

The Fujitsu Group's Approaches Towards Marine Plastic Pollution

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Fujitsu Limited

Plastic pollution has spread extensively across the marine environment and is raising concerns toward the impact on the ecosystem as they are hurting many marine lives. The Fujitsu Group recognizes this global spreading of marine plastic pollution as a key environmental issue as same as climate change. To counter this issue, we will work on **cutting down plastic waste emissions** and promote **activities toward reducing marine plastic debris** through Co-creation with the society.

[Background]

The spread of marine plastic pollution

The amount of plastics used around the world increased by about 20 times in the past half-century, with at least 8 million tons of plastic debris a year dumped into the ocean. If no action is taken and plastic leakage increases at this rate, the ocean is expected to contain more plastics than fish by 2050¹⁾. Plastics have also been identified in depths of more than 6,000m²⁾ and this indicates the spread of plastic contamination in the marine environment.



Impact on marine life

The contamination from such marine plastics is severely affecting the marine environment. Sea turtles that prey on jellyfish may die after mistaking plastic bags floating around as food, for example. It is estimated that 52% of sea turtles around the globe are eating plastic debris³⁾. There have been reports of whales found dead on shores with massive amounts of plastic in their stomachs and a startling number of sea birds accidentally ingesting plastic, with various kinds of plastics such as bags, bottle caps, synthetic fiber and degraded debris found in their bodies. As such, many marine animals including turtles, whales, seals, birds and fish are believed to be ingesting marine plastic debris.



Impact on microplastics

Among marine plastic debris, there are also small plastic particles being less than 5mm in diameter. These are called microplastics and have also been found in waters around Japan⁴⁾. Microplastics absorb hazardous chemicals in the ocean and are feared to impact the ecosystem through food chain⁵⁾. Numerous surveys and research projects are being launched to investigate the extent and impact towards the natural environment and everyday life for people.

[The Fujitsu Group's Actions]

Cutting down plastic waste emissions

The Fujitsu Group has continued working on cutting down the use of plastics and plastic waste from its business activities. For our ICT products under development, we promote the use of recycled and recyclable plastics and switching from plastics to paper for packaging. We have also made our products more compact and lighter through reducing the number of parts, making parts smaller, thinner and lighter and making the product compact by assembling them with higher density⁶⁾.

For used ICT products, we developed a collection and recycling system spreading across Japan. Through centralizing processes to 5 Fujitsu Recycling Centers, we record a high resource recycling rate⁷⁾.

We view waste from our facilities as valuable resources. About 96% of our disposed plastics are being effectively utilized through our continued efforts to collect or use the resources as energy⁸⁾.

13.3" laptop (LIFEBOOK UH75/B3)
The battery case framing was updated to make the product the world's lightest for 2 consecutive years



Reducing marine plastic debris

As mentioned earlier, ICT products used within the Fujitsu Group and waste from its facilities are subject to appropriate processing. We also recognize the importance of proactively addressing the marine plastic waste issue that has become a critical environmental issue.

Given these circumstances, Fujitsu started considering initiatives to participate in that promotes the use of recycled plastics and lead to the reduction of marine plastic debris. We will contribute towards reducing marine plastic waste emission through our participation and support toward such initiatives. Furthermore, we believe it is pivotal to increase awareness among every plastic product user in order to reduce marine plastic debris. We will communicate the significance of being conscious about the environmental impact of marine plastic pollution within and outside Fujitsu through producing, uploading and sharing videos for children, holding seminars and workshops for employees and informing visitors during exhibitions and in-house events.

End

Reference

1) ELLEN MACARTHUR FOUNDATION. The New Plastics Economy: RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF PLASTICS

2) UNEP website

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/single-use-plastic-has-reached-worlds-deepest-ocean-trench>

3) UNEP website <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/fatal-attraction-turtles-and-plastic>

4) Japan Ministry of the Environment. Actions Taken by the Ministry of the Environment on Marine Litter and Microplastics

http://www.env.go.jp/water/marine_litter/00_MOE.pdf

5) Japan Ministry of the Environment. Actions Taken by the Ministry of the Environment on Marine Litter and Microplastics

http://www.env.go.jp/water/marine_litter/00_MOE.pdf

6) Fujitsu website <http://www.fujitsu.com/global/about/environment/society/resourceefficiency/index.html>

7) Fujitsu website <http://www.fujitsu.com/global/about/environment/society/recycle/index.html>

8) Fujitsu website <http://www.fujitsu.com/global/about/environment/operation/waste/index.html>