

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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

Estimate 2024–25	\$9,715.1m
Establishment ceiling 2024–25 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 109 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 reducing by 22 posts to 2 087 posts as at 31 March 2025	\$1,307.2m
In addition, there will be an estimated 36 directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 and as at 31 March 2025.	
Commitment balance	\$9,304.9m

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

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	4,981.5Δ	6,069.3	5,639.8 (–7.1%)	6,306.0 (+11.8%)
				(or +3.9% on 2023–24 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figure excludes relevant provision for general administrative support services which has 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 To implement the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035”, actions have been taken in six target areas, namely 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, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and glass beverage containers. It is planning to establish a common legislative framework with a view to gradually implementing PRSs for plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, electric vehicle (EV) batteries, vehicle tyres and lead acid batteries starting from 2025. As the main driving force behind waste reduction, the Department will implement municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. To reduce waste plastics, the Department will regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products in phases starting from the second quarter of 2024.

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 and WEEE • PARK), 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 proactively planning the development of IWMF Phase 2 (I-PARK2) in Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun, and identifying a suitable site in the Northern Metropolis for development of an advanced waste-to-energy facility to provide essential waste disposal services in the long run.

7 On industry support, the 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 is 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 2023, about 5.76 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 is compacted and then transported to the landfills for disposal.

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

Targets

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
operation hours of strategic landfills.....	13 870	13 638	13 481	13 870
processing marine dumping permits within 18 days (%).....	90	98	98	95
initial response to waste complaints within three days (%).....	95	99	99	95

Indicators

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
strategic landfills			
no. of capital works milestone payments	6	8	8
tonnage of waste received annually	5 739 769	5 760 912	5 763 000
total solid waste disposed of (%)	100	100	100
refuse transfer stations			
tonnage of waste received annually	3 317 638	3 336 007	3 336 000
special wastes			
tonnage of waste treated annually at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre.....	12 690	10 236	10 200
tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at the T•PARK	386 219	407 273	407 300
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.....	22 169	21 344	22 400
O•PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities#			
tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O•PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities#	45 654 Δ	52 340 Δ	85 700
marine dumping permits issued	133	104	110
waste import/export permits issued.....	27	34	34
chemical waste trip tickets recorded	34 000	33 000	34 000
chemical waste collector licences issued	6	14	33
chemical waste disposal licences issued	14	5	20

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
prosecutions for			
chemical waste control offences	75	87	85
clinical waste control offences	0	4	4
livestock waste control offences	4	4	4
marine dumping offences	0	0	0
waste import/export offences	20	33	33
illegal deposit of waste offences	372	240	240
complaints handled.....	2 648	3 079	3 000
enquiries handled by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service	11 990	13 888	15 600

- # Revised description of the previous indicators from “O-PARK1” and “tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O-PARK1” to “O-PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities” and “tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O-PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities” respectively to cover (i) food waste treatment facilities (including the existing O-PARK1 and the O-PARK2 which will commence operation in 2024); and (ii) food waste pre-treatment facilities (including the existing food waste pre-treatment facilities for food waste/sewage sludge co-digestion trials at Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works and Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works which commenced operation in November 2023) operated by the Government.
- △ The actual tonnage of food waste treated at the O-PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities was 49 249 in 2022.
- △ The actual tonnage of food waste treated at the O-PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities was 60 792 in 2023.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

10 During 2024–25, the Department will:

- implement MSW charging;
- continue to develop a community recycling network across the territory, and strengthen the pilot programme on smart recycling systems to enhance the community recycling service;
- introduce the legislative proposal for a common legislative framework with a view to gradually implementing the PRSs on plastic beverage containers, beverage cartons, EV batteries, vehicle tyres and lead acid batteries starting from 2025;
- 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 starting from the second quarter of 2024;
- 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;
- introduce the legislative proposal in 2024 to regulate the proper collection and handling of recyclables in major housing estates and single-block residential buildings with relatively large numbers of flats;
- continue to strengthen various food waste collection initiatives to support more public premises and commercial and industrial premises to conduct source-separation and collection of food waste, and gradually expand the service to collect more food waste from domestic sources including private residential buildings and all 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 organising promotional activities on MSW charging to educate the public to comply with the legal requirements;
- 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 the development of I-PARK2 and identify a suitable site in the Northern Metropolis for development of an advanced waste-to-energy facility;

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

- continue to take forward the development of food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion facilities and oversee the operation of O-PARKs 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 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; and
- continue to develop the beneficial facilities at restored landfills.

