

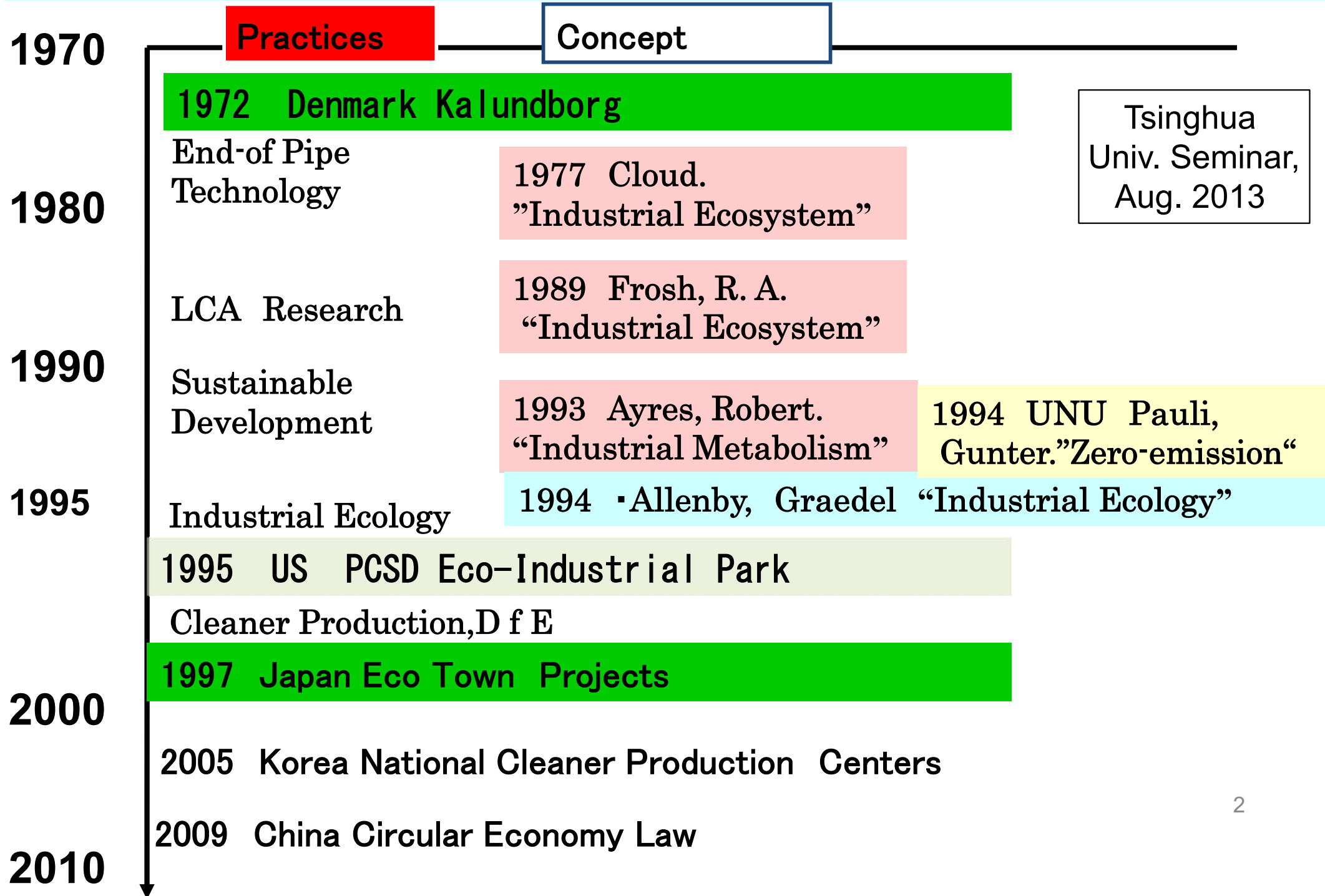
2025 Kawasaki International Eco-Business Forum
Nov. 12, 2025

Expectations for Transition from Urban-Industrial Symbiosis to Green Innovation in Kawasaki

From Urban-Industrial Symbiosis to a Sustainable Future in Kawasaki City

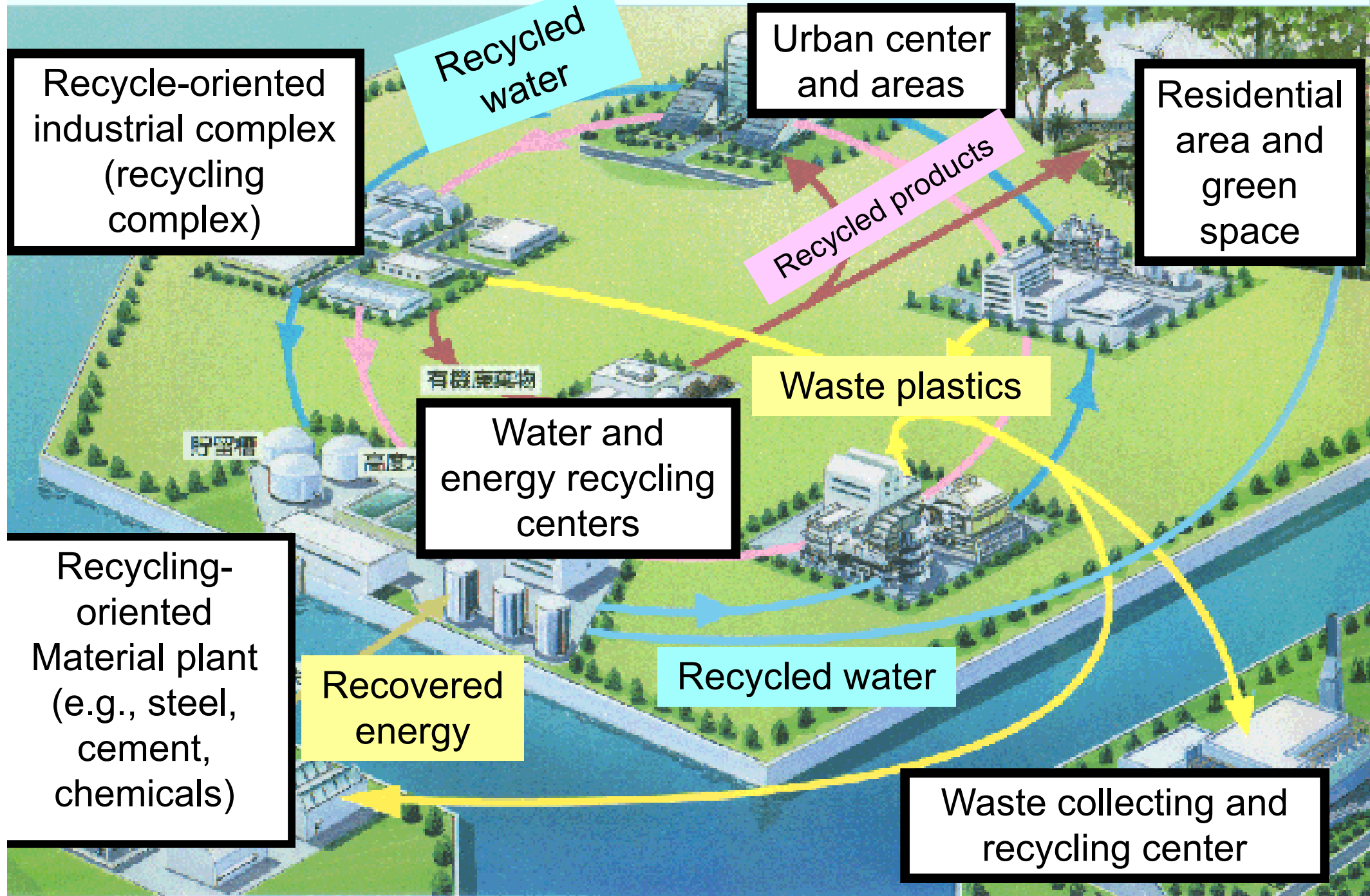
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Theory and Practices for Industrial Symbiosis



Kawasaki Urban-Industrial Symbiosis Vision

Kawasaki Eco-Town in the 1990s and later

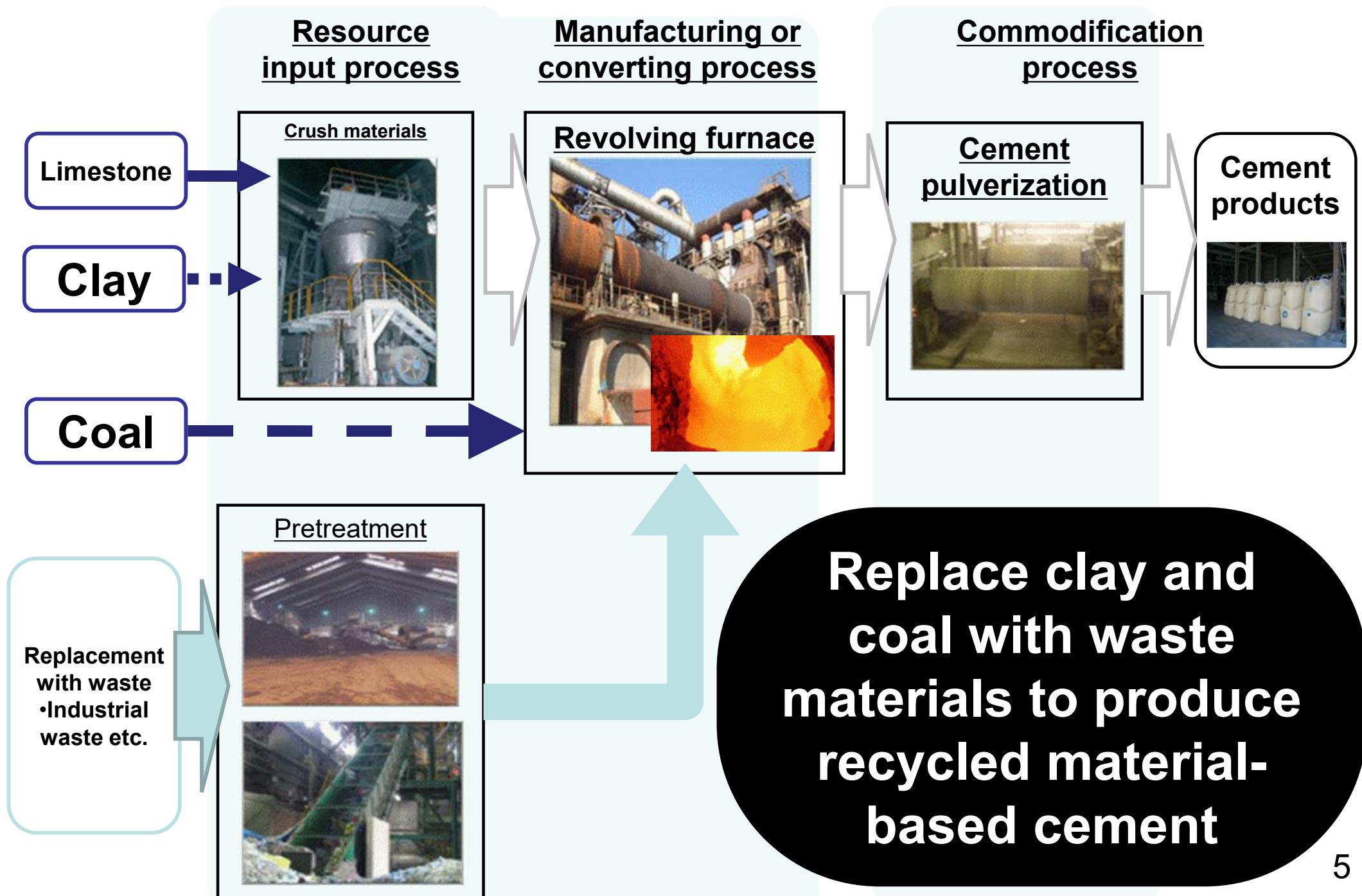


Arterial industry-linked resource centers are integrated in Kawasaki Eco-Town

For example, many resource recycling technologies have already been implemented as a part of the environmental technology field.



Recycling system that enables urban-industrial symbiosis in Kawasaki



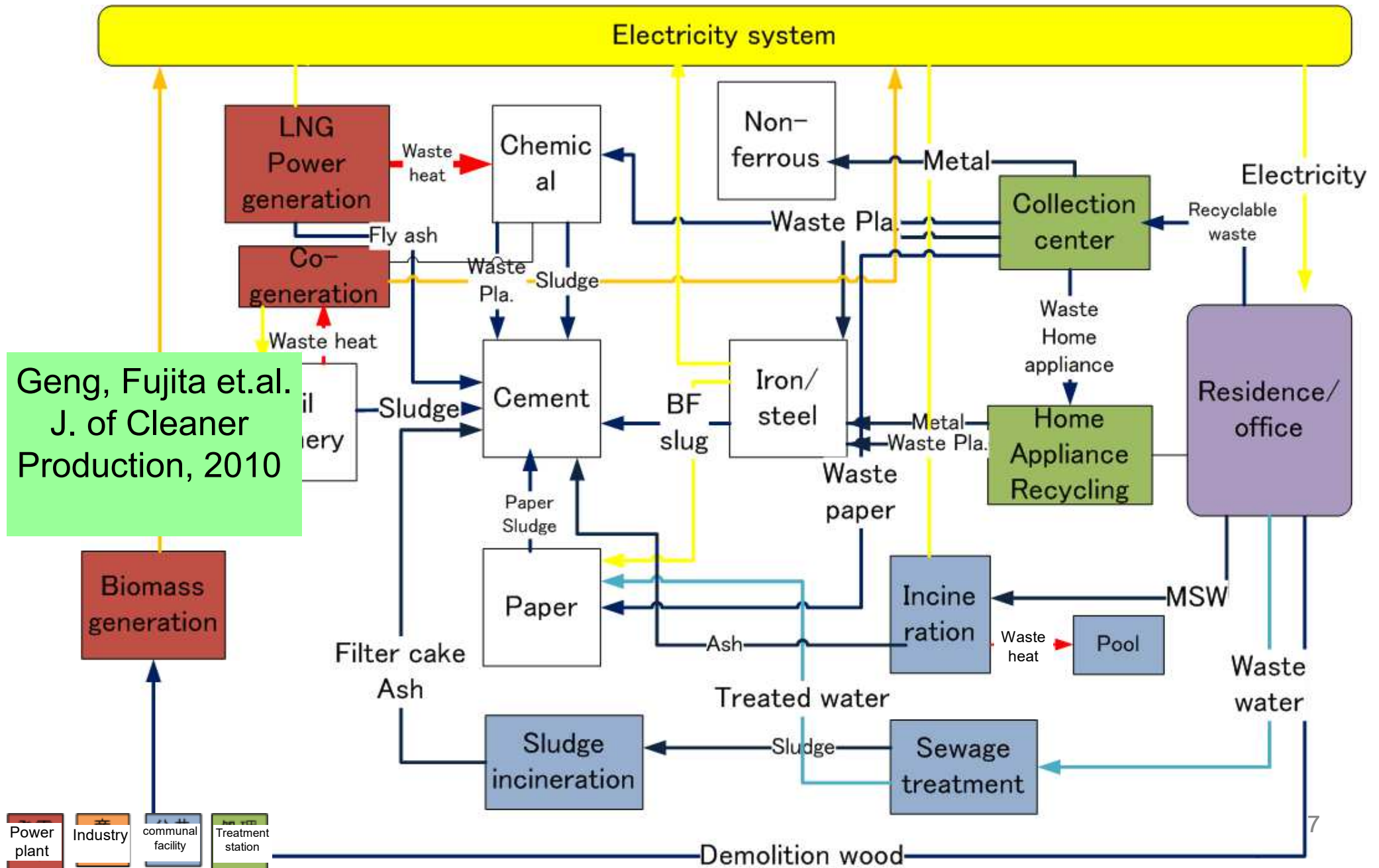
Kawasaki Synergy Network (current situation)

