



*Environmental Restoration
and Conservation Agency
of Japan*

Introduction

Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency, ERCA works on various activities; compensation for sufferers of health hazards caused by pollution; promotion of the activities for prevention of health hazards caused by pollution; support to private organizations which work on environmental conservation in the developing areas of the world nations and in Japan through a grant, development of human resources, and provision of information; support of smooth implementation of polychlorinated biphenyl waste disposal; management of funds for the administration and maintenance of final waste disposal sites; provision of medical expenses and other relief benefits to sufferers of asbestos-related disease such as mesothelioma, and lung cancer; and funding operations of the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (ERTDF) which contribute environmental policies.

Our goal is to achieve these activities with well-efficiency and to improve our service for people.



Tomoyuki Kotsuji, President
Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency

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Management principles

As a policy-implementation organization, we will endeavor to create and conserve a healthy environment. We aim to play an important part in environmental policy and make use of knowledge and skills to meet needs from home and abroad.

The logo



The idea behind the design

The idea behind the design is "clean air" and "the drift of clouds" blown by "natural wind" in a blue sky.

The meaning of the logo

The air we take for granted has become the present composition of the air now thousands of millions of years after, after the birth of the earth. The logo represents our will to create and conserve healthy environment based on the "air", and contribute to ensuring healthy and cultural living and welfare of humankind.

Outline of the ERCA

Authorizing law

Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency Law (Law No. 43 of 2003)

Mission

To create and conserve a healthy environment through the compensation for and prevention of health damage caused by public pollution, the support of activities related to environmental conservation by private organizations, the assistance and facilitation of PCB waste disposal, the management and administration of the fund for final waste disposal sites, and the supply of the Asbestos-related Health Damage Relief benefits, as well as Environmental Research and Technology Development concerning environmental conservation that utilize research Institutions' abilities.

Description of operation

- 1) Operation of the Pollution-related Health Damage Compensation program, in accordance with the Pollution-related Health Damage Compensation Law and Other Measures (hereinafter called the Compensation Law)
- 2) Operation of the Pollution-related Health Damage Prevention Program, in accordance with the Compensation Law
- 3) Subsidization and promotion activities related to environmental conservation by private organizations (Japan Fund for Global Environment)
- 4) Assistance for the disposal of PCB waste
- 5) Management of the Maintenance Reserve Fund for final waste disposal sites, in accordance with the Waste Disposal and Public Cleaning Law
- 6) Operation of the Asbestos-related Health Damage Relief program, in accordance with "the Asbestos-Related Health Damage Relief Law"
- 7) Provision of research expenses and other operations involved in Environmental Research and Technology Development Fund
- 8) Investigations and researches, gathering and providing information and training on environmental conservation without disrupting its operations from 1) to 7) .
- 9) Duties relating to management and collection of loans of the construction and transfer project and loan project

Competent Ministers

①	Personnel management and financial accounting	The Minister of the Environment
②	Support to environmental conservation activities by private organizations and businesses incidental to the support.	The Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Minister of the Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
③	Businesses that are not included in ②	The Minister of the Environment
④	Management and collection of loans, etc.	The Minister of the Environment

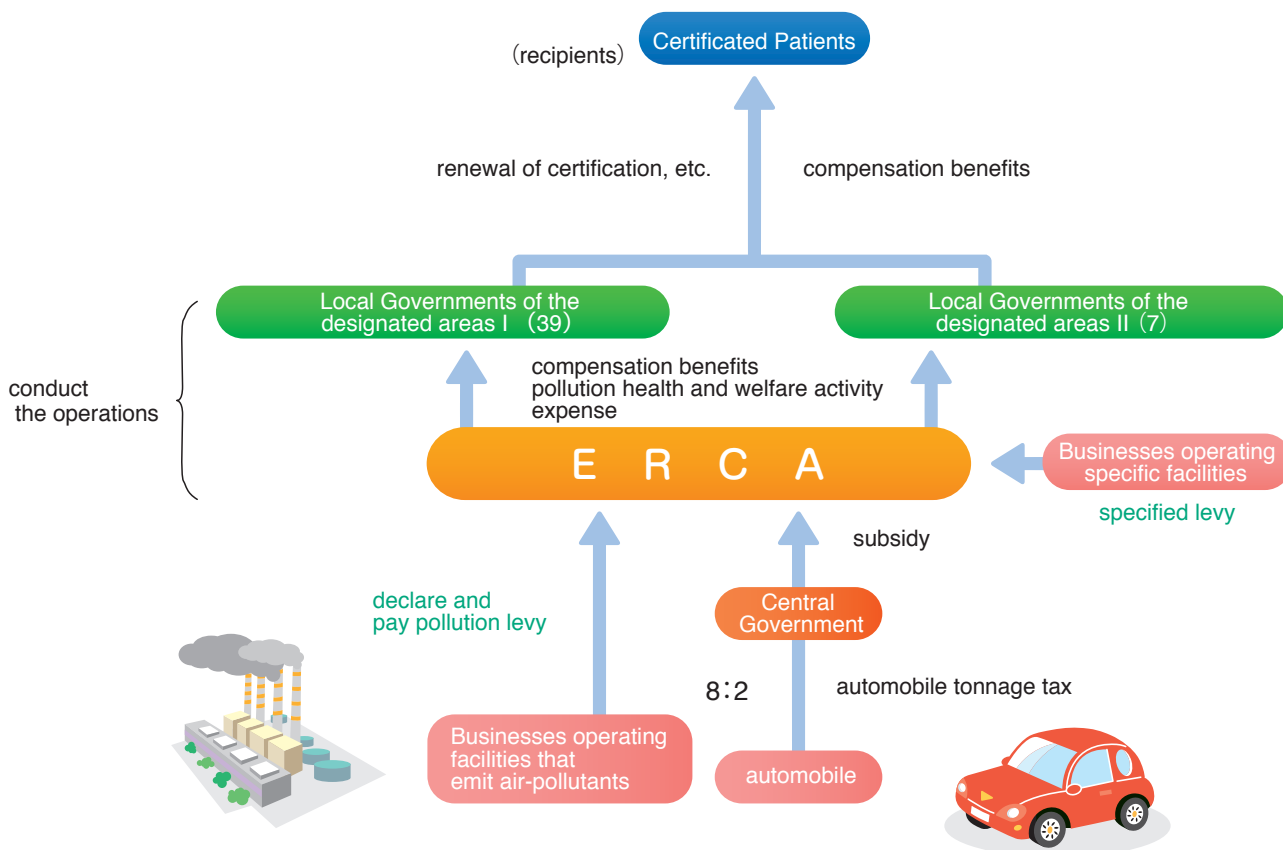
Operation of the Pollution-related Health Damage Compensation System

