

Declaration of Action on Plastic Recycling

As part of our efforts to design containers and packaging with low levels of environmental impact, in 1995 we instituted guidelines for more concrete initiatives with the fundamental goals of ensuring the safety of containers and packaging, reducing the amount of packaging used, optimizing processing/disposal processes and promoting resource recycling. We announced our Declaration of Action on Plastic Recycling in January 2019 to focus attention on issues such as plastic pollution in oceans, global warming and natural resource depletion, and to show our commitment to recycling our plastic containers and packaging.

Declaration of Action on Plastic Recycling (summary)

- The Yakult Group is engaged in initiatives that promote recycling of plastic containers and packaging.

— 2025 target —

We will establish a foundation for environmentally conscious container and packaging technology, and begin conversion to easily recyclable materials such as biomass, recycled and biodegradable materials.

— 2030 target —

We will work to convert to easily recyclable materials as much as possible while keeping up with developments in recycling markets, environmental infrastructure and other external environmental facilities

- Moving forward, we will actively promote resource recycling initiatives, further implementing initiatives beyond these to reduce the amount of plastic used in containers and packaging, and reuse plastic packaging materials in our production processes.

Reducing specified plastic-containing products*

The Yakult Group has worked to reduce single-use plastics through strategies such as partially replacing the plastic spoons it provides to customers with paper ones.

In accordance with the April 2022 Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation for Plastics, we have set targets for fiscal 2022 to further reduce our use of plastic spoons and straws. We are implementing the following measures.

- (1) As a general rule, Yakult Ladies will no longer provide spoons and straws when selling products (excluding straws affixed to the product as part of its design)
- (2) Using paper spoons wherever possible
- (3) Using plant-derived plastic in straws

* Specified plastic-containing products: As stipulated within the Act on Promotion of Resource Circulation for Plastics, these are "plastic-containing products provided to consumers free of charge along with sales of goods and provision of services." Twelve kinds of products fall under this definition: forks, spoons, knives, muddlers, straws, hair brushes, combs, razors, shower caps, toothbrushes, hangers and garment covers.

Amount of specified plastic-containing products distributed

FY	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Amount distributed (tons) (excluding biomass plastics)	89.3	80.1	60.5	52.8	30.0
	—	—	—	52.7	29.0
Compared to previous year (%) (excluding biomass plastics)	—	89.7	75.5	87.3	56.8
	—	—	—	87.0	55.0
Amount reduced (tons) (excluding biomass plastics)	—	9.2	19.6	7.7	22.8
	—	—	—	7.8	23.7

* Target for fiscal 2022

Plastic recycling promotion framework

■ Plastic Recycling Promotion Committee

We have established a Plastic Recycling Promotion Committee composed of directors who head the departments concerned with plastic containers and packaging and chaired by the Divisional General Manager of the Production Division (Senior Managing Executive Officer and Director).

Committee meetings are held twice a year at every half-year term in principle to share information and discuss the trends in plastic regulations and relevant government policies around the world, as well as the status of initiatives and discussions at each department. Important matters concerning management policy that come up during these meetings are referred to the Management Policy Council for deliberation.