Bio/life
science

Power generation & material industry

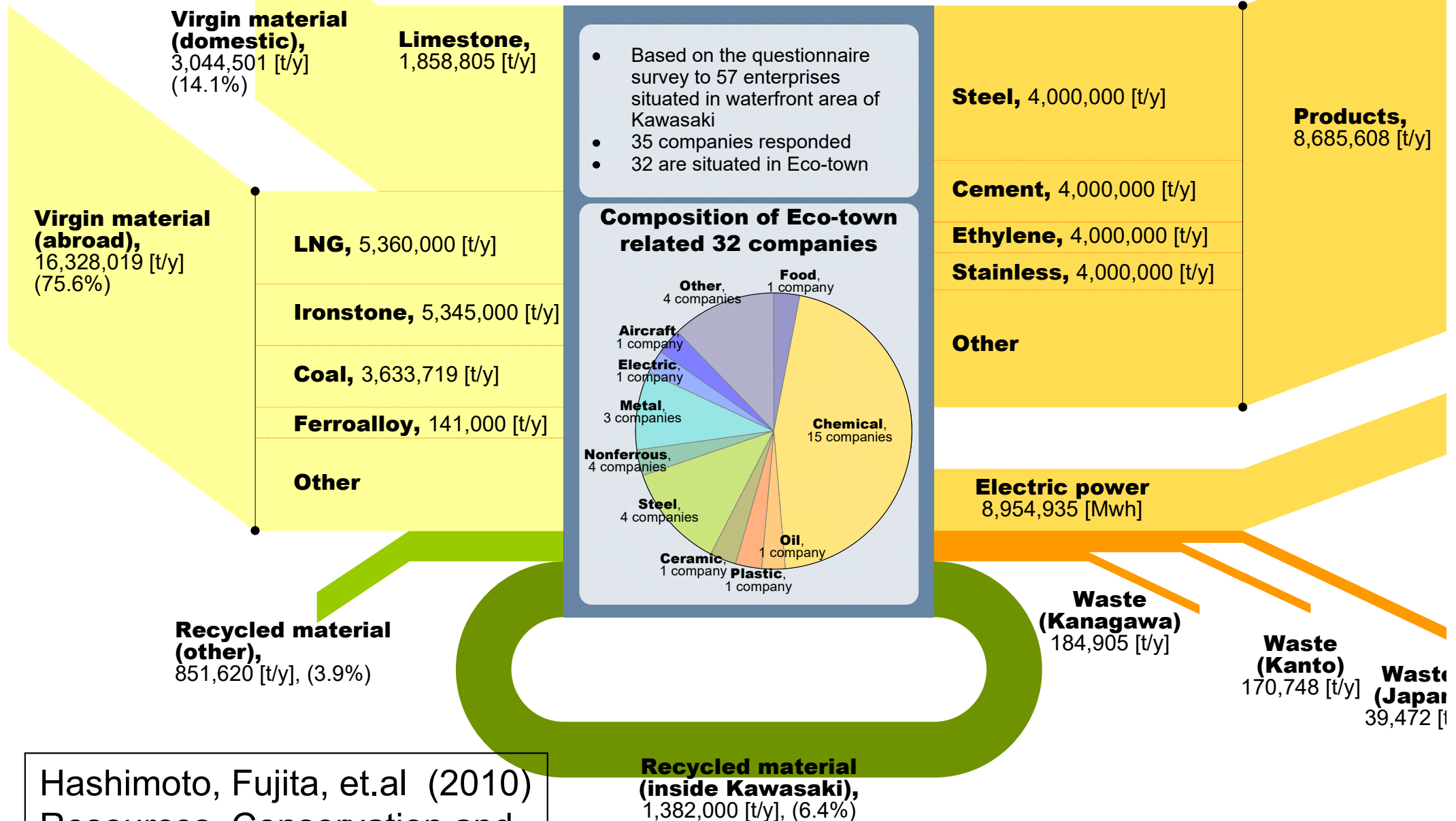
Treatment or
recycling facility

City



Material Flow Analysis for Kawasaki Eco-town

Material flow of waterfront area

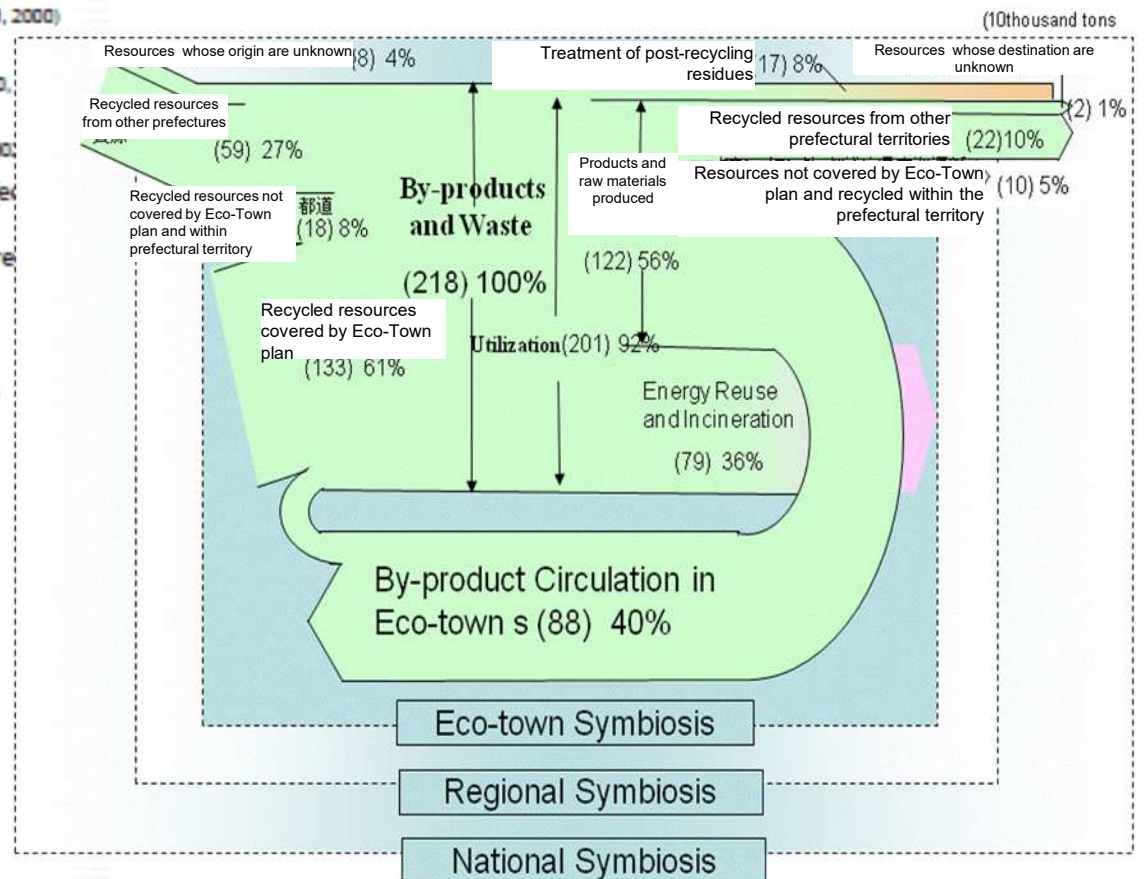
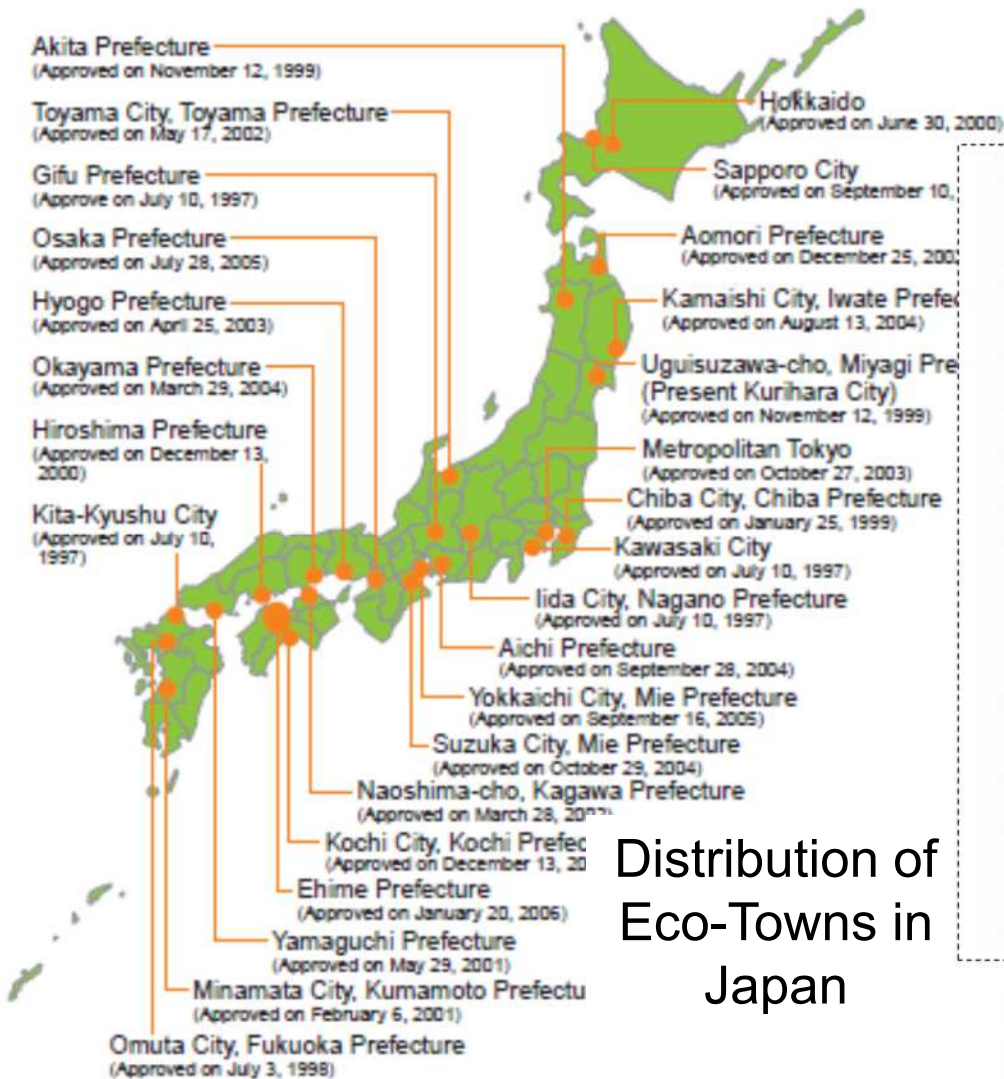


