of the community from any adverse environmental effects associated with the improper handling and disposal of waste.

Brief Description

3 The Department is responsible for the provision and management of facilities for proper treatment and disposal of waste including municipal, construction, livestock, chemical and clinical wastes, sewage and water treatment works sludges and other special wastes. The Department enforces relevant legislation to control the illegal disposal of waste, develops new proposals to meet changing waste management needs and advises on the assessment and remediation of contaminated land. The Department also works with the community to promote and encourage waste reduction and recycling.

4 The Government promulgated in February 2021 the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” to advocate the vision of “Waste Reduction · Resources Circulation · Zero Landfill” and put forward a comprehensive waste management strategy of transforming waste into energy/resources while at the same time promote green recovery and build up a circular economy. To achieve new targets on waste reduction and recycling as well as zero landfilling, actions are proposed along six policy objectives of waste reduction, waste separation, resources circulation, industry support, innovation and co-operation, education and publicity.

5 On waste reduction, the Department implements the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) in full on plastic shopping bags and waste electrical and electronic equipment and is preparing for full implementation of the PRS on glass beverage containers. It is planning to introduce PRS for plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons. As the main driving force behind waste reduction, the Department is also actively preparing to implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging in the second half of 2023 at the earliest. To reduce waste plastics, the Department aims to regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

6 On waste separation, the Department has strengthened and expanded the territory-wide community recycling network comprising Recycling Stations, Recycling Stores and mobile Recycling Spots. The waste collection and recycling services for food waste and waste plastics are being expanded progressively. On resources circulation, waste-to-energy/resources facilities are developed to reduce reliance on landfills for direct disposal of MSW. In addition to the commissioned waste management facilities (such as T-PARK, O-PARK1, WEEE-PARK), the Y-PARK commenced operation in 2021 to promote recycling and upcycling of yard waste. The Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase 1, I-PARK1, which adopts advanced incineration technology to treat MSW, is expected to commence operation in 2025 while the O-PARK2 will start operation in 2024 to increase the overall food waste treatment capability. The Department is planning to develop the IWMF Phase 2 (I-PARK2) in Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun, and identifying suitable site(s) for developing more modern waste-to-energy incinerator(s) in the Northern Metropolis.

7 On industry support, the \$2 billion Recycling Fund has continued to support the recycling industry to move towards advanced industrial development with high-end technologies and machines. Land in the 20-hectare EcoPark and other short-term sites are also leased to recycling operators at affordable price. On education and publicity, the Department joins hands with the Environmental Campaign Committee to support educational and promotional campaigns on waste reduction and recycling. A Green Outreach service has been set up to enhance community education and on-site recycling support. On innovation, smart technology applications have been adopted in various waste collection and recycling programmes.

8 In 2022, about 5.74 million tonnes of solid waste were disposed of at the three strategic landfills in Hong Kong. The extension of the South East New Territories Landfill was opened in November 2021. As the remaining two landfills will soon reach their design capacities and service lives, the Department takes forward projects to extend these two landfills. The Department continues to manage restored landfills and promote their development for recreational or other purposes. The Department also manages seven Refuse Transfer Stations in Hong Kong where MSW are compacted and then transported to the landfills for disposal.

9 The key performance measures in respect of the waste programme are:

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
operation hours of strategic landfills.....	13 870	13 887	13 638	13 870
processing marine dumping permits within 18 days (%).....	90	100	98	95
initial response to waste complaints within three days (%).....	95	99	99	95

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
strategic landfills			
no. of capital works milestone payments	7	6	6
tonnage of waste received annually	5 669 376	5 739 769	5 740 000
total solid waste disposed of (%)	100	100	100
refuse transfer stations			
tonnage of waste received annually	3 332 427	3 317 638	3 339 000
special wastes			
tonnage of waste treated annually at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre.....	15 214	12 690	12 700
tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at the T-PARK	409 962	386 219	386 200
livestock waste			
total quantity produced (thousand tonnes)	65	65	65
disposed of by environmentally-acceptable means (%).....	90	90	90
WEEE			
tonnage of WEEE treated annually at the WEEE-PARK.....	23 971	22 169	24 000
O-PARK1			
tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O-PARK1	45 026	45 654	63 445
marine dumping permits issued	132	133	125
waste import/export permits issued.....	33	27	29
chemical waste trip tickets recorded	35 200	34 000	35 000
chemical waste collector licences issued	5	6	20
chemical waste disposal licences issued	18	14	8

