NEWS RELEASE

August 28, 2026

Yamato Transport Co., Ltd.

Launch of Demonstration Project for Small Home Appliance Collection in Tokushima Prefecture Utilizing TA-Q-BIN Digital Traceability Technology, Starting Monday, August 31

Verifying a Sustainable Resource Circulation Model to Increase the Collection Volume of "Urban Mines"

Yamato Transport Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and President: Seiichi Awa; hereinafter "Yamato Transport") will launch a demonstration project for the "Small Home Appliance Collection and Appropriate Management Model through TA-Q-BIN Traceability Management" (hereinafter "the Demonstration Project") in Tokushima Prefecture starting Monday, August 31, 2026. The project was selected by the Ministry of the Environment under its "FY2025 Supplementary Budget: Demonstration Model Project for Collection to Increase Collection Volume of 'Urban Mines'".

■ Overview of the Demonstration Project

A vast amount of used small home appliances (often referred to as "urban mines") are discarded or left unused in Japanese households, containing many rare metals. Securing the stable collection and recycling of these metals is a critical challenge for transitioning to a circular economy and ensuring Japan's economic security. To efficiently collect these urban mines left in households, the Demonstration Project will verify a new collection model utilizing the TA-Q-BIN network in Tokushima Prefecture. Looking ahead, the project aims to

expand this model to other regions facing similar challenges, thereby contributing to the realization of a sustainable, recycling-oriented society.

(1) Period: Monday, August 31, 2026, to Sunday, January 31, 2027

(2) Locations: 19 Yamato Transport sales offices in Tokushima Prefecture (with plans to expand to public facilities in cooperating municipalities in the future)

(3) Items to be collected: Used laptops, smartphones, and tablets

*For this project, authorization has been obtained from the local governments to treat used small home appliances as valuable resources (not waste).

(4) Key Verification Items:

1.Whether the project effectively enhances convenience for residents and reduces the administrative burden of collection for local governments

2.Whether the digital traceability technology of TA-Q-BIN is effective as an alternative to appropriate management functions

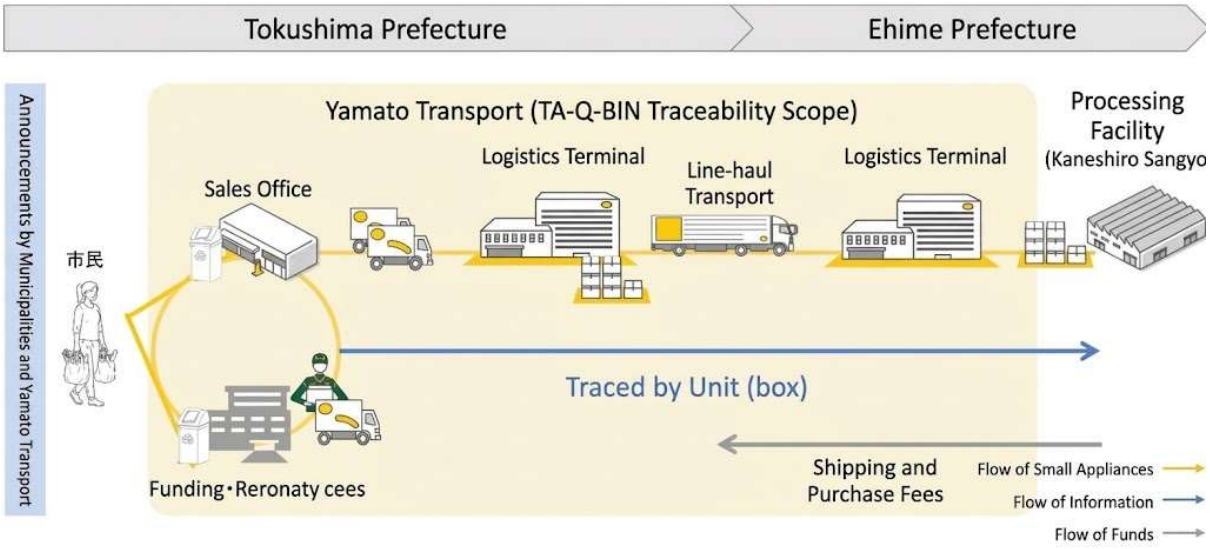
3.To what extent the collection scheme using the parcel delivery network can promote resident participation

