

Japan Office

Introducing our members



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.



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.

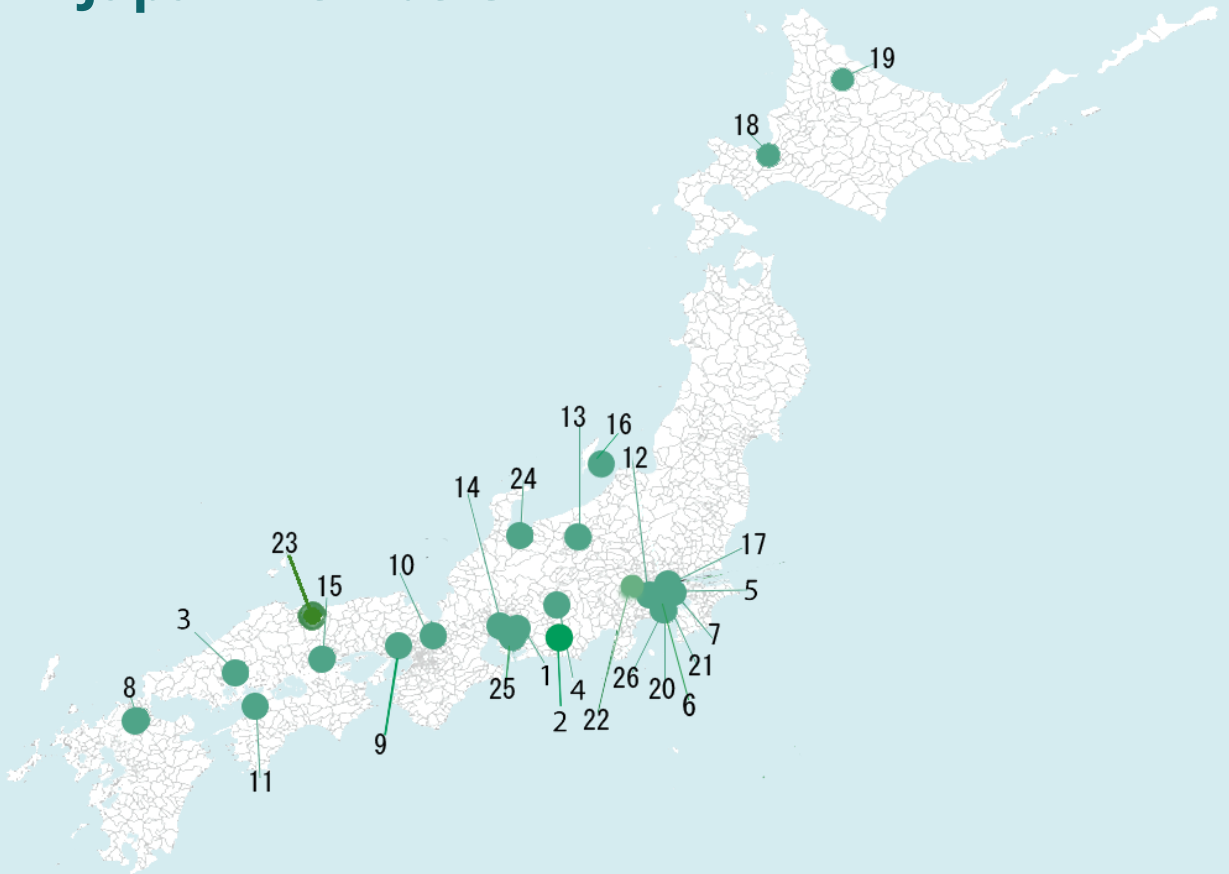
ICLEI Japan

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.



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.



Basic Information

Population: 7.48 million
(As of 1 September 2023)

Area: 5,170km²

[Aichi Prefecture Website](#)
(English)

Aichi Prefecture

Overview of Aichi Prefecture

Aichi Prefecture is located in the centre 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 'Environmental Capital Aichi' 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 actively contribute to the achievement of the '[Aichi Targets](#)' adopted at COP10, Aichi Prefecture established the '[Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets \(GoLS\)](#)' in 2016 with state and prefecture-level regional governments around the world that are making advanced efforts in biodiversity conservation, and has encouraged the activation of initiatives by local governments around the world. On the occasion of the adoption of the new [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) at COP15 in December 2022, the GoLS has changed its name to '[Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward *Global* Biodiversity Targets](#)', and it continues to work with ICLEI and other local governments groups worldwide to active biodiversity conservation activities to achieve the new framework.

Hamamatsu City

Message from the former Mayor of Hamamatsu City Yasutomo Suzuki



Hamamatsu City is working towards a sustainable society in order to address the various challenges facing the city, such as climate change and the transformation of its industrial structure.

In particular, decarbonisation is an urgent issue, and the city is actively involved in energy policy ahead of the rest of the cities, by promoting the introduction of renewable energy, including solar power generation, which has the highest installed capacity in Japan.

