

Law for the Recycling of Specified Kinds of Home Appliances (Home Appliance Recycling Law)

Almost half of the post-consumer home appliances discharged by households had previously been discarded at landfill sites without any treatment, although there have been many cases in which metals including iron are recovered after the shredding process. Since post-consumer home appliances contain useful resources such as iron, aluminum, or glasses, and the remaining capacity of final landfill sites was getting smaller, reduction of waste became an urgent issue, and reduction and recycling of waste had been all the more needed.

Under these circumstances, the Home Appliance Recycling Law was enacted in June 1998 and enforced in April 2001, aiming to realize sound waste treatment and efficient use of resources through reduction of waste and full utilization of recyclable resources for the realization of a sound material-cycle society. The law introduces a new framework of recycling whose principle is to place an obligation on manufactures and retailers of home appliances.

With regard to the four specified post-consumer home appliances, namely (1) air conditioners, (2) TVs (CRT, liquid crystal, and plasma TVs), (3) refrigerators and freezers, and (4) washing machines and clothes dryers, this law stipulates the roles of each player: the collection from consumers by retailers, recycling by manufacturers or importers as well as payment of fees for collection, and transportation and recycling by consumers when they discard those appliances. Under the law, manufacturers or importers are required to meet the target of recycle rate (55–82%) in recycling post-consumer home appliances, in addition to recovering CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs from air conditioners and refrigerators. The role of the government is stipulated to provide necessary information on recycling and imposing recommendation, order, and penalty on the business entities that make improper claims.

In order to ensure that the specified kinds of post-consumer home appliances are delivered from consumers to manufacturers via retail stores, a manifest system is established in which consumers can check that the waste they discharged is correctly transported and disposed of.

Recycling Flow of Home Appliances