■ Flow of Small Home Appliance Collection

(1) Residents of Tokushima Prefecture bring small home appliances they wish to recycle to Yamato Transport's sales offices in Tokushima Prefecture, answer a brief questionnaire, and place the items in a dedicated collection box.

(2) Once the collected volume reaches a certain level, the sales office staff confirm that no ineligible items are mixed in, transfer the contents from the collection box into transport boxes, and seal them.

(3) The collected small home appliances are transported as TA-Q-BIN cargo, mixed with other packages, and delivered to Kaneshiro Sangyo Co., Ltd., an authorized recycling operator.



■ Challenges in Small Home Appliance Collection

For residents, the methods and timing for discarding used items are limited, and for local governments, the costs of vehicle collection and maintaining collection boxes are high. As a result, the volume of small home appliance collection nationwide has plateaued in recent years.

Tokushima Prefecture has also set a high goal of doubling the volume of small home appliance collection per resident. However, the percentage of municipalities in the prefecture participating in small home appliance collection remains under 70%, and the increase in collection volume under existing government-led schemes is reaching its limit.

In addition, under the Act on Promotion of Recycling of Small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Small Home Appliance Recycling Act), transport operators are required to meet three requirements: "manifest management" (industrial waste management sheet system), "display indicating the vehicle is transporting small home appliances," and "subcontracting management of transport operators" (prohibition of subcontracting). While these requirements are important for ensuring the appropriate disposal of waste, they present a high barrier to entry for parcel delivery operators to directly collect small home appliances.

■ Comment from Masazumi Gotoda, Governor of Tokushima Prefecture*

"As 'Tokushima, aiming to be an environmentally advanced prefecture,' we are developing various measures, including the promotion of 'ethical consumption' leveraging our strength in hosting the permanent base of the Consumer Affairs Agency, 'hydrogen mobility demonstrations' in partnership with private companies, and the concentration of 'storage battery-related industries' through the regional industrial cluster plan. Specifically, regarding the promotion of resource circulation, we have set a goal to double the collection volume of

small home appliances per resident and are working on expanding recycling through public-private collaboration.
By having Yamato Transport, which concluded a 'Partnership Agreement on Promoting Regional Revitalization' with Tokushima Prefecture in 2024, provide their unique digital traceability technology and their close-knit sales office network covering the entire prefecture as 'reverse logistics' (venous logistics), a pioneering scheme is born where prefecture residents can recycle resources 'anytime, with peace of mind, in person' in their daily lives. We expect that this initiative will dramatically accelerate the collection of urban mines in our prefecture and serve as a leading example for forming a recycling-oriented society nationwide."

* Note: This statement has been translated from the original Japanese text.

Contact

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Reference

< Press Releases>

Ministry of the Environment
Selected Results for the FY2025 Supplementary Budget Demonstration Model Project for Collection to Increase Collection Volume of "Urban Mines" (June 5, 2026)
URL: https://www.env.go.jp/press/press_04937.html（In Japanese only）

Yamato Transport Co., Ltd.
Tokushima Prefecture and Yamato Transport Concluded a "Partnership Agreement on Promoting Regional Revitalization" (February 27, 2024)
URL: https://www.yamato-hd.co.jp/news/2023/newsrelease_20240227_1.html（In Japanese only）

Yamato Group's Initiatives on "Resource Conservation and Waste"
URL: https://www.yamato-hd.co.jp/english/csr/environment/recycle.html

Tokushima Prefecture: Promotion of Small Home Appliance Recycling
URL: https://www.pref.tokushima.lg.jp/ippannokata/kurashi/recycling/7304633
（In Japanese only）