

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy in Japan

Policies and practices

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Chika Aoki-Suzuki (Ms.)

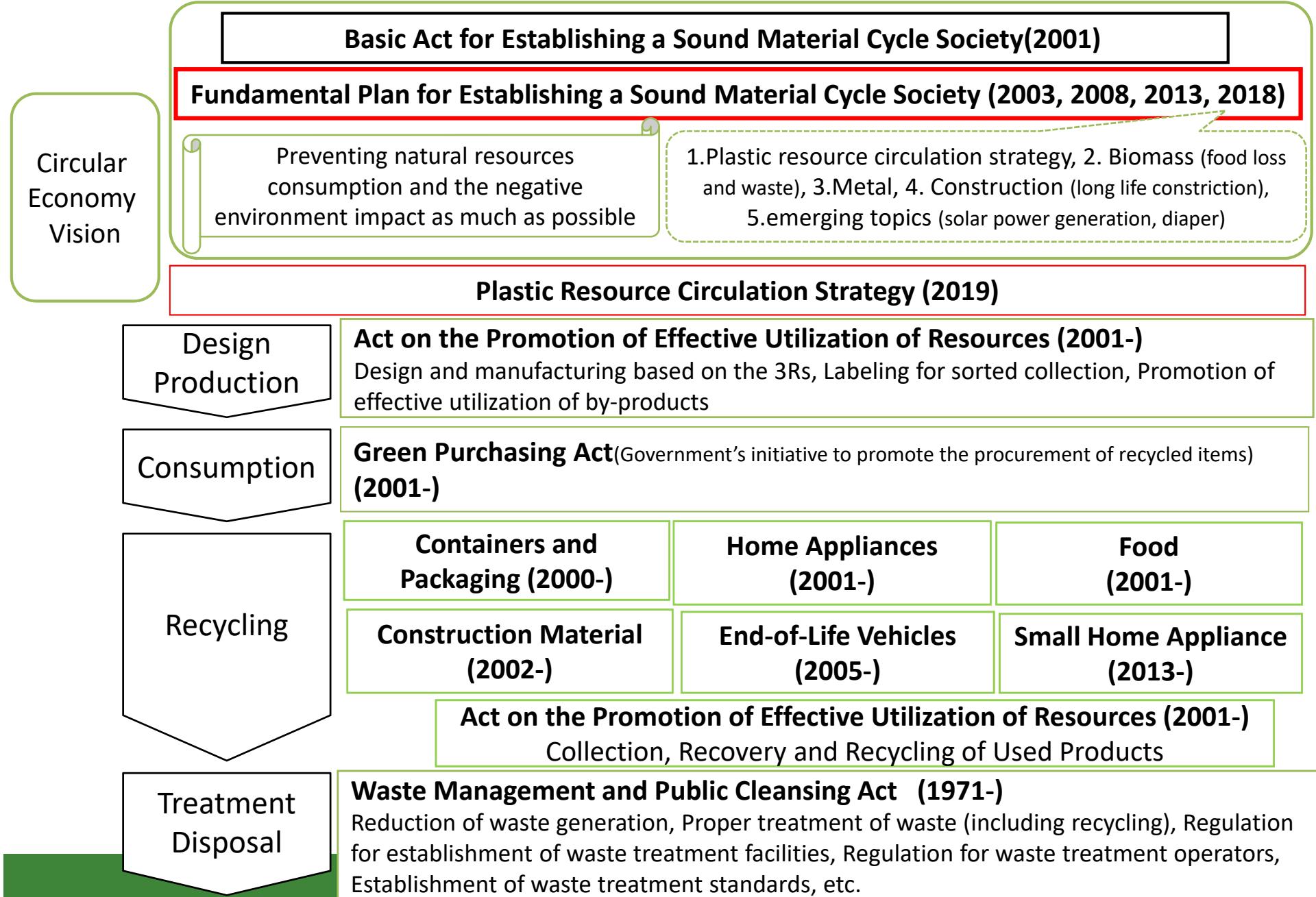
Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies



