



Hello! This is the monthly information on environmental issues from Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Japan.

■ 1 TMG Environmental Policy Information

Waste Plastics and Promotion of Recycling

1. Current Status

The rate of recycling waste plastics disposed of by industry is higher than those by households when viewed on a national basis. Industrial waste plastics contain a large amount of recyclables, such as those lost in the production process.

However, in Tokyo, where there is a lot of waste plastics generated by office buildings, plastics recycling is not progressing as expected. They are miscellaneous, unclean, and often contain foreign particles. Most of the waste plastics generated in Tokyo are disposed in the landfill.

Status of Tokyo's and nationwide treatment of industrial waste plastics

○Current Status of Treatment in Tokyo (Estimated FY2006 figures)

570,000 tons disposed→Recycled (26%), Incinerated (27%), Landfill (47%) (Bureau of the Environment, Tokyo Metropolitan Government)

○Current Status of Treatment Nationally (Estimated FY2006 figures)

4.98 million tons disposed→Recycled (61%), Incinerated (31%), Landfill (8%) (Plastic Waste Management Institute) Note: thermal recovery includes heat utilization.

2. Initiative toward zero landfill waste plastics

For zero landfill waste plastics generated by businesses, the separation of waste and recyclables at the emission stage and recycling at the disposal stage is important.

In January 2008, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government disclosed its phase out policy for acceptance of industrial waste plastics at the TMG landfill site.

To promote recycling, not the landfill, any business generating and carrying waste plastics in the TMG landfill are given information on how to reduce the amount of waste plastics and where to recycle them.

In FY2009, the Agreement Concerning Zero Landfill Waste plastics are concluded with businesses who are actively engaged in recycling waste plastics. TMG will continually promote reducing and recycling waste plastics, raising awareness of the waste generator.

3. What is the Zero Waste plastic in Landfill Agreement?

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government is planning to realize the Zero Waste plastics in Landfill by the end of the FY2010 in an effort to promote longer use of landfill site and to make Tokyo sustainable by realizing sound-material cycle and low carbon society. TMG is concluding agreements with businesses that will cooperate with this, and promoting waste plastics reduction and recycling.

4. Outlines of the Agreement

(1) Targeted businesses

Industrial waste businesses (collection and transport companies, treatment companies)

(2) Contents

* Activities the industrial waste disposal companies will carry out:

Collection and transport companies:

* approaching the waste generating businesses

* promoting recycling while collecting and transporting

Treatment companies:

* approaching the waste generating businesses

* promoting effective use of waste plastics while treatment

TMG will carry out:

* Publicly announce the names of agreement signatories

* Publicly announce the plans and status reports in the agreement

* Confirm the status of planned efforts

Basic Policy for Tokyo Metropolitan Government Landfill Site regarding Zero Landfill Waste Plastics Generated as Industrial Waste

1. Objective

To promote recycling waste plastics and reduce the amount of waste plastic generated as industrial waste to zero in the landfill by FY 2011.

2. Provide information of alternative disposal methods for landfill and its priority

(1) Promote material recycling of waste plastics composed of the single material.

(2) Promote recycling of waste plastics with few foreign particles or clean enough as industrial fuel.

(3) Promote thermal recovery as fuel for power generation

3. Annual Plan for Approved Amount of Waste Plastics Collection

Year	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Approved Amount of Waste Plastics (10,000 ton units)	17	15	11	6	0
Rate of reduction compared to FY 2007	—	△12%	△36%	△65%	△100%

4. Approved Amount of Waste Plastics for Each Business

Based on the approved amount of waste plastic for the year as stated above, a quota is given for each business regarding the approved amount they may bring.

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