



Based on the experience and lessons of the Minamata disease, Minamata City made the Eco-Model City Declaration in 1992 for the first time in Japan and has made efforts for the development of the Eco-Model City with cooperation from citizens. Such efforts were positively evaluated and the city was certified as an environmental model city to lead the national initiative to develop the low-carbon society in 2008.

Moreover, the city received the title of Environmental Capital of Japan from an environmental NGO in March, 2011.

The city aims to bring about a sustainable city with harmony between the environment and economy by promoting low-carbon measures in four areas, namely, "practice of environmentally friendly life," "development of highly environmentally conscious industry", "development of an environmental conservation-type city in harmony with nature," and "development of a city with opportunities to learn about environment."

To Achieve a Sustainable Regional Society

In order to achieve a sustainable regional society, Minamata City has been cooperating with households, schools, business entities, etc., in global warming countermeasures, such as meticulous waste sorting and recycling, utilizing its original environmental ISO (for households, schools, kindergartens and nursery schools, and eco-friendly shops, etc.).

In order to further reduce greenhouse gasses (i.e., to reduce carbons), the city is making efforts to reduce carbons from households by providing subsidies for the utilization of materials produced in the city and purchase of environmentally friendly housing equipment and devices. The amount of subsidy is doubled when the work is conducted by a company in the city, which also contributes to the revitalization of the local companies.



Waste sorting and recycling



Environmental ISO for schools



Environmental ISO for households



Promotion of carbon reduction in the household sector

Development of an Environmentally-Sound City that Coexists with Nature

Minamata City is a city rich in water and nature from the headstream (mountain) to the mouth of a river (ocean) within the city area.

The city is making efforts to protect, regenerate and restore its natural environment including oceans, mountains and rivers, which form the base of an ecosystem, and working on the development of the water-origin forest and forests of sea algae along with promoting the conclusion of regional environmental agreements in order to continue to protect them into the future.

The city also has been proposing and disseminating a way of life through traditional eco-friendly wooden houses (Eco-House) that are built using local resources and are suitable for the local climate and natural features. The city will also improve urban infrastructure including a diverse transportation system consisting of public transportation, bicycles and other means of local transportation.



Community bus service



Development of the Water-origin Forest



Bicycle sharing scheme



Eco-House

Development of a City of Environmental Education

In order to make sure the cost related to Minamata disease is not wasted and to be sure that disastrous environmental pollution like Minamata disease will not happen again, the city has been making efforts to develop a city of environmental education to spread the experience and knowledge.

Efforts of the whole community to develop an Eco-Model City, residents' way of life developed based on the experience of Minamata disease, local lifestyle including occupation and industry creation all acts as learning materials. The city is expanding its efforts to develop an Eco-Model City focusing on mutual learning and awareness fostered through interchange between residents and participants in initiatives such as the Minamata Environmental College in which people stay in Minamata for a short period of time, Mura Marugoto Seikatsu Hakubutsukan which simulates the life in the village in a museum, and the accepting of trainees from overseas.



A storyteller giving a lecture at Minamata Disease Municipal Museum



Minamata Environmental College



Mura Marugoto Seikatsu Hakubutsukan



Visiting eco-town