

Report of Activities in FY2023

1. Period covered

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

2. Purpose

Our purpose is to accelerate policy shifts and actions to protect the climate, through research, analysis, engagement, and communications, based on an integrated approach to science, policy, and society.

3. Activities in FY2023

In FY2023, after the G7 Hiroshima Summit, COP28, and other international conferences, the direction was set for “moving away from fossil fuels” and “tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency improvements.” Meanwhile, there were some developments in Japan such as the government's “Green Transformation” (GX) legislation and formulation of sector-specific investment strategies as well as the first issuance of Climate Transition Bonds in February 2024.

Under these circumstances, Climate Integrate, in its second year, added five new staff members to bring the total ten, and implemented multiple projects while improving the organizational infrastructure.

Building on our information collection and analysis work, we published four reports, produced an information booklet, and engaged in dialogue and information sharing with stakeholders. Our reports and other materials have gained recognition, including coverage by multiple media outlets, and have been widely shared by investors, NGOs, business groups, foreign governments, and organizations, thanks to our unique perspective, novel thematic approach, and analysis. As a climate policy think tank, we have contributed to stimulating policy discussions “showing the facts” and “conveying the facts.”

(1) Research and analysis relating to climate change

Analysis of overall government climate and energy policy

- **Analysis of the government's Green Transformation (GX) trends**

In July 2023, we issued a short web-based Insights article on the GX initiative. We followed up in January 2024 by publishing a report, "What is GX?" summarizing issues such as GX's alignment with the Paris Agreement, continued dependence on fossil fuels, and greenwashing risk.

- **Analysis of government climate and energy-related budgets and GX investments**

For the analysis of the allocation and scale of the government's climate and energy-related budget, we identified and categorized climate change mitigation measures to help readers understand the state of the FY2024 budget. We also took a close look at the shares and breakdown of GX investments in the budget amid growing interest in government support through the GX initiative and compiled the results into a report, "Japan's Spending Plans for Climate and Energy" in March 2024, to provide an overall picture.

- **Climate solutions for housing and buildings**

In October 2023, we published a report, "**Tackling Climate Change in Residential and Building Sectors,**" summarizing the current status of climate measures in those sectors, plus necessary measures and policies, and the roles of the national and local governments, companies, and individuals. We also compiled information sheets on available subsidies and best practices by local governments.

- **Evaluation of corporate measures: Analysis of net zero targets of 10 companies**

We conducted an analysis of 10 major Japanese companies in energy-intensive sectors to understand their goals and measures toward carbon neutrality. We used publicly available company documents and partnered with the NewClimate Institute in Germany to apply their "Corporate Climate Responsibility Monitor" methodology. We published the resulting report "Assessing Net Zero: Integrity Review of 10 Japanese Companies," in May 2023, assigning a low rank to every company surveyed.

- **Sustainable finance**

We conducted an analysis of the Japanese government's monetary policy, the current status of sustainable finance by financial institutions, and a trend analysis regarding Climate Transition Bonds (the aforementioned "What is GX?" report covered the Climate Transition Bonds). We also initiated a joint research project with Kyoto University on engagement by Japanese institutional investors and presented a report at a September meeting.

- **Climate governance**

We started work on analyzing the process of formulating Japan's Seventh Strategic Energy Plan. The results of the analysis will be published in FY2024.

(2) Engagement in policy-making relating to climate change

We provided input and held dialogues with policymakers and government officials on climate and energy policy change at G7 and UN meetings, as well as other opportunities and in government deliberative processes.

- **Government**

Hearing for the Offshore Wind Industry Strategy Study Group, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (July 7, 2023)

Testimony for the Investigative Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Sustainable Society, House of Councillors (February 21, 2024)

- **International and diplomatic relations**

Plenary keynote speech at the 12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland (November 27, 2023)

Overseas governments: Meetings with John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (U.S.), Stephen Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change (Canada), Patrick Graichen, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (Germany), Jacob Werksman, Principal Adviser to Director General for Climate Action, the European Commission, among others.

(3) Disseminating information on climate change

We provided information through updating our website, focusing on key topics in Insights, holding webinars, and posting on X/Twitter.

- **Website**

We modified the structure, standardized icons, and enhanced the overall design to make our website accessible.

- **Reports and Insights**

In addition to the above mentioned reports, we produced blog-style Insights articles and brochures to reach out in an easy-to-understand manner to a wider audience. For each publication, our emphasis was on “conveying the facts.” We produced them with high design quality and provided all illustrations and other materials as open resources.

- **Insights: 10 highlights for 2023 that are important for climate change** (April 2023)

10 key climate change highlights for 2023 in chronological order. Infographics by VISUAL THINKING.

