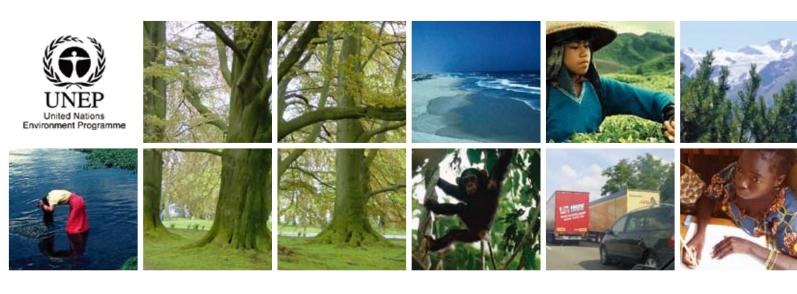


Student's material in support of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

kids X change

~ Changing the World through Children ~



Change our lives, know the world

Glance at a newspaper or turn on the TV on any day and it is clear that the world faces many problems--from global warming and air pollution to water shortages, waste issues and poverty. These are related to our use of massive amounts of energy, water and resources as we strive to make things and consume them. The roots of this problem lie far in the past. First came the Industrial Revolution, starting in the 1700s and accelerating through the 1800s. This spurred the massive exploitation of resources. A second cause was that of wars, especially World War II, which triggered the consumption of massive amounts of all types of resources. After World War II, people around the world worked hard to build a peaceful and wealthy world. They developed industry and devised many things that made the lives of people more convenient. The Industrial Revolution started in the 18th century and peaked in the 19th century, leading to dramatic changes in the world.

In addition, transportation also became immensely more convenient as cars, airplanes, highways and railways developed. However, at the same time this convenience and development was accompanied by an array of

environmental problems, including air pollution and global warming as well as a depletion of resources and negative impacts on wildlife.

Before World War II, some parts of the world were colonized by the more industrialized countries and exploited, and had little chance to develop. Today people in these and other places still live in poverty.

This book is designed to get primary school students in grades four, five and six thinking about environmental issues. Specifically, this book is meant for use in classes in social studies and science for grades four, five and six, and home economics for grades five and six, as well as integrated study time. The hope is that these lessons will spur children to think about the kind of world we want to create in the future. Our sincere hope is that this book will inspire students around the world to think about what they can do to protect the environment and then take action to do so.







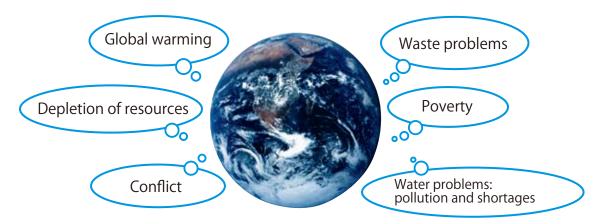


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As of April 30, 2009



Using kidsXchange

When the elementary school students of today are adults in the year 2020, experts believe the world will be hotter, the weather and climate less stable and that there will be food and water shortages. To make the earth a place where people will be able to live indefinitely into the future, elementary students need to be made aware of what is happening in the world. Our fervent hope is that this text will play a part in helping these students blossom into individuals who are able to be aware of what is occurring in the world and consistently think of what should be done for mankind and the world. With this in mind, UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme) came up with youthXchange, an environmental education program targeting people primarily between the ages of 15 and 25. This is an effort that uses "things" or objects in our everyday lives to get people to think about the planet as well as society and its structure. This project is taking place in 15 countries. For more information in English, take a look at the youthXchange homepage.

Let's get interested in international efforts to fight global warming!

International efforts to fight global warming are taking place under the United Nations. For that express reason, 191 countries from around the world agreed to set up the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. Subsequently, in 1997, parties to the treaty agreed to the Kyoto Protocol, and in 2008 at the Toyako Summit discussions were again held at the international level on measures to stem the advance of global warming. In this text, we touch upon global warming in the context and how it is linked with our way of life and our lifestyles. Please take what you learn through this book and discuss it with members of your family and friends.

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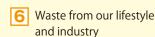
4 Our way of life and things



5 Transport: Roads, lifestyle

and the environment



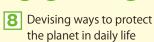


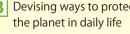


Starting with what we can do



7 Our lifestyles, environmental problems and industrial products







Climate change and other environmental problems





Let's take a look at some of the problems that are occurring.



