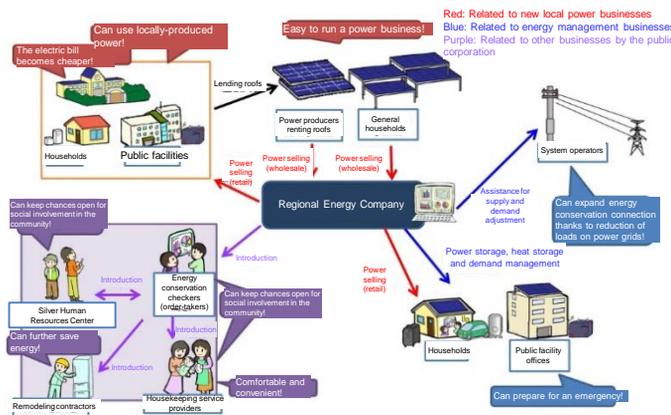




Ikoma City having an area of 53km² square meters is located northwest edge of Nara Prefecture, with the population of approx. 120,000 and is a residential town adjacent to Osaka and Kyoto Prefectures. It has been developed as a high-quality residential town with low-rise houses and apartments, and showed one of the highest rates of population increase from the mid-1970's to mid-1980's. Having easy access to central Osaka (about 20 minutes by train), the population has still been increasing slightly and a suitable environment to settle down has been developed thanks to the commercial presence developed around the main stations with good locations and traffic conditions. Also, abundant nature like the Ikoma mountains can be seen from the home environment and such wonderful natural settings are the charm and asset to the city, adding value to the residential town.

Considering the Establishment of a New Power and Regional Energy Company

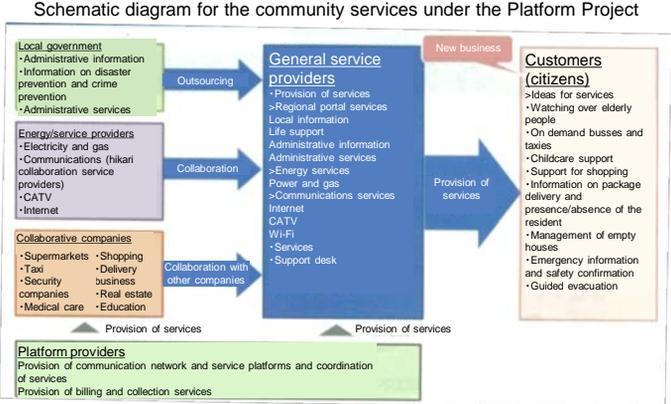
A regional public corporation financed by the city, citizens and business operators plans to sell power purchased in the city and surrounding area to citizens and businesses in the city, while at the same time providing not only a demand response program for users, ESCO and other services for energy conservation but also additional services using energy data, including watching over the elderly, preventive care, shopping support, parenting support for younger citizens and information provision (on the city government, community activities, disaster information, evacuation guides, etc.) The project is expected to provide a new spark to the local economy by creating jobs in the city and promoting local production and local consumption of energy.



Development of Community Services Using ICT

The town aims to reduce CO₂ emissions from the civilian sector by promoting the introduction of EMS (energy management systems) in households and business facilities. The town also intends to achieve further CO₂ reduction by managing energy supply and demand for the entire area of the region using EMS.

Moreover, the town will address diversification of the community services and establishment of communities to meet the specific needs of various groups, such as families with a children, young people, elderly people and senior citizens by utilizing the regional IT networks to be developed for the optimized energy use as a platform for community services including transportation, medical care and education.



Educating the Citizens on Resources Recycling & Energy Self-sufficiency

The city examines the policy for reforming citizen's consciousness on regional resource recycling and promotion of using environmentally-friendly energy through the educational activities carried out by the "Eco-net Ikoma," the Committee for Basic Environmental Plan consisting of citizens, businesses and administration, and through the efforts being made by "Citizen's Energy Ikoma," which runs the prefecture's first wholly citizen-funded power plant for the citizens, while offering an opportunity of environmental education for the citizens in order to look for talented people and develop human resources. At the same time, the city will look for appropriate people and educate them to support environmental activities while working in partnership with NPO's in order to provide educational programs for the citizens to foster the diffusion of renewable energy.

