Initiatives for Effective Use of Resources

Basic Approach

The Minebea Group recognizes that there are limits to the availability of resources used in its products, which include metals, plastics, and other raw materials, along with oil, natural gas, and other energy sources. Additionally, with regard to rare earth elements indispensable to the manufacture of electronics, since the number of countries producing and exporting the materials is limited, they are more susceptible to export restrictions.

We believe that the effective use of resources is critical to the continuation of our business activities, and to that end we are taking various management measures.

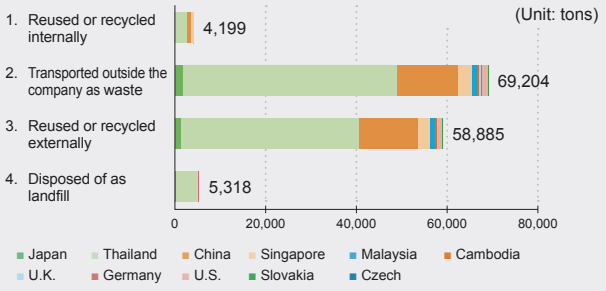
Results of FY2014 Initiatives

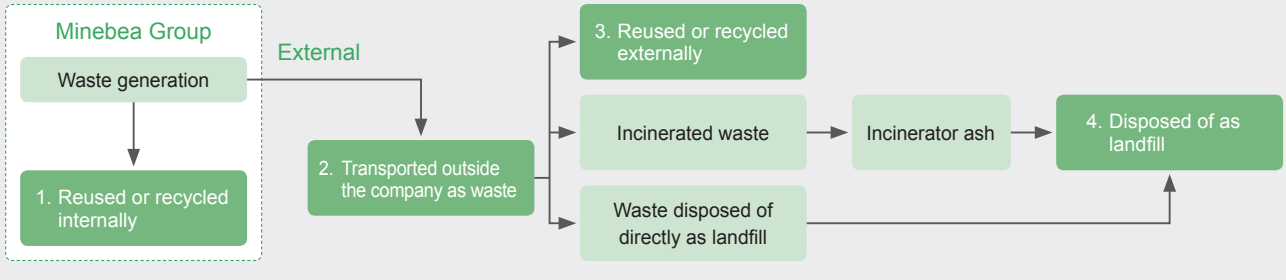
In FY2014, principal raw materials used by Minebea Group included approximately 85,913 tons of steel and 11,000 tons of resin, with the total amount of materials used about on par with the previous fiscal year.

The amount of landfill waste generated by the Group's operations in FY2014 totaled 5,318 tons, an increase of 754 tons compared to FY2013. However, in terms of basic unit of production, the amount of landfill waste generated declined by 13% in FY2014 compared with FY2013.

At our mass production plants in Thailand and China, we are recycling water inside the plants to the greatest extent possible and prevent external emissions through our "Plant Wastewater Zero System." Water emissions from Group plants in FY2014 totaled 893,000 m^3, an increase of 196,000 m^3 compared with FY2013.

Waste Processed (FY2014 Actual)





Initiatives at Business Sites

Effective Use of Rain and River Water (Thailand)

At our Thai plants, we collect rainwater in a reservoir on the plant grounds and purify it with rainwater reuse equipment for reuse as industrial water, thereby reducing the amount of tap water used.

In addition to this system, one of the Thai plants took further steps in FY2012 to substantially reduce tap water consumption by drawing water from the nearby Chiang Rak Noi Canal and purifying it to use as an alternative to tap water. With the start of this system, the plant has reduced both its tap water consumption and its water-related costs.

Conversion of Raw Kitchen Waste into Biogas (Thailand)

NMB-Minebea Thailand is taking part in a project by the Thai Ministry of Energy to promote the recycling of raw food waste into biogas energy. Both the Bang Pa-in and the Lop Buri plants have installed biogas generation systems on site. The generated biogas, which boasts a low environmental footprint, is used as an alternative to LP gas for cooking meals in the cafeterias.

Biogas generation equipment

Future Issues and Goals

For FY2015, the Group's goal is to reduce the amount of waste ultimately disposed of as landfill by 10% per basic unit of output compared with FY2014.

Additionally, we will conduct research on the condition of waste already disposed of as landfill along with market analysis in an effort to reduce waste even further in the future.