

# Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy in Japan

## Policies and practices

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## Chika Aoki-Suzuki (Ms.)

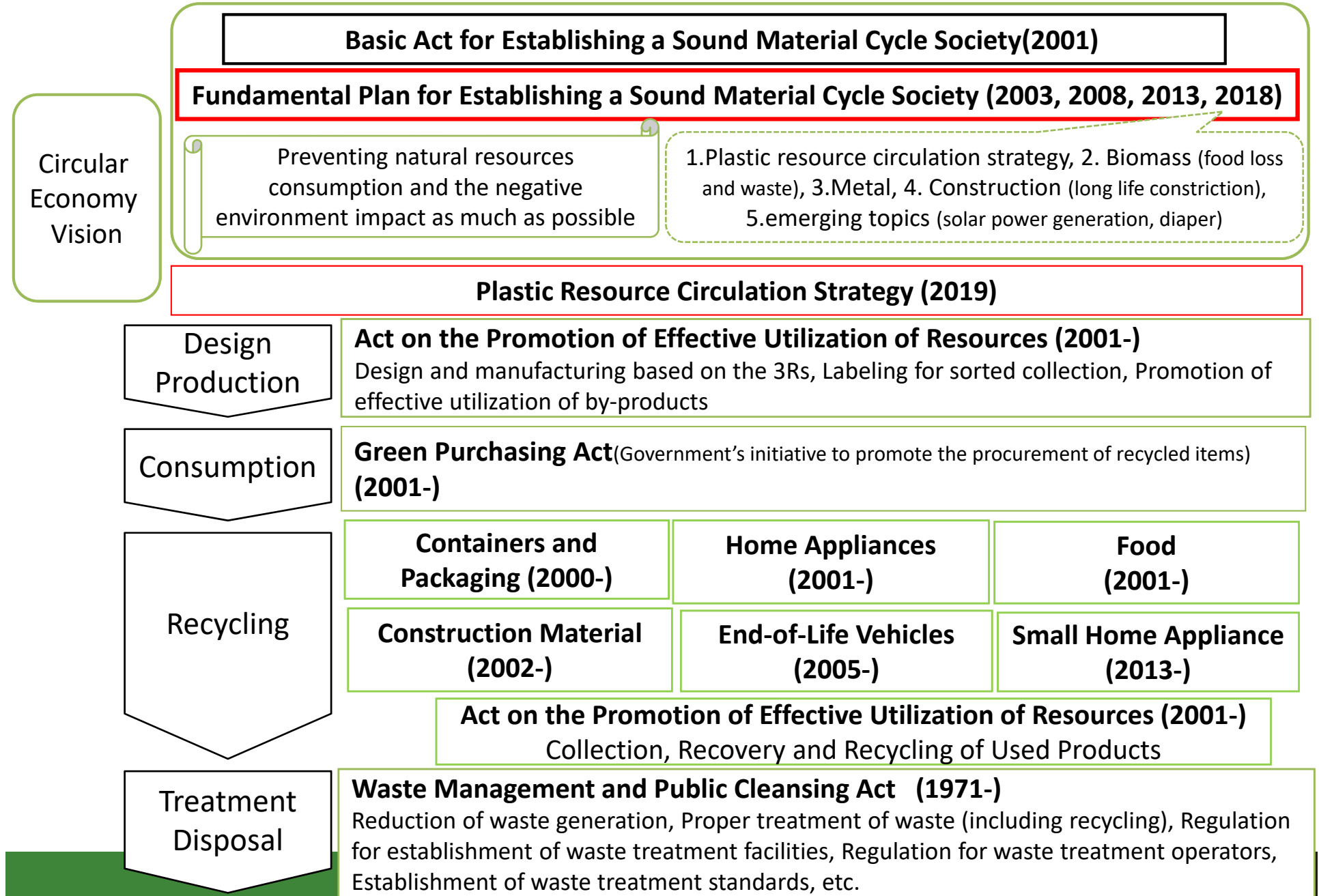
Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies



- 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

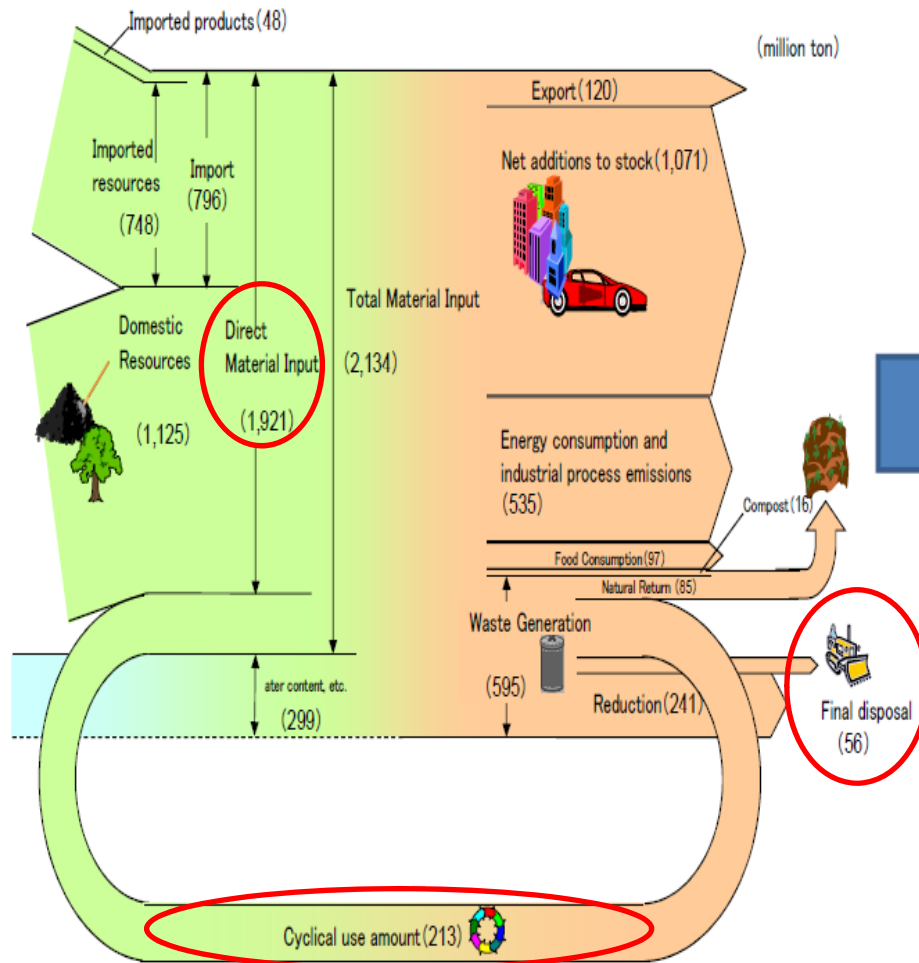


# Policy framework for Sound