

Creating a Recycling Society

For the effective use of limited resources, we are emphasizing “Improving the recycling rate” and “Reducing usage of container packaging,” and are producing steady results.

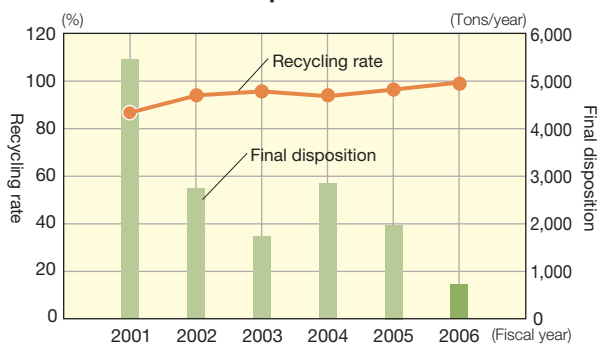
Activities in fiscal 2006

Toward Zero emissions

The NTN group is aiming at zero emissions for the whole group. One large obstacle was that there was no recycling method for waste sand and slag produced during the casting process at NTN Casting Corp.

In fiscal 2006, NTN Casting Corp. together with the local Tatenui Construction Cooperative Union developed an effective method to use waste sand and slag as paving material for roads, and increased the recycling rate to 85.0% (the previous fiscal year was 67.5%). As a result of that success, the overall recycling rate for the NTN group became 98.7% and the goal of zero emissions was achieved. For fiscal 2007, we increased the target to 99% and are working to increase recycling.

Annual trend of recycling rate and final disposition at the whole NTN Group



* Including data of NTN Casting from fiscal 2004 (because of addition to ISO 14000 multi-site certification)

Promoting NTN use of new briquetting equipment

We developed a grinding swarf briquetting machine to re-use metallic waste (grinding sludge) mixed with grinding coolant that is generated in the bearing manufacturing process. We gained favorable reviews with the machine from both inside and outside the company. In the last fiscal year, a new high-performance machine with better capabilities was developed and we began sales inside and outside the company.



New grinding swarf briquetting machine (NTN Kamiina Corp.)

Our operating sites are using the new machines to further improve the recycling rate. Both Kuwana and Okayama Works already installed two machines, and NTN Mie Corp. and NTN Kamiina Corp. one machine each.

Separation of waste oil and wastewater recycles resources

NTN DRIVESHAFT, INC. (NDI) was generating 814,000 U.S. gallons* per year (2005 results) of waste oil and wastewater in its manufacturing processes in the past, and relying on certified industrial waste disposers. The introduction of a new wastewater treatment system allowed NDI to separate the oil and water.

As a result, a 49% (399,000 U.S. gallons) reduction of waste oil and wastewater was achieved and treatment costs also decreased. The separated water and oil are re-used within the company and it helps conserve resources.

* U.S. gallon=3.8 liters

Reducing packaging material usage

Improvement of container collection rate

In fiscal 2006, with wooden pallets, steel box pallets or plastic containers for transportation and storage of products, we worked to improve the collection rates and to curb new purchases by managing the quantities shipped to customers. As for shipping external packing boxes for overseas plants, cardboard packaging was changed to a returnable steel box.

By this change, the collection rate of pallets and plastic boxes was improved from 92% in the previous year to 95%. Aiming at a 100% collection rate, we will strengthen the management structure at distribution sites and manufacturing plants, as well as ask logistics companies for their cooperation.



Cardboard packaging



Steel returnable box