As an 'SDGs Future City' selected by the government, the city is promoting measures that make the most of its characteristics, such as 'Energy', 'Forestry', and 'Diversity'.

In 2022, a new Carbon Neutral Promotion Project Headquarters has been established to strengthen decarbonisation and energy policies and building a sustainable society. In addition to the initiatives in the city, we will further work towards the realisation of a sustainable society in the world through information exchange and networking with all the cities participating in ICLEI.



Basic Information

Population: 790,000
(As of April 2022)

Area: 1,558.06km²

[Hamamatsu City Website](#)
(English)

Hamamatsu City

Overview of Hamamatsu City

Hamamatsu City is a government ordinance-designated city, located between Tokyo and Osaka along the Pacific coast, with an area of 1,558 km² (the second-largest city in the nation) and a population of approximately 790,000 (16th in the nation). It's a 'microcosm of Japan' city, blessed with a rich natural environment of sea, rivers, lakes, and mountains, and a diversity of coastal and urban areas, as well as mountainous regions.

Hamamatsu is the second-largest city in the central region of Honshu, Japan's main island after Nagoya. It is neither the capital of a prefecture nor a metropolitan area, but it is the only government ordinance-designated city that has achieved independent development on its own.

Hamamatsu City is one of Japan's leading 'manufacturing cities' with a focus on transport equipment, and many companies from Hamamatsu have grown into world-class companies. It is also widely known both in Japan and abroad as a 'music city' with a concentration of musical instrument industries.

Environmental Initiatives

Hamamatsu City is not only Japan's largest producer of solar power among all local governments in Japan but also Japan's largest producer of renewable energy, including wind power and biomass. It also has the largest area of FSC-certified forests in all municipalities nationwide. As an 'SDGs Future City', Hamamatsu is taking advantage of these features to promote pioneering initiatives utilise local resources, such as multicultural conviviality, sustainable forest management and forestry promotion using the FSC forest certification system, and the promotion of Hamamatsu's version of a smart city by introducing renewable energy.

In order to promote a wide range of activities by companies and organisations to achieve the SDGs, Hamamatsu will continue to raise awareness and promote initiatives related to the SDGs by utilising the Hamamatsu SDGs Promotion Platform and other means.

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. Since then, the city has undergone a remarkable recovery and is now a core city in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions.

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 city that we can be proud to show the world.

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.



Basic Information

Population: About 1,181,000
(As of 31 March 2023)

Area: 906.69km²

[Hiroshima City Website](#)
(English)

Hiroshima City

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 centre, 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 maintaining a low-level amount of waste generated per person per day among ordinance-designated cities.

In terms of global warming countermeasures, in December 2020, the city announced its aim to achieve virtually zero GHG emissions by 2050 and is working to promote energy-saving measures and the implementation of renewable energy.

Furthermore, the City of Hiroshima declared a 'Hiroshima Climate Emergency' in July 2022 and the 'Hiroshima City Global Warming Prevention Action Plan' was revised and updated in March 2023. The city shares a sense of crisis with its citizens, businesses, and all other actors, and in cooperation with the 28 cities and towns in Hiroshima Major Metropolitan Area and ICLEI, the city will make every effort to pass on the rich nature of this region to the next generation.

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.



Basic Information

Population: About 98,000
(As of March 2022)

Area: 658.66km²

[Iida City Website \(Japanese\)](#)

[Iida Environmental Model City Website \(Japanese\)](#)

Iida City

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, citizens, businesses, and the government are working together to create the most desirable place to live in Japan.

The Toyama-go (Toyama Valley) of the City was registered as a Minami-Alps Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO Eco Park) in 2014 in recognition of its rich nature and valuable traditional culture and history, including the 'Shimotsuki Festival'.

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.

Itabashi City

Message from the Mayor of Itabashi City Ken Sakamoto



In 1993, Itabashi City 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 City Environmental Management System' to promote the city's 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 city, is still being promoted as a measure that anyone can take against global warming.

In addition to these efforts, we recently announced the 'Zero Carbon Itabashi 2050' in January 2022, and was selected as an 'SDGs Future City' in May of the same year.



Basic Information

Population: 572,000
(As of 1 September 2023)

Area: 32.22km²

[Itabashi City Website](#)
(Japanese)

Itabashi City

Overview of Itabashi City

Itabashi 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 Shakuji 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 is a residential city with a population of about 569,000. The city 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), making it one of Tokyo's leading industrial cities.

Environmental Initiatives

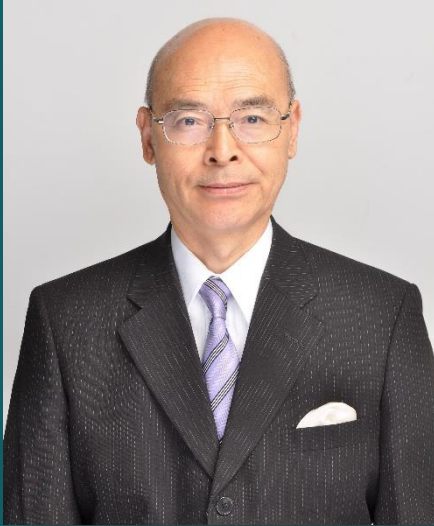
Itabashi has formulated the 'Itabashi Environmental Action Point Project' which awards points to its residents and businesses based on the percentage of reduction in energy consumption through energy-saving behaviour, intending to realise a Zero Carbon City by 2050.

