

Kiko Network

Annual Report 2020

Zero Coal by 2030,
One Step at a Time



Mute



Video



Participants

1000



Share Screen



気候ネットワーク

Greeting

2020, a pandemic year of growing momentum toward decarbonization by 2050

Historic year, dramatic change, COVID-19 pandemic and climate change not unrelated

We still cannot see the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has also reached Japan. Many lives have been lost and even now many people are struggling with illness and forced to live in isolation, and there have also been serious impacts on work and our daily lives. First off, the vaccines and various measures to fight the pandemic need to reach the world quickly.

Many people have observed that the pandemic and climate change are not unrelated. It seems the distribution of vaccines will not eliminate the risk of new viruses and other threats. A light has also been shone on the unequal impacts of the pandemic, and people are considering integrated solutions to problems of inequality due to the economic systems that led to the climate crisis. In the context of an economic recovery from the pandemic, there has been a rapidly growing consensus on the need to reduce emissions. Furthermore, amid limitations on mobility during the pandemic, rapid advances have been made in new communication tools such as Zoom for online meetings. Conventional ideas about communication are rapidly being pushed aside. This was definitely a year of dramatic changes that will be remembered in history, reconfirming that new restrictions can also lead to new opportunities. We must use this opportunity to utilize our new realizations and reflect them in rules that consider a world that is more sustainable and considers human rights.

The shock waves have had major impacts on Kiko Network's role and activities. We are still faced with an ongoing situation of having no staff physically present at the Kyoto and Tokyo offices, but we adapted quickly by holding timely webinars and sending out an enormous amount of information, including almost weekly press releases. While we also recognize the benefits of in-person meetings, I hope we can continue to benefit from these tools that let us easily connect with the world beyond the local level in Japan through our activities even after the pandemic. We also developed anti-harassment policies, which I hope will take root.

Significant progress made in climate policy, but coal is still impeding the shift to renewable energy

In 2020 we saw important progress being made with climate policy measures in Japan and globally. The emergence of the Biden administration in the United States, which recognizes the importance of climate policy, has had significant impacts, but perhaps it can also be seen as a result of introspection in American society in the context of the pandemic. Similar to the trend toward mainstreaming of ESG investments, the international tide is moving toward targeting a 50% reduction in global emissions by 2030 and complete decarbonization by 2050, and we are seeing clearer indicators for the transition toward an economy that produces greener employment in the long term. The ripple effects of all this have reached Japan too. On October 26, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared that by 2050 Japan would aim to decarbonize and be carbon-neutral. Then, on April 22, 2021, he made the international commitment to reduce emissions by 46% from 2013 levels by 2030. We cannot say that there had been extensive domestic debate on these topics, and the declared targets still fall short of the 1.5°C target, but admittedly, these announcements represented a significant shift in tone.

Kiko Network has been consistently advocating for a complete domestic phase-out of coal by 2030, a halt to overseas export policies for coal power plants, and a policy shift toward promoting renewable energy in Japan. In April 2021, after previous breakthroughs, the Nishiokinoyama and Akita Port coal-fired power plant construction projects were canceled. The government's 2050 net-zero declaration and the higher target for 2030 are also fruits of our activities to date.

However, coal power plants already operating or under construction are slowing Japan's transition to renewable energy. With the "Green Growth Strategy through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050" the government continues to rely on nuclear and coal power as baseload electricity sources, perpetuates its reliance on coal until 2050 by relying on CCUCS and DACCS, remains unenthusiastic about renewable energy, and does not aim to use renewable energy in non-electricity sectors. In that context, our activities in 2019 as a shareholder, calling for a shift in financial institutions' coal-related investment policies, bore fruit in 2020 and attracted international attention. We have high expectations for more progress in our efforts going forward.



Mie Asaoka

President, Kiko Network

浅岡美恵

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One Step at a Time toward Zero Coal Power by 2030



日本の石炭火力発電所を 2030年までにゼロにしよう

気候変動から私たちや生き物を守るために、石炭火力をゼロにしよう。
本当にできるの？電気は足りる？コストがかかるのでは？

大丈夫。

少し前まで難しいと思えたことも、今、未来に向かって大きく変化しています。



Japan Beyond Coal campaign aims for a complete coal phase-out by 2030

Launch of Japan Beyond Coal campaign

Catching the winds of change for a global coal exit, the Japan Beyond Coal campaign was launched in Japan in collaboration with similar efforts in Europe, the United States, Australia and Korea. The campaign website went live in September 2020 (<https://beyond-coal.jp/>). The Beyond Coal campaign aims to end the use of coal-fired power generation in countries and regions around the world, with a “coal phase-out by 2030” as the common goal, to realize a society based on sustainable energy. In Japan, Kiko Network serves as the coordinating body, and is promoting a coal exit together with partner organizations, posts news and information related to coal power, and tracks the status of coal-fired power generation facilities in Japan in a countdown format.

