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 with more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development.

Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for zero emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient, and circular development.

Our Members and a 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. With 700+ specialized staff in our twenty-seven offices around the world, we support the activities of member local governments and promote international intercity cooperation led by ICLEI.

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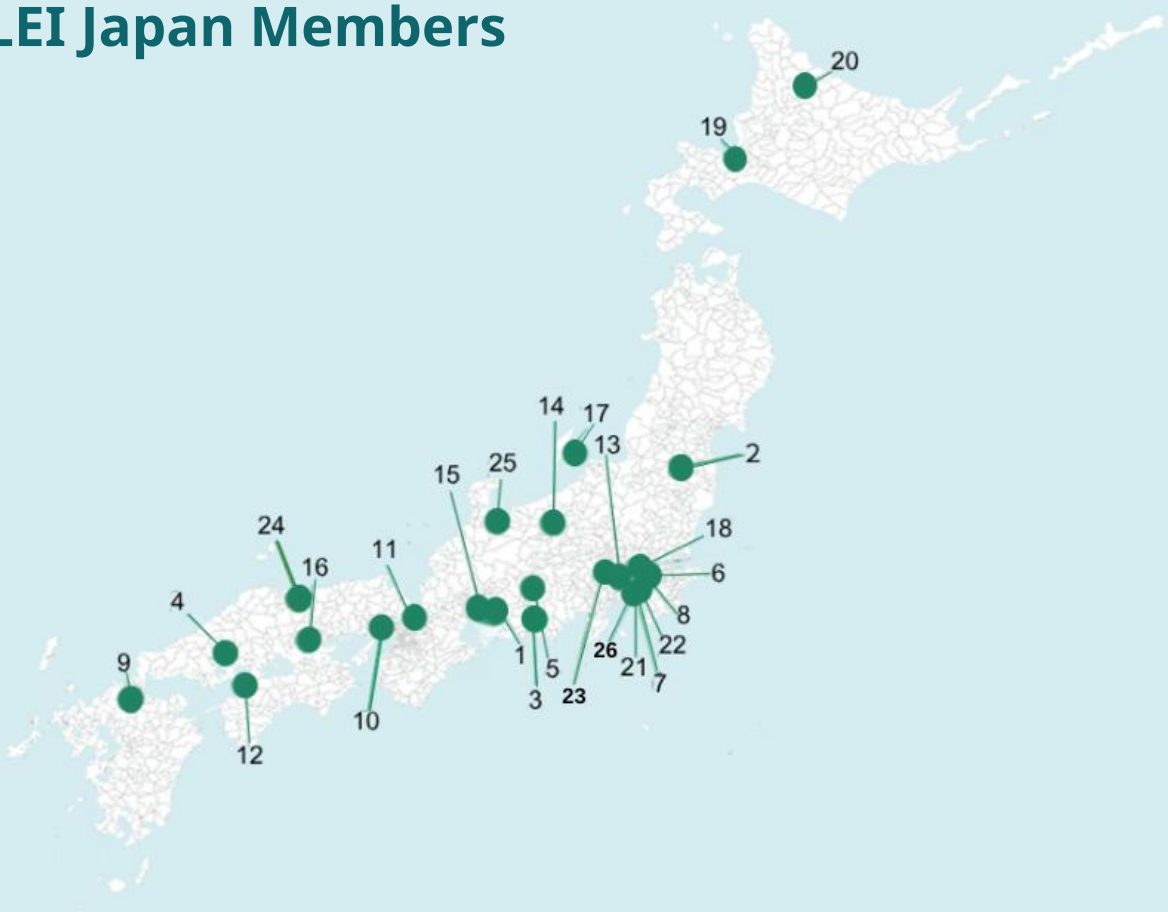
ICLEI Japan Members



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Aichi Prefecture

Message from the Governor of Aichi Prefecture
Hideaki Ohmura

Aichi Prefecture is the largest manufacturing prefecture in Japan. We have been promoting a variety of environmental Measures, and aim to 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: 7,453,257
(As of 1 June 2025)

Area: 5,170㎢

Aichi Prefecture Website
(English)

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 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.

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Fukushima Prefecture

Message from the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture
Masao Uchibori

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear power plant accident on 11 March 2011, Fukushima Prefecture has pursued its recovery and regeneration process under the fundamental principle of 'building a society that does not rely on nuclear power, and is safe, secure and sustainable', including the realization of its vision to 'become a pioneer in renewable energy'.

