

“Building a Low Carbon Society”

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1. Background

In May 2007, Japanese Government has announced “Cool Earth 50” and identified building Low-Carbon Society and promoting Innovative Technology Development as two keys to make global emission half in 2050.

Ministry of the Environment, Japan has started to develop ideas on Low-Carbon Society’s principles, images and strategies to realize, mainly for Japan.

Images and strategies for Low-Carbon Society should be diverse among countries, depending on their natural environment, developing stages, industrial structures. But we believe elements Japan describes will be useful for other countries and we would like to work together for further development of ideas with international colleagues.

The discussion is still underway in the Central Environmental Council and a interim report will be formed in March.

2. Principles for a Low-Carbon Society

- 1) Carbon Minimization in all sectors
 - Minimization of carbon-dioxide emissions from all sectors
- 2) Toward a Simpler life style that realize richer quality of life
 - Shifting from mass-consumption society towards QOL oriented society. Revolution led by consumer’ choice. “Mottainai” spirit.
- 3) Coexistence with Nature
 - Maintaining and restoring natural environment that is essential for Low-Carbon Society

3. Images of a Low-Carbon Society

Describe a plain image of low carbon society in 2050 by following areas;

- 1) Regions(cities, towns and rural areas), 2)Mobility, 3) Living & Working Scene,
- 4)Energy supply, 5) Industry, 6) Forests, Agriculture and Ocean, 7) Consumers’ choice, 8) Finance, Investment and Information disclosure.

4. Strategies to realize a Low-Carbon Society

1) Desirable actions for citizens

2) Desirable actions for companies

3) Policy instrument of governments

- Institutional infrastructures: Incentives (Prizes, regulations, economic instruments)
- “Soft”-infrastructures: Human resources (capacity building, education), information (visualization), financial resources
- “Hard”-infrastructures: Urban structure, buildings, transportation network, energy supply, adaptation
- Natural capitals: Conservation of natural environment, biodiversity. Management of agricultural and forest land. Adaptation to climate change.

5. Sharing experiences and ideas among countries & International cooperation

1) Sharing the “Japan Model” with developing countries

2) Establishment of information center for a Low-Carbon Society and Promotion of international joint research activities and human development

3) Proposal to strengthen global-level incentives toward a Low-Carbon Society