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### **Material and Thermal Recycling Systems in Okinawa**

Panel: Sustainable Growth

Most of natural and artificial materials are imported and transported to archipelagic regions like Okinawa. Those materials including foods and energy are consumed, stored and dumped, but a few of them are exported. The waste management and recycling systems are very important factors to conserve the environment and to vitalize the economic system. The basic concepts of recycling system in Japan and practical business and ongoing projects in Okinawa are explained here. There are several laws to control the solid waste materials and to encourage the recycling system in Japan. They have promoted the recycling system to higher level for some materials, especially industrial waste, but still have problems. The registration system for recycling products is working to advance practical use of them. Exhaust heat from incinerators for domestic wastes is utilized to generate electric power. Some organic wastes are also used to make bio-gasses and fuels.