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Maintenance and Quality Improvement of Zero-Waste-to-Landfill/Fukui Plant

RICOH Fukui Plant is engaged in improvement of continuous Zero-Waste-to-Landfill activities by all employees to elevate the quality of the plant to the highest level.

The Ricoh Group achieved Zero-Waste-to-Landfill at several major global production sites in 2001, in which Fukui Plant took the initiative. The plant achieved “Level 2 Zero-Waste-to-Landfill”¹ in October 1998 and “Level 3” in August 1999. Zero-Waste-to-Landfill activities are positively promoted by all employees with the recognition that these activities will lead to the realization of the ultimate goal of no energy/ resource loss and 100% yield².

1. For Zero-Waste-to-Landfill levels, see page 57.

2. The ratio of good products to all manufactured products

* Ricoh Fukui Plant: <http://www.ricoh.co.jp/fukui-plant/> (Japanese language only)

Q

Why did you start Zero-Waste-to-Landfill activities? What is the relation between realization of the highest-level production and Zero-Waste-to-Landfill?

A

Originally, Zero-Waste-to-Landfill activities started as a part of our TPM* activities to avoid waste in the manufacturing process. Zero-Waste-to-Landfill means zero waste in manufacturing, in other words, zero loss in manufacturing. We are

engaged in continuous improvement aiming at realizing a plant with 100% yield, zero waste of resources and energy, and zero accidents.

* Total Productive Maintenance: Production maintenance by all employees

Q

What was the most important thing to achieve Zero-Waste-to-Landfill?

A

The most important thing was to promote employee awareness of environmental issues. Zero-Waste-to-Landfill cannot be achieved without the participation of all employees. A strong

initiative of management is also necessary to build a mechanism in which all employees can participate. The Zero-Waste-to-Landfill Committee, established in 1998 under the chairmanship of the Plant Manager, deliberated measures to realize Zero-Waste-to-Landfill and made them known to every employee, without exception. It is also important to make sorting rules that are simple for everyone and report correct results of sorting efforts to all employees. The partnership with recycling companies is also important. We secure at least two recycling routes for each waste type.



Resource sorting station within the plant