



About 60% of Mitake Town, in south-central Gifu Prefecture, is mountainous and it is known for its secondary forest "satoyama," which is a natural habitat for rare animals.

In this town, promoting improvements and conservation of the forests as a carbon dioxide sink are considered to play important roles in creating a low carbon society.

The town creates a system where residents and businesses can take the initiative to reduce CO₂ emissions by controlling discharges of burnable wastes and other wastes, while at the same time utilizing it effectively as recyclable resources so that it can promote recycling-oriented town building. Furthermore, the town practices human development by providing ecological education at elementary and junior high schools as well as in communities. The town makes maximum use of the resources available to it and reduces carbon emissions by solving problems one by one for the revitalization of local communities.

Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management Model based on the Entrusted Forest Management System

As a sustainable forest management model, the city promotes effective use of forest resources by entrusting forest management to a private company (the Kamo Forest Cooperatives) based on the "Entrusted Forest Management System" in order to grow a healthy and productive forest in a well-planned manner as well as by increasing the CO₂ absorption function of forests and effectively utilizing wood which would have been disposed of.

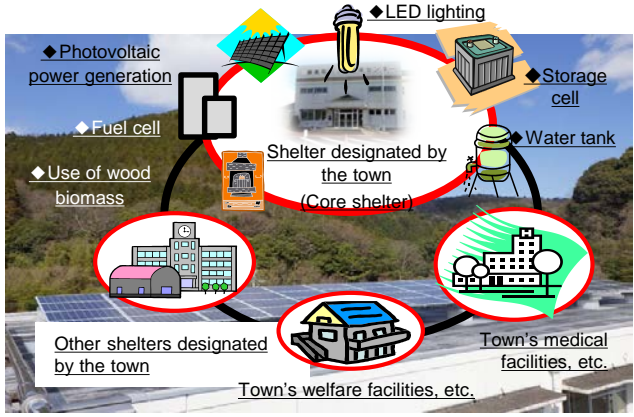
With the management of forests run by the private business, the town can consolidate forest management including adjacent private forests and so the transformation to multi-layered forests (forests of mixed age and height) will be promoted. Such forests not only increase the CO₂ absorption volume greatly but also improve the function of soil and water conservation.



Introduction of Renewable Energy System at Public Facilities

Due to the lignite (low-quality coal) mining in Mitake Town in the old days, abandoned mines are widely spread around the town underneath the plains. It is anticipated that when a large earthquake occurs, it will wreak enormous damage on the town, such as large-scale ground subsidence, which may cause the disruption of energy supply infrastructures.

Accordingly, the town aims to achieve both "Disaster Preparedness" and "Low Carbon Society Development" by promoting the establishment of "self-reliant shelters" in designated shelters in a town which can generate energy for a certain time during the energy supply disruptions caused by a natural disaster. This will be achieved with a combination of renewable energy (photovoltaic power generation, etc.), innovative energy (fuel/storage cells, etc.), energy saving (LED lighting, etc.) and disaster preparedness technology (water tanks, etc.).



Promotion of Human Resources Development and Interaction with Other Environmental Model Cities

In order to establish the town's initiatives to absorb and reduce CO₂ as a sustainable system and expand it to the entire town, human resources development is an indispensable element.

Elementary and junior high schools in the town are promoting continuous environmental education based on the Guidelines for Education on Transportation and Environment for Mitake Town, while also concluding collaborative agreements with high schools in and outside of the town and promoting cooperation and collaboration in the environmental conservation field.

As for environmental education for children and exchange with other Eco-Model Cities, the town started a mutual exchange program with Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido Prefecture in fiscal 2015, under which junior high school students from Mitake Town are dispatched to Shimokawa Town for a "forest workshop" and children from Shimokawa Town visit Mitake Town.



Junior high school students from the town are dispatched to Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido Prefecture