Environment Innovation Strategy
(Summary)

January 21, 2020
What we aim for with this strategy

In the “Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement” (approved by the cabinet in June 2019, hereafter “Long-Term Strategy”), Japan’s government set an ambitious target of a “decarbonized society” as a final goal that should be achieved as early as possible in the last half of the twenty-first century. The government stated the drastic actions required for realizing an 80% reduction of GHG by 2050. Moreover, the government clearly expressed Japan’s contribution to the Paris Agreement including the 1.5-degree goal by sharing Japan’s mind and actions in the world.

However, a large additional annual cost for reducing GHG emissions, roughly estimated as seven trillion USD, is expected for achieving the 2-degree goal written in the Paris Agreement and further additional cost is needed for the 1.5-degree goal. Therefore, disruptive innovation that enables the early introduction of the new technology with reasonably acceptable cost is absolutely necessary for reducing global GHG emissions. (Japan has contributed through innovation; e.g., one-two hundred fiftieth cost reduction in the photovoltaic cell. See next page.)

The Environment Innovation Strategy, hereby formulated, based on the Long-term Strategy, consists of:
1) the Innovation Action Plans, which describe 16 technological challenges with cost targets;
2) the Acceleration Plans, which show research frameworks and investment promotion policies;
3) the Zero-Emission Initiatives, which are on collaborative works and outreach activities with global leaders for implementation in the society.

This Environment Innovation Strategy aims to establish innovative technologies that enable global carbon neutrality and, further, reduction of the accumulated stock of CO2 in the earth’s atmosphere (“Beyond Zero”) by 2050.

※described as “Progressive Environment Innovation Strategy” in the Long-Term Strategy.
For more than 30 years, Japan has invested in the research and development (R&D) of photovoltaics, including in the Sunshine Project and the New Sunshine Project. As a result, the price of the photovoltaic cell has reduced dramatically by more than 1/250th, leading to the global trend of mass installation of photovoltaics. The estimated cost saved in the period from 1977 to 2015 is as large as 17 trillion USD.
Outline of Environment Innovation Strategy

**Innovation Action Plans**

- Action plans for establishment of the innovative technologies by 2050 -

(16 challenges in 5 fields)

Describing: i) specific target cost and amount of reduction in global GHG emission; ii) specifics of technology development; iii) systems for development; and iv) the processes from basic research to demonstration.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acceleration Plans</th>
<th>- 3 approaches for accelerating the “Innovation Action Plans” -</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1) Systematic implementation with a chain of command</strong></td>
<td>[Green Innovation Strategy Meeting] Driving plans on an inter-agency and long-term basis from basic research to adoption. Thorough reviews on ongoing projects and revision of the Innovation Action Plans with the latest knowledge.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2) Gathering the wisdom of the world</strong></td>
<td>[Joint zero-emission research bases] Establishment of the Global Zero Emission Research Center (GZR) to connect 120,000 researchers in G20 member countries, the Research Center for Basic Energy Sciences with industry-academia collaboration and the Carbon Recycling R&amp;D and Demonstration Base. The launch of the Tokyo Bay Zero-emission Innovation Area to strengthen industry-academia-government collaboration.</td>
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<td>[Zero-Emission Creators 500] Intensive support to young promising researchers.</td>
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<td>[Strengthening support to promising technologies] Utilization of the Feasibility Study Program and the Moonshot Research and Development Program, and creation of the Circulating and Ecological Economy.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3) Promotion of private investment</strong></td>
<td>[Promoting green finance] Promotion of disclosure of corporate climate-related information in line with the TCFD recommendations and dialogue between the industry and the financial community.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>[Zero-Emission Challenge] Enhancing investors' access to corporate information with an award system and information disclosure of excellent projects</td>
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**Zero-Emission Initiatives** -messages at international conferences for global collaboration-

*Green Innovation Summit, RD20, ICEF, TCFD Summit, Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting, and International Conference on Carbon Recycling*
Innovation Action Plans

16 important and common technical challenges were extracted from 5 fields; (I) energy transformation, energy demands (II) transportation, (III) industry, (IV) business, household, cross-sectoral and (V) agriculture, forestry and fisheries / absorber. 39 themes having large amount of GHG reduction potential and significantly contributed by Japanese technology were set.

Aiming to establish innovative technologies by 2050, which will enable global carbon neutral, (1) concrete cost target of innovation, quantity of global GHG reduction to clarify the social impact, (2) R&D contents, (3) R&D formations, and (4) specific scenarios and actions from basic R&D to practical application and demonstration development are described in the strategy.

I. Energy transformation

Renewable energy will be made a main power source by drastic improvement to the efficiency and cost reduction of photovoltaic (PV) systems with innovative materials and structures. At the same time, CCUS and carbon recycling technologies will be introduced to fossil fuel power generation. These measures will lead to decarbonized and affordable energy supply.

