



Ministry of the Environment

[Furoshiki cloth wrapper used for the cover]

The "Mottainai Furoshiki" that wraps the Earth has a design based on a birds-and-flowers motif drawn by Itoh Jakuchu(1716-1800), a painter of the mid-Edo era, on a cloth made of a fibers manufactured from recycled PET bottles. Let us protect the global environment with the spirit of "Mottainai", which means that it's a shame for something to go to waste without having made use of its potential in full.

<http://www.env.go.jp/recycle/info/furoshiki/>



Stop Global Warming!

Team minus 6%

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Outline of the Basic Environment Plan

< The Way to New Richness developed out of the Environment >



Ministry of the Environment

Society envisioned under the New Basic Environment Plan

There have been a lot of natural disasters around the world in recent years. It is thought they may be arising from the climate change caused by global warming.

Problems that may make it difficult for us to live are occurring in the natural environment in general.

In Japan, the nature of society and the economy are changing drastically.

With such conditions in mind, we need to create a sustainable society in which a healthy and abundant environment is maintained, where each citizen can enjoy a fulfilling life and pass it on to future generations.

This is a society that could promise, both physically and spiritually, security, prosperity, a healthy and comfortable living, a culture with history and pride and local community ties throughout future generations in our country, and spread them to the whole world.

The Basic Environment Plan sets out the outline of the whole government's comprehensive and long-term measures on environmental conservation based on Article 15 of the Basic Environment Law. The first plan was developed in 1994, the second was developed in 2000, and the new Basic Environment Plan - the third plan - was decided upon by the Cabinet in April 2006.

Part 1 Current environmental status and directions for environmental policy development

Image of desired sustainable society

Current status of the environment and challenges for environmental policies

Directions for future environmental policy development

- 1 Integrated improvements of the environment, economy and society
- 2 Formation of sustainable national land and nature
- 3 Enrichment of R&D and measures considering uncertainty
- 4 The new role of the national government, local governments and citizens, and the promotion of their participation and collaboration
- 5 Strengthening of efforts with international strategies
- 6 Formulation of policy measures from a long-term perspective

Part 2 Specific implementation of environmental policies in the present quarter century

Policy programs in priority fields

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Individual fields | 1 Efforts for global warming issues | Cross-cutting fields | 7 Building a system where values of the environment are actively evaluated in the market |
| | 2 Efforts to establish a sound material cycle society | | 8 Promotion of fostering human resources and communities for environmental conservation |
| | 3 Efforts to secure a good air environment in urban areas | | 9 Improvement of infrastructure such as science and technology, environmental information and policy methods with a long-term perspective |
| | 4 Efforts to secure an environmentally sound water cycle | | 10 Contribution for the formulation of international frameworks and rules |
| | 5 Efforts to reduce environmental risks from chemical substances | | |
| | 6 Efforts for the conservation of biodiversity | | |

Environmental conservation policy systems

Part 3 Effective Implementation of the Plan

Strengthening environmental considerations and coordination by each entity
Monitoring the Plan's progress by numeric indicators, etc

Harmonious Coexistence

Coexistence of people and nature

Safe, secure and high quality life

Environmental burdens do not exceed the environmental carrying capacity

Healthy, rich and beautiful environmentally advanced country

International Activities

Cooperation and collaboration on a global scale

Environmentally Sound Material Cycle

Sound material cycle in various systems

Participation

Fair and equitable cost bearing between generations, regions and entities

Voluntary action and participation in decision-making

The following 6 directions are set out in the Basic Environment Plan.



Integrated improvements of the environment, economy and society

◆ Realization of an “economy for a better environment” and an “environment for a better economy”

The impact on the environment differs greatly by what is used or what services are used even if a similar lifestyle is being led.

Depending on a device in the product design stage, we can reuse and recycle more. If we use durable products, the energy and resources required for producing them will be reduced.

As much as possible, we need to produce goods and services in ways that have less burden on the environment.

Sometimes an environmentally-friendly lifestyle creates a new service. There is hope that protection of our beautiful nature leads to eco-tourism, and as a result, people become enriched and in turn, that would lead to activities that protect the environment.

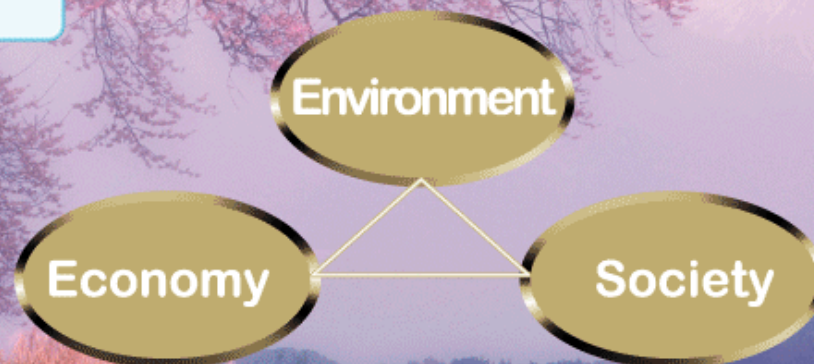
◆ Realization of a “society for a better environment” and an “environment for a better society”

Activities for protecting the environment, such as used paper recycling, gutter cleaning and management of community based forests, have been carried out with close social interaction. Within such activities with common purposes, community bonds have been maintained.

