To Protect Our Climate

Our Vision, Our Work
A year and three months have passed since our launch as a Japanese climate policy think tank in January 2022. We have been taking on our programs as a new team, making the most of the expertise and experience of our staff. Each activity has involved challenging and creative work in uncharted territory. Thanks to the support and cooperation from many people in our first year, we were able to publish independent analytical reports and information, and conduct analyses in collaboration with reputable European and American research institutions and think tanks. We also promoted collaboration with local governments and organizations. Going forward, we aim to advance our programs further while deepening dialogue and collaboration, working with international, national, and local stakeholders. Meanwhile, climate change continues to intensify. Climate Integrate recognizes the importance and urgency of working toward decarbonization, and will continue moving ahead, with the strong conviction that change is indeed possible.

Kimiko Hirata, Ph.D  
Executive Director
Climate Integrate is an independent climate policy think tank established in Japan in 2022. Based on the following vision, mission, and values, we work toward the realization of policies that are consistent with the Paris Agreement, based on our think tank and support functions.

**Vision**
Climate Integrate aims to protect the climate and realize a just, sustainable and peaceful society. In particular, we aim to ensure that Japan achieves decarbonization and the development of society in ways that foster human happiness.

**Mission**
Climate Integrate conducts research, engagement, and communication to accelerate policy changes and actions toward decarbonization. We support the decarbonization efforts of a diverse range of actors, based on an integrated approach to science, policy, and society.

**Values**

- **Knowledge:** Provide information and analysis on climate solutions
- **Integrity:** Support open, transparent and inclusive processes and dialogue
- **Empowerment:** Promote multi-stakeholder engagement to accelerate decarbonization

Climate Integrate works:
Showing the facts through a "**think tank function**" that clarifies the direction and,
Conveying the facts through a "**support function**" that provides information for decision-making.
Throughout our work, we deepen **communication** with diverse stakeholders, foster a broader understanding of measures and actions, expand support and implementation, and open the window of opportunity for policy change.
This year we released two reports. In “Getting Lost on the Road to Decarbonization: Japan’s Big Plans for Ammonia” (May 2022) we analyzed the actual situation related to ammonia co-firing, which is being promoted by the public and private sectors as a measure for the power sector.

In “Decarbonizing Japan’s Electricity System: Policy Change to Trigger a Shift” (March 2023) we analyzed the decarbonization of Japan’s electricity system, in cooperation with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which is affiliated with the U.S. Department of Energy. Timed with Berkeley Lab’s release of a 90% decarbonization scenario for Japan for 2035, we presented policy recommendations that could make that scenario a reality.

A hybrid symposium we organized (March 1, 2023) was attended by about 400 stakeholders, including government representatives, experts, and NGOs.

Climate Integrate will continue to utilize its global network to conduct science-based evaluations of policies and measures, and conduct research and analysis to ensure consistency with the 1.5°C goal.
We conveyed fact-based information and supported initiatives to help stakeholders move forward with sound actions.

**Toyooka City**

We started supporting the climate efforts of this city in Hyogo Prefecture.

Climate Integrate, together with the Hidaka Kannabe Tourism Association, held three study sessions with invited experts to discuss measures in conjunction with tourism in areas that are beginning to feel the impacts of reduced snowfall due to climate change.

We provided support for discussions involving the city, citizens and business operators, resulting in announcing the first decarbonization declaration “Yukimirai 100 Year Declaration” as a tourism association that aims to achieve carbon neutrality in the 2040s and be nature positive.

We continue working with stakeholders in Toyooka to promote the region’s attractions from the combined perspective of “climate change and tourism.”

**Hakuba Village**

After participating as a guest speaker at the Protect our Winters Japan (POW Japan) Ambassador Summit, we began working on collaborative efforts with stakeholders in Hakuba Village in Nagano Prefecture.

Hakuba, a world-famous ski resort, is already undertaking a variety of initiatives and is seen as an iconic area in climate action. We exchanged views with the mayor, local groups, and businesses. We continue to support its carbon neutrality efforts.

