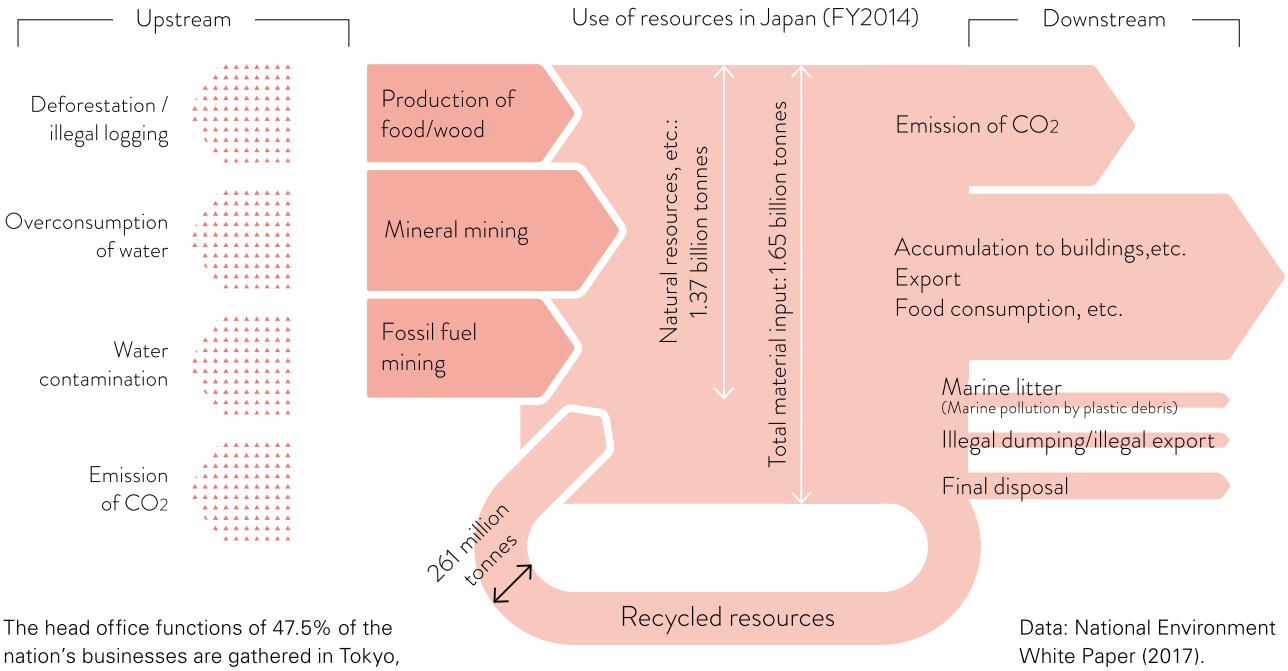
SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES

The consumption of resources is expected to further increase along with the economic development of emerging countries.
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 set forth Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
Japan consumed 1.37 billion tonnes of natural resources and in FY2014, almost half of them are imported. On the other hand, the quantity of resources recycled remains low at 261 million tonnes.

Tokyo Accounts for a Significant Proportion of the Use of Resources in Japan

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) established the "Sustainable Materials and Waste Management Plan" in March 2016. Through this plan, Tokyo will aim towards greater levels of sustainability with the goal of handing over a better city environment to future generations.

Environmental impacts in the upstream and downstream sides of resource use



The head office functions of 47.5% of the nation's businesses are gathered in Tokyo, and the gross product in Tokyo accounts for 19.4% of GDP.

Data: National Environment White Paper (2017).

3Rs in Tokyo

In order to promote sustainable resource use through waste reduction and recycling, citizens as the generators of waste have to act responsibly in their day-to-day routines choosing products that help to reduce waste, while businesses are required to proactively reduce waste.

Reduction of food waste

In developed countries, enormous quantities of food are wasted. Food waste in Japan is estimated at approx. 6.21 million tonnes (2014), which is equivalent to the amount of food consumed by Tokyo's residents in one year.
Food waste in Tokyo is estimated as approx. 270,000 tonnes (2012). In Tokyo most of this food waste is generated from the food service industry and households.
In order to establish the Tokyo Style Reducing Food Waste Program so as to halve food waste by FY2030, TMG will conduct a survey on the current status of food waste generated through the distribution stage and hold stakeholder meetings in which we discuss ways to avoid food waste.