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
prosecutions for			
chemical waste control offences	57	75	75
clinical waste control offences	0	0	2
livestock waste control offences	6	4	4
marine dumping offences	0	0	3
waste import/export offences	31	20	20
illegal deposit of waste offences	485	372	400
complaints handled	2 889	2 648	2 800
enquiries handled by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service	11 381	11 990	12 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

10 During 2023–24, the Department will:

- undertake the preparatory work for the implementation of MSW charging in the second half of 2023 at the earliest;
- continue to develop a community recycling network across the territory, and expand the pilot programme on smart recycling systems to enhance the community recycling service;
- introduce the legislative proposal for the PRS on plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons, and continue to implement the pilot scheme on reverse vending machines to assist in recovery of suitable beverage containers;
- implement the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases six months after the passage of the relevant amendment bill (in the fourth quarter of 2023 at the earliest);
- implement the PRS on glass beverage containers in full;
- continue to liaise with the relevant sectors and stakeholders to jointly explore and implement practical measures to promote the reduction of plastic packaging materials;
- continue to implement the territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services to collect waste paper for further processing and selling to various markets for recycling, to ensure a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper;
- continue to implement the pilot scheme on free collection of all types of waste plastics from non-commercial and non-industrial sources in nine districts;
- continue to implement the pilot scheme on free collection of food waste for public premises and commercial and industrial premises, and gradually expand the scheme to collect food waste from domestic sources including implementation of a trial scheme on food waste collection in public rental housing estates;
- continue reaching out to the community by the Green Outreach to provide on-site support and assistance to residents and property management companies in practising proper source separation of waste and clean recycling, as well as preparing for the implementation of MSW charging;
- continue to promote reduction of food waste at source under the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign;
- continue to promote green procurement in the Government and the community;
- continue to monitor the operation of the Recycling Fund to provide support to the recycling industry;
- continue to oversee the construction and development of I-PARK1 and the planning of new IWMP including the Phase 2 and future phases;
- continue to take forward the development of O-PARKs and food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion facilities for the treatment of source-separated food waste;
- continue to develop recycling facilities including a pilot biochar plant with a view to turning yard waste into energy and useful products;
- continue to take forward the development of a modern pulping facility in EcoPark, Tuen Mun to diversify outlets for our local waste paper;
- continue to oversee the operation of the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 providing affordable land and other infrastructural support to the recycling industry;
- continue to take forward the two landfill extension projects;
- continue to develop the beneficial facilities at restored landfills; and
- monitor the implementation of the enhanced Plastic Shopping Bag Charging Scheme.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Programme (2): Air

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)Δ	1,865.2	2,909.7	1,889.6 (–35.1%)	2,758.8 (+46.0%)
				(or –5.2% on 2022–23 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figures exclude relevant provisions for formulation and review of policies of air and climate change as well as general administrative support services which have been transferred to Head 137 — Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) due to the re-organisation of the Environment Branch of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department with effect from 1 January 2023.

Aim

11 The aim is to oversee emission reduction measures to enable the ambient air quality to broadly comply with the prevailing Air Quality Objectives (AQOs); to enforce the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) (APCO), the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403) (OLPO) and other statutory requirements; and to promote the use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong.

