

# Learning from Edo: Rebuilding a Sustainable Way of Life

## 1. Research methods

Efforts to build a sustainable society are underway all over the world, but many problems still remain. I believe that building a sustainable society faces many difficulties. However, Edo, the former name of Tokyo 400 years ago had a recycling-based society. I thought that by doing re-evaluating Edo lifestyle and applying its idea to modern society, we can build a sustainable society.

## 2. Research purpose

To examine the lifestyle and social structure of Edo.

To find clues for building a sustainable society.

To propose applications for modern times.

## 3. Results of the research

In Edo, a resource recovery and recycling system was supported by specialized professions. These professions can be divided into two types. They were collection-related occupations and repair-related occupations. These businesses and individuals helped the entire city function as an efficient recycling system. I would like to examine the factors behind this.

At that time, Japan was in a state of national isolation, and imports from foreign countries were minimal, resulting in shortages of goods. Therefore, it was necessary to make effective use of resources and treat things with care. This kind of environment is considered one of the reasons why a recycling culture took root in people's lives. What is needed in modern times is a mindset similar to that of the people of Edo, as well as an environment that encourages such thinking.

## 4. Suggestion

### ① Recycle car

This is a truck that travel around collecting food wastes. The collected waste is then converted into that fertilizer. Finally, the fertilizer is supplied to farmers. I suggest that municipalities adapt this system.

### ② Corporate cooperation

I propose greater corporate cooperation through CSV initiatives. CSV stands for Creating Shared Value. This is the idea that companies create both social value and economic value/profit. I believe that organizations with the power to influence people's attitude, such as governments and corporation, must take the lead in moving society toward this goal.

## **5. Conclusion**

Based on research from the Edo period, it is concluded that in order to build a circular economy in the modern era, it is necessary to raise awareness among people about resource depletion and recycling.