

Worksites

Mizushima Plant

Introduction to the Mizushima Plant

Kurashiki City is not only a tourist spot famous for its traditional white-walled storehouses, it is also one of the top industrial cities in western Japan, shipping products worth a total of 4 trillion yen. Most of these products are manufactured at the Mizushima industrial complex, an area packed with corporations that produce a wide variety of products ranging from iron and steel, ships, electricity, cars, food, and chemical products. The view of the complex from Mt. Washu is a sight to behold.



Aerial view of the Mizushima Plant

ZEON Corporation's Mizushima Plant is situated in one corner of this complex.

The plant is the largest diversified user of C5 fractions* in the world, utilizing the characteristics of the various compounds extracted from raw materials to change them into adhesive tape, diapers, tires, paint, fragrances, optical film, and lenses. The plant supports the lifestyles of consumers by providing familiar items crucial for society and to everyday life.

The measures related to stability and safety implemented during production at this plant were introduced in the NHK program *Today's Close-Up* on January 16, 2013. The program's theme was the "crisis of the complex," and ZEON received high acclaim for its efforts to create a digital record of the experience and knowledge of veteran technicians, and integrate this into the production system to ensure a level of safety equal to that maintained by such veterans. However, ZEON also realizes that there are still plenty of issues and room for improvement, and will continue to implement further measures in the future.

Our mission is to be an environmentally friendly plant that is appreciated by the local community and meets the diverse needs of customers by safely producing consistently high-quality products.

* C5 fractions

Hydrocarbon molecules containing five carbon atoms. They are the byproduct of thermal cracking, or breaking down, of naphtha, and also include ingredients for raw materials of synthetic rubber and resin.

CSR Efforts at the Mizushima Plant

The slogan of the Mizushima Plant is "Visualize operations based on ABC, continually improve, and standardize these efforts." The plant strives to firmly root ABC culture (*atarimae*, *bakashoujiki*, and *chanto*, or in English: to earnestly and properly perform all of the routine but necessary tasks) and to implement production innovation. We take these steps because we believe that we can uphold safety as our highest priority and continuously provide society with products of consistent quality only when every employee takes great care to abide by the law and follow ZEON's operational rules and procedures.

We are working to ensure that the Mizushima Plant meets the expectations of the local community and society at large in its pursuit of safety and stability, achieved by firmly rooting ABC culture and through production innovation.

Environmental and Safety Activities

1. Reducing toxic chemical emissions

Our plant has been butadiene-emission-free since fiscal 2002, when we adopted a closed recovery and processing system. By measuring and reducing our VOC^{*1} emissions through PRTR^{*2} activities, we will continue to help conserve the environment.

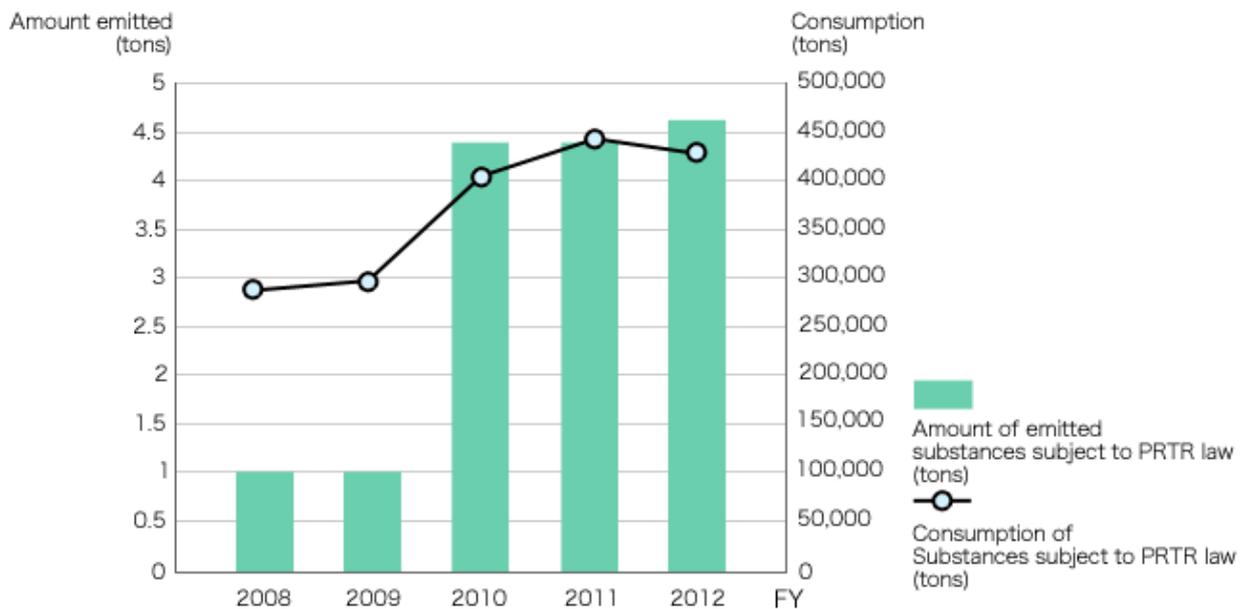
*1 Pollutant Release and Transfer Register

