

Laws and Support Systems for Promoting Waste Recycling in Japan

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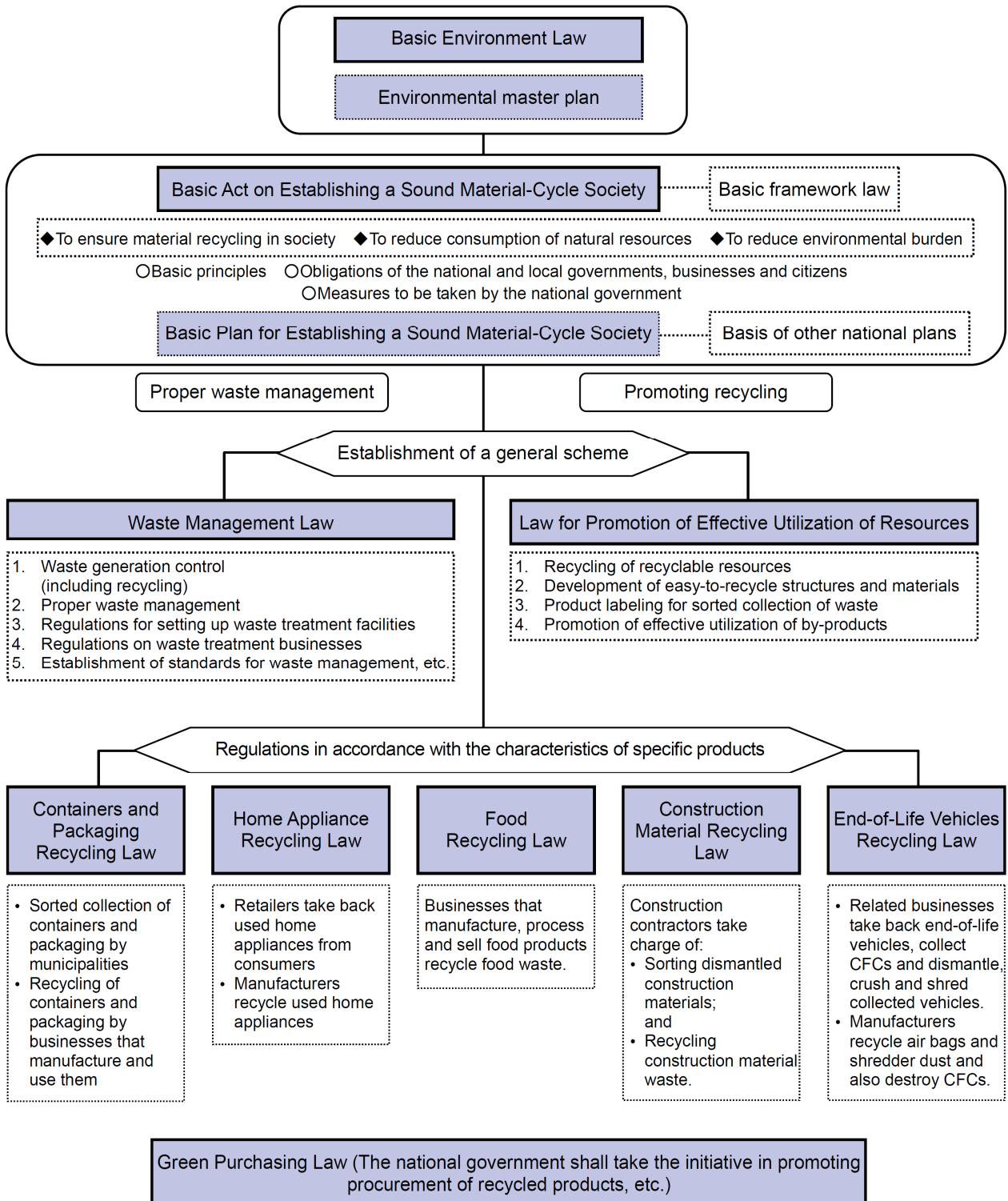
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Global Environment Centre
Osaka, Japan

National Legislative System for Promoting a Sound Material-Cycle Society in Japan

The Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society was instituted and enforced in 2000 as a basic framework law to facilitate the move toward a sound material-cycle society. In addition, the Law for Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources and other individual recycling laws designed to promote the 3R have been established and come into effect.



Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

I. Purpose

The Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society was promulgated in June 2000 and fully came into operation in January 2001. The purpose of this act is to create a sound material-cycle society, which consumes natural resources in a controlled manner and has reduced impact on the environment, by reviewing mass-production, mass-consumption and mass waste-producing society and people's lifestyle and also ensuring material recycling in society.

The goal of the Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society is to reduce natural resource consumption associated with the use and disposal of products and to reduce environmental burden by recycling materials in society. This act sets forth basic principles and key points of policy as an outline of measures designed to establish a sound material-cycle society.

The Act also sets out the order of priority in waste treatment for the first time in Japanese legislation: [1] Reduction of waste generation, [2] Reuse of products/parts, [3] Material recycling, [4] Thermal recycling and [5] Proper disposal. Consequently, the Act is expected to encourage the creation of a sound material-cycle society, the development of waste treatment and recycling measures for overall material flow encompassing pre- and post-wastes, as well as the reduction of waste generation and proper disposal.

II. Outline of the Act

(1) Targeting a sound material-cycle society

According to the definitions in the Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society, a sound material-cycle society reduces the consumption of natural resources and minimizes the environmental burden by controlling waste generation, recycling recyclable resources, and ensuring proper disposal.

(2) Subjects to be regulated

The Act states that it applies to "waste" in general, whether of value or no value, and that efforts should be made to properly recycle useful waste, which is termed "recyclable resources."

(3) Order of priority for measures adopted in a sound material-cycle society

The Act also sets out the order of priority for the first time in Japanese legislation for measures taken when wastes are or have been produced from products: [1] Reduction of waste generation, [2] Reuse of parts, [3] Material recycling, [4] Thermal recycling and [5] Proper disposal. This order of priority is a basic principle for minimizing environmental burden. Some deviation from this order is permitted if doing so effectively reduces the environmental burden.

The Act also stipulates that recycling of recyclable materials and waste disposal must be performed in a proper manner, without impeding environmental conservation.

Moreover, the Act sets forth considerations for measures for ensuring the proper circulation of substances in the natural world, since such circulation is closely related to the creation of a sound material-cycle society.

(4) Responsibilities of national government, local governments, businesses and citizens

To establish a sound material-cycle society, it is important for the national government, local governments, businesses and citizens to share their respective roles properly. The Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society sets out the responsibilities of these stakeholders.

The two distinctive features of the Act are that it clarifies the generator responsibility of businesses and citizens, while defining the extended producer responsibility.

Framework of Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

Establishing a sound material-cycle society

A sound material-cycle society is a society that reduces the consumption of natural resources as well as the environmental burden through:

- [1] Preventing waste generation;
- [2] Promoting proper recycling (reuse, material recycling, thermal recycling) of recyclable resources; and
- [3] Ensuring proper disposal.

Recyclable resources are defined as waste materials that are useful, regardless of value.

Basic principles

- ◇ Encouraging voluntary and positive implementation of actions to create a sound material-cycle society, thereby promoting the creation of a sustainable society with minimal impact on the environment.
- ◇ Promoting measures in the following order of priority: [1] Reduction of waste generation, [2] Reuse of parts, [3] Material recycling, [4] Thermal recycling, [5] Disposal.
- ◇ Achieving close liaison with measures to ensure proper circulation of substances in the natural world.

Responsibilities

National government	Local governments	Businesses	Citizens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formulating and implementing basic general policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementing measures for proper resource recycling and waste disposal ○ Formulating and implementing policies in accordance with natural and social conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taking responsibility for proper management of recyclable resources (generator responsibility) ○ Well-arranged designing, collection, and proper recycling of products and containers (extended producer responsibility) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Using products for a longer period ○ Using recycled products ○ Cooperating in sorted collection

Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

- ◇ Setting out basic policies for establishing a sound material-cycle society and measures to be taken comprehensively and systematically to this end
 - The Minister of the Environment shall create a draft in accordance with the guidelines presented by the Central Environment Council.
 - The planner shall hear the views of the Central Environment Council when formulating the basic plan.
 - The Minister of the Environment shall consult with the ministers in charge of the matters on the basic plan. The plan shall be approved in a Cabinet meeting.
 - Approval of the basic plan given in the Cabinet meeting shall be reported to the Diet.
 - The time limit for plan establishment and quinquennial review of the plan shall be clearly stated.
 - The basic plan shall serve as a basis for other national plans.

Basic policies for establishing a sound material-cycle society

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taking measures to reduce waste generation ○ Taking measures for proper recycling and disposal of waste ○ Promoting the use of recycled products ○ Promoting pre-assessment of products and containers ○ Tackling obstacles to environmental conservation ○ Taking measures to eliminate obstacles to environmental conservation ○ Taking economic measures for waste reduction ○ Supporting measures taken by local governments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing public facilities ○ Encouraging local governments to develop proper policies ○ Promoting education and training ○ Encouraging voluntary initiatives by private-sector organizations ○ Conducting surveys ○ Promoting science and technology ○ Taking measures for international cooperation |
|---|--|

➤ The full text of the act:

<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=1845&vm=02&re=02&new=1>

Second National Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

1. Progress in Formulating the Second Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

The First Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society was laid down in 2003 in accordance with Article 15 of the Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society to implement measures for establishing a sound material-cycle society in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

Since the Act requires the basic plan to be reviewed five years after formulation, the Central Environment Council began deliberations for a review in July 2007.

- February 25, 2008: Draft approved by Sound Material-Cycle Society Committee, Central Environment Council

- February 26, 2008: public comments (to March 10, 2008)

On March 25, 2008, based on the aforementioned deliberation, the national government approved the Second Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society in a Cabinet meeting and reported it to the Diet.

■ Key Points of Second Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

Environmental protection today has become an extremely important issue fundamentally affecting human existence. In light of this problem, the following enhancements should be newly made to help create a sound material-cycle society.

- [1] Create a sound material-cycle society on the premise of environmental protection.
- [2] Make an integrated effort to create a sound material-cycle, low-carbon and eco-friendly society.
- [3] Construct a local recycling zone that contributes to local community revitalization.
- [4] In addition to enhancing numerical targets, introduce auxiliary and monitoring indicators.
- [5] Pursue the 3R approach to ensuring collaboration among stakeholders.
- [6] Improve the levels of 3R techniques and systems.
- [7] Ensure Japan's leading role in internationally creating a sound material-cycle society.

2. Outline of Second Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

[Chapter 1: Present Conditions and Challenges]

- The stakeholders made efforts according to the first plan. Certain results have been achieved for establishing a sound material-cycle society. Material productivity has improved, the usage rate of recycled goods has increased, and the amount of final disposal has decreased.
- It has become increasingly urgent to address global resource constraints, global warming and other issues.
- Therefore, it is necessary to make further efforts domestically and internationally to create a sound material-cycle society.

[Chapter 2: Mid- to Long-Term Vision for Sound Material-Cycle Society—Up to around 2025]

- Create a sustainable society in line with approaches toward a low-carbon society and eco-friendly society.
- Move to a stock-oriented society by popularizing durable high-quality houses.
- Form multi-layered local recycling zones by ensuring the optimum scale of recycling suitable for the local characteristics and properties of recyclable resources. An example is the recycling of locally produced and consumed food by making optimum use of recyclable biomass resources.
- Establish a lifestyle in line with the philosophy of *mottainai*. Make it common for people to repair goods, use them for an extended period of time, and enjoy the benefits of *satoyama*.
- Other examples include facilitating efforts by ensuring collaboration among stakeholders, establishment of 3R activities in manufacturing and other economic activities, and sophistication of 3R and waste treatment systems.