In Japan, households, businesses, and local governments are encouraged to stock long life food, such as crackers and packaged cooked rice in the event of disasters including big earthquakes. One of the food waste habits specific to Japan is the disposal of such food stock when it needs to be replaced. TMG continues to promote disaster preparedness and food waste avoidance by utilizing disaster food that needs to be replaced before it reaches its best-by date.

Disposing of the disposable lifestyle

Tokyo will make efforts to reduce the amount of containers/packaging waste in liaison with surrounding local governments and decrease the use of single-use products in cooperation with municipalities and businesses, by promoting the use of reusable containers at large-sized events held in Tokyo.
With regard to plastic shopping bags in particular, TMG will require retailers, including supermarkets and convenience stores, to reduce the distribution of free plastic bags and try to conclude an agreement on plastic bag reduction.

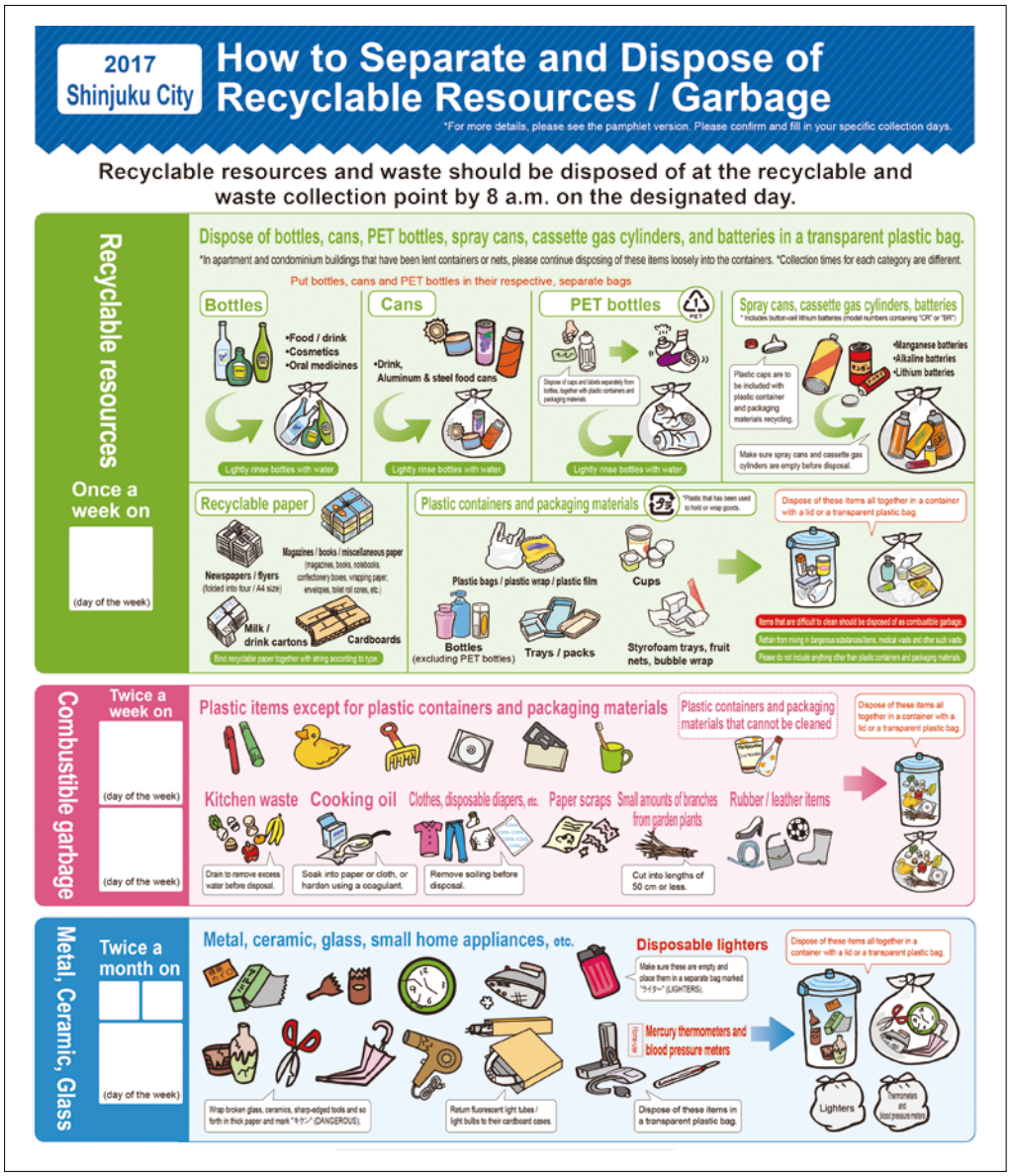
Tokyo 2020 Medal Project
:Towards an Innovative Future for All

The Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is conducting the Tokyo 2020 Medal Project to manufacture the medals given at the Games from consumer electronics such as used mobile phones. As this project will be a stimulus to change people's thinking and create a more sustainable society, Tokyo Metropolitan Government is keen to cooperate with this project, and has placed a collection box in its office building.

A ceremony held in the TMG offices to proactively launch the project in February 2017

Separation of wastes at their sources

Municipalities responsible for general waste management prepare the separation rules to sort garbage by category including burnable and recyclable. They provide leaflets explaining the rules and give lessons to elementary school students by sending sanitation workers to classrooms, aiming to ask for the citizens' cooperation for thorough garbage separation.



©Shinjuku-City

Leaflet on waste separation (Shinjuku-City)

Separated collection of recyclables

©Nerima-City

Environmental lessons for elementary school students given by sanitation workers

Recycling of incinerator ash

In Tokyo, almost all unrecyclable waste is incinerated and the ash is recycled as raw material for Eco-Cement or molten slag, etc..

©Tokyo Tama Regional Association for Waste Management and Resource Recycling

Eco-Cement plant, which produces cement from incinerator ash

Eco-Cement

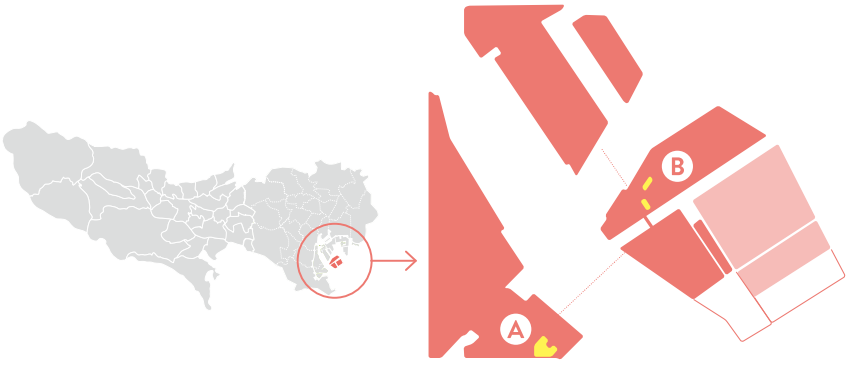
Use as construction materials

Promotion of construction byproducts recycling

The Construction Recycling Law obligates construction companies to separate materials when demolishing buildings and recycle special construction materials (concrete, asphalt concrete, wood). As an example, concrete is recycled not only for roadbed materials but also for making new concrete aggregates.

Super Eco Town Project

TMG implements the Tokyo Super Eco Town Project with companies who have advanced and reliable technologies such as making animal feed from food waste, recycling construction mixed waste, and so on. The project will help extend the useful lifespan of landfill. The Super Eco Town is located in water-front area.



- A **Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Plant (3 plants)**
- A **E-Waste Recycling Plant (2 plants)**
- A **Animal Feed from Food Waste (1 plant)**
- A **Biogas Power Generation from Food Waste (1 plant)**
- B **PCB Waste Treatment (1 plant)**
- B **Waste Fuel Electric Power Generation Plant (1 plant)**