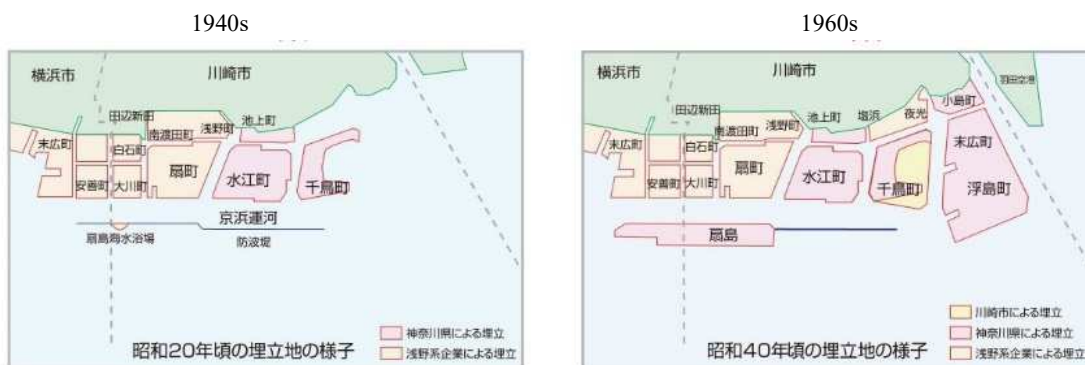


2. Japan's High-Growth Era and Worsening Industrial Pollution (From 1940 onward)

Recovery from the war damage and Development as the Heart of the Keihin Industrial Belt

During the Second World War, many factories in Kawasaki turned into war factories, producing items needed for the war. Areas where war factories were concentrated became targets for aerial bombardment, suffering heavy damage. By the time the war ended in 1945, production activity had completely stopped. In the postwar reconstruction phase, the steel industry and other sectors central to the nation's economy were prioritized for funding, and by around 1955 factory production had returned to roughly prewar levels. Standards of living gradually recovered. Land reclamation, which had been halted during the war, resumed, and growth exploded on the Kawasaki waterfront, led by steel, petroleum and petrochemical industries. In the 1960s, Kawasaki emerged as Japan's largest petrochemical complex.

As a result of continuous growth as an industrial city, Kawasaki developed into the heart of the Keihin Industrial Zone, supporting Japan's postwar high economic growth.



Transformation of the Kawasaki waterfront land-reclamation area

Population Growth and Waste Management

During Japan's high economic growth era started from 1955, Kawasaki's population multiplied—and so did the waste it generated. To deal with the rapidly mounting waste problem, in 1955 the City of Kawasaki developed a “screw-drum-type” waste-collection truck, marking a dramatic conversion from waste collection by automobile instead of by human power. Kawasaki innovated in waste management in other ways. At the time, the main approach for dealing with waste was landfill. The City of Kawasaki built waste incineration and treatment facilities within City limits, becoming the first municipality in Japan to institute a system of incineration of all burnable waste. In 1961 the City began offering waste collection six days a week. With the waste no longer left around to rot, public hygiene in Kawasaki dramatically improved.

The high economic growth era was an era of high-volume consumption and high-volume waste generation. With landfill sites under strain throughout Japan, Through Kawasaki's achievement of incinerating and treating all of its burnable waste, Kawasaki city gained high reputation as “advanced city for waste management”.



growing number of population



Carrying waste by handcart



Screw-drum-type waste truck
(1955–1964)



Load-packer truck
(1960 onward)

2. High economic growth periods and Worsening Industrial Pollution (1940 onward)

Emergence of damages caused by Industrial Pollution

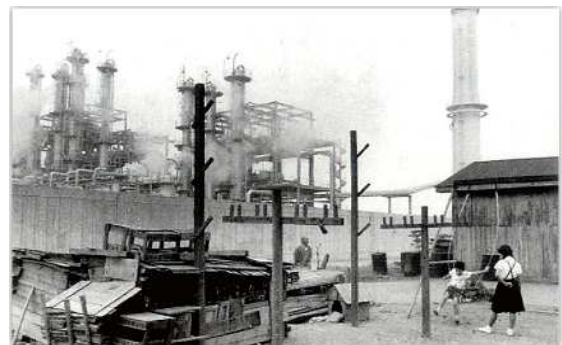
As it continued to expand as an industrial city, Kawasaki played an ever more prominent role in driving the Japan's high economic growth. Unfortunately, this prosperity had a flip side: the smoke, soot, noise, vibration and wastewater spewing from its factories caused deterioration of the living environment for the citizen. In particular, air pollution from dust and sulfur dioxide was damaging the health of citizen, and complaints mounted steadily from 1955 onward. This worsening living environment, damage to health and other pollution damage afflicted not only Kawasaki but all of Japan.



The skies above Kawasaki

Monitoring for air Pollution start

To respond to ' complaints from citizen against the air pollution, in 1956 the City of Kawasaki installed automatic soot collectors and dust measuring devices at various points in the City, and start measuring the state of air pollution in Kawasaki. In 1959 the City of Kawasaki created subsidy program for installation of pollution control measures, aiming at supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This initiative was followed in 1962 with the establishment of a dedicated office at Kawasaki City Hall for pollution issues and, in 1968, with the start of full-time monitoring and measurement of air pollution via a central air-pollution monitoring facility.



Morning in Chidoricho
Kawasaki City Museum

Enactment of the Kawasaki city Pollution Prevention Ordinance

Opposition movements by citizens concerned about the pollution problem steadily intensified, culminating in 1960 in a petition to demand the enactment of a pollution prevention ordinance, which received some 12,000 signatures. After the petition was presented directly to Kawasaki City Council, in December of the same year a City proposal resulted in the proclamation and enforcement of the Kawasaki city Pollution Prevention Ordinance (now known as "the old ordinance"). To provide relief to the citizens whose health had been damaged by pollution, in 1969 the City of Kawasaki enacted the Regulation on Relief Measures for Persons Suffering Health Damage from Air Pollution and began providing relief to sufferers.