Brief Description

12 The work carried out by the Department in seeking to achieve and maintain satisfactory air quality includes:

- development of standards and guidelines;
- enforcement of APCO to control air pollution from factories, polluting processes and products, motor vehicles, vessels, non-road mobile machinery, asbestos and other sources;
- enforcement of OLPO to control ozone depleting substances and products containing these substances;
- implementation of the voluntary Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for offices and public places;
- operation of an air quality monitoring network and laboratories to provide the air quality information needed for checking the effectiveness of existing programmes and development of new policies;
- provision of air quality information and Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) to the public;
- collaboration with authorities in Guangdong to carry out the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme and implement measures to improve regional air quality; and
- implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the Minamata Convention) which aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

13 Compared with 1999, the ambient concentrations of respirable suspended particulates (RSP or PM₁₀), fine suspended particulates (FSP or PM_{2.5}), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) dropped by 56 per cent, 58 per cent, 46 per cent and 72 per cent respectively in 2022. Ozone was the only pollutant that showed an increase in concentration by 74 per cent, owing to regional photochemical smog problem and reduction in local nitric oxide (NO) emissions from vehicles resulting in less NO to react with and titrate ozone. At the roadside, the concentrations of RSP, FSP, NO₂ and SO₂ fell by 68 per cent, 67 per cent, 35 per cent and 85 per cent respectively between 1999 and 2022. However, the high level of roadside NO₂ remains a challenge to be tackled. To further improve air quality, a wide range of emission reduction measures are being implemented in respect of motor vehicles and vessels locally while joint efforts are being made with the Guangdong Provincial Government to tackle regional air pollution.

14 In June 2021, the Government announced the Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035 which set out the vision of “Healthy Living • Low-carbon Transformation • World Class”, and the challenges, strategies and targets to enhance the air quality of Hong Kong to 2035. With effect from 1 January 2019, vessels within Hong Kong waters are required to use compliant fuel and emission standards of non-road vehicles have been tightened to Euro VI emission standards. To sustain efforts to improve regional air quality and protect public health, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Guangdong Provincial Governments are working on the regional air pollution reduction collaboration beyond 2020, including the conduct of a study on post-2020 regional air pollutant emission reduction targets and concentration levels. The Department is also collaborating with the Guangdong Provincial and Macao Special Administrative Region Governments to conduct a joint study on “Characterisation of Photochemical Ozone Formation, Regional and Super-Regional Transportation in the Greater Bay Area” with a view to providing scientific supports in formulating measures for tackling regional ozone pollution problem.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

15 To support wider use of electric vehicles, the Government launched the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to incentivise installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings in October 2020, and received more than 650 applications covering over 133 000 parking spaces by end 2022. To meet the market demand, the 2022–23 Budget injected an additional funding of \$1,500 million to extend the scheme for four years to 2027–28, so that the whole scheme is expected to cover about 140 000 parking spaces in some 700 car parks of the existing private residential buildings. In addition, the Government completed the installation of over 1 000 additional medium chargers in over 70 car parks open to the public in 2022 and launched the “EV-Charging Easy” mobile app in June 2022 to facilitate electric vehicle drivers to search for available public chargers in real time.

16 To fulfil the obligations under the Minamata Convention, the Mercury Control Ordinance (Cap. 640) was made to regulate the export, import, keeping and use of mercury, mercury mixtures and mercury compounds; control the export, import, manufacture and supply of certain mercury-added products; and control certain manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used. The Mercury Control Ordinance came into effect on 1 December 2021.

17 To achieve zero vehicular emissions and facilitate the attainment of carbon neutrality before 2050, the Government announced the first Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles in March 2021, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of electric vehicles and their associated supporting facilities.

18 The key performance measures in respect of the air programme are:

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
processing of chimney/furnace applications within 16 days (%)	90	97	99	90
percentage of hourly AQHI below 7 (i.e. low or moderate “health risk” category) (%)				
general	98‡	98	98	98
roadside	96‡	99	98	98

‡ Targets when ambient air quality broadly meets the prevailing AQO limits.

