

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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

Estimate 2025–26	\$8,633.1m
Establishment ceiling 2025–26 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 2 087 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by 68 posts to 2 019 posts as at 31 March 2026.....	\$1,311.7m
In addition, there will be an estimated 36 directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.	
Commitment balance	\$7,624.5m

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>
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Detail

Programme (1): Waste

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	5,594.4	6,306.0	5,676.7 (–10.0%)	5,629.0 (–0.8%)
				(or –10.7% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to implement waste management programmes and initiatives to reduce, recycle and treat 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 programmes and initiatives under the vision of waste reduction, resources circulation and zero landfill set out in the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035”.

5 On waste reduction, the Department implements the Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRs) in full on plastic shopping bags, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and glass beverage containers. The Department will establish a common legislative framework for PRs applicable to different products, in order to facilitate the future inclusion of products such as plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons progressively, and expanding our waste-to-resources capacities. The Department is also conducting a review on the municipal solid waste (MSW) charging scheme. To reduce waste plastics, the new regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products came into effect on 22 April 2024. Relevant publicity efforts to promote a “disposable-free” and “plastic-free” culture will continue.

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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 service for food waste is being expanded progressively. On resources circulation, waste-to-energy/resources facilities have been developed/are being 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, O • PARK2 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. The Department is proactively taking forward 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 2024, about 5.72 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	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
operation hours of strategic landfills.....	13 870	13 481	13 567	13 870
processing marine dumping permits within 18 days (%).....	90	98	100	95
initial response to waste complaints within three days (%).....	95	99	98	95

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
strategic landfills			
no. of capital works milestone payments	8	8	8
tonnage of waste received annually	5 760 912	5 723 146	5 724 000
total solid waste disposed of (%)	100	100	100
refuse transfer stations			
tonnage of waste received annually	3 336 007	3 324 742	3 324 700
special wastes			
tonnage of waste treated annually at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre.....	10 236	8 751	9 000
tonnage of sewage sludge treated annually at the T•PARK	407 273	391 518	391 600
livestock waste			
total quantity produced (thousand tonnes)	65	89	89
disposed of by environmentally-acceptable means (%).....	90	90	90
WEEE			
tonnage of WEEE treated annually at the WEEE•PARK.....	21 344	22 052	23 000
O•PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities#			
tonnage of food waste treated annually at the O•PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities#.....	52 340A	100 831	127 000
marine dumping permits issued	104	71	75
waste import/export permits issued.....	34	32	32
chemical waste trip tickets recorded	33 000	31 000	33 000
chemical waste collector licences issued	14	31	12
chemical waste disposal licences issued	5	16	13

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	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
prosecutions for			
chemical waste control offences	87	92	88
clinical waste control offences	4	0	0
livestock waste control offences	4	3	3
marine dumping offences	0	0	0
waste import/export offences	33	14	14
illegal deposit of waste offences	240	145	140
complaints handled.....	3 079	3 503	3 425
enquiries handled by			
Environmental Protection Department Hotline on waste reduction and recycling Δ	13 888	19 606	21 100

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” as from 2024. The previous indicator covered only O-PARK1 whereas the revised indicator covers (i) food waste treatment facilities (including the existing O-PARK1 and the O-PARK2 which commissioned 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) operated by the Government.

Δ The actual tonnage of food waste treated at the O-PARKs and food waste pre-treatment facilities was 60 792 in 2023.

Δ Revised description of the previous indicator “enquiries handled by the Waste Reduction and Recycling Hotline Service” as from 2025.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

10 During 2025–26, the Department will:

- continue to conduct the review on the MSW charging scheme and consult the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Legislative Council on the way forward in mid-2025;
- continue to optimise the community recycling network across the territory and support for waste reduction and recycling;
- introduce legislative amendments for establishing a common legislative framework for PRSs applicable to different products, in order to facilitate the future inclusion of products such as plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons progressively, and expanding our waste-to-resources capacities;
- continue to implement the pilot scheme on reverse vending machines to assist in recovery of suitable beverage containers;
- continue to liaise with the relevant sectors and stakeholders to jointly explore and implement practical measures to promote the reduction of packaging materials;
- continue to implement territory-wide waste paper collection and recycling services to collect waste paper for further processing, ensuring a stable outlet for locally generated waste paper;
- continue to implement the Waste Reduction and Recycling Charter to promote the establishment of convenient recycling systems and proper handling of recyclables in private residential premises;
- continue to strengthen various food waste recycling initiatives to support more public, commercial and industrial premises in conducting source-separation and collection of food waste, while further increasing the number of domestic food waste recycling facilities to collect more food waste from private residential buildings and public rental housing estates;
- continue to reach out to the community, provide support and assistance to property management companies for proper source separation of waste and clean recycling, and step up promotion and education efforts on waste reduction and recycling in schools;
- continue to promote reduction of food waste at source and food waste recycling through the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign;
- 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, take forward the development of I • PARK2 and identify a suitable site in the Northern Metropolis for development of an advanced waste-to-energy facility;
- continue to take forward food waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion and oversee the operation of O • PARKs for the treatment of source-separated food waste;

