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Replies to supplementary questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Session No. : 10

Consolidated e-file name: EEB(E)-2S-e1.docx

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

S-EEB(E)001

(Question Serial No. S016)

Head: (44) Environmental Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (-) Not specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Environmental Protection (Samuel CHUI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

The North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill is located within the boundary commerce and industry zone of the Northern Metropolis, just 150 metres away from the recently established Robin's Nest Country Park. With the forthcoming announcement of the land use proposal for the boundary commerce and industry zone later this year, public attention will focus more on the closure timetable for the landfill and the planning implications for the Northern Metropolis boundary economy. Supplementary follow-up questions that were not addressed in the written reply are as follows:

1. Upon the commissioning of the incinerator facility near Shek Kwu Chau in 2025, will the amount of municipal solid waste to be delivered to the NENT Landfill decrease?
2. Will the Government enlist the support of other Greater Bay Area cities in accelerating the progress of I-PARK 2?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Yuet-ming (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. We are working full steam on developing highly efficient modern waste-to-energy incinerators. With the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 (I-PARK1) under construction and the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I-PARK2) under planning, it is expected that Hong Kong's municipal solid waste (MSW) incineration capacity will reach 9 000 tonnes per day. In anticipation of the commissioning of I-PARK1 in 2025, together with the landfill operation arrangements and associated traffic arrangements, the Environmental Protection Department will have room for reducing the amount of MSW to be transported to the North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill. It is expected that the total amount of MSW to be handled by the NENT Landfill and the West New Territories Landfill can be reduced by about 3 000 tonnes per day. Upon the commissioning of I-PARK2, the NENT Landfill will completely cease receiving MSW and will be transformed to receive construction waste only. Construction waste will not decay and are odourless, thus eliminating the odour problem arising from waste reception.
2. In April 2023, we conducted a briefing on the Market Sounding Exercise, arranged a site visit to Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun, and collected suggestions from over 20 major waste

incineration enterprises in the Mainland and the international arena on various aspects of I-PARK2 development, such as construction mode, efficiency improvement, incineration technology and construction of ancillary facilities. We are currently conducting surveys, design work and environmental impact assessments for I-PARK2. At the same time, we will draw on the experience of developing waste-to-energy incinerators in the Mainland to take forward the development of I-PARK2.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**S-EEB(E)002****(Question Serial No. S017)**

Head: (137) Government Secretariat : Environment and Ecology Bureau
(Environment Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (6) Climate Change

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment)
(Janice TSE)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Environment and Ecology

Question:

Regarding the reply numbered EEB(E)191 to my question, will the Bureau provide further information on the following:

1. What is the actual completion date of each research project?
2. Will the Government conduct evaluation of the effectiveness of the projects upon their completion?
3. Will the Bureau conduct further studies with other policy bureaux to take forward the policy research deliverables if a research project is determined to have development values?
4. As for the research projects granted approval, will the Government undertake due diligence to regularly inspect and review the use of funding for the research?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

A total of 30 research and development (R&D) projects have been approved under the Green Tech Fund (GTF) so far. The approved R&D projects commenced progressively from 2022 onwards, and the project period ranged from 18 to 36 months. To date, 1 project has been completed and the details are as follows:

Project title	Research synopsis	Applicant	Grant duration	Completion date
Recycling of waste lithium-ion batteries as highly active fuel cell catalysts	Collection of waste batteries, electric vehicle batteries in particular, and recycling the cathode materials therein to produce fuel cells	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	24 months	31 March 2024

According to the requirements set out in the GTF's Guide to Applicants, the Recipient Organisations are required to submit their progress reports and final reports. Based on the content of the reports, the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) will assess whether the projects concerned have achieved the intended objectives and contribution towards decarbonisation and environmental protection as stated in the proposal. To monitor the progress of the approved R&D projects, the GTF Secretariat will conduct on-site inspection to verify progress and results of individual projects. Upon completion of the projects, the Recipient Organisations are required to submit their final reports, report at the GTF website their efforts in publicising project deliverables and facilitating technology transfer, and provide quantitative measurements on the adoption of the project results by the industry.

On the review of the use of funding for the R&D, the Recipient Organisations are required to submit to the GTF Secretariat their annual and final audited accounts to assure that the project funds are applied to the projects in accordance with the approved budgets and in compliance with the terms and conditions set out in the project agreements. The annual and final audited accounts should be reported by auditors. If a Recipient Organisation fails to make progress by the agreed project milestones, or fails to submit audited project accounts, progress reports and final report, etc. in accordance with the project agreement, the EEB may suspend or terminate funding for the project concerned at any time.

Upon completion of funded projects, we will share and promote the project outcomes on the GTF website and other suitable platforms to encourage further development and practical application. The EEB will also liaise with the relevant policy bureaux to explore ways to take forward the R&D results.

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