Material Cycle Society

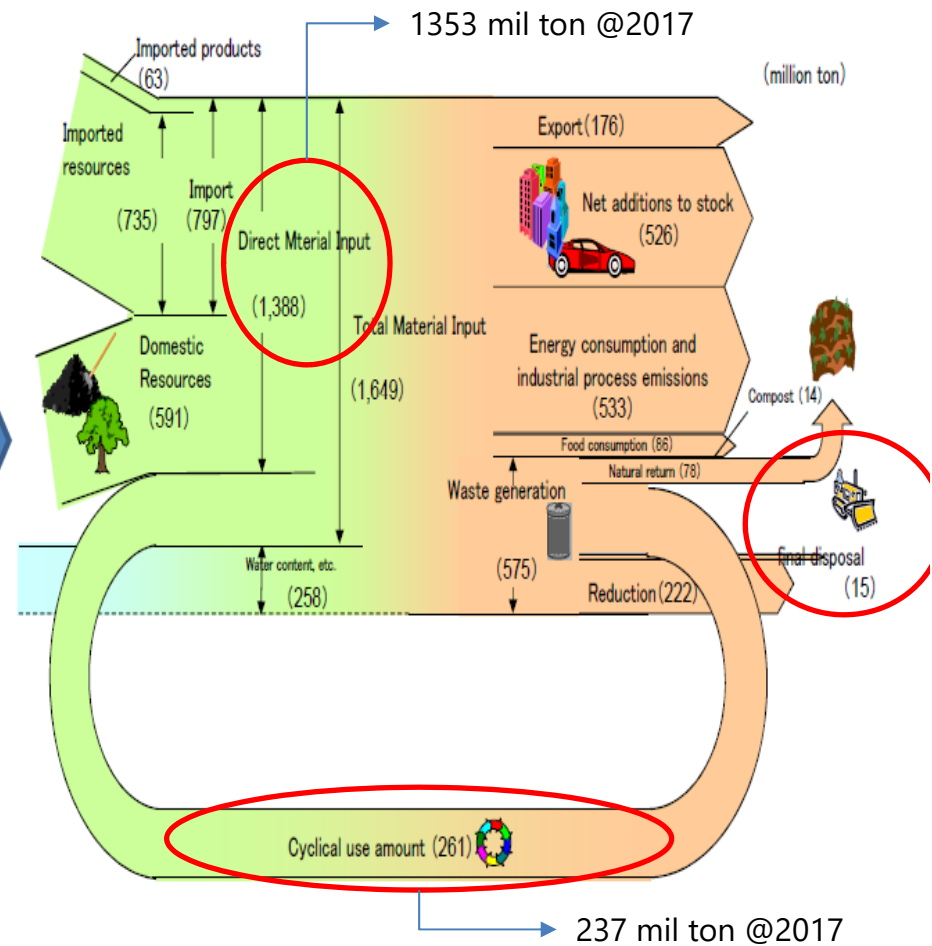


# Material Flow in Japan

FY 2000



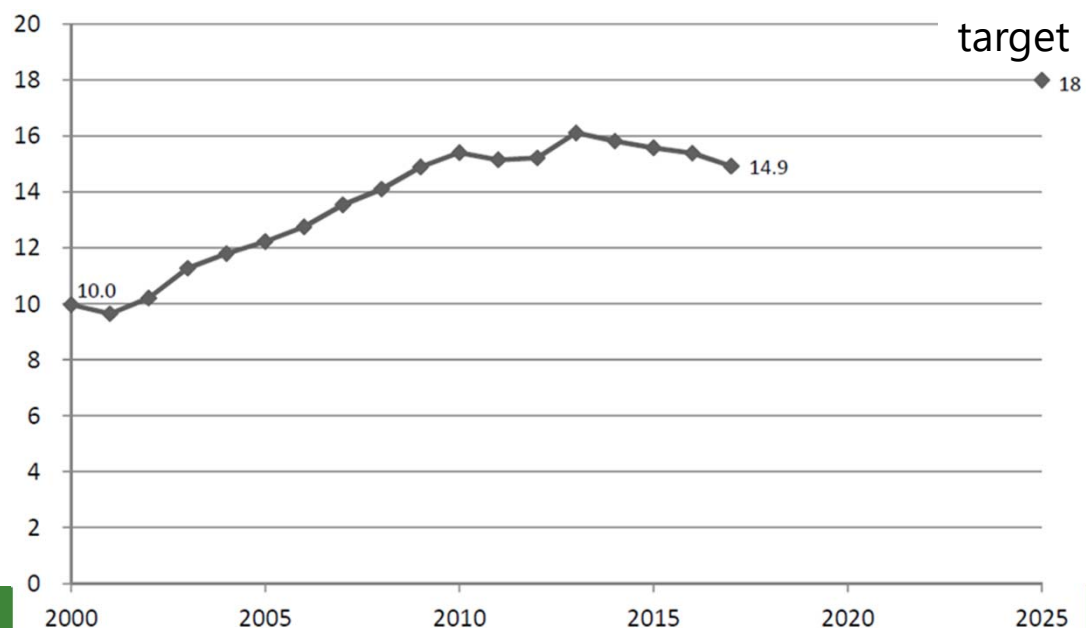