There is a need for everyone in the community to once again work together to protect the environment. This would lead to strengthening the social power of the community through intergenerational interaction.

◆ Working towards a lifestyle that could be passed on to generations 100 years from now

Living an eco-friendly life does not mean you have to compromise on something. It is possible to reduce the burden on the environment while pursuing a rich and high quality life for everyone. But for that, it is necessary for each one of us to think about how we can lead a rich and eco-friendly life by reviewing our lifestyles.



2 Formation of sustainable national land and nature

Nature that surrounds us brings various benefits to our lives. The trees clean the air and having a river nearby allows us to have cool evening air. It is necessary to protect and strengthen such workings of nature.

It is necessary to create an ecosystem network that has associations and disposition according to the manner of inhabitation and growth across Japan.

There is a need to think of a mechanism that utilizes and supports the environment that has been protected by social capital left by our predecessors, and the activities of agriculture, forestry and fisheries until now.

We must pass on a better national land for the future through such efforts.

3 Enrichment of R&D and measures considering uncertainty

In order to solve environmental issues, scientific clarification of their causes and mechanism is needed. The roles science and technology play for taking steps toward the issues are also important. For this, we will further improve research and development.

On the other hand, if we do not take any action on an issue that has uncertain points at the time, things may become irreversible later on.

For such problems, we take precautionary approaches based on the size of the problem.

If something new comes to light, we change the measures flexibly as well.

4 The new role of the national government, local governments and citizens, and the promotion of their participation and collaboration

In order to protect the environment, it is necessary for each citizen, business, organization, local authority and the country to fulfill their respective roles while working together.

For that reason, it is necessary for us all to think about how we are going to protect the environment together, while actively exchanging information with each other.

5 Strengthening of efforts with international strategies

There are many environmental issues that cannot be solved unless people all over the world work together. There is a need to actively get involved in the efforts for solving such problems and the formulation of the rules.

Let the past experiences Japan has gained be utilized by nations that are developing now.

6 Formulation of policy measures from a long-term perspective

Our present lifestyles may have a great impact on others in the future, for example, in regard to global warming. For instance, we must look at the problem from a long-term such as 50 years from now, imagine the vision of our society, and think about what we can do to realize it.

The government will give priority to the following 10 fields for implementation.

Individual fields

1

Efforts for global warming issues

- ◆ Absolute achievement of the 6% reduction commitment in the Kyoto Protocol

- ◆ Further long-term and continual emission reduction (begin the work of setting up long-term goals)

- ◆ Adaptation against unavoidable effects of global warming



2

Efforts to establish a sound material cycle society

- ◆ Creation of a socio-economic system with less consumption of resources and high energy efficiency

- ◆ Promotion of efforts incorporating the spirit of "Mottainai" and partnership

- ◆ Internalization of the 3Rs concept in the manufacturing process

- ◆ Development of the system for the proper circulative use and disposal of waste, etc



3

Efforts to secure a good air environment in urban areas

- ◆ Securing of a good atmospheric environment in order to ensure a wholesome and pleasant urban living environment

- ◆ Transformation of business activities and lifestyle that cause little environmental burden as measures against air pollution and the heat island phenomenon, building of environmentally sustainable city and transportation systems



4

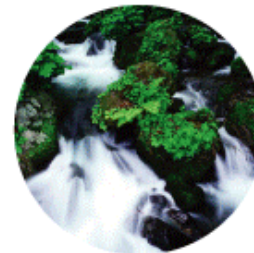
Efforts to secure an environmentally sound water cycle

- ◆ Conservation and sustainable use of the water environment including water quality, water quantity, aquatic life and waterside areas, and creation of a rich community through contact with accessible water environments

- ◆ Formulation of a plan by regions that is consistent with water utilization and flood control

- ◆ Maintenance and improvement of storage penetration and recharge performance throughout all basins

- ◆ International dissemination of the efforts and contribution to solving the world's water problems



5

Efforts to reduce environmental risks from chemical substances

- ◆ Information collection on hazard and exposure, and promotion of scientific risk assessment

- ◆ Effective and efficient risk management from the viewpoint of reducing environmental risks throughout the lifecycle and precautionary approach

- ◆ Improvement of the understanding and trust of citizens on environmental risks by the promotion of risk communication

- ◆ Fulfillment of international obligations and active international contribution based on national experiences



6

Efforts for the conservation of biodiversity

- ◆ Conservation of ecologically important areas and establishment of nation-wide ecological networks

- ◆ Enhancement of the wildlife management and alien species control

- ◆ Promotion of appropriate activities related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and conservation of rural landscapes



Cross-cutting fields

7

Building a system where values of the environment are actively evaluated in the market

- ◆ Promotion of the provision of environmental information on products and services, and the disclosure of information on corporate efforts for the environment
- ◆ Consideration of economic instruments
- ◆ Improvement of the ability for efforts for environmental conservation such as the environmental management system
- ◆ Utilization of environmental investment such as SRI (Socially Responsible Investment) and government procurement
- ◆ Efforts with the international market in view



