

Since the city was given city status in 1937, Iida City, which is located in the southern part of Nagano Prefecture, has repeated municipal mergers of the former Iida Town, which used to be a castle town, and surrounding farming and mountain villages. The people in the city live in a harmonious combination of mountains, villages, and towns, and the city has fostered traditional culture in its long history.

In the Master Plan in the Second Half of the 5th Master Concept, the city has set promotion of a low-carbon society as one of its priority policies and as part of its strategic community development in the 21st century focusing on the future image of the region where Linear Chuo Shinkansen to be opened 15 years later, the city has been promoting various efforts as the Eco-Model City.

Sustainable Community Development Starting from Energy Autonomy based on “Community Environmental Rights”

The city enacted Ordinances Relevant to the Development of a Sustainable Community through Introduction of Renewable Energy in Iida City, and recognizes that energy from renewable resources are the shared possession of citizens and guarantees community environmental rights so that citizens can use such energy preferentially for the development of their community. The city constructed and operates a system to support citizens exercising community environmental rights through guidance and advice based on the technical knowledge of the “Screening Committee for Introduction of Renewable Energy in Iida City” up to the stage of commercialization as “community business to utilize renewable energy” and ensure smooth fundraising in the market while providing for initial costs for establishing a business through a fund based on an ordinance.



Creation of Community-led Renewable Energy Businesses Utilizing an Ordinance

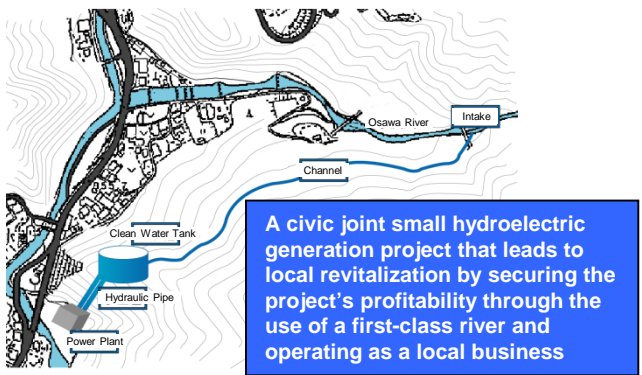
The Screening Committee for Introduction of Renewable Energy in Iida City was established based on an ordinance. Consisting of eleven members including experts in environmental economics, environmental finance and legal affairs, consultants in renewable energy and urban development, and experts of local financial institutions and distribution systems, the committee has conducted screening to create community businesses that utilize renewable energy.



Two cases were approved as ordinance-certified issues as local resident-centered businesses, and a few more cases are under screening. Profits generated from these businesses plan to be reinvested in public affairs activities in their own regions.

Promotion of Community-led Small Hydroelectric Generation Projects toward Energy Autonomy (Environmental Initiative)

Using the Osawa River in the Kamimura Region, Iida City, as a model, an operating body established by local residents is promoting an initiative to create a small hydroelectric generation business that reinvests revenue from sales of electric power in finding solutions to problems in the community toward autonomy in energy.



In this fiscal year, workshops were held to develop discussions at the committee organized by local residents into deliberation on the entire region; activity plan, simulation of the project's profitability and a financial plan were developed based on the advice and guidance of the screening committee, to promote consensus formation toward establishment of a resident-led operating body centered on territorial groups certified under the Local Government Act.