Context

Kyoto City aims to reduce the volume of annual garbage by half, from 820,000 tonnes (in 2000) down to 390,000 tonnes by 2020. This practice stems from the “Ordinance of Economy Drive (nick-named ‘Shimatsu-no-kokoro Ordinance’), enacted in October 2015, which regulates the reduction and appropriate disposal of collected garbage. Recently, a new plan called “Kyoto City New Garbage Half Reduction Plan” was developed with the aim of promoting the 2R (Reduce & Reuse) Project. Regarding food, the objective of this plan is to reduce garbage and reuse materials in order to prevent food loss, such as leftovers and uneaten food, in cooperation with residents, businesses and visitors in Kyoto. This plan is the first attempt in Japan to reduce the amount of food waste, setting a specific goal: from 96,000 tonnes of waste in the year 2000 to 50,000 tonnes in 2020. This initiative is based on the results of a garbage composition investigation conducted by the Municipality of Kyoto City since 1980. The City continues to monitor and inspect the progress of this initiative.

Overview of the food practice

The “Kyoto City New Garbage Half Reduction Plan” has been implemented through several initiatives. In order to reduce kitchen waste, Kyoto City implements an initiative called the “3 Kiri Kitchen Waste Campaign”. “Kiri” is a Japanese word, meaning “making full use of something”, in this case food. This initiative promotes three concepts:

- “tsukai-kiri”: bought ingredients should be completely used;
- “tabe-kiri”: food should not be left uneaten; and
- “mizu-kiri”: liquids should be drained before taking out the garbage.

Kyoto City recognizes the restaurants and other facilities within the hospitality sector that respect the three concepts of the “Kiri Kitchen Waste Campaign”, awarded with the title of “Zero Food Waste Store”.

The reduction plan also has an educational component, supported by the Community College “Shimatsu-no-kokoro gakkou” programme. The aim is to promote the reduction of food waste and loss among the population, through community college programs for citizens.

Results and lessons learned

Thanks to the joint efforts of residents and businesses, in 2016, the annual volume of garbage decreased by 49 percent to 417,000 tonnes from its peaked volume of 820,000 tonnes in 2000. However, the decrease in 2017 was minimal. Moreover, 40 percent of burnable garbage is kitchen waste (150,000 tonnes), including food loss of leftovers and uneaten food. Kyoto City aims to further improve its waste reduction plan, relying on the collaboration of all stakeholders.