8

Promotion of fostering human resources and communities for environmental conservation

- ◆ Development of human resources that take action for environmental conservation
 - Promotion of environmental education and learning that are coupled with activities
- ◆ Creation of an organization and network for environmental conservation
 - Promotion of continual efforts such as community business
- ◆ Creation of communities that utilize the respective resources and characteristics
 - Promotion of activities coupled with community vitalization



9

Improvement of infrastructure such as science and technology, environmental information and policy methods with a long-term perspective

- ◆ Intensive promotion of environment-related research and development
- ◆ Development of a foundation in which anyone can easily obtain information required for environmental efforts
- ◆ Establishment and promotion of methods for environmental consideration in administrative measures such as strategic environmental assessment
- ◆ Presentation of a super long-term vision for 2050



10

Contribution for the formulation of international frameworks and rules

- ◆ Vigorous contribution for the creation of a worldwide framework on the environment on global, regional and multilateral levels, and the formulation of the rules
- ◆ Spread of effective mechanisms of environmental management for global environmental conservation and sustainable development, mainly in Southeast Asia
- ◆ Promotion of the support for environmental conservation in developing regions and international research of the environment
- ◆ Securing of partnerships with various stakeholders, and infrastructure development of information and human resources



Application of indicators for the effective implementation of the Plan

We will carry out monitoring utilizing the indicators every year while paying attention to the nature and limits of each indicator.

Grasp the progress of each program using the indicators set out for each program in the priority areas.

Examples of actual indicators for each program

① Efforts for global warming issues

- Emissions of carbon dioxide from energy sources and emissions in each sector
- Emissions of non-energy source carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide

⋮

② Efforts to establish a sound material cycle society

- Resource productivity
- Cyclical use rate
- Final disposal amount

⋮

③ Efforts to secure a good air environment in urban areas

- Achievement rate of Environmental Quality Standards for air pollution (nationwide and in major cities)
- Achievement rate of Environmental Quality Standards and guideline values for hazardous air pollutants (ambient environment and source)

⋮

④ Efforts to secure an environmentally sound water cycle

- Maintenance and achievement status of Environmental Quality Standards of public water and groundwater
- Number of creation and revision of the plan on the building of an environmentally sound water cycle by basins

⋮

⑤ Efforts to reduce environmental risks from chemical substances

- Status of achievement of Environmental Quality Standards or guideline values for substances for which these values are established for both atmospheric and water environments
- Number of substances for which risk assessment has progressed or completed, including the understanding of the flow of their production, use and disposal

⋮

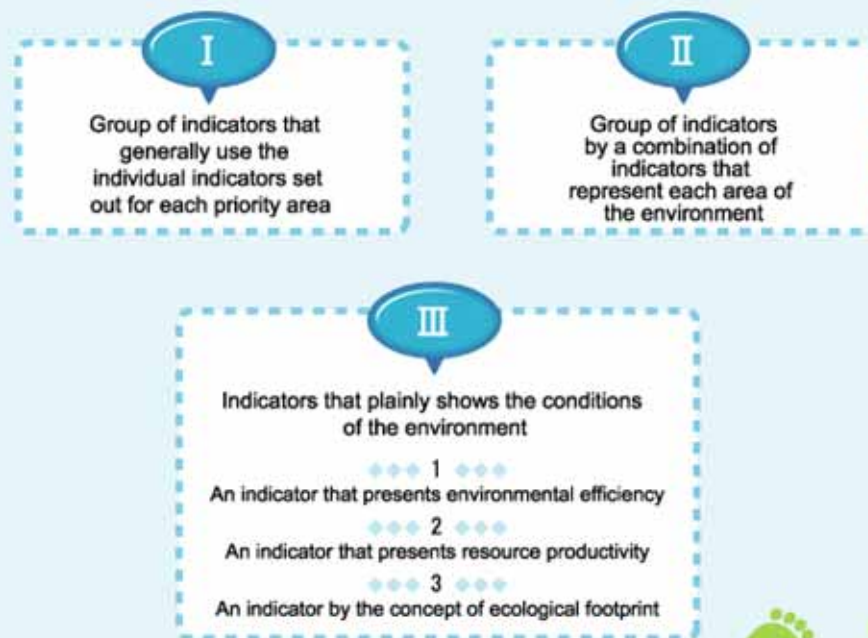
⑥ Efforts for the conservation of biodiversity

- Vegetation Naturalness based on the National Survey on the Natural Environment
- Number of project sites that have been involved in the creation of natural countryside environment

⋮

Moreover, we will grasp the progress of the whole Basic Environment Plan by using the comprehensive environmental indicators that holistically shows the conditions of the environment and status of the efforts.

Progress of the whole Basic Environment Plan is grasped from various angles.



★ What is ecological footprint?

Ecological footprint is generally shown in an area of the land or water area with ecological productivity that is required for people in a certain region to live continuously.

For instance, the consumption of energy and material is converted into land or water areas: into forest areas that supply timber or absorb CO₂; into agricultural lands that supply products; into water areas that supply marine products; and so on.