



# 6 Chu News !

The student council of 6 chu

2022. 4~

Report of SDGs activity

## What are SDGs?



“SDGs” stands for “Sustainable Development Goals.”

They are international goals aiming for a sustainable and better world by 2030 that were adopted at the September 2015 United Nations Summit.

There are **17 goals and 169 targets** used as a signpost to resolve challenges people, animals, and nature face, including poverty, wars and natural disasters caused by climate change.

Yonezawa City was selected as a “SDGs Future City” in 2021.

## Student activities centered on SDGs

Aiming to realize a sustainable and better world, students at the Dairoku Junior High Schools thought about what they could do and decided to participate in activities not only at school, but also looking at their community and the world.

- Student council discussions and setting of objectives for each grades
- Making newspaper eco bags
- Recycling activities (PET bottle caps, used stamps, contact lenses cases)
- Clean Operation
- Ressource awareness month
- Let's Walk Campaign
- Name check, etc.

In addition, **each committee is holding activities in association with the SDGs.**

- Sharing newspaper articles related to SDGs
- Recycling used paper
- Calls for saving water, etc.

## Newspaper recycling



Please have a look !

←Instructions to make newspaper eco bags

In recent years, the facts that burning plastic release gas that causes global warming and that the huge amount of plastic that streams in the sea pollutes it are viewed as issues. **All the students have made eco bags out of newspaper with the aim to reduce plastic garbage through reusing and recycling. Another aim was to improve relationships between students by having them work on activities together through vertical division of responsibilities.**

The production and use of newspaper eco bags result in a reduced use of plastic ones. This in turn helps reduce the emission of greenhouse gas and prevents global warming. Furthermore, reducing the amount of plastic that streams in the sea helps with preventing pollution of the oceans due to microplastics and such.

On top of that, the use of newspaper eco bags is a sort of **upcycling**. **Upcycling is the process of conferring through ideas and design a new value to items that were to be discarded, turning them into new products.**

Making the newspaper eco bags through a vertical division of responsibilities among the classrooms further raised awareness of the SDGs throughout the whole school and improved camaraderie. This helps creating communication and cooperation between many people.

**Bags were made available in the local community centers and at the Shioi Bishamon morning market so that they could be used not only at the school but also by people of the community, while at the same time raise awareness of the SDGs and of the school activities.** Students were rejoiced to receive demands for extra bags and to see that their creations were reaching their community.

Instructions to make newspaper eco bags are indicated on the school's website so please have a look.

## Recycling activities

Students are collecting from homes **PET bottle caps, contact lenses cases and used stamps**. All students do what they can to contribute to society through activities and be “eco” conscious.

**The school will be happy to accept all items recycled by the local community!**

### <Recycled items>

#### ① PET bottle caps

- 2 kg of PET bottle caps turn into 1 dose of polio vaccine. This can save children of the world from infantile paralysis.
- Recycled items can be converted into flower pots or chair backrests.

#### ② Contact lenses cases

- They are donated to the Japan Eye Bank Association.
- Recycled items can be turned into recycled stationary, for example.
- This supports the independence and employment of people with disabilities.

#### ③ Used stamps

- They are used as part of the expenses the Bureau of International Health Cooperation.
- Ex. Covers the text book fees for a year of a nursing student in Tanzania, etc.

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① PET bottle caps	106 kg
② Contact lenses cases	9.6 kg
③ Used stamps	5.5 kg

Furthermore, recycling reduces CO<sub>2</sub> exhaustions that would have occurred when disposing of the items as garbage and as such is effective in suppressing global warming.



## Committee activities

Committee activities are held in association with the 17 SDG goals.

Some are introduced here.

### <Saving water and electricity>

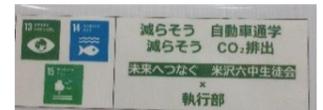
Stickers like the one on the right are put up in various locations within the school. This is done to raise awareness of water and energy savings. The goal is to make all students conscious of the importance of such resources.

### <Let's Walk Campaign>

This is a campaign to keep to a strict minimum going to or coming back from school by car and encourage walking or cycling instead. This will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and help prevent global warming.

### <Name check>

This is an activity to check if names are written on clothes, shoes and bicycle keys. Writing names on such items reduces lost property and aims to raise the awareness to treat items importantly.



## 6Chu Clean Operation

The Clean operation is a mass voluntary activity done yearly at the school. Working as members of the community, and as citizens of the Earth, students pick up litter to better the environment.



