

(参考)本誌の内容イメージ



## Japanese government efforts to deal with environmental issues

Ministry of the Environment

The Japanese government formulated important national strategies concerning environmental issues in 2000. Among them, the Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation Strategy in the 21st Century and the Third National Sustainability Strategy are introduced here. These documents state that governmental organizations, including the Ministry of the Environment, are to steadily promote measures based on these strategies, and the various bodies, such as local public agencies, private corporations, and NGOs, have been actively involved in activities based on the concept of these strategies. Here, as well as the two national strategies, efforts actually made are introduced.

### Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation Strategy in the 21st Century

On June 1, 2005, the Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation Strategy in the 21st Century was developed by the Cabinet. The document "in a guideline for Japan-to-be" specifies the direction of environmental measures that should be addressed by Japan and other countries and contributes to the future establishment of international framework" in view of the fact that Japan took part in the Millennium Summit and will be the host country for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, representing the Japanese government's comprehensive policy concerning the promotion of environmental measures into the future.

**Outline of the Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation Strategy in the 21st Century**

The document consists of three sections: State of the Global Environment and Key Challenges, Becoming a Leading Environmental Nation for a Better World, and Eight Strategies to be Implemented as Priorities in the Next One to Two Years.

**Three Aspects of a Sustainable Society**

- A Low Carbon Society:** Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- A Sustainable Society:** Promoting the use of natural resources and the environment.
- A Society in Harmony with Nature:** Promoting the environment and the environment.

**Creating a Japanese Model for a Better World**

- Wishes and traditions of living in harmony with nature.
- The cutting-edge environmental and energy technologies.
- Maximized human resources for environmental protection.
- Engagement in leading overseas network policies.

**Contributes to the development and prosperity of Asia, and the world**

The Japanese government should act based on the Kyoto Protocol. More specifically, the following three points are suggested: establishing a framework with the participation of the world's major greenhouse gas emitters so that the amount of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be decreased by more than the Kyoto Protocol target, making the framework flexible and inclusive so that countries in different situations can participate, and promoting its establishment while realizing environmental protection and economic development at the same time.

Needs to act, making the international Kyoto Protocol target is also included in the document. Specifically, it specifies that efforts by the business sector (e.g. buildings that are low energy, saving CO<sub>2</sub>) and households are to be intensively enhanced.

**Proposed for reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 55% by 2050**

The most famous item in this document probably is the Cool Earth 50 proposal, which focuses on the long term direction. This is referred to in the last key proposal of the first strategy. International leadership is to overcome the climate change problem.

It urges the world to promote three points of cutting global emissions of greenhouse gases by half from the current level by 2050: developing and promoting state-of-the-art innovation technologies, such as zero-emission coal-fired power generation and next-generation vehicles, in addition to clean-energy generation, and establishing economic society and compact cities that are maintained and developed with low carbon input.

The second key proposal on this strategy focuses on mid-term efforts, that is, how each country should act based on the Kyoto Protocol. More specifically, the following three points are suggested: establishing a framework with the participation of the world's major greenhouse gas emitters so that the amount of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be decreased by more than the Kyoto Protocol target, making the framework flexible and inclusive so that countries in different situations can participate, and promoting its establishment while realizing environmental protection and economic development at the same time.

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**Proposed target, making the framework flexible and inclusive so that countries in different situations can participate, and**