Melting glaciers (Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal)



Hurricane damage (Republic of Photo: AYUda a Centro America (AYUCA), a

Rising sea levels (Tuvalu) Photo: Masaaki Nakajima



Droughts (Burkina Faso) Photo: Action for Greening Sahel, an NGO

Change in the planet's average yearly temperature 14.0 13.5 1850 1900 1950 Source: Intergove ental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report as amended in 2007



Wow. There is really a lot happening in the world.

Source: Website of Japan Center for Climate Change Actions (http://www.jccca.org/)

Global warming is thought to be a major cause of changes in the earth's environment.





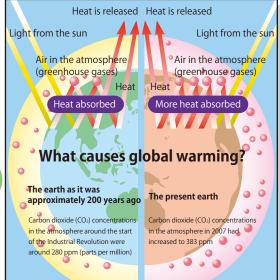
So why do global temperatures keep rising higher and higher?

Greenhouse gases*, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), that surround the earth have been able to keep in enough of the heat from the sun to keep our planet just the right temperature for life to exist. But people have used too much fossil fuels. This has released so much CO2 and other greenhouse gases into the air that temperatures around the world have risen. This is what is called global warming or climate change. The cutting down of forests, which absorb CO2, is also said to cause global warming.

*Greenhouse gases include: carbon dioxide, methane and freon gases.

For more on energy problems see p. 6 For more on water problems see p. 8

When carbon dioxide increases so does the planet's temperature!



Source: Japan Center for Climate Change Actions

Recent years have seen more strange weather, with more very hot days, more incidents of very heavy rain and less snow. We generally call this abnormal weather. What causes this? Moreover, apart from these strange weather patterns, what other kinds of environmental problems do you think are occurring around the world?





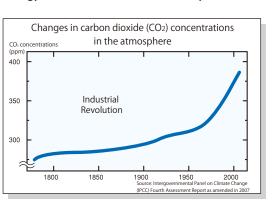
The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere has continued to increase greatly.

Until the Industrial Revolution happened in the mid 18th century, people's lives were mostly farm-based. Energy came from nature, with the help of cows or horses, or in the form of burning wood, using wind power or water power. The discovery that coal could be used to power the steam engine was made. This more powerful and efficient technology was adopted and applied to the use of production technologies in many sectors. Steam power was seen as a good type of energy and came to be used in many areas. Late

in the 19th century, the even more powerful internal combustion engine was invented, and fossil fuels such as oil came to be used.

The Industrial Revolution peaked in the 19th century, dramatically changing the

With this, oil and fossil fuels came to be used in great amounts. The burning of coal used in steam engines and oil in the form of gasoline in internal combustion engines resulted in greater emissions of carbon dioxide. This change in energy use and increase in the use of fossil fuels led to a dramatic jump in the release of carbon dioxide.



If global warming continues…

If global warming continues at its current pace, it is said that in 2100 the average global temperature is predicted to rise by a maximum of 6.4 degrees Celsius. What would that mean for our planet?



Experts say that melting glaciers could contribute to a maximum rise of 59 centimeters in sea level. Land at low elevations and close to the sea would disappear under water.



The populations of some endangered animals, such as polar bears, will drop dramatically.



Malaria and other tropical diseases would spread to



Insects that harm crops will increase, grain crop yields will decrease and there is fear that this could lead to

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report as amended in 2007



I wonder what kind of other problems might occur around the world…?

Acid rain

Caused by exhaust from cars and factories, acid rain can destroy stone structures and sculptures, such as those made with marble and limestone, by dissolving them. It can also kill forests and make lakes and wetlands too acidic for fish and other wildlife to inhabit.

Ozone layer destruction

The ozone layer helps to keep out and protect the earth from the ultraviolet rays that come from the sun. When the ozone layer is destroyed, this allows ultraviolet rays that are damaging to people and wildlife to reach the earth.

Desertification

As desertification progresses, the cultivation of crops will become increasingly difficult and people will not be able to secure as much food. This may force them to abandon their land and search for new places to live.

The number of wild plants and animals are also decreasing. This is also being caused by the overuse of plants and animals as ingredients in medicine and cosmetics. In addition, soil and water pollution are also major issues in many parts of the world.



