

## Special Environmental Edition

In 2021, from October 3rd to November 12th, COP26 was held in the UK. Of course, prime minister Kishida attended this conference.

At the summit, more than 100 countries made a statement and indicated efforts to resolve global climate change. Prime minister Kishida declared several commitments. For example, a 46% reduction in \*greenhouse gas in 2030, compared to the amount in 2013.



Prime minister Kishida

In order to fulfill the long-term goal of \*"Carbon Neutrality by 2050", it would need more effort from not only governments and big companies but also our individual actions.



sea turtle with lots of garbage



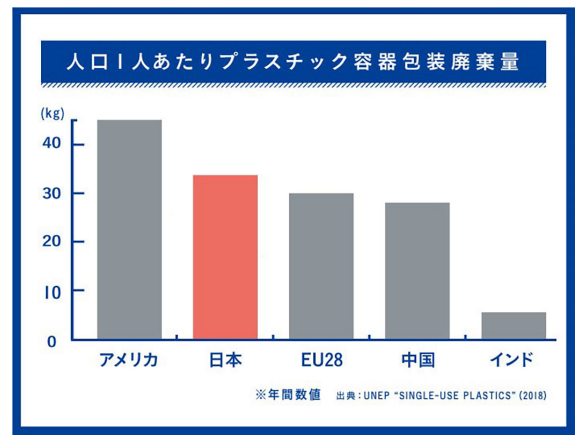
seagull eating plastic garbage

Marine pollution is one example of an environmental problem that we are facing. This problem has attracted attention because it causes harm to fish and other sea creatures. Some discoveries have improved the situation of marine pollution in recent years.

The sea can show us the damage caused by human thoughtless actions. You can see garbage floating on the sea, unlike in the desert, where garbage is often out of sight. Some of it came from a river or a city carried by strong wind and rain. It is said that 80 percent of the garbage in the sea comes from towns. This marine waste is found on the inside of fish and other sea creatures, such as\*sea turtles. There are even cases where marine creatures washed up dead due to \*choking on marine waste.

According to research by \*UNEP, Japan accounts for the second biggest amount of \*disposable plastic garbage, per person, after the US.

It is said that the amount of plastic in the sea will be greater than the number of fish by 2050. It's shocking to think that the sea is also filled with waste other than plastic.



Although it is clear that plastic waste causes pollution, nowadays, \*microplastics are drawing attention as they take over 100 years to \*decompose. When creatures eat microplastics, they remain inside their stomachs for a very long time. Researchers are also concerned about the effects of breaking the balance of the ecosystem.

Developments like microplastics make our lives more comfortable, but we also have to look at the bad side of these new developments. We have to preserve marine creatures and prevent the spread of marine pollution. We can contribute to marine preservation by not throwing away garbage not only on the beaches or near the river but also on the streets as this garbage can reach the sea and into marine creatures.



microplastics

Some people believe that the direct causes of ongoing environmental problems are not our fault. However, we must know about these issues and reflect on our actions for us and future generations.

\* greenhouse gas : 温室効果ガス

\*"Carbon Neutrality by 2050" : 2050年カーボンニュートラル

\* sea turtles : ウミガメ

\* choking on : を詰まらせる

\* UNEP : 国際連合環境計画

\* disposable : 使い捨ての

\* microplastics : マイクロプラスチック

\* decompose : を分解する

Writer: Momo Fujita (2A)

Editor: McCarthy Andrew