

# A STUDY ON MUNICIPAL POLICY OF SORTED WASTE COLLECTION FOR PROMOTING WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

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*Key Words: sorted waste collection, recycling rate, waste administration, municipalities, sound material-cycle society*

## 1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Current waste problems are attributable to social and economic activities and life style of citizens, which have their basis in mass production, mass consumption, and mass disposal. The policy of waste management varies from one municipality to another, however, in recent years, waste minimization become one of the common challenges across the country. Because sorted collection systems of municipal waste can be determined by municipal governments, each municipality has unique sorting rules for household wastes.

The purpose of this study is to understand the current status of sorted collection systems of municipal wastes and to discuss effective sorted collection policies making the best use of regional characteristics. Therefore, we focus on the “recycling rate” as an indicator, and organize the factors that affect it. As for municipalities that achieved high recycling rate, we compare the small and large ones based on population size. After understanding the characteristics of each collection system, this study considers issues and future measures for collection systems in large municipalities that have large populations and diversities of lifestyles.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This study uses the recycling rate publicized by the Ministry of Environment to figure out the recent tendency of sorted waste collection by municipal governments, and compares small and large municipalities that achieved the top 10 recycling rates. The comparison items are as follows: 1) recycling rate, 2) waste collection system, 3) collection frequency, 4) number of waste categories, 5) system of waste disposal fees, 6) designated bag system, and 7) waste disposal facilities. In order to clarify the characteristics and problems of large municipalities, this study focuses on the instance of Kyoto City and its organizational measures of waste reduction and recycling.

## 3. CONCLUSION

To promote waste reduction and recycling, there is a need to combine different types of environmental policy approaches, such as regulatory approaches, voluntary approaches, and economic incentives. The municipal governments are required to have comprehensive policy approaches that promote voluntary participation and action of citizens and businesses. In consequence of the conducted comparison, the following points were concluded as essential for building the effective sorted collection system of large municipalities.

- (1) Taking measures to reduce or recycle food and paper wastes because of its high share in household wastes;
- (2) Promoting cooperation with businesses and citizens and utilizing coordinators (e.g. local citizens' organizations) between them and the municipality;
- (3) Requiring citizens to take the responsibility for their emissions.

Based on the above points, municipal governments need to promote and introduce new measures in consideration of the characteristics of each region such as population size and industrial structure.