The activities of people and using too much energy is believed to be causing changes around the world, such as climate change. What exactly is energy? Let's think about the different types of energy, look at their unique characteristics and how they are used.

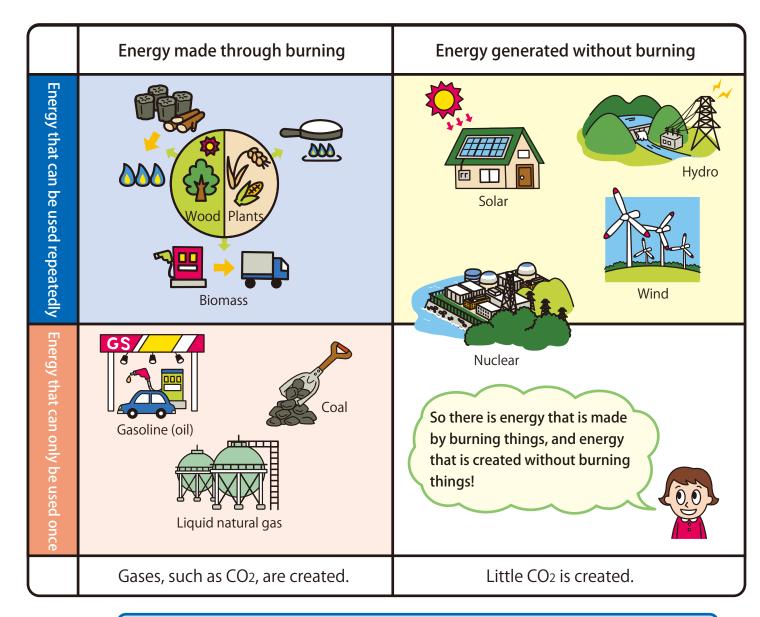




What kinds of energy are there? Let's consider where this energy is used.



Everything requires energy to operate TVs need electricity, cars need gasoline and people need food. We call energy what is needed to fuel actions, whether the activities of people or the moving of objects.





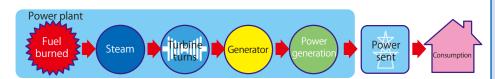
Let's look at the types of energy above and divide them into energy that can be used as is and energy that is changed into electricity. Then let's think about how we use these types of energy in our lives.



How is energy made?

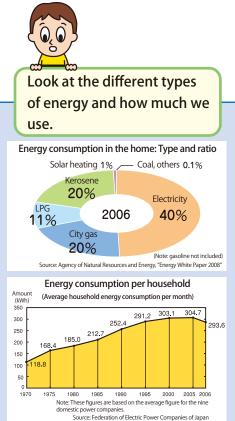
How electricity is made: thermal power

Natural gas, coal and oil are burned as fuel to make steam that spins a machine called a turbine to create energy. The energy from the turbine is used to move a generator and create electricity.



Burning fossil fuels to create electricity releases carbon dioxide. That is why electricity is strongly linked to global warming.





Saving energy

Cutting back on the energy you use is as easy as turning off the lights in an unused room or replacing a refrigerator or air conditioner with a more efficient model. This is called conserving or saving energy.



Let's learn about efforts to make energy from new methods that do not require combustion.

Solar power: Power made from sunlight

This uses sunlight and solar cell batteries to make power. Solar power has finally begun to make inroads. City governments and public organizations are also helping to popularize solar power and it is also gaining popularity in homes around the nation.



Wind power: Power made from the wind

This uses the power of nature in the form of the wind to spin the blades of a windmill to turn a turbine and generate power. Wind power requires a large area with abundant open space as well

space as well as steady wind.



Biomass power generation

Biomass power is generated using biological material, such as wood, vegetable oil or raw garbage—all of which are materials that are the result of what were once living plants or animals.

For more information about products that use electricity see p. 17.