In Europe, the campaign is further along and on March 25, 2021, reached the turning point for a coal phase out by 2030. The Beyond Coal campaign is achieving steady results.

Government changes direction on coal phase out

2020 was also a year when the Japanese government began to get moving in terms of coal policy. In July, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Hiroshi Kajiyama, indicated that the ministry would be considering a new framework toward reducing inefficient coal power, and then Minister of the Environment, Shinjiro Koizumi, decided to tighten criteria for export assistance for coal power plants. There are still loopholes, being limited to new projects and continuing support for projects that meet four conditions, but this was one step forward with Japan becoming stricter in the criteria to offer public funds for coal power plan exports. Prior to that, Japan had been the only G7 country continuing to do so. Then, in October, with Prime Minister Suga's declaration that Japan would aim to be carbon neutral by 2050, Japan at last was aligning itself with other countries of the world.

Around the time of this declaration, Japan's major power utilities -- including JERA, Japan's largest power generation company -- announced they would work toward zero

emissions in 2050. This was the start of a significant move toward a coal exit and emission reductions for Japan as a whole. Despite all this, no detailed roadmap has been presented yet for shutting down inefficient coal-fired power plants, and it must still be noted that to reduce CO2 emissions but also prolong the use of coal, integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) and carbon capture and storage (CSS) new technology development is being promoted, as well as co-firing with hydrogen and ammonia.

Shareholder resolutions targeting Mizuho and MUFG financial groups

In March 2020, Kiko Network submitted a shareholder resolution to the Mizuho Financial Group calling on it to make its investments recognize climate risk and be consistent with the Paris Agreement targets, in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The fact that Japanese NGOs had purchased shares of a financial institution and submitted a shareholder resolution on climate change also attracted international attention. The resolution failed to pass at the June annual meeting, but shareholders representing 34.5% of the votes did support the resolution, and organizations around the world engaged in actions targeting investors recognized our effort.

Next, on March 29, 2021, we jointly submitted a shareholder resolution with three individuals calling on the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) to adopt a plan to conduct investment in a way consistent with the Paris Agreement target, and to disclose the details. As a shareholder our discussions with MUFG have already begun, and as with Mizuho last year, we are counting on these efforts to speed the pace of financial institutions and banks adopting climate



Building an International Framework



"Fossil of the Five Years" awards by Climate Action Network (December 2020)

Accelerating with COVID-19.

Global dynamism of decarbonization

In 2020 COP climate meetings and many other international meetings were canceled or postponed, but the international dynamism for decarbonization was alive and well. Since the COP25 Madrid conference at the end of 2019, a growing number of countries, local governments, companies, universities, and other bodies has made a declaration to be carbon neutral by 2050, and in 2020 the UN Secretariat launched the global Race to Zero campaign. In December 2012, the European Union made a submission to the United Nations committing to raise its GHG emission reduction target by 2030 to at least 55% relative to 1990, up from the previous target of 40%.

Amid the economic crisis caused by COVID-19, economic recovery has also become a major subject of debate. As part of the economic recovery strategy it is important to revert back to pre-COVID fossil-fuel-dependent and unsustainable economy, but make the transition to a fair society based on 100% renewable energy. Though progress to date is certainly not enough, policy implementation has indeed begun, as we can see in the European Commission's Green Recovery pledge.

There was also big news in the world of international climate politics. The November 2020 elections in the United States, the world's second largest emitter, resulted in a transition of government from Donald Trump to Joe Biden as president. Part of the context was a struggle in American civil society that achieved the political shift with global solidarity. The new president Biden hosted a climate summit in April 2021, and his new administration has put a priority on climate policy and diplomacy, including the topic of 2030 targets that Trump had neglected.