In addition, to reduce the use of one-way plastic and the daily use of own bottles, water servers that can be used free of charge have been installed at four locations in the city, and more are planned to be installed in the city facilities in the future.

Furthermore, the Itabashi City Office main building and 24 other facilities have been powered by 100% renewable energy, and other efforts are being made to realise a Zero Carbon City through the concerted efforts of its residents, businesses, and the ward.

Katsushika City

Message from the Mayor of Katsushika City Katsunori Aoki

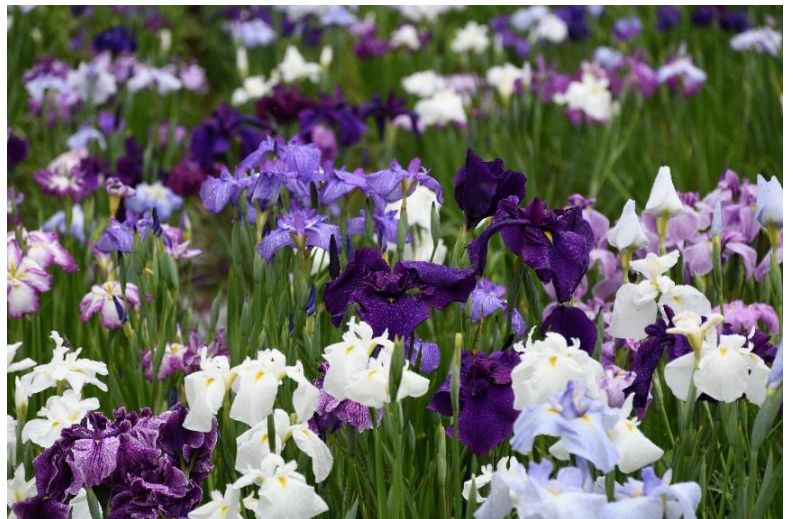


In February 2020, Katsushika City became the first basic local government in the Tokyo Metropolis to declare 'Zero Emission Katsushika' to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. To achieve this goal, we are promoting environmental initiatives with the target of 'Carbon Half', a 50% reduction compared to the 2013 level by 2030.

To spread this movement to the entire Tokyo's 23 wards (special wards), where more than 9.5 million people live, I called for cooperation toward zero carbon across the entire special wards at the Special Ward Mayors' Association Meeting, where the mayors of the 23 wards gather.

After two years of research and study, the 'Zero Carbon City Special Wards Joint Declaration' and an 'Agreement with Three Megabanks to Support Decarbonization of SMEs' were realized in October 2023.

To achieve a decarbonized society, it is important to work in partnership with various actors, including citizens, businesses, etc. In particular, strengthening cooperation between local governments and maximizing synergies will effectively promote climate action.



Basic Information

Population: 467,000
(As of April 2024)

Area: 34.80km²

[Katsushika City Website](#)
(Japanese)

Katsushika City

Overview of Katsushika City

Katsushika is located at the northeastern end of Tokyo Metropolis and is the seventh largest ward in terms of total area. The Arakawa, Edogawa, and Obagawa rivers border the ward and the Nakagawa, Shin-Nakagawa, and Ayasegawa rivers flow through the ward, enriching the city's surrounding environment with water.

Katsushika is home to [Katsushika Shibamata](#), Tokyo's first area to be selected as a National Important Cultural Landscape, and is also a major attraction for the unique downtown Tokyo atmosphere and scenery depicted in the Japanese film '[Otoko wa Tsuraiyo](#)' and the manga "Kochira Katsushika-ku Kameari Koen Mae Hashutsujo," which are based on the area.

Environmental Initiatives

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Katsushika is also focused on solving other local issues. For example, subsidy schemes and preferential interest rates encourage the insulation of homes, thereby contributing to the development of a healthy and comfortable living environment.

Public facilities, including schools, are also promoting ZEB and insulation retrofits, contributing to the improvement of the educational environment. Furthermore, the subsidy scheme for photovoltaic power generation systems and storage batteries contributes to strengthening local resilience.

Katsushika will continue to promote climate action to achieve sustainable communities.

Kawasaki City

Message from the Mayor of Kawasaki City Norihiro 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.



Kawasaki City

Basic Information

Population: 1,545,581
(As of 1 September 2023)

Area: 144.35km²

[Kawasaki City Website](#)
(English)

Overview of Kawasaki City

Kawasaki 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 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 are 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.