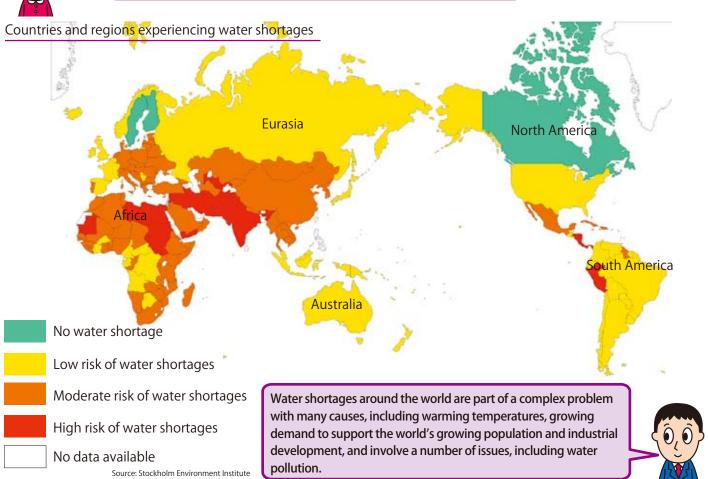
Water is in the air we breathe and through humidity and vapors travels through the whole earth and its atmosphere. So why now there is not enough of water in the world? And why is water becoming polluted? What should we do about this?







There are water shortages occurring around the world.



Nearly 97 percent of the world's water is seawater, which is not fit for drinking. A mere 0.02% percent of the world's water can be used for our needs, such as drinking, farming and industry. If demand for water continues to increase at the current pace, there are countries and regions that will experience water shortages. Some experts predict that by 2025 globally two out of three people will suffer from water shortages.

World water shortage

Many of the world's people—approximately 2 billion people—cannot get safe drinking water and nearly 4 billion people do not have access to drinking water in their homes. In some parts of Africa, women and children have to travel five hours to carry 20 liters of water home. However, the typical city family with 4 members in a developed country consumes an average of 640 liters of water a day.



Let's think about the water cycle and talk about how we should use water better.

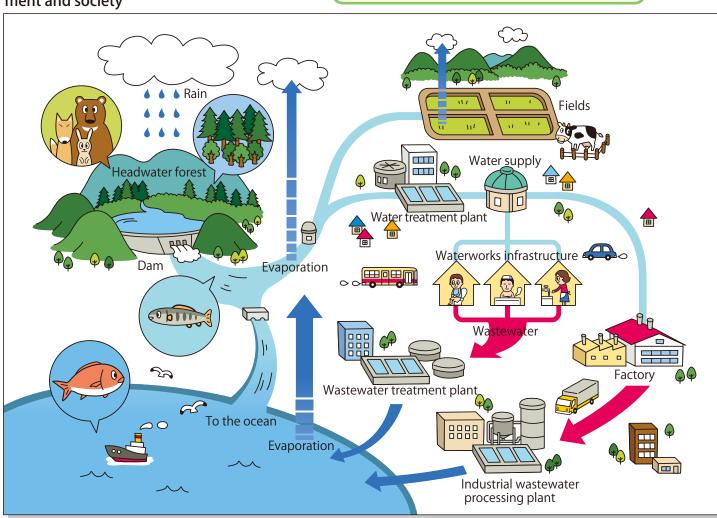
Major causes of water pollution include the following:

- Wastewater from people using too much detergent or soap in their homes
- Illegal dumping of waste or industrial waste polluting rivers
- Air pollution dirtying water through snow or rain
- Industrial wastewater polluting groundwater, rivers or the ocean
- Oil or wastewater emitted from ships polluting the ocean
- Pesticide from farming

The water cycle as it involves the environment and society

If water is polluted somewhere during the water cycle then people can no longer drink it with peace of mind.





For more about waste please see p.14.

Our lifestyles are based upon and made possible by products, or things, made in factories. Here we will take a look at and think about clothing as one example of how things are made and used.





Let's think about the things around us that we wear and use, such as clothes, shoes, hats and bags.

We use and wear a variety of things in different parts of our lives. Check to see exactly how many of these things you own and use.

- Items for going to school (in summer and winter)
- Items for gym class and for exercise (in summer and
- Casual everyday clothes that you wear when playing or
- spending time with your family
- When going out with your family
- When at home When going to bed

I have lots of clothes that I hardly wear anymore.





Let's think about how clothing is made and how it reaches us.



Oil, pulp, etc



For more on waste please

see p. 14.

Let's look at where the raw materials come from.

Clothing factories

The raw materials and fabric are used to make many kinds of machines are used to make









Clothing is also made using the planet's precious resources. It takes a lot of energy simply to bring these resources and clothing to us, but much clothing is still thrown away.