Japan fails to make up for slow action

Meanwhile, instead of showing global leadership, the government made it increasingly obvious that Japan was falling behind. Together with other members of the CAN-Japan climate-related NGO network, Kiko Network has been calling for higher GHG emission reduction targets by 2030,

for an end to fossil fuels (particularly coal), and for setting a target for net zero by 2050. Nevertheless, in March 2020 the Japanese government re-submitted its 2030 emission reduction targets to the United Nations unchanged, a decision that disappointed many and was strongly criticized for exploiting the global panic caused by the pandemic to deflect criticism for inadequate targets. In July, Japan revised its policies for coal infrastructure exports, although filled with loopholes and still not consistent with the Paris Agreement. In October 2020, Prime Minister Suga at last announced that Japan would aim to be carbon neutral by 2050, but that was long after the EU had become one of the first to make such a declaration, and even behind China, which had made the declaration in September 2020 as a developing country. In December 2020, at "Fossil of the Five Years" awards* marking five years after the Paris Agreement and held online this time due to the postponement of the COP climate meeting, the United States under Donald Trump received the main award, although Japan continued to have an unflattering ranking as a strong "candidate" garnering special mention.

Despite all of the above, Japan is showing signs of change. In April 2021, timed with the Climate Summit hosted by President Biden, Prime Minister Suga announced that Japan would raise its 2030 target to a 46-50% decrease in emissions compared to 2013. This reduction is still not enough to be consistent with the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement, but at least it represents some progress. Going forward, Japan must raise its targets further and accelerate the pace of actions to achieve them. Doing so will help make Japanese society more sustainable, equitable, and healthy, and could also help restore Japan's now-faded presence in international climate diplomacy.

*Fossil Award: Satirical awards presented to countries that are doing the most to block progress on climate negotiations and actions. They are presented by the Climate Action Network (CAN), one of the world's largest climate-related NGO networks.

Promoting Climate Actions in Japan

ATO4NEN
あと4年 未来を守るのは今



(CAPTION) ATO4NEN, Now is the time to protect the future (<http://ato4nen.com/>)

ATO4NEN "Now is the time to protect the future" campaign for revision of energy policies

Prime Minister's net zero 2050 declaration

On October 26, 2020, Prime Minister Suga announced that Japan would seek to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050, and also signaled a significant policy shift regarding coal power. Kiko Network welcomed the fact that at last Japan had reached a crucial starting point in climate policy, but also advocated for more concrete policies consistent with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target.

The "Green Growth Strategy through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050," announced by the government in December, states that "It will be difficult to supply all of Japan's electricity demand with 100% renewable energy," so the aim will be to maximize the introduction of thermal power based on carbon capture as well as hydrogen and co-firing with ammonia, and toward 2050 to "pursue the maximum use of thermal power" including coal. Rather than signaling any significant change, this strategy really represents no real shift from the status quo of coal power plant construction. Through lawsuits and actions done in collaboration with local communities fighting coal power projects in Kobe, Yokosuka and elsewhere, we have been calling for dramatic policy changes toward a coal exit and energy shift.

Proposals to escape from fossil fuel dependency

In 2020 the 201st session of the national Diet deliberated the Energy Supply Resilience Act (Act of Partial Revision of the Electricity Business Act and Other Acts for Establishing Resilient and Sustainable Electricity Supply Systems), which bundled together three bills, namely the Electricity Business Act, the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) Act, and the JOGMEC Act. The JOGMEC Act strengthens the powers the quasi-governmental Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation, promotes the development of coal and other fossil fuel resources, and

is counter to efforts to right the climate crisis. We called for the bill to be scrapped and for an end to fossil fuel dependency, but it still ended up being passed.

In July 2020 METI's Minister Hiroshi Kajiyama announced that he would consider the "fade-out" of inefficient coal power. Kiko Network pointed out that a "fade-out" of "inefficient coal power" only was just a part of the big picture, and would leave a huge amount of coal power capacity in Japan even after 2030. We launched the "Japan Beyond Coal" campaign calling for a phase-out of coal by 2030, and spread the word about the problems with coal power.

Update to Japan's Strategic Energy Plan, and the ATO4NEN campaign

Work to prepare Japan's Sixth Strategic Energy Plan started in October 2020 at a basic policy subcommittee established within the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy. Kiko Network released its own recommendations and scenario analysis for the review of the Strategic Energy Plan, proposing the GHG emission reduction target be set at 60% for 2030, the target for coal and nuclear to be zero in 2030, and the promotion of energy conservation and renewable energy.