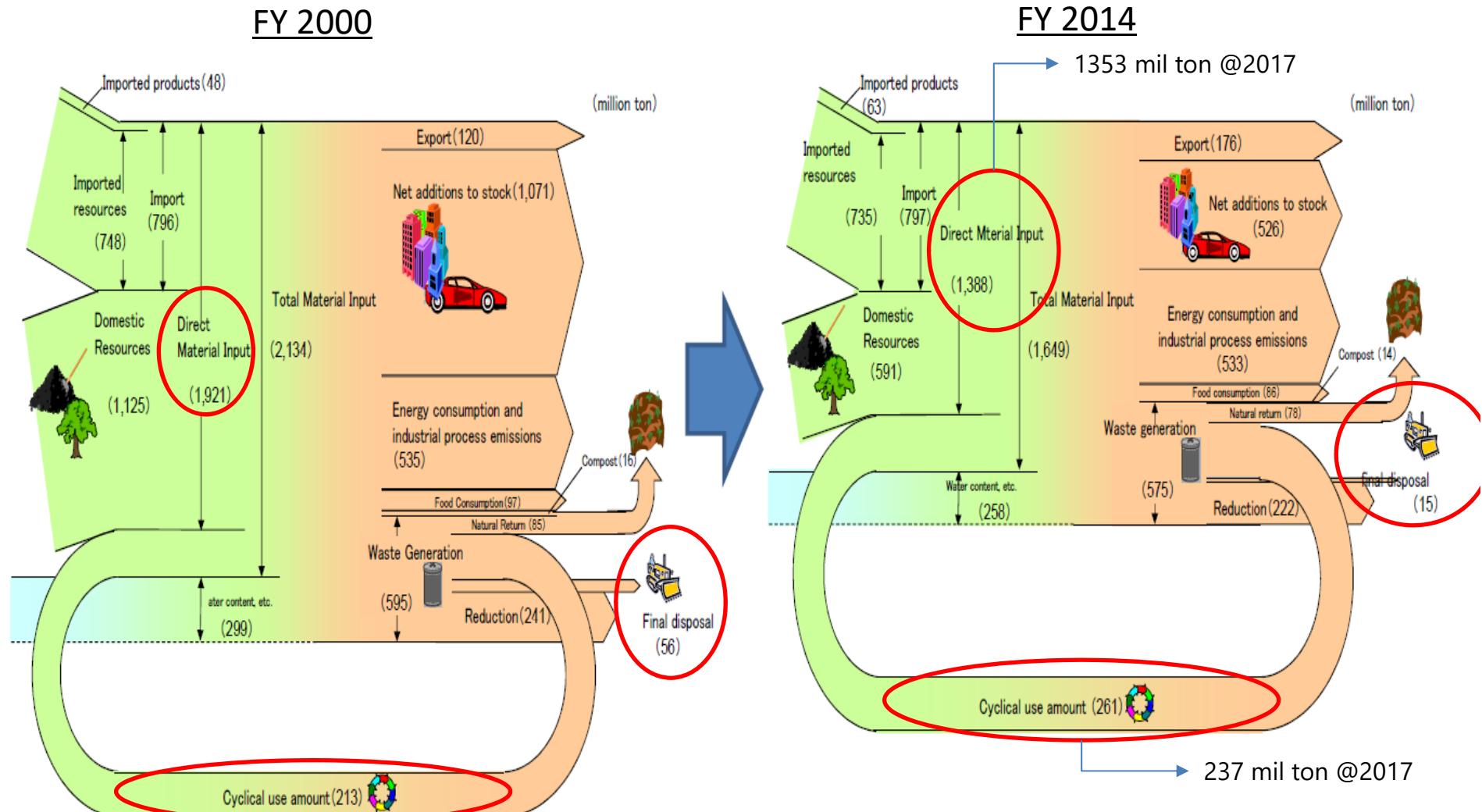
- Dedicated in the studies on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy policies and indicators
- Involved in international policy process on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy
 - G7 Resource Efficiency Alliance WS
 - G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue
- Contributed to editing a synthesis report which compiles Resource Efficiency Policies of G7 countries
 - "Our Actions for a Resource-efficient Future: Following up G7 Progress on Toyama Framework on Material Cycles and 5-year Bologna Roadmap"
 - G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter
- Member for working group on financing Circular Economy and Plastic Resource Circulation under Japanese Government
 - Ministry of the Economy, Trade and Industry
 - Ministry of the Environment



