

Let's Try Biodiversity Pick Up !

Part **2**

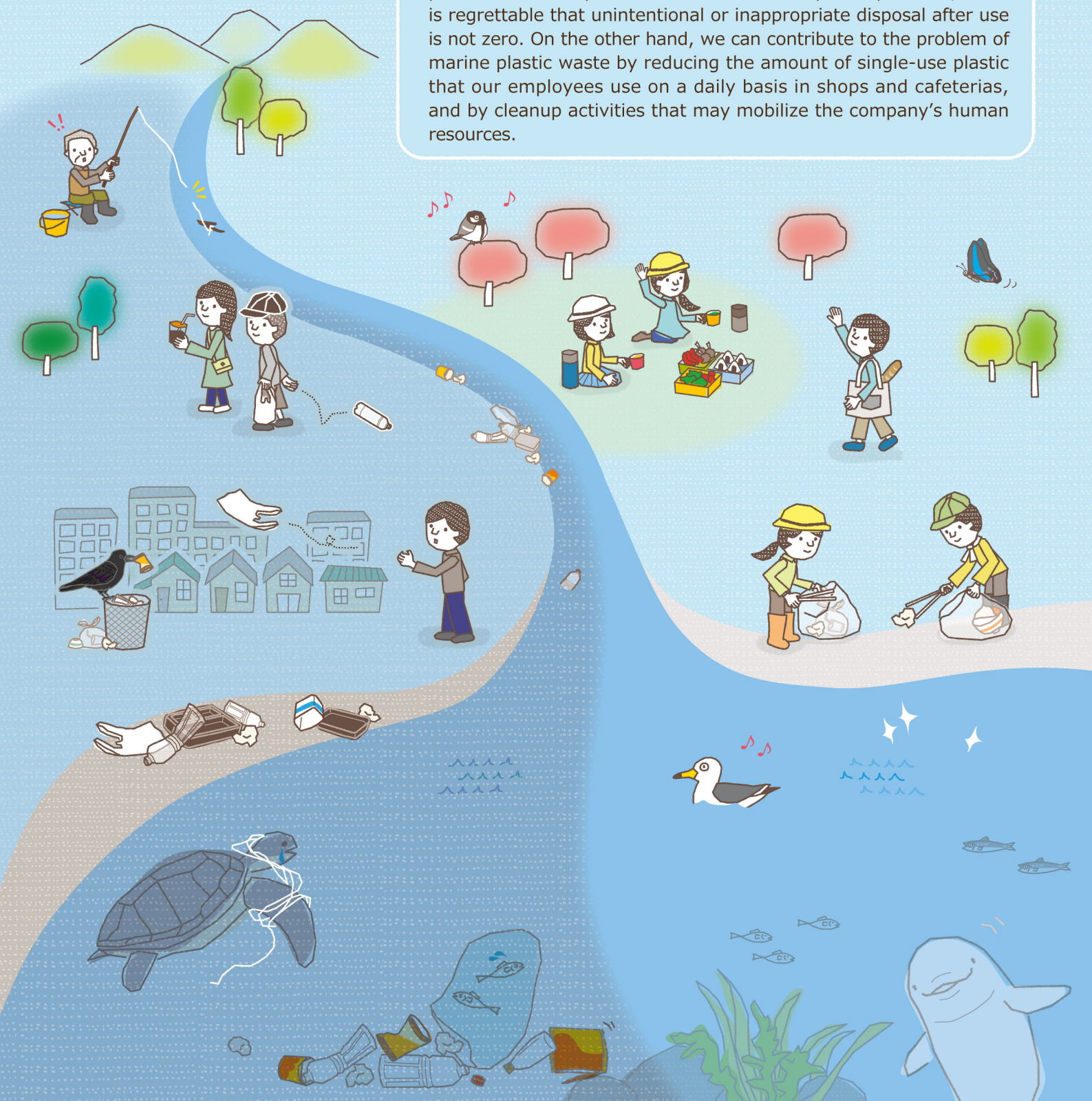
Reduce waste on the ground to reduce marine plastics!



