

Research on the Development of Standardization of Waste Classification in China

Yichao Sheng

China Jiliang University, College of Humanities and Foreign Languages, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, 310018

ABSTRACT

With the acceleration of urbanization, the amount of waste generated has increased dramatically, making waste classification the key to solving the problem of waste surrounding cities. This paper first analyzes the importance of standardization in waste classification, reviews the current state of waste classification standardization in China, including the formulation and release of national, industry, local, and group standards, and compares them with international standards. Based on this, suggestions are proposed to promote the development of waste classification standardization in China.

KEYWORDS

Waste Classification; Standardization; Environmental Protection

1 Introduction

Waste classification is an important part of urban environmental management and a crucial means to achieve waste reduction, resource utilization, and harmlessness. In recent years, the Chinese government has attached great importance to waste classification, issuing a series of policies and regulations to promote the in-depth development of waste classification work. Among them, the standardization of waste classification is key to ensuring the effective implementation of waste classification work. This paper aims to sort out the development status of waste classification standardization in China and propose corresponding suggestions to promote further standardization and standardization of waste classification work.

2 The Importance of Waste Classification Standardization

2.1 Environmental Protection

Waste classification can effectively reduce environmental pollution. Some types of waste, especially kitchen waste and hazardous waste, can severely impact the environment if not properly handled. For example, kitchen waste is prone to rotting, generating foul odors and bacteria, while hazardous waste such as batteries and fluorescent tubes contain harmful substances that may pollute soil and water sources. Through standardized waste classification, we can separate these wastes for treatment, reducing environmental harm.

2.2 Resource Recycling

Waste classification aids in the effective recycling and reuse of resources. Many types of waste can be recycled, such as waste paper, plastics, glass, and metals. Through standardized waste classification, we can collect these recyclable wastes separately, increasing the recycling rate and reducing resource waste.

2.3 Waste Treatment Efficiency

Standardized waste classification can improve waste treatment efficiency. Since different types of waste require different treatment methods, it is very difficult to handle waste without classification. Through standardized waste classification, we can choose the appropriate treatment method based on the type of waste, improving efficiency and reducing treatment costs.

2.4 Social Civilization Progress

Waste classification is an important reflection of social civilization progress. Through waste classification, we can cultivate citizens' environmental awareness and sense of responsibility, promoting social civilization progress. At the same time, waste classification is also an important reflection of urban management level, which can improve the overall image of the city.

Therefore, the importance of waste classification standardization cannot be overlooked. We need to promote in-depth waste classification work through the formulation and implementation of standardized waste classification systems, contributing to environmental protection and resource utilization.

3 Current Status of Waste Classification Standardization Development in China

3.1 Various Waste Classification Standards in China

Standardization of household waste classification and treatment is the activity of using standardization principles and methods to formulate, revise, and implement various waste classification and treatment standards to achieve the coordination and unification of waste classification and treatment actions to obtain the best order and social benefits.

3.1.1 National Standard Formulation and Release

Currently, China has issued a series of national standards related to waste classification, such as "Waste Classification Signs" (GB/T 19095-2019), "Waste Classification and Disposal" (GB/T 30981-2020), etc. These standards define the basic principles and classification signs of waste classification, making clear provisions on the definition, scope, classification methods, and disposal requirements of various types of waste, providing a basis for waste classification across the country and unified guidance for local waste classification work.

3.1.2 Industry Standard Formulation and Release

In terms of industry standards, China has also gradually established a series of industry standards related to waste classification. These standards are usually formulated by relevant industry associations or departments, targeting specific industry or field waste classification requirements. For example, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and other departments have formulated a series of industry standards related to waste classification, such as "Urban Domestic Waste Classification Facilities Configuration and Operation Standards" (CJJ/T 102-2015), etc. These standards propose specific requirements for the planning, design, construction, and operation of urban domestic waste classification facilities.

3.1.3 Local Standard Formulation and Release

Due to differences in waste composition and treatment methods in different regions, localities will also make appropriate adjustments when formulating waste classification standards according to local actual conditions. Currently, many cities have formulated waste classification standards with local characteristics, such as Shanghai's "Domestic Waste Classification Management Measures" and Beijing's "Domestic Waste Classification Guidelines," which provide detailed provisions on specific operations and supervision measures for waste classification. These local standards are closer to local realities, providing more specific guidance for waste classification work.

3.1.4 Group Standard Formulation and Release

With the continuous advancement of waste classification work, more and more social organizations and groups have begun to participate in the formulation of waste classification standards. These group standards are usually spontaneously formulated by relevant social organizations or groups, aiming to promote the standardization and standardization of waste classification work.

For example, some environmental protection organizations have formulated waste classification guides and manuals, providing more detailed and practical waste classification guidance for the public. Such as "Urban Domestic Waste Classification Signs" (T/CRRA 0003-2019), etc. These group standards have played an important role in promoting the standardization of waste classification.

3.2 Characteristics of the Current Status of Waste Classification Standardization Development in China

3.2.1 Continuous Improvement of Laws and Regulations

In recent years, the Chinese government has attached great importance to waste classification work and has introduced a series of laws and regulations, such as the "Domestic Waste Classification System Implementation Plan" and the "Solid Waste Pollution Environmental Protection Law," providing strong protection for the development of waste classification standardization.