Kitakyushu City

Message from the Mayor of Kitakyushu City Kazuhisa Takeuchi

Kitakyushu was created in 1963 through the equal merger of five cities and celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2023.

With gratitude for the achievements made by our predecessors, we will continue to create a sustainable and attractive future for the city and aim for further development.

The enthusiasm of the citizens, the strength of the industry, the advanced environmental industry, and international environmental cooperation efforts, as well as the superiority of the land, are some of the great potentials of Kitakyushu.

We will maximise these potentials and take on the challenge to make the city the first choice for people and businesses, and to drive forward initiatives that contribute to a 'reboot to growth'. The energy and liveliness generated by 'growth' will then promote a virtuous circle that become a source of 'happiness' in the form of peace, enjoyment, and mental well-being.



Kitakyushu City

Basic Information

Population: 916,000
(As of 1 October 2023)

Area: 492.50km²

[Kitakyushu Asia Center for Carbon
Neutrality \(English\)](#)

Overview of Kitakyushu City

Kitakyushu 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, the city has developed as a manufacturing city supporting the industrialisation of modern Japan and a wide range of industries are concentrated in the city, including materials-oriented industries such as steel and chemicals, and electrical machinery, semiconductors, and automobile factories.

Environmental Initiatives

Kitakyushu has overcome serious pollution problems through cooperation between industry, academia, government, and the private sector, and has boldly taken on various domestic and international challenges, including global warming, by utilising the experience and environment-related technologies developed in the process. In recognition of these efforts, the city was selected by the national government as an 'SDGs Future City' in 2018 and as 'Decarbonisation Leading Areas' in 2022.

In the future, Kitakyushu will promote various initiatives, such as the use of hydrogen and the introduction of renewable energy, in accordance with the [Kitakyushu City Basic Environment Plan](#), and the [Kitakyushu City Action Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures](#), and contribute to the realisation of a decarbonised society by 2050 by developing the 'Kitakyushu Model', which realises a virtuous circle between the environment and the economy, both in domestically and internationally.

Kobe City

Message from the Mayor of Kobe City Kizo Hisamoto



Since the opening of Kobe Port in 1868, the city has created new values and lifestyles while nurturing internationality and diversity in a rich natural environment surrounded by the sea and mountains. After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, the city received support from domestic and international and was able to achieve reconstruction with the efforts of its citizens.

Given Kobe's history of overcoming many difficulties, Kobe City aims to be a 'World contributing city nurtured by the sea and mountains', existing not only for Kobe but also for the whole of Japan, and contributing to each region from a global perspective.

In collaboration with ICLEI, Kobe City will further promote the SDGs and environment-related policies of Kobe City.



Kobe City

Basic Information

Population: 1,508,996
(As of April 2022)

Area: 557km²

[Kobe City website \(Japanese\)](#)

[Global contributing city nurtured
by the sea and mountains
\(Japanese\)](#)

[Zero Carbon City KOBE
\(Japanese\)](#)

[Hydrogen Smart City Kobe
Concept \(Japanese\)](#)

Overview of Kitakyushu City

Kobe, an exotic and cosmopolitan city that led Japan's modernization as a gateway to the world, is a diverse city that compactly combines highly convenient urban functions with a rich natural environment, including Mount Rokko and the countryside.

The Urban Sannomiya Redevelopment Project is underway to boldly revitalize Sannomiya, the gateway to Kobe, with the aim of creating a 'New City Center' that is comfortable, convenient, and beautifully landscaped, where various civic activities and exchanges can take place.

In addition, the Kobe Medical Industry Project, which started as an earthquake reconstruction project, has grown into one of the largest biomedical clusters in Japan more than 20 years after the concept was launched.

Furthermore, efforts are being made to develop the business environment on Mt. Rokko to create an attractive business space that is comfortable and stimulates creativity, under the Mt Rokko Smart City Concept.

Environmental Initiatives

In 2020, Kobe announced the '2050 Carbon Neutrality Declaration' and is promoting initiatives such as the diffusion of renewable energy and the promotion of the use of hydrogen energy in order to achieve carbon neutrality in 2050.

The main initiative is the '[Hydrogen Smart City Kobe Concept](#)', and two world-first demonstration projects are being promoted through industry-academia-government collaboration: the 'Hydrogen Supply Chain Construction Demonstration Project', in which hydrogen is transported from overseas by ship, and the 'Hydrogen Energy Use System Development Demonstration Project', in which electricity and heat produced from hydrogen is supplied to the city.

The Port of Kobe is also making progress in decarbonizing to become a Carbon Neutral Port.

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 have 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.



Basic Information

Population: 1,453,956
(As of October 2021)

Area: 827.9km²

[Kyoto City Website](#)
(Japanese)

Kyoto City

Overview of Kyoto City

Kyoto City is an inland city located in the centre 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.

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.



Matsuyama City

Basic Information

Population: About 503,000
(As of April 2022)

Area: Approx. 429.4km²

[Matsuyama City Website](#)
(Japanese)

[‘finding Matsuyama’, the video
showing the attractions of
Matsuyama City](#)

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 2020).