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
chimney/furnace applications processed	441	369	400
asbestos management plans processed	183	181	180
specified processes under licence (%)	100	99	100
premises and plants inspected	14 165	12 840	15 400
complaints handled	4 831	4 452	4 600
technical advice offered	1 843	1 741	1 800
legal notices issued	130	112	115
prosecutions under the APCO and OLPO	52	97	70
reduction of scheduled ozone depleting substance consumption (tonnage)	5 539	5 539	5 539
planning advice issued	1 057	1 317	1 320
smoky vehicle reports processed	780	540	580
smoky vehicles tested	364	234	250
enquiries/complaints on vehicle matters handled	5 125	3 556	3 830
indoor air quality certifications registered	1 973	2 010	2 100

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

19 During 2023–24, the Department will:

- follow up on the initiatives as set out in the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles to improve air quality and achieve decarbonisation;
- take forward measures set forth in the Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035 to continuously improve the air quality for better protection of public health;
- continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including electric vehicles, and enhance the charging network for electric vehicles;
- continue to implement the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to promote installation of electric vehicle charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings and estates;

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

- continue to provide impetus for the market development of public charging services by proceeding with the conversion of petrol filling stations into quick charging stations and the marketisation of charging services;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities on air quality improvements, including the implementation of coastal emission control areas in Mainland waters and handling of the regional ozone problem;
- continue to collaborate with the Guangdong and Macao authorities to carry out routine volatile organic compounds monitoring in the Pearl River Delta regional air quality monitoring network;
- continue to implement the incentive-cum-regulatory scheme to progressively phase out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles by the end of 2027;
- continue to collaborate with the Guangdong authorities to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in Guangdong Province;
- continue to prepare a pilot trial scheme for electric public light buses;
- continue to prepare a pilot trial scheme for electric ferries;
- continue to prepare a trial of electric taxis to test the operation and business mode;
- continue a joint study with the Guangdong and Macao authorities on “Characterisation of Photochemical Ozone Formation, Regional and Super-Regional Transportation in the Greater Bay Area” with a view to tackling the photochemical ozone pollution in the Greater Bay Area;
- continue to establish a 3-D air pollution monitoring network using light detection and ranging technology for tracking pollution transport over Hong Kong;
- prepare to launch a pilot smart air quality monitoring project, which integrates the sensor monitoring with Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, existing air quality monitoring stations and numerical models to provide the public with more detailed air quality information; and
- prepare to set up in Hong Kong a supersite for the Greater Bay Area air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring to provide regional air pollution and meteorological monitoring and forecasting services.

Programme (3): Noise

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m) ^Δ	157.0	162.0	168.6 (+4.1%)	176.5 (+4.7%)
				(or +9.0% on 2022–23 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figures exclude relevant provisions for general administrative support services which have been transferred to Head 137 — Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) due to the re-organisation of the Environment Branch of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department with effect from 1 January 2023.

Aim

20 The aim is to prevent, minimise and resolve environmental noise problems through intervention in the planning process, implementation of noise abatement measures and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) (NCO).

Brief Description

21 To achieve this aim, the Department carries out the following main tasks:

- provision of professional input in relation to planning and development proposals to pre-empt and mitigate noise problems;
- development of practicable proposals and mitigation measures to address existing traffic noise problems;
- formulation of programme to promote the use of quiet construction equipment; and
- enforcement of the NCO.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

22 The key performance measures in respect of noise-related activities are:

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
processing of applications for construction noise permits within 18 days (%)	90	95	94	90
processing of applications for noise emission labels for breakers and air compressors within 15 days (%).....	90	92	93	90

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
comments given in planning stage	1 774	1 872	1 872
prosecutions under the NCO	65	134	130
construction noise permits processed.....	4 593	5 176	5 200
noise emission labels issued for breakers and air compressors	1 279	1 349	1 300
noise abatement notices served	21	24	25
complaints handled.....	5 617	5 590	5 600

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

23 During 2023–24, the Department will:

- continue to tackle noise impact of existing roads through the retrofitting noise barrier programme;
- continue to promote good practices and innovative measures to prevent or minimise road traffic noise problems at the planning stage; and
- propose to amend the NCO to put control over domestic renovation noise and use of loudspeakers for street cries.

Programme (4): Water

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)Δ	390.0	419.3	419.3 (—)	360.0 (–14.1%)
				(or –14.1% on 2022–23 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figures exclude relevant provisions for general administrative support services which have been transferred to Head 137 — Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) due to the re-organisation of the Environment Branch of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department with effect from 1 January 2023.

