

Survey on Awareness of Radioactive Waste in Japan

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Women's Energy Network (WEN) was established in March 1993. WEN has served as a bridge between experts in energy and the general public. As part of its activities, WEN has published a booklet for the purpose of providing information on waste generated by daily life, and conducted a web questionnaire to find out the information that the general public needs. In this study, WEN has investigated the interests and perceptions of the general public regarding the disposal of high-level radioactive waste generated from nuclear power plants. This poster introduces the results of the questionnaire survey and the provision of information to the general public.

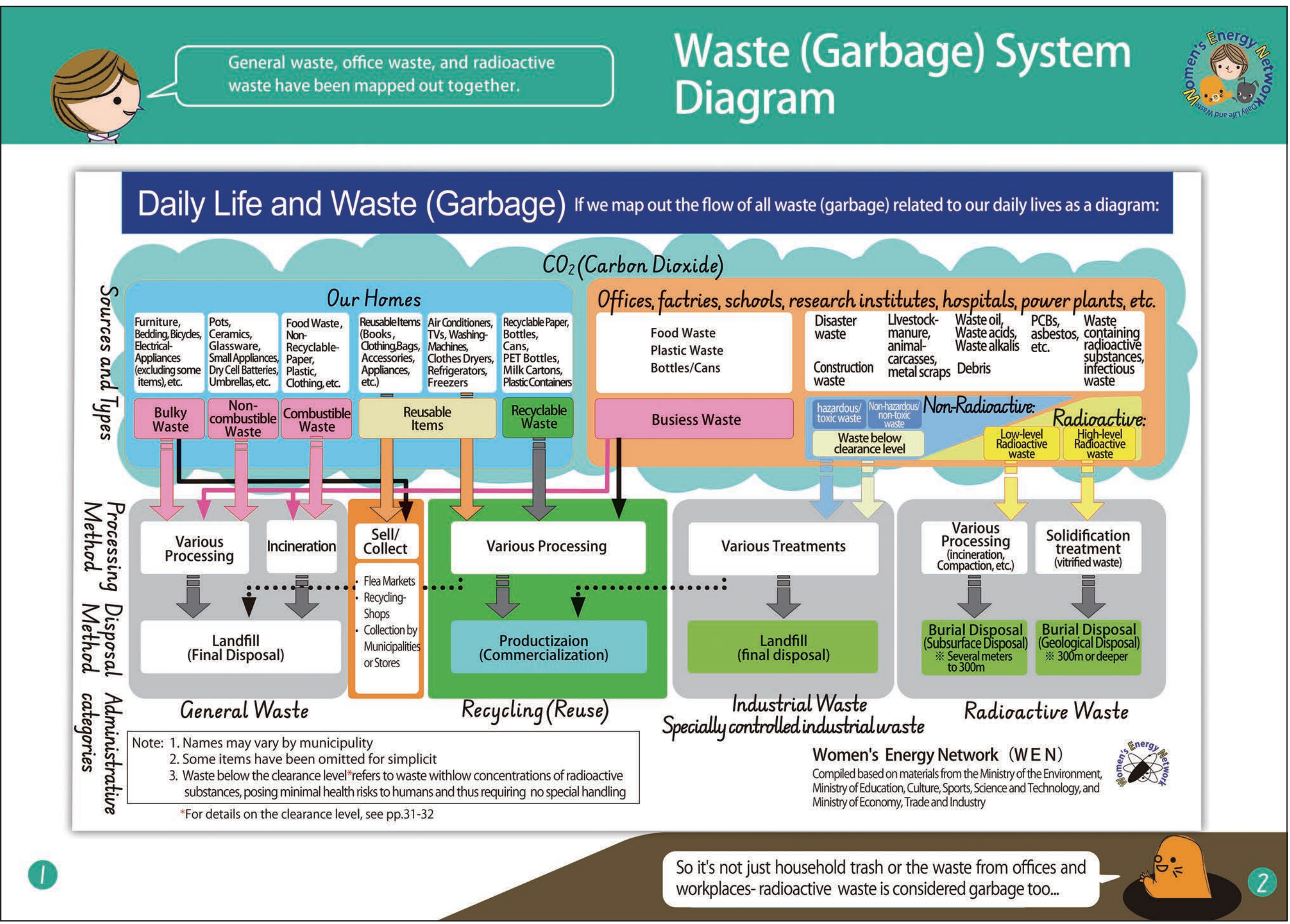


Fig.1 Waste(Garbage) System Diagram in Japan

The questionnaire survey was commissioned to a specialized company. The survey period was from August 3 to 31, 2021, and responses were obtained from 400 people in their teens to their seventies registered with the company. WEN conducted a survey on public awareness of radioactive waste as well as other types of waste generated in daily life. Specifically, respondents were asked about (1) Efforts to reduce waste, (2) Efforts to prevent global warming, (3) Awareness of waste generated from various power generations, and (4) Awareness of disposal of high-level radioactive waste. In this poster, we will report on (3) and (4).