Furthermore, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, we have set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in fiscal year 2030 compared to fiscal year 2013. We are implementing climate change countermeasures throughout Fukushima Prefecture. Additionally, we are working to conserve our rich natural environment and biodiversity, including Lake Inawashiro, registered as a Ramsar Convention wetland.

Moving forward, we shall continue to strive towards the realization of a sustainable society, leveraging the opportunity afforded by our ICLEI membership and collaborating with local governments both domestically and internationally.

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Fukushima Prefecture

Basic Information

Population: 1,720,659
(As of 1 August 2025)

Area: 13,783.9㎢

Fukushima Prefecture Website (English)

Overview of Fukushima Prefecture

Fukushima Prefecture is located at the southernmost tip of the Tōhoku region, ranking third in size nationwide after Hokkaidō and Iwate Prefecture. Its extensive territory is divided into three distinct regions – the Hamadōri, Nakadōri, and Aizu areas – by the Abukuma Plateau and the Ōu Mountains stretching from north to south. Each region possesses unique characteristics, including differing climates and natural environments.

Fukushima Prefecture boasts rivers such as the Abukuma and Aga, alongside numerous lakes and marshes, including Lake Inawashiro, with hot spring resorts scattered throughout the region. It is blessed with abundant natural landscapes and breathtaking scenery, exemplified by the Bandai-Asahi National Park and the Oze National Park.
Peaches lead the array of seasonal fruits, alongside rice, traditional vegetables, and seafood known as "Joban-mono (seafood from the Joban region)" – the bountiful delicacies that change with the seasons are another of this region's great charms.

Environmental Initiatives

In February 2021, Fukushima Prefecture declared its commitment to achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2050. In October 2024, it enacted the Fukushima Prefecture Ordinance on Promoting Climate Change Countermeasures Towards Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2050. Under the "All Fukushima" framework uniting residents, businesses, and the administration, the prefecture is advancing initiatives such as renewable energy deployment and energy conservation.

Moreover, to ensure that the rich natural resources of wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention, such as Oze and Lake Inawashiro, are preserved for future generations, the prefecture is striving to accelerate the implementation of measures aimed at realizing a sustainable society.

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Hamamatsu City

Message from the Mayor of Hamamatsu City
Yusuke Nakano

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, decarbonization 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 decarbonization and energy policies and building a sustainable society. In addition to the initiatives in the city, we will further work towards the realization of a sustainable society in the world through information exchange and networking with all the cities participating in ICLEI.

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Hamamatsu City

Basic Information

Population: 780,030
(As of 1 July 2025)

Area: 1,558.06㎢

Hamamatsu City Website
(English)

SDG Future City Hamamatsu
(Japanese)

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 SGDs by utilising the Hamamatsu SDGs Promotion Platform and other means.

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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. 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.

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Hiroshima City

Basic Information

Population: About 1,170,378
(As of the end of April 2025)

Area: 906.69㎢

Hiroshima City Website
(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 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 surrounding local governments 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.

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Iida City

Message from the Mayor of Iida City
Takeshi 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: 94,193
(As of the end of March 2025)

Area: 658.66㎢

Iida City Website (Japanese)

Iida Environmental Model City Website (Japanese)

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 natural heritage 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 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 City

Message from the Mayor of Itabashi City
Takeshi Sakamoto

In 1993, Itabashi City declared itself as 'Ecopolis - Itabashi Environmental City' to create a city where people and the environment coexist in harmony. We, the city and our citizens, expressed our commitment to the global environment, both nationally and internationally, and to striving to protect the environment in our daily lives.

In 1994, the Itabashi Botanical Gardens and the Penang Botanical Gardens in Malaysia signed a 'Joint Declaration of Friendship', which led to the opening of the Itabashi Botanical Gardens, which reproduces the tropical rainforests of Southeast Asia, and in 1995, the Ecopolis Centre was established as a comprehensive educational center for environmental and recycling.
In 2003, the 'Green Curtain' was implemented in primary schools in the city, and the initiative spread to the whole of Itabashi and then to the rest of the country.

In 2022, we announced Zero Carbon Itabashi 2050, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 and to create a Zero Carbon City. To promote smart cities that connect people and greenery to the future and build a sustainable society, we have declared a climate emergency and working in partnership and collaboration with all actors to encourage voluntary behavioral change in society as a whole and to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 through initiatives that harmonize ecology, energy and the economy.

