Features of the 4th plan, in comparison with the 3rd:

1. Pursue a sustainable society which achieves low-carbon society, sound material-cycle society and society in harmony with nature, while ensuring security and safety

2. Include policy measures in cross-cutting fields such as green economy & innovation, strategic approaches for international negotiation and cooperation, and local environmental development and capacity building

3. Implement policy measures for recovery and decontamination of radioactive materials after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the following nuclear power plant accident

The Basic Environment Plan is a long-term comprehensive national plan for environmental conservation, based on the Basic Environment Law. This is the 4th plan, revised in 2000, 2006, and 2012 after the establishment in 1994.
Sustainable society we pursue is a society which achieves (1) low-carbon society, (2) sound material-cycle society, and (3) society in harmony with nature, while ensuring security and safety as a basis, with citizens’ participation, and which preserves a sound and rich environment both globally and locally.
1. Policy integration to create a sustainable society (e.g. environment-economy-society, environmental fields such as climate change and biodiversity)

2. Strengthening strategic policy measures appropriately corresponding to international situation (both national interests and global environmental interests)

3. Maintaining land and nature as foundation of a sustainable society

4. Promotion of action and cooperation by various actors at local level