

FAO: Panel on environmental affairs (16th December 2013)

- Waste Charging

- Submission by Dr Robert Hanson from 'CO2 Feeds the World'

CO2 Feeds the World does not support charging for domestic waste for the following reasons:

WHY CHARGING IS WRONG

It places a financial burden on poorest members of society and the Middle Class – a 'small' charge is nothing for well paid members of LEGCO and government members pampered with high salaries and domestic helpers. However, the charge is an additional financial burden to poorer people and the struggling middle classes facing inflation, falling real wages and more pressure in life due to money printing by incompetent leaders, rising food and energy prices in excess of reported inflation (due ill conceived green polices to increase salaries for directors of energy companies and the failure to distinguish between pollution and CO2) – money is tight, stress is high. Waste charging is costly to the MC and poor and it places pressure on them to squeeze things into small bags to minimise their waste charges. The charge will have undesirable consequences -

It will lead to waste being disposed of in the street and/being thrown out of windows
It will lead to parents sending children to school with waste in their school bags for waste to be disposed of at school.

Rather than removing bins in the street to force people to use an ill thought out charging system, more bins should be installed in public places to make it easier for people to dispose of waste by separation.

The proposal of weight or quantity based charging is crude and shows a complete lack of understanding about waste management. This approach fails to take account the key factor – type of waste, and the level of toxins the waste contains.

This environmental department lacks competence to tackle environmental issues and constantly appears to be in the pockets of industry and the greens sponsored by industry. Unfortunately LEGCO members have little clue about the environment and toxins and are therefore incapable of holding the government to account.

This government can't even tell the truth about the cancer causing toxins CFL and LED lightbulbs – it has failed to tell the public about the cancer causing toxins in CFL and LED lighting – cleaners and school children are exposed to cancer toxins from these bulbs. They are hanging over food in markets where they leak cancerous toxins onto food. The government has failed to tell people that the spectrum from CFL and LEDs is a natural depressant - a depressant linked to suicide – blue light from these bulbs also harms eyes. Light from the incandescent bulb the government wants to ban is the same as sunlight and makes people happy and de-stressed.

Even the industry has warnings about these bulbs but this government is not telling the people. The government appears more interested in ticking boxes than the truth and is more interested in protecting the profits of Philips by taking tax payers money and using it to promoting cancer causing LED and CFL lighting and pay government officials to knock on the doors of retailers to force them to sign a charter to stop selling healthy incandescent bulbs costing 4 HKD so that people have to buy cancer causing LED and CFL lighting at 20 – 100HKD – this is why Philips reported record profits this year for its lighting division.

I have written to invite Christine Loh and her crew to break just 6 CFL and 6 LED bulbs in a bin room and remain in the room for 15 minutes – they will not take the test – but don't want to tell workers of the daily cancer risks they face when collecting shattered CFL and LEDs from bin rooms – simply because if people knew the truth about CFL and LED lighting no one would buy them – it is gutless of this government to force workers on low wages to be the victims of their cancer bulb policy whilst they sit in their air conditioned offices (so much for energy saving) with sealed windows on lights on all day – in daylight hours – energy wasters!

WAY FORWARD

Ban all CFL and LED lighting – to protect human health and to prevent these toxic bulbs entering landfills which they are not suitable for – the governments collection scheme does not work – it has failed in every country – OVER 90% of CFL and LEDs end up in landfills where there cancerous toxins leak into the soil and water – CFL and LEDs should never be allowed into landfills – landfills cannot handle them.

Charge retailers for packaging

Fine and imprison anyone disposing of a CFL or LED in normal rubbish

Fine and imprison anyone selling an LED or CFL without explaining to purchaser the full list of toxins, unhealthy nature of the light, and the need for these bulbs to not be disposed of in normal rubbish

Install more public bins that allow separation

Larger bin rooms in all new housing blocks to make easy separation of waste possible.

Lifts in these large waste rooms taking waste to a newly developed underground train track which transports separated waste (avoids waste being transported over-ground) for further separation before being trading on world markets and then sold abroad to highest bidder

Fine companies that make products with short lifecycles eg 'low carbon' IKEA furniture that I have bought lasts 18 months than breaks. My high carbon furniture in England is over 50 years old and is still going strong. All furniture to be guaranteed for 25 years of hard use.

Abandon low carbon policies and low CO2 polices – these benefit bankers who trade CO2 for mega bonuses with which they then buy a private jet or Ferrari – CO2 and low carbon polices harm the poor and make the rich richer. They also allow greater control of government over peoples' lives.

Any LEGCO member signing up to low CO2 and low carbon to give up driving and flying. The focus should be on low pollution, long lasting products – a person can be carbon neutral but highly polluting.

Any LEGCO member not supporting the ban of CFL and LED lightbulbs to go to a bin room and break 6 CFL and 6 LEDs and remain in the room for 15 minutes – lead by example or resign – workers suffer while you tick boxes and smile to green groups sponsored by Philips for profit.

DR ROBERT HANSON
CO2 FEEDS THE WORLD

Reference:

<http://capitalism.hk/2012/03/08/light-bulb-bans-how-big-government-is-literally-killing-you/#I>