Aim

24 The aim is to ensure that the quality of Hong Kong's marine and fresh waters promotes the conservation and best use of those waters in the public interest, and that plans are formulated and implemented such that Hong Kong's sewerage systems can operate safely and effectively to cope with our current needs and needs of Hong Kong's further development.

Brief Description

25 The Department seeks to attain and maintain Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) by enforcing relevant legislation; by ensuring the provision of an adequate sewerage infrastructure; by assessing the possible impact of strategic and local developments on water quality and requiring this to be taken into account in development plans; and by proposing revisions to existing legislations aimed at preventing water pollution, if necessary. Water and sediment quality is monitored extensively, and special investigations are conducted to provide the basis for policy development and preventive planning.

26 The Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A has been fully commissioned since December 2015. The Department continues to develop and implement water quality improvement measures with a long-term objective of enhancing the Harbour's leisure and recreational value.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

27 The sewerage master plans for Central and East Kowloon, West Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung, Tuen Mun, Tsing Yi, the Outlying Islands, Hong Kong Island, North District and Tolo Harbour areas have been reviewed and proposals for sewerage upgrading works are being pursued in accordance with the identified priority.

28 The key performance measures in respect of the water programme are:

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
inspection of major discharges in every Water Control Zone at least four times a year (%).....	100	100	100	100
provision of weekly beach water quality grading to the public during bathing season (%).....	100	100	100	100
initial response to water pollution complaints within three days (%)	95	99	99	95

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
compliance with WQOs for marine waters (%).....	88	86	86
inland water sampling points	82	82	82
no. of the sampling points classified as (%)			
excellent	52	52	52
good.....	31	33	33
fair	9	9	9
bad.....	6	6	6
very bad.....	2	0	0
compliance with WQOs for inland waters (%).....	87	89	89
enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)			
licences granted.....	1 074	1 066	1 050
licences renewed	1 455	1 337	1 250
prosecutions for water pollution control offences.....	14	38	35
detailed investigations and inspections	15 632	12 383	12 000
complaints handled	3 616	3 005	3 000
drainage plans vetted (under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)).....	46	41	40
responses to planning cases.....	1 249	1 501	1 576

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

29 During 2023–24, the Department will continue to:

- co-operate with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary water quality management issues and protection of the marine environment;
- pursue various sewage treatment and sewerage projects; and
- investigate and remove major pollution sources in stormwater drainage systems at districts with waterfront odour nuisance along the Victoria Harbour.

Programme (5): Environmental Assessment and Planning

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)Δ	128.4	131.2	136.6 (+4.1%)	141.3 (+3.4%)

(or +7.7% on
2022–23 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figures exclude relevant provisions for general administrative support services which have been transferred to Head 137 — Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) due to the re-organisation of the Environment Branch of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department with effect from 1 January 2023.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Aim

30 The aim is to pre-empt environmental problems associated with projects, plans, policies and strategies by reviewing proponents' assessment of their environmental implications and ensuring that effective preventive and mitigatory measures are implemented where potential problems are identified.

Brief Description

31 The Department seeks to prevent environmental problems through reviewing the environmental findings of projects, planning proposals and development strategies which may have significant environmental implications. It oversees strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment (EIA) studies, and processes Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499) (EIAO) applications to ensure that the environmental impacts of designated projects are properly assessed and that measures to control them to acceptable levels are properly implemented.

32 The key performance measures in respect of environmental assessment and planning are:

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
plans reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on outline zoning plans, layout plans, etc.).....	72	79	80
miscellaneous district planning or housing proposals reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on housing proposals, applications under section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131)) ...	1 344	1 382	1 380
major planning studies and strategic planning studies	136	170	140
applications processed under the EIAO.....	85	73	75
major projects undergoing environmental monitoring and audit.....	107	115	110
EIA with technical advice provided	53	57	55
cases where environmental implications paragraphs in funding and policy proposals vetted	265	269	270