Hashimoto, Fujita, et.al (2010)
Resources, Conservation and
Recycling, 54(10),

The Eco-Town project serves as a driving force for urban-industrial symbiosis in Japan

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment approved 26 Eco-Town areas and developed 62 facilities in ten years between 1997 and 2006

2008 Working Group for Further Enhancing Eco-Towns examined 26 Eco-Town municipalities and 170 recycling facilities



Urban-Industrial Symbiotic Cities built in Japan

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT TYPE EIP

Kitakyushu

Recycle goods
retail & sale*

Ecological
consulting
company*

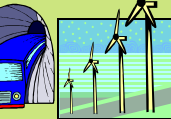
Sustainable technology
research company*

**Environmental
Information
Business
Support
CCR**

**EIP Center; Demonstration
building***

Environmental data bank
Collaborative marketing purchase
-Waste collection and recycling
-Eco-material, Recycled Material
-Design for environment

Ecological equipment
manufacturing



Clean Energy
Supply System
Energy Storage
System*



Environmental
communication*

Environmental
education*

Urban Area



**Brownfield
Neighborhood**



Industrial complex

Green Institute (Minneapolis)
**Cape Charles Sustainable
Technology Park (Virginia)**

Farm



CITY-FARM COLLABORATION TYPE EIP

Hokkaido

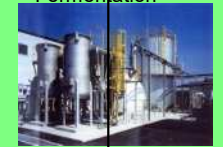
Compost



Fuel Cell



Methane
Fermentation



**Residential
Districts**

Akita, Osaka



Plastic
recycle center*



Organic waste
Methane
fermentation
Composting



Building material
recycle center*

Collaboration
reverse logistics
District heat supply



PRODUCT REMANUFACTURING TYPE EIP

INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS TYPE EIP

Cement factory



Heat

Chemical factory



Heat

Fly ash

Power plant*



Petro chemical
factory

Industrial symbiosis type

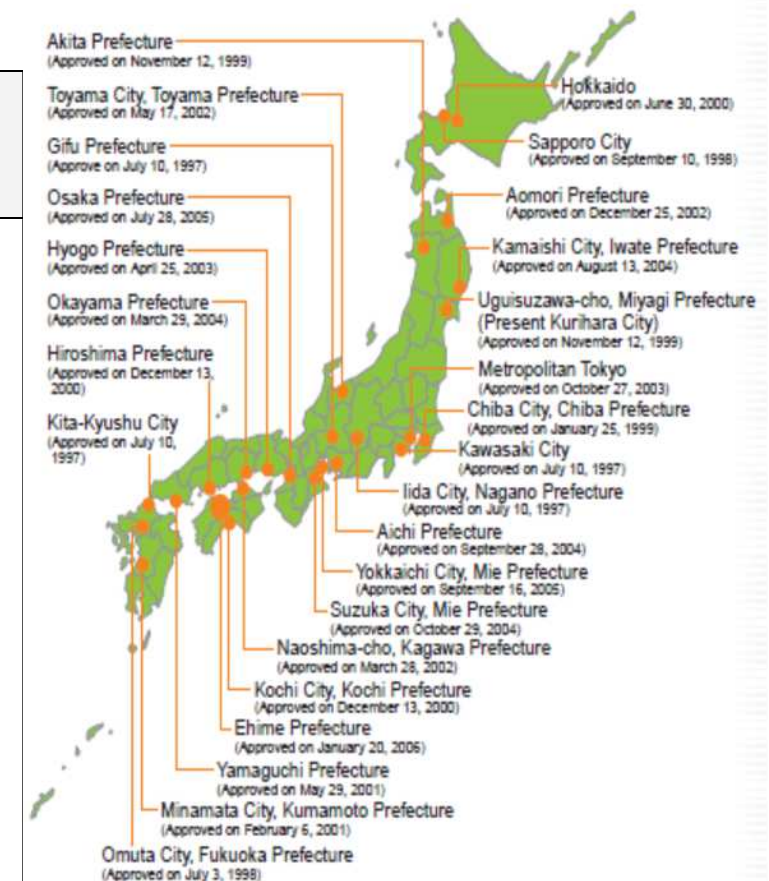
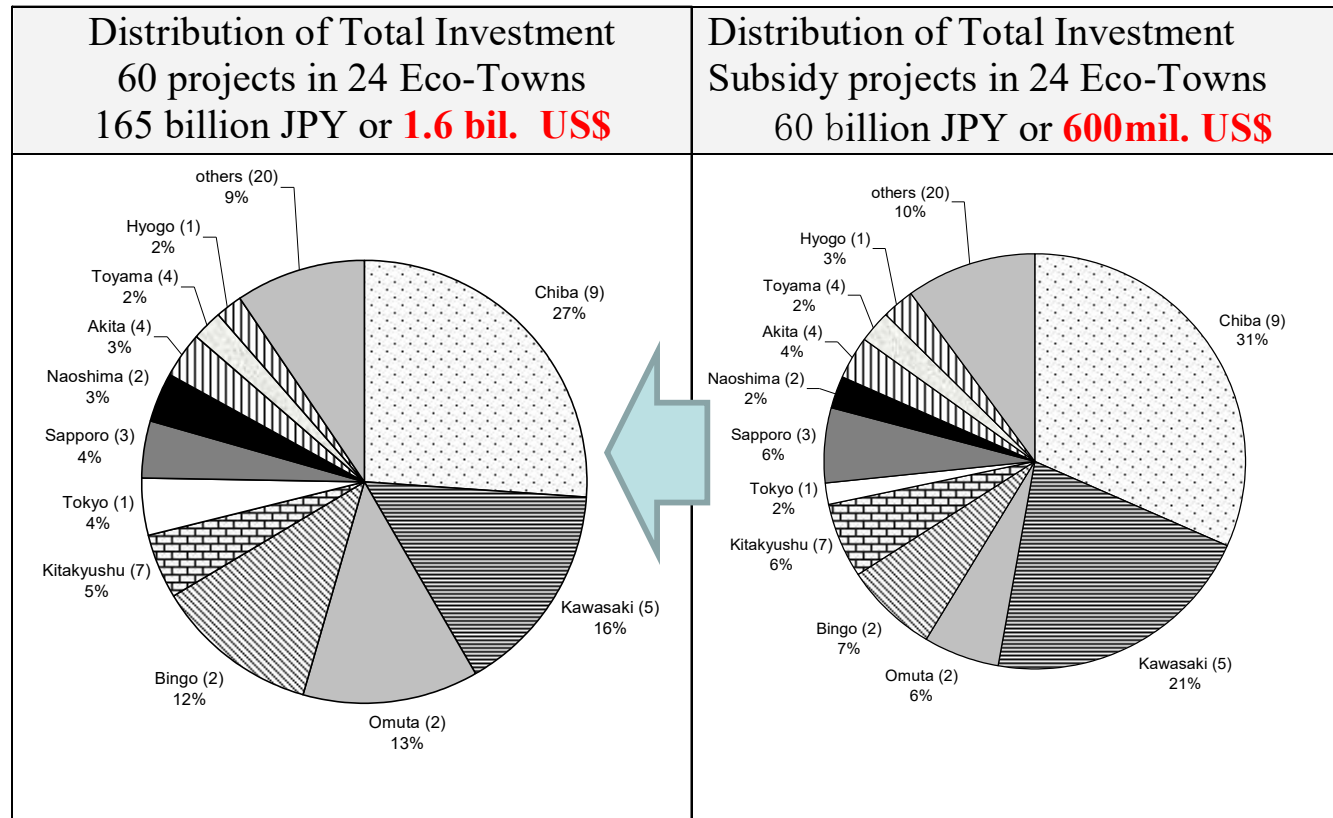
Kawasaki, Minamata

