

Environmental conservation measures at the distribution stage

Modal shift, and effective transportation and distribution

In order to reduce CO₂ and NOx emissions, we at Kubota are promoting a modal shift in which we are using the combined transportation system of trucks and railroad to transport our products instead of trucks transportation. We also make an effort to do effective transportation and distribution by direct transportation and centralized transportation. The rate of modal shift was 8.5% in fiscal 1999.

We reduced 1,097 metric tons of CO₂ emission, by the reduction of wastes in the improvement of distribution system, and packing and crating system. The reduction of costs totaled to 867 million yen, increased by 55% over the previous year.

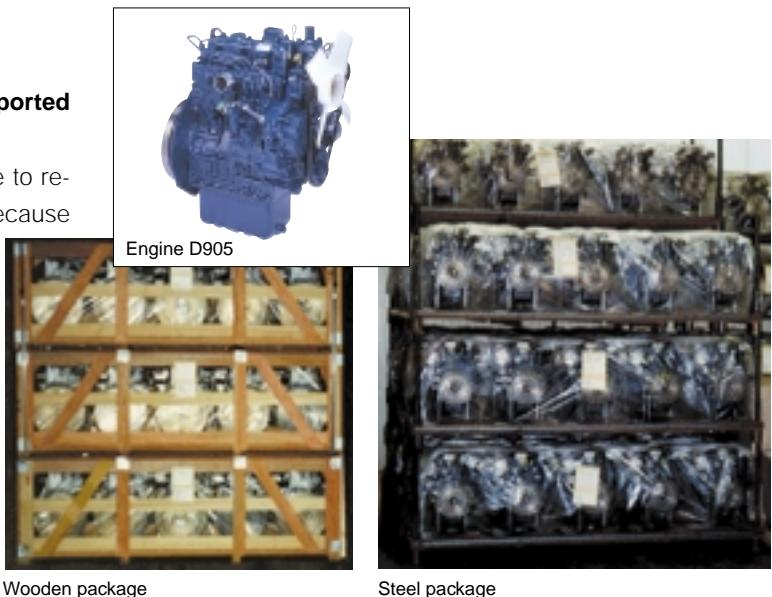


Shipments equal to 500 10-metric tons trucks are being transferred to freight shipping routes every month (Odawara plant)

The improvement of the packing materials for exported products (farm machinery)

Wooden packing materials (pallet, etc.) are impossible to reuse when they are applied to exported products, because gathering those materials is difficult. They become solid wastes in the countries concerned.

So we are changing the packing materials of exported farm machinery from wood to steel, in Farm and Industrial Machinery Consolidated Division, because they are recyclable and reduce the load to environment.



Dealing with the Law for Promotion of Sorting and Recycling of Containers and Packaging

We sell a various kind of products to the companies and consumers. The packing of these products is various. Almost all products are shipped with the packing that has no relation to the law.

We grasped the total amount of the packing, relating to the law, for our products for the first time, in fiscal 1998.

Namely, the amounts of plastic packing and paper packing used were about 365 metric tons and about 558 metric tons respectively. However the amount of wastes discharged as municipal solid wastes is very small, because almost all products

were shipped to the dealers, or were unpacked at the distribution stage.

We promote the activities such as changing to recyclable materials for the construction of recycling society, and the reduction of packing for global warming prevention.

Environmental measures at the offices

Light clothes activities in summer

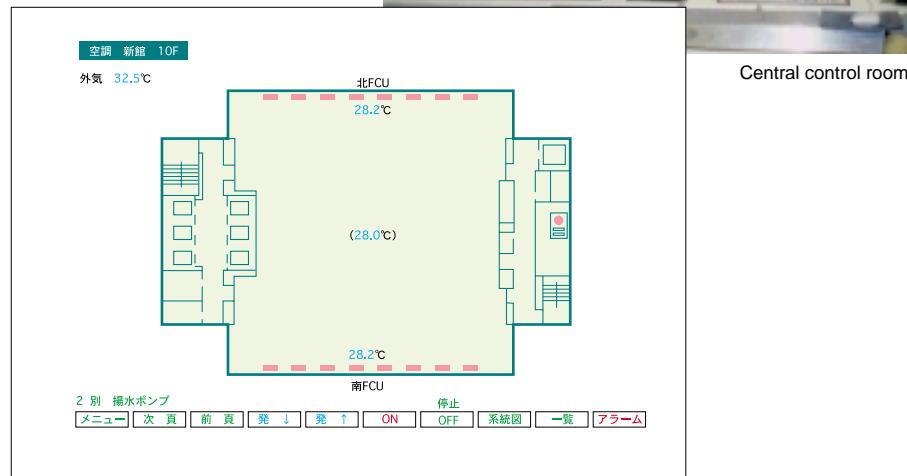
Light clothes activities such as non-tie and non-jacket activities are recommended in our offices in order to save energy by reasonable air conditioning (set up temperature being around 28 degree centigrade) for 3 months (July to September).

In addition, we promote the activities by the declaration of adoption of saving energy fashion with the relation to Kansai Council and Kansai Economic Federation.



Saving energy activities in our office building

We started full saving energy activities in our head office building, when the building was designated as class 2 energy management office (electricity) by the amendment of the Energy Conservation Law in 1999. We reduced the amount of electricity used by 10% compared with the previous year, by the installation of inverter in the air-conditioners as well as proper management in fiscal 1999.



Temperature distribution map in a room

Green procurement

In 1996, Kubota joined the Green Procurement Network. And we are promoting the green procurement in which the environment-friendly products should take priority over other products. Although a part of raw materials and office supplies are applied to this program at present, we are going to expand this program to other materials and parts.

The amount of recycled materials procured (thousand metric tons)

