

# TREND OF SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY THAT HAS LED TO THE FIFTH BASIC ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Internationally, a major turnaround is taking place toward sustainable society, as represented by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. In Japan, debilitation of rural areas is a major reason for the encroaching loss of abundant nature such as Satoyama landscape. With a view to responding appropriately to these circumstances, the Fifth Basic Environment Plan utilizes the concepts of SDGs in promoting the integrated improvements on environment, economy and society (II2ES), which will open up "new avenues for growth" that ensure quality of life is maintained into the future.

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1. Trend of Sustainable Society that Has Led to the Fifth Basic Environment Plan

# THE PARADIGM SHIFT TO A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

## SDGs and the trend they represent

The United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) that recognized the challenges caused by human activities as requiring urgent collaborative efforts for their resolution by the international community. The 2030 Agenda was adopted as universal goals that the developed and developing countries together will work to pursue. It has identified 17 goals and 169 targets as SDGs.

Among the 17 goals, there are issues directly or closely linked to global environment such as water and sanitation, energy, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and production, climate change, terrestrial ecosystems, and marine resources.

### Sustainable Development Goals

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## 17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



Source : United Nations Information Centre

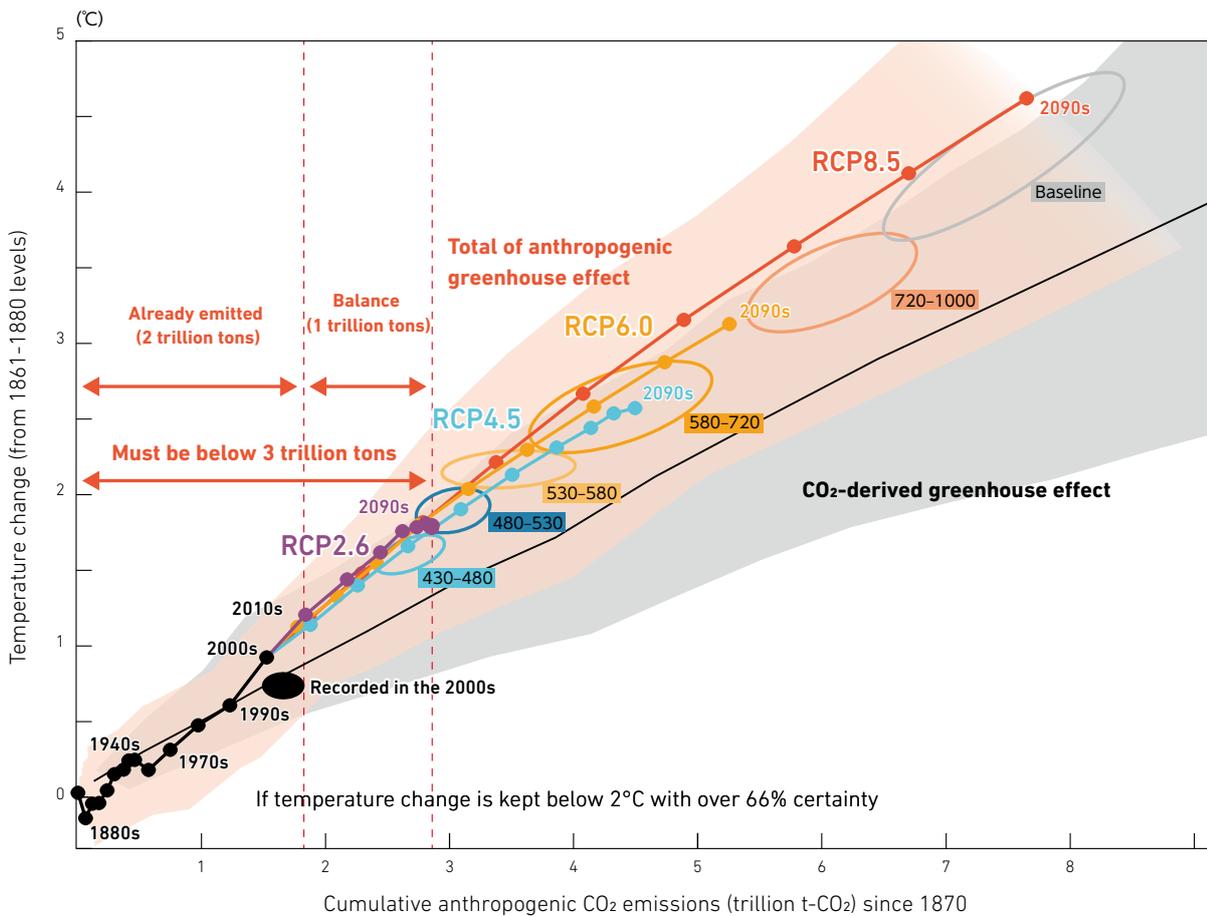
## Building a carbon-neutral society in line with the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement that was adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in December 2015 took effect in less than a year in November 2016.

