

The Plastic Resource Circulation Act (Act No. 60 of 2021)

This Act addresses whole lifecycle of plastics (i.e. from designing products to disposing plastic waste) and involves all stakeholders in promoting “3R+Renewable” and increasing circularity.

[Guidelines for Design for the Environment]

- Develop **guidelines for Design for the Environment** for manufacturers and establish a mechanism to **certify** products designed in accordance with the guidelines.
 - **The government procures preferentially** the certified products (under the Act on Promoting Green Procurement) and **provides financial support to the manufactures.**



<Replaceable bottles>

[Reduction of Single-use Plastics]

- Set **criteria** for retailers and service providers to reduce single-use plastics.
 - The competent ministers may issue **recommendations and orders** to suppliers who provide large amounts of single-use plastics (**5 tons or more per year**) when their actions are found significantly insufficient in light of the criteria.

[Separation, Collection, and Recycling by Municipalities]

- Municipalities can recycle plastic product waste effectively under **the current recycling scheme for containers and packaging**
- Municipalities develop a **recycling plan in collaboration with** recyclers.
 - When the plan is approved by the competent ministers, the recyclers can recycle plastics without sorting and bailing by municipalities.



[Collection and Recycling by Manufacturers and Retailers]

- Manufacturers and retailers develop a **plan to collect and recycle their used products.**
 - When the plan is approved by the competent ministers, the manufacturers and retailers **can recycle without service permission** under the Waste Management Act.



[Recycling by Waste Generators]

- Set **criteria** for waste generators to reduce and recycle plastic waste.
 - The competent ministers may issue **recommendations and orders** to waste generators who generate large amounts of plastics (**250 tons or more per year**) when their actions are found significantly insufficient in light of the criteria.
- Waste generators develop a **recycling plan.**
 - When the plan is approved by the competent ministers, the waste generators **can recycle without service permission** under the Waste Management Act.

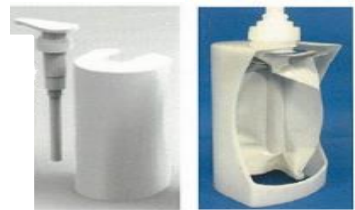
Entry into force on Apr. 1st, 2022.

Transition to circular economy through advancing circulation of resources

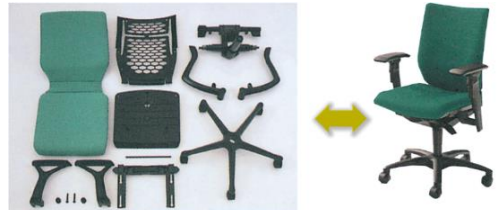
1. Design/Manufacturing

Design for the Environment

- The government certifies products designed in accordance with the statutory guidelines for design for the environment and procures preferentially the certified products (under the Act on Promoting Green Procurement).



Reduce: replaceable bottle



Recycle: design for disassembly



Renewable: 100% recycled plastic

2. Sales/Provision

Reduction of Single-use Plastics

- Retailers and service providers are required to reduce single-use plastics through, for instance,
 - rewarding programs for consumers who refuse single-use plastics
 - charging for single-use plastics
 - switching to alternative materials

Retailers and restaurants		
• forks	• spoons	• knives
• muddlers	• straws	
Hotels		
• hairbrushes	• combs	• razors
• shower caps	• toothbrushes	
Dry cleaners		
• hangers	• clothes covers	

Collection and Recycling of All Plastic Waste

		Before the enforcement	After the enforcement
House holds	containers and packaging	Recycle	Recycle
	products	incineration/landfill	Recycle
Industrial Waste		proper management	3Rs(Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

<Separation, Collection, and Recycling by Municipalities>

Different sorting rule for same plastics...



containers and packaging
(recycle)



products
(incineration/landfill)



Collecting both plastics



both plastics
(recycle)

Aiming to grow **circular economy business to 80 trillion JPY** (approx. 700 billion USD) by 2030.