Policy framework for Sound Material Cycle Society



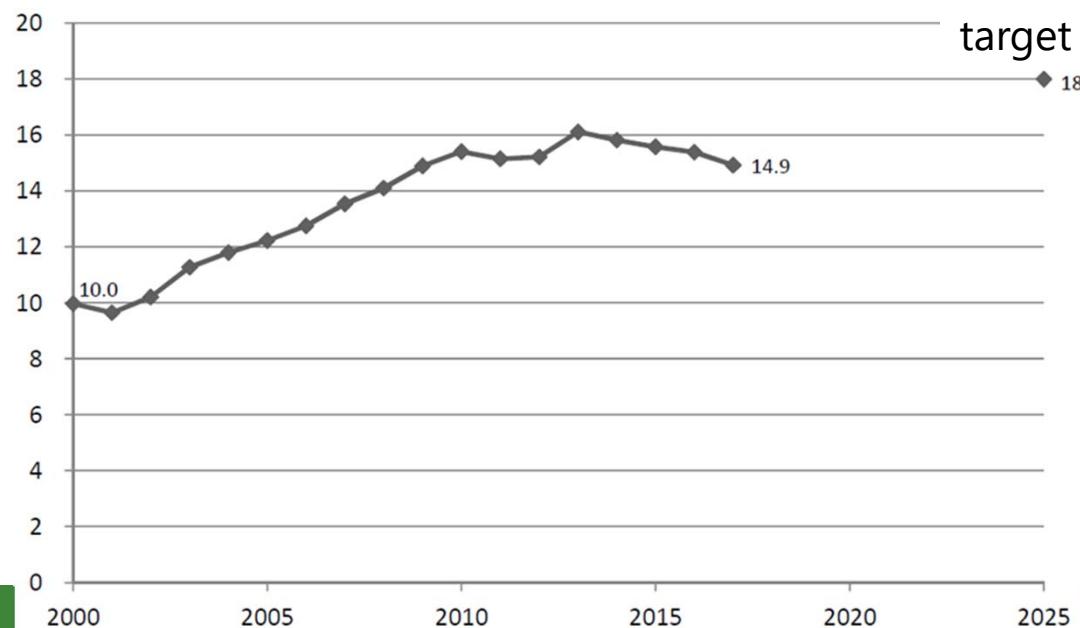
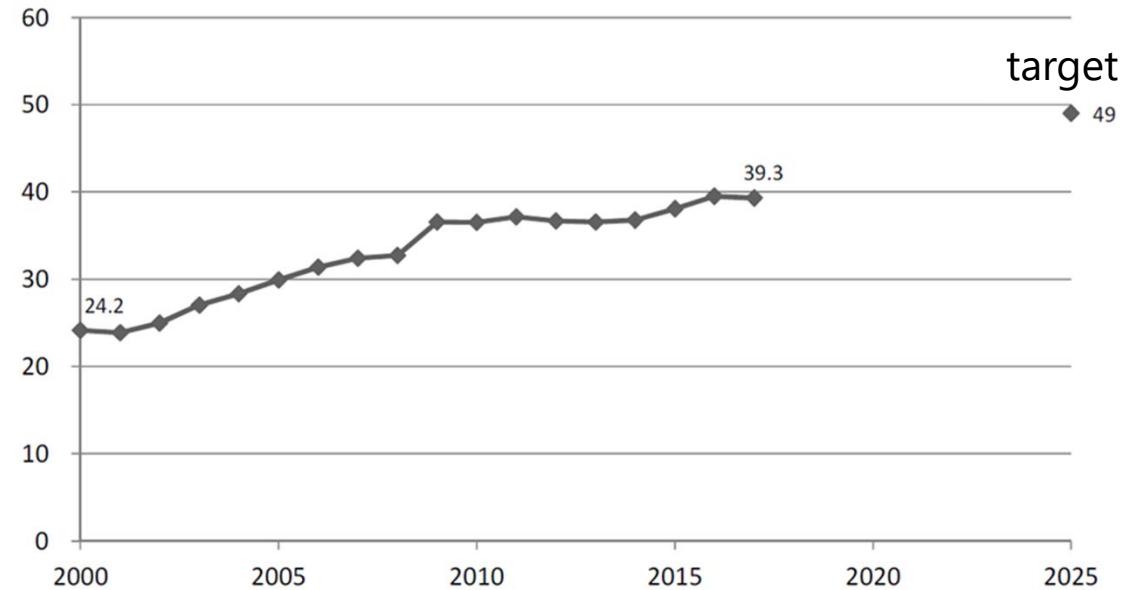
Material Flow in Japan