> People often just throw out clothing that no longer fits or that is no longer in fashion



Textiles and fibers used in products

Fiber can be made from natural materials or man-made materials.

Natural materials (natural fiber)







Man-made materials (artificial fiber) Many man-made fibers are made from petroleum.

How fibers are used

These are used in many of the objects around you.





Bedding, blankets, sheets





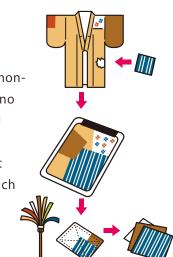
Source: Japan Chemical Fibers Association

Let's think about what steps we can take to keep clothing from going to waste.

Wisdom and tricks from the past

Edo Period

During the Edo Period (1603-1868) it was commonplace for people to wear used or recycled kimono or clothing. There were even shops that carried only old clothing and people that would walk around peddling scraps of fabric. Old cloth that couldn't be used for anything else was used, such as in the form of cleaning rags.



■ Meiji, Taisho and early Showa eras

During these periods, people often made their own clothing. Rather than throwing away old cloth, people made it into useful clothing, such as purse-like bags and aprons, or toys for playing, including dolls or traditional otedama beanbags. When a piece of clothing got too small, it would be given to a smaller sibling or someone in the neighborhood as a handme-down and, in this way, recycled.



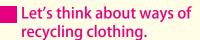
Let's think about what we as people living today can learn from the way people used to live.

- Think about whether something really is necessary before buying it.
- Before throwing something away think about whether it can still be
- Think about whether there is a different way to use things you no
- Buy things that will last for a long time.

These are things to think about in reconsidering your way of life. You can probably think of many things you can do in your life to help the environment.

Countries where children lack things.

There are countries where people throw away things that are still perfectly usable. At the same time, there are countries that are poor and where the people don't have enough things. Sometimes, in these countries the children do not have the luxury of being able to go to school, but instead have to work, such as in jobs making clothing. As a result, they can't even go to school.





Being careful to use things without being wasteful saves massive amounts of energy and resources. And this translates into a lifestyle that is easier on the environment.



Edo Period (17th to 19th centuries)

massive amount of goods.

Shipping in the Edo Period

The ship industry developed with a variety of ships—such as

ships—for making regular trips making it possible to transport a

hishigaki kaisen ships, taru kaisen ships, and kitamae bune

Learning about connections between our lifestyles and environmental problems

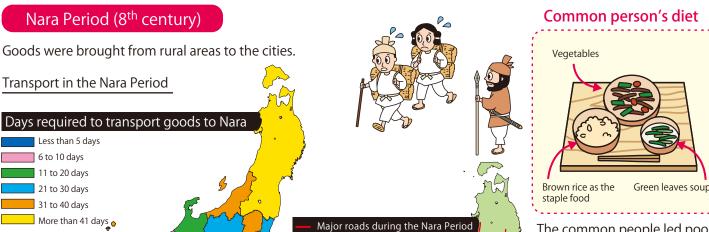
Transport: Roads, lifestyle and the environment

To move things people have made many roads and thought up many ways of transport. It is clear that these greatly affect and change our way of life. They also change the environment. Let's think a little bit about the relationship between transport, the environment and our lives.





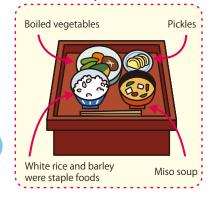
Let's take a look at changes in the transport of goods and change in diet.



The common people led poor lives and the types of food they could eat were limited.

Compared with today, it took much longer to transport goods.

Common person's diet



Tempura, soba, eel and other foods came to be eaten by the common people. Outdoor stall eateries appeared and common people came to eat things such as sushi and sweets.

Compared with today, the meals were simple, but the number of eateries increased, the means of transport improved and people were able to eat a greater variety of foods.

O, O

Today a number of methods of transporting things have been developed. Let's see just how much this has changed our way of life.



Modern-day shipping and transport





Means of transport have evolved that travel on land, over water and in the air, with transport networks growing dramatically. A massive number of transactions take place not only domestically in Japan, but around the world as well.

Modern-day diet

Today it is possible to eat many things from many places. Refrigeration and means of preserving food has improved so that food, such as fish, can be transported from distant places, and enjoyed fresh. As a result of these advancements, today we are can enjoy food that is out of season fresh year-round.

