

Pollution

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There are many kinds of pollution all over the world. With the rapid economic development in Macau, people are facing two major existing environmental problems and challenges - air and light pollution. The situation is even getting worse and worse.

Pollution causes many problems. Global warming and health problems are the major ones. In respect of air pollution, harmful gases that come from vehicles and factories lead to poor visibility and rise in temperature. Burning coal and oil produces carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases. The average summer temperature has risen over these years. Moreover, people get sick more easily than before. Our lungs become weaker. We often feel uncomfortable and start coughing when the weather is bad. Not only we but also animals may have these health problems. Waste gases can secretly hurt them or even kill them.

The tourism and gaming industry being the main source of revenue in Macau, the lighting of signboards and large-screen displays used by casinos or other commercial buildings are seen everywhere. Even at night, the excessive lighting makes Macau look like a “sun city”, thus leading to serious light pollution. Since Macau is only a small city, the lighting in close vicinity to the residents is surely affecting our quality of life. Many people may not realize the consequences of light pollution instantly. However, research overseas has shown lots of adverse effects on human health. For instance, the ultraviolet pollutants emitted by light sources have a long-term negative impact on our eyesight and skin, causing serious illnesses such as cataract or cancer.

Every action has an effect on the environment. Therefore, it is important for us to start out small. When going out, we can take a bus or ride a bike whenever possible. Also, we should persuade our families and friends to stop smoking in public places. Last but not least, trees can produce oxygen, so planting more trees is an effective way to clean the air. The government should take an indispensable role to deal with light pollution. They should set laws to limit light pollution and strengthen urban planning and management in Macau. It is also necessary to educate the public on the rational use of lights and promote the use of clean energy so as to arouse the awareness of the importance of saving the earth. If all of us start to take action, Macau will surely become a green and healthy city one day.