WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BY SENATOR J.L. PERCHARD ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2011

Question

Will the Minister provide an estimate as to how many metal cans and tins were loaded into the Island's incinerator last year and what plans, if any, does he have to reduce the number in 2011?

Answer

Metals in the domestic waste stream are usually described as 'metal packaging' which includes all drinks cans, food tins, foil trays, aerosols etc. Waste stream analysis has generally found that cans account for around 50% of metal packaging.

The waste model developed for Jersey's Waste Strategy predicts that approximately 960 tonnes of cans arise as waste annually. In 2010, 84 tonnes of cans were recycled through the Household Recycling Centre, bring bank network and Parish kerbside recycling schemes leaving around 860 tonnes of cans in residual waste for incineration. Typically a tonne of drinks cans comprises of 50,000 cans giving an estimated total delivered to the plant at over 40,000,000 cans.

If every Parish provided household kerbside recycling schemes, the model predicts that at least half of all the waste cans would be collected for recycling. The Transport and Technical Services Department would never expect to receive all waste cans through the recycling collections and bring banks but the new Energy from Waste plant currently being commissioned is already separating metal from residues after the process which will considerably increase the proportion of metal recycled.

There is a major opportunity to increase the number of cans that are separated for recycling and we are confident that we will see an increase in the tonnage collected this year. We are continuing to make recycling easier by working with the Parishes that have not yet introduced kerbside recycling schemes and further expanding our bring bank network and Household Recycling Centre. We also plan to run a public awareness campaign focused specifically on metal packaging recycling later in the year.