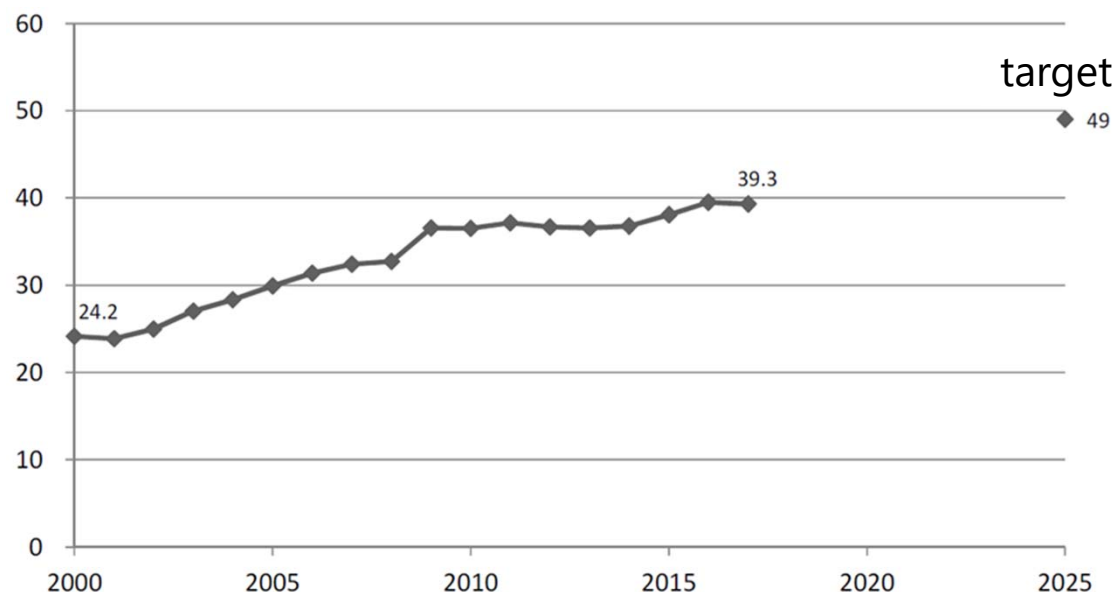
FY 2014



Source: Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)

