

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAGAZINE

# DATE

伊達

ENGLISH  
DIGEST

May 2022



The following are translations of news articles found in the Japanese edition.

## Public Funds for Demolishing Houses Suffering Partial Destruction or Greater

Homes, etc., damaged by the Fukushima Offshore Earthquake on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, can be demolished and removed by the City, per the request of the owner.

Even in cases where demolition and removal has already been undertaken by oneself, expenses can be reimbursed. (Depending on the situation, there may be cases in which repayment cannot be made.)

### 【Application Period】

Publicly-Funded Demolition: Apply by Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

Reimbursement of Privately-Funded Demolition: Apply by Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>

※ Reimbursement of privately-funded demolition is limited to cases in which a contract has been signed no later than Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>

※ Partial demolition or home renovation is not covered

※ Exterior structures, such as concrete-block walls, etc., are not covered

【Contact】 Living Environment Department's Environment Section

☎ 575-1228

## Hauled-in Disaster Waste (Rubble, etc.) Accepted Until June 30<sup>th</sup>

Waste resulting from March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022's earthquake (such as roof tiles, rubble from concrete-block walls, televisions, computers, etc.) can be brought to the Date Regional Sanitation Association until June 30<sup>th</sup>. From May, please provide a copy of your Disaster Certificate to the reception counter, while also showing a piece of personal identification. Additionally, if you contract out to a business, it is necessary for you to ride in the contracted business's vehicle.

【Contact】 Living Environment Department's Environment Section

☎ 575-1228

## Extraordinary Payments for Households Facing Reduced Income Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic

¥100,000 is being provided to households who have seen a reduction in income compared to the previous year.

【Eligibility】 Households whose income from January 2021 through September 2022 has decreased in comparison to the previous year; and all of whose members are deemed exempt from resident tax at the time of application.

## ▼ Households Deemed Exempt from Resident Tax

Dependent Family Situation	Equivalent Tax-Exempt Income Amount
Living singly, or without dependent family members	930,000 per year
Supporting one family member (including spouse)	1,378,000 per year
Supporting two family members (including spouse)	1,608,000 per year
Supporting three family members (including spouse)	2,097,000 per year
Supporting four family members (including spouse)	2,497,000 per year
Disabled person, minor, divorced or widowed woman, or single parent	2,043,000 per year

※ If a reduction is anticipated in the 2022 fiscal year, please calculate the estimated amount.

(Calculation method: income amount of any reduced-income month, multiplied by 12)

※ Please calculate income amounts for one individual, not as a household

### Cases which fit either of the following two conditions are not eligible:

- ① Households consisting of only dependents (e.g., households in which the individual taxed for residence taxes does not live in Date City due to a transfer by their employer, or households dependent on a family member who is eligible to pay residence taxes, etc.)
- ② Households which include a person who has already received this Extraordinary Payment

【Payment Amount】 ¥100,000 per household

【Documents to Submit】 ① Extraordinary Payment Application ② Simplified Statement of Expected Income Amount ③ Copy of an identification document for the applicant (driver's license, *My Number* card, ) ④ Copy of the Family Register or Certificate of Residence ⑤ Copy of the Family Register Attachment (only required of those who have changed residences multiple times since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021) ⑥ Copy of documentation confirming the bank account for payment reception (e.g., bank passbook or cash card) ⑦ Copy of documentation confirming the revenue situation (tax-income certificate, income tax return for fiscal 2021, payslips, etc.) ⑧ Power of attorney (only required of those applying by proxy)

【Submission Method】 Please submit the required documents directly to the Social Welfare Department (on the 1st floor of the City Hall's Central Building), or mail them to the following address

### 【Mailing Address for Document Submission】

Livelihood Welfare Section  
Social Welfare Department  
Health and Welfare Division  
180 Funabashi, Hobara-machi, Date-shi, Fukushima-ken 〒960-0692

【Submission Deadline】 Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

【Payment Period】 Payments will be made 2~3 weeks after the day the documents are received. (Does not apply in cases where submission documents are incomplete.)

【Other Details】 Applications can be obtained from the Social Welfare Department, or any of the City Hall Branch Offices. It can also be downloaded from the City's homepage.

【Contact】 Living Environment Department's Environment Section ☎ 575-1228

## Bicycle Commuting

May is "Bike-to-Work Month" in my hometown of Seattle. Of course, driving to work is much more common in the United States, and less than one percent of Americans commute by bicycle. Yet in order to promote social and environmental health, in May many Seattle-area businesses set up tents outdoors to distribute drinks and snacks to bicycle commuters. The company my father worked for even held a month-long event in which employees would form teams and compete to rack up the highest combined bike-commute mileage. From what he told me, the competition became so heated that upper-level managers would resort to temporarily assigning themselves to offices far from their homes, to spend hours each day riding back and forth to work.

I have not encountered quite the same enthusiasm for bicycle commuting in Japan. Certainly, riding a bicycle to work or school is much more common in this country, but it seems to be accepted as an inescapable reality rather than an enthusiastic choice; most people would choose to commute by train or automobile if given the option. That is understandable, given that inclement weather and inclined streets can make a bicycle commute unpleasant. Yet in Seattle, a city of rainy days and steep hills, society supports bicycle commuters; and thanks to such support, I was able to study Japanese for

a year at a community college. I attended classes at a school forty-five kilometers from my home, but since I couldn't afford the round-trip bus fare, I rode my bicycle to school in the morning. Thankfully, there were showers available for use after my ride, and in the evening I could take my bicycle home using the bicycle rack on the front of the bus. And although a year of grueling study only brought about the ability to stutter a few phrases and recognize the simplest of the three writing systems, I did arrive in Japan fully prepared to race the board of education's bicycle across town, in order to teach in multiple schools throughout the day.

As we watch both fuel prices and global temperatures rise, commuting by bicycle has become even more worthwhile. Personally, I ride a bicycle to work because I lack the patience to sit in morning traffic, as well as the faith to rely on public transportation. The ability to ensure my timely work attendance through my own effort – whether it be by riding faster, or enduring unpleasant weather – appeals to my American sense of self-reliance. For anyone who similarly wants to take the fate of their commute into their own hands, I suggest grabbing your bicycle and saddling up!

