

# **PET Bottle Recycling**

**at The Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association:**

## **Its Roles and Challenges**

**Webinar by Institute for Global Environmental  
Strategies (IGES)**

**Oct. 5,**

**The Japan Containers and Packaging Recycling Association,  
a public interest incorporated foundation**

**October 5, 2021**

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# Roles of JCPRA

To conduct recycling of waste materials satisfying the sorting standards commissioned from designated businesses based on the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law and to conduct various projects related to recycling of waste containers and packaging materials for the purpose of promoting the appropriate treatment of waste and the effective use of resources, thereby contributing to the conservation of environment and the development of national economy.

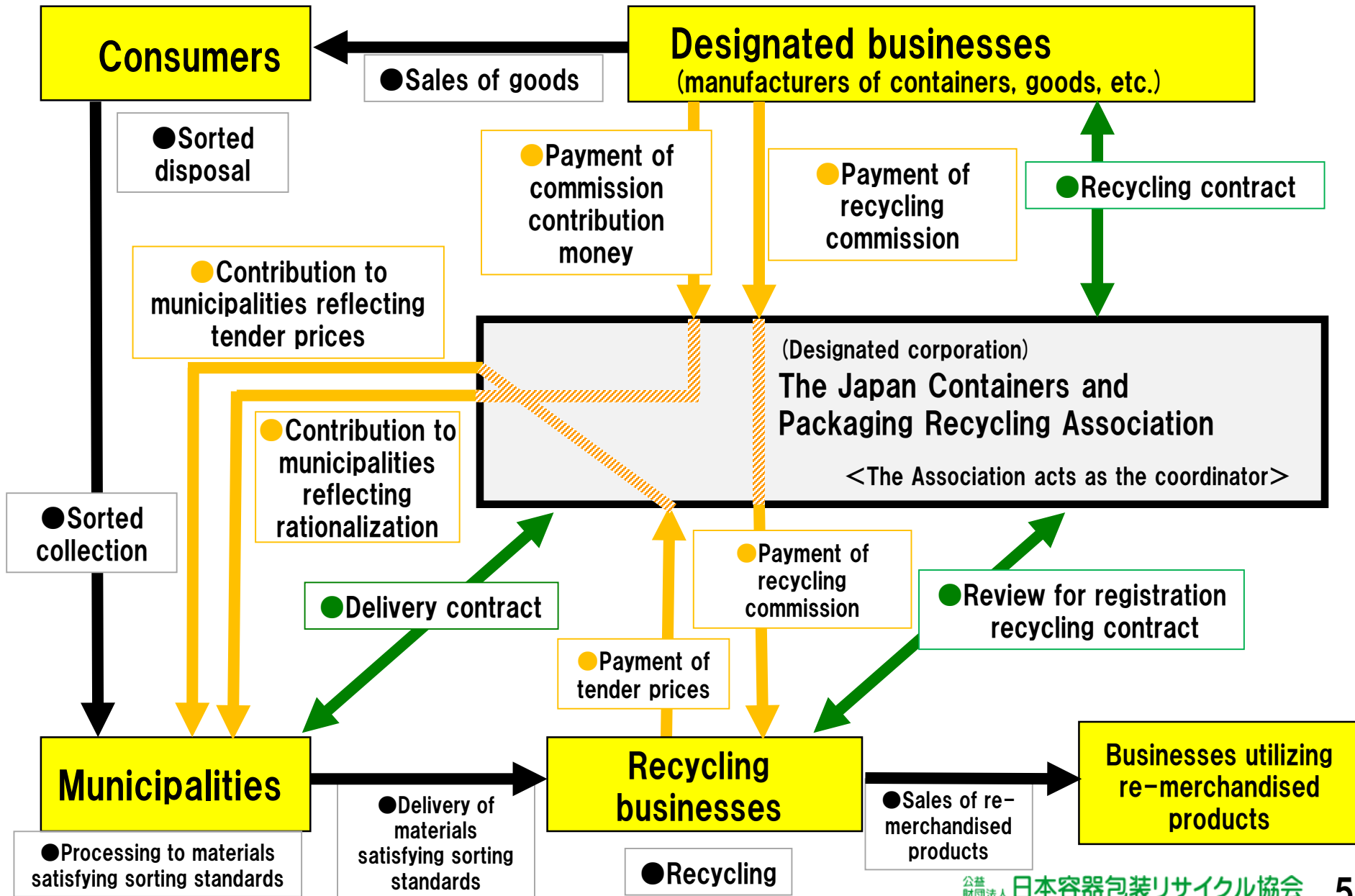


**Recycling  
and  
maintaining and vitalizing the  
infrastructure for recycling**

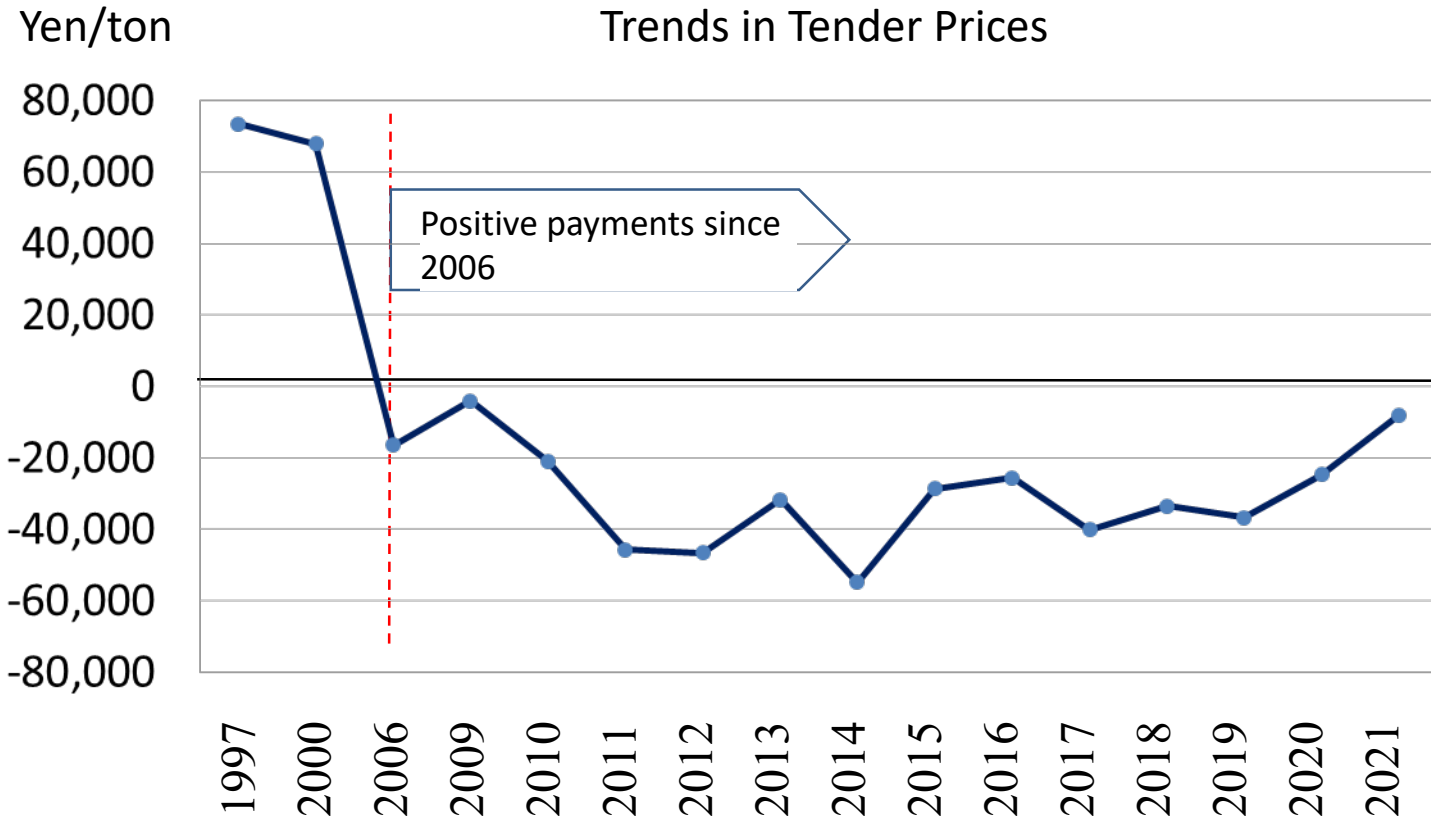
# Main Activities of JCPRA

- 1. Management of recycling company:**
  - **Judgement for registration** (personnel, facilities, finance)
  - **Auditing of operation** (compliance, on-site inspection, etc.)
- 2. Fair matching through strict general competitive bidding**
- 3. Reliable delivery from municipalities** (including response to cancellation of delivery)
- 4. Management of recycling: Monthly confirmation of processes from collection to sales**
- 5. Disclosure of information**