A database of hazardous chemical substances released into the environment and transferred off-site in waste. It provides the public with important information such as where and how much pollutants are being released and transferred.

*2 Volatile Organic Compounds

Organic compounds that change easily to a gas phase and enter the air.

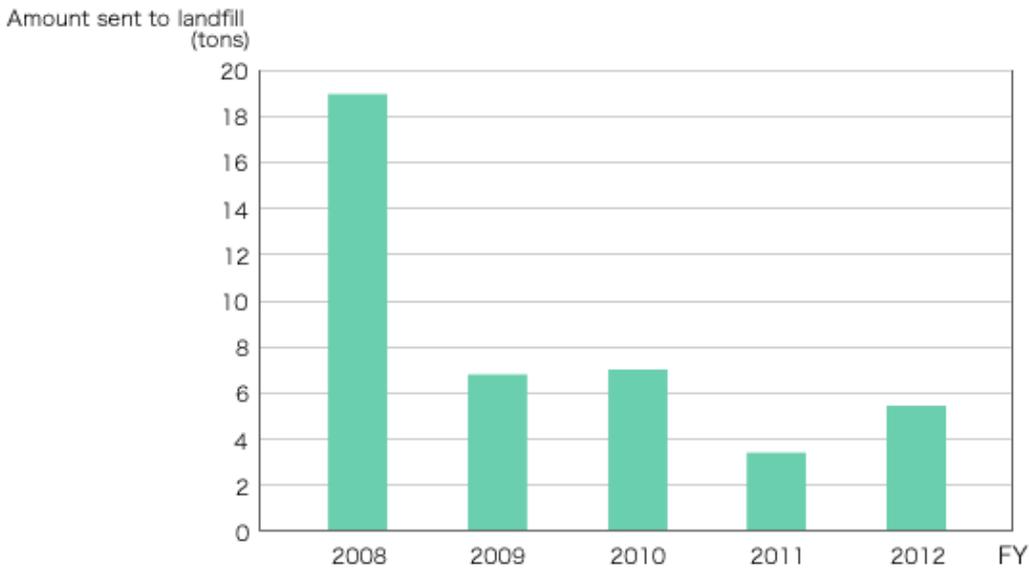
Substances subject to PRTR law



2. Reducing industrial waste

Starting in fiscal 2011, we set a target of 5 tons or less for waste sent to the landfill. In fiscal 2012, this amount unfortunately exceeded targets at 5.4 tons, but going forward we will reduce the amount by implementing efforts including reducing waste by shifting towards selling it as a valuable resource, reusing beverage bottles, and recycling plastics as solid fuels (the “three Rs”).

