**ELC 1011 Project 3: Script**

**Students:** Jiang Guanlin (David), Lam Ka Hang (Andy)

**Topic**: Single-use Plastics

**Question**: Should the government ban single-use plastics?

**Background**

**Andy:**

Plastics ---a valuable and dangerous product in this world. Nowadays, plastics show more terrible influences on this beautiful earth, a lot of animals because of plastics pollution dead in this “wonderful” world, ocean because of that no longer blue and fascinating to attract people come and visit.

**3 Countries Policies:**

**David:**

In the **UK**, currently, every year, the average English person uses 18 throwaway plastic plates and 37 one-time cutleries. (<https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/uk-single-use-plastic-ban/>)

Since 2015, the UK government has reduced the use of single-use plastics by increasing the price of plastic bags to 5 pence. For example, the sales of plastic bags in cities have been reduced by 95%. The government also has a refund plan if people back the plastic bottle to them. In the next few years, The UK government will increase control over plastics policy, and they plan to increase the price to 10 pence, which may further reduce the usage rate. They will start to charge the plastic tax to some companies if the plastic production company does not reduce emissions. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-steps-to-tackle-plastic-waste>)

**Andy:**

In the **US**, 37 million tons of plastics are used every year, which packaging, and food services plastics represent about 16 million tons that topically are single-use plastics.

With this in mind, many states in the US have set fees for the usage of plastics and even banned the use of single-use plastics bags. In the foreseeable future, the government is planning to undertake forceful actions to effectively recycle 50% of plastic packaging by 2025.

(<https://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/plastic-bag-legislation.aspx>)

(<https://usplasticspact.org/u-s-plastics-pact-unveils-national-strategy-to-achieve-2025-circular-economy-goals/>)

(<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/chemicals/our-insights/accelerating-plastic-recovery-in-the-united-states>)

**David:**

In **France**, it measures that 37% of fresh fruits and vegetables are packaged in plastic and it is believed that 100 billion disposable plastic goods are sold and produced by the fast-food sector.

(<https://www.connexionfrance.com/Practical/Environment/France-tightens-plastics-ban>)

In a bid to encourage re-use, France’s anti-waste law press consumers to bring re-usable containers into retail stores to purchase items, as long as the container is clean and suitable for the products purchased. (<https://packagingeurope.com/plastic-packaging-fruit-and-vegetables-banned-in-france/>)

**Andy:**

The policy that France government published is that in the future few years, from 2022, the roads in France must deploy the water fountains to reduce the buying and selling of bottled water. Also, France will ban the use of disposable plastic tableware during meals. (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/10/how-france-plans-to-significantly-reduce-its-plastic-waste-from-2022/>)

**Good? Bad?**

**David:**

We had introduced many policies before, and it sounds like single-use plastics have a lot of opposing sides, right? But they also have some benefits for people. Like some nurses and doctors in Hospital, they use single-use plastics to protect the medical equipment does not pollute and help cook to preserve food and make it pollution-free. (<https://www.plasticpackagingfacts.org/resources/sanitation-and-safety-plastics-benefits/>)

**Andy:**

However, it is impossible not to restrict the use of plastics because of the part of advantages of single-use plastic products. There are still a lot of disadvantages to use single-use plastics. Plastic may cause direct harm to the animals, lead to the Pacific trash vortex, and production of greenhouse gases.

(<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/blog/the-effects-of-single-use-plastic.html>)

**Conclusion:**

**David:**

US, UK, France these 3 countries both are having or will be having some policies to against single-use plastics. US and UK already have some behaviors to show the confidence they need to reduce it. Also, we want to give some advice to Hong Kong, to let more people know that using more plastics are not beneficial for people, like posters, and reduce the plastics from stores, if give too much, they need to provide some tax.

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