

Measures to create a sound material cycle

Reducing waste and recycling

JR East generates many kinds of waste through its railway operations, including daily trash removed from trains and stations and industrial waste from our General Rolling Stock Centers recycle.” In addition, restaurants and retail stores in our life-style businesses produce garbage and general waste. In order to reduce all these various forms of waste, JR East actively supports the approach known as “reduce, reuse, recycle.” For recycling in particular, goals are set for each type of waste.

Recycling waste collected from stations and trains

In the fiscal year ending March 2009, waste collected from our stations and trains amounted to 42 thousand tons, which is equivalent to the amount of household waste generated per year by 105 thousand people in Japan. Since waste collected from our stations and trains includes recyclable materials, we endeavor to properly sort it and recycle it. JR East has installed separate refuse bins for different types of waste at stations, and has established its own recycling centers in the Tokyo metropolitan area to ensure thorough sorting of waste after it has been collected. In June 2008, we raised our recycling targets and achieved a recycling rate of 70% in the fiscal year ending March 2009. Beginning with the fiscal year ending March 2008, thermal recycling has been also taken into account.

Recycling initiatives at General Rolling Stock Centers, etc.

JR East Group is recycling waste generated during the manufacture and maintenance of rolling stock. At the Niitsu Rolling Stock Manufacturing Factory, we promote waste reduction and recycling, taking into account the railcars’ entire life cycle starting at the time of designing. At our regional General Rolling Stock Centers, waste is sorted into 20 to 30 categories to reduce waste generation and recycling. Starting in the fiscal year ending March 2006, we have included our retired railcars that were sold to outside parties and later scrapped as part of the quantities recycled by the JR East Group when calculating our recycle rates.



At Nagano General Rolling Stock Center, retired wheels are recycled into brake disk parts.



Reducing construction waste

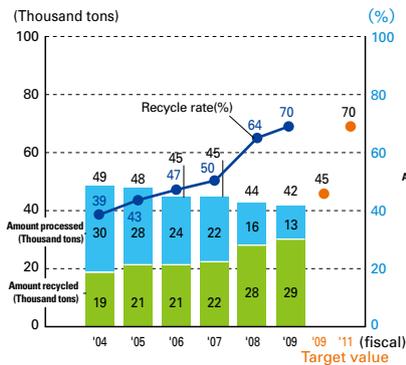
JR East endeavors to reduce waste from construction by requiring subcontractors to use design and construction methods allowing them to properly dispose of construction byproducts and to minimize waste. In the fiscal year ending March 2009, JR East generated 396 thousand tons of waste through construction and maintenance projects at our stations and other structures, including 84 thousand tons of waste through work entrusted to JR East.*

*Work entrusted to JR East

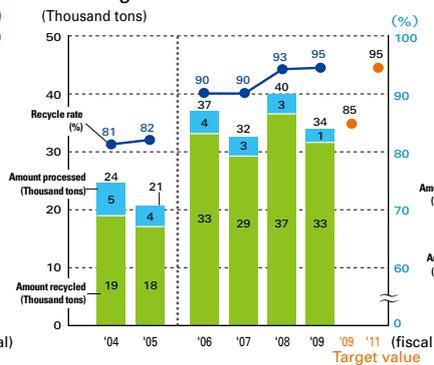
Construction work contracted to JR East by local governments etc., to be done at non-JR East facilities, for such purposes as to ensure safe train operations.

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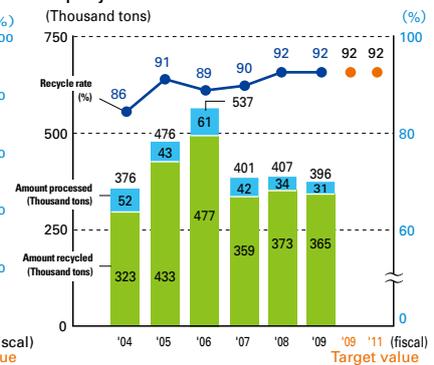
■ Waste from stations and trains