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Itabashi City

Basic Information

Population: 582,645
(As of 1 June 2025)

Area: 32.22㎢

Itabashi City Website
(Japanese)

Overview of Itabashi City

Itabashi City is located in the northwestern part of Tokyo's 23 wards, and is formed by the alluvial lowlands to the north and the Musahino Plateau to the south, with rich nature remaining on the cliff line between the lowlands and the plateau.
The city is blessed with rich nature, including the Arakawa River with its vast riverbed, the Akatsuka Forest, which retains the atmosphere of Musashino, and the Shakujii River with its beautiful rows of cherry blossom trees.

Itabashi is a residential city with a population of about 582,000. The city has one of the highest concentrations of industry in Tokyo, including along the Shingashi River (a tributary of the Arakawa River), as well as commerce centered on neighboring shopping malls and urban agriculture in the Akatsuka area near the Saitama Prefecture border, making it one of the major industrial cities in Tokyo.

Environmental Initiatives

The 'Itabashi Environmental Action Point Project' is implemented to encourage residents and businesses to reduce energy consumption through energy-saving actions and award points based on the rate of reduction. Residents, businesses, and the city are working together to realize a Zero Carbon City, including the promotion of ZEB (Net Zero Energy Building) in local facilities and the introduction of 100% renewable energy in 102 local facilities, including the city office buildings.

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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.

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Katsushika City

Basic Information

Population: 472,116
(As of 1 July 2025)

Area: 34.80㎢

Katsushika City Website
(Japanese)

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.

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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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Kawasaki City

Basic Information

Population: 1,556,975
(As of 1 May 2025)

Area: 144.35㎢

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

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 becomes a source of 'happiness' in the form of peace, enjoyment, and mental well-being.

Local Governments for Sustainability

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Kitakyushu City

Basic Information

Population: 902,358
(As of 1 June 2025)

Area: 492.50㎢

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 utilizing 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 realization of a decarbonized society by 2050 by developing the 'Kitakyushu Model', which realizes a virtuous circle between the environment and the economy, both in domestically and internationally.

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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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Kobe City

Basic Information

Population: 1,487,990
(As of 1 June 2025)

Area: 557㎢

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 Kobe City

Kobe, an exotic and cosmopolitan city that played a pivotal role in 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 initially began as an earthquake reconstruction initiative, has evolved 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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

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Kyoto City

Message from the Mayor of Kyoto City
Koji Matsui

With some pointed out that “the era of global warming has ended and the era of global boiling has arrived”, it is our responsibility as people living in the present to stop the climate crisis from getting worse.

Kyoto city is the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol. With a sense of pride and mission as the place where the IPCC Kyoto Guidelines were adopted to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, we have worked with citizens and businesses on waste reduction and have been promoting environmental policies ahead of other local governments in Japan, including the creation of Kyoto City Decarbonization Leading Areas.
Achieving the high goal of 'net zero CO2 emissions in 2050' will require national and international cities to take more concrete action toward decarbonization in a coordinated manner.

Kyoto City will also accelerate its efforts to realize a decarbonized society by deepening cooperation with enthusiastic local governments and ICLEI while valuing the culture of living in harmony with nature that has been handed down in Kyoto.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Kyoto City

Basic Information

Population: 1,434,536
(As of June 2025)

Area: 827.83㎢

Kyoto City Website
(Japanese)

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Matsuyama City

Message from the Mayor of Matsuyama City
Katsuhito Noshi

With an emphasis on ‘local and on-the-ground’ and ‘from a citizens’ perspective’, 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.

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. As a sister city of Freiburg, which is known as the world’s ‘environmental capital’, we deepen our exchanges through environmental conferences and environmental education.

In July 2020, the city was selected as an SDGs Future City and a Municipal SDGs Model Project to promote sustainable urban development.

In the future, we will continue to work with various stakeholders, including universities and companies, as well as with ICLEI members in Japan and abroad, to achieve a sustainable society.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Matsuyama City

Basic Information

Population: About 496,012
(As of 1 May 2025)

Area: Approx. 429.4㎢

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.

Matsuyama is the largest city in Shikoku, with the Dogo Hot Springs, said to be the oldest in Japan, and Matsuyama Castle, one of the 12 existing castle towers, and other traditional local culture and rich tourism resources, including blessed natural landscapes, numerous historical sites, cultural assets, and Haiku Poem.

