ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Japan Office

Introducing our members

ICLEI
Local Governments
for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.

Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action along five sustainable development pathways - low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

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How we work

We bring sustainability to a rapidly developing urban world

ICLEI makes sustainability an integral part of urban development and creates systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions. Across the world, ICLEI brings the latest global knowledge and solutions to the local context.

We help cities, towns and regions anticipate and respond to complex challenges, from rapid urbanization and climate change to ecosystem degradation and inequity.

ICLEI Japan

Since 1993, ICLEI Japan has been connecting member municipalities in Japan with ICLEI's international network.

Together with 22 regional secretariats and offices around the world, we support the activities of member local governments and promote international intercity cooperation led by ICLEI.

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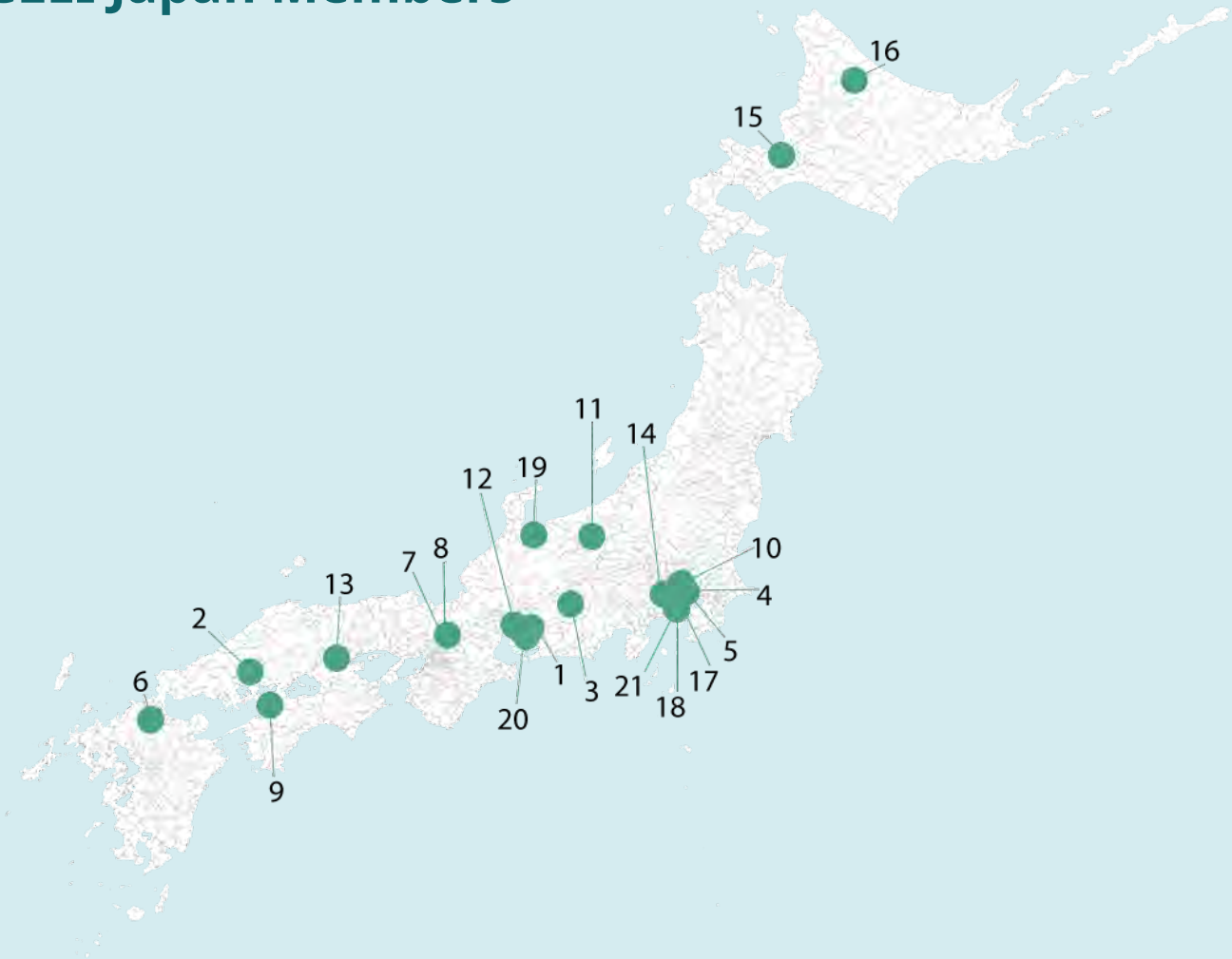
ICLEI Japan Members



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Aichi Prefecture

Message from the Governor of Aichi Prefecture
Hideaki Omura

Aichi Prefecture is the largest manufacturing prefecture in Japan. We have been promoting a variety of environmental measures to also become a top runner in the environmental sector. Aichi Prefecture has the highest installed capacity of residential solar power generation systems, electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, and fuel cell vehicles in use in Japan.

In 2020, the United Nations launched the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs. Aichi Prefecture hopes to become the 'Environmental Capital of Japan' by making a significant contribution to achieving the SDGs. The Fifth Aichi Prefecture Environmental Basic Plan, which will guide the prefecture's environmental policies until 2030, sets out this goal. It aims to achieve the SDGs by using the environment as the driving force for the integrated improvement of the economy and society. It also promotes cooperation and collaboration with local actors through partnerships and developing an understanding and awareness of the SDGs.

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Aichi Prefecture

Basic Information

Population: 7.55 million
(1st October 1, 2019)

Area: 5,170㎢

Aichi Prefecture Website
(English)
www.pref.aichi.jp/global/en

Overview of Aichi Prefecture

Aichi Prefecture is located in the center of Japan. It stretches 106km from east to west and 94km from north to south. With a total area of 5,170 km², it covers about 1.4% of the country. For a prefecture with a large urban area, it has a relatively green and spacious land use and a high percentage of forests and agricultural land. Aichi Prefecture is leading the way in Japan's industrial development. It is the nation's leading industrial prefecture in terms of production, especially in the automobile industry. It is also one of the leading agricultural prefectures.

In addition, Aichi Prefecture has hosted three international events: the Aichi Expo, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), and the UNESCO World Conference on Sustainable Development (ESD). A high level of environmental awareness has subsequently taken root throughout the region.

Environmental Initiatives

To solve multiple issues in an integrated manner, Aichi Prefecture is prioritizing promoting measures that contribute to achieving the SDGs. The aim of the 'Aichi, Environmental Capital of Japan' plan is for social and economic improvements to be integrated with environmental improvements. The plan will be the driving force to achieving the SDGs in Aichi Prefecture.

To support biodiversity conservation and meeting the Aichi Targets, Aichi Prefecture established the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets in August 2016 with state and prefecture-level regional governments around the world that are making advanced efforts in biodiversity conservation.

Aichi Prefecture is also calling on all local governments in Japan to sign the Edinburgh Declaration. The Declaration expresses the determination of local governments and governments to achieve the Aichi Targets.