Easy Ways to Consider the Environment/Biodiversity

[Electrical and electronic industries and the marine plastics issue]

Plastic is a useful material for maintaining the functionality and safety of products, and there is a need to promote its sustainable use. We believe that plastics used in electrical and electronic products are rarely a direct cause of marine plastic pollution, but it is regrettable that unintentional or inappropriate disposal after use is not zero. On the other hand, we can contribute to the problem of marine plastic waste by reducing the amount of single-use plastic that our employees use on a daily basis in shops and cafeterias, and by cleanup activities that may mobilize the company's human resources.



Activities to protect the ecosystem

Reducing Plastic Waste to Protect Marine Ecosystems

Related Aichi Targets



Sustainable consumption and production



Pressures on vulnerable ecosystems reduced



Ecosystems and essential services safeguarded

Related SDGs



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND

Overview of Activities

We are working to conserve the marine ecosystem by cleanup activities inside and outside of the business site, on the river and on the beach, and by reducing the amount of single-use plastic used at our sites.

Examples of Activities

- ◆ Cleanup of areas around business sites, rivers, and beaches
- ◆ Promotion of the use of personal cups and reusable bags

?



Why do it ?

Protect sea creatures

It is difficult to collect plastics that have been dumped or accidentally blown into the ocean by the wind. It is important to collect it on land as soon as possible because it can be swallowed, eaten, or entangled in the body of marine organisms, threatening their lives and livelihoods.

In addition, by reducing the amount of plastic used, we can reduce the amount of plastic waste generated unintentionally.



Plastic is tangled around the body of sea turtles.

Source: Sea Turtle Association of Japan

Expanding regulations around the world on single-use plastics

Plastic waste is an international issue. More than 45 countries have already passed legislation prohibiting the use of plastic bags, and the European Union has passed a law banning the use of single-use plastics that can be replaced with other products (straw, cup, muddler, etc.) since 2021.



?



How to do it ?

- 1 Learn about plastic waste issues.
- 2 Cleanup activities inside and outside of the business site, on the river and on the beach.
- 3 Reduce the amount of single-use plastics used in the office.



Q Where else can we clean other than the office?

A You may participate in activities to clean rivers and beaches sponsored by outside groups if it is difficult to plan and implement it by yourself.



Cleanup activities

Q What should we do with the collected wastes?

A Rules for separating garbage differ depending on each country and municipality. In the case of volunteer activities, the sorting method may differ (All items may be able to put in the same bag). You should contact the local government in the area in which you will clean up trash and check the necessary procedures.

Check List

Examples

- ☒ Date and time of cleanup activity
- ☒ Specific cleanup area
- ☒ Estimated amount of collected waste
- ☐ How to dispose of collected waste

* Some local governments provide garbage bags free of charge, lend tongs and work gloves, etc.

Q How can we get our tenants to stop using single-use plastics in Kiosks, restaurants and cafes, vending machines, etc.?

A Consider alternatives to single-use plastics and consult with your tenant. It is also important to ask for the cooperation of employees in promoting the use of personal cups and reusable bags to stop using plastics.



Q Is it still OK to use biodegradable plastic?

A Biodegradable plastics are plastics that are ultimately decomposed into water and carbon dioxide by microorganisms in the natural world. However, most of the currently developed plastics are very difficult to be decomposed in the ocean, even if they are decomposed in the ground, or are quickly decomposed only in certain environments. Also, it is important to reduce the amount of plastic used first, because there is a possibility that people may misunderstand that if it is decomposed, it can be discarded.



Tips on promoting activity

- ① When replacing single-use plastic products and packages with paper and wood, let's consider using FSC-certified paper and wood that consider the environment and biodiversity.
- ② Once you have carried out an activity, let's report it to NGOs or the ministry campaign and publicize it.
- ③ As for the use of bioplastics made from biological resources, be careful not to use edible parts such as corn, which may cause food problems, or forest resources, which may lead to deforestation.