Regarding waste generated from various types of power generation, a higher proportion of men than women reported being familiar with waste generated from different types of power generation. In particular, about 60% of men responded that they knew about the waste from nuclear and thermal power generation.

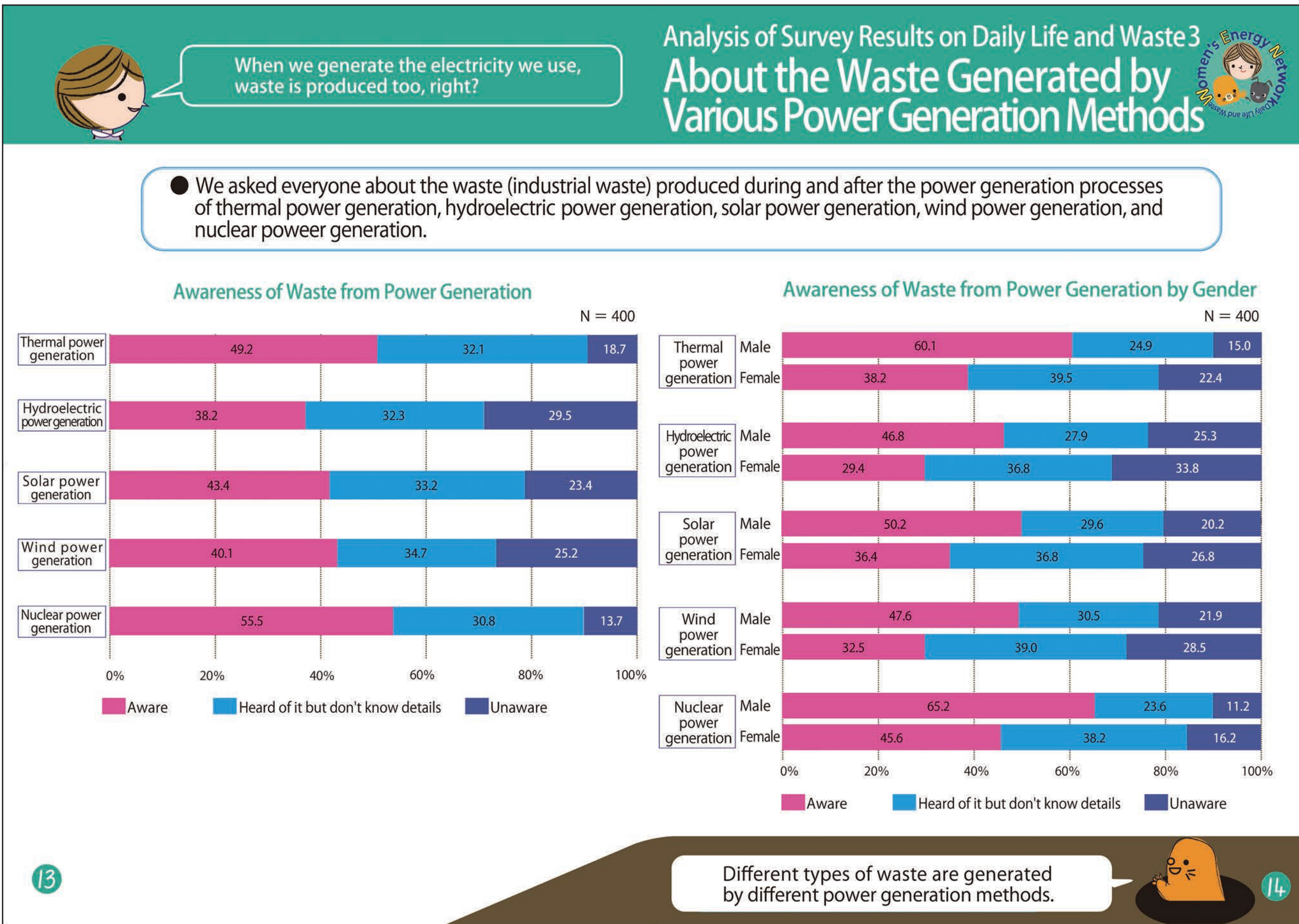


Fig.2 Analysis of Survey on Daily Life and Waste About the Waste Generated by Various Power Generation Methods

