
FACT SHEET

Sapporo Recycling Complex

1. Sapporo Recycling Complex

1.1 The Sapporo City in Hokkaido is an example of a recycling-based eco-town¹ in Japan. The city features a single recycling complex on a 23-hectare plot of land where 10 private and semi-private companies dealing with a range of waste materials reside. All 10 recycling facilities have been in operation since 2000, providing a combined capacity to treat about 500 000 tons of waste a year. The main functions of these facilities are to reduce the pressure on city landfill sites and conserve resources.

1.2 The development of the Sapporo Recycling Complex began in 1994, following extensive planning by the government. Part of the initial phase of development was encouraging the involvement of the private sector in the Recycling Complex. The Recycling Complex is run as a public-private partnership and is claimed to be the "*first city-led concentration of industrial waste recycling and treatment facilities in Japan and the only such conglomeration of waste reduction facilities in one centralized location in the world*".²

2. Facilities

2.1 The Sapporo Recycling Complex comprises 10 separate waste treatment and recycling facilities. Most of them operate eight hours a day, and their operating hours can be extended to deal with future waste increases. Facilities at the Recycling Complex provide collection and initial treatment of waste for reuse, and all of the recycled products are for sale. Examples of activities at the Recycling Complex range from the recycling of organic waste and the treatment of old tires for use as fuel and construction materials, to the manufacture of polyester sheets from plastic beverage bottles.

2.2 The 10 facilities at the Sapporo Recycling Complex are:

- (a) Tire Recycle Hokkaido Company which prepares used tires for recycling;

¹ In Japan, an eco-town project is promoted and funded by a government programme under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. The objective of the programme is to encourage the development of environmentally-sound community systems involving the industrial and public sectors.

² Sapporo Ambassador (2000).

-
- (b) Sapporo Recycling Aggregate Company which makes waste concrete reusable;
 - (c) Sapporo Plastic Recycle Corporation which recycles waste plastics into oil products;
 - (d) Sapporo Solid Waste Recycling and Disposition Corporation which sorts and recycles waste from construction sites;
 - (e) Sapporo Waste Management and Recycling Foundation which sorts and compacts bottles, aluminium and steel cans, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET)³ bottles for treatment and recovery;
 - (f) Nakanuma Industrial Waste Treatment Center of the Kosei Kigyo Corporation which treats inorganic and organic sludge, and recycles waste oil;
 - (g) Hokkaido PET Bottle Recycling Company which reprocesses plastic beverage bottles into flakes;
 - (h) Eco Sheet Sapporo Company which makes polyester sheets from PET bottles;
 - (i) Sanzo Organic Recycle Company which recycles food scraps and garbage into animal feed and fertilizers; and
 - (j) Public Cleaning Department under the Environment Bureau of the City of Sapporo which prepares plastic waste containers and packaging for processing into oil products.

Research and Library Services Division
22 April 2006
Tel: 2869 9372

Fact sheets are compiled for Members and Committees of the Legislative Council. They are not legal or other professional advice and shall not be relied on as such. Fact sheets are subject to copyright owned by the Legislative Council Commission (the Commission). The Commission permits accurate reproduction of the fact sheets for non-commercial use in a manner not adversely affecting the Legislative Council, provided that acknowledgement is made stating the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat as the source and one copy of the reproduction is sent to the Legislative Council Library.

³ Polyethylene terephthalate is a thermoplastic resin of the polyester family that is used to make beverage, food and other liquid containers, and synthetic fibres, as well as for some thermo-forming applications.

References

1. Goss, S. et al. *The Eco-Park: Green Nirvana or White Elephant?* Clean Environment Management Centre, University of Teesside, United Kingdom.
2. Morikawa, Mari. (2000) *Eco-Industrial Developments in Japan*. Indigo Development Working Paper # 11. RPP International, Indigo Development Center, Emeryville, California.
3. Sapporo Ambassador. (2000) *City's Zero Waste Initiative, Sapporo Recycling Complex Completed*. Summer 2000.