Goro Komatsu, CEO of POW Japan, took the stage at the “Yukimirai 100 Year Declaration” ceremony in Kannabe, Toyooka City, connecting people from the two ski resorts in Kannabe and Hakuba and promoting inter-regional cooperation.

**Sakata City**

To explore the potential for a regional energy transition in Sakata City and Yuza Town in Yamagata Prefecture, we made site visits.

We held meetings with the mayors of Sakata and Yuza, CEOs of wind power and coal-fired power plants, representatives of local companies, and student and youth groups.

We also gave guest lectures to at Sakata Koryo High School.

**Ichikawa City**

In October 2022, our Executive Director Kimiko Hirata was appointed as an advisor for environmental policy promotion in Ichikawa City in Chiba Prefecture and has been supporting the city’s carbon-neutral initiatives.

**Other entities we have advised**

**Educational institutions:**
- Chiba University of Commerce, Takasaki University of Economics,
- Tokyo University of the Arts, Toyo University, Kyoto University,
- Ochanomizu University, Sakata Koryo High School, etc.

**Municipalities:**
- Ichikawa City (Chiba Pref), Toyooka City (Hyogo Pref.),
- Nerima City (Tokyo), Suginami City (Tokyo), etc.

**Others:**
- Seikatsu Club Consumers’ Co-operative Union,
- Palsystem Consumers’ Co-operative Union,
- Green Coop Cooperative Society, institutional investor groups, labor unions, NGOs, industry associations, etc.

**Integrated approach to addressing climate change and local issues**

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We released reader-friendly information on various climate-related topics.

“2022 Japan Climate Calendar Top Ten Highlights”
March 31, 2022
(English and Japanese)
A summary of the top climate-related highlights of 2022, in a calendar format.

“Ammonia Use in Thermal Power Generation in Japan”
July 28, 2022
(English and Japanese)
Insights into fuel ammonia in the thermal power generation sector, which Japan is aggressively promoting.

“Climate Change Now and in the Future: A message from the Latest Science”
August 2, 2022
(Japanese only)
The IPCC’s latest scientific findings on climate change, presented with reader-friendly infographics.

“Road to Hiroshima 2023 Key Takeaways from G7 Summit”
August 18, 2022
(English and Japanese)
Key highlights of the G7 Summit communiqué from Elmau, Germany (June 2022) as well as Japan’s stance and interpretation.

“The Nitrogen Cycle: Negative Impacts of Japan’s Ammonia Power Dreams”
December 1, 2022
(English and Japanese)
A focus on nitrogen, an indispensable element for ammonia co-firing in coal power plants, and summary of various environmental impacts.
Media and SNS

We provided our perspectives and messages through media responses, interviews, presentations, lectures, etc.

Major programs and coverage

**NHK:** “Sunday Debate” 25-Sep-2023

**Nikkei Shimbun:** “Human Discovery” 13 to 17-Mar-2023 (5 episodes)

**Mainichi Shimbun:** The Achievements and Challenges of COP27 14-Dec-2022

**Tokyo Shimbun:** “Climate Change and Employment - What is a ‘Just Transition?'” 17-Sep-2022

**HuffPost:** “Interview with Kimiko Hirata” 28-Apr-2022

**Nikkei National Graphic:** “The Carbon Almanac - Climate Change Perfect Guide. Editor speaks - The Truth about Climate Change” Feb-2023

**Preventing Global Warming (magazine):** column, “Understanding climate action since the Paris Agreement, with Kimiko Hirata”

Radio and podcasts

J-Wave, NHK Radio, TBS Radio, Amazon podcasts

Comments quoted


Awards

Executive Director Kimiko Hirata was selected as one of BBC’s “100 Women” in 2022.

Twitter

Tweeting media releases and fact-based commentary on domestic and international topics in Japanese and English.

