

Indicator 12.5.1

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

Target 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

Tons of material recycled is defined as the total amount of domestic waste that is recycled and exported for recycling. Therefore, tons of material recycled does not include the amount imported for recycling. National recycling rate is defined as the amount of recycled waste divided by the amount of domestic waste in Japan. Note that recycling includes codigestion/anaerobic digestion and composting/aerobic process, but not controlled combustion (incineration) or land application.

○ Concepts

The amount of material recycled is based on the the Report of the Research on the State of Wide-range Movement and Cyclical Use of Wastes. The recycling does not include the amount of “returned to nature”.

○ Rationale and Interpretation:

Minimizing waste generation and maximizing the recycling of waste is central to the concept of circular economy. However, currently, the total amount of produced materials that are recycled are estimated to be low (based on academic literature). If countries better understand how waste are generated, collected and recycled, this will enable countries and other stakeholders to better determine how to deal with major waste streams, for example e-waste or plastic.

Data Sources and Collection Method

The amount of “material recycled” and “total waste generated” are based on the the Report of the Research on the State of Wide-range Movement and Cyclical Use of Wastes.

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○ Computation Method

$$\text{Recycling rate} = \frac{\text{material recycled} \times 100}{\text{Total waste generated}}$$

○ Comments and limitations

None

Data Disaggregation

None

References

The Report of the Research on the State of Wide-range Movement and Cyclical Use of Wastes

Nation Survey on the State of Discharge and Treatment of Municipal Solid Waste

State of Generation and Treatment of Industrial Waste

The Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of the Environment

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Ministry of the Environment

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

International Organizations

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)