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Hiroshima City

Message from the Mayor of Hiroshima City
Kazumi Matsui

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb in the history of mankind was dropped on the city of Hiroshima, killing many precious lives and leaving the city in ruins.

We, the people of today, should be grateful for the efforts of our predecessors in rebuilding Hiroshima into the beautiful city that it is today, and we should pass on to future generations the rich natural environment and comfortable urban lifestyle. In other words, Hiroshima must become a world-class city.

Hiroshima must become a city that the whole world can be proud of. Hiroshima will continue to promote this kind of urban development and, by taking advantage of its global fame, will work to solve various global-scale environmental problems, including the common problem of global warming, in cooperation with other cities around the world through such means as ICLEI.

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Hiroshima City

Basic Information

Population: 1,119,000
(May 1, 2040)

Area: 906.68㎢

Hiroshima City Website (English)
www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english

Overview of Hiroshima City

Hiroshima City, located in the western part of Hiroshima Prefecture, is surrounded by lush green mountains and hills with the Chugoku Mountains in the background, and the scenic Seto Inland Sea to the south. The city is blessed with rich nature and a mild climate, with six rivers flowing through the city center, the Ota River as their source, forming a unique landscape known as the 'City of Water.'

Hiroshima City has the largest population in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions, and is home to a large concentration of national government agencies and corporate branches, making it a regional hub that leads the region in administrative, industrial, and economic development.

Environmental Initiatives

The City of Hiroshima has been working to reduce and recycle waste with the aim of creating a 'Zero Emission City Hiroshima' where waste is reduced to as close to zero as possible and the impact on the environment is extremely small. As a result, the city has made great progress in waste reduction and recycling, including becoming the city with the lowest amount of waste per person per day among ordinance-designated cities.

In addition, Hiroshima City participates in the "Chief Executive Pledge" jointly established by ICLEI and other organizations, and will contribute to the conservation of the global environment by disseminating its efforts in the field of global warming countermeasures and cooperating with cities around the world.

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Iida City

Message from the Mayor of Iida City
Ken Sato

In 2007, Iida City declared itself an 'Environmental and Cultural City'. With the aim of creating a city where both people and nature thrive, it has been developing its environmental policies by focusing on the participation of citizens, businesses, and government.

In 2021, the city council, representing citizens, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representing businesses, jointly issued the 'Iida 2050 Zero Carbon City Declaration' to regenerate lifestyles and the economy through using the environment.

In anticipation of the opening of the Linear Chuo Shinkansen Line, we will continue to collaborate with citizens to achieve harmony between development and the environment and promote the creation of a vibrant and sustainable region.

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Iida City

Basic Information

Population: 99,000 (March 2021)

Area: 658.66㎢

Iida City Website
(Japanese) www.city.iida.lg.jp

Overview of Iida City

Surrounded by the Southern and Central Alps, Iida City is located in the southern part of the Ina Valley. Stretching north to south along the Tenryu River, it is the deepest valley in Japan with a depth of 2,700m. The city is blessed with a lot of nature, beautiful scenery, and a climate that has strong seasonal changes but is easy to live in.

In the past, the city prospered as a major transportation hub between the east, west, north and south, but has developed economically and culturally in its own way. In preparation for the opening of the Nagano Station of the Linear Central Shinkansen in 2027, citizens, businesses, and the government are working together to create the most desirable place to live in Japan.

Environmental Initiatives

The city has been working on the utilization of renewable energy in the region since 1914, with the establishment of a small hydroelectric power generation by local residents and the establishment of Japan's first electricity use union.

In 1996, the city set its sights on becoming an 'Environmental and Cultural City.' In 2007, the city pledged to build a city where both people and nature flourish through the active participation and actions of citizens, businesses, and the government. Iida City was the first city in Japan to be declared an environmental city.

Since 2013, Iida City has been working to return profits to local communities that use renewable energy for public benefit with the introduction of the 'Sustainable Community Development through the Introduction of Renewable Energy' ordinance.

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Itabashi Ward

Message from the Mayor of Itabashi Ward
Ken Sakamoto

In 1993, Itabashi Ward declared itself as ‘Ecopolis - Itabashi Environmental City’. Our aim is to create a city that coexists with the environment. In 1995 we opened the Ecopolis Center as a comprehensive educational center on recycling and the environment.

In 1999, we established the Itabashi Ward Environmental Management System to promote the ward's own environmental activities and became the first municipality in Tokyo to obtain ISO 14001 certification. Furthermore, the Green Curtain program, which started in 2003 at elementary schools in the ward, is still being promoted as a measure that anyone can take against global warming.

In addition to these efforts, we are promoting various measures to realize a sustainable society based on the 2012 Global Warming Countermeasures Action Plan through the Basic Environment Plan 2025 and the Environmental Education Promotion Plan 2025, published in 2015.

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Itabashi Ward

Basic Information

Population: 570,000

Area: 32.22㎢

Itabashi Ward Website (Japanese)
www.city.itabashi.tokyo.jp

Overview of Itabashi Ward

Itabashi Ward is located in the northwestern part of Tokyo's 23 wards, with lowlands in the north and plateaus in the south. The lowlands are the alluvial lowlands of the Arakawa River, and the plateau is the northeastern edge of the Musashino Plateau. The plateau is formed by the Shakujii River, Shirako River, and other rivers that flow into the Arakawa River. These rivers carve the plateau into an undulating terrain with many hills.

Itabashi Ward is a residential city with a population of about 570,000 people. The ward is home to numerous businesses, including local shopping malls, urban agriculture in the Akatsuka area near the border with Saitama Prefecture, and industries along the coast of Shingashi River (a tributary of the Arakawa River).

Environmental Initiatives

The vision for the environment that Itabashi Ward aims to achieve over the next decade is 'Ecopolis Itabashi', a smart city that connects people and the natural environment for the benefit of the future.

Itabashi ward has formulated the Environmental Education Promotion Plan to achieve a basic level of environmental education in the ward and to further promote education and actions related to environmental conservation through cooperation and collaboration among residents, citizens' groups, businesses, schools, and the local government.

Itabashi has been working on creating environmental education programs since 2007, and has published environmental education handbooks that are widely used in environmental education. Recently, a non-profit organization that has been implementing environmental education programs in cooperation with the ward received the Minister of the Environment Award for Global Warming Prevention Activities. Its environmental education activities are evaluated highly both inside and outside the ward.

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Kawasaki City

Message from the Mayor of Kawasaki City
Norihiko Fukuda

Through the concerted effort of both the public and private sectors, Kawasaki city has taken on the challenge of addressing the pollution problems that arose in the wake of its rapid economic growth. We have created an environmental city that is now a model for the rest of the world. Kawasaki is home to a large number of environmental technologies and industries, and its citizens and businesses have a high level of environmental awareness, as demonstrated by the fact that the city has had the lowest daily waste per capita of any government-designated city for three consecutive years. Taking advantage of this potential, we will promote initiatives as an SDGs Future City aimed at making Kawasaki the "Happiest City" where growth and maturity are balanced.