[Chapter 3: Indicators and Numerical Targets (Target Year: FY 2015)]

- Sets out enhanced numerical targets for material flow indicators: [1] Material productivity, [2] Usage rate of recycled goods, and [3] Amount of final disposal, designed to keep track of progress toward a sound material-cycle society.
- Adopts additional monitoring indicators such as an indicator relating to collaborative efforts toward a low-carbon society (a goal regarding measures to reduce waste generation) and hidden flow/TMR.
- Newly sets targets such as a 20% reduction in per capita/day waste from households and other numerical targets as well as monitoring indicators such as the percentage of shoppers with their own shopping bags and percentage of local governments charging for refuse collection.

[Chapter 4: Cooperation among Stakeholders and Their Expected Roles]

- It is important for stakeholders including citizens, NPOs, NGOs, universities, businesses and local governments to mutually cooperate and play their respective roles for achieving given targets.
- Expected Roles
 - Citizens are expected to make changes in their lifestyle by, for example, carrying their own chopsticks and shopping bags.
 - NPOs, NGOs and universities need to serve as mediators to build cooperation, deepen their expert knowledge and disseminate accurate information.
 - Businesses should make thorough 3R efforts, implement advanced waste treatment, and collaborate among industries.
 - Local governments are expected to be local centers for promoting efforts toward a sound material-cycle society, facilitating cooperation among stakeholders.

[Chapter 5: National Government's Initiatives]

- One principle is to ensure proper material cycles, both in nature and in, as part thereof, social and economic systems. Examples are: natural environment protection, healthy water cycle from the perspective of environmental protection, and proper promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- The national government shall, in partnership with each stakeholder, implement measures in an integrated manner with those taken toward a low-carbon society and eco-friendly society, form local recycling zones on the premise of protecting the living environment, and promote 3R-related national campaigns.
- The national government shall also promote recycling society-oriented businesses, improve the levels of 3R technologies and systems, collect information for assessing/checking progress in the implementation of measures, and develop human resources.
- Furthermore, the national government shall implement measures, such as forming a recycling zone in East Asia for creating an international sound material-cycle society to make international contributions.

■ Indicators and Numerical Targets Set Out in Second Basic Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

【Material Flow Indicators】

(1) Numerical targets

[1] Input: resource productivity → approx. ¥420,000/t (approx. 60% increase from 2000)

[2] Cycle: usage rate of recycled goods → approx. 14% to 15% (approx. 40% to 50% increase from 2000)

[3] Output: amount of final disposal → approx. 23 million t (approx. 60% decrease from 2000)

(2) Introduction of auxiliary indicators such as an indicator of cooperation with efforts toward a low-carbon society

(3) Hidden flow/TMR, an indicator used to raise awareness of global environmental issues, and other indicators are introduced to monitor progress.

【Effort Indicators】

(1) Numerical targets

[1] Reduction of municipal solid waste

(a) Per capita/day waste generation

(b) Per capita/day waste from households

(c) Waste from businesses

[2] Amount of final disposal of industrial waste

[3] Citizens' awareness of and behavior concerning 3R

→ Awareness: approx. 90%, Behavior: approx. 50%

[4] Promotion of recycling society-oriented businesses

→ Market size has doubled (from FY 2000).

(2) Percentage of customers not taking shopping bags, high-ranking municipalities in terms of 3R efforts, and other indicators have been introduced to monitor progress made by individual stakeholders.

➤ The full text of the Plan:

http://www.env.go.jp/en/recycle/smcs/2nd-f_plan.pdf

Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law (Waste Management Law)

I. Purpose

The Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law (Waste Management Law), established in 1970 along with other pollution-related laws by the Diet, sets forth fundamental systems for the treatment of wastes. The purpose of this law is to restrict waste generation and ensure proper sorting, storage, collection, transportation, recycling, disposal, etc. of wastes for preservation of the living environment and public health improvement.

II. Outline of the Law and Revisions

Since enactment, the Waste Management Law has undergone major revisions in 1976, 1991, 1997 and 2000 in response to changes in the social situation. More recently in 2006, the Law was revised to tighten treatment standards for wastes containing asbestos so as to prevent them from being released into the air and ensure proper treatment, since such wastes were expected to be generated in large amounts from dismantled buildings and health hazards resulting from asbestos became apparent. This revision was made in connection with the establishment of formalities for the asbestos detoxification certification program.

(1) Scheme of Waste Management Law

Purpose	To preserve the living environment and improve public health by [1] Preventing waste generation, [2] Promoting proper waste management (transportation, disposal, recycling, etc.) and [3] Maintaining a clean living environment.	
Definition	Waste: filthy and unnecessary matter, in solid or liquid state (excluding radioactive substances)	
	[Municipal solid waste]	[Industrial waste]
	Wastes other than industrial waste	Waste materials from business activities, such as ashes, sludge, waste oil and waste plastics
	[Specially controlled municipal solid waste] Municipal solid waste such as explosive, toxic or infectious waste, involving the risk of causing damage to human health or the living environment	[Specially controlled industrial waste] Industrial waste such as explosive, toxic or infectious waste, involving the risk of causing damage to human health or the living environment
Treatment responsibility	Municipalities treat municipal solid waste to avoid harmful impact on the human living environment, in accordance with their respective municipal solid waste treatment plans.	Business operators are responsible for treating their wastes by themselves or by contracting out to authorized waste disposal businesses.
Waste disposal business (collection and transportation business or disposal business)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Licensed by local government chief ○A license is granted provided the capacity of the applicant and the applicant's facilities meet the applicable standards and the particulars of the application comply with the relevant municipal solid waste disposal plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Licensed by Prefectural Governor (or Mayor of city with a special administrative status; the same applies in this section) ○A license is granted provided the capacity of the applicant and the applicant's facilities meet the applicable standards.
	Supervisor	Local government chief
Disposal facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Licensed by Prefectural Governor (When constructing disposal facilities, municipalities are required to make a notification.) ○A license is granted provided the construction plan meets the applicable technical standards, the construction and maintenance management plans include proper considerations to preserve the living environment of the surrounding area, and the applicant's capacity meets the applicable standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Licensed by Prefectural Governor ○A license is granted provided the construction plan meets the applicable technical standards, the construction and maintenance management plans include proper considerations to preserve the living environment of the surrounding area, and the applicant's capacity meets the applicable standards.
	Supervisor	Local government chief

Import/Export regulations	The domestic waste disposal principle applies. Exporting of wastes must be checked by the Minister of the Environment (the “Minister” in this section).	○The domestic waste disposal principle applies. Exporting of wastes must be checked by the Minister. ○Importing wastes must be licensed by the Minister from the perspective of ensuring proper treatment.
Special scheme for recycling	Waste management and facility permits are not required for certain forms of recycling that are not harmful to the human living environment and have received authorization from the Minister.	Waste management and facility permits are not required for certain forms of recycling that are not harmful to the human living environment and have received authorization from the Minister.
Prohibition of dumping	No person shall dump wastes without permission.	
Prohibition of open burning	No person shall incinerate wastes except when doing so in accordance with the applicable disposal standards.	

(Created from materials of the Ministry of the Environment)

(2) Principal special schemes for recycling

Licenses for engaging in a waste disposal business or establishing waste disposal facilities are not required under special schemes for recycling and wide-area disposal (authorization by the Minister). In addition, local government chiefs and prefectural governors operate designation systems.

Category	Description
Special scheme for recycling	The Minister of the Environment authorizes businesses to recycle designated waste materials in accordance with standards such as requiring harmlessness to the human living environment. Authorized businesses are not required to obtain a license for conducting waste disposal business or for establishing waste disposal facilities.
Special scheme for wide-area disposal	The Minister of the Environment authorizes businesses to carry out wide-area disposal of designated waste materials in accordance with standards such as requiring contributions to waste reduction and other proper treatments. Authorized businesses are not required to obtain a license for conducting waste disposal business.
Designation by local government chief	Businesses designated by a local government chief as solely treating municipal solid waste that is recognized by the local government chief as infallibly recycled, are not required to obtain a license for conducting municipal solid waste disposal business.
Designation by Prefectural Governor	Businesses designated by a Prefectural Governor as solely treating industrial waste that is recognized by the Prefectural Governor as infallibly recycled, are not required to obtain a license for conducting industrial waste disposal business.

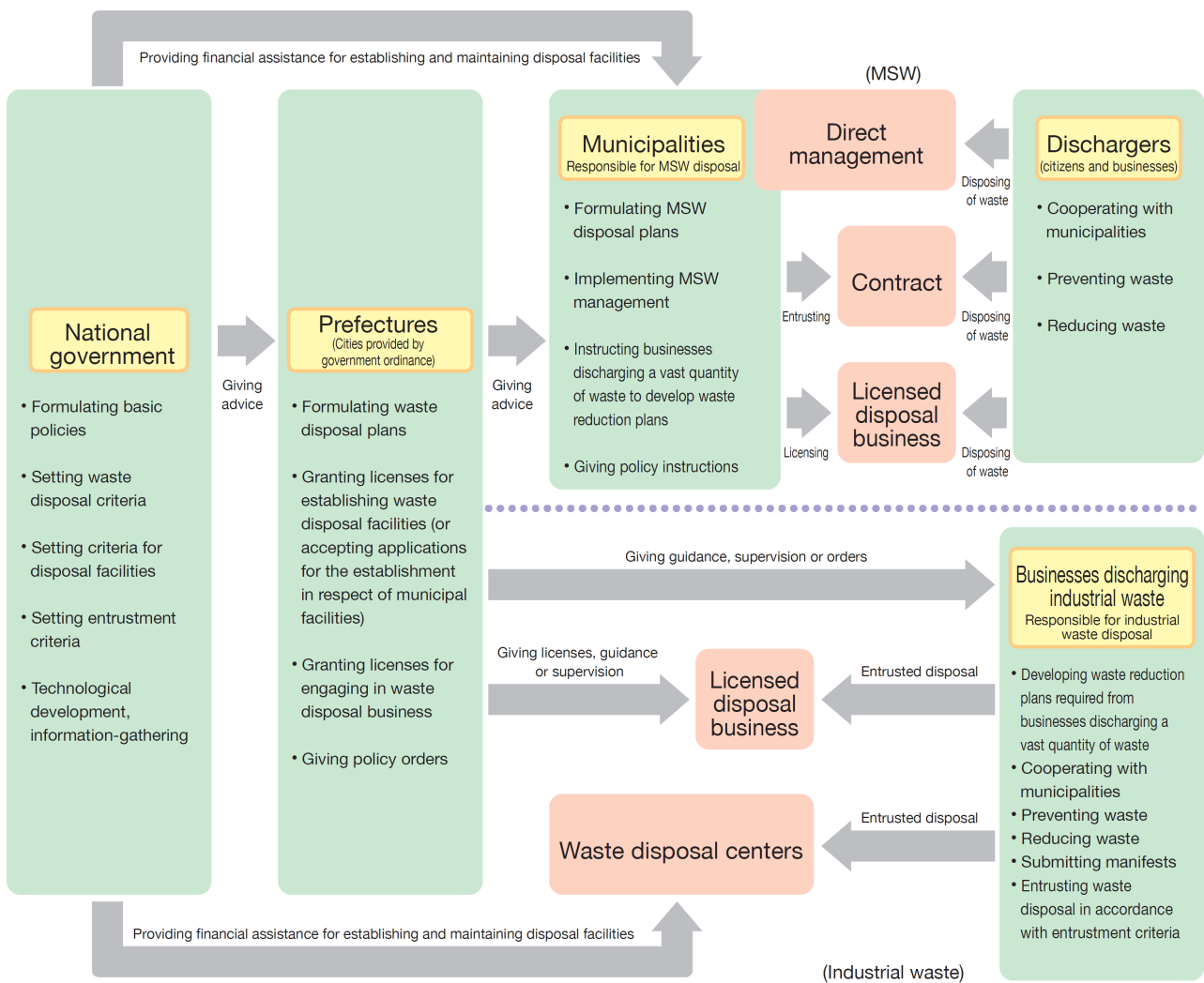
(3) Recycler registration system

Under the recycler registration system, prefectural governors register each establishment of businesses that are currently engaged in the recycling of wastes and meet the applicable standards, according to the provisions of Article 20, Paragraph 2, Item 1 of the Waste Management Law.

