

Abstract

The Solid Waste Management System in Seoul: from A to Z

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The ceaseless growth of a city might be a challenge for city government to address, in regard to how their solid waste is managed. Seoul came through the same era of growth and has settled its own solid waste management system. This study shares Seoul's experience with Beijing, and the case of Seoul is described in this paper. In Korea, all wastes are classified into two groups: household waste and business waste. 25 local authorities in Seoul have the responsibility of dealing with household waste, from generation to final disposal. The main waste stream in Seoul is recycling 64% of its household waste and 93% of its construction and demolition debris, which is really beneficial for cutting down the reliance on the still controversial waste burning or landfills. To manage its household waste, the Seoul city government runs four incinerators on a large scale, and 25 local authorities are in place for waste collection and running material recovery facilities, food waste facilities, and so on. Source separation, collection, recycling, disposal and so forth, are presided over by the national government and local authorities. The expense of household waste management is covered by waste fees from generators, funding from the Expanded Producer Responsibility and local authorities' budgets, whereas the generators of business waste are expected to bear the financial burden for all their waste. Three programs, including a Pay-as-you-Throw fee system, are recommended for sharing experiences with other cities.

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