Pollution-Related Health Damage Compensation Law and other Measures enacted in September 1974, in order to provide victims of pollution-related illnesses with compensation benefits, such as medical benefit, etc. This law is also aimed at enforcing the pollution health and welfare program in order to give prompt and fair protection to pollution victims.

Those eligible for the compensation are certificated patients in the designated areas I (41 areas) defined as those where “significant air pollution results in a wide outbreak of disease” and in the designated areas II (5 areas) defined as those where a clear causal relationship between pollutants and illnesses such as Minamata disease and itai-itai disease is systematically established. The compensation expenses are provided by a government subsidy and the pollution load levy and the specified levy collected from businesses operating facilities that emit substances causing air pollution.

The ERCA collects the pollution load levy and the specific levy, and delivers them to the governments* of local areas where the outbreak of the pollution-related diseases has occurred.

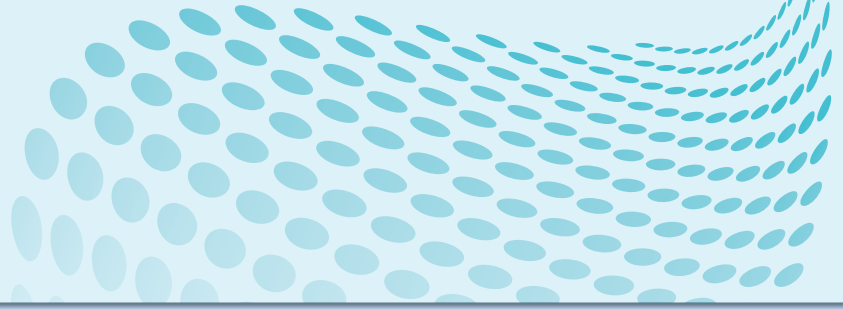
*The local governments deliver the compensation benefits to sufferers.



The designated areas I and Pollution Load Levy

After the establishment of the compensation system, the air pollution caused by sulfur dioxide was remarkably reduced due to the progress of pollution control policy by the central and local governments, the introduction of pollution prevention facilities by industries and a general tendency to economize on energies and natural resources. On the other hand, levels of pollution caused by nitrogen oxides and SPMs (Suspended Particulate Matters) continued to fail to meet environmental quality standard, but the character of air pollution underwent a great change and air pollution was no longer thought to be the main cause of diseases such as chronic bronchitis as before.

Based on this situation, the Compensation Law was revised in 1988, 41 designated areas were cancelled and a new certification of sufferers was completed. But the ERCA has been paying compensation benefits to certificated patients.



The pollution load levy is based on a self-assessment and -payment system as well as national taxes such as corporation tax and income tax. Accordingly, businesses that have been emitting or have emitted pollutants and meet the prescribed conditions are supposed to declare and pay the pollution load levy to the ERCA.

The designated areas II and Specified Levy

We have 5 designated areas II at present, as shown in the figure. Pollution sufferers are certificated when the causal relationship between their diseases and the pollutants are confirmed.

The certified patients in the designated areas II are provided with the compensation benefits and the pollution health and welfare programs as well as those in the designated areas I. All the expenses are paid by the businesses operating the specified facilities that have emitted the pollutants.

The businesses that are obliged to pay the specified levy are limited, so the ERCA fixes the amount of the specified levy and notices it to the businesses.

Designated areas and designated diseases

1) Compensation Benefit Program

The ERCA provides 7 types of compensation benefits to certificated patient:

- ① medical expenses
- ② disability compensation
- ③ survivors' compensation
- ④ survivors' lump-sum compensation
- ⑤ child compensation allowance
- ⑥ medical care allowance
- ⑦ funeral expenses

2) Pollution Health and Welfare Program

The ERCA carries out 5 types of pollution health and welfare programs, in order to restore, maintain and improve health:

- ① rehabilitation program
- ② climatotherapy program
- ③ medical care equipment supply program
- ④ home healthcare training program
- ⑤ subsidy program for influenza inoculation



● ... Former designated areas I
 ■ ... designated areas II

(Kusu has merged with Yokkaichi since February 2005.)

The Pollution-related Health Damage Prevention Program

Transition from Individual Compensation to Prevention of Health-related Air Pollution Damage

After the introduction of the Compensation Law, the circumstances concerning air pollution have remarkably changed. Heavy industrial pollution by sulfur dioxide has abated, although chronic urban pollution caused by automobile emissions has been increasing. But unlike the past, chronic lung disease cannot be thought to be attributed primarily to air pollution. Based on these circumstances, with reflect to the revision of Compensation Law, designated area I was cancelled on March 1st, 1988.

However, it still cannot be denied that air pollution has some influence on the occurrence of chronic lung diseases. Therefore, strengthening and promotion of measures to prevent the occurrence of health-related air pollution damage is underway, and the ERCA has been carrying out the pollution-related health damage prevention programs to protect the health of local communities.

