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MCEE and Army Join Forces to Lead Push for High-Quality Recycling Through Proper Waste Separation

- Public-private-military partnership signs MOU to boost recycling in Army units
- Strengthening resource-circulation cooperation through tailored waste separation support and recognition for outstanding Army units

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE, Minister Kim Sungwhan) announced that it will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 28 at the Ministry's Annex Building (Cheongam Building, Sejong City) with the Republic of Korea Army Headquarters and the Korea Resource Circulation Service Agency (KORA) to promote resource recycling within the Army.*

* The MOU will remain in effect for one year and will automatically renew for successive one-year terms unless either party notifies the other of its intention to terminate.

This agreement was established to further strengthen the cooperative framework built since the initial agreement in 2016 and to implement concrete initiatives that will help Army personnel incorporate resource recycling into their daily military life. It is also intended to serve as a leading public-sector example of putting the MCEE's plastic reduction policy into practice in the field.

Under the agreement, each party will assume specific responsibilities to promote resource recycling and expand the culture of proper waste separation within Army units.

The Army Headquarters will promote the proper separation of recyclable materials and provide resource-circulation education for service members. It will also provide the KORA with data on the volume of recyclable materials generated to help manage waste separation performance, and will actively work to expand the use of recycled products made from recyclable materials such as glass bottles and paper cartons.

The MCEE will support the effective implementation of resource-circulation policies within Army units and continue working closely with its partners to improve the separation and collection systems for recyclable materials.

The KORA will provide dedicated supplies needed for the proper separation of household waste generated by service members, categorized by recyclable material type, and will identify outstanding Army units for resource recycling, conducting evaluations and presenting awards. In addition, it will help create an environment that supports proper waste separation within military units by providing on-site operational improvements and educational support to promote resource recycling.

The three organizations participating in the agreement will continue working together to secure a stable supply of high-quality recyclable materials through the proper waste separation practices of service members and civilian military employees. They also plan to ensure that the culture of resource circulation fostered within the military spreads more broadly throughout everyday life across society.

Kim Goeung, Director General of the Resource Circulation Bureau at the MCEE, said, “Establishing a culture of proper waste separation in Army units is a crucial foundation for securing high-quality recyclable resources. We will further strengthen cooperation on resource circulation to actively support the transition to a circular economy.”