On December 10, 2020, ahead of the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, environmental NGOs such as Kiko Network as well as citizens' and youth groups launched a campaign called ATO4NEN (meaning "There's four more years, now is the time to protect the future."). It was timed for the revision of Japan's Strategic Energy Plan and National Climate Action Plan scheduled for 2021, and called for a review of energy policy and reduction targets to be consistent with the Paris Agreement. We conducted a signature campaign calling for the government to reflect these points into discussions to update the Strategic Energy Plan. This campaign continues to target work on the revision of the Strategic Energy Plan in fiscal year 2021.

Recommendation Report: Japan's Path to Net Zero by 2050

On March 19, 2021, Kiko Network released a report entitled "Japan's Path to Net Zero by 2050."

It is based on the critical need to halve global GHG emissions by 2030 in order to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5°C, referring to science-based analysis on reduction levels in Japan to be consistent with the 1.5°C Paris target, and proposes a GHG emission reduction of over 60% by 2030 compared to 2013 (or 56% compared to 1990), and a reduction of over 80% by 2040.

Our report proposes principles and reduction levels for strategies in key sectors, as well as ten key policies to achieve the reduction targets.



Decarbonizing Communities, Building Capacity



OUR ENERGY × TERA Energy media announcement event (June 29, 2020)

“Go To Decarbonization” seminars in 47 prefectures

We held a national online kick-off event for “Go To Decarbonization” seminars on November 29, followed by local seminars in Nagano, Tokushima, Nara, and Okayama Prefectures.

This seminar series is being held to promote sustainable and decarbonized local communities, recognizing the need to promote climate actions that reflect the special character of communities and the need to achieve net zero by 2050 through collaboration with organizations and governments in each region. The aims of the seminar are to share ideas and information about policies and search for new potential collaboration. Going forward, we will continue planning and holding these events jointly with local groups, in the hopes of eventually covering every prefecture in Japan.

Networking and supporting new power producers

We have continued since 2018 to support efforts to establish new power producers in order to activate local communities and promote renewable energy. In 2020, to promote renewable energy in Tokushima Prefecture, we launched the OUR ENERGY company in cooperation with the new power producer TERA Energy, which was established through the leadership of Buddhist monks. TERA Energy collects 2.5% of its electricity revenues for donations, and donates them to various organizations (including Kiko Network). OUR ENERGY, as one of the recipients, is using those donated funds to promote renewable energy. Already donations have been received from many donors in Tokushima, and going forward the plan is to use those funds to develop solar and small hydro power facilities.

Meanwhile, TANTAN Energy, with which Kiko Network has been involved since it was established in northern Kyoto Prefecture to create a new wide-area power producer, has started providing electricity from 100% renewable energy in Fukuchiyama City, for the municipal buildings, primary and middle school, and historic Fukuchiyama castle, etc.

“Essay for Future” children’s essay contest

Following its start in 2019, held the second round of this essay contest for primary, middle and high school students

on the theme of stopping climate change. We received 250 submissions nationwide, from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south (by group, primary school 82, middle 155, high 14). From the submissions, 12 recipients were selected for the grand prizes, awards of excellence, future awards, and special awards. An award ceremony and presentations were held online on November 8. This was also an opportunity to interact to discuss how to reflect the voices of these young persons into climate policies.

Education for climate action

Until now, the “Children’s Eco-Life Challenge” climate change education program we have been running at schools in Kyoto was based on in-person sessions, but that became difficult this year due to COVID-19. As a result, we created educational videos in fiscal year 2020, using the year to test out a trial program in which school educators conducted sessions using the videos, we issued completion certificates for schools who requested them, and we conducted review sessions. Fortunately, even in the difficult circumstances, there was no drop in the motivation of participating children. In fact, it was inspiring to see many reports of eco-friendly actions being done during all the time at home.

Publication of “Energy self-sufficiency and sustainable community planning: Learning from environmental leader Austria”

A research group in which a Kiko Network member (staff and director) also participates published a book with the above title, through the publisher Showado, based on six years of research. Providing many examples, it examines Austria’s climate and energy policy and introduces programs and policies from the perspective of sustainable regional development, as well as organizations and people that utilize them. A major feature of the energy self-sufficiency initiatives in Austria is that the programs and organizations are designed for local governments and communities that are putting sustainable regional development into practice. There are many useful references for Japan.

Collaboration and networking

We collaborated with and supported many other initiatives, including the Power-Shift campaign, Green Alliance Japan, and Fridays for Future groups around the country, etc.

