



**3R Portfolio**  
**- Good Practices to Promote the 3Rs -**

**Country: Japan**

**Major Activities**

1. Promotion of Measures to Establish a Sound Material-Cycle Society in a Comprehensive and Planned Manner

- Enactment of the Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society (June 2000)
- Formulation of the Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society based on the Law (March 2003, by Cabinet Decision)

Establishment of Quantitative Targets (2000 → 2010)

Resource Productivity (GDP/Direct material input): JPY280,000/t → JPY390,000/t  
 Cyclical Use Rate (Reused and recycled material input/Total material input): 10% → 14%  
 Final Disposal Amount: 56 million t → 28 million t

2. Promotion of Proper Treatment and Reduction of Wastes

- Reinforcement of measures for recycling and proper treatment of wastes through amendments to the Waste Management Law
- Formulation of basic policies based on the Law and setting up targets for waste reduction (1997 → 2010)

	Municipal waste	Industrial waste
Waste generation	5% reduction	Keep the rate of increase below 12%
Waste recycling	11% → 24%	41% → 47%
Final disposal amount	50% reduction	50% reduction

- Some local governments assess waste treatment fees and levy taxes on landfilled industrial wastes.

3. Promotion of 3R Considerations in Product Design and Production Stages

- Law for Effective Utilization of Resources (originally enacted as the Law for Promotion of Utilization of Recyclables in April 1991 and amended in June 2000) designates 10 industry sectors and 69 products, covering about 50% of generated municipal and industrial waste, mandating utilization of used parts and recycled materials and the integration of 3R considerations into product design.

4. Enactment of Recycling Laws

- Containers and Packaging Recycling Law (June 1995), Home Appliance Recycling Laws (TV sets, air conditioners, refrigerators, washers; June 1998), Construction Material Recycling Law (May 2000), Food Recycling Law (June 2000), End-of-Life Vehicles Recycling Law (July 2002)

5. Promotion of Green Purchasing

- Government organizations take initiatives to procure products and services with less environmental loads based on the Green Purchasing Law (May 2000)
- The Green Purchasing Network (with participation by private companies, governments, and private organizations; established in 1996) promotes purchasing of products and services with less environmental loads.

#### 6. Promotion of Ecolabeling

- Mandatory labeling with material-identifying marks to promote separated waste collection based on Law for Effective Utilization of Resources
- Promotion of “the Eco Mark” indicating products with less environmental loads among items in the same product category (voluntary ecolabeling) (started in 1989; Secretariat: Japan Environmental Association [JEA])
- With administrative support provided by JEA, Global Ecolabeling Network (GEN; has participation of secretariats of ecolabeling programs around the world, including the Japanese Eco Mark program, established in 1994) has started a study on international harmonization of ecolabeling standards.

#### 7. Preparation and Implementation of Voluntary Action Plans by Industry

- Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, now known as the Nippon Keidanren, Japan Business Federation) prepared voluntary action plans for the environment with targets for waste reduction established by industry sector (1997). It continuously publishes activity reports.

#### 8. Promotion of Advanced Urban and Community Development in Harmony with the Environment (Eco-Town Program)

- The central government provides local governments and private organizations with subsidies for projects which contribute to the establishment of a sound material-cycle society, to be implemented according to the plans developed by local governments (approved by both the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment). The Program started in 1997 and 23 areas have been designated as of October 2004.

#### 9. Financial Support to Local Governments and the Private Sector

- Subsidies and low-interest loans by public financial institutions for the establishment of 3R-related facilities, accelerated depreciation for part of the payment for recycling facilities (national taxes), reduction of property taxes on waste recycling facilities (local taxes)

#### 10. Promotion of Environmental Education

- Enactment of the Environmental Education Promotion Law (July 2003) in order to increase awareness of citizens for environmental protection through promotion of environmental education (July 2003)

#### 11. Promotion of Research and Technology Development

- The Council for Science and Technology Policy, which was established to develop and coordinate comprehensive and basic policies for science and technology with a wide view on national science and technology, has selected “Zero-Emission and Sound Material-Cycle Technology Research” as a priority. Based on this, efforts for the promotion of research and technology development for the 3Rs have been carried out.

#### 12. Provision of 3R-related Information

- Dissemination of information useful to green purchasing through management of an information provision system for green products and databases on good practices regarding green purchasing and environmental labels
- Enhancement of private companies' provision of information regarding their environmental performance through the enactment of the Environmental Awareness Promotion Law (June 2004) and the issuance of guidelines for environmental reports
- Creation and operation of websites for awareness-raising regarding 3R promotion (e.g., Re-style (<http://www.re-style.jp/>) by the Ministry of the Environment )
- Website of the Ministerial Conference on the 3R Initiative (<http://www.env.go.jp/earth/3r/en/>) (Nov. 2004)

#### 13. Establishment of the Asian Network for Prevention of Illegal Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes

- Enhancement in Asia of cooperative relationships among government officials of the competent authorities under the Basel Convention through the holding of a workshop to share information and experiences (Dec. 2004)

#### 14. Promotion of International Cooperation

- In addition to development surveys and technical cooperation such as the development of policies and institutions and the dissemination of technologies, the extending of grants-in-aid for the provision of equipment and construction of facilities for waste management, for the shipping of recycling goods to developing countries, and extending overseas investment loan etc by Japan Bank for International Cooperation to the projects such as recycle projects overseas by Japanese companies.
- Through the Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, the collection of good practices on and implementation of pilot projects for proper waste management and recycling
- For enhancement of green products, an Eco-Products Exhibition Fair was held in Malaysia in Sept. 2004, hosted by the Asian Productivity Organization, which has participation by 20 nations of Asia and Oceania, and by the relevant association in Malaysia with support from the Government of Japan.

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