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- continue to oversee the operation of recycling facilities including a yard waste recycling centre (Y • PARK) and a pilot biochar plant with a view to exploring turning yard waste into 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

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,911.3	2,714.6	2,596.0 (–4.4%)	2,297.4 (–11.5%)
				(or –15.4% on 2024–25 Original)

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 (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 54 per cent, 55 per cent, 44 per cent and 83 per cent respectively in 2024. 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 66 per cent, 63 per cent, 34 per cent and 89 per cent respectively between 1999 and 2024. 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 Government has been running the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme (the Programme) in collaboration with the authorities in Guangdong since 2008 with a view to facilitating Hong Kong-owned factories in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices. The Government will inject \$100 million for a new round of the Programme to accept applications from the second quarter of 2025 to June 2027. The Department has also completed a study on regional ozone characteristics in the Greater Bay Area.

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15 To support wider use of EVs, the Government launched the EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme in October 2020, with a total funding of \$3.5 billion allocated in two phases, to incentivise installation of EV charging-enabling infrastructure in car parks of existing private residential buildings. Out of 788 applications, 724 were approved to provide the infrastructure for over 140 000 parking spaces. The Government has completed the marketisation of the EV charging services by contracting two operators to provide around 1 600 medium chargers in over 70 government car parks. In addition, the “EV-Charging Easy” mobile app has been upgraded to incorporate the information of non-government public chargers, providing information of over 10 400 public EV chargers in both government and private car parks. The Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses commenced the first-round operational trial at the end of March 2024 and aimed to commence the second-round operational trial in early 2025. The first electric ferry under the Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries commenced its trial in December 2024 and the trial of other two electric ferries will commence in 2025 and 2026 respectively.

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. The Government announced the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis in December 2024, setting out the future direction and policy objectives of the green transformation of public buses and taxis.

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

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
processing of chimney/furnace applications within 16 days (%)	90	98	97	90
percentage of hourly AQHI below 7 (i.e. low or moderate “health risk” category) (%)				
general	98‡	99	99	98
roadside	96‡	99	99	96

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

Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
chimney/furnace applications processed.....	408	444	440
asbestos management plans processed.....	207	228	230
specified processes under licence (%).....	99	99	100
premises and plants inspected.....	18 406	19 511	19 500
complaints handled.....	4 287	4 810	4 800
technical advice offered	2 141	2 609	2 600
legal notices issued.....	93	120	120
prosecutions under the APCO and OLPO.....	158	57	60
reduction of scheduled ozone depleting substance consumption (tonnage)	5 539	5 540	5 539
planning advice issued	1 091	1 115	1 115
smoky vehicle reports processed.....	635	627	630
smoky vehicles tested.....	266	382	380
enquiries/complaints on vehicle matters handled	3 495	4 096	4 100
indoor air quality certifications registered	2 362	2 422	2 450

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

18 During 2025–26, the Department will:

- follow up on the initiatives as set out in the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of EVs and the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis 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 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;

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- 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;
- proceed with the new round of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme and continue to collaborate with the Guangdong authorities to promote the adoption of new cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province;
- continue to conduct the trials for the pilot scheme for electric public light buses;
- continue to implement the pilot scheme for electric ferries;
- continue to provide dedicated quick charging service for electric taxis to support their operation;
- 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;
- continue to prepare the setting up of a supersite for the Greater Bay Area air quality laboratory and meteorology monitoring in Hong Kong; and
- implement the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons by 85 per cent in 2036.

Programme (3): Noise

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	215.7	221.4	210.4 (–5.0%)	223.6 (+6.3%)
				(or +1.0% on 2024–25 Original)

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.