The city has also nurtured many literary giants, including Shiki Masaoka, and is one of the settings for novels such as Soseki Natsume's 'Botchan' and Shiba Ryotaro's 'Clouds on the Mountain'. Against the backdrop of this unique cultural soil, the city is developing an urban plan that utilizes "language".

Environmental Initiatives

The aim is to achieve a decarbonized society through the simultaneous implementation of "mitigation measures" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and "adaptation measures" to reduce and prevent damage caused by climate change.

Solar energy has been positioned as the most suitable energy source for the region due to its warmth, low rainfall, and long sunshine hours. Matsuyama was the first city in Japan to establish a subsidy system and has promoted the introduction of renewable energy sources, particularly solar power, and has the highest cumulative number of subsidies for solar power generation equipment among Japan's core cities (as of the end of 2023).

In addition, citizens are highly aware of recycling and waste separation daily, and the city maintains one of the lowest levels of waste per capita per day among prefectures nationwide and the second lowest among core cities (as of the end of 2023).

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Musashino City

Basic information

Population: About 148,443
(As of 1 May 2025)

Area: 10.98㎢

Musashino City Website
(Japanese)

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Nagano Prefecture

Message from the Governor of Nagano Prefecture
Shuichi 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 frontrunner 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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Nagano Prefecture

Basic Information

Population 1,976,710
(As of 1 May 2025)

Area: 13,561.56㎢

Nagano Prefecture Website (Japanese)

Nagano Prefecture Zero Carbon Strategy (Japanese)

Overview of Nagano Prefecture

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, and in June of the same year, Nagano was also selected as ‘SDGs Future City’. In June 2021, the ‘Nagano Prefecture Zero Carbon Strategy – Actions until 2030 to achieve 2050 Zero Carbon’ was formulated, setting a high target of ‘reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030’ to achieve zero carbon by 2050.

In November 2023, the Nagano Prefecture Zero Carbon Strategy Roadmap was formulated as a scenario for achieving the 2030 target set out in the strategy. In the future, Nagano Prefecture will continue to promote not only environmental conservation but also efforts to solve economic and social issues by utilizing the environment.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Nagoya City

Message from the Mayor of Nagoya City
Ichiro Hirosawa

In 2021, Nagoya City formulated the Fourth Nagoya City Environmental Basic Plan, which is the general framework for its environmental policy, and for 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, the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in 2014 and the 24th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Japan, Korea, and China (TEMM24) in 2023 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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Nagoya City

Basic Information

Population 2,335,144
(As of 1 May 2025)

Area: 326.50㎢

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.

With a population exceeding 2.3 million, Nagoya functions as the political, economic, and cultural hub of the Chubu region. 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 an SDG Future City. The city is working to expand the SDGs through 'Community Development', which aims to spread the SGDs 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.

Nagoya City has been selected as a Decarbonization Leading Areas for the 'Decarbonized Compact City Model Realized in a Redevelopment Area', which was jointly proposed with Toho Gas Co. and Mitsui Fudosan Residential Co. The proposal is to introduce solar power, small wind power, carbon-neutral gas power generation, and storage batteries in minato AQULS, 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.

Nagoya will continue this Decarbonization Leading Areas initiative and other initiatives to achieve a decarbonized society.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Okayama City

Message from the Mayor of Okayama City
Masao Omori

Since 2005, Okayama City has been a world leader in promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to nurture leaders of a sustainable society, and in 2014, the UNESCO World Conference on ESD was held in the city, where the city received high praise for its ESD activities in schools and community centers.
In February 2021, the city announced the Zero Carbon City Declaration, aiming for virtually zero CO2 emissions by 2050, and industry, government, academia, and citizens are working together to achieve a decarbonized society.

In October 2025, the Global RCE Conference will be held in the city; 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the start of ESD initiatives in the city. By sharing good practice examples of how to achieve a sustainable society at home and abroad, we hope to further inspire ESD activities in the Okayama region.

We will continue to share information with ICLEI members and work together to create sustainable cities.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Okayama City

Basic Information

Population: 710,339
(As of 1 May 2025)

Area: 789.95㎢

Okayama City Website
(Japanese)

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 of Excellence (RCE) for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) project, which the city have been working on in cooperation with a variety actors since 2005, the city 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.

