

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

In order to protect the global environment, the Wacoal Group takes measures to reduce environmental burden at all stages of its operations, from design and materials development through production, transportation, sales, and collection. In accordance with our environmental policy, we prepare a medium-term environmental action plan every three years and conduct environmental management initiatives to reach the plan's targets. Also, the Wacoal Group is working to raise the overall level of its environmental efforts by using an environmental management system.

Reduction of Environmental Burden

At the Wacoal Group factories producing such innerwear products as brassieres, girdles, and bodices, the largest environmental burden stems from cutting wastage from polyester, nylon, and other textile materials. At the design stage, we use CAD to reduce cutting wastage. Nevertheless, about 40% of materials end up as cutting wastage, which accounts for around 40% of the total waste factories generate. To resolve this problem, Kyushu Wacoal Manufacturing Corp., which operates our main factory, uses thermal recycling to create recycled plastic fuel (RPF), which a paper manufacturing company uses. Thanks to such initiatives, the waste recycle rate of the Wacoal Group's 14 operating bases in Japan rose to 89% in 2009.

Other initiatives to reduce the environmental burden of operations include measures to reduce CO₂ emissions associated with transportation. In these efforts, we are moving forward with plans to increase the use of trains instead of trucks for shipping products from factories, and we are consolidating distribution centers to build a more efficient distribution network. Through a range of such initiatives, Wacoal Corp. reduced its CO₂ emissions 6% year on year in Japan for 2009.



Bra recycle bag

Strengthened Development of Eco Products

The Wacoal Group engages in environment-friendly product development. For example, developing innerwear that helps maintain body temperature contributes to society's energy-saving efforts, while encouraging the use of recycled fabric or synthetic fabric made from plants helps resource recycling.

As a result of these measures, eco products are generating a larger share of sales every year. In the fiscal year, they accounted for approximately 60% of sales.

Brassiere Recycling Campaign

We began the Brassiere Recycling Campaign after a survey revealed that many women are reluctant to discard as garbage brassieres that they no longer wear. In this initiative, customers put brassieres they no longer need in specially designed collection bags and bring them to stores. The collected brassieres are processed into RPF, which a paper manufacturer uses.

During our 2009 Brassiere Recycling Campaign, lasting roughly two months from February 12 to April 22, 800 stores collected approximately 13,000 brassieres. These were converted into 5,180 kg of recycled plastic fuel. Collecting the unneeded innerwear of customers is an important responsibility of the Wacoal Group as a manufacturer. At the same time, such initiatives are an important part of our environmental preservation activities. This particular initiative is spreading beyond Japan to countries worldwide, with Group company Taiwan Wacoal Co., Ltd., advancing a similar project.