Japan’s Home Appliance Recycling Law
- enacted in 1998 and enforced in 2001 -

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Objective:
To realize sound waste treatment and efficient use of resources through reduction of wastes and full utilization of recyclable resources
To promote Design for Environment

Mechanism:
To place an obligation on manufactures and retailers of home appliances

Targets:
Air conditioners, televisions (CRT types only), refrigerators and freezers, and washing machines
Recycling Flow of Home Appliances

Consumer
Discharging
Payment of fees for collection and recycling

Retailer
Obligation to collect
1. Specified home appliances sold by the retailer
2. Specified home appliances collected when new appliances are purchased
Obligation to transfer

Designated collection site

Designated Corporation
Obligation to collect
1. Absence of a party responsible for collection and recycling
2. Consignment by medium and small businesses

Manufacturer / Importer
Obligation of recycling
Specified appliances formerly manufactured or imported by the manufacturer or importer

Municipality
Implementation of the Home Appliance Recycling Law (1)

(Data) MOE and METI

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### Implementation of the Home Appliance Recycling Law (2)

**Table**: Recycled rates of the designated items in FY 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Air conditioners</th>
<th>TV set</th>
<th>Refrigerators / Freezers</th>
<th>Washing Machines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of collected appliances</td>
<td>Thousand</td>
<td>1,814</td>
<td>3,786</td>
<td>2,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of recycled appliances</td>
<td>Thousand</td>
<td>1,809</td>
<td>3,777</td>
<td>2,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of recycled appliances (A)</td>
<td>Ton</td>
<td>79,044</td>
<td>103,200</td>
<td>161,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight of recycled resources (B)</td>
<td>Ton</td>
<td>64,939</td>
<td>83,868</td>
<td>103,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling rate (B/A)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards of recycling rate (Data)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data) MOE and METI
Implementation of the Home Appliance Recycling Law (3)

Estimated number of illegally damped appliances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of illegally damped appliances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2000</td>
<td>122,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2001</td>
<td>138,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2002</td>
<td>166,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2003</td>
<td>176,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2004</td>
<td>172,499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data) MOE and METI

Enforcement of the Law
Review of the Home Appliance Recycling Law

• The Law stipulates that the Government shall review the Law and take necessary actions when five years passed since the enforcement of the Law (April 1, 2001).

• Hence, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) established a joint committee for the review in June 2006. The committee will discuss several issues at the moment.
Several Discussion Points in the Review (1)

• Mass Flow of the Appliances
  – Half of the Disposed Appliances are Recycled by Manufacturers

• Prevention of Illegal Dump

• Promotion of Design for Environment (DfE)

• Promotion of Reduce and Reuse

• Recycling Fee System
  – Timing of Recycling Fee Payment
  – Transparency of the Fee
  – Incentive toward Lower Fee

• Targeted Appliances
  – Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) and Plasma Display Panel (PDP), etc.
Several Discussion Points in the Review (2)

• Standards of Recycling Rate
  – All Manufactures have achieved Standards

• Establishment of more Efficient Collection Route
  – From Current Two Routes to One Route, Collection Route for Internet Merchandizing
  – Shipping Cost from Islands to the Main Land (Fairness of Transportation Cost)

• Better Public Awareness

• Recycling System in Perspective of Asia
  – Better Harmonization of Recycling Systems
  – Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of E-waste
Conclusion

• Collected home appliances are recycled with high standards.
• Yet, an unseen flow of used electric appliances is a big problem.
• How to pay the recycling charge is another big issue.
• DfE must be promoted further than in the present situation.