

Obihiro Pioneer

Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section Newsletter

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How to Separate Garbage #2

Learning to separate your garbage (henceforth “trash”) is an important part of living here in Japan! Last month, we learned about the differences between burnable (red) and non-burnable (blue) garbage. For the next two weeks, we go into Part 2, an in-depth look into recycling, how to do so and advice on how to do it.



Garbage Separation Poster

Everything this newsletter will cover about garbage separation can be found on the poster found at this QR code. However, the explanations are a bit lacking. I will fill in the gaps and give some advice to make this poster more understandable. You can get this poster for free at the locations listed at the top of the poster.

Part 2: Recycling Trash

1) On Recycling and Pickup Days

Recycling helps with keeping our planet self sustained as much as possible through reusing and renewing our waste resources. While not every resource can be recycled, it helps landfills from overflowing and helps prevent plas-



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tics from seeping out into the ocean or other undesirable places. Let's help save our planet!

Learning to recycle your trash not only helps save the environment, but will also **save you money!** This is because recycling does not use expensive special bags like red/blue trash, but instead uses **any kind of transparent/semitransparent bag!** This means that you can use bags you already own, or buy a ton of giant bags for ¥100!

As with red/blue trash, recycling has a specific day every week called “S Day” (S stands for *shigen*, or “resource” in Japanese). Refer to the information in the previous issue, and remember to **take your trash out the morning when it's supposed to be picked up before 9 am.**

2) Separation Basics

Recycling is divided into 10 categories based on the type of material the items are made out of. Each category should be bagged separately, but taken out on the same day. One overarching theme between all categories is that you should **rinse, dry and clean all items!** Also, ...

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....do not recycle any items that are “unrecyclable” according to your judgment. For example, if you have a newspaper that is all torn to shreds, or a plastic item that is stained with oil, please throw the items away in their respective red/blue bags.


You may have seen the following marks on items that you buy at the store.



These are recycling marks. If the item has a mark, you can recycle it in the appropriate category (as long as it's not super dirty)! This will help you figure out the correct category.

3) Recycling Categories

A) Plastic Containers and Packaging

When you think of recycling, you think of plastic! If the item has this mark →  then you can recycle it. Even if this mark is not on the item, if it is plastic and is similar to these items, you can recycle it (**be sure to rinse and dry!**):

- Plastic bottles (shampoo, cleaner, sprays)
- Plastic egg cartons
- Wrap/bags (candy wrappers, chip bags, etc)
- Styrofoam packaging and Styrofoam trays
- Instant ramen cups, plastic cups
- Hard plastic from store-bought items/containers

This category is very wide and encompasses many items, but the most important thing is to only recycle items that are not torn apart or dirty!

ADVICE:

- Even though you don't have to spend a lot of

money on recycling bags, it can help you fit more things into bags by putting items together. For example, if you eat candy, put all the wrappers into the big candy bag and recycle all at once!

Egg cartons generally stack together, saving you space in the bag as well.

Single use plastics like wrap can be recycled as well, if you are careful when opening a package, you can recycle that as well. Wrap used for food can be recycled if not dirty or badly crumpled.

B) PET Bottles (Polyethylene Terephthalate)

What a name... PET bottle is so much easier to remember, isn't it? In Japan, PET bottles refer to plastic bottles that are used



for things such as drinks from the store. Look for this mark with any number on it.

- Plastic bottles from vending machines/stores
- Plastic alcohol bottles
- Plastic sauce bottles (soy sauce, mirin, etc.)
- Oil bottles (some but not all)

This is very important: **you must remove the label and bottle cap and recycle those as recyclable plastic trash!** Also, **do not flatten the bottles!** Essentially, your PET bottle bag should be all **rinsed-out and dried** transparent bottles (you don't have to remove the small plastic piece under the cap).

ADVICE:

- You don't have to wait until recycle day, as you can often take PET bottles to a collection box at your local grocery store! Note they must be de-labeled, de-capped and rinsed.
- I do not suggest doing the above at a convenience store since they might yell at you for bring-

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ing in your trash. Do this at big supermarkets!

- Try to **cleanly** remove the plastic label! If you shred it up when removing it (sometimes the glue is really strong), you should remove as much as you can from the bottle, recycle the bottle, and throw the label away in a blue bag.

C and D) Aluminum/Steel Cans

This category refers to metal cans with either of these marks on them. While aluminum and steel cans are recycled together, there are **two types** of cans that must be **bagged separately**.