Benefits of registration	○Registered businesses are allowed to use the designation “Registered Recycler.”
Registration requirements	○The applicant must have storage facilities appropriate for the waste type, sorting and processing facilities suitable for recycling, and transfer facilities. ○The applicant must be able to conduct the business properly (must not fall under any of the disqualification conditions stipulated in the Waste Management Law). ○The applicant must have sufficient financial resources for proper and continued operation of the business.

Note that this registration is not equivalent to legal permits (permits for municipal solid waste or industrial waste disposal businesses, designation of recycling businesses, etc.). Whether registered or not, businesses must obtain necessary permits according to their forms of business.

Moreover, municipalities have the right to request necessary cooperation from registered recyclers with regard to the recycling of municipal solid waste.



Conceptual Diagram of the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law

(Source: "Towards a 3R-Oriented, Sustainable Society: Legislation and Trends 2007", Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan)

http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/recycle/main/data/pamphlet/pdf/handbook2007_eng.pdf

- The full text of the law:
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/laws/recycle/01.pdf>
- Cabinet Order of Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/laws/recycle/02.pdf>
- Regulations of Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/laws/recycle/03.pdf>

Law for Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources

I. Purpose

The Law for Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources was instituted in June 2000 as a result of the reform of the Law for Promotion of Utilization of Recyclable Resources (in effect since October 1991) in order to develop a framework for the overall promotion of reduction of waste generation, reuse of parts, and recycling of used products as raw materials.

II. Outline of the Law

(1) Formulation of basic policies

Relevant ministers (the competent minister of the businesses and the Minister of the Environment) formulate and publicize policies designed for the overall promotion of rationalization of resource use and use of recyclable resources and reusable parts.

(2) Responsibilities of parties concerned

[1] Businesses

Businesses are required to rationalize the use of raw materials and use recyclable resources and reusable parts.

◆ Business is:

- A party that conducts business operations at a plant or office
- A party engaged in the sales of goods
- A client of construction work

◆ Recyclable resources are:

Used products or by-products generated in plants that are useful and can be used as raw materials

◆ Reusable parts are:

Used goods that are useful and can be used as parts of products

[2] Consumers

Consumers are required to use products as long as possible, to facilitate the use of recyclable resources and reusable parts, and to help the national and local governments as well as businesses take actions to achieve the purpose of the Law.

[3] National government

The national government shall:

- Take funding and other measures necessary for facilitating the efficient use of resources;
- When procuring goods, give due consideration to promoting the use of recyclable resources and reusable parts;
- Strive to take necessary actions such as promotion of research and development activities and dissemination of the results of such activities for the development of science and technology that facilitates the efficient use of resources;
- Encourage the public to have a deeper understanding of the promotion of the efficient use of resources, by implementing educational and publicity programs, and strive to gain cooperation from the public for the efficient use of resources.

[4] Local governments

Local governments are required to strive to promote the efficient use of resources according to the economic and social conditions of their respective service areas.

III. Industries and products to be regulated

- Designated resources-saving industries (Industries required to promote the reduction of generation of by-products and the use of recyclable resources)
 - Pulp and paper, iron-making and steel-making/rolling, primary copper smelting and refining, automobile manufacturing, etc. (5 industries)
 - Designated resources-reutilizing industries (Industries required to promote the use of recyclable resources and reusable parts)
 - Paper manufacturing, glass container manufacturing, construction, copier manufacturing, etc. (5 industries)
 - Specified resources-saved products (Products that need to be resource-saving and have a longer service life)
 - Automobiles, home appliances, personal computers, gas and oil appliances, pachinko machines, etc.
 - Specified reuse-promoted products (Products that need to a higher extent, to use recyclable materials and reusable parts)
 - Personal computers, copiers, automobiles, pachinko machines, home appliances, etc.
 - Specified labeled products (Products that need to be labeled indicating sorted waste collection)
 - Steel cans, aluminum cans, PET bottles, compact rechargeable batteries, paper containers and packaging, plastic containers and packaging, etc.
 - Specified resources-recycled products (Products that, after use, need to a higher extent, to be collected and recycled)
 - Personal computers, compact rechargeable batteries
 - Specified by-products (By-products that need to a higher extent, to be used as recyclable resources)
 - Coal ash generated by the electricity industry, soil and sand, concrete lumps, asphalt-concrete lumps or lumbers generated by the construction industry
- The full text of the law:
<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=80&vm=02&re=02&new=1>
- For more information, please refer to the website of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan at:
<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/recycle/main/english/law/promotion.html>

■ Scheme of Law for Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources

Recyclable resources are:
Used products or by-products generated in plants that are useful and can be used as raw materials

Reusable parts are:
Used goods that are useful and can be used as parts of products

Basic policies

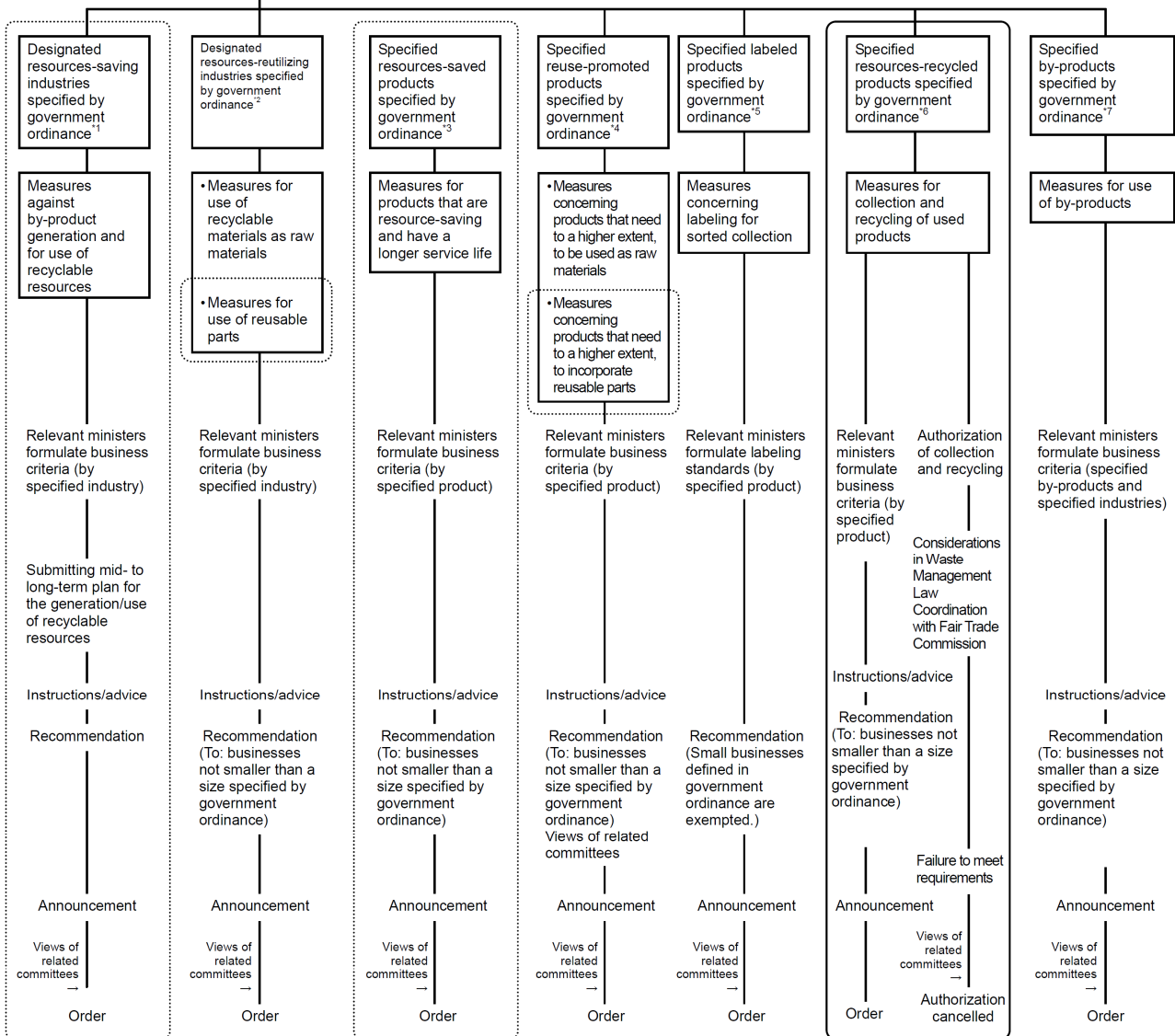
Relevant ministers (the competent minister of the businesses, etc.) formulate and publicize policies designed to promote the overall rationalization of resource use and use of recyclable resources and reusable parts.

Competent minister of the businesses, etc.:

Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Minister of Finance; Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare; and Minister of the Environment

Responsibilities of parties concerned

Businesses	Consumers	National and local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationalizing the use of raw materials with the aim of reducing used products and by-products Using recyclable resources and reusable parts Promoting the use of used products and by-products as recyclable resources and reusable parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using products as long as possible Promoting the use of recyclable resources by using products that incorporate recyclable resources and cooperate in sorted waste collection Cooperating with measures taken by the national and local governments as well as by businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking financial measures Promoting the use of recyclable resources in procurement Promoting science and technology development Endeavoring to gain the understanding of the public