Water Front

Chen and
Fujita et. al.,
Euro. J. of
Operation
Research,
2013

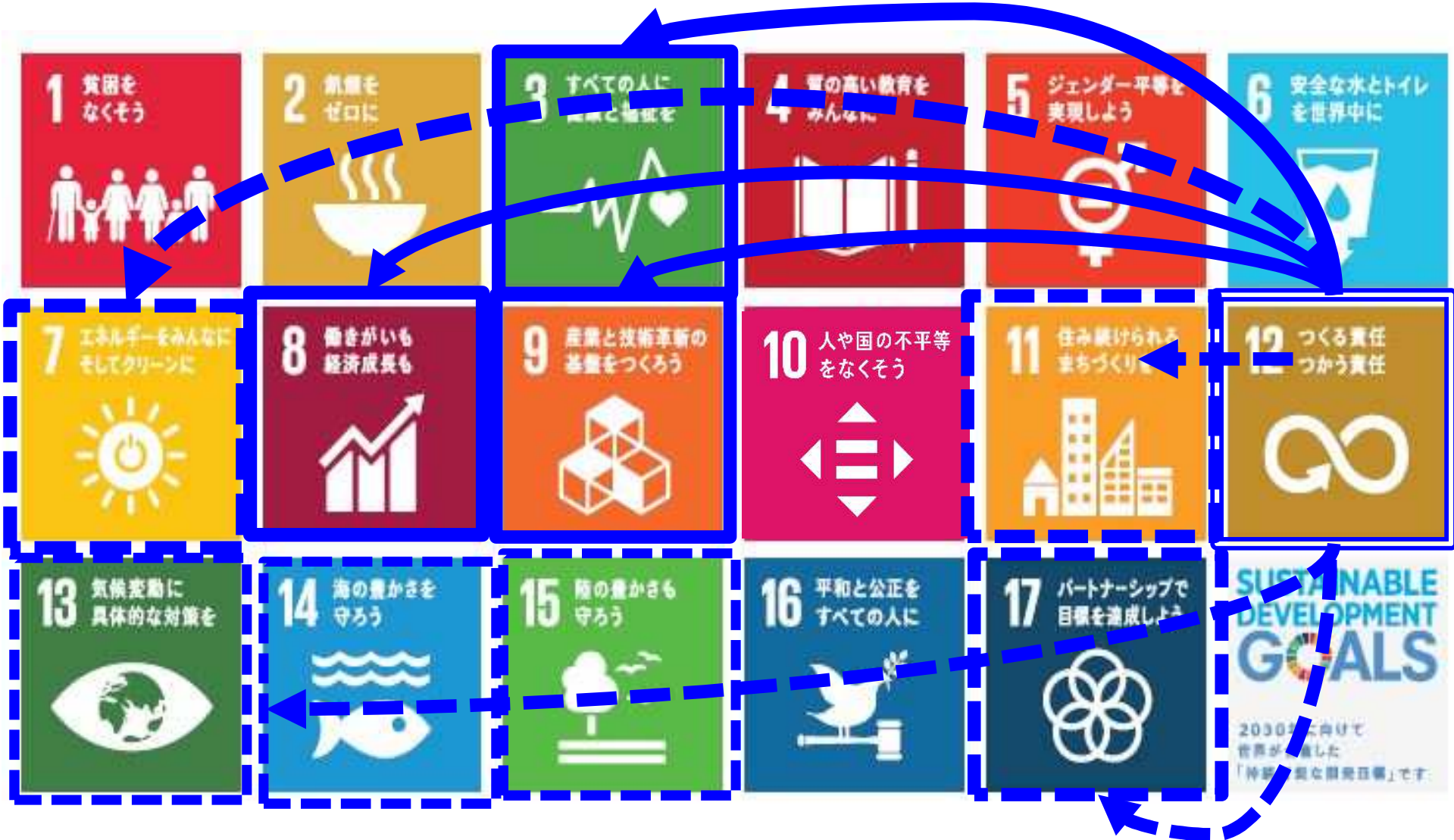
Eco-town Areas as demonstration projects of circular technologies; Berkel and Fujita et. al (2009)

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Environment approved Eco-Town Plans for 26 areas as of the end of January 2006, and they provided financial support to 62 facilities located within the appropriate areas.



Resource recycling enables SDGs-oriented future cities

- A system for locally circulating resources helps create a value-adding, high-efficiency, and competitive circular economic zone.
- The system integrates resource recycling, energy circulation, and nature conservation areas of the natural environment.