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

33 During 2023–24, the Department will continue to:

- pre-empt environmental problems through processing EIAO applications and enforcement of permit conditions;
- promote the incorporation of environmental considerations into major policies and strategies at the earliest possible stage; and
- promote environmental good practices and early engagement with stakeholders in the planning and design of new developments.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2021–22 (Actual) (\$m)	2022–23 (Original) (\$m)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$m)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Waste	4,661.5	5,151.8	4,897.2	6,069.3
(2) Air	1,865.2	2,909.7	1,889.6	2,758.8
(3) Noise	157.0	162.0	168.6	176.5
(4) Water.....	390.0	419.3	419.3	360.0
(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning	128.4	131.2	136.6	141.3
	7,202.1‡	8,774.0‡	7,511.3‡ (–14.4%)	9,505.9 (+26.6%)
				(or +8.3% on 2022–23 Original)

‡ For comparison purpose, the figures have been adjusted to reflect the provisions for relevant programmes under this Head due to the re-organisation of the Environment Branch of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department with effect from 1 January 2023. In addition, the figures also exclude the relevant provisions for nature conservation and climate change portfolios which have been transferred to Head 137 — Government Secretariat: Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) due to the aforementioned re-organisation.

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2023–24 is \$1,172.1 million (23.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased provision for waste management initiatives, increased provision for the operation of waste management facilities and increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of seven posts in 2023–24.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2023–24 is \$869.2 million (46.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a decrease of three posts in 2023–24.

Programme (3)

