

30% reduction of Co-op's CO₂ emission for 2020

JCCU and member co-ops cooperated in some action plan to inspect and scrutinize energy consumptions in the stores and facilities, and to measure the effects of the energy saving equipments.

Co-op continues to work for the prevention of the global warming with the management and operation of eco-friendly equipments, with inspection, study, planning, practice and reexamination of staffs' energy saving operations.

Japanese Co-ops have been driving a voluntary action plan to stop the global warming. This plan is to reduce Co-op's CO₂ emission per sales of 100 million yen. This year, Co-op is to establish 'the Co-op's renewed environmental policy for 2020' to reduce emission of greenhouse gas (CO₂) from Co-ops across the nation by 30% below 2005 levels (790 thousand tons).

To achieve this target, energy-saving measures will be strengthened in the fleet, at the stores and other facilities.



Night cover installation to maintain cooling at night



Rooftop / Photovoltaic system (converts solar radiations into direct current electricity)

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Environmental policy for consumer co-ops

Taking the challenge forward towards 2020

Introduction

Based on the Co-op's principle for the 21st century that states; 'we will create a more human lifestyle and sustainable society through the concerted efforts of individual citizens (members) within the co-op society', co-op has been addressing environmental issues as it perfectly matches its founding values of respect towards the planet and future generations.

The first decade of the 21st century already passed and environmental issues have become one of the top priorities not only for co-op but also for the entire human race and the future of the planet.

If we fail to resolve this problem, it would pose a threat to the survival and progress of humanity and eventually loss of biodiversity.

In the global warming solution act, the Japanese government has decided to reduce (with some conditions) 25% of the gases by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (1990 base year).

To help address these challenges, JCCU and member co-ops have established 'the Co-op's renewed environmental policy for 2020' purposing to realize sustainable society based on low-carbon, natural symbiosis and recycling. This new policy consists of four major themes.

- Reduction of the total amount of CO₂ emission from Co-op's business
- Environment-friendliness in the production business
- Reduction and elimination of waste disposals from co-op's business
- Orienting the environmental preservation as one of the members' activities

We aim to develop and manufacture products whose impact on the environment is minimized. Recycling is also a critical part of co-ops efforts to safeguard the environment.

Co-op shares information about recycling and energy conservation with its members, staff, and take opportunities to encourage public officials to establish programs and policies that are good for the environment.

While approaching these policies, Co-op upholds its responsibility to establish a sustainable society and to meet expectations from members and communities as well as making improvement and strengthening its business by reducing environmental burdens.

Lastly, co-op considers other specific issues and a matrix of environmental action points, which details series of environmental actions, which member co-ops and its members have committed to complete. Co-op reviews the standard environmental agenda and re-arranges it to more specific agenda that would be in line with the environmental targets underlined in Co-op vision.

Japanese IBIS Project

(Supported by Co-op Net Federation & Co-op Niigata)

The Japanese Ibis (scientific name: *Niponia nippon*) is used to be widespread in Japan, but the species was hunted to the brink of extinction. Environmental damage also caused a great harm to the species. They were normally found in the Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture.

In 1952 the species was designated a Special Natural Monument, and in 1960 it was listed as an internationally protected species. It is now designated in Japan as a Special Bird for Protection.

Co-op Net Federation and Co-op Niigata have taken special measures to support the protection and preservation of the species by concluding a treaty named 'Japanese Ibis Protection in Sado' which is an environmental improvement project, with the local Government of the Sado city on April 30 2010.

Under this treaty, Co-op Net donates 1 yen per sale of 1 kg 'of Co-op Niigata Sado Koshihikari Rice' sold in the stores of all the federation members (Ibaraki Co-op, Tochigi Co-op, Co-op Gunma, Chiba Co-op, Saitama Co-op, Co-op Tokyo, Co-op Nagano and Co-op Niigata) and also through their delivery service.

This year's implementation period is from May to December.

Also, promotion of member and staff visit to the site contributes to deepen their mutual understanding for the Sado Ibis Protection.



Japanese Ibis

Store layout based on the 'Eco-store Concept' (in the store business)

To cut CO₂ emission from stores drastically, JCCU and member Co-ops have been working together to establish the 'Eco-store Concept'. Planning and development of new stores have to be based on this Concept.