- **Brochure: Tackling Climate Change in Residential and Building Sectors** (October 2023)

We made a shorter version (4-page) of the above mentioned 12-page report, for broader use by the public as it is equally important for local governments and citizens to deepen understanding and implement measures as policy change initiated by the national government.

- **Insights: Hiroshima G7 Summit 2023 - Analysis of the Communique** (June 2023)

This publication outlined the agreements reached at the Hiroshima G7 Summit and analyzed Japan's leadership as the presidency.

- **Webinars and videos**

- **Webinar:** Held on the occasion of the release of the report “Assessing Net Zero: Integrity Review of 10 Japanese Companies
- **Video:** Introductory video and interview video about an insulation workshop at Kiyotaki Elementary School in Toyooka City

- **X (formerly TWITTER) (April 2023-March 2024)**

- In addition to spreading the news about reports by Climate Integrate, our account served as a reliable bilingual source of views on domestic and international trends.

Followers: 1,928 (as of May 16, 2024)

Total posts: 280

Total impressions: 332,689

Total engagements: 9,619

Total reposts (without comments): 745

Total likes: 1,525

Total replies: 209

Top viewed topics

Top 1 (36,697): Report "Japan's Spending Plans for Climate and Energy"

Top 2(25,362): Report" **Tackling Climate Change in Residential and Building Sectors"**

Top 3 (12,175): Completion of Japanese translation (75 pages) of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's scenario "2035 Japan Report"

- **Others**

- Contributed to the bimonthly magazine "Global Warming": "Reading with Kimiko Hirata, climate change measures after the Paris Agreement"
- Contributing writer, Japan Times: Hirata contributes Opinion pieces occasionally.

(4) Dialogue, advice and support for domestic and international stakeholders

We held dialogues, collaborated with and provided support for regional organizations and local governments.

- **Companies and investors**

To follow up on our evaluation of 10 companies, we held meetings with them and provided information to investors.

- **Toyooka City/Hidaka-Kannabe Tourist Association**

Continuing from the previous fiscal year, we supported climate initiatives of the Hidaka-Kannabe Tourism Association and Toyooka City. We provided support for the development of further initiatives through insulation workshops at Kiyotaki Elementary School, lectures at professional universities. We also supported developing an "action plan" based on the "Yukimirai 100 Year Declaration," and participated in the Toyooka Fan Meeting, meetings with the mayor, and making the topic the subject of a BS Asahi program "Earth Crisis."

- **Hakuba Village, POW Japan, Patagonia**

In addition to serving as an instructor for training at the Hakuba Village Office, we held meetings with the village mayor and other officials to discuss and advise on further initiatives in Hakuba Village. We collaborated with POW Japan and Patagonia in various meetings.

- **Sakata City**

Continuing from last year, we visited Sakata City and met with a wind power developer and the deputy mayor. We also held a meeting with local governments, businesses, citizens, and other stakeholders to discuss future energy transition in the region. We collaborated with Kiko Network to hold a seminar.

- **Ichikawa City**

We provided support for Ichikawa City's zero-carbon efforts following the appointment of Kimiko Hirata (Climate Integrate) as environmental policy advisor to the city in October 2022

- **Others**

- Lectures, etc.

Universities: The University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Chiba University of Commerce, University of the Sacred Heart, Takasaki City University of Economics, Hosei University, Chuo University, Aichi Mizuho College

Municipalities: Sapporo City, Sakata City, Hakuba Village, Ichikawa City, Katsushika Ward, Bunkyo Ward, Toyooka City

Others: Green Co-op Cooperative Society, Seikatsu Club Consumers'

Co-operative Union, Palsystem Consumers' Co-operative Union, Tokyo Consumers'

Co-operative Union, POW Japan, Patagonia, Burton, Ethical k-Association, SDGs in Sports, NGOs, institutional investor groups

- Interviews, program appearances, etc.

Main programs and papers

The Japan Times : "It's time to kick our addiction to fossil fuels" December 14, 2023

BS Asahi: "Global Crisis - Climate Crisis: The Road Map to Transformation" January 6, 2024

Nikkei Shimbun: "Compounding Eyes: COP28 1.5 Degree Targets." October 30, 2023

Asahi Shimbun: "[Asahi Earth Conference 2023](#)". November 21, 2023

Kobe Shimbun: "[Interview: How do we proceed with CO2 reduction?](#)" March 4, 2024

Amazon Podcast "[Natsuki Yasuda, 'How critical is the global environment today according to IPCC report?'](#)" April 28, 2023

- Comments Published
Domestic and other newspapers
The New York Time, The Japan Times, Reuters, Financial Times, etc.

(5) Activities incidental or related to preceding items

Strengthened the financial base and built a database to implement the above projects.