

ASSIGNMENT #3: REFLECTIONS ON URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY

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Thitichaya Boonsom: Krabi Town, Thailand
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Introduction and overview of the city

Krabi Town in Krabi province, Southern part of Thailand has an area of 19 square kilometers. The number of people registered in the municipality of Krabi is 30,313 with 15,551 households in the areas. The population is increasing every year and it is likely that there are about 20,000-30,000 people not included in the official population count (Krabi Municipality, 2018). Krabi's tourism industry has grown since 2002 to the present. As a result, more people from other places have moved to live in Krabi Town, and this has changed the city significantly due to the economic growth from the tourism industry. But at the same time, there is a growing trend that affects the lives of urban residents. The lifestyle of people in the city has started to be affected by problems with garbage – as the number of buildings increases to accommodate tourists, and residents now when there is heavy rain in town, there are floods because of garbage clogs, caused by garbage from households and businesses. Solid waste has become a serious problem and without a good management strategy, it will only get worse as the population and density of the city grows. (YenyDhokhikah, YulinahTrihadiningrum and Sony Sunaryo, 2015).

Currently, Krabi city does not have an adequate system of waste management system and most of people in the city are not aware of this. As a result, household waste increases every year and ends up in landfills where it cannot be buried. Not only is the waste from the municipality of Krabi sent to these landfills, but so is waste from other areas as well. As a result, the amount of rubbish entering the landfill reaches 170 tons / day, this affects the villagers near the landfill in terms of pollution, bad smells, and waste water.



Figure 1: Landfill area

Source: <https://mgronline.com/south/detail/9610000086914>



Figure 2: Krabi Mayor and team on public stage listen to voices of locals to solve the problem of waste management on December, 2017

Source: <https://www.tnews.co.th/contents/386299>

City leaders and city stakeholders have tried to solve these problems. And a meeting was held to hear public opinion in solving these problems. Three solutions were proposed:

1. Project Approach: The municipality of Krabi had the idea of building a waste power plant, however, there are residents who oppose this project.
2. Long-term policy guidelines to reduce household waste were a proposed in order to find ways or technologies in waste processing to add value to the garbage produced.

3. Raising awareness: Collaborate with people in all groups to use education and information sharing in reducing waste.

What can be improved, and how to improve it can be learned from Melbourne City Initiatives:

Residential organics

- Establishment of trial programs to test the viability of food waste diversion in residential high-rise apartments and dwellings.

Commercial organics

- Increase support for food reuse programs.

Improved recovery of electronic and hard waste

- Implementation of measures to improve the recovery of these materials from the residential waste stream and divert them from landfill.

Partnerships for improved waste management

- Continue to establish joint waste management projects with commercial businesses that provide local amenity improvement. Investigate the feasibility and possible operating models to support the sectionalizing of the Central City into zones.

Improved cardboard recovery

- Includes building more flexibility into current contractual arrangements for the collection of cardboard from the central city. (Source: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Another option to solve the issue in Krabi city

Sectional approach strategy

Premises in Krabi city were divided into various categories namely village, landed residential, apartment, people's high-rise housing, factory, supermarket, hotel/restaurants and institutions to reflect the mechanism and way of waste disposal for each category. Pilot projects for each category were launched in Krabi city and monitored to check for weaknesses and to fine tune implementation.

Committees were formed with representatives from government agencies to monitor, promote and fine-tune this policy. These include a publicity committee, a legal committee (to draft waste segregation by law) and a steering committee.

This waste policy was implemented phase by phase. Education and publicity are very important in order to get public attention and acceptance.