

Appendix Gifu Prefecture

1 Profile

Gifu Prefecture is located in the heart of Japan and 81.2% of its total area is covered by forests. These forests give rise to pristine and bountiful waters, creating a “Land of Clear Waters”.

In 2009, the prefectural government enacted the “Ordinance Dealing with the Prevention of Global Warming” which establishes basic precepts for the reduction of greenhouse gases and also introduced the “Gifu Prefectural Global Warming Prevention Action Plan” (Hereafter referred to as the “Action Plan”) in 2011. The “Gifu, Land of Clear Waters, Forestry and Environment Tax” was introduced in 2012, which aids in the funding of efforts for forest preservation and the realization of a low-carbon society.

- Population: 2.05 million (2013)
- GDP : 7.13 trillion yen (2012)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (annually) : 15.93 million tons of CO₂ (2012)

2 Targets

As laid out in the Action Plan, the prefecture set as its medium-term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% based on 1990 levels by 2020 and in the long term to reduce GHG emissions by 80% by 2050.

3 Tools

(1) Promotion of Energy Conservation and Introduction of Renewable Energies

- Promoting Energy Conservation and the Role of the Gifu Prefectural Government

We aim to reduce total energy consumption by 14.5% by 2020 and by 30.5% by 2030 compared with a situation in which no additional action is taken.

The Prefectural Government decided its plan for global warming in 2011 including a target to reduce emissions of CO₂ created from energy consumption by all activities of the Government by 7.0% compared to 2010 levels by 2015. We are taking actions under the plan in accordance with ISO14001.

- Promoting Renewable Energy

We are promoting renewable energy to citizens, for example, through the “Next Generation Energy Park” recognized by the national government, where people can actually see and experience next generation energy systems.

Moreover, we are expanding the application of wood biomass by utilizing forest thinning for energy production. We aim to increase the amount of wood biomass used for energies from 11,000m³ in 2010 to 24,000m³ in 2016.

As well as this, we are promoting small scale hydroelectric power generation and it is planned to increase capacity to 1,772kw across 16 sites by 2019. Plans are also being made for the possible introduction of small hydro-electric power generators on prefectural dams.

(2) Improving and Managing of Transportation Systems

As a participant in the “Electric Vehicle and Plug-in Hydrogen Vehicle Town Project”

(created by the national government), we will continue to increase the number of charging facilities for these vehicles throughout the prefecture. The prefectural government will be purchasing a number of fuel cell vehicles (FCV) and open the first hydrogen station for them in 2015, while continuing to engage in efforts to promote their adoption.

The prefecture will provide assistance for operators of local railway lines and buses, and also local municipal governments operating community buses, so as to ensure the availability of public transport for residents and alleviate the dependence of people on private cars.

(3) Forest Management and Creating Value for the Environment

We will carry out scheduled forest management projects and keep capacity of carbon sink.

We also promote carbon offset activities such as supporting the creation and sales of carbon offset credits by forest corporations under the J-VER system, the voluntary carbon credit scheme in Japan.

(4) Understanding and Assisting Private Sector Initiatives

As laid out in the “Ordinance Dealing with the Prevention of Global Warming”, businesses consuming more than a certain amount (equivalent to 1,500kl heavy oil by calorie basis) in a year are required to submit plans of how they intend to reduce greenhouse gases and reports of their achievements annually.

In accordance with the same ordinance, any construction work of more than 2000m² requires the submission of an “Environmentally Conscious Construction Plan” to help promote the effective use of energy in new buildings.

Based on a national law, Gifu Prefecture has introduced measures preventing the release of fluorocarbons by businesses.

4 Capacity

(1) Promoting Scientific Research to Play a Role in Combating Global Warming

The prefecture supports collaborative research by Gifu University and overseas research institutions into new technologies such as solar power, energy storage and renewable energy systems.

(2) Providing Incentives for Citizens to Change Lifestyles

The prefectural government has also been appealing for citizens to participate in the Gifu Eco-declaration, “The 10 Things I Can Do to Help” initiative, which provides a list of 10 small acts that individuals can carry out to help prevent global warming, such as reducing the use of a personal car. More than 210,000 people have participated in this initiative so far.

5 Adaptation

On August 16th 2007, the city of Tajimi in Gifu Prefecture recorded a temperature of 40.9°C, the highest temperature which had ever been recorded in Japan up until that time. In Gifu, there has been a growing awareness of the need to apply adaptation measures for every field.

Based on the ongoing review of the “Action Plan”, the prefectural government will consider how adaption could be introduced into the future policies in the wide area.