The Paris Agreement aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C

and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. For that purpose, it aims to achieve net zero emissions of anthropogenic greenhouse gas by the second half of this century (balancing out of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals). This marked a turnaround to building a carbon-neutral society on a global scale.

Cumulative anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the temperature change



Source : Prepared by Ministry of the Environment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment report (synthesis report)

# AN OUTLINE OF THE FIFTH BASIC ENVIRONMENT PLAN

In light of Japan and overseas tides following the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and others, the Cabinet of the Japanese government approved the Fifth Basic Environment Plan in April 2018. While holding onto the principles and ideals declared in previous Basic Environment Plans, the new Basic Environment Plan reflects the changes in the international and national situations as demonstrated by the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, based upon what should be achieved by 2030 and 2050, introduces the SDGs approach to address multiple challenges in an integrated manner, and thus seeks to promote measures for IJ2ES.

For their implementation, six priority strategies were set as a cross-cutting framework that accounts for interlinkages, and enables specific environmental measures to help address various economic and social challenges in an integrated manner.

The basic plan also calls for innovation across all perspectives including those concerning socio-economic systems, lifestyles, as well as technologies through the implementation of the policy measures listed in the priority strategies. Furthermore, it aims for the creation of a "Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere (Regional CES)" that complements and supports regional resources by building broader networks, which is composed of natural connections (Connections among forests, the countryside, rivers and the sea) and, economic connections (composed of human resources, funds, and others) in partnership. Each region will demonstrate its strengths by utilizing its unique characteristics, thereby building a self-reliant and decentralized society where different resources are circulated within each region, leading to symbiosis and exchange with neighboring regions according to the unique characteristics of each region.

## Six priority strategies of the Fifth Basic Environment Plan

### 1 Formulation of a Green **Economic** System for Realizing Sustainable Production and Consumption



- + Expand ESG investment and green bonds
- + Greening of the tax system
- + Servicing and sharing economy
- + Hydrogen derived from renewable energy, low-carbon hydrogen supply chain
- + Use of urban mine

Photo: Offshore wind power generation facility

### 2 Improvement of Value of **National Land** as Stock



- + Resilient society including climate change adaptation
- + Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR)
- + Forest maintenance and conservation including forest environmental tax and forest environmental transfer tax (provisional)
- + Compact cities, small hubs + renewable energy/energy saving
- + Marine litter issues including microplastics

Photo: Forest reserve for landslide prevention

### 3 Sustainable **Community** Development Using Local Resources



- + Regional human capital
- + Expanding regional environmental finances
- + Improved balance of payments making use of resources and energy
- + Local revitalization centering on national parks
- + Conservation, regeneration and use of forests, the countryside, rivers and the sea involving cities
- + Coexistence and exchange among mountainous, agricultural and fishing villages, and cities

Photo: Biomass power generation

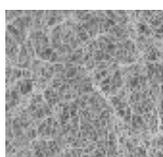
### 4 Realization of a Healthy and Prosperous **Life**



- + Switching to a sustainable lifestyle and consumption (ethical consumption, COOL CHOICE)
- + Reduction of food waste, appropriate treatment of waste
- + Low carbon and healthy housing
- + Promotion of rural migration and dual-residence lifestyle + management of forests, the countryside, rivers and the sea
- + Conservation of a good living environment

Photo: Connections among forests, the countryside, rivers and the sea

### 5 Development and Dissemination of **Technologies** Supporting Sustainability



- + Fukushima Innovation Coast concept (hydrogen production from renewable energy and floating offshore wind power generation)
- + Logistics Revolution using unmanned autos and drones
- + Production of high-value-added chemical products from biomass (cellulose nanofiber)
- + Productivity optimization with AI, etc.

Photo: Cellulose nanofiber

### 6 Demonstrate Japan's Leadership through **International** Contributions and Build Strategic Partnerships



- + Exporting environmental infrastructure
- + Adaptation support through Adaptation Platform
- + Greenhouse gas observation satellite "IBUKI" (GOSAT) series
- + Support for building overseas sustainable society as a developed country facing various social and other challenges

Photo: Japan-China Energy Conservation and Environment Forum