Mechanism of the pollution-related health damage prevention program

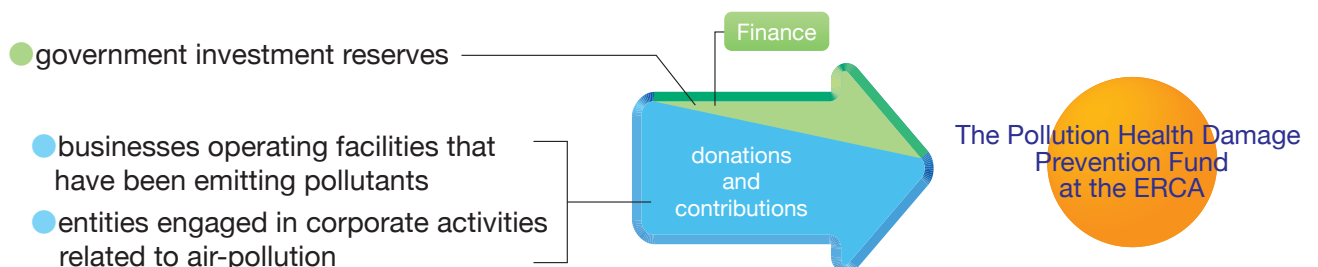
The ERCA pollution-related health damage prevention program is designed to promote the prevention of illnesses caused by air-pollution. The ERCA supports the measures carried out by the central and local governments to reduce air pollution and protect the health of the community.

The expenses of implementing the program are provided by the Pollution Health Damage Prevention Fund investment.

The pollution-related health damage prevention program is conducted by the ERCA and the local governments that are subsidized by the ERCA. The activities covered by the subsidy are those of 46 regions: 41 designated area I and 6 regions certified as equivalent to the designated area I as in the figure.



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The pollution-related health damage prevention program

activities by the ERCA

① Investigations and researches

- general researches on health damage caused by air pollution
- Investigations and researches on local air pollution

② dissemination of knowledge and information

- provision of information through the Internet and brochures
- organization of seminars



Publication and brochures



Swimming contest for children suffering from asthma



Seminar

③ trainings

- trainings for staff of the pollution-related health damage prevention programs by local governments



Study session about functional training



Study session about asthma, allergy and COPD

activities by the local governments

① planning

- planning to reduce air pollution

② health counseling

- counseling and guidance by doctors and health workers on asthma and other diseases

③ health examinations

- medical examinations and guidance on the prevention of asthma for infants and children



④ functional training

- swimming classes, music classes and camping for children suffering from asthma



Respiratory training swimming



Training camp for children suffering from asthma

⑤ facilities building

- provision of medical equipment for the outpatient service of the Respiratory Medicine Department
- Tree-planting for reduction of air pollution



Provision of medical equipment Lung function inspection apparatus



Tree-planting for reduction of air pollution

The Pollution-related Health Damage Prevention Program in Support of Patient Self-management



subsidy



Programs by the ERCA
Programs to subsidize projects by local governments

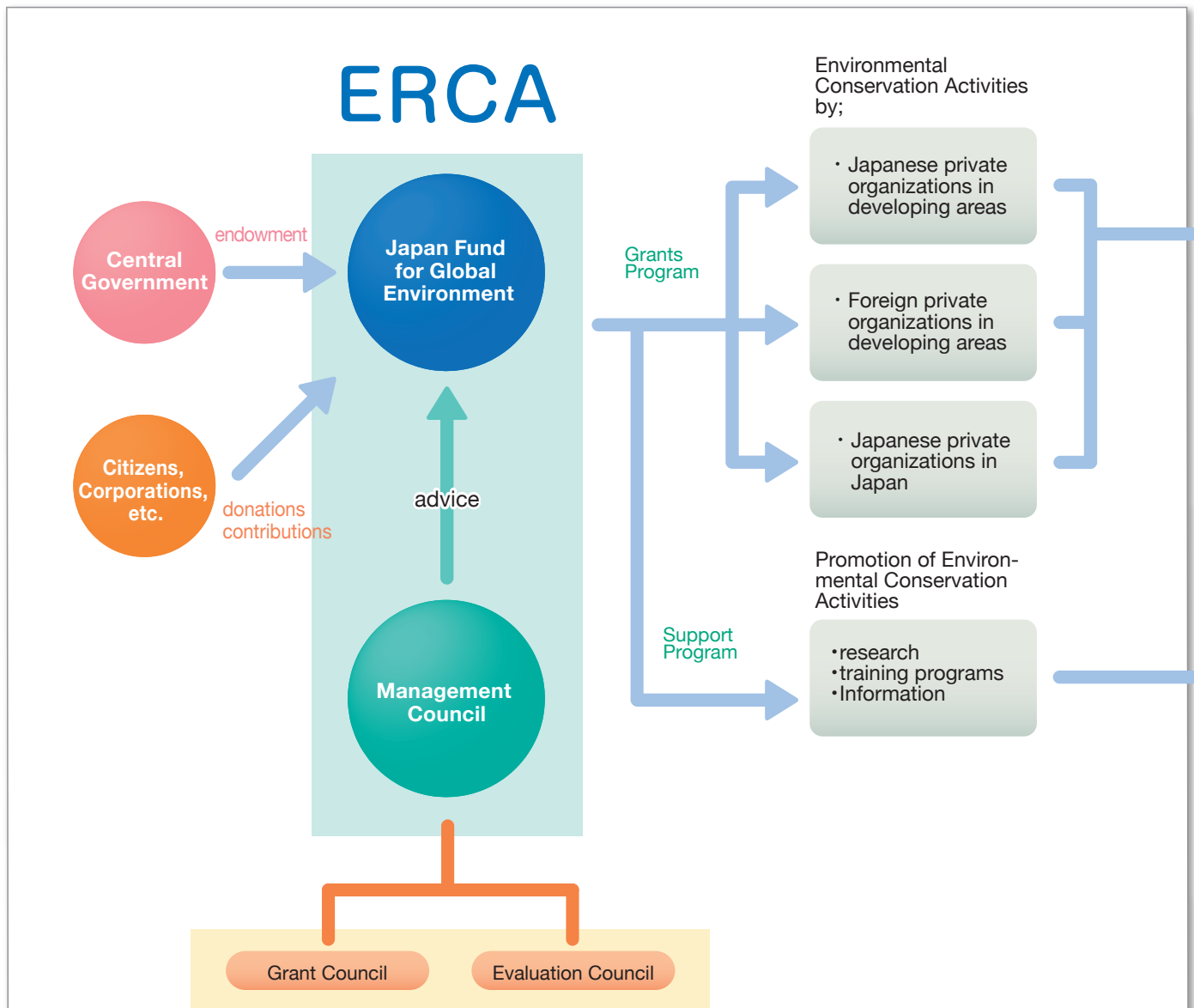
Provision of support for asthmatic patients' self-management in daily life