In addition, 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 environmental protection, aiming for a decarbonized society through lifestyle change, and the thorough promotion of waste reduction and recycling.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sado City

Message from the Mayor of Sado City
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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sado City

Basic Information

Population: 47,391
(As of 31 May 2025)

Area: 855 ㎢

World Heritage Site 'The Gold Mines of Sado Island' (Japanese)

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) (Japanese)

Sado Geopark (English)

Nature Positive Sado Island Declaration (Japanese/English)

Overview of Sado City

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 inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2024, recognizing its gold production system based on Japan's unique traditional handicrafts during the Edo period.

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Saitama City

Message from the Mayor of Saitama City
Hayato Shimizu

As a metropolis with a population of over 1.3 million, Saitama City has been working towards the realization of an 'all-Saitama' decarbonized society in cooperation with citizens and businesses.
Cooperation with national and international cities and relevant institutions is also crucial to solving global problems such as climate change.

Saitama City has been working with ICLEI to share and disseminate advanced case studies and the importance of the role of local governments with participating cities at the Saitama Sustainable City Summit in 2022 and the E-KIZUNA High-Level Talks at COP29 in 2024.

We will continue to work with ICLEI and other cities to solve problems together.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Saitama City

Basic Information

Population: 1,353,552
(As of 1 May 2025)

Area: 217.43㎢

Saitama City Website (Japanese)

Towards a Zero Carbon City (Japanese)

Overview of Saitama City

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 2○○2, the largest soccer stadium in Japan, and the Saitama Super Arena.

Environmental Initiatives

Saitama City has been taking various initiatives towards the realization of a decarbonized society, including declaring itself a 2050 Zero Carbon City in 2020 and being selected by the national government as a Decarbonization Leading Areas in 2022.

In 2024, the city is working on 'all-Saitama' decarbonization, including the establishment of the Saitama City Zero Carbon City Co-Creation Promotion Platform, which aims to decarbonize the area through collaboration between citizens, businesses, and local government.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

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 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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sapporo City

Basic Information

Population: 1,967,804
(As of 1 June 2025)

Area: 1,121.26㎢

Sapporo City Website
(English)

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, SAPP◡RO', 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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Shimokawa Town

Basic Information

Population: 2,801
(As of 1 July 2025)

Area: 644.2㎢

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sumida City

Message from the Mayor of Sumida City
Tooru 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!

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Sumida City

Basic Information

Population: 288,556
(As of 1 July 2025)

Area: 13.77㎢

Sumida City website
(Japanese)

Sumida Environmental Policy Division website
(Japanese)

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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Message from the Governor of Tokyo
Yuriko Koike

Ten years since the Paris Agreement. To achieve the Zero Emission Tokyo Strategy and contribute to the globally targeted “1.5°C goal”, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) formulated “Zero Emission Tokyo Strategy: Beyond Carbon Half” in March 2025. This sets a new target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 60% compared to 2000 levels by 2035, alongside 31 individual targets to realize this ambition.

We shall strategically advance initiatives, including transforming renewable energy into core power sources, maximizing energy efficiency, promoting hydrogen applications in society, transitioning to a circular economy, and strengthening adaptation measures. We are committed to establishing ourselves as a globally exemplary “decarbonized city”.

Going beyond Carbon Half targets. TMG is committed to deepening mutual understanding and cooperation with cities worldwide, including through collaborative efforts with ICLEI.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Basic Information

Population: 14, 257, 254
(As of 1 June 2025)

Area: 2,199 ㎢

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Website (English)

Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Environment website (English)

TIME TO ACT website (English)

Overview of Tokyo Metropolitan Government

TMG 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). Mountainous and hilly areas such as Okutama and Mt. 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.

TMG is the capital of Japan and the country's political, economic, and cultural center, with a large number of governmental agencies and major corporations. 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

Approximately 70% of Tokyo's energy-derived CO2 emissions come from buildings. For this reason, TMG has been implementing building-related measures since 2000, introducing corresponding systems tailored to the building stage (new or existing) and scale (large or small to medium).

The urban cap-and-trade scheme implemented for large-scale enterprises was launched globally as early as 2010, consistently achieving outstanding emission reductions exceeding mandatory targets. Furthermore, as a new initiative, a system requiring mandatory installation of solar power generation equipment by suppliers of new residential buildings and similar developments commenced in April 2025.