Source: Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)

Resource Productivity and Cyclical Use Rate

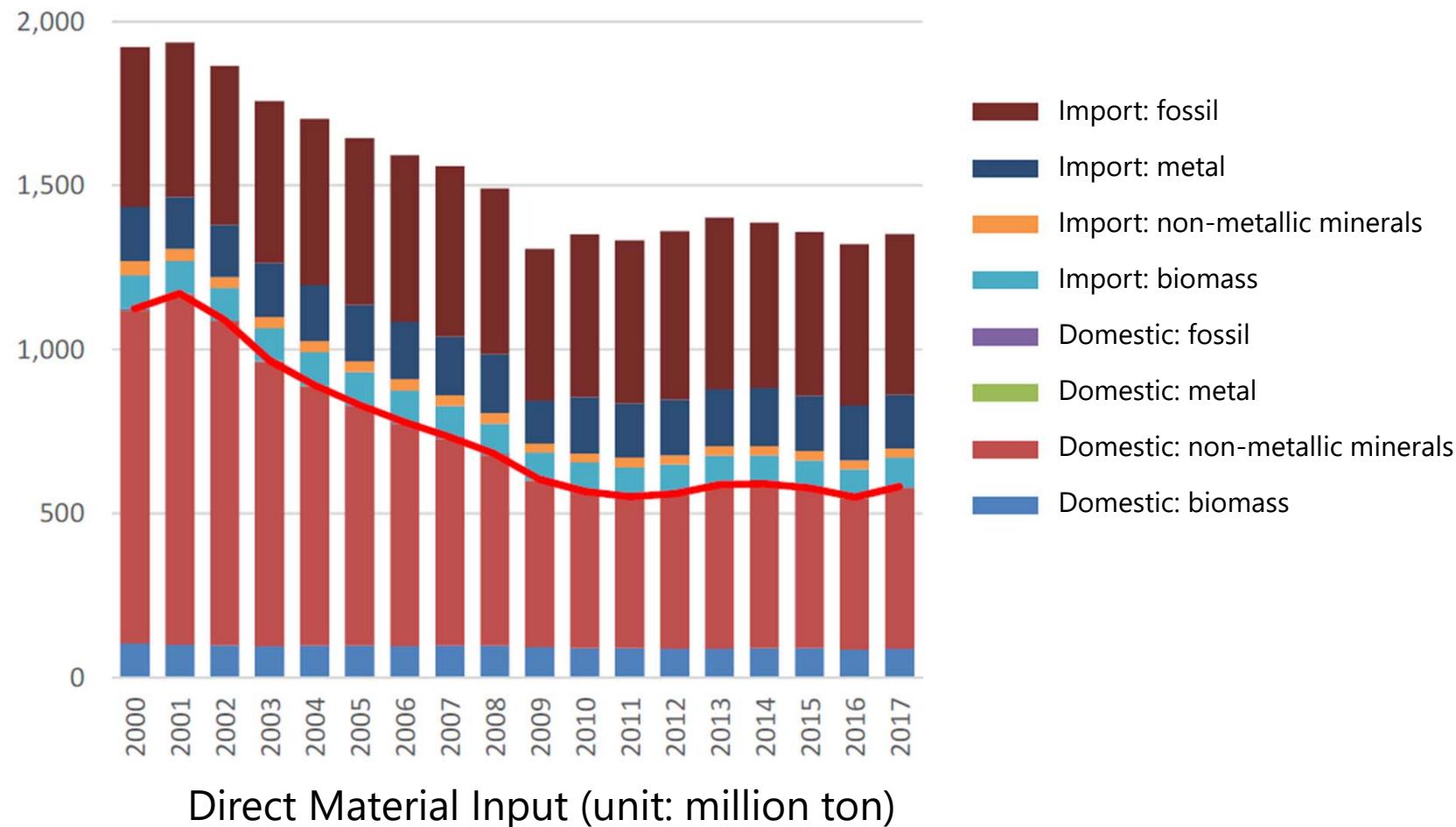
Resource Productivity
=GDP / Direct Material
Input