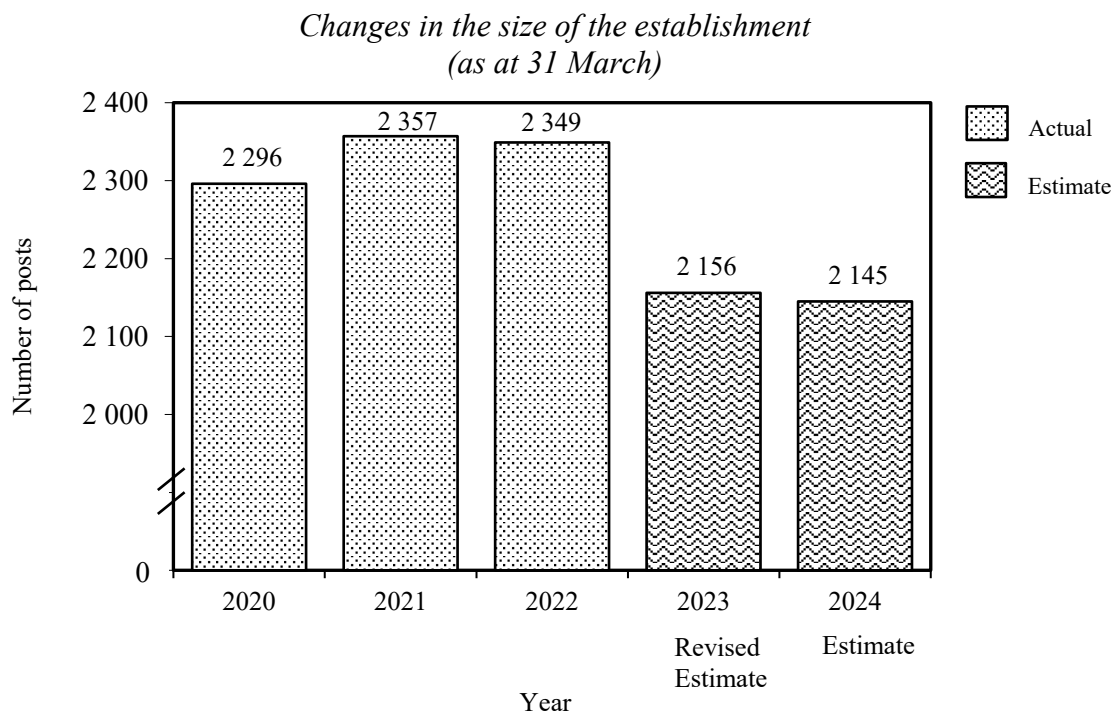
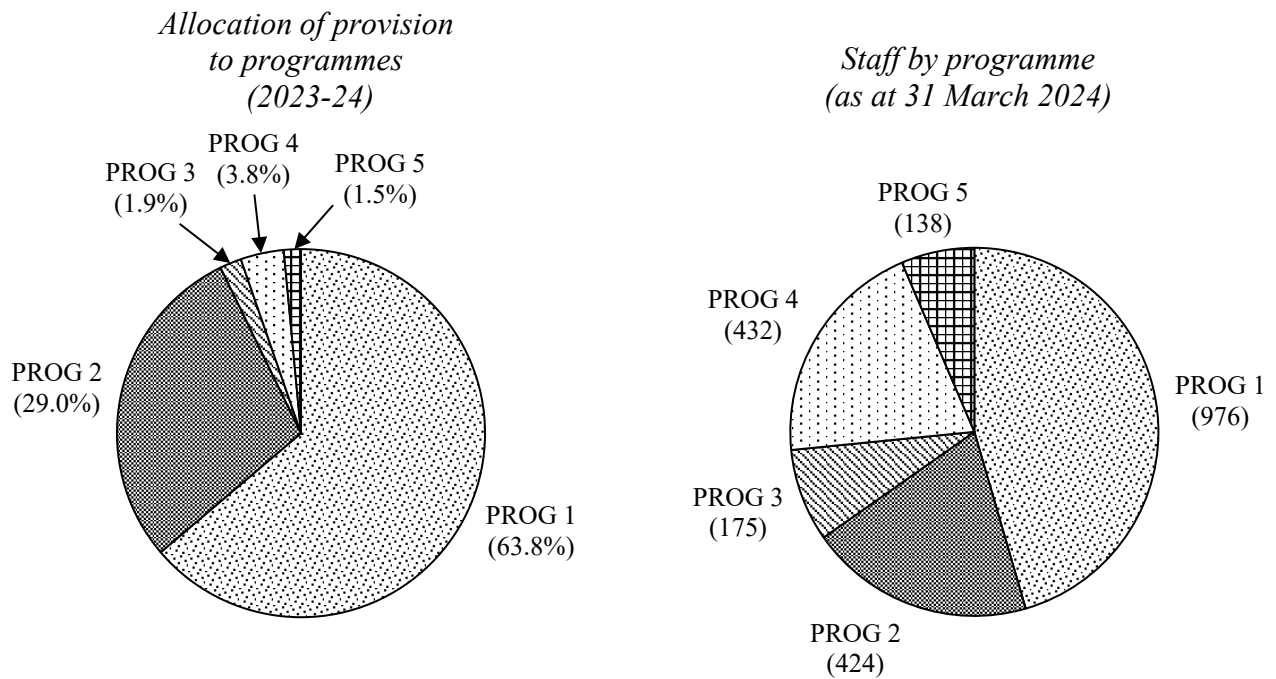
Provision for 2023–24 is \$7.9 million (4.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2023–24 is \$59.3 million (14.1%) lower than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to decreased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a decrease of one post in 2023–24.

Programme (5)

Provision for 2023–24 is \$4.7 million (3.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.



Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2021–22	Approved estimate 2022–23	Revised estimate 2022–23	Estimate 2023–24
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account					
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	3,304,740	3,640,445	3,393,216	3,786,011
297	Fees for operation of waste management facilities	2,740,107	2,911,762	2,886,209	3,365,607
	Total, Recurrent	6,044,847	6,552,207	6,279,425	7,151,618
	Non-Recurrent				
700	General non-recurrent	1,391,764	2,500,899	1,356,608	2,284,941
	Total, Non-Recurrent	1,391,764	2,500,899	1,356,608	2,284,941
	Total, Operating Account	7,436,611	9,053,106	7,636,033	9,436,559
Capital Account					
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment	—	500	87	16,280
605	Minor capital works (block vote)	3,401	3,099	1,006	3,217
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	39,462	95,243	80,929	49,843
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	42,863	98,842	82,022	69,340
	Total, Capital Account	42,863	98,842	82,022	69,340
	Total Expenditure	7,479,474	9,151,948	7,718,055	9,505,899