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.

Musashino City

Message from the Mayor of Musashino City Yasuhiro Omino



Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and natural disasters more serious in many parts of the world. These phenomena are believed to be caused by global warming and are urgent issues that must be seriously considered and addressed by all mankind.

To achieve the goal of 'Zero Carbon City 2050' declared in February 2021, we are promoting joint efforts by the city, citizens, businesses, etc. to combat global warming, and we need to take more leadership than ever before to support the initiatives of citizens and others.

We have been affiliated with and worked with ICLEI Japan since its inception in 1993. We will continue to work with ICLEI to exchange information and create networks to expand the circle of environmental consideration and promote sustainable urban development.



Musashino City

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.

Basic information

Population: About 148,079
(As of 1 April 2024)

Area: 10.98km²

[Musashino City Website](#)
(Japanese)

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.

Basic Information

Population 2,024,174 million
(As of 1 May 2021)

Area: 13,561.56km²

[Nagano Prefecture Website](#)
(Japanese)

Nagano Prefecture

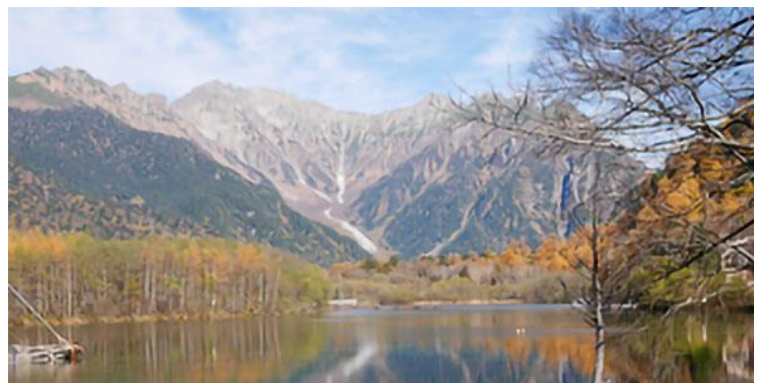
Overview of Nagano

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.



Nagoya City

Message from the Mayor of Nagoya City Takashi Kawamura



In 2021, Nagoya City formulated the Fourth Nagoya City Environmental Basic Plan, which is the general framework for its environmental policy, and is promoting various initiatives as the 'SDGs Future City Nagoya'. The city's vision for 2030 is 'A city in harmony with a comfortable urban environment and nature created through partnership'.

In addition, major international conferences such as the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) in 2010, and the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in 2014 were held in Nagoya City, and in particular, the International Conference of Local Authorities on Biodiversity held in conjunction with COP10 was a success, appreciated to close collaboration with ICLEI.

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



Nagoya City

Basic Information

Population 2,326,167
(As of 1 September 2022)

Area: 326.50km²

[Nagoya City Website](#)
(Japanese)

Overview of Nagoya City

Nagoya City is located in the Nobi Plain in central Honshu, facing the Pacific coast. Although 93% of the city area is urbanized, there are many places where nature can be seen despite being a large city, with a diverse ecosystem formed by the distribution of endemic plants in the hills in the east and the Fujimae Tideland, a Ramsar Wetland, in the south-west of the city.

A political, economic, and cultural hub of the Chubu region with a population of over 2.3 million. Nagoya's history and culture is represented by the Atsuta Shrine, Three Unifiers, and the Owari Tokugawa family, as well as Nagoya Meshi (local food), characteristics of the food culture, that form the foundation of Nagoya's charm. The city is an easy place to live, with high levels of citizen satisfaction in terms of convenience and comfort, including safe and clean tap water, excellent medical services, a highway network, and public transport.

Environmental Initiatives

In July 2019, Nagoya was selected by the Japanese government as SDG Future City. The city is working to expand the SDGs through 'Community Development', which aims to spread the SDGs to the local community and solve local problems through the SDGs, and 'People Development' through various learning programs in collaboration with ICT and urban facilities to spread the SDGs to children, who will lead the next generation.

In April 2022, a joint proposal with Toho Gas Company for a 'decarbonized compact city model realized in a redevelopment area' was selected as a Decarbonization Leading Area. The proposal is to introduce solar power, small wind power, carbon-neutral gas power generation, and storage batteries in minato AQUUS, a large-scale redevelopment area on a former factory site, and a low-carbon model area in the city. By supplying surplus electricity from existing city-owned photovoltaic and waste power generation, the project aims to achieve virtually zero CO2 emissions from electricity consumption by 2030.

The city will continue to promote this Decarbonization Leading Area initiative and urban greening initiatives.

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.



Basic Information

Population: 715,907
(As of 1 August 2023)

Area: 789.95km²

[Okayama City Website](#)
(Japanese)

Okayama City

Overview of Okayama City

Okayama City is located in the southwestern part of the main island of Japan on 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.