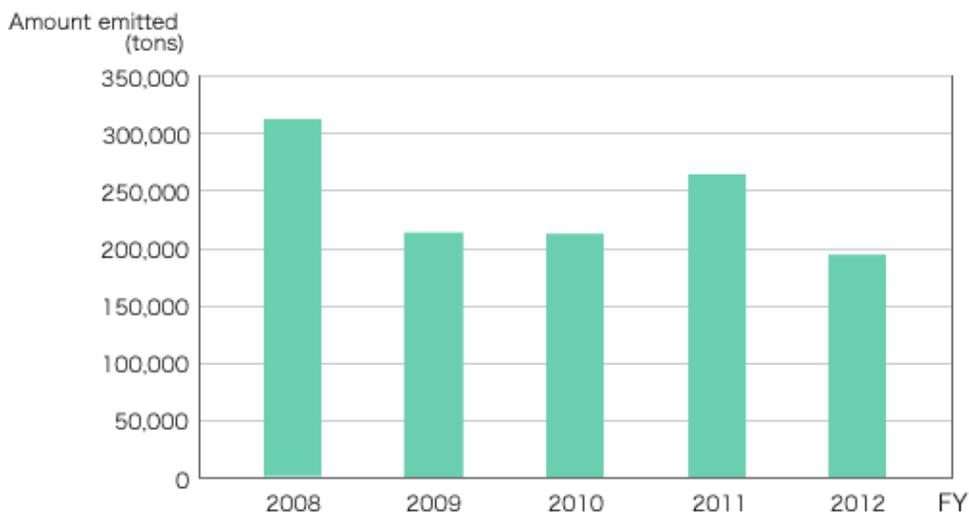
Amount of Waste to Landfill



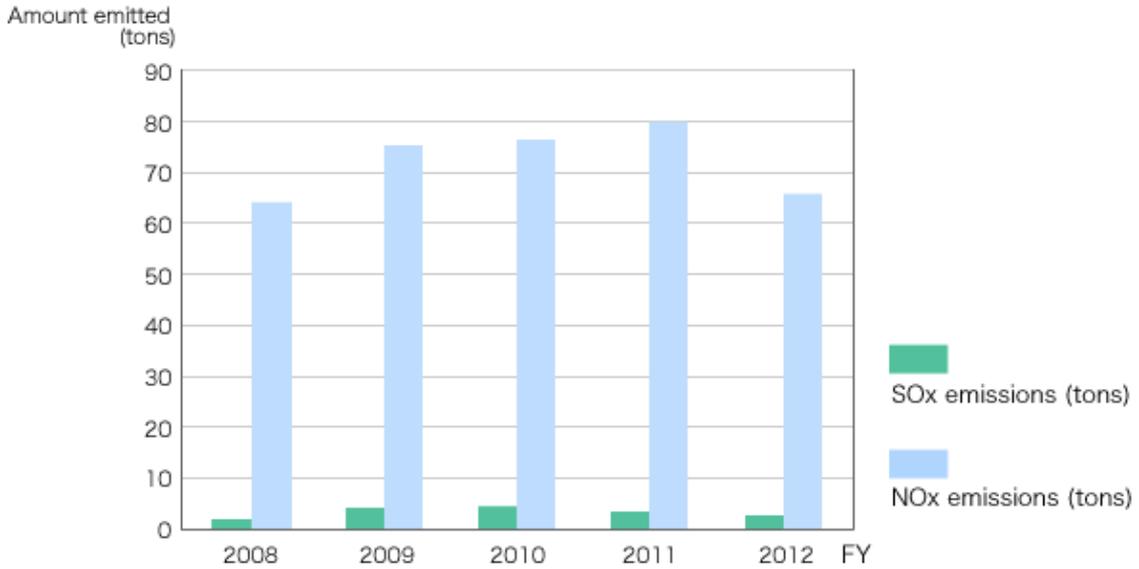
3. Reducing air and water pollution

We work to comply with standards for soot, smoke and waste-water output through daily monitoring and regular third-party assessments. We also implement checks on whether we are having a detrimental impact on the local area by monitoring hazardous air pollutants and noise levels at the boundaries of the plant. Wastewater from the Mizushima Plant flows into the Seto Island Sea, a semi-enclosed body of water. Due to the fact that in an emergency situation this could impact a large number of people's lives, we are constantly conscious of waste-water and manage levels on a daily basis. We know that complying with environmental standards is only the bare minimum level of conduct a corporation should exhibit, and will thus continue to strive to implement environmental protection.