Japan Fund for Global Environment

The Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) was established in 1993, responding to the Statement of the Rio Declarations on Environment and Development (1992) after the environmental problem occurred since mid-1980s.

JFGE is raised by a domestic endowment from the Japanese government and donations by citizens. The interest accrued from the fund is used to provide support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profit organizations (NPOs) activities aimed at environmental conservation inside/outside Japan.

Structure of JFGE



The members of the Management Council consist of the experts of various fields to administrate/judge/monitor the fair funding management.

The management council is made of/have branches 'Grant Council' and 'Evaluation Council'; Grant Council decides the examine guideline and adopts JFGE funding organizations, Evaluation Council operates terminal evaluation of the funding organizations by the disciplinary prospects of view.



Grants Program

The JFGE provides financial assistance to NGOs and NPOs in Japan and developing countries for projects in following nine areas.

1. Nature protection, conservation and restoration
2. Forest conservation and tree/grass planting
3. Anti-desertification
4. Agriculture of environmental conservation type
5. Mitigation and Adaptation to the Climate Change
6. Building of a recycle-oriented society
7. Air, water and soil conservation
8. Comprehensive environmental education
9. Comprehensive environmental conservation projects
10. Restoration projects
11. Other environmental conservation activities



Agricultural training for environmental conservation



Training for environmental education instructors



Global warming education of children

Support Program

The JFGE conducts research (on environmental NGOs and NPOs and its projects), and provides training program and information to NGOs and NPOs for (the improvement of) environmental conservation activities.

1. Research:
Research on basic information on and common issues to NGOs and NPOs, and also their environmental conservation activities in both Japan and foreign countries is conducted.
2. Training program:
Various training programs for NGOs and NPOs staff and volunteers are held to support their activities.
3. Providing Information:
Information on NGOs and NPOs' environmental conservation projects is provided through Internet, reports, and newsletters to support environmental activities.

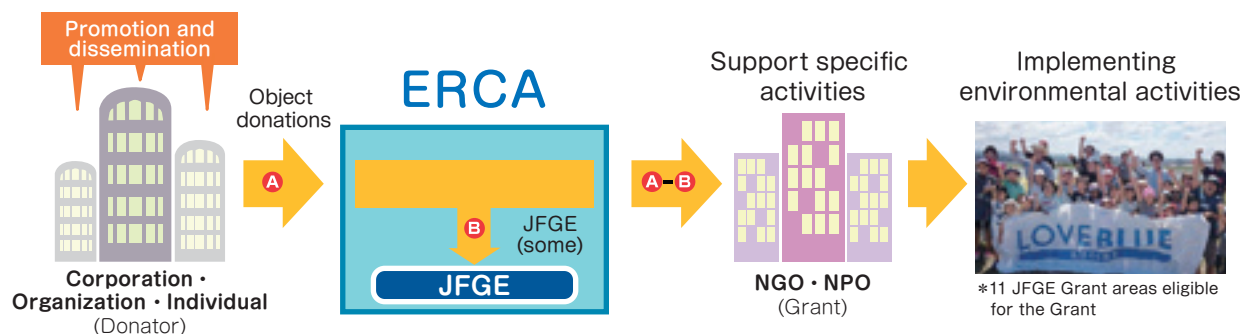


A Management Lecture for environmental NGOs

Scheme - Donator's Contribution visible to the public

JFGE Collaboration Project

Establishing an endowment from Corporation·Organization·Individual creates Grants Program with a specified donator, JFGE directly provides support for environmental activities implemented by NGOs and NPOs in Japan and developing countries.



Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency
The PCB Waste Treatment Fund

The ERCA is charged with the administration of “the PCB Waste Treatment Fund,” which is aimed at encouraging the prompt treatment and disposal of PCB wastes.

PCB (Polychlorinated Biphenyl) is a man-made chemical compound. Due to its non-flammability, chemical stability and electrical insulating properties, it had been used in a wide range of products including electric transformers, capacitors, and heating medium of boilers and exchangers. However, it was not until the Kanemi Oil Poisoning case in 1968, a large-scale food poisoning incident caused by PCB contamination of rice-bran oil in its manufacturing process, that its toxicity became widely known as a serious social issue.

PCB production was abandoned in 1972, but the construction of the PCB treatment and disposal plants has been making very slow progress because of local opposition. Therefore, business enterprises have been obliged to keep PCB refuse untreated for a long period of time. Moreover, a significant amount of PCB waste went missing during the long storage period, so the danger of PCB polluting the environment has increased.

“The Law Concerning Special Measure against PCB waste” was enacted in 2001 (amended in 2012). This law requires businesses to dispose of all the PCB waste by July 15th, 2016, however, the deadline was postponed until March 2027 with reflect to disposal schedule is being delay due to it turned out to there are more PCB remaining than anticipated. In addition, “the PCB Waste Treatment Fund” was established at the office of the ERCA by contributions from the central and local governments, as well as private sectors.