Under the 'Standard for the new store development', Co-op Net Federation (HQ Saitama) has opened some new energy-saving type stores using 10~15% less electricity than their existing stores. Since 2008, further promotion of the standard has facilitated introductions of some energy-saving equipment to accelerate more CO₂ reduction.

Some extra CO₂ emission despite these measures is offset by emissions trading (carbon offset). 'Zero CO₂ emission stores' discharging no CO₂ gas was achieved in this way.

These 'Zero CO₂ emission stores' include the newest six stores opened in 2008 and 2009. In this manner Co-op controls CO₂ emission even increasing the number of stores.



Using high efficiency light reflector to improve illumination intensity in the store.



Using canopy illumination system to improve light efficiency.

Widespread introduction of biodiesel fuel (in the home delivery business)

The number of biodiesel fuel (BDF) trucks being used by consumer co-ops nationwide for the home delivery business has greatly increased in recent years. This is part of co-ops measures towards the prevention of global warming. At the end of 2009, co-ops nationwide had on record about 500 BDF trucks.

Co-op Sapporo has introduced BDF and started its delivery service using BDF trucks. Oil waste from the prepared-meal section at the stores and that from members' household trash are used as an ingredient of BDF.

It is estimated that thirty-eight thousand tons of waste oil is converted into BDF every month. Co-op Sapporo has 240 BDF trucks, the largest in Japan and had succeeded in reducing about 400 tons of CO₂ in 2009.

Many Co-ops are promoting eco-driving, trying to shorten the delivery distance by improving the delivery efficiency.

Pal System Consumers Co-operative Union in Tokyo is also promoting eco-driving by cooperating with its producers and business partners. 'Eco-Driving Contest' was organized and participated by Pal System business partners to demonstrate the levels of improvement in fuel consumption. A total number of 5,037 trucks and 400 teams participated in the contest.

* Combustion of BDF is not counted as discharged CO₂ since it is made from plant oil. Many Co-ops use waste oil from their stores as an ingredient of BDF. It is one of the efficient uses of unused resources and will contribute to realize a recycling society.

Butterflies monitoring by Pal System

Following to the last year's approach taken by Pal System Tokyo, a research of butterflies was held by Pal System Group (Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Ibaraki, Gunma, Fukushima and Shizuoka prefectures). This was a cooperative research with the University of Tokyo. The purpose of this research is to track our immediate nature, to monitor change of biodiversity and global warming, to study natural environment and to make an effective measures with involvement of citizens.

Invitation to participation was from May to July and between June and August, about 300 participants have submitted their result. At a designated website participants submitted their observation report together with the pictures they took. The Laboratory of Conservation Ecology of the University of Tokyo compiled the results into a database. The result is published as an effective countermeasure.

Tajiri Declaration for Creatures in the Rice Paddies

On December 15, 2009, a 'Research Project for Creatures in the Rice Paddies' consisting of Tohto Co-op, Miyagi Co-op, JA Midorino Tajiri Branch (in Miyagi) and Osaki-city Tajiri Branch Office announced the 'Tajiri Declaration for Creatures in the Rice Paddies'. It is the first declaration in Japan promising to promote agriculture coexisting with natural creatures in the field.

The declaration includes ten promises such as to make 'the rice paddies safe and secure', to maintain biodiversity of satoyama (woodland near populated area) as a cumulative ecosystem, soil preparation, contribution to the local culture and promotion of *sanchoku* (direct transaction with farmers).

Members' involvement in environmental activities

Sustainability is a core concern for consumer co-operatives. Co-ops involve their members in this commitment by making them aware that their purchases and consumption habits must as well be sustainable.

Co-op carries various environmental activities with members and groups in the regional communities. These activities include buying eco-friendly products, surveying creatures in the rice paddies, tree planting, forest management and preservation of coral reefs.

To mention some few examples, Co-op Nagano carried out a creature survey workshop at rice paddies for growing rice feed for 'rice pigs' which will be sold at Co-op store.

Co-op Oita has joined in the 'Oita Water Regime Recreation Project' and held a 'family observation workshop for water creatures'. 330 members and children participated in the event. They learned the importance of environment and creatures' preservations.

Lala Co-op in Nagasaki also had water survey workshops four times and observed some rivers near their community.

