

## Teijin develops new method for recycling plastic bottles

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### Crisscross Discussion

#### Reusing is more efficient than recycling

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...-until about 25 years ago where I grew up (NZ) there were no plastic drink bottles or cardboard cartons for beverages. Everything came in glass containers, the reuse of which was ensured by offering refunds for their return.

On the surface, Teijin's new recycling technology may seem like a good thing, - but do we really need to be throwing all this stuff away in the first place?

Many of Japan's Local governments don't even have, or are not enforcing by-laws on separation of household refuse, despite their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol to be following the Reduce/Reuse/Recycle prioritisation towards minimising waste to landfill (and incineration).

The legal environment within which the packaging industries operate which allows them to avoid the true costs of dealing with their products once they are used, by passing them on to the consumer, is where changes can, and need to be made.....

If legislation requiring that corporations meet the true costs of dealing with their waste products is passed, reusable containers will make more economic sense.

In such an environment Teijin's recycling technology could be rendered happily obsolete.