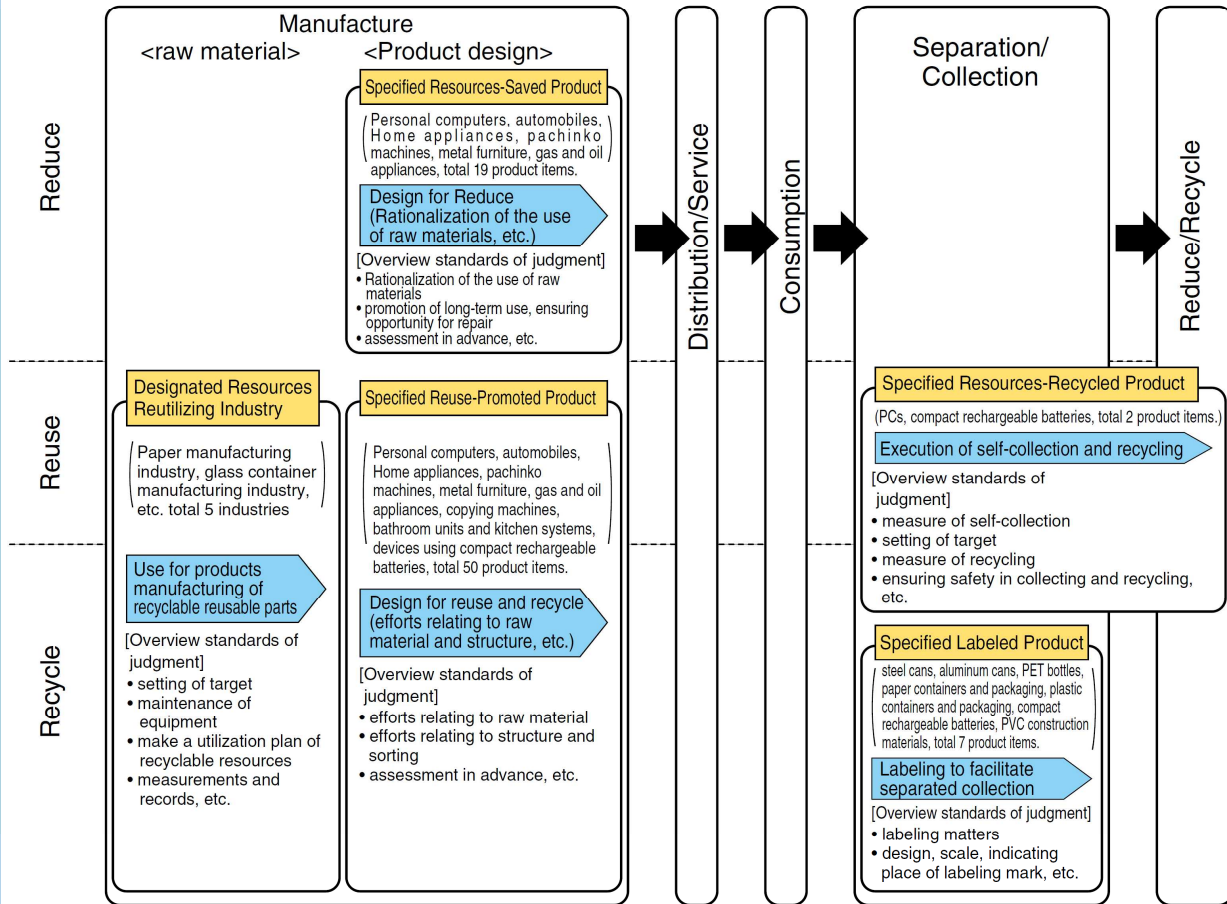
Examples

- *1 Iron and steel, paper/pulp manufacturing, chemicals, nonferrous metal manufacturing, etc.
- *2 Paper manufacturing, glass container manufacturing, construction, copier manufacturing, etc.
- *3 Automobiles, home appliances, large furniture, gas and oil appliances, personal computers, pachinko machines, etc.
- *4 Personal computers, copiers, automobiles, pachinko machines, etc.
- *5 Steel cans, aluminum cans, PET bottles, NiCd batteries, paper containers and packaging, plastic containers and packaging
- *6 Personal computers, rechargeable batteries
- *7 Electricity industry, construction industry

Source: Ministry of the Environment

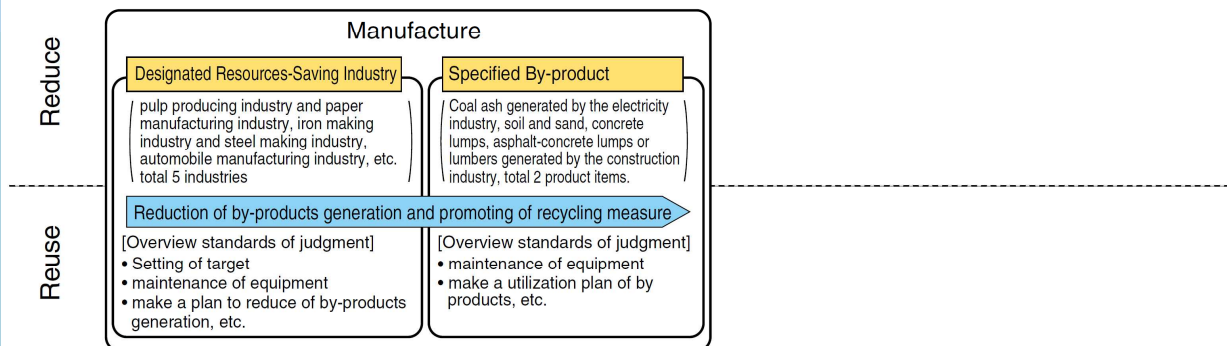
I. For Products

Businesses to be obligated to promote the reduction of generation of used products, to use reusable parts and recycled resources (use recycled material as raw materials)



II. For By-products

Businesses to be obligated to promote the reduction of generation of by-products and recycling (use recycled resources as raw material)



Scheme of the Law for Promotion of Effective Utilization of Resources

(Source: "Towards a 3R-Oriented, Sustainable Society: Legislation and Trends 2010", Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan)

<http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/recycle/main/data/pamphlet/pdf/handbook2010-eng.pdf>

Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging (Containers and Packaging Recycling Law)

I. Purpose

The Law for Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging was promulgated in June 1995 and fully put into effect in April 1997 in order to ensure sorted collection of waste containers and packaging—which account for some 60% by volume of municipal solid waste—recycle them, reduce refuse and efficiently use resources.

II. Outline of the Law

(1) Cooperation among consumers, municipalities and businesses

Recycle systems conforming to the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law are designed to clarify the roles shared by consumers, municipalities and businesses and assign their respective responsibilities.

- Consumers: Cooperate with sorted waste collection (discard sorted waste).
- Municipalities: Collect sorted waste containers and packaging.
- Businesses: Recycle waste containers and packaging sorted and collected by municipalities by themselves or contracting out to designated bodies and recyclers.

(2) Containers and packaging subject to recycling

Containers and packaging subject to recycling refer to containers and packaging of goods, including bottles, cans and paper and plastic products that become unnecessary when the goods are consumed or when the containers/packaging are removed from the goods. The items shown below are subject to sorted collection.

- Glass containers (clear, brown or other), PET bottles, other paper containers and packaging, and other plastic containers (including white (Styrofoam) trays)
 - These are subject to recycling obligated by the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law.
- Steel containers and packaging (steel cans), aluminum containers and packaging (aluminum cans), cardboard, beverage paper containers and packaging (paper cartons)
 - These are subject to sorted collection, but are not subject to obligated recycling conducted by businesses.

(3) Sorted collection plan by municipalities

For the sorted collection of waste containers and packaging, municipalities shall comply with the national government's basic policies and lay down, and submit to the prefecture, a municipal sorted-collection plan for a five-year term every three years, giving due consideration to the recycling plan formulated by the national government.

Municipalities shall conduct sorted collection of waste containers and packaging according to their sorted-collection plan.

(4) Sorted-collection promotion plan by prefectures

Prefectures shall summarize sorted collection plans submitted by municipalities, complying with the basic policies and giving due consideration to the recycling plan and shall lay down and announce to the public municipal sorted-collection promotion plans for a five-year term every three years.

(5) Businesses with recycling obligation (designated manufacturers/users)

- Specified container users: Business operators that sell their commodities in containers (including importers)
- Specified container manufacturers, etc.: Business operators that conduct business such as the manufacture, etc. of containers (including importers)
- Specified packaging users: Business operators that use packaging to sell their commodities (including importers)

(6) Three routes to meeting the recycling obligation

[1] Self-collection route

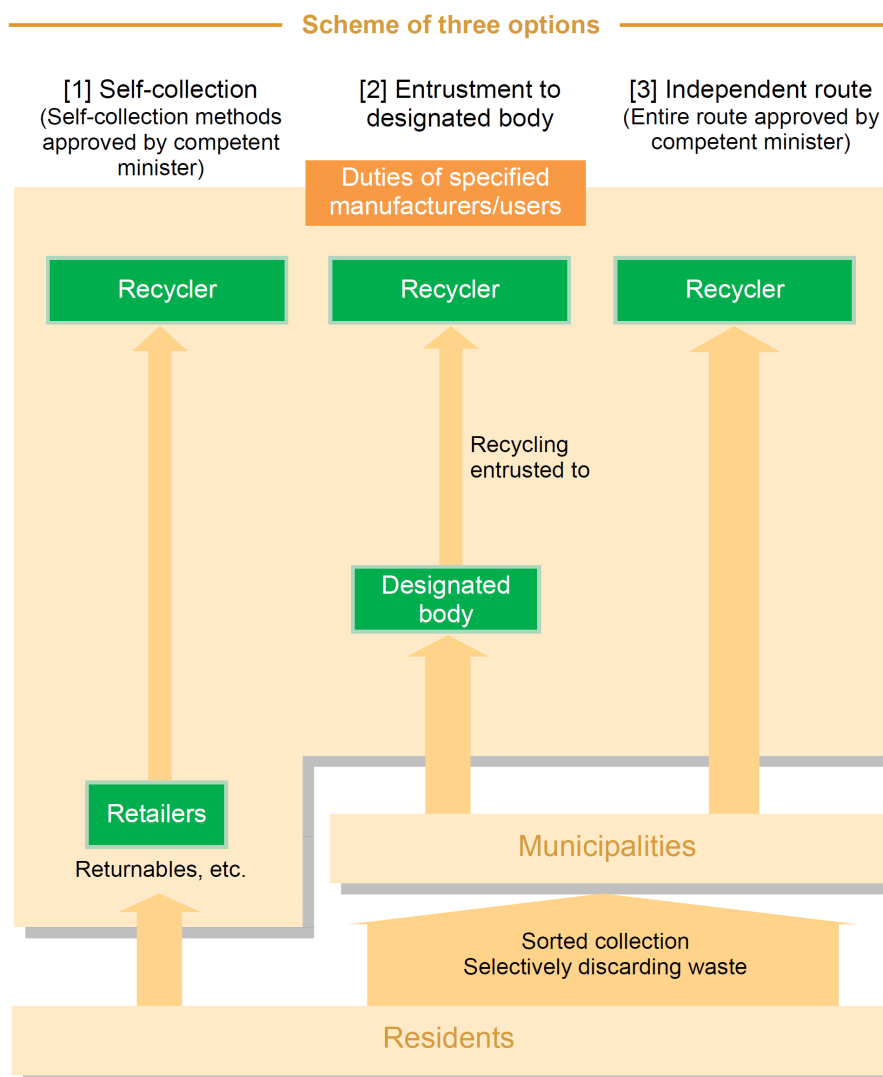
Business operators, by themselves or entrusting to an outside party, collect containers and packaging they have used or produced. Collection methods are approved by the competent minister.

[2] Entrustment to the designated body (designated-body route)

Business operators entrust recycling to the body designated by the competent minister (Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association), assuming that it is a proper and reliable way of recycling.

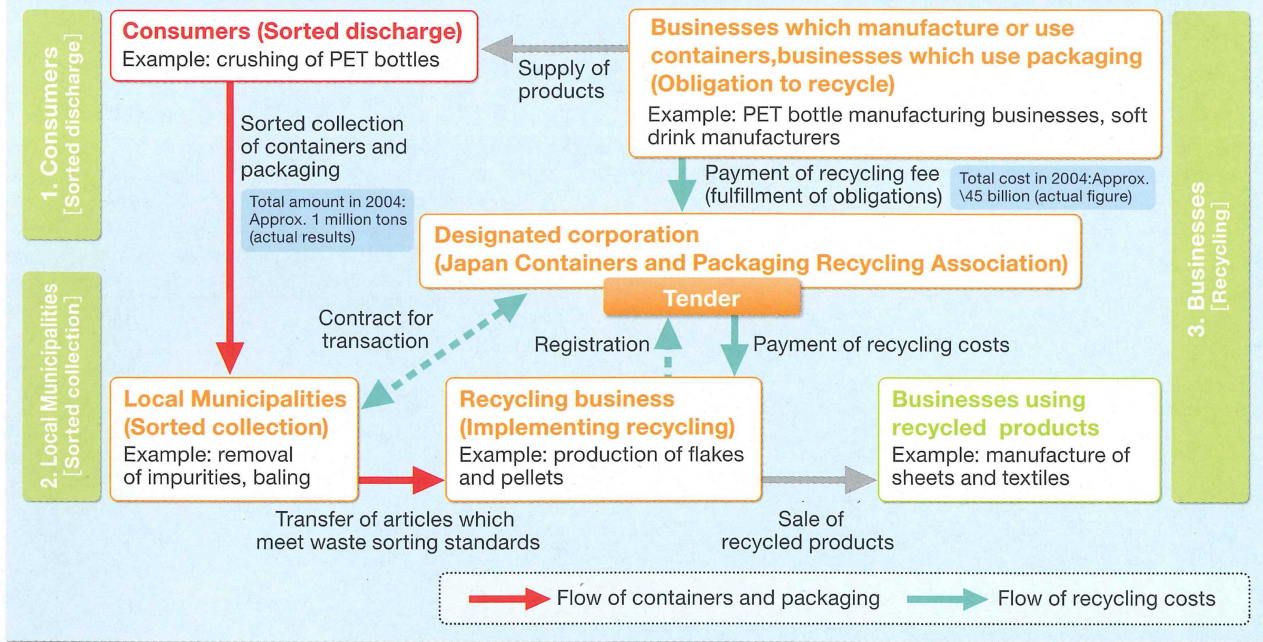
[3] Authorized recycling (independent route)

Specified manufacturers/users, by themselves or entrusting to an outside party other than the designated body, conduct recycling. The entire route is approved by the competent minister.