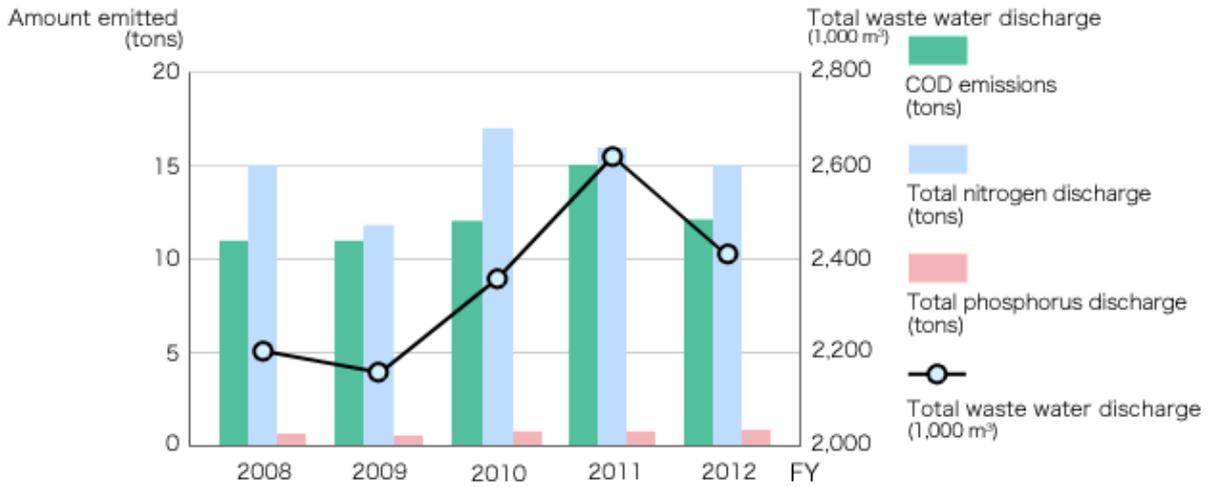
CO₂ emissions



SO_x and NO_x emissions



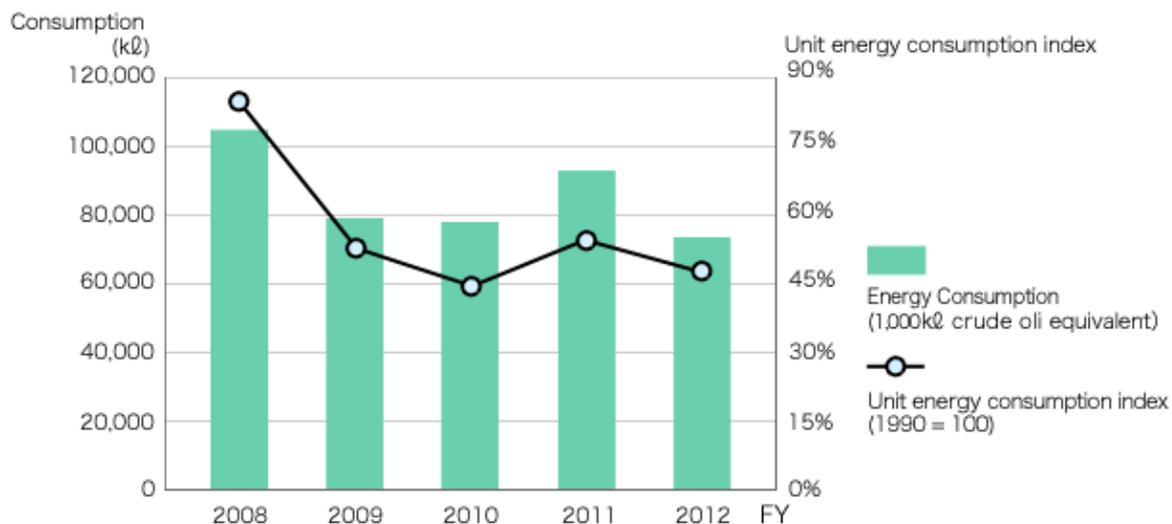
Overall wastewater, COD, total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) discharge



4. Saving resources and energy

We are working to achieve targets for energy and resource reduction through efforts including the improvement of operation rates achieved by reduction of amounts of steam used and stabilization of bottleneck processes. We are striving forward while looking at our goal from a variety of perspectives, since even activities that do not seem to produce significant results can accumulate to have a major impact.

