

Lawson to launch food waste recycling programme

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Lawson, which will introduce the system in the current business year through next March, already has a similar recycling program in western Japan and plans to eventually roll it out in other areas of the country.

Apart from helping to reduce food waste, the initiative will lessen the burden on staff at stores, which often suffer from a shortage of workers, who currently have to dispose of unsold food items. That task will be handed over to recycling business operators.

Under the recycling plan, leftover bento box meals and *onigiri* rice balls at convenience stores in Mie Prefecture will be turned into fertilizer at a recycling plant, and the produced fertilizer will be distributed to designated farmers in the city of Toyokawa in neighboring Aichi Prefecture.