(Source: Website of Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association)

A system is organized for 1. Sorted discharge, 2. Sorted collection, 3. Recycling of container and packaging wastes, with different roles allotted to citizens, municipalities and businesses.



Scheme under the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law

(Source: "Japan's 3R Initiatives" published by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan)

- The full text of the law:
<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=88&vm=02&re=02&new=1>
- Brochure on the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law published by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan:
http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/recycle/main/english/pamphlets/pdf/The%20Containers_e.pdf
- Website of Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association
<http://www.jcpra.or.jp/eng/>

Law on Recycling of Specified Kinds of Home Appliances (Home Appliance Recycling Law)

I. Purpose

The Law on Recycling of Specified Kinds of Home Appliances (Home Appliance Recycling Law) was established in June 1998 and fully put into force in April 2001 for the establishment of a sound material-cycle society. This law sets forth a novel recycling scheme, the principle of which is to newly impose obligations on home appliance manufacturers and retailers, in order to ensure proper waste treatment and efficient use of resources by reducing wastes and making full use of recyclable materials.

II. Outline of the Law

(1) Specified kinds of home appliances to be regulated (four categories of home appliances)

- Air conditioners
- Televisions
- Refrigerators and freezers
- Washing machines and clothes driers

(2) Responsibilities of waste generators, retailers and manufacturers

To ensure that the specified kinds of home appliances are properly recycled, the Home Appliance Recycling Law sets forth roles of waste generators (consumers or business operators), retailers, and manufacturers, etc. (manufacturers and importers).

[1] Waste generators (consumers or business operators)

- Shall transfer items that are classified under the four categories of home appliances to retailers in a proper manner and pay necessary collection and recycling fees as demanded by retailers.

[2] Retailers

- Shall take back the four categories of home appliances that they have sold, or shall take them back at the request of waste generators who buy new ones to replace old ones.
- Are required to deliver the four categories of home appliances to the manufacturers, etc.
- Must issue home appliance recycling coupons to manufacturers, send copies to waste generators and keep coupons in storage.

[3] Manufacturers, etc. (manufacturers and importers)

- Are obliged to take back, from retailers, four categories of home appliances, which they have manufactured or imported.
- Shall recycle four categories of home appliances that they take back.
- Must make recycling fees public.

[4] Designated body (Association for Electric Home Appliances)

- Shall recycle home appliances whose manufacturers are unknown
- Shall recycle home appliances entrusted by specific manufacturers whose production volume is less than 900,000 units for air conditioners, 900,000 units for television sets, 450,000 units for refrigerators, and 450,000 units for washing machines.

[5] City/municipal governments

- Shall promote collection, transportation and recycling of used home appliances.
- May deliver home appliances, which they have collected, to manufacturers or the designated body.

(3) Recycling standards

- When recycling home appliances that they have taken back, manufacturers, etc. shall meet minimum recycling rate requirements, as shown below.
 - Air conditioners: 70% min.
 - Televisions: 55% min.
(LCD/Plasma televisions: 50% min.)
 - Refrigerators/Freezers: 60% min.
 - Washing machines/Clothes driers: 65% min.

- “Recycling” means removing parts and materials from used home appliances and reusing them as parts or raw materials for new products or transferring them, with or without charge, to those who will reuse them. “Recycling” includes thermal recovery or using waste as fuel. However, it is currently required to satisfy the designated “recycling rates” only in terms of recycling of waste as parts or raw materials of new products.
- “Recycling rate” = $\text{Weight of materials recycled} / \text{Weight of units processed for recycling}$

- CFCs and CFC substitutes used as refrigerants contained in home air conditioners, refrigerators and freezers shall be recovered and reused or destroyed.

(4) Home appliance recycling coupon system

The home appliance recycling coupon system has been introduced to ensure that specified kinds of home appliances are transferred from retailers to manufacturers, etc. in a proper manner.

This system enables waste generators to check whether recycling is certainly performed or not.

This system is operated by the designated body (Association for Electric Home Appliances).

- Conceptual Diagram of Home Appliance Recycling Flow
http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/recycle/main/english/law/pop_home03.html

- The full text of the law:
http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/kaden_recycle/en_cha/pdf/english.pdf

Law for Promotion to Recover and Utilize Recyclable Food Resources (Food Recycling Law)

I. Purpose

The Food Recycling Law came into force in May 2001 to facilitate efforts made by food-related businesses (engaged in manufacturing and distributing food products or providing catering and restaurant services) toward recycling recyclable food resources.

More specifically, the Law encourages food-related businesses to restrain or reduce the production of food waste, such as large volumes of unsold or uneaten food waste that occur in food production processes, and to recycle them as raw materials for animal feed and fertilizer. Some results have been achieved since the enforcement of the Law. However, in food distribution, downstream businesses generate food waste in small and varying quantities, so their recycling rate remains low. Against this backdrop, the Food Recycling Law was revised in 2007 to strengthen guidance and supervision of food-related businesses and facilitate recycling.

II. Outline of the Law

(1) Establishment of basic policies

[1] The Law sets forth that the competent minister shall establish basic policies to promote the recycling of recyclable food resources in a comprehensive and well-organized manner.

In the new basic policies established in November 2007, recycling volume targets (by sector) are 85%, 45%, 70%, and 40% for food manufacturers, food retailers, food wholesalers, and catering services/restaurants, respectively. These figures indicate levels for sectors to achieve through a concerted systematic recycling effort made by individual businesses in accordance with the ordinance that sets applicable criteria.

Recycling rate targets (also referred to as “standard recycling rates”) are determined for individual food-related businesses using the standard recycling rates set for the preceding year.

Standard recycling rates for each year

= Standard recycling rates for preceding year

+ Additional points assigned according to standard recycling rates for preceding year

Preceding year's standard recycling rate class	Additional points
Businesses at 20% to <50%	2 %
Businesses at 50% to <80%	1 %
Businesses at 80% or more	Maintain or improve

* Inaugural year: FY 2008
* If the recycling rate is less than 20% for FY 2007, the standard recycling rate is deemed to be 20% for the purpose of calculation.

- “Recyclable food resources”: Useful food waste that can be raw materials for animal feed and fertilizers
- “Recycling”: Use of recyclable food waste as feedstuff, fertilizer, fuels and reducers manufactured through carbonization processes, fats and oils, fat and oil products, ethanol, or methane, or transfer of recyclable food waste to parties who use it for the aforementioned purposes (with the highest priority being given to feedstuff)
- “Recycling, etc.”: Reducing waste generation, recycling, thermal recycling, and reduction of final disposal (drying, dehydration, fermentation or carbonization)

[2] The national government is required to provide funds, collect, sort and use information, and conduct public relations for promoting the recycling, etc. of recyclable food resources.

(2) Recycling, etc. by food-related businesses

[1] Food-related businesses are required to work on recycling, etc. in accordance with the criteria established by the competent minister (Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Minister of the Environment, or the like). Such criteria provide for recycling principles, targets for recycling, etc. of recyclable food materials, methods of restricting waste generation, specified fertilizer/feedstuff production standards, and the like.

○ “Food-related businesses”

- Businesses engaged in manufacturing/processing food products
Example: food manufacturer
- Businesses engaged in wholesaling/retailing food products
Example: various food wholesalers, department stores and supermarkets
- Restaurants and other food-service businesses
Example: cafeterias, restaurants, hotels and Japanese-style hotels

[2] Food-related business operators who produce large quantities of food waste (bulk generator which produces 100 tons/year or more of food waste) are required to submit a regular annual report to the competent minister, stating the quantity of food waste produced and their recycling efforts. For food-related franchise chain business operators, whether a franchise business is a bulk generator or not is determined by the amount of food waste generated by the franchisees.

[3] The competent minister has the right to provide instructions and advice, if deemed necessary, to food-related business operators.

[4] The competent minister has the right to issue recommendations to, publicly identify, and give orders to bulk generators if their level of recycling is deemed to be significantly low with respect to the applicable standard.

(3) Measures for recycling

[1] Recycling business registration system

The recycling business registration system is designed to facilitate recycling contracts by registering businesses that produce fertilizers and feedstuff from recyclable food resources. The special provisions of the Waste Management Law, etc. (no permit requirement for transportation destination, prior fee notification system instead of maximum fee regulations, and prohibition of discriminatory treatment) and special provisions of the Fertilizer Regulation Law and the Law Concerning Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feeds (no production and sale notification requirement) are applicable to registered businesses.

[2] Recycling business plan approval system

This system is intended to encourage food-related businesses, jointly with fertilizer/feedstuff producers or persons engaged in agriculture, forestry or fisheries, to draw up, and obtain approval for, their recycling business plans covering ensured use of agricultural, stock farm and fishery products. The special provisions of the Waste Management Law, etc. (no permit requirement for waste collection sources, in addition to the special provisions mentioned in [1]) and special provisions of the Fertilizer Regulation Law and the Law Concerning Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feeds are applicable to food-related businesses.

Competent Ministers (Minister of the Environment, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, etc.)

- **Formulation of basic policy**
 - Numerical target (reduction of the total annual generation by 20% by FY 2006)
 - Measures to promote recycling
- **Development of criteria for food related businesses**
 - Criteria for reducing the generation of waste
 - Criteria for reducing waste volume
 - Criteria for recycling, etc.

Measures to ensure effectiveness of law

Guidance or counsel

Recommendations and orders
(in case of insufficient actions)

Food related businesses
Businesses engaging in food processing, distribution, sales, operating restaurants, etc.
 (approx. 240,000 businesses)

Food related businesses whose annual discharge exceeds 100 tons (approx. 17,000 businesses)
 *approx. 50% of total food waste

Measures to promote recycling

Registration

Businesses to utilize recycled food waste



Cyclical food resources

Food related businesses

☆ **Promotion of recycling by outsourcing**

Designation

Food-related businesses (recycling plans)

Cyclical food resources

Specified fertilizer, etc.

Organic agricultural products

Recycling businesses

Business operators in agriculture, forestry and fisheries

☆ **Promotion of planned recycling, including utilization**

•Exception to the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law (Businesses exempted from permit requirement for collection and transportation of municipal solid waste)

•Exception to the Fertilizer Control Law and Feed Safety Law (Exemption from requirement to notify the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)

Conceptual Diagram of the Food Recycling Law

(Source: "Japan's 3R Initiatives" published by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan)

Law on Recycling of Construction-Related Materials (Construction Material Recycling Law)

I. Purpose

The Law on Recycling of Construction-Related Materials (Construction Material Recycling Law), put into force in May 2002, aims to promote sorting and recycling of waste concrete, asphalt and other materials that are discarded in the process of demolishing buildings.

II. Outline of the Law

The Construction Material Recycling Law promotes recycling by making it obligatory that designated construction materials used for constructions of the specified size or larger are sorted and demolished at the construction site and resulting wastes are recycled.

(1) Construction works to be regulated

Constructions that meet the following standards must be sorted and demolished. The client is required to make a notification.

Type of construction	Standard size
Demolition of a building	80 m ² or more (total floor space)
Construction of a new building or extension	500 m ² or more (total floor space)
Renovation work, etc.	Contracting fee (100 million yen or more)
Civil engineering work, etc.	Contracting fee (5 million yen or more)

* "Building" refers to those specified in the Building Standards Law.

