

Message from JCI

JCI calls on the Japanese government to set an ambitious 2035 target that is consistent with the 1.5 °C goal.

Make this year the year of Japan's energy policy transformation.

This year is an extremely important year that will determine Japan's near future. This is because the 7th Strategic Energy Plan and the next NDC, greenhouse gas reduction targets, are expected to be formulated. As the international community intensifies its competition towards decarbonization in order to achieve the world's 1.5 °C goal, Japan's climate policies and the state of energy supply and demand will not only have a strong impact on people's health and safety, but also shape the future of Japan's industry and economy as well as its competitiveness and position in the international community.

Under these circumstances, Japanese non-governmental actors participating in the Japan Climate Initiative, JCI, call on the Japanese government to aim for the following and make this year a turning point in Japan's energy policy.

Japan needs the NDC to reduce GHGs by 66% or more in 2035 and the 7th Strategic Energy Plan should be designed to achieve that goal.

In the midst of this critical situation referred to as global boiling, the international community is accelerating efforts to achieve the 1.5 °C goal. At COP28, the world committed to tripling the world's installed renewable energy capacity and doubling the energy efficiency improvement rate by 2030, and in February of this year, the European Commission recommended a 90% greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions reduction by 2040 compared to 1990 levels.

Under these circumstances, unless Japan's next NDC and the 7th Strategic Energy Plan are consistent with the 1.5 °C target, it is deeply concerning that Japan will not be able to continue to grow sustainably and demonstrate its international competitiveness, and Japan's industry will be removed from the global value chain. Furthermore, Japan will no longer be able to protect the health, safety, and employment of the people who form the basis of the industry.

In response to this sense of crisis, we call on the Japanese government to make the next NDC at least 66% or higher compared to 2013 levels, which is equivalent to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 2035 global GHGs reduction of 60% compared to 2019 levels. We also urge that the 7th Strategic Energy Plan should be formulated in an integrated manner with the NDC, through wide-ranging discussions backed by scientific knowledge, in an open forum that includes the energy demand side and the next generation.

Now is the time to improve energy efficiency and accelerate renewable energy deployment for quickly transitioning away from fossil fuels.

In order for Japan to reduce GHGs by 66% or more compared to 2013 levels by 2035, Japan must achieve its international commitment as a G7 member to fully or predominantly decarbonize the electricity sector by 2035. To this end, it is essential in the 7th Strategic Energy Plan to clarify the phase-out of coal-fired power generation by 2035, as well as to maximize the improvement of energy efficiency and the introduction of renewable energy.

In addition, Japan has already agreed to accelerate efforts to transition away from fossil fuels at COP28, and to phase out coal-fired power generation in the first half of 2030s at the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' Meeting in April this year. Therefore, the phase-out of coal-fired power generation by 2035 and the transition away from other fossil fuels as quickly as possible towards 2050 are international commitments that Japan must fulfill, and serve as the basis for the arguments of this proposal.

Various estimates based on scientific grounds show that Japan has sufficient potential to triple its installed renewable energy capacity, and that it is possible to increase the proportion of renewable energy in electricity to 65-80% by 2035.

In order to steadily fulfill these international commitments, we call on the Japanese government to urgently create a foundation for the ultimate improvement in energy efficiency in buildings and product development by making full use of already available technologies as well as the acceleration of the renewable energy deployment centered on solar and wind.

Participation from Japan at the forefront of the world's efforts to decarbonize.

We believe that in order for Japan to achieve sustainable growth and decarbonization, it is necessary for diverse stakeholders to work together and share their knowledge and experience. JCI will deepen its collaboration with domestic and international non-state actors and governments to contribute to the realization of the 1.5 °C goal.