

## **Anti-smoking Policy Proposal**

This proposal was designed by our group as one of the solutions.

### **Problem Background**

Our group has conducted research on the existing smoking cessation policies and their effectiveness (including (1) tax policies + (2) clean air regulations + (3) advertising restrictions + (4) smoking cessation campaigns + (5) health warning labels + (6) policies restricting youth smoking + (7) school education programs + (8 & 9) policies to increase access to smoking cessation treatments and services). Among these policies, we have found several to be both effective and feasible. However, we also noticed that few of them take into account their environmental impact. Additionally, based on the interviews we conducted, we concluded that many people hope that the original policies could be more effective and enforceable. Therefore, we will present some effective but overlooked policies as well as modified versions of some of the original policies.

### **Policy Objectives**

In response to the issues mentioned above, our team has set two goals for our policy. 1. To minimize the environmental impact brought about by our policy as much as possible. 2. The meaning of "providing assistance" is to help people quit smoking, rather than merely imposing restrictions.

### **Policy:**

#### **1) Implement environmentally friendly management of cigarette butts**

Smoking areas should have containers for degradable cigarette butts instead of traditional plastic ashtrays (or simply simple trash cans containing stainless steel for collecting cigarette butts). Moreover, these degradable cigarette butt containers should have clear labels, so that they can reduce the pollution caused by cigarette butts while also minimizing the harmful gases, liquids, and mold that are produced when cigarette butts decompose in regular trash cans. The municipal government should provide subsidies and establish a method of distributing the disposal of cigarette butts to tobacco manufacturers. This financial mechanism adheres to the "polluter pays" principle, which means reducing the operating costs of the municipal government to alleviate its economic burden.

#### **3) Develop environmentally friendly and alternative smoking products**

The government will set strict certification standards for these alternative products, such as proving reduced toxicity, using biodegradable materials, and adopting sustainable production processes. Products that meet these standards will enjoy lower taxes, more reasonable advertising opportunities, or significant retail arrangements, among other benefits. At the same time, regular cigarettes will be subject to higher environmental taxes. (This proposal does not completely ban traditional cigarettes. Instead, it suggests a regulated and guided approach to gradually reduce the public's reliance on traditional cigarettes, and as smoking alternatives, those environmentally friendly products will be healthier alternatives, while also demonstrating benefits for health and the environment.)

#### **3) Smoke-free areas and related services for assisting in quitting smoking**

The government should expand the scope of smoke-free regulations in environmentally sensitive areas (such as parks, beaches, and nature reserves). In these areas, clear signs should be set up to inform the public of the smoking restrictions and also to inform them of nearby smoking cessation services. For example, smoking cessation consultation services or QR codes related to smoking knowledge.