

Action Plan for Eradication of Illegal Dumping

June 15, 2004

Ministry of the Environment

1. Status of Illegal Dumping

Number and volume of illegal dumping cases

- * Volume of newly identified illegal dumping of industrial waste in a year is shifting around 400 thousands tons (approximately 1,000 cases) in recent years.
- * In early FY 2003, nationwide volume of illegal dumping remaining unsolved was 10,960 thousands tons (approximately 2,500 cases).

Consequences of illegal dumping

- * Illegal dumping causes not only environmental damages such as water and soil contamination but also economical damages such as cost required for restoration of sites to their original state (Teshima case, Kagawa Prefecture: ¥44.7 billion. A case of prefectural boundary between Aomori and Iwate: ¥65.5 billion)
- * It also causes serious social impact such as destruction of neighboring communities.

2. Purpose of the Action Plan

- * Considering various consequences of illegal dumping, preventive approach is indispensable.
- * In addition to the existing measures, such as the enhancement of penal regulations, the comprehensive measure for every steps in the waste treatment (Action Plan) is needed.
- * The urgent goal of measures for illegal dumping: "To eradicate large scale cases (a case over 5,000 tons) in 5 years by taking prompt actions" shall be achieved by implementing the Action Plan.

3. Gist of the Action Plan (3 points of focus)

Improving awareness in the community

- enhancing measures for littered trash in the neighborhood (application of the broken window theory)

- * Formulating guidelines for sorted collection, promoting reduction of waste in daily life, etc

Enhancement of the system for industrial waste treatment

- securing treatment bodies and improving transparency of the waste treatment system

- * Pasting a notice bill on vehicles carrying waste, exhaustive administrative disposition, improving management system of transboundary movements of waste.
- * Enhancing governmental support for efficient set up of treatment facilities, reinforcing safety measures for final disposal sites, etc.

Human resources development supporting the system

- fostering excellent treatment operators and system development by administration

- * Fostering excellent operators through formulating evaluation standards and tax benefit measures.
- * Human resources development in the central and local governments by dispatching experts and holding seminars on industrial waste treatment.
- * Enhancing regional environmental offices and reinforcing prompt response system on the front line and environmental monitoring (patrolling) through setting up a hot line system.

Note: This Action Plan shall be promoted with the consent and understanding of the other ministries concerned. For its implementation, "inter-ministries meeting for measures for industrial wastes such as securing final disposal sites" shall be utilized.