

Yusuhara Town, Kochi Prefecture [Eco-Model City]

Population: 3,650
Area: About 236 km²

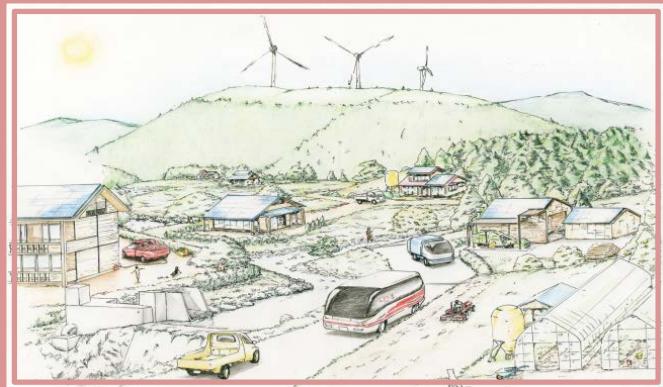


Figure of the Low-Carbon Rural Society

With the philosophy of coexistence with and circulation of the environment (nature) as its fundamental principle, Yusuhara Town has promoted the policies and measures that value the environment, education, and health.

In accord with this principle the town has set the theme of principle, the Development of a Low-Carbon City in Collaboration with Members of the Community where Green Resources Circulate and which Treats Living Creatures Kindly and has been designated as an Eco-Model City.

The town has set the energy independence as its major goal in the Eco-Model City's goal.

To achieve the goal, the town will keep valuing the Philosophy of Coexistence and Circulation, accelerate its various activities using the local resources and build the Low-Carbon Rural Society.

Developing a Low-carbon Town (CO₂ absorption and emissions reduction)

For multilateral use of the forest resources, which accounts for about 91% of the town area, the town is working on the "woody biomass regional cyclical model." For this purpose the town operates a pellet factory to promote the use of pellets in the town and the utilization of unused materials with the aim of preserving the aquatic environment of the Shimanto River basin and increasing CO₂ sinks.

Woody biomass regional cyclical model project



Shikoku Karst region on the backbone mountains of Shikoku is one of the three major karsts in Japan and known also for having one of the best wind conditions in Japan. Its wind power generation project started operation 17 years ago, taking advantage of the favorable wind conditions. The town plans to construct more wind farms to ensure a volume of electricity sales equivalent to the total power consumption amount in the town so that it can achieve its CO₂ reduction goal.

Shikoku Karst Wind Farm



A Project to Educate People and Create a Structure

The Designation of Yusuhara as an Eco Model City is deeply related to the fact that the town has inherited the philosophy of coexistence and circulation that values the relationship with nature from our predecessors. We believe that carrying on the good way of thinking handed down for generations among the people in Yusuhara is essential in realizing the development of a low-carbon city that treats living creatures kindly. This year, too, adults and children in the town will try to light up the community by making lighting devices using natural energy while learning through the experience.



Various Initiatives to Reproduce Energy



Promoting Environmental Education