

Climate Emergency Declaration

In 2016, Japan, along with 175 other countries, confirmed the urgent need to address the threat of climate change. In response to climate change, the Paris Agreement was signed and aimed at “keeping the increase in global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to limit the increase of temperature to 1.5°C.”

The global average temperature has already risen by 1°C in comparison to pre-industrial levels. From this, there has been an incessant increase in extreme weather fluctuations worldwide, which include heat waves, forest fires, floods, sea level rises, and droughts, among other extreme weather patterns. Many people, wildlife, and the natural world are becoming victims of climate change. Given the current situation, it has become increasingly difficult to live a peaceful and safe life.

Across Japan, heat waves, typhoons, severe rain fall, and flooding, among other climate disasters, are causing tragic injuries and losses. Severe rain fall disasters and water shortages, among other abnormal weather patterns, have also been occurring in Iki City. The decrease of seaweed beds have likewise taken a serious toll on Iki City’s key fishing industry.

Iki City recognizes the considerable threat that climate change-induced global warming poses to human societies and the natural world, and hereby declares a state of climate emergency. In order to limit the increase of temperature to 1.5°C, CO₂ emissions must effectively reach zero by 2050. To realistically move towards decarbonization, all of Japanese society is engaging in next steps to realize decarbonization. These actions comprise what a SDGs future city is. Through the achievement of the SDGs, new growth and developments will be possible.

1. Iki City is proactively engaging and striving to promote wide-spread public awareness of the current climate change emergency situation. Additionally, Iki City is encouraging family, societal, and business practices to align with energy conservation. These include proactive engagement with the reduction of garbage emissions, increase in reusable materials, thorough enforcement of recycling procedures, and promotion of refusing products that encourage further generation of garbage. When it comes to plastic garbage, which is the cause of oceanic pollution, the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse) are thoroughly enforced.
2. By 2050, all of Iki City’s energy sources will move away from fossil fuels and completely convert to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. To this end, Iki City is accelerating its initiative to cooperate with private businesses across the island.
3. Following reasonable management of forests, the reduction of greenhouse gases is being pursued while realizing a favorable natural balance between forests, rivers, ocean, and undeveloped woodland near populated areas.
4. Iki City will contact other Japanese government and local government officials for cooperation with this “Climate Emergency Declaration.”

September 25th, 2019

The Mayor of Iki Hirokazu Shirakawa