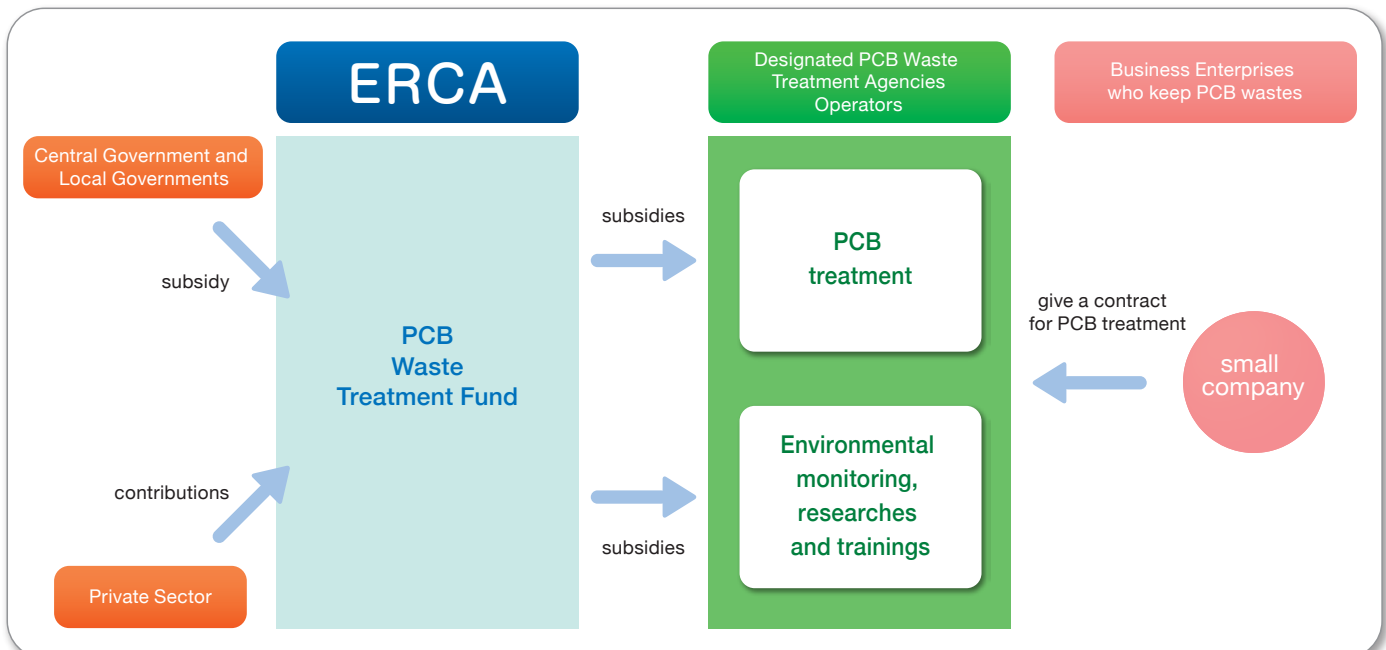
The PCB Waste Treatment Fund provides subsidies to the PCB treatment agencies designated by the Ministry of Environment, in order to reduce the expenses of the treatment operations paid for by small and medium-sized business enterprises. The subsidies are also used to promote reseaches and trainings related to PCB treatment operation (e.g. environmental monitoring, environmental safety).



Capacitor



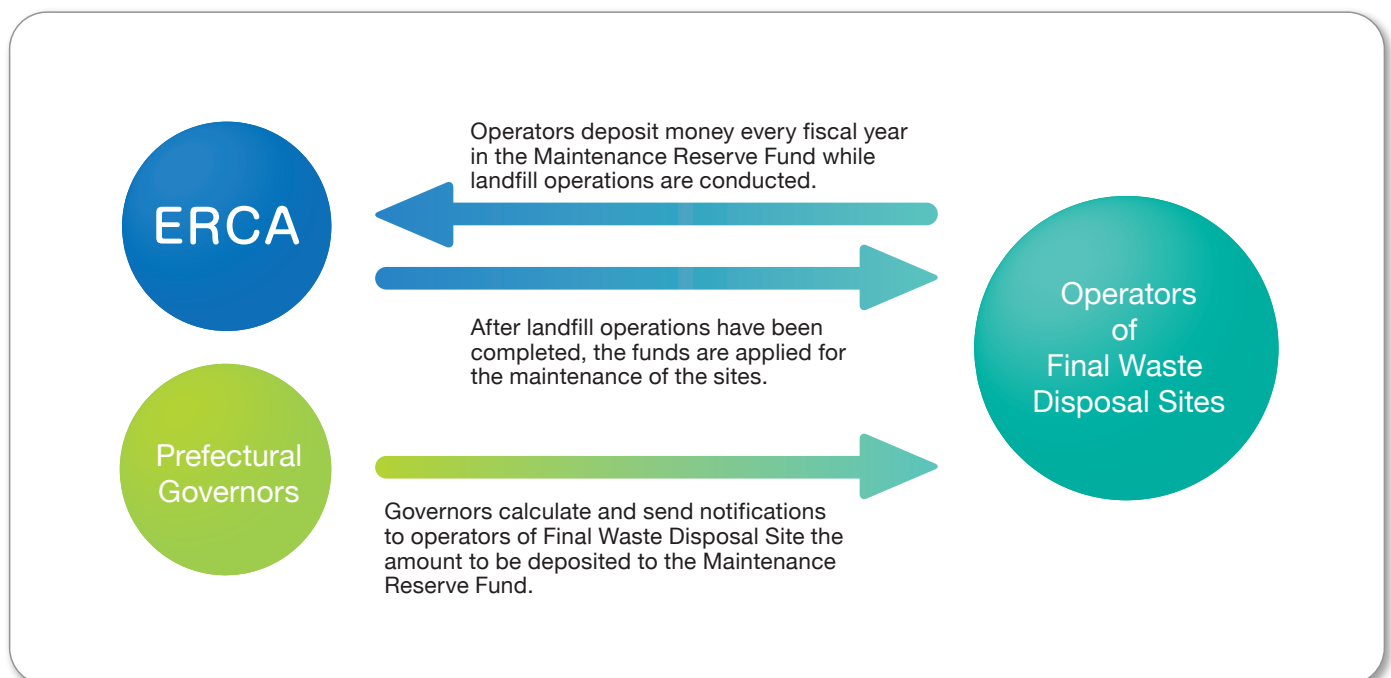
Transformer



The Administration of the Management Reserve Fund

At the final waste disposal sites, is required to manage and control leachate releases from landfills during and after the landfill operations until there is no danger harm the environment. Therefore, operators of final waste disposal sites are required by the Waste Disposal and Public Cleaning Law to deposit money in the Maintenance Reserve Fund at the office of ERCA during the landfill operation for the treatment and disposal of leachate.