Promotion of forestation

Regional Co-ops have supported preservation and cultivation of their local forests along with preserving and cultivating forests on the land near their fishing places.

In April 2010, as a part of Kyoto Forest Movement, Kyoto Co-op started its forest preservation project by concluding an agreement of 'forest preservation and utilization' with Kameoka-city Asahi Community Association, Kyoto-city, Kyoto Modelforest Association and Kameoka-city.

Purposing to preserve Iwate's fruitful forest, Iwate Co-op started 'Co-op no mori zukuri (forest cultivation)' in May 2010. This project was initiated as a tree-planting ceremony in Kuzumaki-ward with 190 member participation. They planted about 500 trees to reconstruct a broadleaf forest, including horse chestnuts and oak trees as they were bees' favorite.

In July 2010, Co-op Kobe found that an endangered species 'potentilla centigrana' was growing in 'Co-op no mori Shakegoyama' where the Co-op had maintained its activity.



Creature survey (Co-op Kanagawa)



Water quality test (Lala Co-op)



Members visit to co-op forest (Miyagi Co-op)

Coral Reef Restructuring in Okinawa

(Funding by Co-op Net Federation, CS Net and Pal System)

Co-op Net Federation has established the 'Co-op Net Churajima Support Fund' to provide funding for the activities under the 'Iheya-son Churajima Support Ordinance', which is to protect Iheya's nature and biodiversity and to foster industries.

In respect of this, Co-op Net has set out a time frame from August 9 2010 to July 2011 during which period, for each purchase of 'Co-op seasoned Okinawa mozuku (gel-like seaweed) 1 yen would be donated to the fund to support Iheya's environment protection. The activity would also serve as promoting the sales of mozuku and fostering exchanges between producers and Co-op members.

With the formation of the 'Coral Reef Restructure Support Project', Co-op CS Net will use a part of the profit from mozuku sales to nurture coral reefs under this project.

To promote exchanges between members and producers, Pal System, Onna-son Fishery Co-op, Igeta Co. Ltd. and Onna-son have cooperated to engage in planting corals. They plan to cultivate and plant 1,000 corals in a year, 10,000 in a decade.

Pal System started a fund-raising using its point system (points added in every purchase), which would be used together with a part of the sales form 'mozuku' to fund the corals planting project.

News in Brief

ICA-AP held 9th Annual General Assembly in Beijing-China

Four major meetings including the 9th General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific region (ICA-AP) of the International Co-operative Alliance, the consumers' cooperative committees, cooperative forum and a dialogue with the government were held in China, Beijing from 1 to 5 Sept. 2010.

On September 5 about 300 delegates and observers from 28 countries including Mr. Yamashita, president of JCCU participated in the regional assembly. An activity plan for 2011 was proposed, debated on and approved.

Discussion on the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives was made and stressed the need for each country to set up a steering organ to plan activities and events to promote co-operatives advantage in the society.

In addition, Japan was confirmed as the venue for the 10th Regional Assembly of ICA-AP, which will be held in 2012.

Finally, a report about the damages caused to Pakistan co-op by the flood that resulted from large-scale monsoon at the end of July was given and called for a relief support.



Typical scene at the 9th ICA-AP GA



Mr. Yamashita Toshifumi

Upcoming Event

COP10 will be held in Nagoya

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity declared by the United Nations. In October 2010, COP10 (Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held in Nagoya, Aichi prefecture from the 18th to 29th. In a similar event COP-MOP5 (Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety / Meeting of the parties), will also be held between the 11th and 15th.

In commemoration with the conference, Japanese Co-ops are holding various workshops and tours as well as developing some eco-friendly goods.

Events registered as COP10 partnership projects include Co-op Aichi's workshop on biodiversity and symbiosis with nature, insect collection (to think about ecosystem), nature tour in Omotehama which is frequently visited by sea turtles, tree thinning in a university forest, plant observation tour, Co-op Mie's event of "let's find creatures at a tide pool" and Miyagi Co-op's workshop on people's life and biodiversity.

Other events held such as 'Creatures observation at the rice paddies', 'Nature tour', 'Forest preservation' and 'Research of water and aquatic creatures' have also caused a new point of view of biodiversity.

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