In order to pass on an environment in which future generations can live with peace of mind, the city announced in February 2020 that it would aim to achieve virtually zero CO2 emissions by 2050. We are promoting initiatives in collaboration with numerous actors based on our decarbonization strategy; ‘Kawasaki Carbon Zero Challenge 2050.’

In the future, we will continue to exchange information with the participating cities of ICLEI, and promote cooperation that is not limited to within the city boundaries. As a front-runner in Japan, we will lead the efforts to realize a decarbonized society.

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Kawasaki City

Basic Information

Population: 1,539,000 (September 2020)

Area: 144.35㎢

Kawasaki City Website (English)
www.city.kawasaki.jp/en

Overview of Kawasaki City

Kawasaki City is conveniently located in the centre of the Tokyo metropolitan area on the opposite side of the Tama River from Haneda Airport. It is bordered to the north across the Tama River by Tokyo and to the south by Yokohama, with the Tama Hills to the west and Tokyo Bay to the east.

Kawasaki City is a vibrant city. It has the highest population growth rate and youngest average age among Japan's major cities. The city is also home to the King Sky Front, an international strategic hub for the city of Tonomachi, located on the other side of Haneda Airport, where research and development in the life science and environmental fields is underway. Furthermore, the city is home to world-class companies, three science parks, and more than 400 research and development institutions. It ranks first among ordinance-designated cities in the ratio of workers in academic and development research institutions to total workers.

Environmental Initiatives

In November 2020, Kawasaki City formulated a decarbonization strategy. The 'Kawasaki Carbon Zero Challenge 2050,' will accelerate the efforts of citizens, businesses, and government to transition to a decarbonized society in 2050. The basic idea of this strategy is to move from a society of consumption to a decarbonized society.
The initiatives are based on the following three pillars:
Pillar 1: Promote behavioral change in citizens and businesses through the 'Decarbonization Action Mizonokuchi' plan. Implement initiatives that contribute to decarbonization to tackle climate change mitigation and adaptation through the participation and cooperation of all actors.
Pillar 2: For Kawasaki to take the lead in taking action, such as switching all electricity used in major public facilities to renewable energy.
Pillar 3: Promote green innovation originating in Kawasaki by making the most of the city's strengths - the many research and development institutions and the concentration of environmental technologies and industries. To include the use of hydrogen power in the waterfront area.

Kawasaki is promoting these efforts in collaboration with a variety of actors, including citizens and businesses that agree with the decarbonization strategy.

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Kitakyushu City

Message from the Mayor of Kitakyushu City
Kenji Kitahashi

Kitakyushu has been a pioneer in international environmental cooperation since the 1980s, when the City of Kitakyushu started sharing the expertise we developed in our own process of overcoming industrial pollution to help developing countries suffering from pollution problems. These efforts have been praised internationally.

In 2018, the city was selected by the national government as an SDGs Future City and is implementing the Municipal SDGs Model Project. It is also the first city in Asia to be selected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as a Global Model City for Promoting the SDGs.

In October 2020, the city declared itself a zero-carbon city and aims to be decarbonized by 2050. To achieve this, we are focusing on renewable energy use, which has already been increasing. We wish to be the first prefecture or government ordinance city where 100% of the electricity used in public facilities is from renewable energy power plants by 2025.

For an industrial city like our city, the realization of a decarbonized society is a higher hurdle, but it is of great significance for our city - the birthplace of modern industry - to become a driving force for a decarbonized and green society in order to protect the global environment of the future.

I am convinced that we will be able to achieve even greater results in the future if citizens, industry, and the government continue to work in cooperation and make use of the citizens' environmental awareness that has been cultivated as we overcame our pollution problems. The technologies and initiatives accumulated in this process will become the driving force for the sustainable development of our city.

Together with the members of ICLEI, we will promote initiatives that serve as a successful model of a virtuous cycle between the environment and the economy and contribute to the realization of a sustainable global society.

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Kitakyushu City

Basic Information

Population: 939,450
(January 1, 2020)

Area: 491.95㎢

Kitakyushu City Website
(Japanese)
www.city.kitakyushu.lg.jp

Overview of Kitakyushu City

Kitakyushu City is located at the gateway to Kyushu, the nexus between Honshu and Kyushu, and is at a key intersection for both land and sea transportation. Due to these geographical characteristics, Kitakyushu has developed as a manufacturing city that supported the industrialization of modern Japan. A wide range of industries is concentrated in the city, including materials-oriented industries such as steel and chemicals, and electrical machinery, semiconductors, and automobile factories.

Environmental Initiatives

The city has created the Kitakyushu Model, which systematically organizes technologies and knowledge ranging from overcoming pollution to becoming an eco-city. Kitakyushu is working on exporting urban environmental infrastructure such as waste treatment and water management and promoting initiatives to create a low-carbon society.

Since 2014, Kitakyshu has been working with Chinese cities to improve air quality. The city has been dispatching experts, accepting trainees from China, and conducting joint research to find solutions to air pollution such as PM2.5 (fine particulate matter).

The city will further promote initiatives that take advantage of the city's strengths, such as citizen participation and manufacturing technology, to become a leading city in the SDGs. The city wants to be a hub for local energy, including offshore wind power generation, promote hydrogen power, and develop human resources through ESD activities.

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Kyoto City

Message from the Mayor of Kyoto
Daisaku Kadokawa

Kyoto City, as the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol and the site of the adoption of the IPCC Kyoto Guidelines which support the Paris Agreement, is a leader in promoting actions against global warming.

In May 2019, I became the first head of a Japanese municipality to announce our goal of achieving zero net CO2 emissions by 2050. The Kyoto City Global Warming Prevention Plan has been formulated. In addition, in March 2021 Kyoto became the first Japanese city to join the Coal Free Federation, which aims to accelerate the shift away from coal-fired power generation to make the transition from fossil fuels, including coal, to renewable energies a major trend.

As we move towards our goal of zero net CO2 by 2050, Kyoto City will work with citizens and businesses to create and disseminate a model for decarbonized lifestyles and business activities based on our culture of coexistence with nature and our tradition of valuing things that has been cultivated over 1,200 years of history.

Additionally, as Chairperson of the East Asia Regional Council, I will work to promote ICLEI projects and strengthen cooperation among cities, and contribute to the realization of a sustainable society together with the people of Japan and cities around the world.

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Kyoto City

Basic Information

Population: 1,454,000 (2020)

Area: 827.9㎢

Kyoto City Website (Japanese)
www.city.kyoto.lg.jp

Overview of Kyoto City

Kyoto City is an inland city located in the center of the Kyoto Basin. It is one of the largest cities in Japan and has forests covering three-quarters of its area.

