

Reducing Final Waste Disposal Ratios

Targets and Achievements

The Mitsubishi Electric Group focuses on the following three measures to reduce final disposal ratios: thorough analysis and separation of waste for conversion into valuable resources; higher levels of conversion into valuable resources through development of disposal contractors, sharing information about waste disposal contractors; and increasing the efficiency of waste (recycling) logistics.

Under the 9th Environmental Plan (fiscal 2019–2021), the target final disposal ratio is to be maintained at less than 0.1% for Mitsubishi Electric Group companies in Japan. In fiscal 2021, the ratio was 0.02%. Overseas affiliates had a final disposal ratio of 0.15% in comparison with their target of less than 0.5%, which meant the targets were achieved both in Japan and overseas.

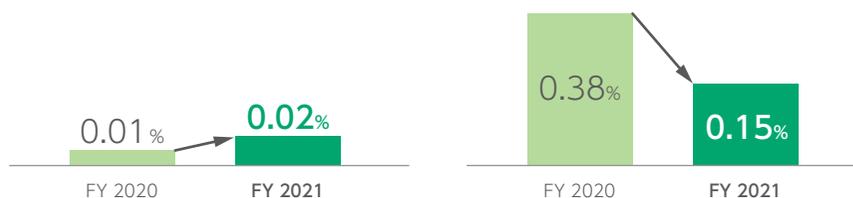
Results of Activities at Mitsubishi Electric Group Companies in Japan

Each Mitsubishi Electric production base manufactures different products, and therefore generates different kinds of waste. Thus, the general rule is for each base to create and implement its own plan. At the same time, however, all bases share management expertise and information on contractors, and cooperate with neighboring bases to ensure proper waste management.

In addition to the above, a waste control system has been introduced to all 26 Mitsubishi Electric production bases to strengthen compliance. Furthermore, affiliated companies in Japan make ongoing efforts to implement initiatives that have been proven effective at Mitsubishi Electric’s production bases, and to pursue thorough waste separation.

Final Waste Disposal Ratios

(Left: Mitsubishi Electric Group Companies in Japan, Right: Overseas Affiliates)



Total waste output amounted to 122 kt in fiscal 2021, a 11 kt reduction compared to the previous fiscal year.

Results of Activities at Overseas Affiliates

It is difficult to set the same target levels as Japan for overseas affiliates, as regulations and waste treatment practices vary by country and region. Nevertheless, there are some activities that can also be implemented overseas, such as thorough separation, recycling, improvement in the efficiency of collection and transportation, and expansion in recycling of used plastics.

In fiscal 2020, the final disposal ratio fell short of the target. Thus, in fiscal 2021, we addressed this issue by checking the status of waste discharge at overseas affiliated companies in cooperation with their supervising business groups and environmental offices in the region, and offered support in reducing the amount of landfill solid waste, sorting waste, and selecting disposal contractors. We also promoted plastic recycling at our European manufacturing bases.

Owing to these measures, we achieved our target with a total waste discharge of 77 kt and a final disposal ratio of 0.15%.

→For details on total waste discharge and the final disposal ratios, please refer to “Material Balance” on page 34.

Specification, Disposal and Transportation of Hazardous Wastes

The Mitsubishi Electric Group specifies hazardous wastes as follows, monitors their output and appropriately disposes of them in compliance with the laws and regulations of the regions in which our facilities are located. We also carry out material recycling and thermal recycling where we can in order to reduce final disposal (landfill) volume.

- Mitsubishi Electric and affiliates in Japan: “Specially-controlled industrial wastes” specified by the Japanese Waste Disposal Law
- Overseas affiliates: Hazardous wastes defined by local laws and regulations

Wastes containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) are managed separately based on the “Law concerning Special Measures for Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes, PCB Special Measures.” Please refer to “Preventing Environmental Incidents” on page 13 for details.

In fiscal 2021, total hazardous waste emissions of Mitsubishi Electric Group companies in Japan amounted to 1,341 tons, of which 1,091 tons were recycled. That of overseas affiliates totaled 4,107 tons, of which 1,239 tons were recycled.

Initiatives to Improve Effective Use of Plastic Waste

The Mitsubishi Electric Group set a target of achieving effective plastic utilization rates of 90% or more in Environmental Plan 2023, which started in fiscal 2022. This initiative is based on the “Ocean Plastics Charter” that was adopted at the G7 Summit, and the “plastic recycling strategies” formulated by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment. At our business sites across Japan, targets have been individually set according to their actual effective utilization rates from fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2020, and various initiatives are being made to ensure thorough sorting of plastic waste, carry out reviews of disposal contractors as necessary, and improve material recycling ratios for plastics, among others.