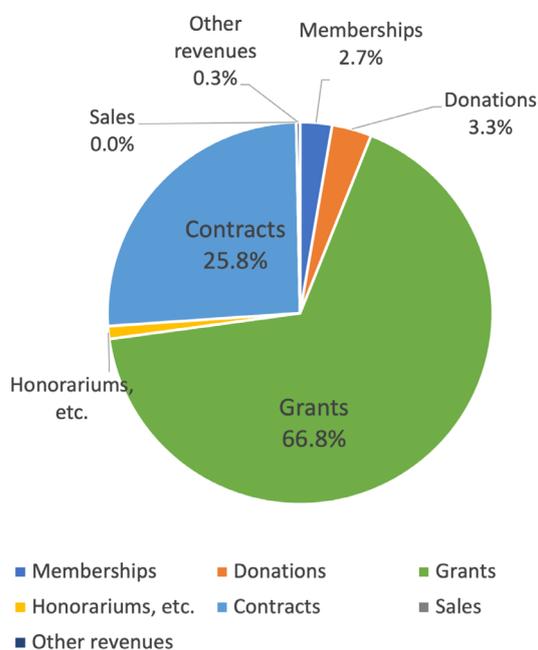
Financial Report & List of Board Members

Financial Report & List of Board Members

Kiko Network Financial Report for 2020

In fiscal year 2020* there were some changes in our expenditures due to adjustments in activities made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic. Meeting venue and transportation costs declined, while communications costs increased. Revenues increased over the previous year due to increased expectations for activities linked to the start of the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement and stepping-up of actions toward decarbonization. Major factors affecting the increased revenues included grants and donations. At the same time, total expenditures increased over the previous year. Our closing balance of funds at year end was positive, but since the amount includes grants with a funding period different from our fiscal year, a portion of the closing balance is restricted to uses in the first half of the next fiscal year. As we continue to deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will strive our utmost to work toward decarbonization, maintain stable operations, increase our supporter base, and make effective use of our financial resources.

(*Note: Our 2020 fiscal year was from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.)



Revenue Breakdown

FY2020 Revenues	
Category	Amount (JPY)
Memberships	2,887,000
Donations	3,594,804
Grants	72,054,664
Honorariums, etc.	1,168,353
Contracts	27,784,207
Sales	3,940
Other revenues	331,701
Total	107,824,669

FY2020 Expenditures	
Category	Amount (JPY)
1. Program expenditures	
Outreach	2,750,986
Research and advocacy	2,831,190
Network building	785,996
International negotiations and policy work	1,098,790
Community and NGO support	553,405
Grant-funded programs	55,477,190
Expenses related to the sale of securities	398,519
Contract-funded programs	28,437,432
Program subtotal	92,333,508
2. Administrative expenditures	
Salaries	1,293,184
Retirement benefits	1,342,000
Travel	38,423
Communications and shipping	146,300
Supplies	163,278
Office rent	352,588
Printing	72,222
Employee benefits	157,959
Tax and public dues	29,529
Other expenditures	35,975
Administrative subtotal	3,631,458
3. Income taxes - current	140,000
Total	96,104,966

Revenues and expenditures	FY2020 results
Opening balance	39,624,366
Total revenues	107,824,669
Total expenditures	96,104,966
Closing balance (March 31, 2021)	51,344,069
Closing balance (restricted portion)	39,676,855
Closing balance (unrestricted portion)	11,667,214

List of Board Members

President Mie Asaoka

Kuniyasu Inoue

Takuma Kani

Hiroshi Kanda

Ayako Sakurada

Yoshitsugu Sasaki

Kenro Taura

Ken Tsuzuku

Oomi Nishizono

Ikumi Hara

Tsuyoshi Hara

Shunichi Hiraoka

Kimiko Hirata

Takako Momoi

Motohiro Yamazaki

Naoyuki Yamagishi

Juta Wada

Auditor: Toshiyuki Ueda

Auditor: Yoshimichi Sakakibara

Auditor: Shigenori Fukushima

As of July 2021, in random order



Change the rules, not our **climate**.

The work of Kiko Network can only be achieved with your support.

There are many ways you can support, by becoming a member, donating, volunteering, assisting with joint research, and spreading our campaigns, etc.

We at Kiko Network thank all our supporters for their past and future contributions to change the world as we move toward a sustainable global society.

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