

Municipal solid waste emissions and disposal in 2009

The situation regarding emissions and disposal of municipal solid waste (solid waste and excrement) in 2009 (defined as the Japanese government's fiscal year running from April 1 to March 31) was surveyed and the results published. Highlights of the results are as follows.

1. Waste emissions and disposal

(1) Waste emissions

Both total waste emissions and waste emissions per person per day declined.

- Total waste emissions: 46,250,000 tons (down 3.9% from 48,110,000 tons in previous year)
- Waste emissions/person/day: 994 grams (down 3.8% from 1,033 grams in previous year)

(2) Waste disposal

The amount of waste disposed of by landfill declined 8.3% from a year earlier, and the recycling rate rose marginally.

- Amount disposed of by landfill: 5,070,000 tons (down 8.3% from 5,530,000 tons in previous year)
- Waste reduction rate: 98.4% (compared with 98.2% in previous year)
- Direct landfill disposal rate: 1.6% (compared with 1.8% in previous year)
- Total amount of waste recycled: 9,500,000 tons (down 2.9% from 9,780,000 in previous year)
- Recycling rate: 20.5% (up 0.2% from 20.3% in previous year)

2. Waste incineration plants

- The number of waste incineration plants declined.
- Capacity per plant rose marginally.
- 24.5% of all plants were equipped with power generation facilities, and total power generating capacity increased (as of end March 31, 2010)
- Number of plants: 1,243 (down 2.0% from 1,269 in previous year)
- Capacity: 186,205 tons/day (compared with 187,303 tons/day in previous year)
- Capacity per plant: 150 tons/day (compared with 148 tons/day in previous year)
- Number of plants using residual heat: 800 (compared with 849 in previous year)
- Number of plants with power generation facilities: 304 (compared with 300 in previous year) (24.5% of total)
- Total power generating capacity: 1,673,000 kilowatts (up 3.6% from 1,615,000 kilowatts in previous year)

3. Landfill sites

- Available capacity has fallen for 11 years in a row since 1998 and, despite some fluctuation, the number of landfill sites has followed a downward trend since 1996. Securing landfill capacity consequently remains difficult.
- Owing to the decline in volume of waste disposed of by landfill, remaining years' capacity has increased slightly.
- Waste in areas such as the Kanto and Chubu blocks is being transported to other areas due to insufficient local landfill capacity. Landfill disposal operations are consequently becoming geographically broader in scope (as of March 31, 2010).
- Available capacity: 116,040,000 cubic meters (down 4.8% from 121,840,000 cubic meters in previous year)
- Remaining years' capacity: 18.7 years (compared with 18.0 years in previous year)

4. Waste disposal expenditure

Spending on waste disposal services rose slightly.

- Expenditure on waste disposal services: 1,825.6 billion yen (compared with 1,816.9 billion yen in previous year)
- Main categories of expenditure:

Construction and improvement	204.2 billion yen (compared with 179.7 billion yen in previous year)
Disposal and running costs	1,505.6 billion (compared with 1,530.1 billion yen in previous year)