

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION — A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Taipei City, Chinese Taipei

Comprehensive waste management for a resource sustainable city

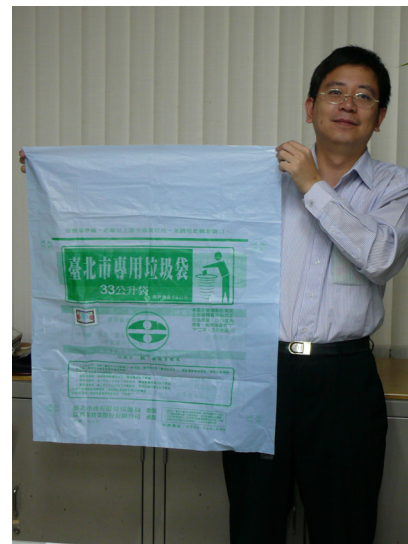
STORY IN SHORT: Taipei City pursues “proactive waste minimization and resourcification strategies,” in stead of traditional passive waste disposal concepts. With “waste management” measures, which utilize law instruments, economic incentives, and public participation through social movement, the residents have been encouraged to actively recycle and reduce waste.

Taipei's City's “Zero Landfill, Total Recycling” goals and actions

With a limited area and dense population, there is not much space near Taipei that can be used as a landfill site. Waste disposal facilities currently in use include one sanitation landfill and three large incineration plants. The goal set in 2000 for 2010 is “total recycling and zero landfill” to achieve the ultimate “zero waste” environment.

Actions include:

1. No touch ground: Taipei City has been strongly enforcing the policies of “no touch ground” and “3 in 1 recycling” since 1997. Garbage trucks arrive in specified locations at specified hours to pick up trash, and the residents can only have their waste discharged by themselves and directly throw it into the trucks. Recycle trucks are dispatched along with garbage trucks to collect recyclable items, so “garbage sorting,” “resource recycling,” and “waste removal” can be done all at the same time.
2. Per-bag trash collection fee: In order to enhance waste reduction and achieve fairness in fee collection, the policy of “Per-Bag Trash Collection Fee” based on the concept of “polluter pays principle” was launched in 2000. The policy requires the residents to buy “dedicated garbage bags” for the trash they discharge. The bags are taken away by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with the exception that the recyclables are taken at no cost, creating the fair basis of “waste is costly, but recycling saves money.”



Dedicated trash bags for per-bag trash collection fee

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A silent revolution through zero landfill and recycling policies

Mayor Hau Long-Bin states that “Taipei City has been through a silent revolution over the past four years. Due to the success of per-bag trash collection fee and recycling policies, we hope we will achieve our goal of ‘Zero Landfill, Total Recycling’ in 2010.”

Actions continued

3. Producers and retailers of the DEP designated items, sold in supermarkets and mega-stores, are responsible for recycling the packages or containers of these items sold by them.



Dedicated trash bags are available in sizes 120 liter, 76 liter, 14 liter, and 5 liter

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4. Zero landfill and total recycling: In order to solve the waste problem, we are still working on goals such as “minimizing incinerated waste,” “maximizing recycled materials,” and “abandoning the landfill.” Other success efforts include kitchen waste recycling, hazardous waste sorting, reusing incineration plants’ bottom ashes, establishing a recycling system for furniture or oversized waste, and establishing second-hand furniture flea markets.

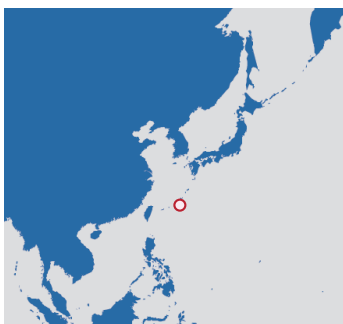
5. Regional bio energy center: To address the global issue of reducing greenhouse gases, the municipal waste incinerators of Taipei City are to be turned into regional bio-energy centers which convert urban organic waste and energy crops from the suburbs and areas of other cities into power and heat for the local area, reducing the need for imported fossil fuels.

Taipei's achievements so far

Since the implementation of these policies, as of December, 2008, the amount of household waste has been reduced by 57% (494,980 metric tons), equivalent to a GHG emission reduction of 435,800 metric tons due to incineration. In addition, the recycling rate has reached 44.7%. In 2008, the amount of daily garbage that goes into a landfill had been reduced to 59 tons on average.

Involvement in international initiatives

Taipei City was awarded the first (2001) Asia Waste Management Excellence Award by the Regional Institute of Environmental Technology for its implementation of the “Per-Bag Trash Collection Fee” policy. RIET is an international non-profit organization jointly established by the Commission of the European Communities and Singapore government for the purpose of working on environmental issues in Europe and Asia.



Taipei is the capital of Taiwan

City profile & contacts

Located on the north tip of Taiwan, Taipei is the capital and also the largest financial and cultural centre in the nation. The municipality covers 271.80 km² and is inhabited by 2.6 million people. Due to the high population density, the city government of Taipei has taken waste management seriously. Therefore, the City implemented a series of waste management policies, such as “No touch ground,” “Per-bag trash collection fee,” and “Regional bio energy centre” to reduce GHG emissions.

Name: Mei-Hw Yang

Department: Environmental Protection, Taipei City Government

Email: la-meihw@mail.taipei.gov.tw

Website: www.english.taipei.gov.tw/TCG/index.jsp



www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap
E-mail: climate-roadmap@iclei.org

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