# Recycling Business Scheme

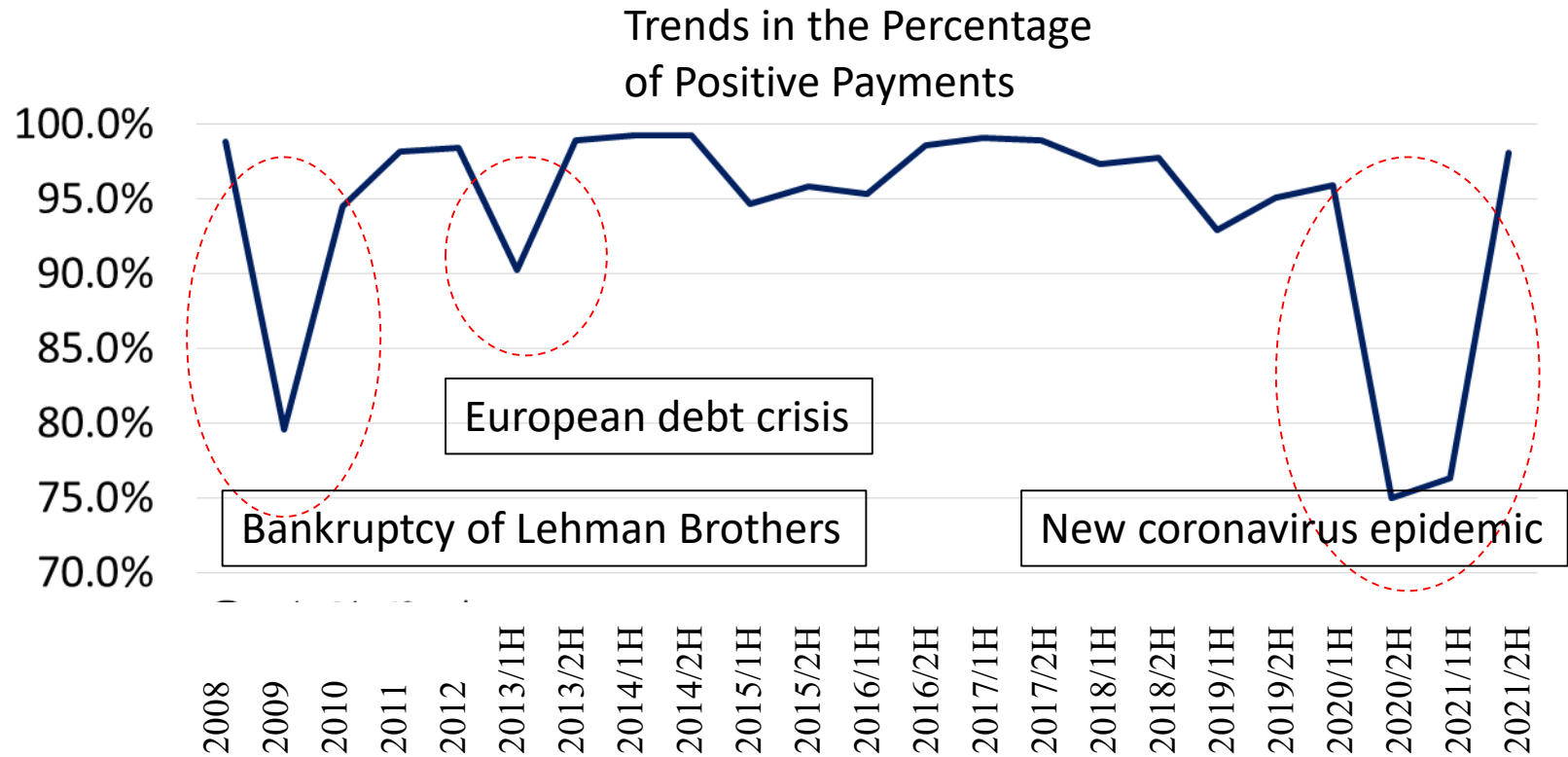


# Changes Following the Introduction of The Containers and Packaging Recycling Law ① Tender Prices



**While tender prices following the introduction of the Law in 1997 meant reverse payments, positive payments have continued since 2006.**