Tweets that attracted most interest related to our comments on UNEP, IEA, UNFCCC and other reports, and details on G7 communiqués, etc. Our infographics explaining IPCC reports were also very popular. Within Japan, there was strong interest in our tweets on government actions such as GX and carbon pricing.
Messages from Directors and Advisors

Tetsuji Ida / Board of Directors
Senior Staff Writer & Editorial Writer (Environment, Energy and Development), Kyodo News

“There are major problems not only in the content of Japan’s energy policies but also in the ways they are discussed and decided, and there is an urgent need for changes to reflect the voices of citizens. To do so, it is important to provide proper scientific evidence, as in the results of research by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. While discussing national policies, it is also important to continue doing activities that are rooted at the local level. There are many challenges, but let’s do our best effort for a sustainable future.”

Kenji Shiraishi / Board of Directors
Researcher Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

“Over the past year, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Climate Integrate worked together in research on the decarbonization of Japan’s power sector and delivered science-based recommendations to stakeholders both inside and outside Japan. I appreciate everyone’s efforts. Upon this foundation, I look forward to collaborating further with Climate Integrate as it gains even greater impact as a policy think tank, providing input to Japan’s next NDC and the Strategic Energy Plan.”

Naoyuki Yamagishi / Board of Directors
Chief Conservation Officer Director, Climate & Energy and Oceans & Fisheries Division, WWF Japan

“It has been a great achievement that Climate Integrate has been able to proactively provide knowledge on a wide range of issues, from national policies to corporate performance evaluations to regional initiatives, and also focus on communication. I look forward to seeing new and incisive insights from an independent perspective.”

Sakon Kuramoto / Advisor
Attorney at Law (Japan and New York)

“Climate change is becoming a major political, social, and economic issue in Japan, and Climate Integrate, led by Kimiko Hirata, has been supporting various actors in their efforts to decarbonize through an integrated approach linking science, policy, and society. I have high expectations as it aims to realize a just, sustainable and peaceful society. I think it will be especially important to support the positive efforts of Japanese companies in the future.”

Athena Ronquillo-Ballesteros / Advisor
Managing Director, Climate Leadership Initiative

Japan needs to deepen its commitment to decarbonize the economy with the speed and scale required by the climate emergency. A science driven and evidence-based policy research organization such as Climate Integrate will continue to hold Japan accountable and provide the most compelling and robust analysis to enable an equitable transition.

Naoyuki Yamagishi / Board of Directors
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Partners
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, US
- NewClimate Institute, Germany
- Helten Communications, Canada
- Visual Thinking, Japan
- THREE IS A MAGIC NUMBER, Japan
Governance / Financial Information

Board of Directors
Tetsuji Ida
Senior Staff Writer & Editorial Writer, Environment, Energy and Development, Kyodo News

Kenji Shiraishi
Researcher Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Naoyuki Yamagishi
Chief Conservation Officer Director, Climate & Energy and Oceans & Fisheries Division, WWF Japan

Advisors
Dr. Bill Hare  CEO, Climate Analytics
Athena Ronquillo-Ballesteros  Managing Director, Climate Leadership Initiative
Sakon Kuramoto  Attorney at Law
Dr. Minoru Tsubogo  Professor Emeritus, Waseda University
Dr. Takeshi Mizuguchi  President, Takasaki City University of Economics

Team
Kimiko Hirata  Ph.D, Executive Director
Chisaki Watanabe  Program Director
Hiroaki Odawara  Program Director
Yasuyuki Sasaki  Communications Manager
Yukiko Onozato  Office Manager
Atsuko Kawaguchi  Communications Fellow

Financial Information FY2022

Income
JPY 50,360,000
(approx. USD 387,400)

Expenditures
JPY 50,260,000
(approx. USD 386,600)

- Programs 3.4%
- Grants 96.5%
- Research and analysis 24.9%
- Policy engagement 35.2%
- Communication 22.9%
- Stakeholder engagement 10.0%
- Administrative 7.1%

1 USD = 130 JPY