### <Rokugo area (6chu ~ Rokugo elementary school) >

The sight of discarded empty cans, plastic items and cigarette butts was common in the Rokugo area. Such large amount of litter was unexpected and quite disheartening. Discarded items reach the sea through rivers and canals, causing tremendous damage to the ecosystem and leave a stain on our spirit. Students realized that they had to address this seriously. **Just as “Many a mickle makes a muckle,” while just one person’s strength is feeble, the will of the many can protect the planet. For that, people first need to take a step forward!**

### <Hirohata area (Okinaka) >

There were many cigarette butts discarded in the grass along the sidewalks of the Hirohata area. There was drinks-related litter (cans, PET bottles, glass bottles) found in the rivers and on the footpaths close to the fields. Likewise, there were discarded bags of farming products, broken pieces of traffic cones, screws, etc. Students realized that the roads they use every day were full of litter. **Even after cleaning up, more litter would show up the next day, so students thought of introducing their activities to the people who may be littering. They felt that to keep this community clean it was necessary to be creative in raising awareness.**



### <Hirohata area (Narushima) >

There was a lot of litter on the riverbed of the north side of the Matsugane bridge, including drinks-related ones like empty cans and PET bottles, and cigarette butts. Items like large plastic sheets were buried in the ground. People in the past most likely buried litter there. There was glass on the sidewalks near the Matsugane bridge, and just like on the riverbed, many cigarette butts. There are probably people smoking while walking that just throw their cigarette butts there, or do so from their cars. It is important that people have the common sense of disposing of garbage in garbage bins. **For everyone to protect this beautiful nature, members of this community and people passing through the school district must make efforts. From now on, students will consider doing regular litter collection activities with collaboration of members of the community.**



### <Shioi area (Miyai) >

In the direction of the Miyai area, there were many cigarette butts and broken bottles on the roadsides. Then, plastic bags filled with candy wrappers and drink containers like cans and PET bottles were found in the irrigation canals. There was an unexpected and large amount of litter. Littering is causing people a lot of trouble. For example, there are risks of infection through unfinished drink cans and masks, and discarded cigarette butts can start fires. **People littering may not think about it but their litter may cause a lot of damage. To prevent this, it is important to get rid of littering and illegal garbage dumping.**



### <Kubota area>

There was litter like cigarette butts, PET bottles, cans and food wrappers in the Kubota school district. There was more than expected and as such there was not enough time to pick it all up in such a large area. Between the roads and the sidewalks, there was more litter on the latter, indicating that people cycling or walking were littering more than motorists. There is a need for improvements including, among others, installing more garbage bins and spreading awareness of this issue. **Littering is causing problems to people but also has consequences for the natural environment. The Dairoku Junior High School district is rich in nature and as such, students want to reduce littering to prevent the destruction of the ecosystem due to garbage and increase awareness to further preserve this beautiful nature and planet for a long time.**



### <Shioi area (near Matsugane bridge) >

There was a large variety of discarded plastic and burnable items like PET bottles, but also bags of farming products, stationary like scissors, large items like furniture, etc. There was so much litter it almost couldn't fit in the truck used to carry it all away. **However, after completing the Clean Operation, places that were cleaned up turned back to their former state. It was a great shock to see the Rokuchu area full of greenery being so dirty.** The students were able to realize through the Clean Operation that a lot of various kind of garbage was discarded in the area where they lived. To improve this situation and let it be known to the community, not only the riverbed around the Matsugane bridge but all the area of the Dairoku Junior High School district has to be cleaned up.



### <Shioi area (the south side of the bypass) >

On the side of the bypass in the Shioi area there were discarded cans and cigarette butts, masks, and household goods in cardboard boxes, among others. There were also unburnable trash like chains and recyclable PET bottles. There are large roads and lots of rice paddies on the side of the bypass. The litter found there not only saddens their users but also causes them troubles. **A concrete measure to reduce this is to try to bring a bag when going out to dispose of any garbage produced. Let's think about what one can do to reduce garbage and stop littering, implement it, and make the Dairoku Junior High School district a world-class beautiful area.**



### <Shioi area (the north side of the bypass) >

Through the Clean Operation, we felt that there were a lot of cigarette butts discarded in many areas not limited to the vicinity of the bypass in the Shioi area. The littering was not done by people under 20 but by adults. Students wished that such individuals would bring back their garbage with them even if it was a little inconvenient. Furthermore, cigarette butts could start fires if they were still lit when discarded. **Like this, the litter found all over makes people feel sad. For many, the decision to litter starts with the feeling that disposing of garbage is a hassle. To reduce this, students realized that they needed to start with something small at first.**



### <Finally>

During this year's Clean Operation, students worked together to collect a large amount of litter and were happy after cleaning up the school's district. However, they also felt sad at the sheer amount of litter found. Looking at all of it, they realized that this issue would not be solved if they were the only ones being careful. **Students love their school's district and its rich and abundant nature. They want to leave such beautiful scenery to future generations. As such, they realized that it was important that everyone living in this world needed to be aware of this.**

### On a final note

**The students did activities based on the SDGs this year too.** The Clean Operation, eco recycling activity and provision of newspaper eco bags were done in collaboration with members of the community, contributing in the realization of a better future for the whole school district. **Cooperation from a great number of people is required to achieve the SDGs and create a sustainable future.** The deadline is the year 2030. **First, people need to know about the SDGs. Then, starting by looking around, everyone should try to do something to create such sustainable future.**