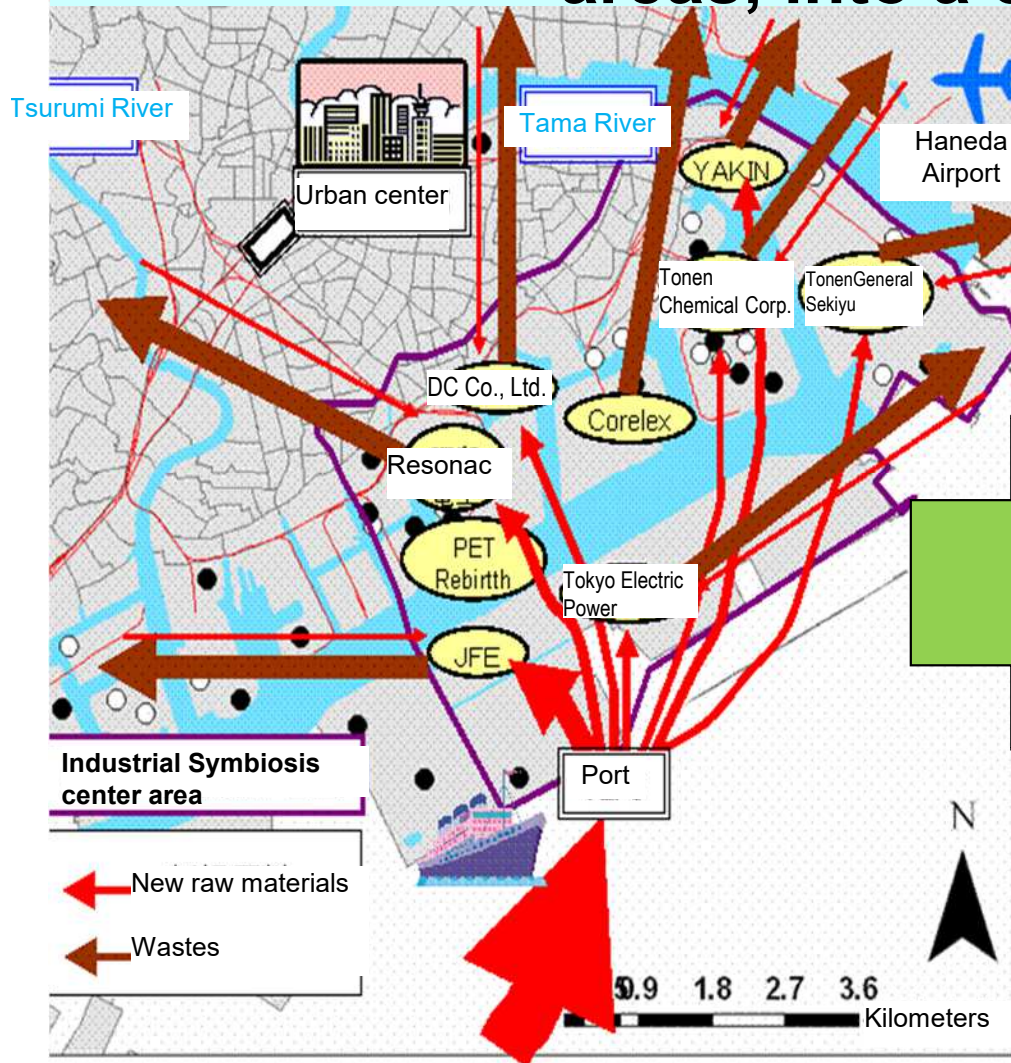
Step 1 Create a center for supplying decarbonized resources to cities and industries

Add energy circulation loops to resource circulation loops to double zero emissions

Transform industrial symbiosis centers into regional revitalization centers

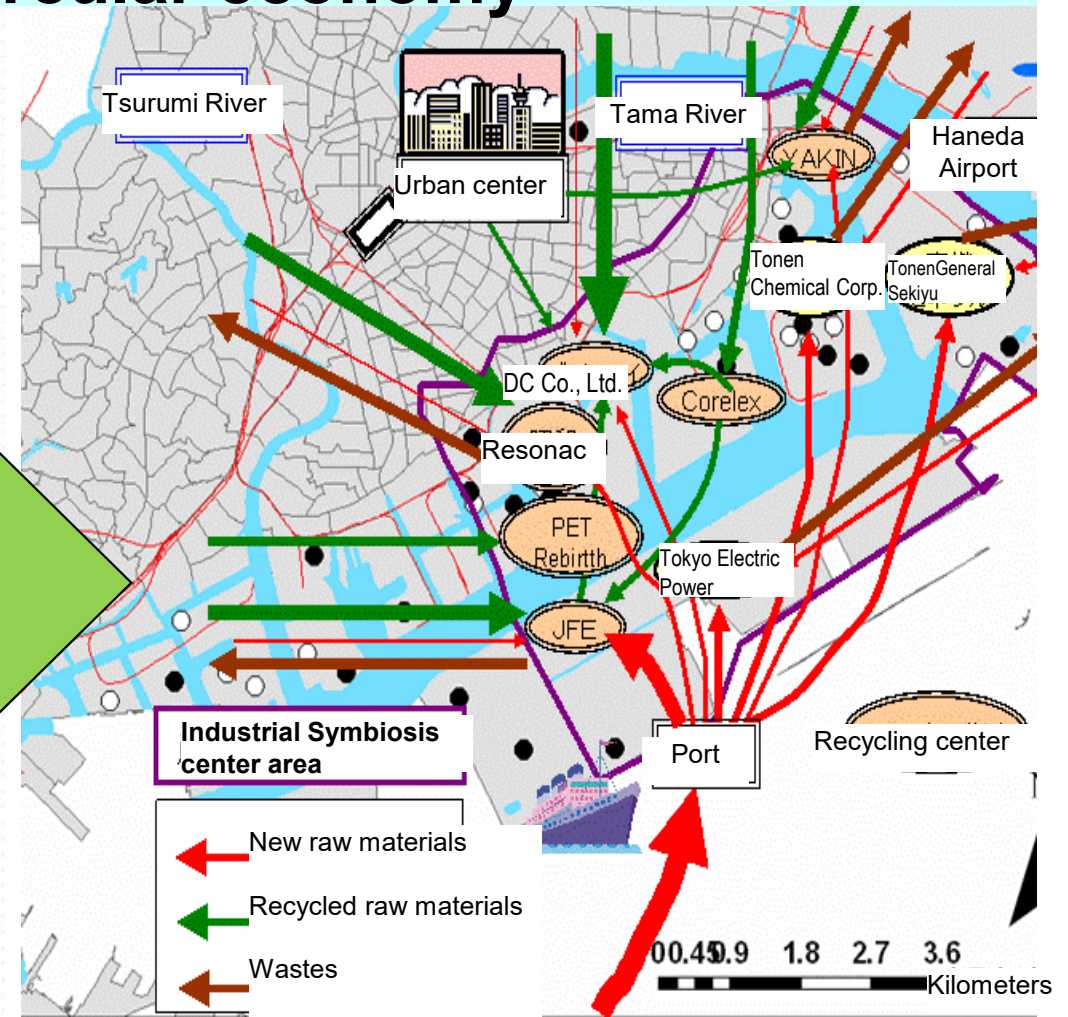
Step 2 Leverage the circular symbiosis system to create a hub for a global decarbonized regional network

Transform industrial activities, the core function of urban areas, into a circular economy



Non-circular flow of materials

- Industrial waste: Overstretched capacity of final disposal sites and illegal dumping
- Manufacturing industry: Dependence on natural resources from overseas
- A circular economy is not viable



Material flow in a carbon-neutral, circular economy

- Recycle industrial waste extensively
- Manufacturing industry: Replace resources with recycled materials
- Demonstrate a carbon-neutral, circular economy

Decarbonization of the existing Kombinat through linkage between urban areas and industrial centers

Create a pioneering integrated area for carbon-neutral urban-industrial symbiosis where material circulation and energy consumption are coordinated among the **Eco-Town and urban areas (residences, businesses, and commercial facilities) and the **local primary sector** (agriculture, forestry, and fisheries facilities).**

