

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

LOCAL ACTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ADAPTATION – A SERIES OF LOCAL STORIES

Eco-Model City Project, Japan

Connecting cities and other stakeholders to expand best practices

STORY IN SHORT: The Eco-Model City Project is an innovative regional revitalization project taking actions to achieve a low-carbon society. Thirteen selected Eco-Model cities (EMCs) are supported by the Japanese national government, and serve as leaders of the Promotion Council for the Low-Carbon Cities (PCLCC), which is a platform for local governments seeking to create low-carbon cities. Actors from PCLCC, the consortium of local governments, prefectures, national governments and public agencies are producing best practices and expand them to other cities in Japan and abroad.

Action plans for sustainable, low-carbon development

During the project, the thirteen selected Eco-Model cities (EMCs) made concrete action plans for achieving drastic reduction of GHG emissions by 2050. These Action Plans have two objectives for local governments: to transform into low-carbon cities and to revitalize the region. All plans include local and regional characteristics and resources, such as natural, human and business resources, so that the actions will be sustainable and compatible with city growth.

In addition to the EMCs, other cities in the Promotion Council for the Low-Carbon Cities (PCLCC) will make action plans within the next five years. As of 5 October 2009, there were 72 such cities.

The government of Japan supports EMCs executing their Action Plans by playing up their initiatives, and providing advice and financial support. The PCLCC is also supported by ministries that involve themselves as members.



Turning the power on to overcome pollution and to win a victory over global warming
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Innovative Small Cities

Small cities and towns are especially taking advantage of this program to develop unique systems compatible with their situation to reduce carbon emissions. Examples include:

1. Town of Shimokawa (population 3,900)

Shimokawa was a formerly thriving mining town but has been afflicted with depopulation after their mine closed. The town is revitalizing their economy through sustainable forest management and a new business model with pioneering technology known as “bio-coke.”

2. Minamata City (population 30,000)

Minamata was once a victim of pollution, but has transformed into a model sustainable small city. The city started a high-rate recycling program with the involvement of residents to separate 22 types of garbage.

3. Miyakojima City (population 55,000)

Miyakojima is a city on a small southern island which aims to build a self-sufficient energy system by utilizing their main product, sugarcane. The city produces bio-ethanol as a by-product of sugar production, and uses it to reduce gasoline consumption, and what's more, generates electricity from bagasse, the grounds of sugarcane.

4. Town of Yusuhara (population 5,000)

Yusuhara is developing a business model for the regional utilization of wood biomass producing wood pellets through the process of recycling-based forest management. Additionally by 2050, the city will install 40 wind turbines, which will start making a profit from electricity. The city will then use that profit for forest management.

Other cities included in the project are: Obihiro, Chiyoda, Yokohama, Iida, Toyota, Kitakyusyu, Sakai, Kyoto, and Toyama cities.

Involvement in international climate initiatives

On 5th October, 2009 the PCLCC held a conference discussing and promoting the innovative activities taken by EMCs domestically and worldwide. EMCs were also able to obtain advice from environmentally progressive foreign cities such as Copenhagen, Dalian, Hamburg, Portland, Stockholm, France and European Commission. These progressive foreign cities presented their initiatives and issues especially discussing how to involve citizens and businesses in the actions. As many as 1,200 people from the household, public and private sectors participated in the conference, which encouraged not only EMCs but also local governments to join the PCLCC.



The International Conference on Promoting Low-Carbon Cities@Eco-Model City Project Japan



The Eco-Model City Project includes small innovative cities all over Japan.

City profiles & contacts

Participating cities stretch from North to South and each have their own history, climate, nature, and city structure. Based on this rich diversity, three main aims of this project are: to create city-based showcases of the low-carbon society, to act toward a sustainable low-carbon society by using the natural, human, and business resources which are inherent in each region and to revitalize the regional society.

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