

21. ごみゼロへの挑戦(1)：構造理解

Can we create a waste-free society? It would seem like an ideal goal to realize, since mass production has forced a shift in our way of living. Clothes have become 'fast fashion,' worn once and then thrown away like a finished bag of potato chips.

Sure, most people will recycle their cans and bottles, but that doesn't alter the fact that we are still throwing away pounds and pounds of waste every day.

That will never change in a world where convenience is appreciated over all else. Or will it?

Kamikatsu, a small town in Tokushima Prefecture, had been working for years to reduce waste. However, when they learned about zero-waste philosophy, an idea popped into the residents' minds : to become the first zero-waste town in Japan. The town doesn't collect domestic waste ;instead the residents bring their waste to the waste collection site. There, they sort it into 45 very specific and detailed categories. Although some common stuff cannot be recycled, Kamikatsu has been able to recycle more than 80% of its waste. Kamikatsu is also encouraging residents to reuse goods. An area of its waste collection site offers used stuff for free.