# Changes Following the Introduction of The Containers and Packaging Recycling Law ② % of positive payments

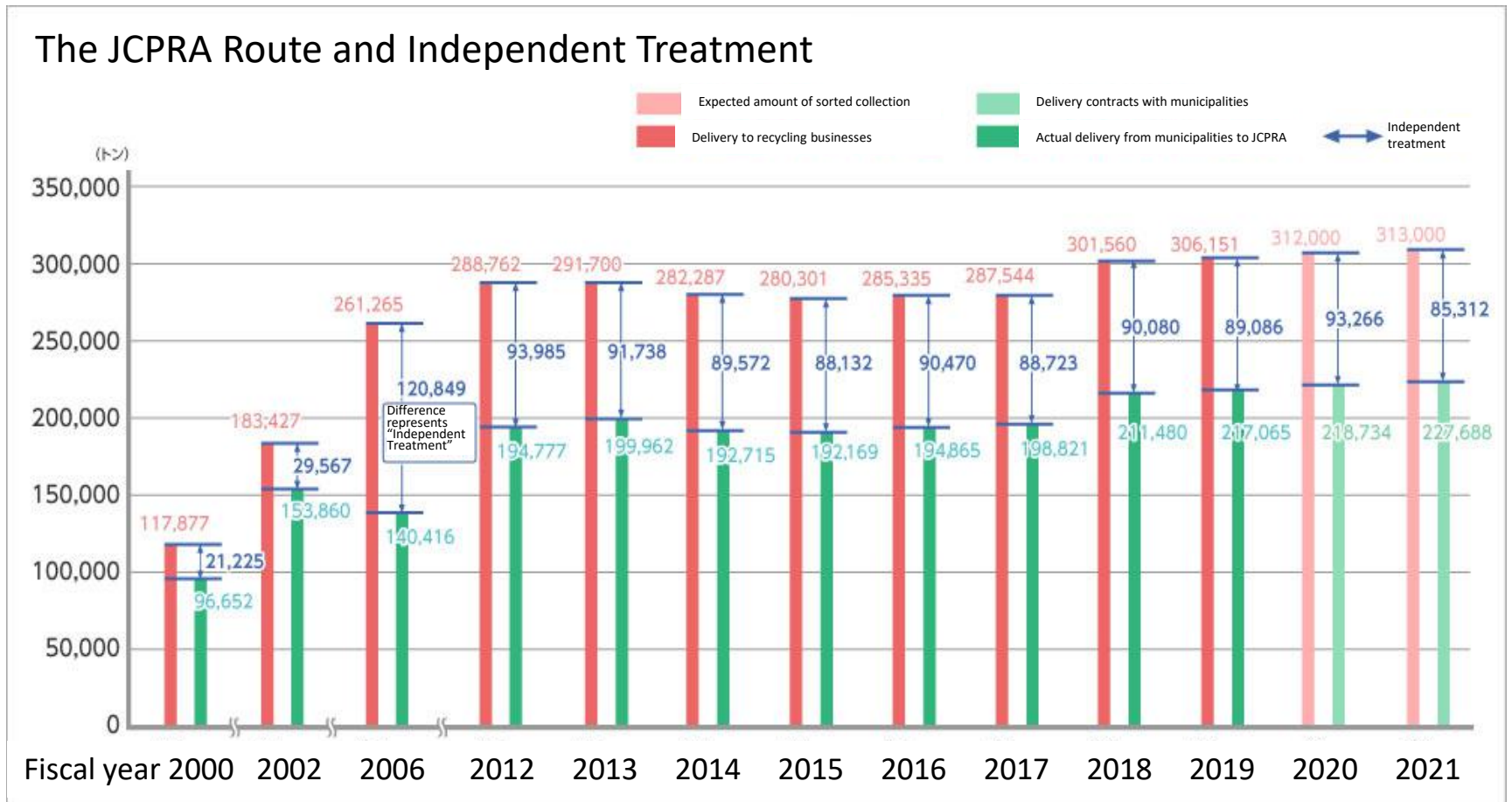


## Problems under socioeconomic crises

Drop in the sales of re-merchandised products ⇒ Deterioration of recycling businesses ⇒ Drop in the percentage of positive payments, cancellation of delivery, inability to pay tender prices

# Problems ①

## Independent treatment by municipalities occupies about 30%





# Based on the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law:

- “The materials satisfying the sorting standards must be delivered to the designated corporation”
  - ⇒ This is the basic policy (= principle) of the Law
- If they are not delivered to the designated corporation:
  - The following 3 conditions must be met by individual municipalities
  - ① The treatment capacity of recycling facility is ensured
  - ② It is confirmed that the waste containers and packaging materials are treated appropriately after sorted collection
  - ③ Information is given to citizens concerning the treatment of waste containers and packaging materials
  - ⇒ To the extent permitted by law



Although independent treatment is permitted by law, the achievement of ① through ③ by individual municipalities is inefficient (increase in social costs) ⇒ Efficient centralized management by JCPRA ⇒ Municipalities are asked to deliver materials to the designated corporation.

# Advantages of Using the JCPRA Route

## 1. Efficient centralized management of recycling

(① Management of recycling businesses, ② management of recycling operation, ③ disclosure of information)

⇒ Cost reduction for municipalities (reduction of social costs)

## 2. Maintenance of recycling infrastructure

(Continuity of waste reception under situations undermining recycling infrastructure, such as socioeconomic crises)

⇒ There is no risk of interruption of delivery from municipalities

## 3. Municipalities incur no costs at the time of reverse payment

⇒ Little impact on municipal finance

(Municipalities must bear the cost in the case of independent treatment)

# Problems ②

## Troubles at recycling businesses due to foreign matter contamination

1. Glass: Problem in the quality of products using recycled materials  
(long fiber breaking, blowing bottle defects, sheet appearance defects)

⇒ Change to collection method

(from mixed collection to single collection)

2. Lithium ion batteries: Fire accidents

3. Dangerous foreign matter (unacceptable items):  
Injuries

4. Rubber, silicone, PVC, nylon, etc.: Problem in the  
quality of products using recycled materials  
(appearance defects, dying defects)

⇒ Citizen  
enlightenment

# The End