Let's try to use textbooks and an atlas to see where foods come from and what means of transport brings them to you.



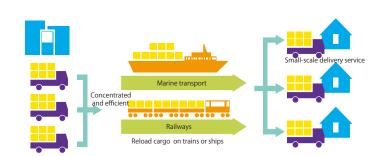


Transport has become very convenient, but how has the environment been affected?

Distribution from an environmental perspective

■ Modal shift (Improving efficiency of transport)

This refers to shifting transport from trucking and other forms of transport and shipping that emit massive amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂), to those that emit less, such as rail and boats. Trains and boats can transport in one trip several times the amount of goods that can be moved by trucks. Fewer trucks traveling shorter distances means that energy is saved, that the air stays cleaner and there is less traffic on the roads.



Promoting eco-driving

Today people are encouraging drivers to stop their engines at streetlights and otherwise drive in ways better for the environment.

For information about the changing global environment see p. 4-5 For information about gasoline and carbon dioxide (CO_2) see p. 16.

■ There are a variety of vehicles that run on clean energy.

Development and promotion of low-pollution cars

Low-pollution vehicles results not only in less carbon dioxide (CO₂) being released, but also help air quality.

 There are an increasing number of natural gas vehicles.

These cars and trucks release less carbon dioxide (CO₂) and harmful substances into the air than cars fueled by gasoline. The number of natural gas delivery trucks has especially jumped.

Hybrid vehicles

These vehicles efficiently combine the use of a gasoline engine and an electric motor to run using very little energy.

Electric vehicles

These vehicles operate on electricity and therefore are quiet and do not shake or vibrate. In addition, they do not release any exhaust.

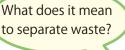
12

The amount of waste generated around the world is rising. Let's think about what we can and should do to reduce waste in the future.





Waste is a problem all over the world! Take a look at these pictures of various kinds of waste. What you think?







In the United States each year, some 113 billion beverage cups, 39 billion knives and forks and 29 billion tableware items (such as plates) are thrown away. More than half of these are made of plastic.



Electric appliances that are disposed of contain precious metals and potentially harmful substances

Harmful waste materials are on the rise in countries around Asia. Why do you suppose this is?



Massive amounts of waste from the tearing down of buildings and construction sites are carted to waste disposal sites.





Projected amounts of hazardous waste produced around the world for the period 2000 to 2050

300 250 Oceania 200 150 North America 100 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050

Today waste is increasing faster in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Growth in the amount of waste generated in populous countries like China, with nearly 1.3 billion people, and India, with around 1 billion people, is creating a surge in waste created and this is forecast to continue into the future. The reason for this is the incredible increase in industrial development. And because of the many harmful substances in industrial waste this poses problems moving into the future.



Waste can be broadly classified as the waste that stems from industry and pollutes the environment, and everything else, which can be called household or general waste. What is the situation with the household or general waste that we generate during our activities and lives each year?

> So household waste produced in Japan has been decreasing a little each year since 2001. When did Japan start sorting and separating its waste?



How much waste is being produced in Japan every year?

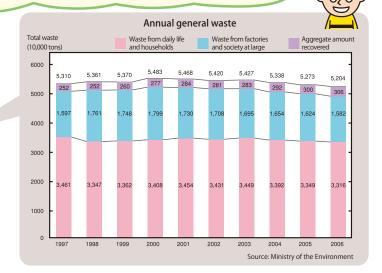
Waste that comes from industry

Approximately 52.04 million tons





Data shows that of general waste, some 33.16 million tons, or 64%, came from households, while waste from factories and society at large is around 15.82 million tons.





Around the world people are working hard to try to reduce waste.



In China, there are cities that have banned plastic packaging.

In India, one state even banned the use of plastic bags.



<China>

In China, there are many disposable goods that are used a few times and then thrown away. These are things such as plastic cups, containers, combs toothbrushes, ball pens and chopsticks. Each year billions of these are used and become waste. China is the world's biggest market for disposable products. But recently a number of efforts to try to get people to stop using disposable goods have started. One result has been to limit the use of plastic containers in many cities. Use of eco-bags and more environmental containers are also being encouraged.

