

STUDY ON THE CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING RECYCLING LAW AS MEASURES TO REDUCE PLASTIC GARBAGE VOLUME

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1. Subject and method

The Containers and Packaging Recycling Law (CPRL) was studied as measures to reduce plastic garbage volume. The data of the government, governmental round-table conference(s), the industry and the “Japan containers and packaging association” were used, opinion interviews of city persons in charge and institution inspection were performed, and investigation of a life of the writer as a consumer was also conducted. Based on these, the following examinations were performed.

- (1) This Thesis calculated the expense burden of the cities, producers and consumers, on recycle of plastic containers and packaging and PET bottles in the framework of the CPRL, and compared them with EU countries;
- (2) examined the effectiveness of the law toward reduction of plastic garbage, and the incentives to adopt Design for Environment (DfE) given to producers; and
- (3) analyzed the relevance of the existing law including recycle of other plastics.

2. Results

(1) The expense burden of 3 stakeholders in the 2008 fiscal year in the framework of the CPRL (from using to recycling) was calculated. In the case of plastic containers and packing, the payment was 54,500 million yen for cities, 42,800 million yen for producers. In the case of PET bottles, 25,900 million yen for cities, 430 million yen for producers. Compared with EU countries, the expense of collection, conveyance and separating garbage of the cities in Japan is as high as EU countries. And the producers generally pay such expense in EU countries.

(2) As for PET bottles, producers' expense burden is close to zero, and expense burden of cities is larger for the plastic containers. This fact does not coincide with the intention of EPR (expanded producer responsibility) that provides an incentive for producers to develop products easy to recycle. However, the use of PET bottles has increased after CPRL enforcement. Small burden on producers is one of the factors as well as realization of social efficiency by PET bottles, and change in lifestyle. On the other hand, the use of plastic is gradually decreasing. It is assumed to be partially the achievement of CPRL, but further effort seems necessary

(3) Considering progress of reduction of the resister bag by charging, the writer experienced and studied in internship, when administration, consumers, and producers cooperated under governmental leadership in addition to the CPRL regulation, the CPRL can work effectively. The importance of raising consumers' power is suggested from this fact.

One conclusion of this study is that the government needs to start considering the extensive “plastic recycling law” that includes daily necessities made from plastics.