

# PREFACE

The Japanese government has proposed a vision of the “Circular and Ecological Economy” in the Fifth Basic Environment Plan approved by the Cabinet in April 2018. The Circular and Ecological Economy is an idea that aims to develop self-reliant and decentralized societies by leveraging regional resources, including natural and environmental resources, and maximizing regional vitality by taking advantage of these various resources while complementing and supporting other areas, taking into account the unique characteristics of each region.

The Circular and Ecological Economy is one of the keys to the integrated improvement of the environment, the economy, and society – the three dimensions of sustainable development – and is Japan’s vision for the future towards creating a decarbonized society and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by unlocking the potential of mountainous, agricultural and fishing villages, and cities.

In this report, we first briefly introduce ways to create the “Circular and Ecological Economy”, and then consider domestic and international circumstances and efforts to adapt to the impact of climate change, and describe resource circulation systems for plastics, including local government policies and actions by businesses.

This report is an English-language digest of parts of Japan’s Annual Report on the Environment, the Sound Material-Cycle Society and Biodiversity, which was approved by the cabinet on June 7, 2019.