

Case 5:Kaisei Town

Partnership-Building for Waste reduction

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Kaisei town is located in the western part of Kanagawa Prefecture, in the central part of the Ashigara Plain. The town stretches east and west for 1.7 km and south and north for 3.8 km, with a total area of 6.56 km². Although it is quite small in area, the town is rich in soil and water since it is situated in an alluvial fan formed in the basin of Sakawa River, which flows north to south. It is built on flat land that slightly tilted towards the south and enjoys a mild climate.

As stated above, the town is so small and flat that we have difficulty in finding an appropriate location for constructing disposal and incineration facilities. We have been relying on neighbor towns for waste disposal and thus the issue of garbage has been rather an "Achilles' heel" for the town.

Such circumstances, on the other hand, helped to foster an increased awareness of garbage issues in the residents of the town. In particular, an NGO group in the town has been at the frontier of efforts against waste issues, leading the governmental actions relating to garbage disposal. A river cleaning crusade by all the town's residents and a resource recovery campaign, typical of which is aluminum can recovery, are actions originally tackled by the NGO group.

The town has so far reflected in its garbage control such actions initiated by groups and individuals as well as taking into account their opinions. We started separate collection of incombustibles in 1982, ahead of other neighboring towns. As a result of gradually increasing resource recovery activities since then, we have achieved and are maintaining a resource recovery rate of 20%.

We have been implementing various efforts for raising public awareness in order to reduce waste and improve the rate of resource recovery. We are also promoting resource recovery by setting incentive payments for the recovery of resources by groups. Our other efforts include campaigns for raising awareness and seminars given by town officials on waste disposal at community meetings.

In addition to the above, a panel discussion on the topic of constructing a resource recycling society was held this year with the Mayor and senior

members of NGO groups, among others, serving as panelists. We also constructed and commenced operation from this year of a test facility named the "Green Recycle Center" for composting yard waste and garbage. The facility is used to perform demonstration tests with a view not just to incinerating yard waste and garbage but to recycling them as compost. The final aim is to increase recycling rates in the future.

The waste problem cannot be solved through efforts initiated solely by governments. It is essential that the government, business operators, and residents cooperate and build a reliable relationship with each other. Based on such an understanding, we believe it is necessary for us to further develop our relationship with residents and business operators.