

Learning English through Social Issues

Topic: According to this year's policy address, the government would like to expand the Tsang Kwan O landfill to cope with the surge of daily waste production. However, it is opposed by environmental protection groups as landfills will cause impacts on natural environment. They urge the government to research for other alternatives to tackle the problem. Write a letter to the editor to express your view on the expansion of landfills and give THREE suggestions to the government on the issue. Write about 350 words.

Dear Editor,

I am writing about the issue of waste disposal. The government plans to expand the Tsang Kwan O landfill to solve the problems. I strongly disagree with this plan.

Landfills cause several problems, one of them is environmental pollution. Gases produced when rubbish is decomposed would bring air pollution, it would also affect our life quality because of its bad smell.

Furthermore, the sewage would flow into the rivers and oceans and finally caused water pollution. According to the bad influence of landfill, I have the following suggestions to the government.

First of all, government can replace the landfill with incinerator. The area that an incinerator occupies is not large, more space can be used to build other infrastructures. Moreover, the efficiency of incinerator is high, it would also not produce strong bad smell to affect the residents nearby.

Secondly, government should strengthen the policies of "Polluter Pays Principle". Citizens may need to pay more if they produce more rubbish. Just like the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, garbage levy is really effective, according to the experience from our neighbours likes Japan, Taiwan and Korea which also adopt this policy. It can always remind ourselves to reduce rubbish.

Last but not least, a more thorough solution to solve the garbage problem is to organize a sophisticated waste-sorting system. We can also learn from Taipei in which the government can kick start the Per Bag Trash Collection system and voluntary

recycling programme, letting citizens help recycle rubbish thus most of the rubbish can be recycled. Finally, the pressure of landfill will reduce.

I hope my suggestions will be taken into consideration. Hope the issue of waste disposal can be solved.