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

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
processing of applications for construction noise permits within 18 days (%)	90	96	96	90
processing of applications for noise emission labels for breakers and air compressors within 15 days (%).....	90	96	96	90

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Indicators

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
comments given in planning stage	2 170	2 188	2 188
prosecutions under the NCO	131	83	80
construction noise permits processed.....	5 629	5 904	5 900
noise emission labels issued for breakers and air compressors	952	1 266	1 300
noise abatement notices served	27	17	17
complaints handled.....	5 858	6 663	6 500

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

22 During 2025–26, the Department will:

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

Programme (4): Water

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	382.4	340.8	568.5 (+66.8%)	352.2 (–38.0%)
				(or +3.3% on 2024–25 Original)

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.

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 and Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and Tsing Yi, the Outlying Islands, Hong Kong Island, Yuen Long and Kam Tin, 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 To ameliorate the near-shore odour problems of Victoria Harbour, the Department has conducted proactive surveys for misconnections and successfully identified the locations of major sewer misconnections in the priority districts. With subsequent rectification works, the overall pollution load at the relevant stormwater outfalls has been reduced by about 87 per cent by the end of 2024, thereby achieving the key performance indicator of reducing the pollution load by 50 per cent at identified polluted outfalls along Victoria Harbour, including Tsuen Wan, Sham Shui Po, and Kowloon City, by end 2024 as laid down in the 2022 Policy Address.

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

Targets

	Target	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (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

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
compliance with WQOs for marine waters (%).....	88	88	88
inland water sampling points	82	82	82
no. of the sampling points classified as (%)			
excellent	51	50	50
good.....	34	35	35
fair	9	9	9
bad.....	6	5	5
very bad.....	0	1	1
compliance with WQOs for inland waters (%).....	87	87	87
enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358)			
licences granted.....	1 126	1 047	1 020
licences renewed	1 186	1 142	1 130
prosecutions for water pollution control offences.....	42	14	15
detailed investigations and inspections	14 202	15 331	14 500
complaints handled	2 980	3 479	3 220
drainage plans vetted (under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123)).....	39	36	34
responses to planning cases.....	1 104	1 096	1 021

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

29 During 2025–26, 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 near-shore odour problem along Victoria Harbour.

Programme (5): Environmental Assessment and Planning

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	148.1	132.3	127.9 (–3.3%)	130.9 (+2.3%)

(or –1.1% on
2024–25 Original)

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.

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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

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
plans reviewed and technical environmental advice given (on outline zoning plans, layout plans, etc.).....	78	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)) ...	1 390	1 583	1 480
major planning studies and strategic planning studies	187	213	200
applications processed under the EIAO.....	54	54	58
major projects undergoing environmental monitoring and audit.....	82	110	103
EIA with technical advice provided	30	43	44
cases where environmental implications paragraphs in funding and policy proposals vetted	276	263	270

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

33 During 2025–26, 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.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Waste	5,594.4	6,306.0	5,676.7	5,629.0
(2) Air	1,911.3	2,714.6	2,596.0	2,297.4
(3) Noise	215.7	221.4	210.4	223.6
(4) Water.....	382.4	340.8	568.5	352.2
(5) Environmental Assessment and Planning	148.1	132.3	127.9	130.9
	8,251.9	9,715.1	9,179.5 (–5.5%)	8,633.1 (–6.0%)
				(or –11.1% on 2024–25 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$47.7 million (0.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to decreased provision for waste management initiatives, partly offset by increased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of 64 posts in 2025–26.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$298.6 million (11.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to decreased cash flow requirement for non-recurrent projects. In addition, there will be a net decrease of two posts in 2025–26.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$13.2 million (6.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses.