Sado City

Message from the Mayor of Sado Ryugo Watanabe



As part of its efforts to create a sustainable island, Sado City was selected by the Government as a 'Decarbonization Leading Areas' in April 2022 and an 'SDGs Future City' in May.

The initiatives of the Decarbonization Leading Areas selected as models for remote islands not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen disaster prevention and mitigation capabilities by promoting the introduction of renewable energy, but also prevent the outflow of funds to outside the islands through local energy production for local consumption, leading to an internal circulation of the economy.

In addition, Sado City's SDGs Future City Vision consider a society that realizes the inheritance of Sado's unique history and culture, such as the Toki (Japanese crested ibis) and the Sado Gold and Silver Mine, as the 18th goal of the Sustainable Development Goals and promotes it through cooperation with diverse actors so that history, and culture can circulate with the environment, economy and society and people can continue to live prosperously.

In partnership with ICLEI, we will work towards even more sustainable cities and regions.



Sado City

Overview of Sado

Sado City is located almost in the center of Niigata Prefecture in the Sea of Japan and is the largest remote island in Japan in the region where measures to promote remote islands are implemented.

From Tokyo Station, the Joetsu Shinkansen bullet train takes 1.5 to 2 hours to Niigata Station, then a 15-minute bus ride from Niigata Station to the Niigata Port Sado Kisen Terminal, where you can take a high-speed boat from Niigata Port to Ryotsu Port in about 1 hour to Sado, the shortest journey time is 3.5 hours.

Sado City, which started the certificate system for the co-inhabitant with the crested ibis, when the crested ibis was returned to the wild, was recognized as Japan's first Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in 2011 for its efforts in farming methods that nurture living creatures in consideration of the rice paddy ecosystem, beautiful scenery such as terraced rice fields and traditional farming culture handed down from the past, with the aim of coexistence with the crested ibis. In addition, The Sado Island Gold Mines was nominated as a domestic candidate for UNESCO World Heritage List in February 2022, in recognition of its gold production system based on Japan's unique traditional handicrafts during the Edo period, with the aim of being inscribed in 2024.

Environmental Initiatives

In October 2022, Sado City made a Nature Positive Declaration, which includes expanding the number of places that contribute to biodiversity conservation and reducing the transfer and use of resources that reduce biodiversity in other regions. The city subsequently participated in the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15 Part 2) held in Canada, where its activities on Sado were strongly communicated to the world. Along with the promotion of a zero carbon island, Sado City will work to promote environmental investment and a circular economy.

Basic Information

Population: 49,589
(As of 31 October 2023)

Area: 855 km²

[Making Sado a World Heritage Site](#) (Japanese)

[Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems \(GIAHS\)](#) (Japanese)

[Sado Geopark](#) (English)

[Nature Positive Sado Island Declaration](#) (English)

Saitama City

Message from the Mayor of Saitama Hayato Shimizu



Saitama City has been promoting initiatives in the environmental and energy sectors, such as the E-KIZUNA Project 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, a sub-center 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 May 2021, issued a declaration of the Saitama City Climate Emergency to share the sense of crisis that the climate is in a state of emergency with our citizens, business, and others and to act as one.

In April 2022, the city was selected by the Japanese Government as a 'Decarbonization Leading area'. We will continue to further promote these initiatives to create a decarbonized society and improve the quality of life of our citizens. We aim to create a city where the economy, society, and the environment develop in tandem.



Saitama City

Overview of Saitama

Saitama City is located 30km north of central Tokyo, and it is a hub for exchanges of 'People, Goods and Information' as a core city in eastern Japan. 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 and railroads in Omiya, Iwatsuki Ningyo (Japanese Dolls), 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, with facilities such as Saitama Stadium 2002, 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 to build a wide-area intercity network, which has expanded year by year.

The E-KIZUNA Global Summit was held from 22 to 24 November 2022 as an expanded version of the E-KIZUNA Summit, with the aim of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and carbon neutrality by 2050. The realization of a decarbonized society depends on national and international cities working together, sharing knowledge, and complementing each other's shortcomings.

We will continue to actively disseminate the city's initiatives while deepening cooperation with ICLEI and ICLEI member local governments.

Basic Information

Population: 1,338,783
(As of September 2022)

Area: 217.43km²

[Saitama City Website](#)
(English)

Sapporo City

Message from the Mayor of Sapporo City Katsuhiro Akimoto



In recent years, climate change has caused significant damage to the world due to extreme weather events such as large typhoons and floods, and there is a need to strengthen measures to combat climate change on a global scale. Against this backdrop, 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' and the 'Sapporo Climate Emergency Declaration' was issued to ensure that each and every citizen shares a sense of crisis and the need for action on climate change issues.

In November 2022, Sapporo was selected as a 'Decarbonization Leading Areas', and in April 2023, the G7 Ministers' Meeting on Climate, Energy, and Environment was held in Sapporo, where Hokkaido and Sapporo City announced the 'Hokkaido/Sapporo Declaration' to contribute to local energy production for local consumption and GX in Japan and the world through decarbonization, which was disseminated domestically and internationally. 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.



