

Facts and Current Issues in the

Japanese Environment-related Industry and Market

The 18th JETRO Import Fair

Environment Japan 2001

November 27 - 30, 2001
Makuhari Messe



<http://www.jetro.go.jp/fa/e/environmentjapan/index.html>

February, 2001

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Printed in Japan

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Preface

A Situation Surrounding Environmental Business

Environmental issues began with pollution problems. Especially, in and after the 1960s with the high growth of the Japanese economy, many environmental problems including air pollution, water contamination, and noise problems became serious throughout the country. In 1967 in response to these problems, the government enacted “The Basic Law for Environmental Pollution Control” (which was abolished and succeeded by “The Basic Environment Law” in 1993) in which the setting of the environmental standards and the plans for environmental control were specified. With the start of this law, the government started to wrestle on a full-scale with pollution problems with a series of law enactment. This includes the enactment of the “Air Pollution Control Law” (enacted in 1968), the “Noise Regulation Law”(enacted in 1968), the “Waste Disposal and Public Cleansing Law” (or “Waste Disposal Law”)(enacted in 1970) and the “Water Pollution Control Law” (enacted in 1970). In 1972 the Environmental Agency was established as the administrative organization to promote the comprehensive administration concerning the preservation of the environment.

In the latter half of the 1980s, global environmental issues, such as global warming and the depletion of the ozone layers, were brought to public attention. Also the problem of endocrine disrupting chemicals (so-called environmental endocrine disruptors), represented by dioxins, became a major social issue. Thus there is a strong movement to change the socioeconomic system which is based on mass production, mass consumption, and mass disposal. The government is also trying to change Japan in the 21st century into a recycling-based society moving it towards the building of a sustainable society. On the basis of “The Basic Environment Law” (enacted in 1993), other laws such as the “Law for the Promotion of Utilization of Recycled Resources,” (enacted in 1991) and the “Law Concerning Special Measures to Promote the Use of New Energy” (enforced in 1997), have been enacted towards building a recycling-based society. Also, “The Basic Law for Establishing the Recycling-based Society,” was promulgated in June 2000. Thus, the legal arrangements have been made, and we are becoming more and more prepared to work on environmental issues.

In chapter one of this report on environmental business, we shall discuss the instruments and technologies relating to waste disposal and pollution control. In chapter two, the instruments and technologies relating to the recycling of wastes will be discussed. In chapter three, the instruments and technologies relating to energy conservation and alternative energy will be discussed. In chapter four, the instruments and technologies relating to measurement, analysis, and assessment will be discussed. Finally, in chapter five, the environmental services including consulting and others services will be discussed. In the following chart, after each genre the major related laws and major authorities concerned are listed. In the following chapters, we shall state current market trends and a view of the future market, as well as related laws.

Genres	Major Authorities Concerned	Major Related Laws
Waste disposal	Ministry of The Environment*	Waste Disposal and Public Cleansing Law (Waste Disposal Law)
Pollution control Measurement, analysis, and Assessment	Ministry of the Environment	Air Pollution Control Law
	Ministry of the Environment	Law Concerning Special Measures against Dioxins
	Ministry of the Environment	Water Pollution Control Law
	Ministry of the Environment	Noise Regulation Law
	Ministry of the Environment	Vibration Regulation Law
	Ministry of the Environment	Agricultural Land Soil Pollution Preparation Law
Recycling of wastes	Ministry of the Environment	The Basic Law for Establishing the Recycling-based Society
	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Law for the Promotion of Utilization of Recycled Resources
	Ministry of The Environment* Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Law for the Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging (Containers and Packaging Recycling Law)
	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Law for the Recycling of Special Kinds of Home Appliances
	Ministry of The Environment*	(Home Appliances Recycling Law)
Energy conservation and alternative energy	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Law Concerning the Rational Use of Energy (Energy Saving Law)
	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Law Concerning Special Measures to Promote the Use of New Energy
	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Electric Utility Industry Law
Consultant and other environmental services	Ministry of the Environment	Environment Impact Assessment Law (Environment Assessment Law)

Note: The names of the authorities concerned are on and after January 6, 2001.

Their names on and before January 5, 2001 are as follows:

Names on and after January 6, 2001	Names on and before January 5, 2001
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Ministry of Health and Welfare
Ministry of the Environment	Environment Agency
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Ministry of International Trade and Industry
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology	Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	Ministry of Construction

Note: Ministry of the Environment*: Ministry of Health and Welfare on and before January 5, 2001