# Resource Productivity and Cyclical Use Rate

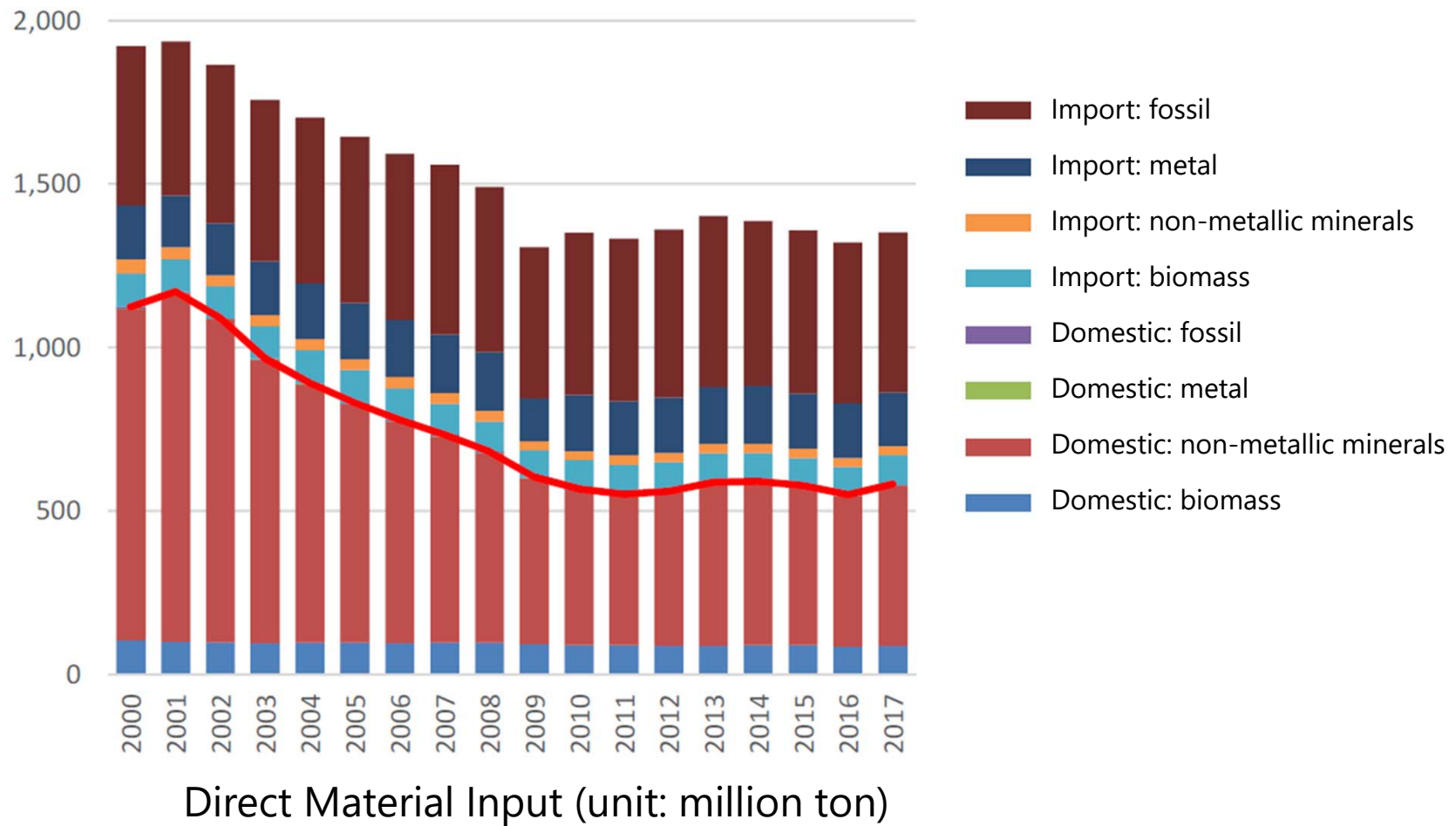
Resource Productivity  
= GDP / Direct Material  
Input



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
文部科学省	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
厚生労働省	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

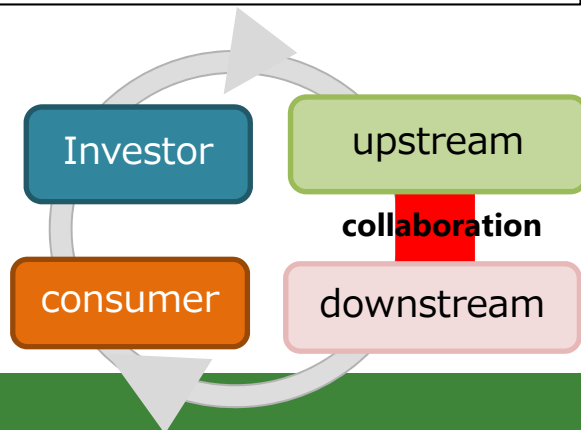
Reduce; Recycle; Recycled material and bioplastic; Measures for marine plastic; International collaboration/cooperation; and Developing basis for action



# Circular Economy Vision 2020

循環経済ビジョン 2020  
Circular Economy Vision 2020

2020年5月  
May, 2020  
経済産業省  
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry



## 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/>



## 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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