Basic Information

Population: 1,969,912
(As of 1 October 2023)

Area: 1,121.26km²

[Sapporo City Website](#)
(English)

Sapporo City

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 5 meters, making it one of the snowiest and coldest cities in the world.

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

Environmental Initiatives

In March 2018, the 'Second Sapporo City Environmental Basic Plan' was formulated to further promote environmental measures in response to increasingly complex and diverse environmental issues and in light of international trends.

In this plan, various actors, including citizens, companies, and governments will work together to promote cross-sectoral initiatives with the aim of realizing an 'Environmental Capital, SAPPORO', a sustainable city where the next generation of children can live happily.

In June 2018, Sapporo was selected as one of the "SDGs Future Cities" by the government and is actively promoting initiatives to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). In order to view Sapporo by a global standard and to develop city promotion through objective evaluations, 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 initiatives, 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.

Shimokawa Town

Message from the Mayor of Shimokawa Town Yasushi Tamura



Shimokawa aims to become a town where 'life, people, forests, and the land shines brightly', based on its abundant forest resources, with the aim to building a town where people can earn a rich income from the forest, learn and play in the forest, nurture their mental and physical health, and lead a spiritual life surrounded by trees.

For more than 20 years since the Shimokawa Vision was formulated in 2001, the town has been promoting integrated economic, social, and environmental problem-solving initiatives, with recycling-oriented forest management as the cornerstone of town planning. In 2018, the town was selected as an 'SDGs Future City' by the Government, while promoting town planning with diverse actors inside and outside the town.

In Shimokawa Town, which faces a number of local issues caused by a declining population, we will work to realise a sustainable society through collaboration and cooperation with ICLEI-participating cities.



Shimokawa Town

Basic Information

Population: 2,943
(As of August 2023)

Area: 644.2km²

[Shimokawa Town Website](#)
(Japanese)

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 is about -30°C. Snowfall is 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.

Sumida City

Message from the Mayor of Sumida City Toru Yamamoto



Surrounded by rivers, Sumida has had a deep connection with rain and water since ancient times. The city 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 city, we are promoting the storage and use of rainwater. In addition to the city office and other city 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 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!



Basic Information

Population: 283,655
(As of 1 August 2023)

Area: 13.77km²

[Sumida City Website](#)
(Japanese)

Sumida City

Overview of Sumida City

Sumida City 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 realise 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 Sumida received the International Municipal Environment Award in 2000.

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

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.



Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Basic Information

Population: 14 million
(As of April 2022)

Area: 2,194.05 km²

[Tokyo Metropolitan
Government Website](#) (English)

[Accelerating Actions toward a
2030 Carbon Half](#)
(English)

[Outline of the Tokyo
Environmental Master Plan](#)
(English)

[Basic Policy on Ordinance
Revision to Halve Carbon
Emissions \(Carbon Half\)](#)
[Summary Version]
(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.

Tokorozawa City



Message from the Mayor of Tokorozawa City Masatoshi Onozuka

In November 2020, Tokorozawa City declared itself a 'Zero Carbon City', aiming to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The city has been actively working on environmental measures and, following the declaration, the city further accelerated its decarbonization efforts, holding the 'Machigoto Zero Carbon Citizens' Assembly' in 2022.

In March 2023, we enacted the 'Tokorozawa Decarbonization Ordinance', which aims to ensure an environment where citizens can live gracefully and prosperously now and in the future, through proactive and cooperative efforts between the city, companies, and citizens.

The issue of climate change is one of the major challenges on a global scale, and in addition to the efforts of each local government, we believe that cooperation between local governments is also very important. In the future, we hope to create a 'smiles abound in Tokorozawa' in cooperation with the ICLEI member local governments.



Tokorozawa City

Basic information

Population: 344,054
(As of 31 May 2023)

Area: 72.11 km²

[Tokorozawa City Website](#)
(Japanese)

Overview of Tokorozawa City

Tokorozawa City is located about 30km from Tokyo, in the southwest part of Saitama Prefecture, almost in the central part of the Musashino Terrace, and bordering the northern part of Tama, Tokyo. The climate is generally mild, with a north-westerly monsoon in winter.

In 1911, the first airfield in Japan was established, and the city is known as 'Tokorozawa, the Cradle of Aviation'. Today, despite being the central city in southwest Saitama with a population of over 340,000, it has developed as a cultural city in harmony with nature, with many original Japanese landscapes remaining, such as the ancient battlefields of the late Kamakura period and Santome Shinden, a representative area of 'farming' traditions from the Edo period, and rich greenery, including the Sayama Hills.

Environmental Initiatives

Tokorozawa City is promoting environmental and urban development measures under two themes: 'Decarbonisation' and 'People-centred Urban Planning'.

