

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 “Gifu Prefectural 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 Countermeasure 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: 2.01 million (As of the end of 2017)
- GDP : 7.20 trillion yen (2014)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (annually) : 18.47 million tons of CO₂ (2015)

2 Targets

As laid out in the Action Plan, the prefecture set as its medium-term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than or equal to 3.8% based on 2005 levels in 2020, by 26% based on 2013 levels in 2030, and in the long term to reduce GHG emissions by 80% based on 1990 levels in 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 final energy consumption by 8.1% based on 2012 in 2020 and by 18.7% in 2030.

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 8.0% based on 2015 levels in 2020. We are taking actions with our efficient environmental management system to promote energy-saving measures.

- Promoting Renewable Energy

We are promoting renewable energy to citizens, for example, through the utilization of public facilities with high energy efficiency equipped with a next generation energy infrastructure as well as promotion for households.

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 90,000m³ in 2015 (the base year) to 100,000m³ in 2021.

Furthermore, we are promoting small scale hydroelectric power generation, which utilizes irrigation and drainage facilities and we plan to construct 19 sites by 2020 (we already constructed one site in 2014 as the base year). Plans are also being made for the possible introduction of small hydro-electric power generators on prefectural management dams.

(2) Improving and Managing of Transportation Systems

We will promote the use of next generation vehicles equipped with sufficient environmental and energy features such as EVs, PHVs and FCVs. For FCVs powered by hydrogen energy resources, we will exert our efforts to promote the adoption of them by opening with the aim of 10 hydrogen stations, which supply fuel to the vehicles, throughout the prefecture.

The prefecture will provide assistance for operators of railway lines and buses in the prefecture, 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 maintain carbon sink capacity.

We also promote carbon offset activities such as utilizing and supporting the use of credits by forest corporations.

(4) Understanding and Assisting Private Sector Initiatives

As laid out in the “Gifu Prefectural Ordinance Dealing with the Prevention of Global Warming”, businesses consuming more than a certain amount (equivalent to 1,500kl crude 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 and we will manage the progress of the results on the volume of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction rate of greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, we will explain about an Energy-saving Equipment Introduction Subsidy to business entity groups in order to support the adaptation of energy-saving equipment.

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

4 Capacity

Providing Incentives for Citizens to Practice the Measures Against Global Warming

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 Against Climate Change

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, it has been expected that global warming may affect every field.

We are considering our basic policy and adaption plans in order to deal with the global warming in the prefecture in cooperation with related parties such as relevant departments, prefectural research institutions and universities.