From 2022, to realize a decarbonized society, a campaign is being launched to call on businesses and citizens of TMG to change their behavior under the slogan 'HTT' – derived from the Japanese acronym for '**H**erasu (save)', '**T**sukuru (generate)', and '**T**ameru (store)' electricity.

Moving forward, to expand the scale of renewable energy applications, TMG shall continue to implement effective measures. These include the widespread adoption of Japan's next-generation solar cell, 'Air Solar' – developed domestically and featuring characteristics of being thin, lightweight, and flexible – alongside the introduction of a GW-scale floating offshore wind power facility in the Izu Islands.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

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. We have been actively working on environmental measures and, following the declaration, we further accelerated our decarbonization efforts, holding the Machigoto Zero Carbon Citizens' Assembly in 2022.
In March 2023, we enacted the Tokorozawa Decarbonization Ordinance, which aims to create an environment where citizens can live gracefully and prosperously now and in the future, through proactive and cooperative efforts among 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. We will continue to work together with ICLEI member local governments to create a 'smiling Tokorozawa'.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Tokorozawa City

Basic information

Population: 342,729
(As of 30 April 2025)

Area:72.11㎢

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 measures based on its future vision of "Eco-town Tokorozawa, weaving a future for children through the connection between people and people, and between people and nature".

To promote the use of renewable energy, large-scale solar PV installations were installed on top of the final landfill site and the surface of the regulating ponds. In recent years, solar PV has been installed in primary and secondary schools and other buildings in the city. In this way, the revenue from the sale of electricity generated in the city is accumulated as the Machi-Eco Fund, which is used to subsidise citizens and businesses that install renewable energy equipment, thereby contributing to the economic cycle in the region. In addition, a new regional electric company, Tokorozawa Mirai Electric Power Co., has been established to spread environmentally friendly electricity in the city region, and is working with citizens and businesses to create a sustainable community.

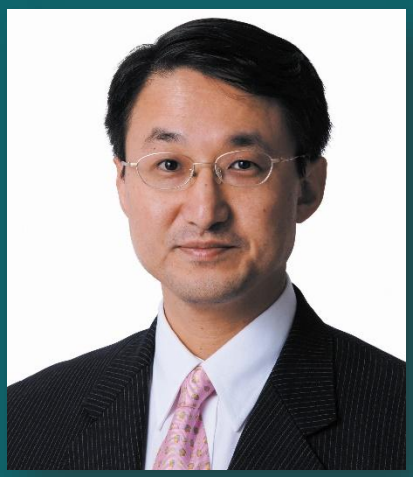
Furthermore, to ensure that efforts to achieve a zero-carbon by 2050 are also communicated to the younger generation, who will be key to this goal, events are held for students living and studying in the city to learn about and experience actions that contribute to decarbonization. At the same time, as part of its environmental education program, Tokorozawa City raises awareness of environmental initiatives by providing lectures to primary and secondary school students in the city.

For businesses in the city, decarbonization management is promoted through active support, including the promotion of decarbonization measures in collaboration with various industries and the organization of exchange events.

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 decarbonization.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World



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.

Local Governments for Sustainability

Shaping a Sustainable Urban World

Tottori Prefecture

Basic information

Population: 531,085
(As of 1 October 2024)

Area:3,507㎢

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 'TottoReborn!’ to promote awareness of the plan.

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 focused 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: 402,337
(As of 31 March 2025)

Area:1,241.77㎢

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 efforts to address rapid climate change and the city's past environmental initiatives. 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 aims to achieve 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

City of Yokohama

Message from the Mayor of Yokohama
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'. It is working towards decarbonization by 2050, and as an 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 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

City of Yokohama

Basic Information

Population: 3,773,476
(As of 1 July 2025)

Area: 437.78㎢

City of Yokohama Website
(English)

Overview of the City of Yokohama

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 36 million tourists in 2023.

Environmental Initiatives

Yokohama has been a pioneer among other cities in taking measures to combat global warming, such as saving electricity, implementing energy efficiency measures, and expanding the use of renewable energy.

In January 2023, the Yokohama Action Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures was revised, setting a 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 50% (compared to 2013 levels) and working towards virtually zero greenhouse gas emissions in 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 local governments, and activities that utilize the power of citizens. Furthermore, the ‘Minato Mirai 21 area’ was selected as a national ‘Decarbonization Leading Areas’.

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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