(2) Designated construction materials that must be sorted, demolished and recycled

Designated construction material	Type of industrial waste	Example recycling facilities ^{*1}	Recycling method
Concrete	Construction waste	Crushing facilities	Use as a (raw) material
Construction materials consisting of concrete and iron	Construction waste, scrap metal	Crushing facilities	Use as a (raw) material
Wood (wood generated in construction)	Scrap wood	Crushing or incineration facilities ^{*2}	*4
Asphalt concrete	Construction waste	Crushing facilities ^{*3}	Use as a (raw) material

Notes:

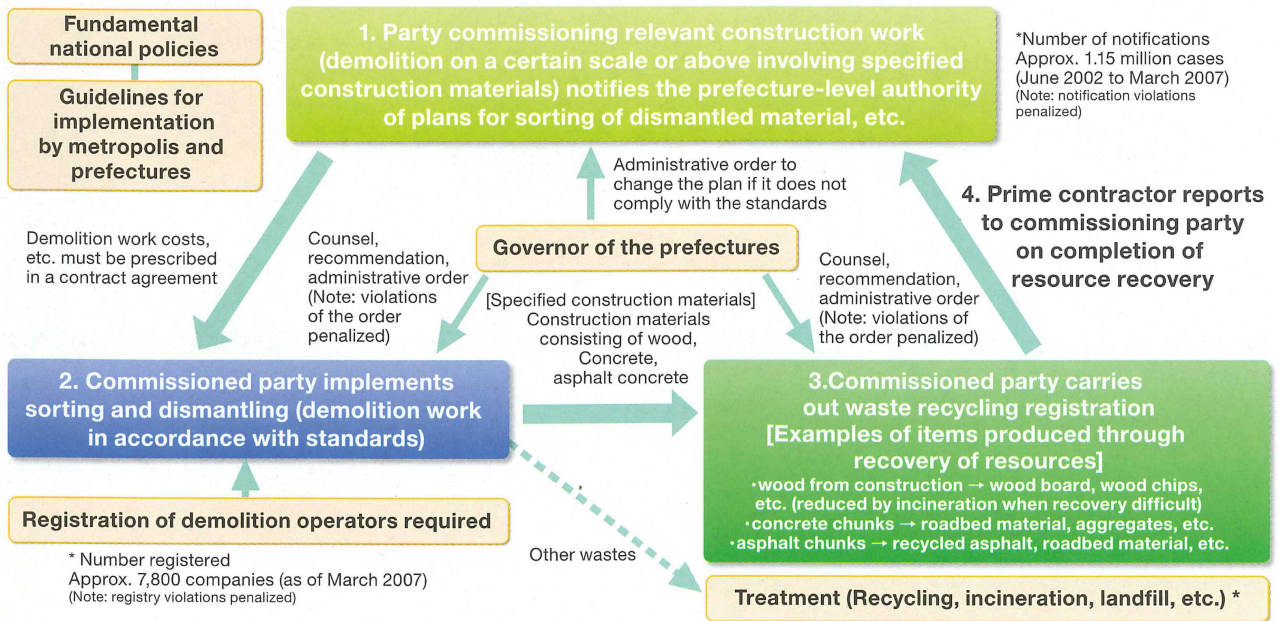
*1 Transferring waste to a recycling facility after selection at a facility other than recycling facilities is also permissible.

*2 It is permitted to reduce (incinerate) wood in a proper facility if recycling is difficult, as in cases where the construction site is more than 50 km away from the nearest recycling facility.

Although crushing facilities designed to process wood into a form suitable for thermal recycling are permissible, a higher priority should be given to transportation of wood to a crushing facility intended for using wood as a (raw) material.

*3 Limited to facilities that are capable of crushing asphalt concrete.

*4 Permissible forms of recycling are: [1] Use as a (raw) material and [2] Thermal recycling. The order of priority is [1] and [2].



*The Construction Material Recycling Law was implemented in May 2002, but its supplementary provisions state that no sooner than five years after its implementation, the status of implementation will be studied and necessary measures introduced accordingly. Since November 2007, a review has been underway in collaboration with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to reexamine issues such as promotion of resource recovery from construction wastes.

Conceptual Diagram of the Construction Material Recycling Law
 (Source: "Japan's 3R Initiatives" published by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan)

Law on Recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV Recycling Law)

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Law on Recycling of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV Recycling Law), which defines role sharing among and responsibilities of automobile-related businesses, is to construct a new recycling system, prevent illegal dumping, reduce final disposal, and make full use of recyclable resources and reusable parts. The Law was promulgated on July 12, 2002, with its gradual enforcement beginning in January 2003. The Law was fully put into force in January 2005.

II. Outline of the Law

(1) Vehicles to be regulated

All four-wheel vehicles (excluding towed vehicles, large and small special motor vehicles and motorcycles)

* The Law deems all end-of-life vehicles to be "waste."

(2) Role-sharing among the parties concerned

[1] Extended producer responsibility

Automakers and motor vehicle importers are obliged to take back and recycle the three recycled items of shredder dust (crushed vehicles), airbags and CFCs from ELVs (CFCs are to be destroyed).

[2] Related business registration and permit systems

The Law, designed for proper treatment of ELVs, sets forth a registration system for ELV-collecting businesses that take back ELVs from owners and CFC-collecting businesses, as well as a permit system for auto-dismantling and crushing businesses, and defines their respective roles and responsibilities. (The Law penalizes unauthorized or unregistered businesses.)

■ Roles and Responsibilities

- ELV-collecting businesses (retailers and maintenance service companies)
 - Are required to be registered to the Prefectural Governor or the Mayor of a city that has a health center
 - Are required to take back end-of-life vehicles from car owners and transfer them to a CFC-collecting business or auto dismantling business.
- CFC-collecting businesses
 - Are required to be registered to the Prefectural Governor or the Mayor of a city that has a health center
 - Must collect chlorofluorocarbons properly and hand over ELVs to car manufacturers/importers.
- Auto dismantling/shredding businesses
 - Permit issued by the Prefectural Governor or the Mayor of a city that has a health center
 - Shall dismantle, crush and recycle ELVs properly. Shall collect airbags and shredder dust and hand them over to car manufacturers/importers.

(3) Advance recycling fee system

Car owners are required to pay ELV recycling fees for the three recycled items. Recycling fees are established and made public by car manufacturers for each vehicle class.

■ Recycling Fees

Car manufacturers establish recycling fees for each vehicle according to the vehicle class, the number of airbags, and whether an air conditioner is provided or not, generally ranging from ¥6,000 to ¥18,000.

* Car owners are also required to pay a capital management fee (¥380 for payment at the time of purchasing a new car or ¥480 for payment when they dispose of their cars) and information management fee (¥230).

■ Payment Timing

- When buying a new car: Payment at purchase
- For already owned car: Payment when the owner disposes of the car to an ELV collecting business

■ Information on Specific Amounts of Fees

- Individual car manufacturer/importer
- Automobile Recycling System website: <http://www.jars.gr.jp/> (in Japanese only)
- Call center at Japan Automobile Recycling Promotion Center

(4) Introduction of electronic manifest system

An electronic manifest (transfer report) system has been introduced to ensure that information on the transfer and treatment of ELVs is reported over the Internet. This system enables the user to confirm that ELVs are properly recycled by businesses in each recycling stage.

➤ Conceptual Diagram of the End-of-Life Vehicles Recycling Law:

<http://www.jarc.or.jp/en/recycling/index02.html>

➤ The full text of the law:

<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=127&vm=02&re=02&new=1>

Law Concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities (Green Purchasing Law)

I. Purpose

The Green Purchasing Law aims to ensure that the national government, national organizations and local governments take the initiative in procuring eco-friendly goods and to facilitate them to provide useful information for green purchasing. The Law was established in May 2000 and fully put into force in April 2001.

II. Outline of the Law

(1) Responsibilities of the national government

- When procuring goods or services, the national government shall endeavor to choose eco-friendly goods in order to promote the shift of demand to recycled products.
- The national government shall establish the basic policy for promoting the procurement of eco-friendly goods by the national government and independent administrative agencies.
- The chief of each ministry or agency shall prepare and publicize a policy for procurement of eco-friendly goods each fiscal year in accordance with the basic policy.
- The national government shall procure goods and services in accordance with the procurement policy and, at the end of every fiscal year, shall arrange and publicize a procurement overview.

(2) Responsibilities of independent administrative agencies

- When procuring goods or services, independent administrative agencies shall endeavor to choose eco-friendly goods in order to promote the shift of demand to recycled products.
- Independent administrative agencies shall prepare and publicize the policy for procurement of eco-friendly goods each fiscal year in accordance with the basic policy.
- Independent administrative agencies shall procure goods and services in accordance with the procurement policy and, at the end of every fiscal year, shall arrange and publicize a procurement overview.

(3) Responsibilities of local governments

- Local governments shall take measures to promote the shift of demand to eco-friendly goods in accordance with natural and social conditions.
- Local governments shall prepare the policy for procurement of eco-friendly goods each fiscal year and endeavor to procure goods or services in accordance with the policy (obligation to make efforts).

(4) Responsibilities of businesses

- When purchasing or leasing goods or receiving services, businesses shall endeavor to choose eco-friendly goods to the greatest extent possible.
- Businesses engaged in manufacturing, importing or selling goods or providing services shall endeavor to provide the client with the necessary information for identifying the environmental burden of the goods or services concerned (general responsibility).

(5) Responsibilities of citizens

- When purchasing or leasing goods or receiving services, citizens shall endeavor to choose eco-friendly goods to the greatest extent possible (general responsibility).

III. Designated Procurement Items to Be Procured by the National Government (FY 2010: 256 items in 19 categories)

Category	Designated procurement item
Paper (7)	Copy paper, business forms, coated inkjet paper, etc.
Stationery (82)	Mechanical pencils, refill lead for mechanical pencils, ball point pens, marking pens, etc.
Office furniture (10)	Chairs, desks, shelves, storage cabinets (excluding shelves), low partition screens, coat hooks, etc.
OA machines (18)	Copiers, all-in-one printers, digital copiers with extensibility, printers, etc.
Mobile phones (2)	Cellular phones, PHS
Home appliances (5)	Refrigerators, freezers, refrigerators with freezer, etc.
Air conditioners (3)	Air conditioners, gas-heat pump systems, heaters
Water heaters (4)	Electric hot water heaters, gas-water heaters, oil-fired water heaters, gas cookers
Lighting (5)	Fluorescent lighting apparatuses, LED lighting equipment, LED-backlit signs, etc.
Vehicles (5)	Vehicles, ETC devices, automotive navigation systems, tires, etc.
Fire extinguishers (1)	Fire extinguishers
Uniforms and work clothes (3)	Uniforms, work clothes, caps
Interior fixtures and bedding (10)	Curtains, fabric blinds, tufted carpets, carpet tiles, etc.
Work gloves (1)	Work gloves
Other fiber goods (7)	Tents, tarpaulins, protective netting, flags, banners, screens, mops
Facilities (6)	Photovoltaic generation systems, solar thermal systems, fuel cells, kitchen waste disposers, water-saving apparatuses, etc.
Emergency supplies (6)	PET bottled water, gelatinized rice, hardtack, cans, pouch-packed food, emergency canned fuel
Public work projects (66)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recycled materials (treated soil recycled from construction sludge, water granulated slag for earth work, etc.) 2. Construction machinery (low-emission type, low-noise type) 3. Method of construction (low-quality soil utilization method, recycling of construction sludge, etc.) 4. Special-purpose items (drainage paving, permeable paving, etc.)
Services (15)	Energy-saving diagnoses, printing, cafeterias, tire retreading, car repairs, government office building management, etc.

