

- Student worksheet for case study - National green regulations and policies - The use and recycling of plastic products



Generic green skills

Cognitive competencies:

- Environmental awareness and a willingness to learn about sustainable development
- Ability to make judgments based on both evidence and sustainability values

Interpersonal competencies:

- Communication and negotiation skills to discuss conflicting interests in complex contexts
- Marketing skills to promote greener products and services
- Consulting skills to advise consumers about green solutions and to spread the use of green technologies

Technological competencies:

- Impact and use minimization



Learning objective

You will be able to:

1. Study and summarize newly released national green policies and legislation.
2. Understand how these policies affect individuals, businesses, industries and societies.
3. Suggest measures to implement these policies.



Format

Group study, in groups of 5 or 6



Resources needed

A3 paper, pens, colored pencils, case study



Time required

1.5 hours



Assessment

You will be assessed based on:

Group discussion and role-play activity. The assessment is based on the clarity of your arguments; your analysis of the policy effect and corresponding strategies proposed; and the ability to advocate the use of green packaging.

Before the class:

1. Read the following policy and regulatory documents and related materials that you have found yourself.
 - a. Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution.
 - b. Opinions on Accelerating the Green Transformation of Courier Packaging.
 - c. Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste (2020 Revision).
2. Identify the main points in each regulation and think about the links between them.



During the class:

1. **Group sharing: summarize and classify the policy (20 mins)**
 - a. Summarize the key points of the policies you read in preparation for the class.
 - b. Analyse the links between the three documents, and share them with your group.
2. **Group discussion: discuss policy implications (40 mins)**
 - a. Choose an industry sector from the following options. Each group should select different sectors. Each group member should choose a different role within a sector.
 - i. **Roles in the courier logistics sector** – garment shop owners on Taobao, heads of courier companies, couriers, consumers of garment shops on Taobao, heads of courier packaging producers, courier logistics packaging recycling administrators.
 - ii. **Roles in the food packaging sector** – head of the packaging department of a biscuit producer, head of the sales department of a packaging materials producer, head of the sales department of a biscuit producer, supermarket or retail shop managers, biscuit consumers, and biscuit packaging designers.
 - iii. **Roles in the municipal waste disposal sector** – municipal waste management policy makers, heads of municipal waste sorting and disposal companies, sanitation workers, solid waste handlers in packaging production companies, packers in supermarket fresh produce departments, common citizens.
 - iv. **Roles in the catering takeout sector** – catering shop staff, takeout delivery staff, persons placing food orders, company head of takeout packaging producer, suppliers of takeout packaging materials, takeout packaging designers.
 - b. Based on your choice, discuss how your role will be affected by these policies and which corresponding strategies you will use. For example, if you were an owner of a garment shop on Taobao, what impact would these policies have on you? How would you respond to them? Use data to support your arguments. Will the cost of packaging increase with the use of degradable plastic bags? How can you advocate this to your stakeholders?



3. Role play and simulation: advise and promote the use of greener products and services (30 mins)

- a. Each member of your group needs to decide on a line of argument depending on your role. You need to identify how can you respond to the policies, identify how to negotiate/inform other stakeholders (those students who are playing different roles in your group/the same sector as you are) about the implementation of these strategies.
- b. Explain your strategies to the identified stakeholders in terms of the policies (e.g. what do you want to do, and why do you want to/need to do that?). It is suggested you use illustrations and graphs to explain your points.
- c. Advise what the stakeholders can do to support your strategies for promoting green packaging and responding to the policies. You can suggest additions to the policy to ensure it provides more benefits to sustainable development. You might refer to the concept of the closed loop economy to support your suggestions.

For example, if you are the owner of a garment shop on Taobao, one of your strategies could be to combine the packages from the garment manufacturers and the couriers to avoid secondary packaging. The stakeholders may then include the heads of the courier company and the garment manufacturer. So you may advise the courier company to provide packages for the garment manufacturer, or organize a different logistics or organize a collection of packaging for recycle or re-use.

Reference:

关于进一步加强塑料污染治理的意见，国家发改委、生态环境部，2020年1月

Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, January 2020

中华人民共和国固体废物污染环境防治法（2020修订），全国人大常委会，2020年4月

Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste (2020 Revision), Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, April 2020

关于加快推进快递包装绿色转型的意见，国家发改委，国家邮政局等，2020年11月

Opinions on Accelerating the Green Transformation of Courier Packaging, National Development and Reform Commission, State Post Bureau, etc., November 2020