1. Renewable energy as a main power source
   1) Flexible, lightweight, and highly efficient PV systems to reduce constraints on installation
   2) Supercritical geothermal systems
   3) Floating offshore wind turbines applicable to harsh environments

2. Resilient electricity network using digital technologies
   4) Low-cost innovative battery to make renewable energy a main power source
   5) Energy management system (EMS) with digital technology to reduce the grid cost
   6) Highly-efficient and low-cost power electronics technology

3. Low-cost hydrogen supply chain
   7) Production: CO₂-free hydrogen production cost reduced to 1/10
   8) Storage & transportation: compressed hydrogen, liquefied hydrogen, organic hydride, ammonia, and metal hydride
   9) Utilization: low-cost hydrogen station and low-NOx hydrogen power generation

4. Next-generation atomic energy and nuclear fusion
   10) Atomic energy with excellent safety system
   11) Nuclear fusion

5. Low-cost CO₂ capture for CCUS and carbon recycling
   12) Establishment of low-cost CO₂ capture technology for CCUS and carbon recycling

GHG reductions (CO₂ equivalents, can be counted twice) are estimates to share a common image to be pursued. Assumptions are different.
II. Transportation

GHG from vehicles, aviation, and shipping will be significantly reduced with various approaches such as electrification and decarbonization of fuels.

6. Green mobility modalities

13) Expansion of electrification of vehicles and aviation, including high-performance storage batteries, and significant improvement in environmental performance
14) Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) system and establishment of hydrogen-mobility infrastructure including storage system
15) Technologies for producing biofuels and synthetic fuels with carbon recycling technologies at a cost comparable with the existing fuels and their utilization

III. Industry

Independence from fossil fuel will be achieved with innovative technologies (e.g. zero-carbon steelmaking process with CO₂-free hydrogen). Sophisticated carbon recycling technologies, such as transforming CO₂ into materials and fuels, will be used as much as possible.

7. Independence from fossil fuels (electricity from renewable energy and CO₂-free hydrogen)

16) “Zero-carbon steel” with innovative technologies such as hydrogen reduction
17) Higher efficiency of metal resource circulation
18) Advanced plastic resource circulation

8. Carbon recycling technologies to transform CO₂ to materials and fuels

19) Producing plastics by artificial photosynthesis technology
20) Fine chemicals with innovative manufacturing process and Carbon Recycling
21) Low-cost methanation
22) Cement made from CO₂ and concrete absorbing CO₂

GHG reductions (CO₂ equivalents, can be counted twice) are estimates to share a common image to be pursued. Assumptions are different.
IV. Business, household and other cross-sectoral fields

Advanced technologies will be widely adopted in the business and household sectors, and the social system and lifestyle will change with advanced information and communication technologies.

9. Implementation of advanced GHG reduction technologies
   23) Cross-sectoral energy efficiency
   24) Low-cost stationary fuel cell systems
   25) Increased use of unutilized and renewable thermal energy
   26) Low global warming potential (GWP) and non-fluorocarbon refrigerants

10. Transformative urban management using big data, AI, decentralized management technology (smart community)
   27) Accelerating the application of relevant technologies in the society

11. Energy saving by sharing economy and telework, work style reform and behavior change
   28) Promoting sharing economy, telework, work style reform and behavior change

12. Developing scientific knowledge for the verification of GHG reduction effects
   29) Elucidating and improving the forecast of the climate change mechanism, research including observation, reinforcement of information infrastructure

13. CO₂ absorption and fixation in the ocean, farmland, forest with advanced biotechnology
   30) Genome editing technology and other applied biotechnology
   31) Raw material changes using biomass
   32) Carbon sequestration in farmland using biochar
   33) Wooden high-rise buildings and wood-based bioplastics
   34) Smart forestry and fast-growing trees
   35) Blue carbon (carbon sequestration in the marine ecosystems)

14. Reduction of methane and N₂O from agriculture and livestock industry
   36) Breeding and optimal management for farmland and livestock

15. Smart agriculture, forestry and fisheries
   37) Building the energy system based on local production for local consumption to suit rural areas
   38) Reduction of fossil fuels and materials by electrifying agricultural and forestry machines and fishing boats, and by labor optimization

16. Capturing CO₂ in the air
   39) Pursuit of DAC (Direct Air Capture) technology

V. Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and carbon sinks

Zero-emission in agriculture, forestry and fisheries will be achieved with smart ecosystem, and carbon sinks will be expanded by innovative technologies.

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Five prioritized technology sets in the Innovation Action Plans

There are five key sets of technologies in the Innovation Action Plans: 1) non-fossil fuel energy that contributes to electricity supply and all the fields with hydrogen and carbon recycling; 2) energy network technologies including storage batteries, integral to a wide use of renewable energy; 3) hydrogen energy, which can be utilized in transport, industry, power generation sectors; 4) carbon recycling and CCUS, which contribute to a significant reduction of CO₂; 5) Agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which account for a quarter of global GHG emissions.

