

Let's Learn More About the Garbage Problem in Tsukuba!

In Tsukuba City there is no 'final landfill site', a facility for the ashes of burned waste, therefore it is taken outside the city. However, in near future the landfills across Japan may become unusable. Tsukuba City set a vision for 2030: A future without the word 'garbage'. To make this future possible, let us look at the current situation regarding garbage problem in Tsukuba and think what an individual can do in daily life to reduce the amount of waste.

Let's learn more about landfill sites.

**What is a final landfill site?**

People tend to assume that burnable garbage disappears when incinerated, but the ashes remain. Also, the part of unburnable waste which cannot be reused as resources remains. The sites to bury these remains are called 'final landfill sites' or 'reclaimed lands'.

**Is there a landfill in Tsukuba?**

No, there is not. Therefore, garbage ashes from Tsukuba are taken outside the city or Ibaraki Prefecture and currently are received in the public landfills of Shimotsuma City and Yamagata Prefecture. However, there is limit to the amount that they can take. Soon, it may happen that landfills across Japan can be filled up. This is not a problem unique to Tsukuba.

**Is there a solution?**

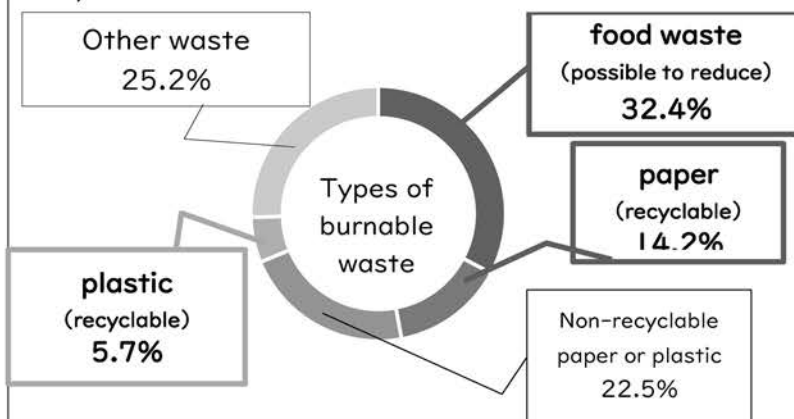
**What can be done now?**

Unfortunately, an effective way to prolong the usage of landfills has not been found yet. What us citizens can do now, is to reduce the amount of waste we produce in our everyday life. Next, we will describe the waste problem situation in Tsukuba and the specific measures that can be taken.

**What is the current situation of garbage production in Tsukuba?**

**What are the amount and types of garbage in Tsukuba?**

The total amount of burnable garbage, which is directly linked to the problem of final disposal site, has been increasing for the last few years. Please see the details below.



**Can we reduce amount of garbage?**

Yes, we can. According to research conducted in May 2019, about 20% of garbage disposed of as burnable could have been recycled. Also, approximately 30% was food waste which contains a lot of liquid or moisture, and by draining it its amount could be reduced. Viewed in this way, the burnable garbage may be reduced by almost half.





## Let's learn what we can do!

To recycle more plastic, dispose of 'plastic packages and containers' on the designated days twice a month.

Let's check the plastic garbage sorting rules introduced two years ago. The mark in the right upper corner is a sign called "PLA mark". It can be found on plastic packages or containers which should be sorted as plastic. Items without this mark can be sorted as plastic, if they are ① plastic containers and packages, ② used to contain products, and ③ are no longer needed once opened. Check the image on the right for concrete examples.

Dirty items can be disposed of after being cleaned. The items that cannot be cleaned from oil etc., should be collected as burnable garbage.



egg cartons,  
grocery  
packaging, etc.



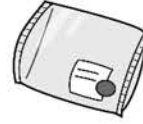
styrofoam



plastic bottle  
labels etc.