Kyoto is a historical city where traditional culture and historical townscapes that have been cultivated over 1200 years of history are still alive. It is a manufacturing city with an enterprising spirit and creative power where cutting-edge industries flourish based on traditional industries. It is an international cultural and tourist city that attracts many people from home and abroad, and a university city where about 150,000 students study.

Environmental Initiatives

With the birth of the Kyoto Protocol, Kyoto City's global warming countermeasures began to take a major turn. In 2004, the city enacted the nation's first global warming countermeasure ordinance to promote citizen and business-wide efforts.

As a result of these efforts, the city has achieved a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, a 50% reduction in waste, and a 30% reduction in energy consumption. This is despite the fact that the city's population has remained flat and the number of tourists has increased significantly over the past 20 years.

In addition, the percentage of people who visit Kyoto by car has decreased by 80%, and the means of transportation in the city has also decreased by 20% for cars and increased by 30% for public transportation, indicating a steady change in the awareness of citizens and tourists.

We will continue to refine our efforts to work in unison with citizens and businesses, and we will do so with determination.

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Kyoto Prefecture

Message from the Governor of Kyoto Prefecture
Takatoshi Nishiwaki

Kyoto Prefecture, the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol, has set a high greenhouse gas reduction target in order to take the initiative in addressing global warming. We have been promoting various initiatives such as expanding the use of renewable energy sources such as solar power, promoting energy conservation in homes and businesses, and promoting the development of forests as a source of CO2 absorption. This is in partnership with various actors; companies, organizations, universities, and citizens.

Looking at the international community, efforts to create a sustainable economy and society are accelerating. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim for integrated solutions to various environmental, economic, and social issues. The Paris Agreement aims to create a decarbonized society. Furthermore, the development of innovative technologies such as IoT, AI, and robotics, and the expansion of the sharing economy, are driving changes in the economic infrastructure.

Kyoto Prefecture will continue to take the lead in pioneering measures to combat global warming by carefully assessing these trends and working in partnership with the various partners we have cultivated over the years.

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Kyoto Prefecture

Basic Information

Population: 258.9 million (April 2018)

Area: 4612.2㎢

Kyoto Prefecture Website (English)
www.pref.kyoto.jp/en

Overview of Kyoto Prefecture

Kyoto Prefecture, which is long and narrow from north to south, borders the Sea of Japan and Fukui Prefecture to the north, Osaka and Nara Prefectures to the south, Mie and Shiga Prefectures to the east, and Hyogo Prefecture to the west. The climate is divided into the coastal type found near the Sea of Japan and the inland type found near the border of the Tanba Mountains in central Japan. The coastline of the Tango and Nakatan region is varied; it is blessed with an abundance of scenic spots and good natural harbours.

Kyoto Prefecture has prospered as the centre of Japan for over a thousand years, and many valuable buildings and cultural assets can be seen everywhere, especially in Kyoto City. In addition to traditional culture, there are also many traditional crafts. Kyoto is also famous for its traditional vegetables.

The northern part of Kyoto Prefecture is rich in nature, with many scenic spots such as Amanohashidate in Miyazu City, known as one of the three most scenic spots in Japan, and San'in Kaigan National Park, which has been selected as a Global Geopark.

Environmental Initiatives

In order to achieve energy self-sufficiency in Kyoto, we are promoting the introduction of renewable energies, the introduction of energy management systems (EMS) that can effectively manage electricity demand, and efforts for local energy production and consumption based on regional characteristics. Furthermore, we operate the Kyoto CO2 Emissions Trading System and promote efforts to efficiently reduce CO2 emissions by having large-scale emitters purchase the credits generated by small and medium-sized companies.

In 2010, we established the Kyoto Global Environment Hall of Fame to honour those who have made significant contributions to the preservation of the global environment. As the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol, we broadcast their achievements in Kyoto every February. Since 2017, the 20th anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol, we have been promoting educational activities for the realization of a decarbonized society under the banner of ‘WE DO KYOTO!’

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Matsuyama City

Message from the Mayor of Matsuyama City
Katsuhito Noshi

We are committed to building a city where people can have love and pride for their city, where as many people as possible can smile and feel happy, and where the citizens' perspective is important.

In March 2013, the city was selected as an Environmental Model City by the Japanese government, and is working to promote the use of solar energy and reduce waste by taking advantage of the region's long average hours of sunlight per year. In addition, we have established a sister city relationship with Freiburg, which is known as the environmental capital of the world, and are deepening exchanges through environmental conferences and environmental education.

In July 2020, Freiburg was selected as a SDGs Future City and a Municipal SDGs Model Project. In the future, we will continue to create a sustainable society in cooperation with various stakeholders such as universities, companies, and governments, as well as ICLEI members in Japan and overseas.

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Matsuyama City

Basic Information

Population: About 510,000 (2021)

Area: Approx. 429.4㎢

Matsuyama City Website (Japanese)
www.city.matsuyama.ehime.jp

Overview of Matsuyama City

Located in the Matsuyama Plain in the center of Ehime Prefecture, Matsuyama overlooks the Shikoku Mountains with Mt. Ishizuchi, the highest mountain in western Japan, to the east and the quiet waves of the Seto Inland Sea to the west. It has a mild climate with beautiful mountains, seas and islands.

With Matsuyama Castle and Dogo Hot Springs, the oldest hot springs in Japan, the city has a thriving tourism and service industry that makes use of its resources. There is also a concentration of manufacturing industries such as machinery, textiles, and chemicals. It is continuing to develop as the capital and center of Shikoku.

In the center of the city, Matsuyama Castle, one of the 12 existing castle towers, is located within walking distance, and is one of only 17 cities in Japan that can be connected by streetcar, making it a compact city where you can live on foot.

The city has also produced many literary giants, including Shiki Masaoka, and was the setting for Soseki Natsume's novel ‘Botchan’.

Environmental Initiatives

In 2020, we formulated the Matsuyama City Environmental Model City Action Plan with the basic principle of Zero Carbon City Matsuyama; a smart city where everyone can continue to live with peace of mind. We are promoting the construction of a smart city that creates, supplies, and wisely uses renewable energy to move towards a decarbonized society.

With the Matsuyama Sunshine Project, which takes advantage of the regions warm weather, low rainfall, and long hours of sunshine, the city has promoted the introduction of renewable energy, mainly solar power. It has the highest cumulative number of subsidies for solar power generation equipment among Japan’s core cities (as of the end of 2019).

In addition, citizens are highly conscious of recycling and waste separation on a daily basis, and the city maintains one of the lowest levels of waste per capita per day among cities with a population of over 500,000.

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Musashino City

Message from the Mayor of Musashino City
Reiko Matsushita

There is no end to the number of serious environmental problems we face, such as the impact of global warming and the resulting climate change, ocean pollution caused by microplastics, and the decline and destruction of the natural environment's greenery and water.

Under these circumstances, it is more important than ever for us to take responsibility for environmental issues, and to take the initiative in caring for the environment. The role of local governments, which are closely connected to citizens, is becoming more and more important. Aiming to become the 'Environmental City of Musashino', our city will expand the circle of environmental consideration from the local government level to the world.