Programme (2): Air

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,748.8 Δ	2,758.8	1,967.1 (–28.7%)	2,714.6 (+38.0%)
				(or –1.6% on 2023–24 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figure excludes 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 EVs 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; and
- collaboration with authorities in Guangdong to carry out the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme and implement measures to improve regional air quality.

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 52 per cent, 55 per cent, 44 per cent and 78 per cent respectively in 2023. Ozone was the only pollutant that showed an increase in concentration by 71 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 65 per cent, 63 per cent, 33 per cent and 81 per cent respectively between 1999 and 2023. 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.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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 Department is collaborating with the Guangdong Provincial and Macao Special Administrative Region Governments to conduct a 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.

15 To support wider use of EVs, the Government launched the \$2 billion EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to incentivise installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings in October 2020. To meet the market demand, the 2022–23 Budget injected an additional funding of \$1,500 million to extend the operation of the scheme for four years to 2027–28. A total of 788 applications covering about 153 000 parking spaces were received upon the close of application on 31 December 2023. To bring forward the marketisation of the public EV charging services, the Government has advanced the timeline for outsourcing the EV charging services in over 70 government car parks to collect charging fees progressively starting from the end of 2023. In addition, the “EV-Charging Easy” mobile app was upgraded in October 2023 to provide real-time information of over 2 000 public EV chargers in both government and private car parks. In the fourth quarter of 2023, the pilot scheme for electric public light buses was open for the first-round application from operators of public light buses with a view to commencing the operational trial in March 2024.

16 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 EVs in March 2021, setting out long-term policy objectives and plans on the use of EVs and their associated supporting facilities.

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

Targets

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
processing of chimney/furnace applications within 16 days (%)	90	99	98	90
percentage of hourly AQHI below 7 (i.e. low or moderate “health risk” category) (%)				
general	98‡	98	99	98
roadside	96‡	98	99	98

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

Indicators

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
chimney/furnace applications processed	369	408	400
asbestos management plans processed	181	207	200
specified processes under licence (%)	99	99	100
premises and plants inspected	12 840	18 406	18 061
complaints handled	4 452	4 287	4 316
technical advice offered	1 741	2 141	2 093
legal notices issued	112	93	95
prosecutions under the APCO and OLPO	97	158	160
reduction of scheduled ozone depleting substance consumption (tonnage)	5 539	5 539	5 539
planning advice issued	1 317	1 091	1 091
smoky vehicle reports processed	540	635	680
smoky vehicles tested	234	266	285
enquiries/complaints on vehicle matters handled	3 556	3 495	3 770
indoor air quality certifications registered	2 010	2 362	2 500

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

18 During 2024–25, the Department will:

- follow up on the initiatives as set out in the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of EVs 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;

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

- continue to promote the use of new energy vehicles including EVs, and enhance the charging network for EVs;
- continue to implement the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme to promote installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings and estates;
- 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;
- proceed with the trial for the pilot scheme for electric public light buses;
- continue to prepare for the pilot trial scheme for electric ferries;
- provide dedicated quick charging service for the trial of electric taxis to test the operation and business mode;
- proceed with the marketisation of EV charging service in government car parks;
- conclude the study on “Characterisation of Photochemical Ozone Formation, Regional and Super-Regional Transportation 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;
- continue to implement the 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

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	178.8Δ	176.5	215.4 (+22.0%)	221.4 (+2.8%)
				(or +25.4% on 2023–24 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figure excludes relevant provision for general administrative support services which has 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

19 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

20 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;
- formulation of programme to promote the use of quiet construction equipment;
- development of practicable proposals and mitigation measures to address existing traffic noise problems; and
- enforcement of the NCO.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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

Targets

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
processing of applications for construction noise permits within 18 days (%)	90	94	96	90
processing of applications for noise emission labels for breakers and air compressors within 15 days (%).....	90	93	96	90

Indicators

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
comments given in planning stage	1 872	2 170	2 170
prosecutions under the NCO	134	131	125
construction noise permits processed.....	5 176	5 629	5 500
noise emission labels issued for breakers and air compressors	1 349	952	900
noise abatement notices served	24	27	25
complaints handled.....	5 590	5 858	5 500

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

22 During 2024–25, the Department will:

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

Programme (4): Water

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	443.6Δ	360.0	396.0 (+10.0%)	340.8 (–13.9%)
				(or –5.3% on 2023–24 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figure excludes relevant provision for general administrative support services which has 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

23 The aim is to ensure that the quality of Hong Kong's marine and inland 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

24 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.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

25 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. The Department also continues to provide support to the administration on the Sewage Services Charging Scheme.