Can Type 1

- Steel/aluminum drink cans (coffee, etc.)
- Cans for food items (tuna, corn, juice, etc.)

Most cans fit this category. **Do not crush the cans!**

Please **rinse the cans** and dispose them. Steel and

aluminum can be thrown away in the same bag.

Can Type 2

- Steel/aluminum spray and gas cans

If it is a metal can with a spray nozzle, it fits this category. Make sure you **use up all of the contents**. Please **remove the cap/button** before disposal. Also, **do not punch a hole** in the can (dangerous)!

ADVICE:

- Be careful when rinsing out metal cans, since it is easy to cut your fingers.
- As discussed last time, metal bottle caps should be thrown away in blue bags. If you use a can opener to remove a lid and it is removed from the can, that is also blue bag waste.
- The little tabs from soda cans don't have to be removed. However, you can save and use them for arts and crafts!

Next week, we will cover the next 6 categories!

Movies @ Cinema Taiyo in Obihiro

Not all movies are listed. Times and movies are subject to change. To confirm, call or check online at: www.taiyogroup.jp/movie/obihiro			
Title	Genre	Lang	Dates
BTS: Yet To Come in Cinemas <i>BTS: Yet To Come in Cinemas</i>	Documentary	N/A	Until 2 nd
Demon Slayer - To the Swordsmith Village <i>Kimetsu no Yaiba Jōgen Shūketsu, Soshite...</i>	Anime	JP	Until 30 th
Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania <i>Antoman & Wasupu Kuantomania</i>	Action	EN	Until 23 rd
Everything Everywhere All At Once <i>Eburishingu Eburiewa Ōru Atto Wansu</i>	Action	EN	From 3 rd
The Banshees of Inisherin <i>Inisherintō no Seirei</i>	Mystery	EN	From 10 th


KEY: JP = Japanese voice EN = English voice with Japanese subtitles

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Events in Tokachi

Please be aware that these and other events may be affected by COVID-19. To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers or check out their webpages online.

When	What	Where/Contact
3/5 (Sun) 9:15-15:30	Obihiro Facility Tour for International Students 冬のアクティビティ体験 & ごみの分別を学ぼう！ To support the lives of international students, the Tokachi International Relations Center will be holding this event, titled "Experience Winter Activities and Learn to Separate Rubbish!". After experiencing a winter activity (fat biking) at Memuro Shin-Arashiyama Sky Park, participants will learn how to dispose of waste at Obihiro Kuririn Plaza. Fee: Free of charge (lunch not included) Location: Depart from Kaikan 1 at Obihiro University Participants: Max 15 Obihiro University Students Registration: Send an email to the TIRC with your name, grade, nationality, phone number, and email address by March 3 (Fri) Notes: If accompanied, state their name, nationality and relation to you	Tokachi International Relations Center @ Obihiro 帯広市観光交流課 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp 
3/12 (Sun) 9:15-16:00	Living in Tokachi Bust Tour とかちに住んでいる外国人のかた向けバスツアー Come join us on a bus tour where we will visit local facilities while learning important things that will help you with life here in Tokachi. We will be traveling around Obihiro and getting local tourism information, learning about highway busses and where/how to buy a bus ticket, visiting TOKachimura (Banei horse racing), and learning how to get on and get off a local bus. Fee: Free of charge (lunch not included) Location: Depart from Kaikan 1 at Obihiro University or Tokachi Plaza Participants: Max 12 people Registration: Scan the following code and register by March 8 (Wed) ⇒ Notes: The event may be cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns or weather	
3/18 (Sat) 15:00-16:30	International Talk: Sri Lanka, Heart of The Indian Ocean インターナショナル・トーク: スリランカ「インド洋の心」 International Talk is an event where guest speakers give talks about their home countries. This time, our guest is Asanka from Sri Lanka. Interact with the guest in simple English through quizzes and other activities, listen to a introduction comparing Sri Lanka and Japan, and learn interesting facts about the people, customs and lifestyle of Sri Lanka. Fee: Free of charge	

Obihiro Pioneer is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro City Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section or the City of Obihiro.

Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, JICA Obihiro International Center, and Cinema Taiyo. The digital version can be found on Obihiro City's homepage at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (search for "Obihiro Pioneer") or by scanning the QR code on the right.

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For Haruna, Ren, and Maya