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Musashino City

Basic information

Population: About 147,975 (April 1, 2021)

Area: 10.98㎢

Musashino City Website (Japanese)
www.city.musashino.lg.jp

Overview of Musashino City

Musashino City is located in the centre of Tokyo, and the topography is almost flat. The city has convenient transportation; three stations on the JR Chuo Line (Kichijoji, Mitaka, and Musashisakai) and public transportation such as bus services from the stations are well maintained. The city is highly regarded as a place where people want to live due to its green residential areas and one of the best commercial areas in Tokyo.

The city has been a pioneer in citizen participation in various plans and measures, including long-term plans. While sharing the basic principles of urban development with citizens, we aim to become a well-balanced and sustainable city in all areas; welfare, education, childcare, culture, disaster prevention, environment, and urban infrastructure.

Environmental Initiatives

Musashino is promoting resource and energy conservation and renewable energy to create a community that coexists with the environment. We are also promoting urban development that considers the natural environment to further enhance the city's characteristic greenery, and the global impact of the city by creating a recycling-oriented social system that includes water circulation and waste reduction.

In addition to the conventional installation and operation of solar power generation systems, a community energy fusion system based on the Musashino City Energy for Local Consumption Project has been operating since 2020. This is a system that uses the Musashino Clean Center's waste power generation, which began full-scale operation in 2017, as the core. It links the surrounding public facilities and the city's 18 elementary and junior high schools in an integrated energy grid throughout the community.

In November 2020, the Musashino Eco Resort, an environmental awareness facility for all citizens, opened by reusing the office building and platform of the former Musashino Clean Center. The Musashino Eco Resort is expected to play a role as a centre for environmental awareness that deals with a variety of environmental fields.

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Nagano Prefecture

Message from the Governor of Nagano Prefecture Moriichi Abe

The progression of global climate change is having a significant impact on our daily lives by increasing the number and scale of natural disasters and changing the distribution areas of plants and animals. In addition, the rapid decrease in population that is expected in the future will lead to a shortage of people to support local communities, including environmental conservation, and there are concerns about the decline in local vitality.

Against this backdrop, I am convinced that Nagano Prefecture, with its beautiful and rich natural environment, its unique traditions and culture, and its strong regional ties, can be a front-runner in building a new sustainable society.

In 2017, Japan's Ministry of the Environment, ICLEI, and Nagano Prefecture collaborated to hold Japan's first International Conference on Local Renewable Energy in Nagano Prefecture. As a result of the conference, the Nagano Declaration by Local Government Leaders Aiming for a 100% Renewable Energy Region was issued. In 2019, the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transformation for Sustainable Growth and the Global Environment was held in Karuizawa, a town with a rich track record of hosting international conferences. On the occasion of this meeting, we have compiled the ‘Nagano Declaration on Collaboration for the Development of a Sustainable Society’ together with ICLEI, and are calling for the support of local governments around the world.

We will continue to strive for the realization of a sustainable society through partnerships with ICLEI and all other actors.

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Nagano Prefecture

Basic Information

Population2,024,174 million (May 1, 2021)

Area: 13,561.56㎢

Nagano Prefecture Website (Japanese)
www.pref.nagano.lg.jp

Overview of Nagano

Nagano Prefecture, located in the centre of the Japanese archipelago, has an area of 13,561.56 km2 and is the fourth largest of the 47 prefectures after Hokkaido, Iwate, and Fukushima. It is one of the most mountainous prefectures in Japan, blessed with a rich natural environment, with a series of 3,000-meter-high mountains bordering eight prefectures and large rivers such as the Chikuma, Kiso, and Tenryu Rivers flowing out of the mountains.

Nagano Prefecture hosted the 1998 Winter Olympics and Paralympics, and became known for the international Nagano snow resort. Even today, many skiers from overseas visit Nagano to enjoy the magnificent mountain scenery and the world's best powder snow.

Environmental Initiatives

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to solve economic, social, and environmental issues in an integrated manner, have begun to be implemented in Japan and overseas. In March 2018, Nagano Prefecture formulated the Fourth Nagano Prefecture Environmental Basic Plan with the basic policy of promoting measures based on the SDGs. In June of the same year, Nagano Prefecture was selected as an SDGs Future City. In June 2021, we formulated the ‘Nagano Prefecture Zero Carbon Strategy - Actions until 2030 to achieve 2050 Zero Carbon’ and set a high target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 to achieve zero carbon by 2050. In the future, we will continue to promote not only environmental conservation but also efforts to solve economic and social issues by utilizing the environment.

ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Nagoya City

Message from the Mayor of Nagoya City
Takashi Kawamura

In conjunction with COP10 held in Nagoya in 2010, ICLEI participated in the International Conference of Local Authorities on Biodiversity held by the city of Nagoya as a co-organizer. We were able to make the conference a success through close cooperation.

With COP10 as an opportunity, citizens and local people in Nagoya City became more active in protecting and nurturing the nature around them. In order to continue and develop these activities, we established the Nagoya Biodiversity Center in 2011. We have been conducting biological surveys and conservation activities in collaboration with citizens, as well as accumulating information obtained through surveys and other activities and communicating it to citizens in an easy-to-understand manner.

We will continue to exchange information with local governments in Japan and overseas through ICLEI and promote local environmental conservation efforts.

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Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Nagoya City

Basic Information

Population 2.3 million (June 2016)

Area: 326.45㎢

Nagoya City Website (English)
www.city.nagoya.jp/en

Overview of Nagoya City

Nagoya is a city located at the mouth of the Nobi Plain in central Honshu, facing the Pacific coast. Ninety-three percent of the city area is urbanized and urbanization is increasing. The city is the centre of the Chukyo region, one of the three largest metropolitan areas in Japan.

Environmental Initiatives

In the past, the amount of waste disposed of by the city of Nagoya has consistently increased, and by 1998, the city was reaching the limit of its disposal capacity for both incineration and landfill. At that time, Nagoya City was planning to build the next landfill on the Fujimae Tidal Flat, but since the tidal flat was a valuable habitat for migratory birds, there were growing calls from citizens to stop the landfill.

After much deliberation under these circumstances, we decided to cancel the reclamation plan for Fujimae tideland in January 1999. In February of the following year, we declared a garbage emergency to frankly inform citizens and businesses of the plight of garbage disposal. We appealed for a drastic reduction of garbage through the cooperation of citizens, businesses, and the government. Since then, through thorough efforts in waste separation and recycling, the amount of waste disposed of was reduced by about 40% and the amount of waste landfilled by about 80% in 2013. In addition, Fujimae Tideland, which was protected from landfill, was registered as an important wetland under the Ramsar Convention in 2002.