Money in the Fund is returned to the operators after landfill operations have been completed. ERCA is charged with the administration of the Maintenance Reserve Fund until the operators finish landfill operations.



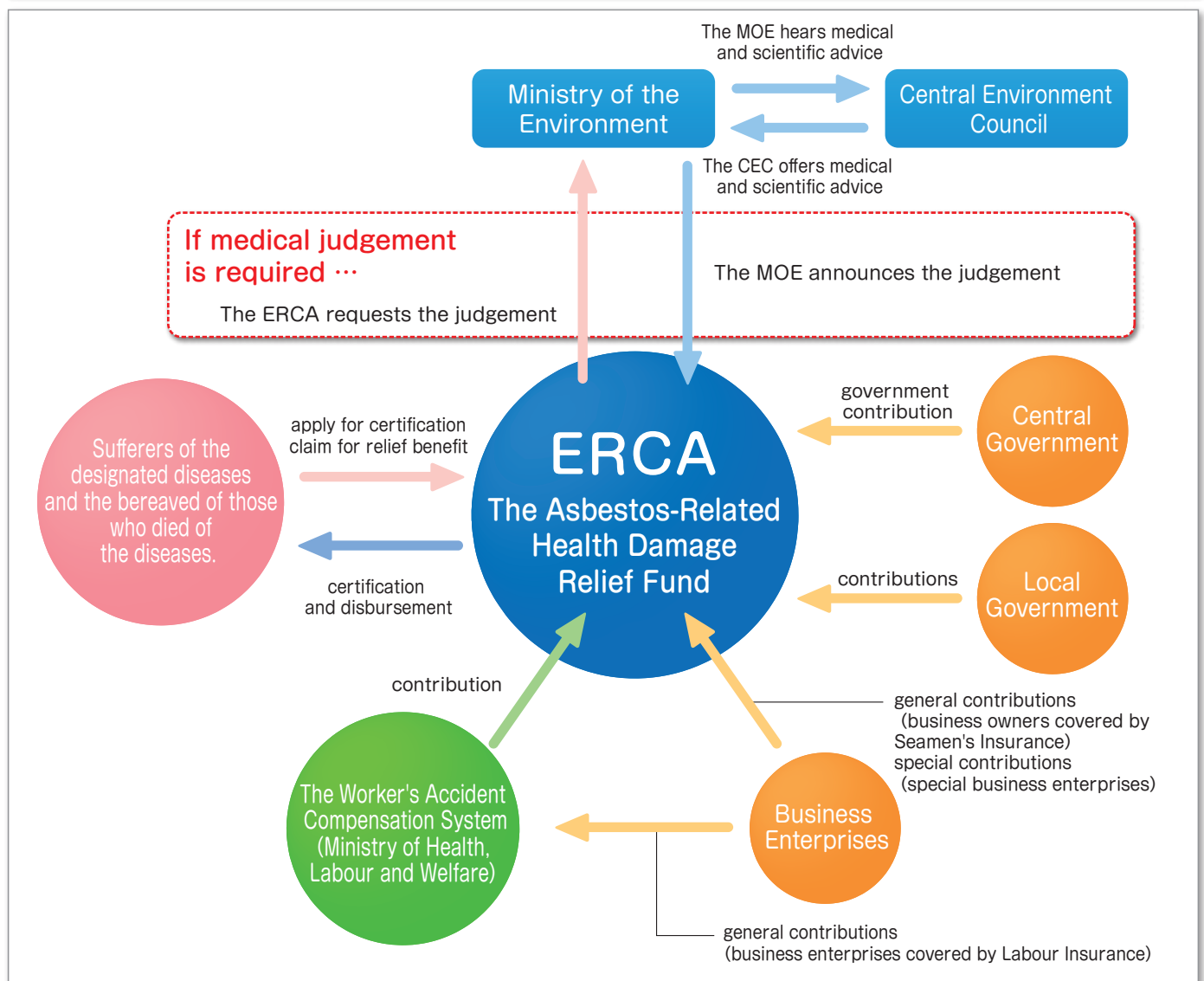
Operation of the Asbestos-Related Health Damage Relief System

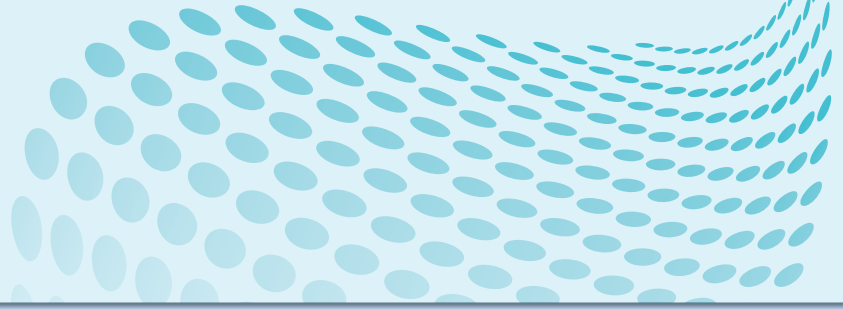
Act on Asbestos Health Damage Relief (Act No.4 of 2006) took effect on March 27th 2006, in order to provide prompt relief sufferers of asbestos-related diseases and their bereaved families. Under the act, ERCA provides relief benefit, such as medical care expenses to sufferers of the designated diseases caused by inhaled asbestos, and to the bereaved of those who died of the diseases.