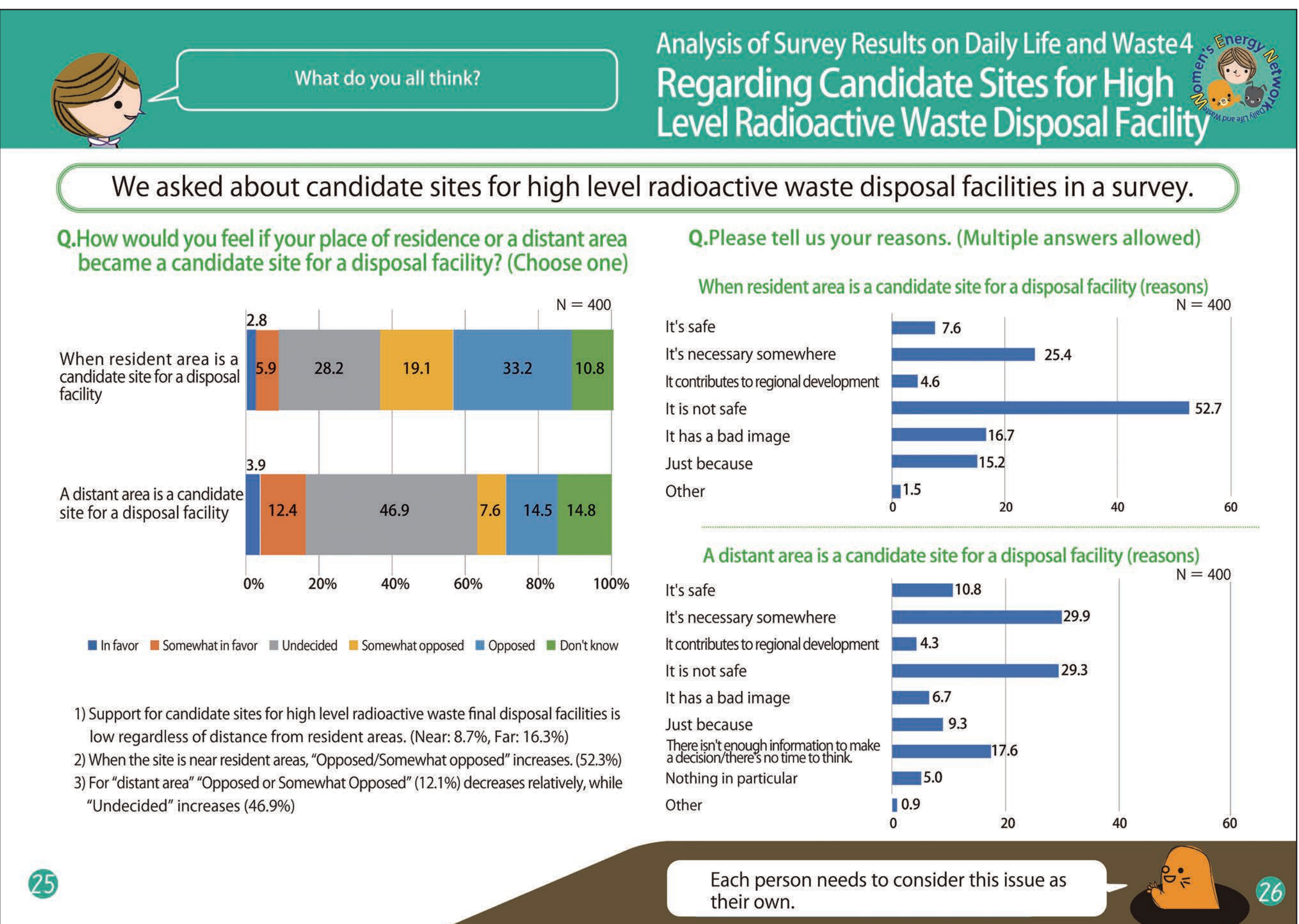


Fig.3 Analysis of Survey on Daily Life and Waste Regarding Candidate Sites for High Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility

Based on the results of the radioactive waste survey, WEN revised the booklet "Daily Life and Waste" in October 2024 and posted it on WEN's website. In addition, WEN participated in "Open School" sponsored by the Atomic Energy Society of Japan held at Tokyo City University in November 2024 and Hokkaido University in June 2025, where the booklet was distributed, marking the start of information-sharing and dialogue activities with the general public.

In the past, the general public in Japan had little awareness of radioactive waste. This survey showed that 25% of the public responded that a high-level waste disposal site was necessary somewhere. This shows that the general public's awareness of radioactive waste is gradually changing. We intend to continue providing information to the general public.

