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Low Emission Zone and Congestion Charging Knowledge Hub

The knowledge hub provides information on global practices in implementing low emission zone and congestion charging (LEZ/CC) and a training platform for professionals interested in these topics. The website also shares resources from LEZ/CC research conducted in Beijing, including policy analysis, communication strategies, emission analysis, and public opinion surveys.

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This resource is part of a suite of learning products linked with the following publication.


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WORKING PAPER

STUDY ON INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES FOR LOW EMISSION ZONE AND CONGESTION CHARGING

YING WANG, SU SONG, SHIYONG QIU, LU LU, YILIN MA, XIAOYI LI, AND YING HU

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

China's rapid urbanization and motorization have caused severe air pollution and traffic congestion in the country, which in turn has led to a sharp increase in social costs. In Beijing, vehicles account for 31.1 percent, 33 percent, and 50 percent of total emissions of fine particles (or particulate matter 2.5, PM2.5), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and nitrogen oxides (NOx), respectively, making vehicles the leading pollution source in the city. Growing traffic congestion also imposes high socioeconomic costs. In September 2013, Beijing released the Beijing Clean Air Action Plan 2013–2017, and the Work Plan for Vehicle Emissions Control 2013–2017, in an important effort to tackle transport emissions problems. One of the key elements of the plans is to study the low emission zone and congestion charging (LEZ/CC) scheme. This scheme is also being considered as a local policy option by other cities in China.

Cities adopting the congestion charging (CC) scheme collect a surcharge on congested sections of road. The aim is to alleviate congestion through curbing travel demand without increasing infrastructure supply. This action has had a positive influence in London, Singapore, Stockholm,

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Working Papers contain preliminary research, analysis, findings, and recommendations. They are circulated to stimulate timely discussion and critical feedback, and to influence ongoing debate on emerging issues. Working papers may eventually be published in another form and their content may be revised.

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PUBLICATION

Study On International Practices For Low Emission Zone And Congestion Charging

This working paper discusses practices that can be applied towards congestion mitigation and emission reduction in China, drawing from research and analysis of the successful experiences of London, Singapore and Stockholm in implementing LEZ and CC.

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