In this way, the power of citizen cooperation cultivated through waste reduction efforts, led to Nagoya hosting the 2005 Expo for the Environment Aichi, the COP10 Convention on Biodiversity, and the ESD* UNESCO World Conference. We will continue to work together with citizens to make Nagoya a sustainable city and the environmental capital of Japan.

ESD: An acronym for "Education for Sustainable Development" - the development of leaders who support a sustainable society.

ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Okayama City

Message from the Mayor of Okayama City
Masao Omori

Okayama City has been a global frontrunner in promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to encourage sustainable leaders since 2005. In 2014, because it is a leading city in ESD, Okayama City hosted the UNESCO World Conference on ESD. The city has received high praise for its ESD activities in schools and community centres.

In 2018, the city was selected as an SDGs Future City; a city that proactively promotes initiatives to achieve the universal goals of the Sustainable Development Goals. We are promoting various initiatives in collaboration with industry, government, academia, and the private sector.

As a municipality responsible for the present and future of our region, we have a mountain of issues to tackle, but I believe it is important to incorporate a Sustainable Development perspective into every measure we take to promote urban development in the future. Recognizing that ESD is the key to achieving the SDGs, I would like to continue to share information with ICLEI members and promote sustainable urban development together around the world.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Okayama City

Basic Information

Population: 720,043
(March 1, 2021)

Area: 789.95㎢

Okayama City Website
(Japanese)
www.city.okayama.jp

Overview of Okayama City

Okayama City is located in the Okayama Plain where the Asahi River and the Yoshii River flow into the Seto Inland Sea. The northern part of the city is covered with mountains leading to the Kibi Plateau. Blessed with a mild climate unique to the Seto Inland Sea coast, the city is relatively unaffected by typhoons and has few disasters because there are no active fault lines below the city.

In addition to the many historic and cultural assets that have been left behind since the ancient Kibi period, a wide variety of wildlife, including nationally important freshwater fish, live and grow throughout the city. As the central city of the surrounding region, the city has a concentration of high-level urban functions such as commerce, medical care, welfare, and education, and is located at the transport crossroads between the Chugoku and Shikoku regions, making it an attractive place to live.

Environmental Initiatives

Through the Regional Center for Education for Sustainable Development (RCE) project, which we have been working on in cooperation with a variety of actors since 2005, we will enhance the functions of the centre for environmental education and learning, and promote ESD activities on the theme of not only the environment but also global issues related to society, economy, and culture. Furthermore, with the aim of creating a sustainable city in harmony with nature as set out in the Second Okayama City Environmental Basic Plan, the city will promote environmentally friendly activities such as citizen participation in environment protection, making lifestyle choices that help reach a decarbonized society, and waste reduction and recycling promotion.

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Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Saitama City

Message from the Mayor of Saitama
Hayato Shimizu

Saitama City has been promoting environmental and energy initiatives. The E-KIZUNA Project wants to promote the use of next-generation vehicles, ensure energy security through various resources, including hydrogen, and reduce CO2 emissions.

In particular, in the Misono district, a central district of the city, the city is working to build a microcosm of the ideal city through the Smart City Saitama Model. This is in public, private and academic collaboration with private companies and universities. We are also working on providing new lifestyle change services using AI, IoT, ICT, and data sharing on health and energy information.

In July 2019, the city was selected as an SDGs Future City in recognition of these efforts. In July 2020, the city announced itself as a zero-carbon city. In 2021, Saitama City is celebrating its 20th anniversary and will continue to further promote these initiatives to create a decarbonized society and improve the quality of life of its citizens. We aim to create a city where the economy, society, and the environment develop in tandem.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Saitama City

Basic Information

Population: 1,327,691 (April 2021)

Area: 217.43㎢

Saitama Website
(English) www.city.saitama.jp/en

Overview of Saitama

Saitama City is located 30km north of central Tokyo. It is connected to six Shinkansen lines, JR lines, and a private railway. The area around Omiya Station is included in the Metropolitan Area Regional Plan of Japan.

In addition to historical and cultural resources, such as bonsai trees and railroads in Omiya, dolls in Iwatsuki, and eels in Urawa, Saitama City has a large green space (about 1,260 hectares) called "Minuma Tambo". It is also a city with a thriving sports scene. There are facilities such as the Saitama Stadium XXII, the largest soccer stadium in Japan, and the Saitama Super Arena.

Environmental Initiatives

As one of the pillars of the E-KIZUNA Project, Saitama City has been holding the E-KIZUNA Summit since 2010. It has been expanding this every year.

In order to create a decarbonized society, it is important for cities in Japan and abroad to work with each other, share knowledge, and help each other in areas in which we are struggling. To help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and carbon neutrality by 2050, the E-KIZUNA Global Summit is scheduled to be held in 2022. In preparation for the summit, we will actively disseminate the efforts of our city while deepening our cooperation with ICLEI and member municipalities of ICLEI.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sapporo City

Message from the Mayor of Sapporo City
Katsuhiro Akimoto

In February 2020, Sapporo declared its goal to become a zero-carbon city by 2050, with virtually no greenhouse gas emissions from the city, and has been taking the initiative in taking measures to achieve this goal. In March 2021, we formulated the Sapporo Climate Change Action Plan, which outlines measures to be taken by 2030 as part of the Zero Carbon City Sapporo City Climate Emergency Declaration. To pass on a rich environment to the next generation, the City of Sapporo will actively exchange information with the participating cities of ICLEI and work together to realize sustainable cities.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sapporo City

Basic Information

Population: 1,973,432 (September 1, 2020)

Area: 1,121.26㎢

Sapporo City Website (English)
www.city.sapporo.jp.e.ain.hp.transer.com

Overview of Sapporo City

Sapporo, a metropolis of more than 1.9 million people, is blessed with abundant nature. It is the political, economic, and cultural center of Hokkaido. Summers are crisp and sunny, and winters are cold and snowy, with annual snowfall being up to 6 meters.

Sapporo is a large city that is easy to live in, yet is close to the rich nature of Hokkaido. It is a city where the city and nature are in harmony. More than 90% of the citizens report that they like Sapporo and are highly attached to the city.

Environmental Initiatives

Sapporo City, which declared itself the "Environmental Capital of the World" in June 2008, has been promoting measures to combat climate change with the aim of becoming a world-class environmental city. In March 2018, the Second Sapporo City Environmental Basic Plan was formulated, and the city is working to promote thorough energy conservation and the introduction of renewable energy.

In June 2018, Sapporo was selected as one of the "SDGs Future Cities" by the government, and is working to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). In January 2020, Sapporo became the first Japanese city to be certified as Platinum, the highest rank of LEED for Cities and Communities, one of the categories of LEED, an internationally recognized environmental performance evaluation system.