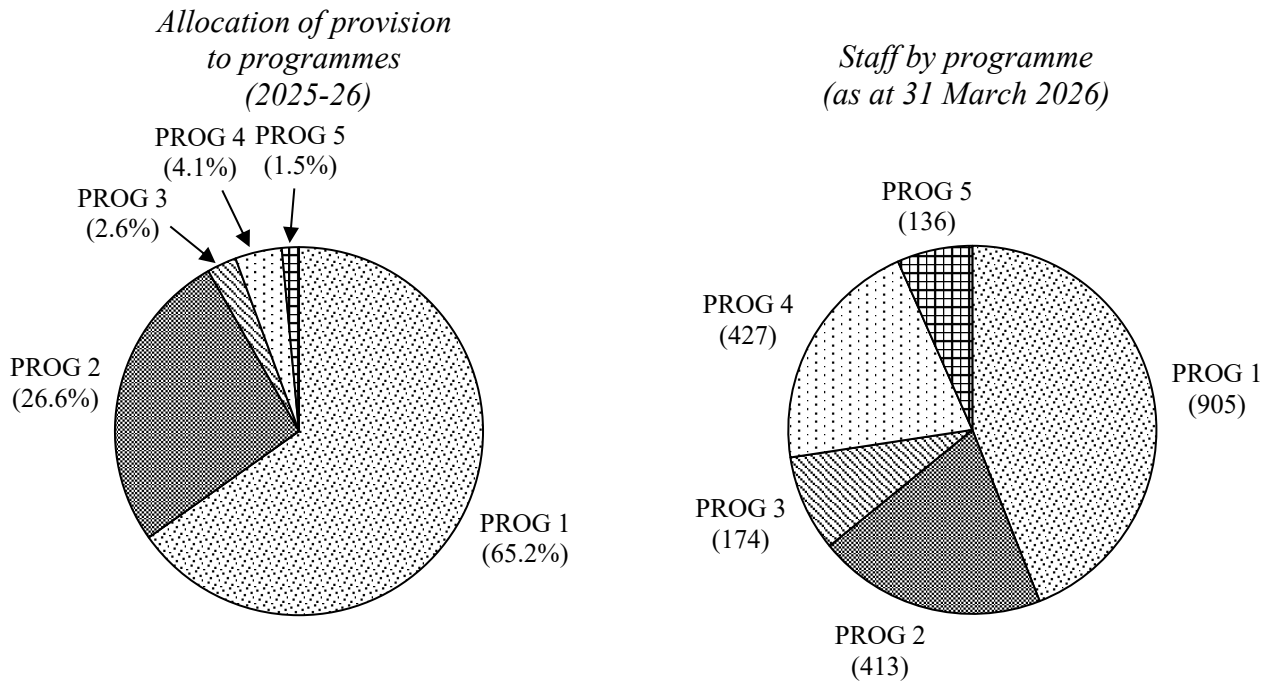
Programme (4)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$216.3 million (38.0%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to decreased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

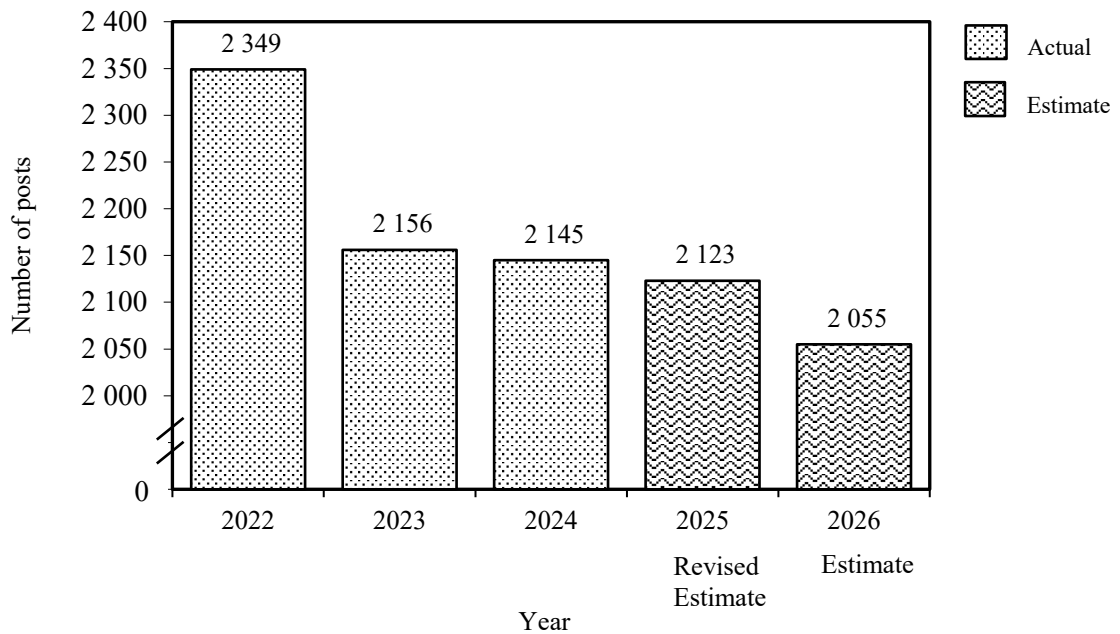
Programme (5)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$3.0 million (2.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses. In addition, there will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

