5 January 2015   S: Oscar Sit   J: Jonathan Yeung

S: Good morning Principal, teachers and fellow students. I'm Oscar from 2B.

J: I'm Jonathan from 2B.

S: Jonathan, do you think you're doing enough for the environment?

J: Certainly. I will rate myself 10 out of 10 becoz I always put trash in the bins instead of on the streets.

S: I see but you are only shifting the problem off the streets and into the landfills!

J: You mean that we should not stop at simply putting the trash in the bin?

S: Right. Do you know that about 13,000 tonnes of waste are collected and sent to landfills every day? About 67 percent of it is domestic solid waste. That is enough to fill at least four Olympic-sized swimming pools. The situation continues to get worse.

J: I have learned that the city generates more trash per person than other Asian countries, with the average Hongkonger producing 1.4kg of waste a day, compared to Taipei's 1kg and Singapore's, 0.8 kg. It obviously cannot continue. Finding a solution to our waste problem is more important than anything else.

S: To deal with the situation, the government has proposed charging to reduce waste. They have three proposals. One is that they will charge households for waste disposal using specific prepaid bags, with fees based on volume.

J: I heard of the proposals too. The second one is to charge the building based on the weight of the rubbish and the third is to charge the building based on the volume of rubbish created.

S: In my opinion, it is fair enough if households are charged for prepaid bags by volume. If we use less and waste less, in the end we will pay less. Charging for waste is an effective way to encourage recycling and cut the level of rubbish going to our bursting landfills.

J: That's correct. Waste charging should not be seen as a punishment. Taxing people would help them understand that everyone has the responsibility to protect the environment and ensure that Hong Kong would be a nice place to live.

S + J: That's the end of our sharing. Thank you.