Through these efforts, the City of Sapporo aims to realize a decarbonized society where the environment and the economy are compatible, and is promoting urban development that supports attractive lifestyles unique to Sapporo.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Shimokawa Town

Message from the Mayor of Shimokawa Town
Kazuyuki Tani

Shimokawa Town, as a 'Future Forest City where People Shine,' has set the goal of building a city based on the Forest City model by 2030. This will be a town surrounded by a rich forest environment, where people can earn an income from the forest, learn and play in the forest, cultivate their physical and mental health, and lead a rich life surrounded by trees. The city is promoting its initiatives with the aim of building a future city model. As a result, the town was selected as an Environmental Model City in 2008, an Environmental Future City in 2011, and a Biomass Industrial City in 2013 by the Japanese government.

In Shimokawa Town, which is one of the most advanced areas in Japan in terms of tackling these issues, we will try to realize a sustainable community through cooperation and collaboration with the participating cities of ICLEI.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Shimokawa Town

Basic Information

Population: 3400 (2017)

Area: 644.2㎢

Shimokawa Town Website (Japanese)
www.town.shimokawa.hokkaido.jp

Overview of Shimokawa Town

Shimokawa Town is located in the northern part of Hokkaido, about 100 km north of Asahikawa City. It has a vast area of 64,420 hectares (20km east to west, 30km north to south), which is almost the same size as the 23 wards of Tokyo. Ninety percent of the town, is covered with forests, leaving behind abundant forest resources and a rich and beautiful nature.

It has an inland climate and the temperature varies greatly. The maximum temperature is about 30°C and the minimum temperature about -30°C. Snowfall lasts from late November to late March, and the region has long winters and short summers.

Shimokawa has developed on the basis of forestry. In 1953, the town was granted 1,221 hectares of national forest land under the "Act on Temporary Measures for the Development of National Forests". In order to create a forest for the future, the town continued to plant about 50ha of trees every year and established a cyclical forest management system of 60 years for harvesting. At present, we have secured approximately 4,583 hectares of town-owned forest, and are building a sustainable forest management system that recycles resources while continuously maintaining the forest and at the same time securing employment opportunities and continuing to supply forest products.

Environmental Initiatives

Shimokawa Town was the first town in Hokkaido to obtain FSC® Forest Certification, an international certification that certifies responsible forest management. All town-owned forests have been certified. Wood waste from the town's lumber mills is used as fuel to install wood biomass boilers in the Gomi Hot Spring and other public facilities to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and cut costs.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sumida Ward

Message from the Mayor of Sumida Ward
Toru Yamamoto

Surrounded by rivers, Sumida Ward has had a deep connection with rain and water since ancient times. The ward has nurtured this connection through a variety of relationships, and is dotted with historical sites such as shrines and monuments related to rain and water.

Rainwater causes urban flooding due to typhoons and torrential rains, but it can also be reclaimed as a water resource through effective use. In our ward, we are promoting the storage and use of rainwater. In addition to the ward office and other ward facilities, rainwater harvesting tanks have been installed in the Tokyo Sky Tree®, and are also widely used in ordinary houses for flushing toilets, sprinkling water on plants, and water for fire prevention.

As an advanced location for rainwater harvesting, Sumida City will continue to promote urban development using rainwater and will make efforts to publicize the benefits of rainwater harvesting to as many people as possible. If you are interested in rainwater harvesting, please come to Sumida City!

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sumida Ward

Basic Information

Population: 275,975
(April 1, 2021)

Area: 13.77㎢

Sumida Ward Website
(Japanese)
www.city.sumida.lg.jp

Overview of Sumida Ward

Sumida Ward is located in the eastern part of Tokyo and is surrounded by the Sumida River, the Arakawa River, and many other bodies of water. It is characterized by a harmonious mix of residential, industrial, and commercial land use.

It is a manufacturing town but has a downtown atmosphere nurtured by the history and culture of the Edo period. There are many famous places, traditional arts and historic sites as well as technology. Furthermore, Tokyo Sky Tree®, the world's tallest freestanding radio tower, was built with the best of modern technology, and the city is on its way to becoming an international tourist city that fuses manufacturing and tourism.

Environmental Initiatives

In October 2009, Sumida declared itself as Sumida Environmental District, and has been implementing environmental measures against global warming to realize an environmentally friendly city. The city has a particularly long history of rainwater utilization, starting with a request for rainwater utilization during the construction of the Ryogoku Kokugikan in 1982 to prevent urban flooding caused by the backflow of sewage during heavy rains. These rainwater utilization promotion projects were highly evaluated by ICLEI, and we received the International Municipal Environment Award in 2000.

In the future, we will continue to work together with the ward, its residents and businesses to realize an environmentally friendly city, including rainwater harvesting.

ICLEI
Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Message from the Governor of Tokyo
Yuriko Koike

We are now faced with the threat of the coronavirus. However, we must not forget another crisis that is going on at the same time – global warming. Both the virus and CO2 are invisible, but now they are having a significant visible impact on our lives. In order to overcome these difficulties, each of us must accurately recognize the situation we are in and take concrete actions.

'Time To Act.' Now is the time to act. In March 2021, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government updated its Zero Emissions Tokyo Strategy, which was formulated in 2019, to state that the city's responsibility as a frontline city is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and to increase the use of renewable electricity to 50% in order to achieve zero emissions by 2050.

We will further accelerate effective actions in the future from the perspective of a sustainable recovery to overcome the crisis of the coronavirus pandemic and link the experience to sustainable recovery. I would like to enhance our knowledge and join forces with ICLEI members and other cities around the world.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Basic Information

Population: 13.96 million (January 2021)

Area: 2,194.05 ㎢

Tokyo City Website (English)
www.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/english

Overview of Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Tokyo is located in the Kanto Plain, almost in the center of the Japanese archipelago, and consists of the central ward areas, the Tama area, and the island areas (Izu Islands and Ogasawara Islands). The mountainous and hilly areas such as Okutama and Takao, as well as the island areas with rich nature, are designated as natural parks. The Ogasawara Islands are also registered as a World Heritage Site.

Tokyo is the political, economic, and cultural centre of Japan. There are a large number of governmental agencies and major corporations and it is one of the largest cities in the world with a population of about 14 million. It has a variety of attractions, including a highly developed transportation system, pop culture, and food culture that attracts attention from around the world, and a history and traditional culture that dates back to the Edo period.

Environmental Initiatives

Asian cities, where air pollution and waste problems are becoming increasingly serious, have shown strong interest in the experience and policy knowledge of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which has been a pioneer in addressing these issues. Under the framework of international collaboration, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has been providing practical cooperation by conducting training and workshops in Tokyo and Asia.

The urban cap-and-trade system (total greenhouse gas emission reduction obligation and emissions trading system) for large-scale business establishments, which was launched in 2010, has been steadily producing results: in 2018, the target establishments achieved a significant reduction of 27% compared to their baseline emissions.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Toyama City

Message from the Mayor of Toyama City
Hirohisa Fujii

Toyama City, with its declining population, low birthrate, and ageing population, has been promoting initiatives such as Environmental Model City and Environmental Future City based on the compact city planning principles focussed on public transportation.