To promote renewable energy, large-scale photovoltaic installations were installed on top of the final landfill site and on the surface of the regulating ponds. The revenue from the sale of electricity generated in the region is accumulated as the Machi-Eco Fund, which is used to subsidise citizens and companies that install renewable energy equipment, thereby contributing to the economic cycle in the region.

In addition, 'Tokorozawa Future Electric Power', a new regional electric power company has been established with the aim of increasing the use of renewable energy by spreading environmentally friendly electricity throughout the city, supporting citizens' nature-friendly lifestyles and working with citizens and companies to realise a sustainable local society. In recent years, the 'Machigoto Zero Carbon Citizens' Assembly', a Tokorozawa's version of the Climate Citizens' Assembly, was organised to promote initiatives for decarbonisation that involve citizens and companies. The city also aims to build a network for decarbonisation management among companies.

Tokorozawa will continue to learn from good practices, both nationally and internationally, and work together with various stakeholders, including citizens and companies, to promote initiatives for decarbonisation.

Tottori Prefecture

Message from the Governor of Tottori Prefecture Shinji Hirai



The global environment, which underpins our lives and has provided abundant blessings for generations, is now facing a major crisis. Climate change action is an urgent issue that the international community needs to tackle in solidarity, and we need to work for social change towards a sustainable future. Tottori has set an ambitious target of reducing CO2 emissions by 60% in 2030 (compared to 2013), well above the national target.

The amount of renewable energy generated in the prefecture has exceeded the amount of electricity generated to meet civilian electricity demand, reaching 41.3% of total electricity consumption, and the prefecture has set its insulation performance standard, 'Tottori Healthy Energy Conservation Housing (NE-ST)', which exceeds the national energy efficiency standard, and more than 30% of new housing construction starts now meet this standard. In addition, Tottori is also accelerating its efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the future.

Through exchanges and partnerships with ICLEI and national and international local governments, we will continue to strive to create a vibrant and sustainable society and pass on the rich natural environment, including the development of young people who will be responsible for the future.



Tottori Prefecture

Basic information

Population: 553,407
(As of 1 October 2020)

Area: 3,507km²

[Tottori Prefecture Website](#)
(Japanese)

[Decarbonising Social Promotion
Division](#) (Japanese)

Overview of Tottori Prefecture

Tottori Prefecture faces the Sea of Japan to the north, with a coastline of white sand and green pine trees, including the [Tottori Sand Dunes](#), and to the south are the mountains of the Chugoku mountain range, including [Mount Daisen](#), the highest peak in the Chugoku region. Despite the mountainous terrain, plains are formed in the basin of the three rivers, and Tottori City, Kurayoshi City, and Yonago City are the central cities in the basin, respectively.

Surrounded by rich nature, including the clear blue waters of the Sea of Japan and lush green mountains, the region produces numerous agricultural products, including Tottori 20th Century Pears, and fresh seafood. Symbiosis with nature has given rise to unique new technologies, such as ice-temperature technology, and supports high-value-added industries. Tottori Prefecture has also long been in contact with countries on the other side of the Sea of Japan and has been promoting the development of a base for the Japan Sea Rim era.

Environmental Initiatives

In March 2022, the prefecture revised its basic environmental plan, the '[Tottori Prefecture Environmental Initiative Plan for the New Reiwa Era](#)', and set an ambitious target of reducing CO2 emissions by 60% in 2030 (compared to 2013).

Tottori Prefecture has also proposed the '[Tottori Ecology Life Campaign](#)' as its vision for the year 2030. The idea is not to save energy by forcing people to endure, but to “shift to a lifestyle that protects the environment and health while living comfortably and wisely” and “to activate the local economy through ‘local production for local consumption of renewable energy’ and ‘technological development’”, and the prefecture has set a friendly nickname '[Tottori Born!](#)' to promote awareness of the plan.

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.



Toyama City

Basic information

Population: 412,901
(As of 31 March 2021)

Area: 1,241.77km²

[Toyama City Website](#)
(Japanese)

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.



Toyota City

Message from the Mayor of Toyota City Toshihiko Ota

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.



Toyota City

Basic Information

Population: 418,284
(As of 1 April 2022)

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

[Toyota City Website](#)
(Japanese)

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.

Yokohama City

Message from the Mayor of Yokohama City Takeharu Yamanaka



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. Yokohama has set a goal of 'Zero Carbon Yokohama' and is working towards decarbonization by 2050, and as a SDGs Future City selected by the Japanese Government, the city is focusing its efforts on creating 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.



Basic Information

Population: 3,772,887
(As of 1 September 2022)

Area: 437.78km²

[Yokohama City Website](#)
(English)

Yokohama City

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

Yokohama has been a pioneer among other cities in taking measures to combat global warming, such as saving electricity, energy efficiency measures, and expanding the use of renewable energy. 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 April 2022, the 'Minato Mirai 21 area' was selected as a national 'Decarbonization Leading Area'. Together with our citizens, we will build a model for decarbonization in major cities, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity consumption to virtually zero by 2030.



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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