

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Will the Administration advise on the expenditure for electricity for road lighting over the past 3 years? Has the Administration introduced any environmental features to road lighting in order to save energy? If yes, what are the specific measures taken? Will the Administration consider setting targets for saving electricity?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The expenditure on electricity for road lighting in the past 3 years (2005-06 to 2007-08) is set out below:

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Estimated figures)
Expenditure on electricity for road lighting (\$'000)	112,452	114,620	118,000
Electricity consumption for road lighting ('000 kWh)	133,900	134,789	137,000
No. of lighting points in the system	198,937	202,799	205,200

The increase in the expenditure on electricity for road lighting is due to the rises in tariff charged by the power companies and the number of lighting points in the system.

In order to save energy, it has long been our practice to replace old lanterns with more energy efficient lanterns available in the market. In the past three years, about 8 000 old lanterns were replaced by more energy efficient ones with lower lamp wattage. Another 6 000 old lanterns will be replaced in the next three years. The estimated total annual saving in energy cost is \$ 3.2 million upon completion of the whole scheme.

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In the past two years, dimmable electronic ballasts were installed for 2 400 road lights as a trial for assessing the feasibility of its application as an energy saving measure while maintaining the standard of road lighting. The trial has confirmed that the use of electronic ballasts for energy saving is feasible. We plan to install electronic ballasts for 15 000 road lights in the next four years starting from 2008-09. The estimated annual saving in energy cost is about \$2.7 million upon completion of the installation for the 15 000 road lights.

We shall continue to closely monitor our performance in energy saving and will consider introducing a target as appropriate in future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2008