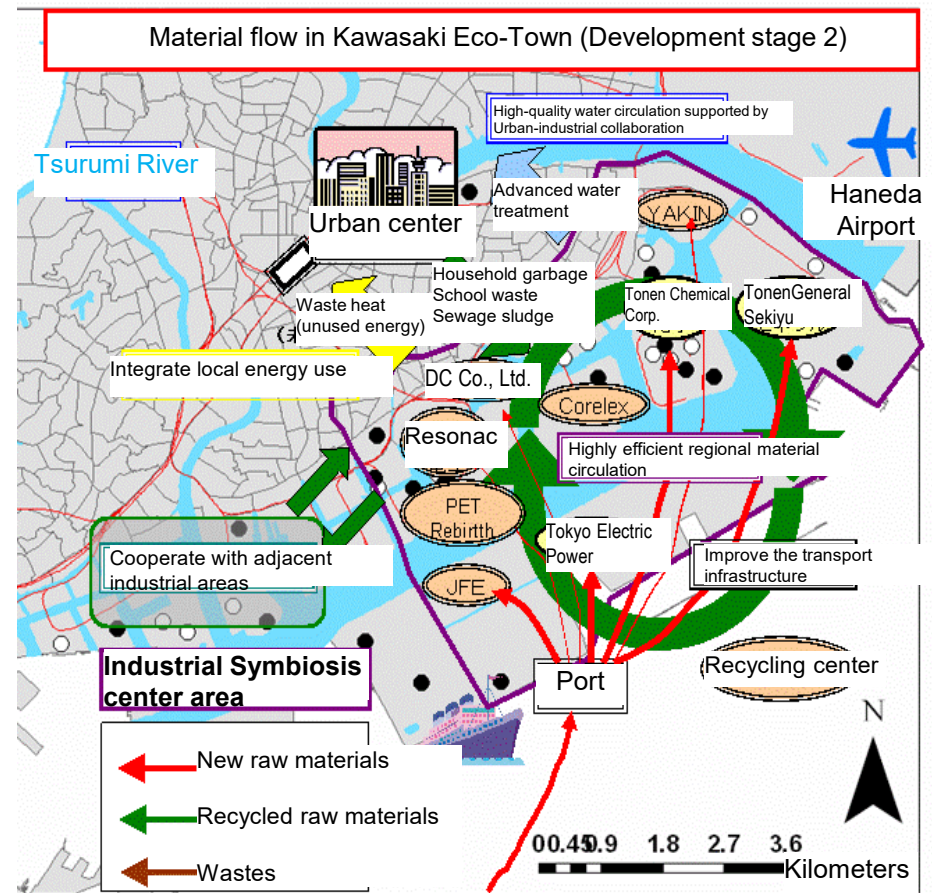
[An example of model project]

A social experiment model project for a local circular economy that locally circulates resources and carbon within a limited area. It involves locally collecting and recycling general, industrial, and agricultural waste in circulation-friendly conditions in a combined manner.



[An example of policy]

Industrial and environmental policies are integrated with urban policies involving urban development, roads, sewage systems, and infrastructure construction and port policies to develop a circular economy infrastructure in urban areas.

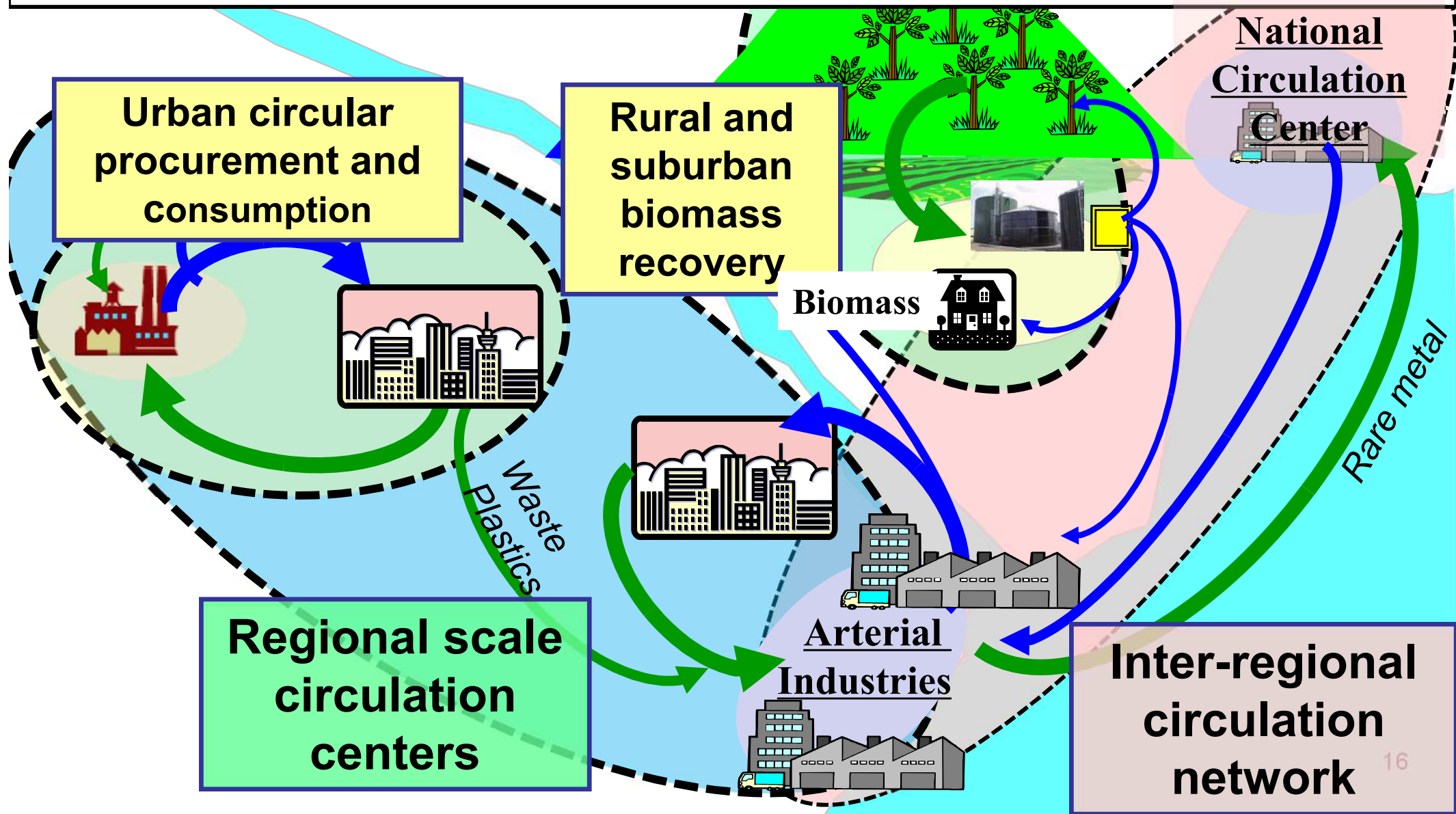


Carbon-Free Industrial Symbiosis Zone (proposed)

The vision has the objective to develop an integrated hub zone or area where the recycling and industrial infrastructures are mobilized to enhance resource efficiency and decarbonization. 15