The ERCA carries out 3 operations in accordance with the act:

- ① certification of patients, etc. of the designated diseases caused by asbestos in Japan
 - ② disbursement of relief benefits to certified patients, etc.
 - ③ collecting contributions for relief benefits and other expenses (special contribution from business enterprises who meet certain conditions, such as the amount of asbestos they used)
- ※ General contributions from business enterprises are collected by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Outline of the Operations of the Asbestos-Related Health Damage Relief System





Relief benefit delivery

1. Diseases covered by the benefits (designated diseases)

The following diseases caused by asbestos

① mesothelioma ② lung cancer (malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus) ③ Asbestosis with heavy respiratory dysfunction ④ Diffuse Pleural Thickening with heavy respiratory dysfunction.

2. Relief benefit delivery

① those eligible, types and amount of the benefits:

- a) those who are officially acknowledged as sufferers of the designated diseases caused by asbestos in Japan (certified patients)
 - medical care expenses born by the sufferers
 - medical care allowances ¥103,870 a month
 - funeral expenses ¥199,000 (Paid to the person who carried out the funeral)
 - relief benefits adjustment money Paid to the bereaved in case the certified patients died of designated diseases. (Up to ¥2,800,000, including medical care expenses and medical care allowance which have been already paid.)
- b) the bereaved of those who died of the designated diseases.
 - special condolence for bereaved families ¥2,800,000
 - special funeral expenses ¥199,000

② certification

In order to qualify for the relief benefit, you must be officially acknowledged as a sufferer of the designated diseases caused by asbestos in Japan.

3. Relief benefit expenses

The ERCA established the Asbestos-Related Health Damage Relief Fund at the ERCA office for the expense of relief benefit. This fund is raised from contributions from the central government, local governments and business enterprises.

Collection of contributions from business enterprises

- general contribution from business enterprises who are covered by Labour Insurance (applying the Labour Insurance contribution system)
- special contribution from business enterprises who meet certain conditions in accordance with the provision of the government ordinance, considering the amount of asbestos they used and the circumstances in which the outbreak of the designated diseases occurred, etc. (collected by the ERCA)

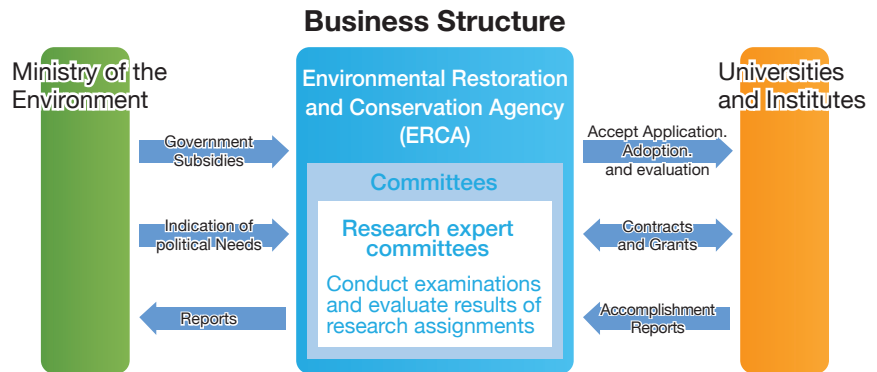
If you have questions or need more information about the Asbestos-Related Health Damage Relief Benefit, please telephone

0120-389-931 (In Japan only)

10:00~17:00 Except Saturdays, Sundays, Japan's National holidays, and 29 Dec-3 Jan

Operations Transfer to ERCA

As of Oct 1, 2016, operations of ERTDF as a competitive fund, was partially transferred to ERCA from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) including funding and others, and so, we are required to establish more efficient and effective systems such as the multi-year contracts and others than as it was operated by MOE, and we will utilize our knowledge and experience that we acquired through our operation of funding environmental conservation as much as possible.



Environment Research and Technology Development Fund

Objective

- **Contribute to promote environmental policies through the research and technical development**

We fund the essential research and development aimed to accumulate scientific knowledge and to promote environmental policies, relating to prevention of climate change, realization of a recycling-oriented society, establishing a symbiotic relationship with the natural environment, ensuring safety in environmental risk management and others, necessary for establishment of a sustainable society.

Characteristics

- **Adoption and execution of research and development which conforms to the research themes (political needs) required by the Ministry of the Environment**

ERTDF is a competitive fund, which contribute the environmental policies, and we widely welcome a research proposal conformed to political needs by MOE from academic and industry institutions.

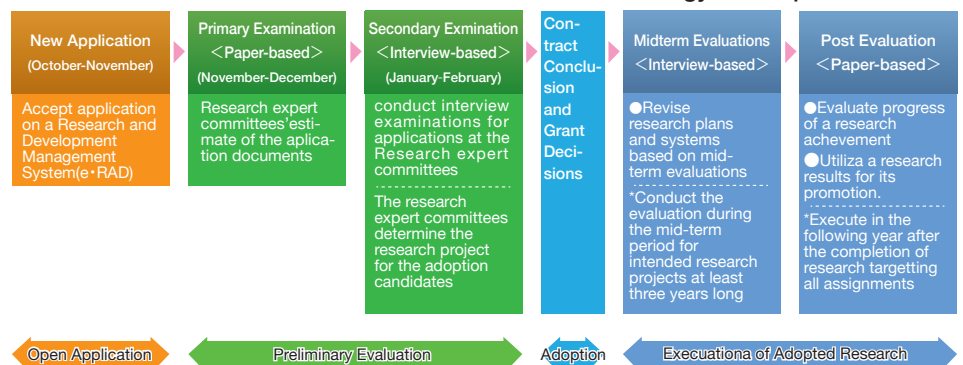
We establish the specific system with a framework (research theme, leaders, etc.) MOE determined, and we will powerfully promote strategic research and development based on Environmental administrative needs.