Current status of marine plastic waste and plastic recycling

The total amount of plastic waste that is said to already exist in the world's oceans is 150 million tons ^{*1}. And it is estimated that at least 8 million tons flow into the ocean every year.^{*2}

Moreover, once plastic waste is discharged, it is not easily decomposed naturally, and many of them remain in nature for more than 100 years. Plastics that have been crushed finely due to the effects of ultraviolet rays and waves etc. are called "microplastic", which makes it more difficult to collect. Many cases have been reported in which marine organisms accidentally ingest large amounts of plastic waste, or the waste is caught on their bodies, resulting in injury or death. This has already had a major impact on marine ecosystems.

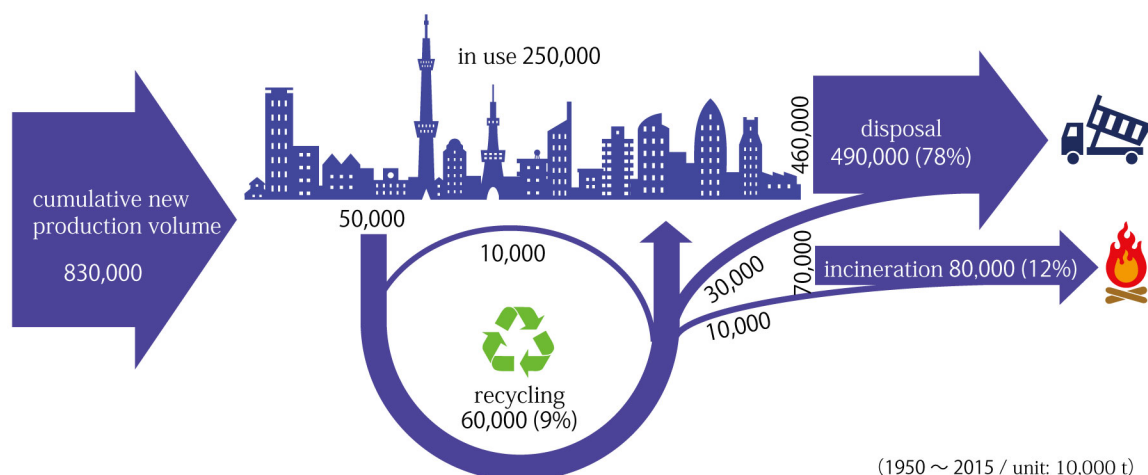
On the other hand, annual plastic production (world) has increased 20 times in the past 50 years ^{*2}. Only 9% of total plastic production has been recycled so far, and 78% of plastics have been disposed ^{*3}. Under these circumstances, the question is how to change the use of plastics in society as a whole.

※1 : McKinsey & Company and Ocean Conservancy (2015)

※2 : ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION (2016)

※3 : Geyer et al. (2017)

Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made



First of all,
reduce !

Geyer, R., Jambeck, J. R., & Law, K. L. (2017). Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made. Science advances, 3(7)



"3R activity" important for resource circulation

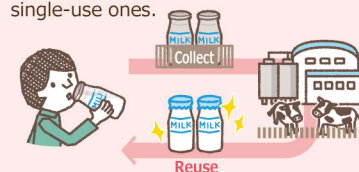
Reduce

The most important thing about the 3Rs is to reduce the amount of use by efforts such as eliminating excessive packaging. It is effective to replace them with non single-use containers and not to receive unnecessary plastic at the time of purchase.



Reuse

In order to reduce waste, it is important to use the same items repeatedly instead of using single-use ones.



Recycle

Clean and separate PET bottles and food trays that are no longer needed so that they can be easily recycled. It is also important to actively use recycled products.



The Biodiversity Working Group, The 4 Electrical and Electronic Industry Associations

[Supervision] NPO Arakawa Clean Aid Forum

[Production cooperation] Regional Environmental Planning, Inc.

<http://www.jema-net.or.jp/English/businessfields/environment/biodiversity.html>

< Published on : October 2020 >