

◆ Product Development in Future

In future, new product development must take account of the environmental impact over the whole life of the product, and life cycle assessment (LCA) is a technique that is gaining wide acceptance. Furukawa Electric has already begun conducting life cycle assessments in relation to the development of insulated cables and aluminum heat exchangers.

2) Recycling Technology

(1) Recycling System of Electric Wire and Cable

Recycling systems of used power cables and communication cables from customers have been established, thus enabling reuse of conductors mainly.

Recycled cables are disassembled and separated material to material, and subsequently reused. Copper and aluminum from conductors are 100% reused, while covering materials are reused as recycled plastic and fuel achieving a considerable reusability.

(2) National Project for the Development of Recycling Technology

During the 5-year period 1991-96, the Japan Electric Cable Technology Center (JECTEC) has been involved with cable manufacturers under the aegis of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) in research on thermal recycling through the development of liquefaction and pulverization technologies. Since FY 1998, research has been going forward on the use of PVC as solid fuel.

With respect to aluminum, funding from the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) made it possible for the Japan Research and Development Center for Metals (JRCM) and seven manufacturers of aluminum rolled products to embark in 1993 on a 10-year project to develop technology to promote aluminum recycling



Furukawa Electric manufactures a broad range of products, from electric wire and cable to fiber-optic components, electronic parts, and plastic and metallic materials, and we will mobilize all of our expertise to advance solutions to problems of the environment.