- The full text of the law:
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/laws/policy/green/1.pdf>
- The basic policy for promoting the procurement of eco-friendly goods by the national government and independent administrative agencies:
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/laws/policy/green/2.pdf>
- Scheme of the Green Purchasing Law:
<http://www.env.go.jp/en/laws/policy/green/4.pdf>

Gifu Prefecture Recycled Products Authorization System

- **Purpose of the system**

To certify a certain range of recycled products contributing to promotion of resource-recycling and waste reduction as “Recycled products authorized by Gifu Prefectural Government”, and facilitate its use.

- **Definition of terms**

“Recycled products”: products made wholly or partially of recyclable resources, and/or products made by processing recyclable resources.

**Recyclable resources: equivalent to “those useful among wastes, etc.” stipulated in the “Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society”.*

- **Authorization Criteria**

Minimum qualifications for authorization are as follows;

1. Currently on sale in the Prefecture, or to be on sale within 6 months.
2. Produced by factories in the Prefecture
3. Made of recyclable resources generated (as raw materials) mainly in the Prefecture.
4. Produced in the factories with environmentally-sound technologies and measures.
5. No use of specially controlled waste (Industrial/ Non-industrial) as raw materials
6. Conformity with environmental standards concerning soil pollution, stipulated in the “Basic Environment Law”.
7. Quality standards: Conformity with JIS standards and JAS standards.
8. Ratio of recyclable resources contained in raw materials satisfies the standards set for each item.

- **Disqualification**

Authorization is not granted in the following cases;

1. Reasonable fear of misuse of authorized products for illicit purposes or violation of intellectual property rights.
2. Illegal or dishonest behaviors recognized by applicants themselves, concerning production and sale of the products in process for authorization.
3. Any other case which might be inappropriate to authorize.

- **Examination**

Summary of examination is as follows;

1. Examined by the “Gifu Prefecture Examination and Authorization Committee for Recycled Products”, consisting of experts.
2. Conduct examination of manufacturing process and elution test for risk assessment of environmental pollution.

- **Certification Period**

3 years from the date of certification

- **Obligation of certified parties**

Those certified are obliged to do the followings;

1. Ensure the conformity with authorization criteria through annual test/examination, and report to the Governor.
2. Keep the sample products (provided for test/examination) and the documents related to the reporting to the Governor for 5 years.

- **Refusal of certification**

In case of disqualification or cessation of production, it is required to express its refusal of certification.

- **Revoke of certification**

Authorization will be revoked in the following cases, and those who lost authorization cannot apply for next 5 years.

1. Not satisfy authorization criteria.
2. Meet the criteria of disqualification.
3. Authorized by illegal measures.
4. No report on amendments, tests and examination of products.

- **Pubic announcement**

Make a public announcement on website (homepage) when authorization is granted and revoked.

- **Obligation of the Prefectural Government**

The Prefectural Government takes the following actions;

1. Make an effort to facilitate preferential procurement of authorized products.
2. Request local authorities for priority use of authorized products.
3. Provide information and increase publicity to facilitate a wider use of authorized products among companies and residents.
4. Make a public announcement on its procurement status on an annual basis.

- **Inspection**

The Prefectural Government may enter the premises of certified parties if necessary, and may assess its environmental safety of authorized products as well as factories.

- **Penal code**

A 50,000 yen correctional fine will be imposed to;

1. Those who get authorization by illegal measures.
2. Those who are committed to misbranding of products.

- **Establishment of authorization system**

“Gifu Prefectural Ordinance on authorization of recycled products and promotion of its use” was promulgated on 20 March 2007, enforced on 1 April 2007. The penal code was enforced on 1 October 2007.

Hokkaido Prefecture Recycled Products Authorization System

The Hokkaido Prefectural Government operates the Hokkaido Prefecture Recycled Products Authorization System to encourage the use of recycled products by certifying and advertising such products that have been manufactured in Hokkaido Prefecture from recyclable waste materials generated in the prefecture and meet specific standards.

- Hokkaido Prefecture Recycled Products Authorization Standards
 1. The product shall be manufactured by a business establishment in Hokkaido Prefecture, using recyclable waste materials, in whole or part, generated in Hokkaido Prefecture.
 2. When the product achieves widespread use, it is expected to have tangible effects on the proper recycling of recyclable materials and positively reduce waste in Hokkaido Prefecture.
 3. Reduction of environmental impact shall be fully considered in each process of product manufacturing, distribution, recycling and disposal.
 4. The business establishment manufacturing the product shall have obtained permissions, submitted notifications, made consultations and met the requirements of applicable environmental laws and ordinances and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Wastes in Hokkaido Prefecture (November 2000, Hokkaido Prefectural Government) and shall not have been subjected to any penalty, order or other disadvantageous action for infringing an environmental law or ordinance in the past five years before the date of application.
 5. The product shall be already in the Hokkaido Prefecture market at the time of application or shall be definitely in the Hokkaido Prefecture market within six months from the date of application.
 6. The product shall meet the standards concerning quality, environmental safety considerations and recyclable material mixing rate shown below.

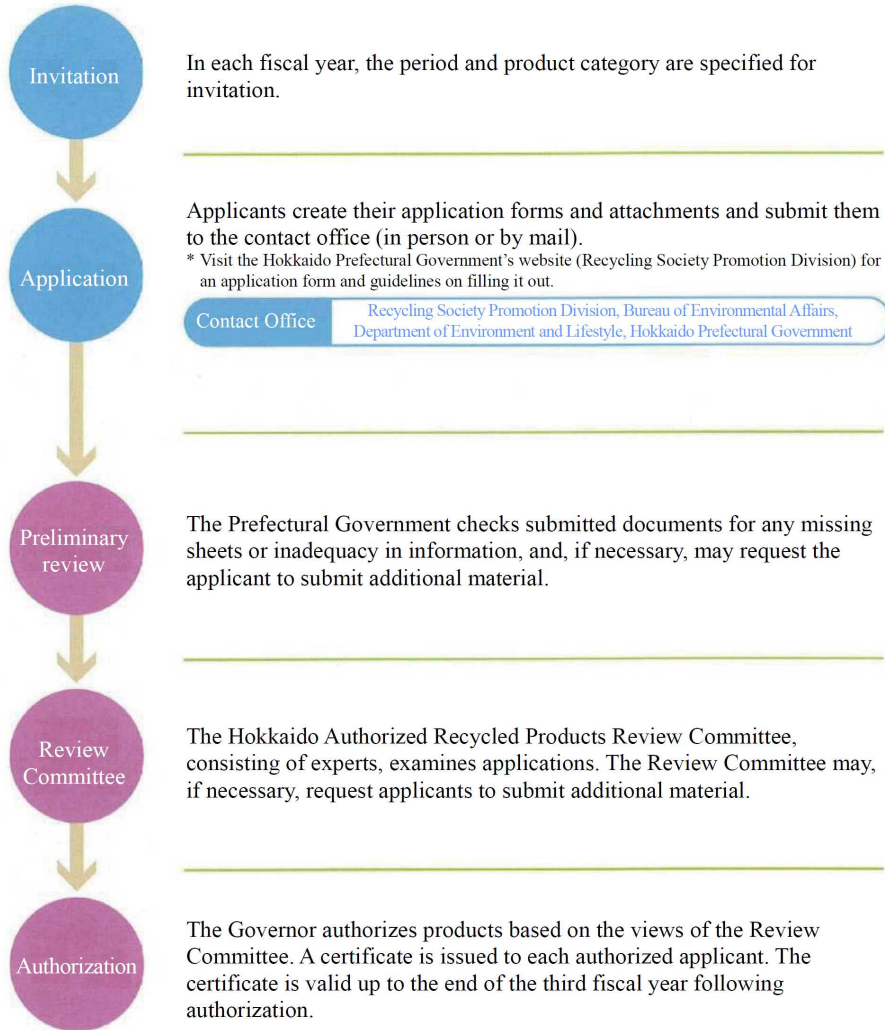
- * This authorization system is intended for finished products with quality maintained at a specific level and is not for unprocessed recyclable materials or those that have simply undergone crushing or shredding and particle size control.

Category	Standard	
Quality	Products specified by Japanese Industrial Standards (JIS) or Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS)	Compliance with JIS or JAS
	Products not specified by JIS or JAS but specified by the common construction specifications specified by the Hokkaido Prefectural Government	Compliance with the common construction specifications specified by the Hokkaido Prefectural Government
	Products other than the above	Compliance with standards specified by a public institution or related industrial association and deemed appropriate by the Governor or with those recognized by the Governor as standards for authorized products
	Other (common requirements)	Compliance with laws and ordinances applicable to the product
		Products shall meet the applicable quality criteria if they fall in the specific purchase item category specified in the Environmentally Sound Goods Purchase Guidelines specified in accordance with the Hokkaido Prefecture Green Purchase Policy.
Environmental safety considerations	<p>Products that could involve leaching out into the environment shall meet the following standards.</p> <p>(1) The product's leaching test results obtained under the environmental conditions in which the product is to be used shall meet the environmental standards concerning soil pollution stipulated in Paragraph 1, Article 16 of the Basic Act on Environment (Act No. 91, 1993).</p> <p>(2) The product shall meet the environmental standards in line with soil pollution stipulated in Article 7 of the Act on Special Measures against Dioxins (Act No. 105, 1999).</p>	
Mixing rate	Products subject to the mixing rate criteria specified by the Eco Mark certification standards specified by the Japan Environment Association, or those that fall under the specific purchase item category specified in the Environmentally Sound Goods Purchase Guidelines specified in accordance with the Hokkaido Prefecture Green Purchase Policy.	In principle, the product shall meet the mixing rate requirement specified in the Eco Mark certification standards or in the criteria for specific purchase items. ¹
	Products other than the above	In principle, recyclable materials shall account for at least 50% of the product. ² Whether to determine the mixing rate relative to the product's whole weight (or volume) or to the weight (or volume) of the relevant component of the product shall be decided case-by-case, taking into account the product features, such as the structure and constituents.

Notes:

1. Products shall be assessed case-by-case whether they meet, aside from these standards, the certification criteria of a third party deemed to be appropriate by the Governor.
2. Even if it is difficult for production engineering or quality reasons to use recyclable materials at a mixing rate of 50% or more, products found to be certainly effective for encouraging the use of recyclable materials or in promoting environmental education in Hokkaido Prefecture shall be assessed for eligibility case-by-case.

Steps from Application to Authorization (Authorized Recycled Products)



Hokkaido Prefectural Tax System to Promote the Use of Recyclable Materials (Industrial Waste Disposal Tax System)

- Purpose of Tax System to Promote the Use of Recyclable Materials

To build a society that enables sustainable development in Hokkaido, protecting the prefecture's great natural environment and reducing environmental impacts, it is necessary to quickly create a recycling society. The Hokkaido Prefectural Government introduced the Tax System to Promote the Use of Recyclable Materials on October 1, 2006 to create such a recycling society.

- Reduction of Industrial waste

Reduce the amount of industrial waste subject to final disposal to protect the natural environment!

- Promoting the use of recyclable materials

Avoid wasting resources by recycling usable industrial waste!

- Proper treatment of industrial waste

Process industrial waste properly if it must undergo final disposal!