In 2018, the city was selected as one of the SDGs Future Cities, and in March 2021, with an eye on the next stage of compact cities, the city announced its intention to become a Zero Carbon City. This will deepen sustainable urban development by further strengthening environmental policies, such as promoting more efficient energy use in public facilities and encouraging the introduction of renewable energy.

Toyama City will continue to work with ICLEI members in Japan and abroad to realize a sustainable society.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Toyama City

Basic information

Population: 412,901
(March 2021)

Area:1,241.77㎢

Toyama City Website (Japanese)
www.city.toyama.toyama.jp

Overview of Toyama City

Toyama City occupies almost the entire central to southeastern part of Toyama Prefecture, with Toyama Bay, which nurtures abundant seafood, to the north, the majestic Tateyama Mountain Range to the east, a series of hills and mountain villages to the west, and rich rural landscapes and forests to the south. Large and small rivers, such as the Jinzu River and the Joganji River, flow through the city, forming a cultural zone that has been linked by rivers since ancient times. From Toyama Bay, blessed with seafood, to the 3,000-meter mountains that fascinate mountaineers, the natural landscape of the city is one of the best in the world.

Toyama City is famous nationwide as the 'City of Medicine,' and is working to develop a city with a high level of comprehensive capabilities, including the Tateyama Mountain Range, the Etchu Owara Kaze no Bon Festival, and other tourism resources, as well as the development of environmental, biotechnology, and IT-related industries, welfare, and education. As a prefectural capital with a population of 420,000, the city is striving to be an attractive city.

Environmental Initiatives

In March 2021, Toyama City formulated the "Toyama City Energy Vision" against the backdrop of the government's trend toward rapid climate change and the city's past efforts in the environmental field. The vision calls for (1) promotion of more efficient energy use in public facilities, and (2) formation and development of models for independent and decentralized energy systems.

Toyama City will realize a zero-carbon city by promoting the efforts of the entire organization and collaborating with private companies.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Toyota City

Message from the Mayor of Toyota City
Toshihiko Ohta

Toyota City has been collaborating with leading companies and organizations in the automobile, energy, housing, transportation, and distribution industries to conduct demonstrations for the construction of a next-generation low-carbon society system. It has been reflecting the most advanced environmental technologies in city planning with the aim of creating the world's most successful city, where automobiles and people coexist in harmony.

We expect that the experience we have gained as a core city of the world's leading manufacturing industry will contribute to solving problems in other industrial cities and Asian countries with remarkable economic development. We would like to accelerate and expand our local efforts to realize a sustainable society together with the members of ICLEI. We hope to accelerate and expand local initiatives to realize a sustainable society together with ICLEI members.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Toyota City

Basic Information

Population: 420,000
(March 1, 2019)

Area: 918.32㎢
(including 626.44 km² of forest area)

Toyota City Website (Japanese)
www.city.toyota.aichi.jp

Overview of Toyota City

Toyota City is a core city located in the centre of Aichi Prefecture, about 30 km east of Nagoya, the capital of the prefecture. In 2005, the city merged with six surrounding towns and villages in the Yahagi River basin which runs through the city. The city now covers 20% of Aichi Prefecture. 70% of the city area is forested, which is similar to the percentage of forested area in the whole of Japan. The city has both urban areas where industry and population are concentrated, and mountainous areas with rich nature, history, and culture.

The predecessor of the city was Koromo-cho which once prospered from sericultural silk production. In the early Showa period (1926-1989), the city was threatened by a recession, but overcame the crisis by attracting Toyota Motor Corporation plant (now Toyota Motor Corporation). Toyota City has developed along with the automobile industry. In addition to automobiles, the city is also known for its agricultural products such as peaches, rice, and jumbo pears.

Environmental Initiatives

The city has been selected as a region by various ministries and agencies, including being selected as an SDGs Future City in 2018, and is developing low-carbon and pioneering urban development, especially in the fields of transportation and energy. In 2016, it organized the Toyota City Connected Society Demonstration Promotion Council. This aims to create a new smart city through AI and IoT.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Yokohama City

Message from the Mayor of Yokohama City
Fumiko Hayashi

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), expectations for the actions of cities are rising worldwide. As a SDGs Future City, the city of Yokohama is focusing its efforts on building a sustainable city, including measures to combat global warming.

Yokohama City has long been working to solve urban issues in cooperation with other cities and international organizations in Japan and abroad. We would like to share our knowledge with the participating cities of ICLEI, and promote cooperation and collaboration to create a sustainable society together.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Yokohama City

Basic Information

Population: 3,757,630 (September 1, 2020)

Area: 437.57㎢

Yokohama City Website (English)
www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/lang/residents/en

Overview of Yokohama City

The city of Yokohama is a beautiful international port city located in the metropolitan area of Japan. In addition to the modern waterfront area symbolized by the Minato Mirai 21 district, the suburbs are filled with lush greenery, residential areas, and farmland, making the city a diverse and attractive place.

Yokohama's development was triggered by the opening of the port in 1859. Since then, Yokohama has overcome various hardships such as the Great Kanto Earthquake, rapid population growth, and pollution, and has grown to become the second largest city in Japan with a population of 3.7 million. The urban management knowledge and technological capabilities cultivated during this process have become the foundation for our current international contributions. In recent years, the city has also been strong in tourism MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Conferences, Exhibitions), hosting many international conferences such as the Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting and the African Development Conference, and attracting 34.2 million tourists in 2018.

Environmental Initiatives

In October 2018, Yokohama City revised its Global Warming Countermeasures Action Plan and set the goal of ‘Zero Carbon Yokohama’ by 2050. In order to achieve this goal, Yokohama is working to create a series of measures to combat global warming in an all-Yokohama manner through the introduction of new technologies in cooperation with businesses, smart use of renewable energy in collaboration with other municipalities, and activities that utilize the power of our citizens.

Furthermore, as an SDGs Future City selected by the Japanese government, Yokohama has established the Yokohama SDGs Design Center and is working to disseminate models for solutions to all kinds of urban issues, including global warming and population aging. In recent years, we have also been promoting collaboration with young people who will lead the next generation. During the Earth Hour lights-out event held on March 27, 2021, we declared the establishment of "Team Zero Youth Yokohama," a new network of young people working to combat global warming. In the future, we plan to hold various events and seminars in cooperation with the city, as well as collaborate with other countries.

Supporting our members

ICLEI Japan supports the participation of member local governments in international initiatives and disseminates and shares examples of pioneering cities at home and abroad.

We aim to:

1. Promote the efforts of Japanese local governments overseas

Through supporting participation in international initiatives and UN conferences, such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and creating opportunities for collaboration with ICLEI Headquarters and other regional offices.

2. Create opportunities for knowledge exchange between member local governments

Through the ICLEI Sustainable City Study Group (ICLEI Cafe) and ICLEI Japan Seminars.

3. Collect and provide relevant domestic and international information

Through Japan ICLEI iNews and case studies.

4. Provide research and consulting

Through survey support for local governments in Japan and overseas, as well as outsourcing projects such as international conference planning.

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