■ Waste from General Rolling Stock Centers

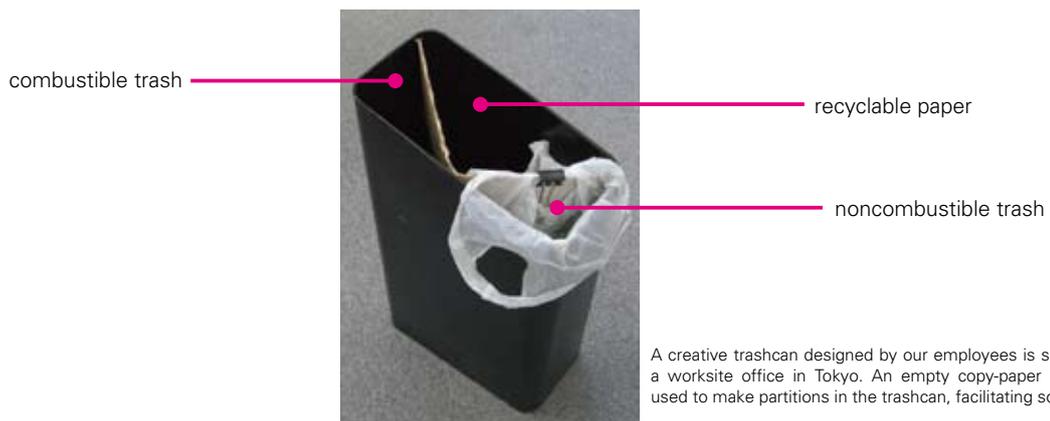


■ Waste from construction projects



Reducing waste at offices

In departments at the Head Office and branch offices, we strive to reduce waste by promoting elimination of paper and by recycling, including the use of creative, employee-designed trashcans. In the fiscal year ending March 2009, we recycled 2,209 out of a total of 2,658 tons of waste (83%).



A creative trashcan designed by our employees is seen at a worksite office in Tokyo. An empty copy-paper box is used to make partitions in the trashcan, facilitating sorting.

Recycling garbage in our life-style businesses

The Nippon Restaurant Enterprise Co., Ltd., which operates in-station restaurants and makes and sells *ekiben* (boxed meals sold at stations and on trains), works on food recycling. It uses garbage waste generated from its stores and plants on its own farm as fertilizer, and sells or uses agricultural products harvested there in its stores and plants.

In addition, many in-station stores, station buildings and hotels strive for garbage recycling and reduction of waste volume, aimed at achieving the standards under the Food Recycling Law.

Efficient use of water resources

As a consumer of 11.87 million m³ of water annually, JR East actively promotes the use of recycled waste water*, using, for example, rainwater and water already used for washing hands to flush toilets. At the Head Office building, 21 thousand out of 46 thousand m³ of water was reused in the fiscal year ending March 2009.

*Recycled waste water

Defined as water of a quality level between clean water and sewage water. It is used for limited purposes as a recycled resource.

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Reducing and recycling tickets, etc.

Collected used tickets are sent to a paper mill. After the iron powder has been separated from the backs of the tickets, the paper is recycled to make toilet paper and corrugated cardboard. In the fiscal year ending March 2009, 464 tons of collected tickets, etc., were recycled. Collected magnetic season tickets were recycled into solid fuel.



Used tickets collected at stations are reused as toilet paper at major stations in the Greater Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

Promoting green procurement

As part of ecological activities balancing environmental protection and business, JR East promotes the procurement of products with lower environmental impact, and in 1999 formulated the "JR East Japan Green Procurement Guidelines." 56% of office supplies are subject to green procurement. When we choose a supplier of materials, we investigate its environmental and CSR activities, and use what we find as a factor in our decision.

Recycling trash within the company

JR East promotes recycling within the company of trash generated at stations.

Paper from recycled tickets is used as toilet paper at major stations in the Greater Tokyo Metropolitan area, while magazines collected in magazine trashcans on trains and at stations are recycled into coated paper and used to produce the information magazine "Train Vert," which is distributed on the Shinkansen. Newspapers are also recycled and used internally as copy paper.



The information magazine "Train Vert" in the Shinkansen is made using paper recycled from magazines, etc., discarded in trashcans at stations or left on trains.