Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture

The city recognized the vulnerability of its energy environment at the time of disaster in the region through the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, so it clearly stated the Promotion of the Creative Energy Measures in its reconstruction plan and will make efforts toward developing the Kamaishi version of a Smart Community in which various energy resources are used.

In April 2015, Kamaishi City led other areas affected by the earthquake by completing restoration public housing equipped with facilities to secure power during emergencies including solar water heaters, solar panels, and chargers/feeders for electric vehicles. In addition, the city is promoting renewable energy industrial clusters, community energy management, and other initiatives for energy independence, safety and security.

As a countermeasure for a super-aging population, the city intends to build a framework where people can comprehensively receive services ranging from health to nursing care in the local areas, such as the prevention of adult diseases, which is a further concern due to the life in temporary homes, the cooperation of medical care and nursing care in homes in order to use the medical resources more effectively, etc.

The city started operation of “Kamaishi and Otsuchi Medical Information Network” (commonly known as “OK Hamayuri Net”), which can share patients’ medical- and care-related information with relevant organizations, in fiscal 2013, and continues to work on building a regional comprehensive care system that supports citizens lives in cooperation with various people including the government, doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and care managers.

The city has worked to host the Rugby World Cup and have the remnants of Hashino furnace listed as a world heritage site in order to enhance the value of Kamaishi Field Museum.

- Efforts for Listing of Iron Town Kamaishi as a World Heritage Site
  In July 2015, the “Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution” including “Remnants of Hashino Furnace” were registered as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- Attempt of Rugby Town Kamaishi to Host the World Cup
  In March 2015, the city was chosen as one of the cities to host the Rugby World Cup in Japan. The city will work to improve the environment including facilities and transportation infrastructure.

As the birthplace of modern iron manufacturing, Kamaishi City led the nation in accomplishing the industrial revolution and is a front runner in Japan, which has had to face a super-matured society earlier than other cities. The city faced a fateful crisis due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, but by using local resources, its creative ability, rich nature, and various exchanges, the city has been working on developing a new city that goes beyond earthquake disaster reconstruction.

The city sets the (1) Kamaishi version of a Smart Community that improves citizens’ lives and develops industry, (2) that offers one-stop services from healthcare to nursing care through cooperation, and (3) that creates a field museum incorporating rugby, World Heritage, and memories of the earthquake disaster as a core of the “FutureCity” plan. The plan is Kamaishi’s new challenge to try to exert its own presence nationwide.

Kamaishi City has been chosen as the venue for the Rugby world Cup 2019.

Hashino Iron Mine with Japan’s oldest type of iron furnace has been registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.