<India>

India's state of Goa in 2000 launched a campaign banning the use of plastic bags. The effort was designed to make local people more aware that plastic bags do not breakdown easily and to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated by tourists. The initiative involved the tourist bureau calling on hotels, restaurants and tour companies to help, as well as setting up special waste bins. This campaign helped to change the level of awareness among people in Goa and recently the state has even passed a new law banning the use of thin plastic bags.



In Japan measures like that described below are also taking place.



Corporations are also coming up with creative ways of cutting waste.

Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture

In February 1999, the city of Nagoya declared a "waste state of emergency." Through a variety of steps, the city has been able to reduce its waste by nearly 100,000 tons in one year. Also, the city began a system of separating and sorting waste in August of 2000 to further cut waste. The system divides waste into 16 different types--such as into paper, plastic and recyclables. In the three months following its introduction the city had nearly 20,000 inquiries about the new system, but today it has helped Nagoya continue being able to reduce waste levels.



Let's think about what we can do every day to reduce waste.

Ecological packaging

Transport companies are also devising ways to reduce waste. Nippon Express, a logistics and transport service, has developed and uses reusable containers for moving and transport. These boxes can be used again and again instead of the numerous cardboard boxes typically used in moving which are then thrown away. Reusable containers save the trees that would be used to make cardboard boxes. T makes for more environmental moving.





For more about issues related to water, please see p. 9. For more about these issues as they relate to our way of

life, please see p. 11.

Our lifestyles, environmental problems and industrial products

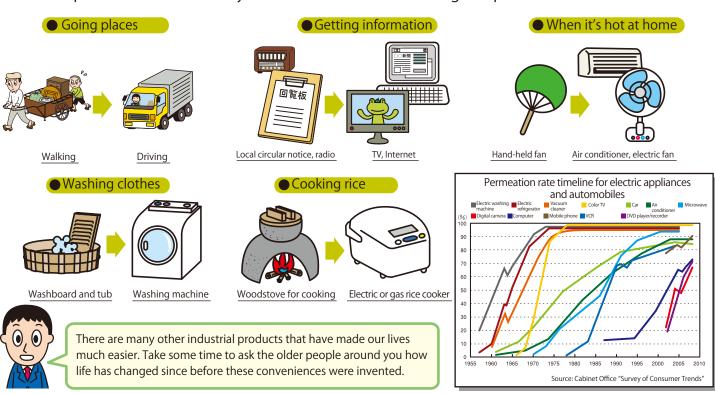
There are things that we cannot—or think that we cannot—live without. However, making, moving and using these convenient goods creates carbon dioxide and is bad for our planet and the environment. What should we do to try to balance our desire for convenience and with protection of the environment?





There are lots of industrial products around us that make our lives more convenient, right? Let's stop to think about exactly what is useful and how it is useful.

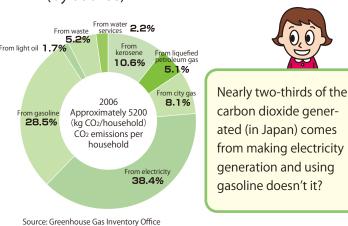
Let's compare the situation today with what it was like for our grandparents.



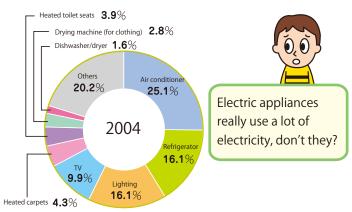


Almost all of the industrial products around us that make life more convenient rely on energy—such as in the form of electricity or gas—to work.

Carbon dioxide emitted by households (by source)



Power use in the home

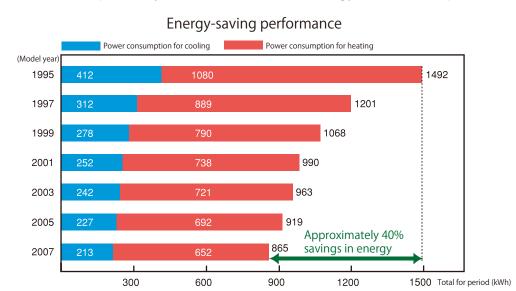


Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Agency of Natural Resources and Energy

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Let's see how companies are making products that are better for the global environment.

Over the past 10 years, the amount of energy needed to operate air conditioners has decreased.