- Scheme of Tax to Promote the Use of Recyclable Materials

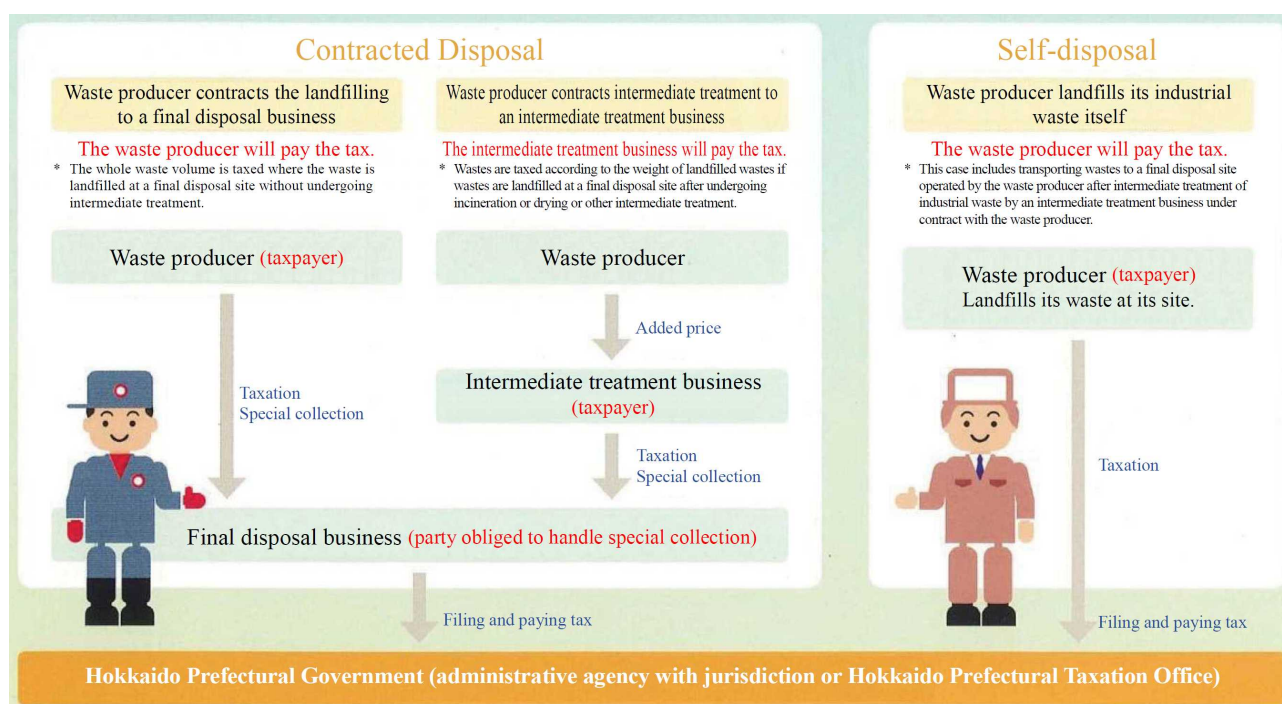
Taxpayer: industrial waste generators

Tax imposed on: transport of industrial waste to final disposal site

Tax amount: weight of transported industrial waste multiplied by tax rate

Tax rate: figures shown at right per ton of industrial waste

Timing of transport of industrial waste to final disposal site	By final disposal business		Self-disposal by party other than final disposal business
	Contracted disposal	Self-disposal	
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008	660 JPY	660 JPY	500 JPY
From April 1, 2008	1,000 JPY	1,000 JPY	1,000 JPY



Hokkaido Prefecture Zero-Emission Award System

● Goal

This award system aims to foster businesses' awareness of reduction of wastes, to popularize environmentally-aware business management, and eventually to encourage a recycling society, by commending business establishments in Hokkaido Prefecture that are actively involved in waste reduction. And whose approaches serve as a model for other business establishments in the prefecture.

● Definitions

- The term "wastes" refers to "wastes" defined by Paragraph 2, Article 2 of the Basic Act on Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society.
- The phrase "waste reduction" refers to reducing the volume of wastes generated in business establishments and to reducing the volume of wastes discharged from them.

● Types and Numbers of Prizes

In principle, the types and numbers of prizes for each fiscal year are as follows.

(1) Zero-Emission Grand Prize: 1

The Zero-Emission Grand Prize is presented to an applicant business establishment that is recognized as making particularly excellent efforts among all applicants and as setting an example in Hokkaido Prefecture.

(2) Zero-Emission Excellence Prize (general and local cooperation categories): typically 3

The Zero-Emission Excellence Prize is presented to applicant business establishments recognized as making excellent efforts among all applicants.

- General Category

Efforts made by individual business establishments that generate wastes fall in this category.

- Local Cooperation Category

This category covers cooperative efforts made by business establishments that generate wastes and those that make use of such wastes, in order to reduce local wastes and return all or part of the products or results thereof to the locality.

● Ineligibility

(1) Any applicant business operator or establishment that falls in one of the following cases at the time of application is disqualified from receiving the Zero-Emission Grand Prize or the Zero-Emission Excellence Prize.

- Failure to obtain permissions, submit notifications, hold consultations, or other activities required by environmental laws and ordinances, or in the case of less than five years since the date of execution of a penalty following the imposition of an administrative penalty for violating an environmental law or ordinance
- Doing business in Hokkaido Prefecture for less than one year

(2) If an applicant business establishment applies for the award based on the same work as done by a similar business establishment that has already received the Zero-Emission Grand Prize for similar efforts (including the locality where the efforts were made), the Grand Prize shall not be presented to that business establishment.

(3) If an applicant business establishment applies for the award based on the same work as done by a similar business establishment that has already received the Zero-Emission Excellence Prize for similar efforts (including the locality where the efforts were made), the Excellence Prize shall not be presented to that business establishment. Note that this shall not preclude the presentation of the Zero-Emission Grand Prize to that business establishment.

- Invitation and Application

- (1) An application period and requirements are specified each year separately from this guideline to invite business establishments to apply for the award. Each applicant business establishment must be located in Hokkaido Prefecture, regardless of whether the head office of the business operator is located in Hokkaido Prefecture or not.
- (2) The business operator of an applicant business establishment shall use the Hokkaido Prefecture Zero-Emission Award application form and apply to the Governor during the application period specified as per the preceding paragraph.
- (3) In the case of efforts in the local cooperation category, the business operator of the business establishment that makes use of wastes shall make an application, as described in the preceding paragraph.
- (4) Each business operator shall bear the cost of application.

- Making Decision on Efforts for Award

The Hokkaido Prefecture Zero-Emission Award Selection Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Selection Committee") decides which efforts should be awarded by considering the screening results in accordance with the Hokkaido Prefecture Zero-Emission Award Selection Procedure specified separately.

- Excluding Stakeholder Committee Members from Screening

If a member of the Selection Committee is involved in an applicant business establishment, he or she shall not take part in screening the proposed efforts of that business establishment. In this case, in the primary screening, the stakeholder committee member is deemed to have issued an assessment mark equal to the average of assessment marks of the other committee members.

- Confidentiality

Selection Committee members shall not reveal information gained through their duties. This shall also apply even after they resign from the Selection Committee.

- Public Announcement of the Award

The Governor shall announce information about the award of each fiscal year within that year broadly to Hokkaido Prefecture residents through award ceremonies and PR media.

- Award Cancellation

If a recipient is found to fall in any of the following cases after receiving a prize, the Governor has the right to cancel the award.

- (1) The recipient business operator or establishment was disqualified at the time of making the application.
- (2) Information on the recipient's application form or attachments differed from the facts at the time of the application.
- (3) Another situation has occurred, necessitating cancellation of the award to the recipient business operator or establishment.

The recipient business operator shall be liable for any losses suffered by the award cancellation.

- Checking Information on the Application Form

To the extent necessary for implementing this guideline, the Governor has the right to check with applicant business operators regarding information on their Hokkaido Prefecture Zero-Emission Award application forms. This check shall not preclude on-site investigations.

- General Affairs

The Recycling Society Promotion Division, Bureau of Environmental Affairs, Department of Environment and Lifestyle handles the clerical work associated with this guideline.

Aichi Prefecture Environment Award System

1. Purpose

This award system is designed to commend excellent practices - innovative and effective technology, business, activity and education, submitted by companies, organizations and residents of Aichi prefecture. By introducing such practices, this award will not only encourage new production modalities and life styles to take root in society, but also promote construction of a recycling society.

2. Eligible candidates

- Companies, organizations, or groups (individuals cannot apply).

3. Eligibility requirements

- Innovative and effective practices of technology, business, activity or education concerning resource-recycling and reduction of environmental impacts, including resource conservation, energy conservation, new energy, and 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

Businesses in preparation (recycling business) can be submitted only if its feasibility is high in Aichi prefecture. Previously-awarded practices can be re-submitted, based on significant improvement of technology or outstanding progress. However, they will not be subject to commendation unless they achieve the higher-level of award.

4. Selection Criteria

“Selection Committee”, consisting of experts, is charged with examination and selection. Hearings and field visits will be organized, if necessary. The selection criteria are as follows;

<Technology/Business>

Creativity/Creativity:

- Novelty, Superiority, and Uniqueness when compared to existing technologies and businesses

Reduction of environmental impacts:

- Waste reduction, CO2 emissions reduction, etc.

Achievements/Prospect:

- Demonstrated record of product sales and technology application for large companies, prospect and possibilities for SMEs

<Activity/Education>

Creativity/Creativity:

- Superiority, Uniqueness and Advance when compared to existing activity and education

Potential Partnership:

- Collaboration with various stakeholders such as governments, universities and companies

Sustainability:

- Sustainability of activities

<Overarching consideration>

Social impact/Ripple effect:

- Educational effect for building new production modalities and life styles with environmental consciousness

5. Awards classifications

- Gold Prize, Silver Prize, Bronze Prize, Chunichi Newspaper Company's Prize, and Nagoya Mayor Prize (one for each), and Excellent Prize (seven)

The number of prizes is subject to change. For an excellent proposal on recycling business, Aichi prefecture is ready to offer assistance in developing it into a business.

Sapporo City's Program for Training Community Leaders on Environmental Cleanup Campaigns

Sapporo City Government supports activities of Clean Sapporo Sanitation Promoters (leaders of community residents) to promote environmental cleanup, waste reduction, and recycling. The city also organizes programs in cooperation with the promoters.

- This program is intended to support Clean Sapporo Sanitation Promoters (community leaders for encouraging environmental cleanup activities) and to build a framework for enabling community residents to work together, thus promoting environmental cleanup as well as waste reduction and recycling.
- Promoters are selected from respective neighborhood associations. As of April 2011, about 3,000 promoters are involved.
- Workshops and other programs are held several times a year in respective wards to help promoters boost the waste reduction and recycling efforts in respective communities to create a resource recycling society. Such workshops and programs include lectures by experts regarding timely topics on waste and presentations about activities that are practiced. A city-wide event is held annually.
- Promoters work with city officials in giving guidance and instructions about waste sorting to residents as well as raising their awareness and distributing leaflets about waste reduction and sorting/collection.
- To support promoters' activities, Sapporo City Government grants subsidies to cover the cost of activities (including workshops).

Sapporo City Recycling Plaza

Sapporo City Recycling Plaza “Miyanosawa” serves as;

- (i) a venue for exhibitions on waste reduction, sorting, and recycling,
- (ii) a center for distributing information to citizens,
- (iii) a center of recycling activities by citizens, and
- (iv) a market for exchanging unwanted items including furniture.

- Exhibiting and selling recycled furniture and bicycles, etc.

Citizens set aside furniture and bicycles for recycling when bulky waste is collected by the city.

Such furniture and bicycles are repaired, exhibited at the recycling plaza, and sold to citizens by lot.

- Hosting lectures on refurbishing used clothes and fabrics

- Setting up an exhibition space for presenting information about waste reduction, sorting, and recycling and a consultation desk

A free recycling information space is available to help citizens exchange information about unwanted items to give away and wanted for free.

An exhibition space presents information about waste sorting, reduction, and recycling as well as other information for citizens.

- Toy hospital

As part of efforts to encourage waste reduction and raise awareness, requests are accepted from those seeking simple repair services for broken toys. Repair consultation services are also offered.

- Reuse promotion space

Daily necessities, etc. that are no longer needed in the home and are donated by citizens (except items that are broken, extremely dirty, or large) are exhibited and given away to individuals who want them.