26 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.

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

Targets

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (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

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
compliance with WQOs for marine waters (%).....	86	88	88
inland water sampling points	82	82	82
no. of the sampling points classified as (%)			
excellent	52	51	51
good.....	33	34	34
fair	9	9	9
bad.....	6	6	6
very bad.....	0	0	0
compliance with WQOs for inland waters (%).....	89	87	87
enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)			
licences granted.....	1 066	1 126	1 150
licences renewed	1 337	1 186	1 200
prosecutions for water pollution control offences.....	38	42	39
detailed investigations and inspections	12 383	14 202	13 300
complaints handled	3 005	2 980	3 000
drainage plans vetted (under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)).....	41	39	36
responses to planning cases.....	1 501	1 104	1 159

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

28 During 2024–25, 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.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Programme (5): Environmental Assessment and Planning

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	136.0Δ	141.3	135.1 (–4.4%)	132.3 (–2.1%)
				(or –6.4% on 2023–24 Original)

Δ For comparison purpose, the figure excludes relevant provision for general administrative support services which has 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

29 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

30 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.

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

Indicators

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
plans reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on outline zoning plans, layout plans, etc.).....	79	78	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)) ...	1 382	1 390	1 380
major planning studies and strategic planning studies	170	187	165
applications processed under the EIAO.....	73	54	71
major projects undergoing environmental monitoring and audit.....	115	82	100
EIA with technical advice provided	57	30	47
cases where environmental implications paragraphs in funding and policy proposals vetted	269	276	270

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

32 During 2024–25, 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;
- promote environmental good practices and early engagement with stakeholders in the planning and design of new developments; and
- implement enhancement initiatives to optimise the EIAO process.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2022–23 (Actual) (\$m)	2023–24 (Original) (\$m)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$m)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Waste	4,981.5	6,069.3	5,639.8	6,306.0
(2) Air	1,748.8	2,758.8	1,967.1	2,714.6
(3) Noise	178.8	176.5	215.4	221.4
(4) Water.....	443.6	360.0	396.0	340.8
(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning	136.0	141.3	135.1	132.3
	7,488.7‡	9,505.9	8,353.4 (–12.1%)	9,715.1 (+16.3%)
				(or +2.2% on 2023–24 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 2024–25 is \$666.2 million (11.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to increased provision for waste management initiatives and increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of seven posts in 2024–25.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$747.5 million (38.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of nine posts in 2024–25.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$6.0 million (2.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net decrease of one post in 2024–25.

