


# **Solid Waste Management and Recycling Technology of Japan**

## **— Toward a Sustainable Society —**



**Ministry of the Environment**  
Minister's Secretariat, Waste Management and Recycling Department  
Policy Planning Division, Office of Sound Material-Cycle Society



**With the aim of preserving the environment in rapidly developing nations, we will introduce Japanese waste management and recycling technologies, which effectively turn waste into resources or appropriately dispose of it.**

Due to economic development, industrialization and increasing population, problems related to the expanded consumption and depletion of resources, and the increased output of wide-ranging types of waste are becoming more serious than ever.

There is a word in Japan: Mottainai. It encompasses the practice of treasuring and using all things as long as possible. While economies continue to grow, this spirit of Mottainai restrained the generation of waste and motivated the development of technology for reuse, recycling and effective use through heat recovery.

As Japan's landmass is limited and finding landfill disposal sites is difficult, we have developed a system to collect and transport waste, process it through intermediary treatment by incineration and other methods, and then dispose it in landfills in a sanitary manner, in order to prevent environmental pollution in the areas surrounding densely populated cities.

This booklet introduces some of leading Japanese waste disposal and recycling technologies.

We hope to create a material-recycle society that generates as little waste as possible and recycles and reuses wastes as resources, and hope that the most advanced technologies and systems based on our experience and achievement may assist to preserve the environment and recycle resources on a global level.

Ministry of the Environment





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