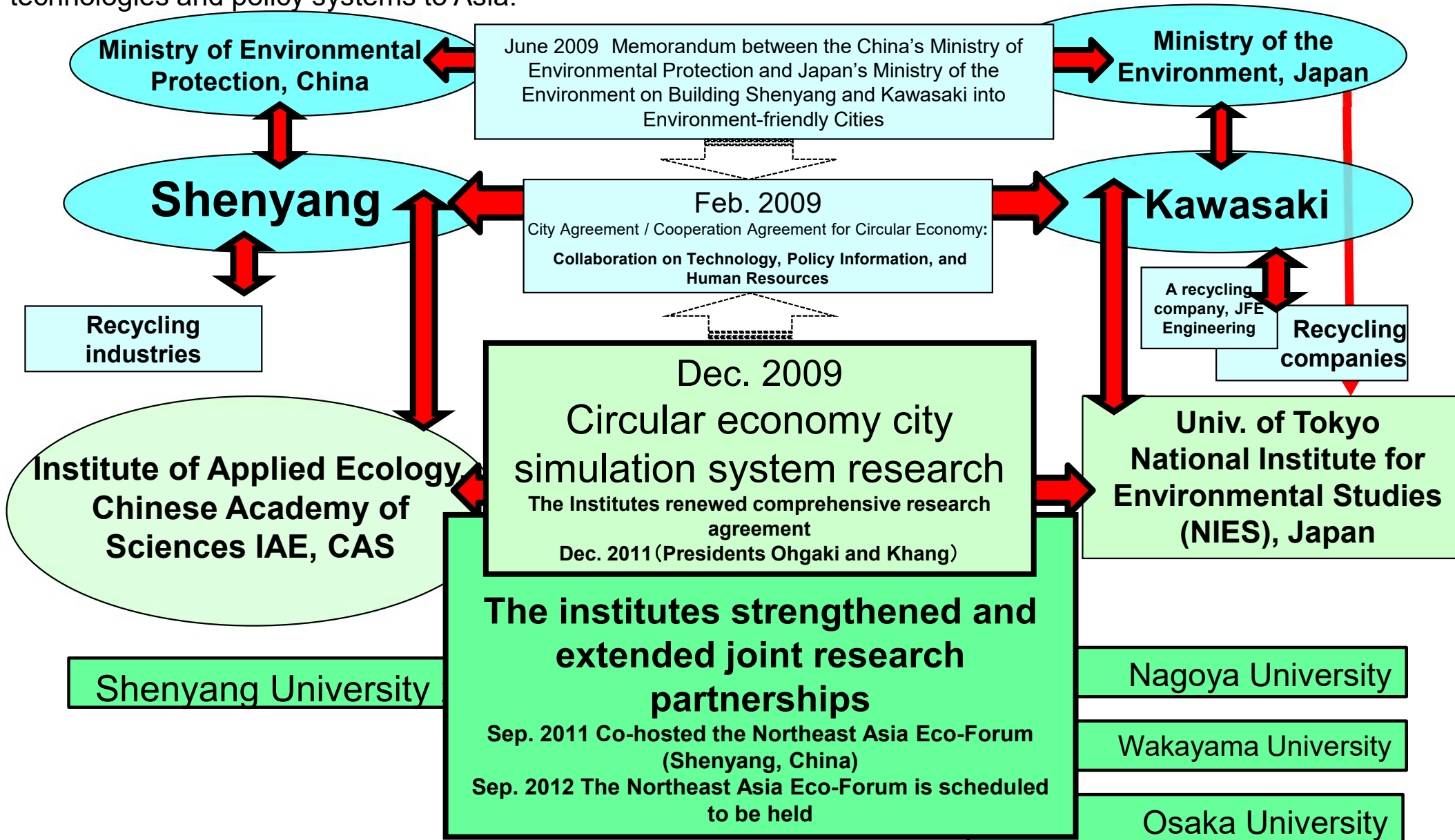
Strategies to Promote Eco-town Development

- Establishment of multi scale circulation system considering appropriate social waste transportation cost and environmental value of recycle products
- Social multi-stakeholder collaboration scheme for such separation, collection and green purchase
- Development of regional circulation center for multi-layered circulation areas

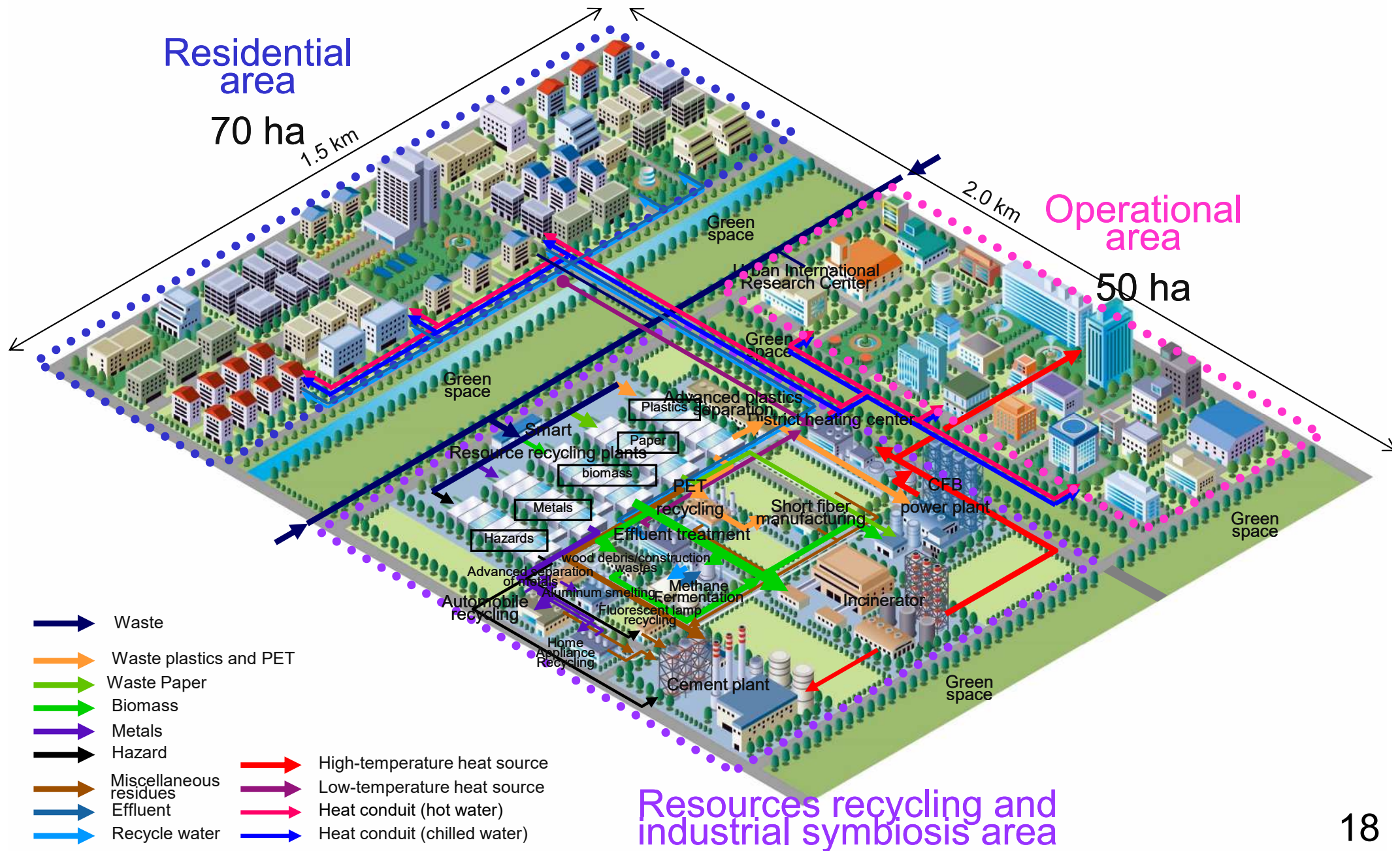


Research cooperation with Shenyang, a Chinese environmentally friendly city

Under the framework of the Promotion of Environmental Business Cooperation between Kawasaki and Shenyang by the Japanese and Chinese Ministries of the Environment, which serves as a pioneering example of a major venous business project, a research collaboration system was established to deploy Japanese-developed technologies and policy systems to Asia.

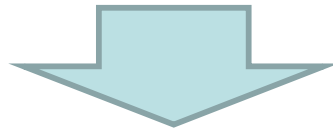


Proposed plan for a circular, low-carbon industrial ecosystem park (Kawasaki experiences transposed to other Asian cities)



From initiatives for urban-industrial symbiosis to the mainstream in an international green economy

- 1990– Theories and studies on a circular economy and industrial symbiosis achieve major progress.
- 1995– Countries set out concepts and plans for industrial symbiosis and eco-industrial development.
- 1997– Kawasaki City launched the Eco-Town project, one of the earliest recycling center initiatives in the world.



2005– Eco-industrial development was envisaged in China and South Korea.

Japanese Eco-Town projects (Kitakyushu and Kawasaki) served as leading cases.

2010– Eco-industrial development was deployed in Europe.

**UK National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP)
Eco-Town advancement projects (research and demonstration projects)**

2015– G7 Summit addressed Industrial Symbiosis.

Expectations for green innovation in the 21st century, driven by urban-industrial symbiosis in Kawasaki

From the stronghold of a 20th-century industrial society to a leading model of green innovation supported by collaboration with the urban area.

- Supply of industrial products through the massive consumption of fossil fuels
- Global spread of industrial functions and visible signs indicating that the Earth's capacity to bear environmental burdens has been exhausted
- The impact of industrial bases reliant on imported resources and industrial pollution



- Reduce environmental impact through environmental measures and development of environmental monitoring technologies and enhance urban-industrial symbiosis.
- Shift industrial functions towards use of recycled resources and create regional circular economy zones.