

Environmental Accounting

Sharp introduced environmental accounting in fiscal 1999 to provide a quantitative assessment of the costs and benefit of its environmental conservation activities, and has applied the results to environmental sustainability management. Beginning in fiscal 2005, Sharp adopted a disclosure format that follows the Environmental Accounting Guidelines 2005 published by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment.

Environmental conservation costs

Due to the reporting of environmental investment in research and development departments that started in fiscal 2007, investment in environmental conservation increased to approximately 3.6 billion yen, up 16% compared to the previous fiscal year. As production increased, environmental conservation expenditures rose to approximately 20.3 billion yen, up 32% over the previous fiscal year, due to the increase of waste disposal fees and the costs associated with controlling greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic benefits

As a result of reporting the effects of reusing cartridges for copiers starting in fiscal 2007, actual benefit increased by 50% compared to the previous fiscal year, to 6.5 billion yen. In addition, Sharp provided environmental education for fourth through sixth grade students at 537 elementary schools in Japan, exceeding the initial target of 500 schools.

Classification of Environmental Conservation Activities (): Category based on Environmental Accounting Guidelines 2005, Ministry of the Environment		Environmental Conservation Costs (Unit: ¥ million)		Economic Benefit (Unit: ¥ million)		Environmental Conservation Effects			See page(s)
		Investment	Expenses	Actual Benefit	Estimated Benefit	Physical Effects		Estimated Benefit	
Environmental Sustainability Management (management activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operation of environmental management system Promote environmental sustainability management Environmental education activities 	43 (10)	1,840 (1,509)	-	-	Promote environmental sustainability management			25 • 26
						Number of employees with environmental education	Master Expert General	125 504 450	
Planning and Design (R&D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&D on solar power generation systems Promote closed-loop recycling of plastic materials R&D on basic environmental technologies R&D on plant-based resin paint 	452 (-)	2,385 (2,005)	-	43,638 (35,129)	Supply environmentally conscious products (Unit: ¥ million)			12 } 16 29 } 32
						Green Seal products' share of net sales	95.1%	-	
						Super Green products' share of net sales	59.5%	-	
						Total amount of power generated by solar power generation systems	1,870 GWh	39,270	
						CO ₂ emissions reduced by solar power generation systems	0.77 million t-CO ₂	1,848	
						Electric power saved from energy-saving products	115 GWh	2,407	
Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (global environmental conservation) Minimize and recycle waste (recycle resources) Prevent pollution (prevent pollution) 	1,679 (1,027)	2,263 (1,568)	2,386 (2,018)	1,372 (1,121)	Greenhouse gas emissions reduced by controlling electricity and fuel consumption (Unit: ¥ million)			10 • 11 33 } 36
						CO ₂ emissions reduced	99 thousand t-CO ₂	237	
						PFC emissions reduced	473 thousand GWPt	1,135	
Recycling/Logistics (upstream/downstream)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote collection, recycling, and proper disposal of used products 	8 (0)	15 (12)	1,757 (24)	-	Waste recycled or sent for appropriate disposal			37 • 38
						Waste recycled	201 thousand tons	-	
						Recycled and reused water	19,032 km ³	-	
Social Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand social contribution activities 	-	44 (49)	-	-	Observe environmental laws and regulations Prevent air/water pollution and noise/vibration Promote risk management Chemical substances properly managed and their discharge reduced Reduce risk of soil contamination			51 • 52
						Used PCs recycled	23 tons	-	
						Used copiers recycled	3,375 tons	-	
Total		3,559 (3,080)	20,250 (15,337)	6,511 (4,330)	45,010 (36,257)	Collection, recycling, and proper disposal of used products			37 • 38
						Used home appliances (4 categories) recycled	43,097 tons	-	
						Environmental burden during distribution reduced (Unit: ¥ million)			
						Railway cargo transport (container transport)	20,619 containers	-	
						Number of low-pollution vehicles introduced	132	-	
						Environmental social contributions			
						Number of employees who attended SGC activities	Total 27,405	-	
						Number of schools where environmental education was provided	Total 537	-	

Explanation of terminology

Environmental conservation costs

Overhead costs, personnel expenses, and investment associated with environmental conservation activities, in addition to attendant depreciation.

Economic benefit

Contributions to society and to the company, which result from environmental conservation activities, expressed in monetary units.

Actual benefit: Economic effects that can be assessed directly in monetary terms, such as cost savings from energy-saving efforts and use of recycled water, as well as profits from the sale of valuable resources.

Estimated benefit: Sharp Corporation uses the following terms to convert the economic effects of reduced greenhouse gas emissions and electricity savings from the use of solar power generation and energy-saving products into equivalent monetary amounts.

- (1) Reduced greenhouse gas emissions converted into equivalent monetary amounts: 2,400 yen/t-CO₂.
- (2) Electricity savings converted into equivalent monetary amounts: Unit cost of electricity: 21 yen/kWh.

Sites covered

A total of 16 sites (and companies) in Japan fall within the scope of environmental accounting: Sharp Corporation sites at Tochigi, Yao, Hiroshima, Nara, Katsuragi, Fukuyama, Mie, Tenri, Mihara, Kameyama and Toyama, Sharp's head office, the Tanabe office, Sharp Manufacturing Systems Corporation, Sharp Niigata Electronics Corporation, and Sharp Yonago Corporation.

Period covered

April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

Referenced guidelines

Environmental Accounting Guidelines 2005 published by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan