

Framework and Plan for promotion of Global Warming Prevention in Local Government

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1. Purpose and background of this research

The first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2008-12) is close at hand. In this term, Japan must reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission by 6 per cent below 1990 levels. However, GHG emission in 2005 was increased by 8.1 per cent compared to 1990 level. In this situation, there is a high expectation of local governments' actions to prevent global warming, as they used to lead the central government in antipollution policies in the past. In this article, conditions and contents of 'Local plan for promotion of Global Warming Prevention (hereinafter referred to as Local Plan)' that the global warming prevention in local governments is based on are analyzed, and actual of activities by local governments are demonstrated. This article also discusses framework and plan to promote global warming prevention in local governments.

2. Local plan for promotion of Global Warming Prevention

Local governments that formulated Local Plan grasp the data of the emissions of GHG under its jurisdiction, and present measures for global warming prevention in local area. Local Plan is formulated in almost all prefectural and city governments. However, there are limited examples in local authority except for government-designated cities. In 1993, central government presented the guide line for formulation of Local Plan, and some highly motivated local governments have formulated the plan. Even though local governments formulated Local Plan early, they haven't succeeded in reducing emissions of GHG to the present.

3. Issues related to promotion of Global Warming Prevention

Most part of measures in Local Plans is nothing but one from "Climate Change Policy Law" and 'Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan'. Most Local Plans should be improved, because they are not detailed or specific when it comes to working in local. In local authority, global warming prevention policies need to be improved in terms of the priority given to the issue. The greatest problem is lack of resource and authority for local government to carry out effective measures.

4. Conclusion

To improve the effectiveness of measures in Local Plan, local governments need to pick out measures focuses on and follow-up every measures quantitatively with evaluation index as much as possible. In order to build up global warming prevention in local government, central government should transfer its fund and authority to local governments. Developing a clear understanding of global warming and working together for global warming prevention, local governments make great contribution for turnaround in national policy.