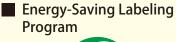


Devising more environmental ways of using what we have (car sharing)

Car sharing is a way for many people to use one vehicle. By sharing a vehicle, the number of vehicles on the road drops, and carbon dioxide emissions are reduced. In

addition, this has the added bonus of easing traffic congestion and making roads last longer.

Let's see what other initiatives similar to this we can find.





Products that are recognized as being able to run on a reduced amount of energy are labeled with this special green "ecomark."

Home Appliances Recycling Act

This law mandates the recycling of materials and components in electric home appliances that are disposed of. Check out the details for yourself online, such as at the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry at http://www.meti.go.jp
Laws also exist for the recycling of personal computers, automobiles and plastic containers.



We couldn't live life as we know it without using industrial goods. Let's think about how we use these products.

Source: Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association

- How do you normally use home electrical appliances?
- What do you look for or think about when you are shopping for such products?
- Can you use these products less?

Let's think about how we use electric appliances from now on!



Team Minus 6% This is a project to help

This is a project to help focus the efforts of people in Japan to fight global warming by trying to meet the six-percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions as pledged under the Kyoto Protocol agreement In order to solve the issue of global warming, countries from around the world cooperated in drawing up the Kyoto Protocol agreement in 1997.

http://www.team-6.jp

For more about electricity see p. 7.

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Devising ways to protect the planet in daily life

In our lives, we use things or products and we use energy. These products and energy link us to the world. Let's try to think about what we can do in our lives to protect the global environment.





We tried to outline below our activities during an average day.



Washing your face and brushing your teeth

Let's think about the following.

•Where does water come from?

Eating and food

food is left over?

Japan, where in the world?)

Using the bathroom

•Where does water come from?

·Where does the water go?

·What kinds of problems arise when

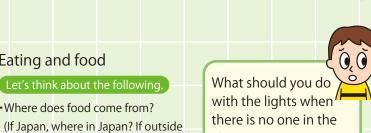
·How can you keep from wasting water?

W.C.



Eating at school

- ·Where are the food and ingredients for school lunches made?
- ·How are they transported to reach you?
- ·What kind of energy is used in preparing the food?



classroom?

Cleaning up

does it go?

cleansers?

Let's think about the following.

·When you throw away waste where

· Is there a better way to use soaps and

How can you keep from wasting water

when washing rags and mops used to



Studying

Let's think about the following

- ·What are the things, such as pens and paper, that you use made from?
- ·What should you be careful with in terms of your school supplies?

Watching TV

Let's think about the following.

- ·How did your TV reach your house? How was it transported?
- ·How much energy do you think it
- ·What should you do when you are not watching it?



Going shopping

Let's think about the following

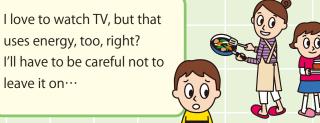
I wonder where all of the things they

sell in the stores come from.

- ·How can you create less waste when shopping?
- ·What else can you do to help when you are shopping?
- ·What about clothing that you no longer wear?

uses energy, too, right?

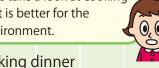
leave it on…



Taking a bath Let's think about the following.

- ·What kind of energy is used when you take a bath?
- · How can you bathe in a way that is better for the environment?

Let's take a look at cooking that is better for the environment.



Making dinner

Let's think about the following.

- ·Where do the ingredients you use and food you eat for dinner come from?
- •What kind of cooking is good for the environment?
- •How should you dispose of waste created?

Going to sleep

Let's think about the following.

- ·How should you use your air conditioner or heater?
- •What happens to the amount of energy used when you stay up late?

Learn About the **Global Environment**

Learn About Energy P 6

Learn About Water P 8

Learn About Things P 10

Learn About Transporting Goods

Learn About Waste P 14

Learn About Industrial Products



Let's investigate where in your lives you use energy. Then discuss what you can do in your lives to reduce energy consumption.

I have friends that are doing things to protect our environment.

Children's eco-club

The Eco-club is a club that is sponsored by the Environment Ministry. It is a club that anyone can join that engages in environmental activities. As of February 20, 2009, there were roughly 4,068 eco-clubs with 169,640 registered and active.

Take a look at the homepage and feel free to join!

http://www.ecoclub.go.jp.















We support education for sustainable development (ESD) activities to realize a sustainable world.

