

Disposal of disaster waste

Progress in disposal of disaster waste from the Great East Japan Earthquake

The Great East Japan Earthquake left behind a vast amount of disaster waste and Tsunami deposit in 13 prefectures of eastern Japan. Coastal cities and other municipalities in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima were particularly affected, left with approximately 3.78 million tons of disaster waste in Iwate, 10.46 million

tons in Miyagi, and 1.73 million tons in Fukushima. These figures are equivalent to 8 years of municipal solid waste in Iwate, 13 years in Miyagi, and 2 years in Fukushima. Good progress is being made, and over three quarters of the disaster waste has now been disposed of (as of end-June 2013).

Progress on treatment of debris from coastal municipalities of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures (excluding the countermeasure area) as of the end of June 2013

	Estimated amount of disaster waste, etc. (x 10,000 tons)	Disaster waste				Tsunami sediment				Number of temporary storage facilities
		Estimated amount (x 10,000 tons)	Progress of disposal			Estimated amount (x 10,000 tons)	Progress of disposal			
			Disposal completed (x 10,000 tons)	Percentage of total	Percentage by end-September		Disposal completed (x 10,000 tons)	Percentage of total	Percentage by end-September	
Iwate Pref.	527	378	237	63	78	149	52	35	56	43
Miyagi Pref.	1,734	1,046	857	82	87	689	408	59	76	71
Fukushima Pref.	357	173	86	50	—	184	43	23	—	30
Total	2,618	1,596	1,181	74	—	1,022	503	49	—	144

Source: Ministry of the Environment

Restoration in affected areas

Prefectures and individual municipalities are working steadily to dispose of disaster waste. In addition to existing disposal facilities, a total of 31 temporary incinerators and 21 sorting and shredding facilities have been set up in Iwate and Miyagi (as of end-

June 2013), In Fukushima, disposal by local governments is augmented in coastal areas by disposal undertaken or implemented by the national government.

Two temporary incinerators commenced operating tests in Koizumi, part of the Kesenuma block, on January 29, 2013



Photo: Ministry of the Environment

Recycling, etc.

As far as practicable, the disaster waste and Tsunami deposit is recycled. In particular, active efforts are made to use recycled materials for public works such as repairs to river and coastal levees and restoration of hazard-protection coastal forests in the affected areas. Approximately 9.34 million tons will be recycled.

Coastal levee repair project in Iwaki



Photo: Ministry of the Environment

Nakanohama-en reconstruction project in Miyako, Iwate



Photo: Ministry of the Environment

Major public works using recycled materials from debris

Amount used (x 10,000 tons; includes planned usage)			
	Projects	Recycled material	
Iwate Pref.	Repairs to river and coastal levees	Concrete debris	25
	Restoration of coastal forests	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris	20
	Agricultural land construction	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris	68
	Park construction	Tsunami sediment	19
	Fishing port repairs	Concrete debris	13
	Temporary storage facility construction	Concrete debris	32
	Other projects	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris	104
Miyagi Pref.	Repairs to river and coastal levees	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris	56
	Restoration of coastal forests	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris	106
	Agricultural land construction	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris	15
	Park construction	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris etc.	204
	Fishing port repairs	Concrete debris	28
	Temporary storage facility construction	Concrete debris	69
	Other projects	Tsunami sediment Concrete debris	143
Fukushima Pref.	Repairs to river and coastal levees	Concrete debris	9
	Park construction	Tsunami sediment	16
	Other	Concrete debris	9

Source: Ministry of the Environment

Cooperation from non-affected areas on debris disposal

Most of the disaster waste is being disposed of or recycled locally, but to accelerate the area's recovery and restoration, cooperation from non-affected areas was called for on disaster waste disposal, approxi-

mately 610,000 tons in total. Seventeen prefectures have since accepted and disposed of approximately 410,000 tons (as of end-June 2013).

Temporary storage sites in Matsushima (Miyagi) cleared when disaster waste accepted by Yamagata prefecture (Before: May 2, 2012; After: January 7, 2013)



Photo: Ministry of the Environment