

In response to local needs in Fukushima Prefecture, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is promoting not only initiatives for environmental restoration but also initiatives toward a new stage of reconstruction of Fukushima to create and rediscover local value from environmental perspectives, including decarbonization, material cycles and natural symbiosis.

In August 2020, the MOE concluded the "Cooperation Agreement on Promotion of Future-oriented Environmental Measures for the Reconstruction of Fukushima" with Fukushima Prefecture. Under this agreement, the MOE is promoting future-oriented environmental measures in collaboration with the prefecture, such as steady promotion of the Fukushima Green Reconstruction Concept and promotion of global warming countermeasures at the same time as the reconstruction of Fukushima.

With the aim of promoting waste treatment and creation of industries in Restricted Areas, a non-combustibles recycling project in public-private collaboration was adopted and a non-combustibles recycling facility was completed in Okuma Town in October 2020. In addition, since FY2021, the MOE has been implementing a project to promote the creation of pioneering communities through carbon-free reconstruction and has intensively supported *survey*, *planning*, and *equipment* for introducing an independent and distributed energy system, etc. in Fukushima. A solar power generation system was introduced to the Okuma Town Office Building.

In April 2019, the Fukushima Green Reconstruction Concept was formulated with the aim of reconstructing Fukushima by the use of natural resources, such as natural parks, and in November 2020, the Fukushima Green Reconstruction Promotion Council was established to promote cooperative initiatives by Fukushima Prefecture, the MOE, and municipalities and relevant bodies in Fukushima. In March 2022, the Bandai-Azuma and Inawashiro Area Step-up Program 2025, Project to Fully Enjoy Bandai-Asahi National Park, was formulated and promotion to further enhance the attractions of national parks, etc. in Fukushima are being implemented.

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