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Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	3,697,112	4,218,702	4,113,973	3,527,367
297	Fees for operation of waste management facilities	3,246,589	3,239,946	3,021,304	3,287,636
	Total, Recurrent	<u>6,943,701</u>	<u>7,458,648</u>	<u>7,135,277</u>	<u>6,815,003</u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	1,266,060	2,199,022	2,008,947	1,766,052
	Total, Non-Recurrent	<u>1,266,060</u>	<u>2,199,022</u>	<u>2,008,947</u>	<u>1,766,052</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>8,209,761</u>	<u>9,657,670</u>	<u>9,144,224</u>	<u>8,581,055</u>
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment	2,973	2,000	1,400	6,600
605	Minor capital works (block vote)	3,032	4,395	4,210	2,530
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	36,183	50,989	29,678	42,929
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	<u>42,188</u>	<u>57,384</u>	<u>35,288</u>	<u>52,059</u>
	Total, Capital Account	<u>42,188</u>	<u>57,384</u>	<u>35,288</u>	<u>52,059</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>8,251,949</u>	<u>9,715,054</u>	<u>9,179,512</u>	<u>8,633,114</u>

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Environmental Protection Department is \$8,633,114,000. This represents a decrease of \$546,398,000 against the revised estimate for 2024–25 and an increase of \$381,165,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$3,527,367,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environmental Protection Department. This represents a decrease of \$586,606,000 (14.3%) against the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to decreased requirement for departmental expenses in connection with waste management initiatives.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 2 123 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 68 posts in 2025–26. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2025–26, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,311,652,000.

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

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Original) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	1,377,504	1,450,156	1,450,156	1,493,983
- Allowances	53,477	51,809	52,451	54,663
- Job-related allowances.....	1,407	1,461	1,461	1,383
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	4,497	7,267	7,055	8,025
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	112,085	128,876	125,122	128,550
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	113,753	454,065	53,427	52,016
- General departmental expenses	2,026,066	2,114,678	2,416,711	1,778,432
Other Charges				
- Promotion of green lifestyle	8,323	10,390	7,590	10,315
	3,697,112	4,218,702	4,113,973	3,527,367

5 Provision of \$3,287,636,000 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, I·PARK1, etc.

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

6 Provision of \$2,530,000 under *Subhead 605 Minor capital works (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$1,680,000 (39.9%) against the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to decreased cash flow requirement for refurbishment and fitting out works of the Administration Building of the Island West Transfer Station.

7 Provision of \$42,929,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$13,251,000 (44.6%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25. 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 31.3.2024	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25	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	4,659	1,306	32,215
808		Study on the total pollution load control regime and online water quality monitoring system	9,200	3,706	1,860	3,634
809		Pilot Scheme for Electric Public Light Buses.....	80,000	—	12,097	67,903
810		Ex-gratia payment for phasing out pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles	11,444,000	10,643,913	753	799,334
811		EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme ...	3,500,000	203,556	610,000	2,686,444
812		Pilot Scheme for Electric Ferries	350,000	36,340	88,328	225,332
815		Ex-gratia payment for phasing out Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles ...	7,100,000	3,928,446	1,169,911	2,001,643
817		Programmes and consultancy study on reducing the use and amount of packaging materials in Hong Kong	3,500	791	1,204	1,505
818		Extension of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme	311,000	186,020	65,066	59,914
827		Recycling Fund	2,049,930	777,523	51,735	1,220,672
850		Trial of Electric Buses by Franchised Bus Companies	180,000	166,188	5,434	8,378
881		Grant for the operators of the projects under the Restored Landfill Revitalisation Funding Scheme	40,000	994	1,253	37,753
910		New Round of the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme¶.....	100,000¶	—	—	100,000
			<u>25,205,810</u>	<u>15,952,136</u>	<u>2,008,947</u>	<u>7,244,727</u>

Head 44 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Commitments—Cont'd.

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024	Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Capital Account</i>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	820	Procurement of one marine water quality monitoring vessel for replacement of “Dr Catherine Lam”	123,258	1,709	—	121,549
	821	Purchase of carbon/ greenhouse gases monitoring equipment and high-performance computers	261,000	1,350	1,400	258,250
			<u>384,258</u>	<u>3,059</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>379,799</u>
		Total	<u>25,590,068</u>	<u>15,955,195</u>	<u>2,010,347</u>	<u>7,624,526</u>

¶ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.