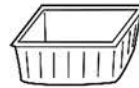
bottle caps (lids)



bread  
packaging



noodle cups and  
pudding containers



tofu containers



trays

## It is important to sort 'paper waste' to recycle more. How is it different from 'used paper'?

"Used paper" is commonly referred to newspapers, magazines, cardboards etc., but there is more paper around us. Pamphlets, snack boxes, toilet paper cores, etc. are 'miscellaneous recyclable paper'. To recycle it, put them into paper bags, write "雑がみ (zatsugami)" and take out on designated 'used paper' days. It is important to be conscious of recycling and garbage sorting.

## How to reduce food waste?

Up to 30% of burnable garbage consists of 'food scraps'. By reducing them, the amount of burnable garbage can also be cut. The easiest way to do it is to **drain the water off**. Food scraps contain a lot of liquid, so draining is effective for reducing the amount and the smell!

## Is that all we can do? Is there anything else that can be done?

Sure, there is. There are 3 steps to reduce food waste. First, 'draining the water off' mentioned above. Second and third are, 'using up' and 'eating up'. Nowadays, the issue of food loss has become a major concern. Buy the amount of food you can use up and eat it all.

It is also effective to use a food waste disposer. Also, using a low-price cardboard compost box is recommended. It can be easily made or purchased. Making use of composted food scraps in your home/kitchen garden is the first step towards achieving a recycled-based society.

## 'threeR' (さんあーる), an App to Help You Sort Garbage Correctly

The "threeR" app for smartphone is available in the following languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Vietnamese. It has such functions as "sorting garbage dictionary", "garbage collection calendar", and "collection dates notification".

## About Vaccination Certificate of COVID-19 (“Vaccine Passport”)

Individuals who plan to travel overseas and need to prove they have been inoculated against COVID-19 can get a Vaccination Certificate of COVID-19 (“Vaccine Passport”). Those vaccinated using a vaccination voucher issued by Tsukuba City can request a “Vaccine Passport”.

If you had your first and second doses in different municipalities due to moving etc., you need to request separately in each municipality.

※Other documents certifying inoculation, are “Certificate of Vaccination for COVID-19” (attached to the vaccination voucher) and “Record of Vaccination for COVID-19”. If you lost it, and you need to use it inside Japan to prove you were fully vaccinated, apply for a certificate separately. You can request either by post or at the counter in Tsukuba City Hall. For details, please visit Tsukuba official page.

City home page (Japanese, auto translation function available):

<https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/kosodate/kenkoiryo/1014158/1015384.html>

City home page (English):

<https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/kosodate/kenkoiryo/1014158/1014803/1015462.html>

### You can now apply for the Temporary Special Benefit to Support Low-income Households with Children (other than single-parent households).

Considering the ongoing long-term impact of COVID-19, special benefits will be provided to support families with low incomes who are raising children. For details, please visit Tsukuba City official website.

**Benefit amount:** 50,000 yen per child.

### Assistant Language Teachers Needed in Tsukuba Position Opened for Oct. 2021

**Position:** Tsukuba elementary/middle school Foreign Language (English) Assistant Teacher (one person).

For details, visit Tsukuba City official website.

**Period of Contract:** October 11, 2021 to March 31, 2022

**Application Procedure:** Please submit the application form (available on Tsukuba official website) filled by the applicant in Japanese along with the other required documents in person or via post by Sept. 9 (Thu) to Education Division

**Inquiries:** Tsukuba Education Bureau, Education General Affairs Division.

## Evacuation Guideline Points

In Japan, during summer and fall many typhoons occur. To be ready for heavy rains and typhoons, it is important to know about alert levels to make decisions about evacuation.

Alert Levels	Recommended Course of Action for Citizens	Evacuation Information
Alert Level <b>5</b>	Take the best actions to protect life	Emergency Safety Measures
Alert Level <b>4</b>	<b>!!Total evacuation!!</b>	Evacuation Instructions
Alert Level <b>3</b>	Evacuation of elderly people, persons with disabilities, children and people accompanying them	Priority evacuation (elderly, etc.)
Alert Level <b>2</b>	Confirm your evacuation actions	Heavy rain, flood warning alert
Alert Level <b>1</b>	High level of preparedness for disaster	Probability of alert (early warning)

Try to evacuate at early stage, before rain and wind grow stronger and before it becomes dark.

