# Our lifestyles, environmental problems and industrial products

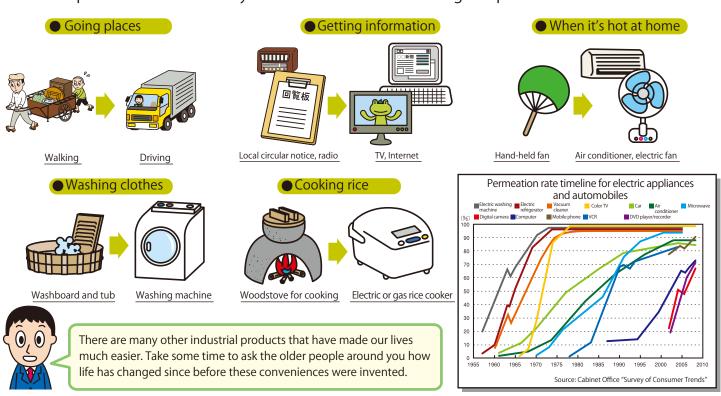
There are things that we cannot—or think that we cannot—live without. However, making, moving and using these convenient goods creates carbon dioxide and is bad for our planet and the environment. What should we do to try to balance our desire for convenience and with protection of the environment?





There are lots of industrial products around us that make our lives more convenient, right? Let's stop to think about exactly what is useful and how it is useful.

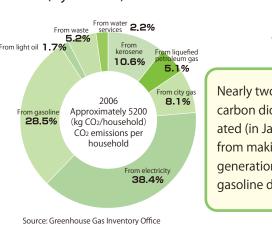
Let's compare the situation today with what it was like for our grandparents.





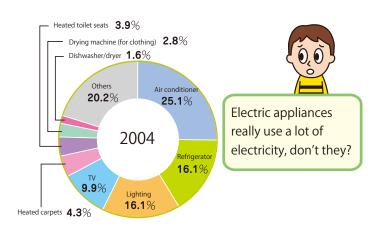
Almost all of the industrial products around us that make life more convenient rely on energy—such as in the form of electricity or gas—to work.

Carbon dioxide emitted by households (by source)



Nearly two-thirds of the carbon dioxide generated (in Japan) comes from making electricity generation and using gasoline doesn't it?

#### Power use in the home

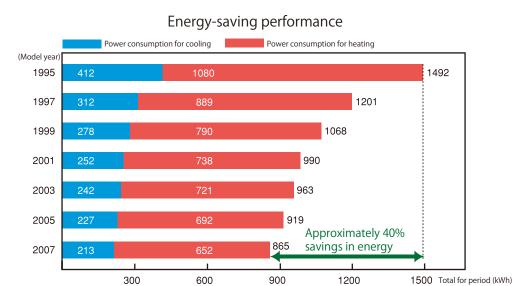


Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Agency of Natural Resources and Energy



Let's see how companies are making products that are better for the global environment.

Over the past 10 years, the amount of energy needed to operate air conditioners has decreased.



Source: Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association

### Devising more environmental ways of using what we have (car sharing)

Car sharing is a way for many people to use one vehicle. By sharing a vehicle, the number of vehicles on the road drops, and carbon dioxide emissions are reduced. In

addition, this has the added bonus of easing traffic congestion and making roads last longer.

Let's see what other initiatives similar to this we can find.

## Energy-Saving Labeling Program



Products that are recognized as being able to run on a reduced amount of energy are labeled with this special green "ecomark."

# Home Appliances Recycling

This law mandates the recycling of materials and components in electric home appliances that are disposed of. Check out the details for yourself online, such as at the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry at http://www.meti.go.jp Laws also exist for the recycling of personal computers, automobiles and plastic containers.



We couldn't live life as we know it without using industrial goods. Let's think about how we use these products.

- How do you normally use home electrical appliances?
- What do you look for or think about when you are shopping for such products?
- Can you use these products less?

Let's think about how we use electric appliances from now on!



#### Team Minus 6%

This is a project to help focus the efforts of people in Japan to fight global warming by trying to meet the six-percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions as pledged under the Kyoto Protocol agreement In order to solve the issue of global warming, countries from around the world cooperated in drawing up the Kyoto Protocol agreement in 1997.

http://www.team-6.jp

For more about electricity see p. 7.