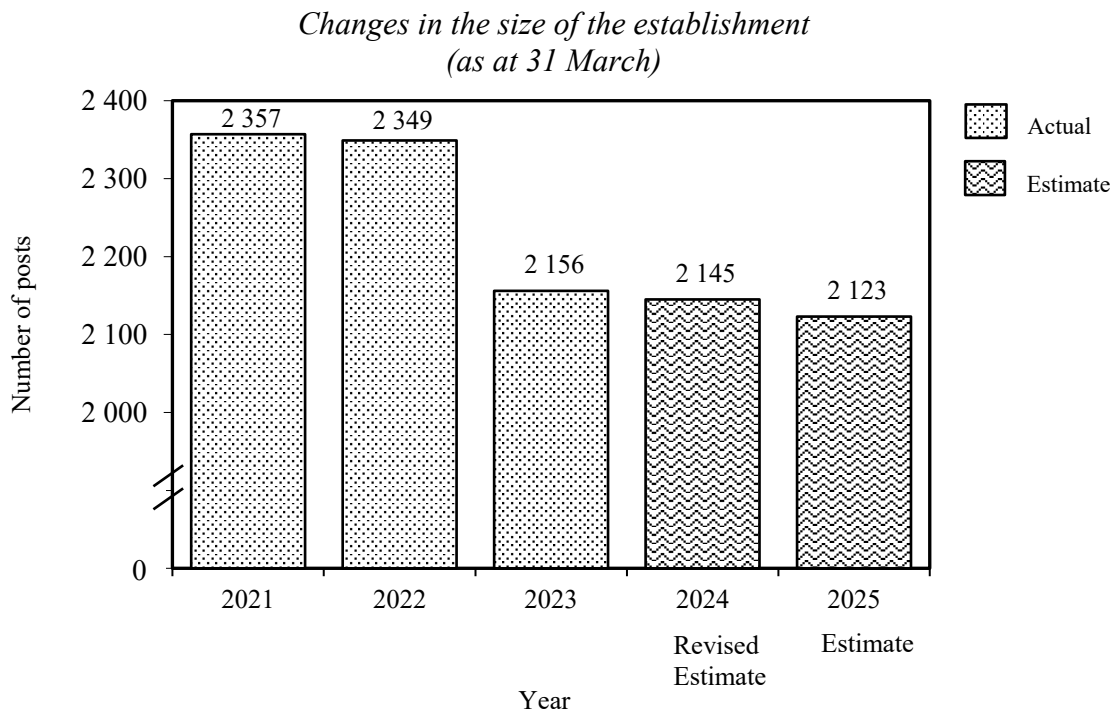
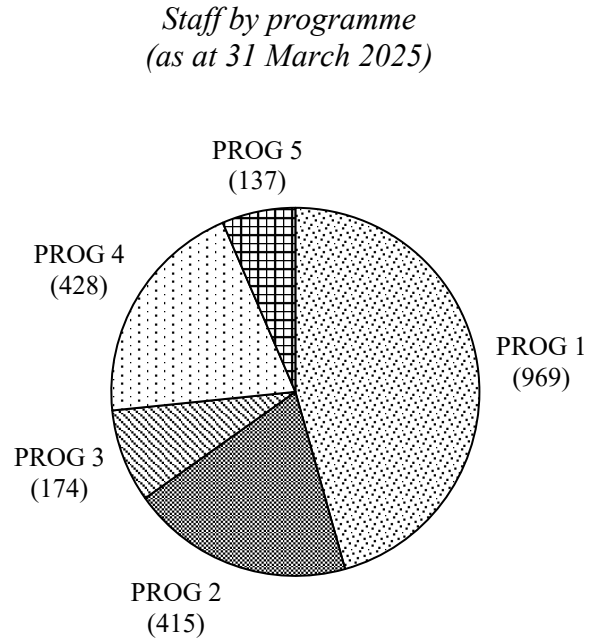
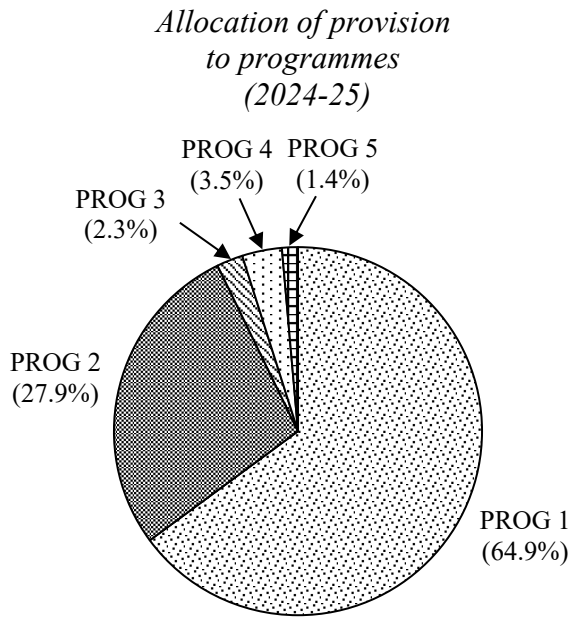
Programme (4)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$55.2 million (13.9%) lower than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to decreased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a decrease of four posts in 2024–25.

