

Mitigating Climate Change through Unique Programs -Global Warming Countermeasures-

Project Profiles No.8

Source: Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau



Mitigating climate change through PDCA cycle

Background and Objective

In August 2008, the City of Yokohama was selected as an “Eco-Model City,” and in December 2011, as a “FutureCity” by the national government. Being the second-largest city in Japan in terms of population, Yokohama has actively worked toward carbon reduction and energy conservation in its pursuit of becoming a role model for other cities in and outside Japan. In 2011, Yokohama prepared the “Action Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures” as a master plan for the city’s global warming mitigation program. The action plan aims to reduce GHG emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 using the emission amounts of 1990 as baseline. It also sets specific

plans for different sectors, such as residential, commercial and industrial, transportation, etc., in three phases, i.e., short term (until FY 2013), medium term (until FY 2020), and long term (until FY 2050).

Project Impacts

The city is dedicated to carry out its action plan and achieve its goals by promoting energy conservation among residents and the business sector, including requiring large, GHG-emitting industries to create their own mitigation plans and submitting monitoring reports to show their respective achievements. The city government monitors the progress of each sector every year and reports the same to the national government, which in turn provides the

city with expert advice to make its initiative more effective. Lessons from implementing the plan are also reflected in the following year’s actions.

With a unique action plan for each sector coupled with the dedicated efforts of individual citizens encouraged by the city’s information and educational campaigns, Yokohama has made notable progress in mitigating climate change. In 2009, the World Bank selected Yokohama as one of the first six Eco2 Cities (Ecological Cities as Economic Cities), and in 2011, the city won the first Smart City Award at the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona.

Global Warming Countermeasures

Harnessing Sectoral Action against Global Warming

In order to mobilize its citizens and private firms in its efforts to mitigate the impacts of global warming, the city government has prepared various GHG reduction/energy conservation programs in which each sector of society can participate. Some examples are the following:

◆Residential Sector:

“CASBEE Yokohama Program”

- Comprehensive Assessment System for Built Environment Efficiency (CASBEE) evaluates and rates the environmental performance of buildings. It requires building owners to submit plans before construction of buildings with a floor space of more than 2,000 m².

◆Industrial, Commercial and Other Sector:

“Carbon Reduction Planning by the Private Sector”

- Big firms are required to create their own carbon reduction plans and report the results every year.

◆Transport Sector

“Subsidies for Purchasing EVs & Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles”

- Yokohama provides subsidies to citizens who want to buy eco-friendly vehicles.

◆Energy Sector:

“Subsidies for Purchasing Solar Panels”

- Yokohama provides subsidies to citizens who want to buy solar panels.

Taking Small Steps to Achieve Bigger Goals

GHG reduction is gradually being achieved through programs set out for each sector. While progress might seem slow, each of these programs count and their respective achievements will lead the city closer every year to achieving the collective goals. Yokohama believes that the key to a successful initiative against global warming is for everyone to continue doing his/her share, checking the results of one's actions, learning lessons from everyone's experiences, and coming up with better actions.

In 2011.....

178 building owners submitted plans under the CASBEE program

⇒ Reduced: 4,446.5 tons of CO₂ (data from 101 projects)

318 companies reported their achievements in reducing GHG emissions

⇒ Reduced: 316,819 tons of CO₂

358 EVs or plug-in hybrid vehicles were bought with subsidy

⇒ Reduced: 448.1 tons of CO₂

3,368 solar panels were bought with subsidy

⇒ Reduced: 5,607.9 tons of CO₂