3.2.2 Gradual Unification of Classification Standards

To promote the standardization and standardization of waste classification work, China has formulated a series of waste classification standards, such as "Waste Classification Signs" and "Waste Classification Disposal Guidelines," gradually unifying waste classification standards and methods.

3.2.3 Continuous Improvement of Classification Facilities

With the in-depth advancement of waste classification work, various localities have successively built waste classification disposal points, transfer stations, treatment facilities, etc., providing strong support for waste classification. At the same time, some advanced waste classification technologies have also been applied, such as intelligent waste classification bins and waste classification robots.

3.2.4 Continuous Strengthening of Publicity and Education

To improve public awareness and participation in waste classification, various localities in China actively carry out waste classification publicity and education activities, such as waste classification knowledge lectures and waste classification theme activities, enhancing the public's waste classification awareness and capabilities.

Overall, the current status of waste classification standardization development in China shows a trend of continuous improvement and gradual standardization. However, there are still some problems in practical operations, such as insufficient enforcement of standards and low public participation.

4 Comparison with International Waste Classification Standards

4.1 Improvement of Laws and Regulations

Many developed countries have enforced or encouraged residents to classify waste through the formulation and improvement of relevant laws and regulations. For example, Germany has implemented the "Green Dot" plan, Japan has carried out the "3R" (Reduce, Recycle, Reuse) campaign, and the United States has promoted waste classification by formulating relevant regulations and providing convenient recycling facilities. These laws and regulations not only clarify the standards and requirements for waste classification but also stipulate penalties for violations, ensuring the strict implementation of the waste classification system.

4.2 Maturity of Waste Classification System

The waste classification systems in developed countries are relatively mature, and residents generally have a strong sense of environmental protection. For example, Germany's waste classification system is very comprehensive, requiring residents to dispose of different types of waste into corresponding trash bins at specified times and places. At the same time, Germany has also established a comprehensive waste treatment facility, including waste incineration plants and landfills, to ensure proper waste disposal.

4.3 Innovation in Waste Classification Technology

With the advancement of technology, some developed countries have begun to try to use new technologies to improve the efficiency and accuracy of waste classification. For example, China is exploring the use of waste classification robots and other technological means to improve the efficiency and accuracy of waste classification. The application of these technologies can not only reduce labor costs but also improve the accuracy and efficiency of waste classification.

4.4 Popularization of Waste Classification Education

Many developed countries pay great attention to the popularization of waste classification education, teaching the public waste classification knowledge and skills through various channels. For example, Belgium has made waste classification a compulsory course, cultivating children's environmental awareness and waste classification habits from an early age. This educational approach can help the public better understand and support waste classification work, thereby improving the participation and effectiveness of waste classification.

In summary, the current status of international waste classification standardization development shows trends of improved laws and regulations, mature waste classification systems, technological innovation, and the popularization of education. These experiences and practices can provide valuable references and insights for other countries and regions.

5 Suggestions for the Development of Waste Classification Standardization

5.1 Strengthen Top-level Design

Further improve the system of national, industry, local, and group standards for waste classification, ensuring the coordination and consistency between various standards. Clearly define the standards and requirements for waste classification, penalize behaviors that do not classify waste according to regulations, and strengthen the binding force of the law. Introduce incentive policies to reward units, communities, or individuals who do well in waste classification, such as reducing waste disposal fees and providing environmental product discounts.

5.2 Strengthen International Cooperation and Exchange

Strengthen the connection with international standards and absorb advanced experiences and technologies. Learn from international advanced experiences, strengthen exchanges and cooperation with countries advanced in waste classification, and learn from their successful experiences and technological means. Participate in international standard-setting, actively participate in the formulation and revision of international waste classification standards, and promote the alignment of China's waste classification standards with international standards.

5.3 Pilot Demonstration

Vigorously carry out pilot demonstrations of standardized implementation of urban domestic waste classification management to strengthen the coordination between standards and laws, regulations, and industry policies, promote the transformation and application of standard results, and replicate and promote these experiences in other broader areas.

5.4 Strengthen Standard Implementation and Supervision

Increase supervision and inspection of the implementation of waste classification standards to ensure effective implementation of various standards. At the same time, strengthen the punishment of violations to enhance the seriousness and standardization of waste classification work. Establish a supervision mechanism, set up a special waste classification supervision agency to regularly inspect and evaluate waste classification situations. Strengthen law enforcement to penalize behaviors that violate waste classification regulations, such as fines and community service, to maintain the seriousness of the waste classification system. At the same time, strengthen social supervision, encourage public participation in the supervision of waste classification, such as setting up public reporting platforms and carrying out social supervisor systems, to improve the transparency and credibility of waste classification work.

5.5 Enhance Public Participation

Strengthen publicity and education on waste classification standardization through various channels and methods, using television, the internet, community bulletin boards, and other channels to raise public awareness and participation in waste classification, making the public deeply understand the importance and methods of waste classification. This can not only improve public environmental awareness but also encourage them to actively participate in waste classification actions, forming a good atmosphere of joint participation by the whole society.

6 Conclusion

Waste classification standardization is key to promoting the effective implementation of waste classification work. By sorting out the development status of China's waste classification standardization and comparing it with international standards, it can be seen that there is still a lot of room for improvement in China's waste classification standardization work. Therefore, it is necessary to further strengthen top-level design, standard implementation and supervision, and public participation to promote the in-depth development of China's waste classification standardization work.