Programme (5)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$2.8 million (2.1%) lower than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to decreased provision for operating expenses, partly offset by increased provision for new equipment. In addition, there will be a net decrease of one post in 2024–25.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT



Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2022–23	Approved estimate 2023–24	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	3,499,946	3,786,011	3,695,299	4,218,702
297	Fees for operation of waste management facilities	2,874,532	3,365,607	3,240,516	3,239,946
	Total, Recurrent	<u>6,374,478</u>	<u>7,151,618</u>	<u>6,935,815</u>	<u>7,458,648</u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	1,270,091	2,284,941	1,374,445	2,199,022
	Total, Non-Recurrent	<u>1,270,091</u>	<u>2,284,941</u>	<u>1,374,445</u>	<u>2,199,022</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>7,644,569</u>	<u>9,436,559</u>	<u>8,310,260</u>	<u>9,657,670</u>
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment	86	16,280	3,100	2,000
605	Minor capital works (block vote)	1,342	3,217	3,033	4,395
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	74,004	49,843	37,000	50,989
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	<u>75,432</u>	<u>69,340</u>	<u>43,133</u>	<u>57,384</u>
	Total, Capital Account	<u>75,432</u>	<u>69,340</u>	<u>43,133</u>	<u>57,384</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>7,720,001</u></u>	<u><u>9,505,899</u></u>	<u><u>8,353,393</u></u>	<u><u>9,715,054</u></u>

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2024–25 for the salaries and expenses of the Environmental Protection Department is \$9,715,054,000. This represents an increase of \$1,361,661,000 over the revised estimate for 2023–24 and \$1,995,053,000 over the actual expenditure in 2022–23.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$4,218,702,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Department. This represents an increase of \$523,403,000 (14.2%) over the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to increased provision for personal emoluments in 2024–25 and increased requirement for departmental expenses in connection with measures on waste reduction.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2024 will be 2 145 posts including two supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 22 posts in 2024–25. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2024–25, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,307,155,000.

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

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Original) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	1,445,930	1,403,805	1,391,027	1,450,156
- Allowances	48,621	46,247	50,718	51,809
- Job-related allowances.....	2,876	1,268	1,374	1,461
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	5,407	6,399	6,822	7,267
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	105,093	110,469	115,679	128,876
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	62,347	65,500	133,703	454,065
- General departmental expenses	1,821,647	2,145,834	1,985,642	2,114,678
Other Charges				
- Promotion of green lifestyle	8,025	6,489	10,334	10,390
	3,499,946	3,786,011	3,695,299	4,218,702

5 Provision of \$3,239,946,000 under *Subhead 297 Fees for operation of waste management facilities* is for contract payments for the operation and related services of waste management facilities including the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre, refuse transfer stations, landfills, T·PARK, WEEE·PARK, O·PARK1, O·PARK2, Y·PARK, etc.

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

6 Provision of \$4,395,000 under *Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote)* represents an increase of \$1,362,000 (44.9%) over the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for refurbishment and fitting out works of the Administration Building of the Island West Transfer Station.

7 Provision of \$50,989,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$13,989,000 (37.8%) over the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to increased cash flow requirement for procurement of new equipment.

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2023	Revised estimated expenditure for 2023–24	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
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	—	4,660	33,520
808		Study on the total pollution load control regime and online water quality monitoring system	9,200	2,871	1,541	4,788
809		Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses.....	80,000	—	3,300	76,700
810		Ex-gratia payment for phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles	11,444,000	10,643,913	1,376	798,711
811		EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme ...	3,500,000	9,032	220,000	3,270,968
812		Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	350,000	3,164	39,235	307,601
815		Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles ...	7,100,000	2,964,621	1,028,904	3,106,475
817		Programmes and consultancy study on reducing the use and amount of packaging materials in Hong Kong	3,500	486	746	2,268
818		Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme	311,000	126,655	59,365	124,980
827		Recycling Fund	2,049,930	777,523	—	1,272,407
850		Trial of Electric Buses by Franchised Bus Companies	180,000	160,655	11,474	7,871
881		Grant for the operators of the projects under the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme	40,000	—	1,000	39,000
			<u>25,105,810</u>	<u>14,688,920</u>	<u>1,371,601</u>	<u>9,045,289</u>
<i>Capital Account</i>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
821		Purchase of carbon/ greenhouse gases monitoring equipment and high-performance computers	261,000	—	1,400	259,600
			<u>261,000</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>259,600</u>
		Total	<u><u>25,366,810</u></u>	<u><u>14,688,920</u></u>	<u><u>1,373,001</u></u>	<u><u>9,304,889</u></u>