Total amount of energy and Unit energy consumption index



5. Environmental Data

Mizushima Plant		FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012
Toxic substances	Vinyl chloride monomer consumption (tons)	133,483	139,340	144,820	136,385	130,154
	Vinyl chloride monomer emissions (tons)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Substances subject to PRTR law	Consumption (tons)	285,584	293,497	405,671	442,900	431,800
	Amount emitted (tons)	1.0	1.0	4.4	4.4	4.6
Industrial waste	Amount generated (before volume reduction) (tons)	35,488	45,093	60,045	60,400	56,270
	Amount generated (after volume reduction) (tons)	4,849	5,006	5,374	5,935	4,830
	Amount sent to landfill (tons)	19	6.6	6.8	3.7	5.4
Atmospheric emissions	CO ₂ emissions (tons)	315,893	219,343	217,000	259,651	197,800
	SO _x emissions (tons)	2	4.3	4.6	3.8	2.7
	NO _x emissions (tons)	63	75	77	80	66
Water resources (Industrial water + Ground water + Waterworks) consumption (1,000m ³)		2,343	2,189	2,378	2,481	2,351
Waste water	Total waste water discharge (1,000m ³)	2,200	2,150	2,382	2,640	2,429
	COD emissions (tons)	11	11	13	15	13
	Total phosphorus discharge (tons)	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7
	Total nitrogen discharge (tons)	15	12	17	16	15
Energy	Total consumption (crude oil equivalent, kL)	110,690	77,930	77,852	91,566	75,100
	Unit consumption index (1990 = 100)	84%	51%	44%	56%	46%
Production of PDR equivalent (tons)		563,495	648,665	760,900	731,500	705,400

Quality Assurance Initiatives

In line with ZEON's Mid-Term Management Plan, SZ-20, including the Enterprise Blueprint for 2020: "ZEON creates the future today through the power of chemistry," the Mizushima Plant aims to realize global production technologies that, through appropriate management of what we call the 4Ms—Material, Machine, Method, and Man—enable anyone anywhere in the world to produce great products with consistent quality. We hope to realize the Enterprise Blueprint by using our quality management systems to improve the technologies we develop.

VOICE In Preparation for 2020

In fiscal 2012 we continued efforts aimed at achieving 100% yield rates^{*1}. First, in an effort to stabilize product quality, we created CAPD action sheets to visualize the management of this process. CAPD is our version of the PDCA cycle that starts with "checking" to see that existing systems have no problems or inadequacies, and then taking "action." We endeavor to ensure that day-to-day actions are implemented on an ongoing basis, however, by positioning this as a key theme, our process capability indexes^{*2} improved. However, we are continuing forward with these efforts, as we have yet to achieve 100% yield rates.

Another task we need to accomplish by fiscal 2020 is standardizing technologies so that overseas plants can manufacture products with the same level of quality. This is our responsibility as a parent plant^{*3}. In fiscal 2012, we worked to improve proprietary technologies using project structuring by stationing employees from Head Office and laboratories at plants. As a result, we achieved significant improvements in process stabilization and process capability indexes. We will move forward with these efforts in order to standardize these technologies and resolve remaining issues in fiscal 2013.



Toru Nishijima, Corporate Officer and Mizushima Plant Manager

*1 Yield rate

The percentage of products rolling off the production line that pass quality inspections. A 100% yield rate means that no defective products were produced.

*2 Process capability index

An indicator that quantitatively assesses the ability of a given process to meet certain quality standards.

*3 Parent plant

A plant that applies new technologies developed in Japan before they are adopted at overseas subsidiary plants.

Living Together with the Local Community

1. Engaging the Local Community

In an effort to proactively interact with the region, we participated in community-organized events, such as the summer festival and rice-cake making.



Participated in community-organized rice-cake making

2. Comprehensive emergency drill

The Mizushima Plant conducts comprehensive emergency drills every September in conjunction with Disaster Prevention Day. Local fire departments and the Mizushima Industrial Complex's joint disaster prevention team join our in-house firefighting team in training, with each team perfecting their own response skills.

In fiscal 2012 we also implemented tsunami evacuation drills, launching efforts to prepare for an earthquake in the Tonankai area.



Comprehensive emergency response drill



Tsunami evacuation drill

3. Local volunteering

In an effort to support and cheer up local residents, the Mizushima Plant commenced voluntary neighborhood cleanups in 2006. In 2012 we took these efforts a step further, cleaning up areas together with local residents. Going forward we will continue in our endeavors, while remembering the novice spirit.



Volunteering to cleanup areas together with local residents