Cyclical use rate =
cyclical use amount/
(Cyclical use amount +
Direct Material Input)

Source: Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)

Direct Material Input-reduction in construction materials



Source: Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)

Plastic Resource Circulation Strategy

プラスチック資源循環戦略 Plastic Resource Circulation Strategy

Reiwa year 1(year 2019), May 31

令和元年 5 月 31 日

消費 者 庁	Consumer Affairs Agency
外 務 省	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
財 務 省	Ministry of Finance
文 部 科 學 省	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
厚 生 労 動 省	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
農 林 水 産 省	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
経 済 産 業 省	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
国 土 交 通 省	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
環 境 省	Ministry of the Environment

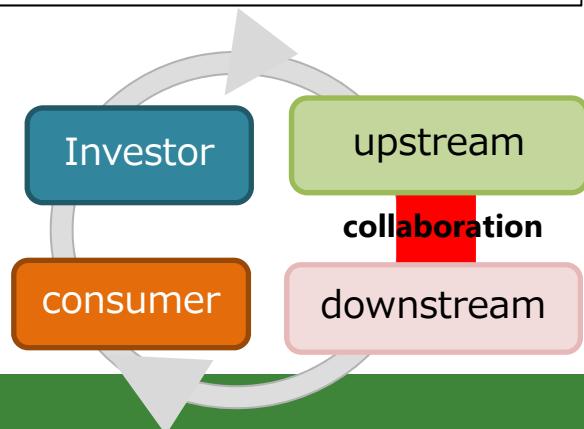
Source: Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)

- Cumulative 25% reduction in one-way plastic emissions by 2030
- Achieve design for plastic packaging and containers to be recyclable and reusable by 2025
- Recycle, reuse etc. covering 60% of plastic packaging by 2030
- 100% effective utilisation (reuse, recycle and recovery) of all used plastics by 2035
- Double the use of recycled plastic by 2030
- Increase domestic shipping of biomass plastic to 2 million tonnes/year by 2030



Basic Principles: 3R + Renewable
Reduce; Recycle; Recycled material and bioplastic; Measures for marine plastic; International collaboration/cooperation; and Developing basis for action

Circular Economy Vision 2020



Developed a vision for CE transformation in Japan

- Second vision (first vision in 1999, transformation to the 3Rs)
- Aiming to strengthening the medium- long-term **competitiveness of Japanese industry by circular economy** transition
- Seize new business **opportunities** that will lead to a "**virtuous cycle of environment and growth**"
 - Key drivers : *digital technology & increasing demand from markets and society for environmental action*

Key topics

- Shift to a circular business model
- Better engagement with market, investors and consumers
 - **Indicators, Guidance for investment in a circular economy, labelling, GPP, incentives for recycled materials, industry-led standardization, product information disclosure**
- Elaborating domestic recycling system
 - **quality and amount**
- Key areas
 - **Plastic, Textile, CFRP, batteries and PV panels**

Encouraging voluntary actions by private sectors

Public Private Partnership

Plastic Smart

- dialogues and information exchange between companies and organisations
- a nationwide smart approach to plastics
 - reducing unnecessary one-way (single-use) plastic discharge, separation and collection
- variety of relevant information and opportunities for meetings, awards, symposiums

<http://plastics-smart.env.go.jp/en/>



Plastics
Smart

CLOMA: Japan Clean Ocean Material Alliance

- Dissemination and Promotion
- International collaboration
- Technology development
- 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) technologies
- plastics with excellent biodegradability
- Alternative materials



<https://cloma.net/english/>

Practices in Private sectors-examples

Kao and Lion (toiletry goods companies)

- The two companies' collaboration for Resource Circulation for Plastic Packaging
- 1) Development new approach for joint-sorting and collection film packaging in cooperation with consumers, government agencies and retailers.
- 2) Creating common recycled materials and packaging design across companies or industries.
- 3) Utilization of recycled materials that are jointly collected and recycled.
- 4) Awareness raising for consumers.

Source: <https://www.lion.co.jp/en/press/2020/3289>
<https://www.kao.com/global/en/news/sustainability/2020/20200929-002/>

UNIQLO

- UNIQLO Japan collects their down products at their stores and recycles them, then uses the recycled down as part of new products



Source: <https://www.uniqlo.com/en/re-uniqlo/product/>

Thank you
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