- **Securing transparency, fairness, and efficiency in system management through evaluations by external committee members**

The Committee and Research expert committees, which consist of external specialists, experts, and other intellectuals, conduct preliminary (examination at the time of adoption), midterm, and post evaluations in the ERTDF. Each research project will be evaluated in terms of need, effectiveness, efficiency, and cost validity.

ERCA strives for a transparency, fairness, and efficient management of systems such as adopting based on preliminary evaluations and optimizing budget for the next fiscal year based on midterm evaluations.

The work flow of the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund



Other Projects

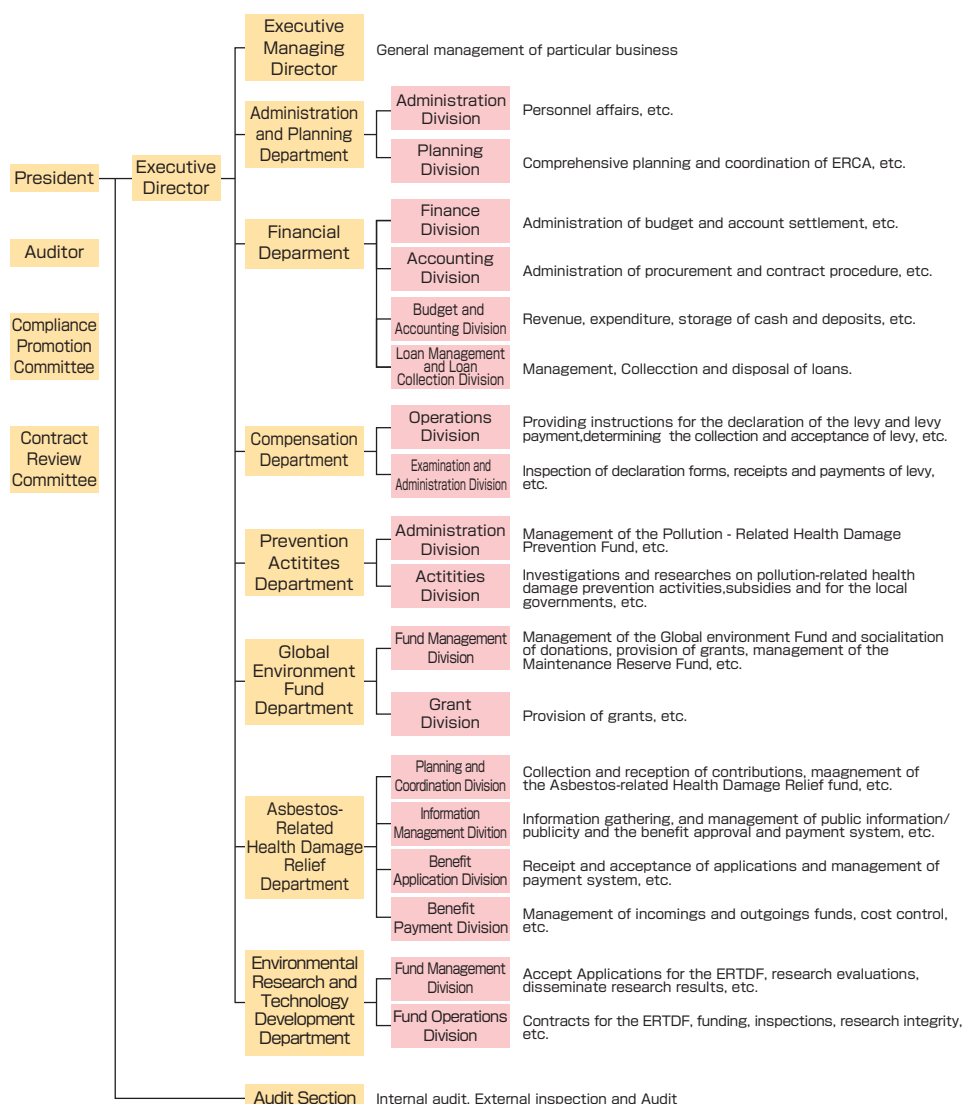
Management and Collection of Loans

The ERCA manages and collects loans of the construction and transfer projects and loan projects, succeeding to the Japan Environment Corporation.

Investigation Research for Environmental Conservation

The ERCA implements research studies, collects, organizes and provides information, as well as training programs for the creation and maintenance of a healthy environment, in accordance with Paragraph 2, Article 10 of the Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency Law.

Organization Chart



Headquarters

Address:
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Compensation Department

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Prevention Activities Department

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Global Environment Fund Department

TEL: +81-44-520-9505
FAX: +81-44-520-2190, 2092

Asbestos-Related Health Damage Relief Department

TEL: +81-44-520-9508
FAX: +81-44-520-2193, 1015

Environmental Research and Technology Development Fund Department

TEL: +81-44-520-9509
FAX: +81-44-520-9660

Audit Section

TEL: +81-44-520-9507
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Employees: 154 People
(Executive Officers: 6 People, Employees: 148 People) [As of April 1st, 2021]



Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency

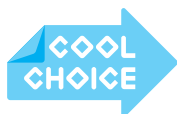
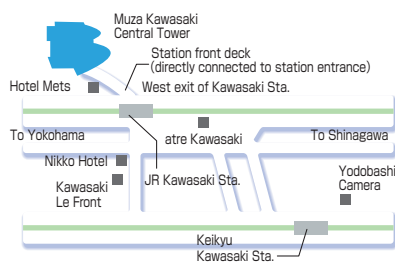
Headquarters

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環境問題を考慮して非
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ンキを使用しています。

リサイクル適性 (A)

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リサイクルできます。

この印刷物は、国等による環境物品等の調達等の推進等に関
する法律(グリーン購入法)に基づく基本方針の判断の基準を満
たす紙を使用しています。

2021.6