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2023–24 for the salaries and expenses of the Environmental Protection Department is \$9,505,899,000. This represents an increase of \$1,787,844,000 over the revised estimate for 2022–23 and \$2,026,425,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021–22.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$3,786,011,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Department. This represents an increase of \$392,795,000 (11.6%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased requirement for departmental expenses in connection with measures on waste reduction, partly offset by the reduction of provision for operating expenses arising from the re-organisation of the Environment Branch of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department with effect from 1 January 2023.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2023 will be 2 156 posts including two supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 11 posts in 2023–24. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2023–24, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,264,316,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2021–22 (Actual) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Original) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	1,439,873	1,522,374	1,455,489	1,403,805
- Allowances	40,919	38,563	48,894	46,247
- Job-related allowances.....	1,391	1,527	3,443	1,268
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	6,405	5,531	5,619	6,399
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	91,109	108,562	104,081	110,469
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	54,789	30,000	65,500	65,500
- General departmental expenses	1,670,254	1,925,888	1,702,190	2,145,834
Other Charges				
- Promotion of green lifestyle	—	8,000	8,000	6,489
	<u>3,304,740</u>	<u>3,640,445</u>	<u>3,393,216</u>	<u>3,786,011</u>

5 Provision of \$3,365,607,000 under *Subhead 297 Fees for operation of waste management facilities* is for contract payments for the operation of waste management facilities including the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre, refuse transfer stations, landfills, T-PARK, WEEE-PARK, O-PARK1, Y-PARK, etc. This represents an increase of \$479,398,000 (16.6%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased provision for the operation of waste management facilities and the implementation of environmental improvement measures.

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

6 Provision of \$3,217,000 under *Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote)* represents an increase of \$2,211,000 (219.8%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for renovation works of the Administration Building of the Island West Transfer Station.

7 Provision of \$49,843,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$31,086,000 (38.4%) against the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to decreased cash flow requirement for procurement of new equipment.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment \$'000	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2022 \$'000	Revised estimated expenditure for 2022–23 \$'000	Balance \$'000
Operating Account						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	803	Trial of retrofitting Euro IV and V double-deck franchised buses with enhanced selective catalytic reduction systems	38,180	—	1,345	36,835
	807	Pilot Scheme on Application of Reverse Vending Machines	5,000	1,475	2,750	775
	808	Study on the total pollution load control regime and online water quality monitoring system	9,200	1,900	1,358	5,942
	809	Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses	80,000	—	—	80,000
	810	Ex-gratia payment for phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles	11,444,000	10,642,419	1,526	800,055
	811	EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme	3,500,000	—	22,000	3,478,000
	812	Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	350,000	2,793	475	346,732
	815	Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles	7,100,000	1,864,658	1,160,312	4,075,030
	817	Programmes and consultancy study on reducing the use and amount of packaging materials in Hong Kong	3,500	302	750	2,448
	818	Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme	311,000	69,410	57,245	184,345
	827	Recycling Fund	2,049,930	718,176	59,347	1,272,407
	850	Trial of Electric Buses by Franchised Bus Companies	180,000	157,380	9,033	13,587
	881	Grant for the operators of the projects under the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme	40,000	—	—	40,000
	931	Establishment of the Manufacturing, Inventory and Distribution System for Designated Garbage Bags and Designated Labels under the Municipal Solid Waste Charging – Feasibility Study	7,000	2,305	764	3,931
			<u>25,117,810</u>	<u>13,460,818</u>	<u>1,316,905</u>	<u>10,340,087</u>

Capital Account

603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	820	Procurement of one marine water quality monitoring vessel for replacement of “Dr Catherine Lam”	123,258	—	87	123,171

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Commitments—Cont'd.

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2022	Revised estimated expenditure for 2022–23	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Account—Cont'd.						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment—Cont'd.</i>				
	821	Purchase of carbon/ greenhouse gases monitoring equipment and high-performance computers¶	261,000¶	—	—	261,000
			384,258	—	87	384,171
		Total	25,502,068	13,460,818	1,316,992	10,724,258

¶ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2023.