1) Non-fossil energy
   - Renewable energy: PV, Hydro, Wind, Geothermal, Solar thermal, Ground and unutilized heat, Biomass, Ocean
   - Fossil fuels: Coal, Oil, Natural gas, methane hydrate
   - Nuclear

2) Energy network
   - Electricity
     - Agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector
     - Residential, commercial, public service sector
     - Transportation sector
     - Industry sector
   - CO₂ storage
   - Hydrogen import

3) Hydrogen
   - H₂
   - Carbon and nitrogen storage
   - Cross-sector coupling

4) Carbon recycling and CCUS
   - DAC (Direct Air Capture)

5) Zero-emission agriculture, forestry and fisheries

Source: IPCC AR5 WG3 report
1) CCUS: Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage
2) DAC: Direct Air Capture (CO₂ separation from air)
### Non-fossil

#### Photovoltaics installed anywhere

- Efficiency more than twice as high as that of current solar cells
- Target cost: Equal to or less than conventional power sources
- Potential of CO₂ reduction: 7 billion tons/year**

**Potential for reduction of global GHG emissions is estimated by NEDO.**

***Since the technology acts as a regulation of the renewable energy, individual GHG reduction potential is not calculated.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>R&amp;D</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solar cells: Establishment of extremely lightweight, highly-efficient (more than 35%), and flexible module manufacturing technologies using new materials (e.g., perovskite) and new structures (e.g., tandem, quantum dot), which enables installation of the solar cells anywhere (e.g., facade of buildings).</td>
<td>Strengthening international cooperation through Global Zero Emission Research Center (GZR) and RD20.</td>
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<td>Organized enforcement from leading study to practical use.</td>
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#### Energy network

#### Digital electricity network

- Cost equivalent to current electric rate, including energy management cost
- Target cost: Equal to current power source
- Inevitable for regulating the variable renewable energy source***

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<td>Technologies that enables renewable energy as main power source (e.g., VPP, DR*, energy management system as next-generation regulating technology, battery, high-efficiency power electronics technology).</td>
<td>International cooperation through international conferences such as RD20.</td>
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<td>Collaboration between industry and academia.</td>
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*VPP: Virtual Power Plant, DR: Demand Response

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**Perovskite-type (lightweight flexible)**

↑For cars

↑Image for next-generation energy management system
### Hydrogen

#### Hydrogen society
Cost equivalent to that of existing energy

**R&D**
- Cost reduction to produce CO₂-free hydrogen from renewable energy or fossil fuel with CCUS.
- Transportation and storage of hydrogen (compressed hydrogen, liquefied hydrogen, organic hydride, metal hydride, etc.).
- Establishment of the international supply chain.
- High efficiency fuel cell. Low NOx hydrogen power generation. Utilization of artificial photosynthesis.

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<td>International cooperation through International conferences.</td>
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<td>Collaboration of industry, university, and public institute activated by national R&amp;D projects.</td>
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**Target cost:** 1/10 or less than current production cost  
**Potential of CO₂ reduction:** 6 billion tons/year*

### Zero-carbon steelmaking process
Utilization of CO₂-free hydrogen as the reducing agent instead of carbon

**R&D**
- Breakthrough technologies for the reduction of iron ore by hydrogen.
- CCUS technology such as CO₂ capture by unused waste-heat.

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<td>Start of feasibility study, and development for practical use by industry.</td>
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**Target cost:** Equal to current steel  
**Potential of CO₂ reduction:** 3.8 billion tons/year*

### Carbon Recycling, CCUS

#### CO₂ uptake using cement and concrete
Utilizing CO₂ emitted during production

**R&D**
- Capturing of CO₂ from cement burning process. Recycling of CO₂ as cement raw materials and construction materials by uptaking CO₂ into waste cement and concrete.
- CO₂ storage under infrastructure by concrete materials.

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<tr>
<td>Acceleration of development, including scale-up test, by national R&amp;D projects.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Target cost:** Equal to or less than current products  
**Potential of CO₂ reduction:** 4.3 billion tons/year*

*Potential for reduction of global GHG emissions is estimated by NEDO, etc.*
Zero-emission agriculture, forestry and fisheries

CO₂ absorption and fixation to the farmland, forest, and ocean

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<tr>
<td>Blue carbon such as culture technology of marine algae. Biochar application to agricultural soil. Fast-growing trees and the “elite trees”. Wooden high-rise buildings. Low-cost mass production technology of biomass materials such as Glycol lignin.</td>
<td>Advancement of underlying technology through biotechnology. Organized enforcement from leading study to practical use.</td>
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| Target cost: Enabling to continue the business |
| Potential of CO₂ reduction: 11.9 billion tons/year* |

*Potential for reduction of global GHG emissions is estimated by NEDO, etc.

DAC (Direct Air Capture)

Low concentration CO₂ capture from ambient air

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<td>Pursuing technologies for CO₂ capture from ambient air. Development of CO₂ fixation technology for the captured CO₂.</td>
<td>Considering utilization of the Moonshot R&amp;D Program.</td>
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| Target cost: Acceptable cost as an industry |
| Potential of CO₂ reduction: 8.0 billion tons/year* |

Bio-jet fuel from CO₂

Production of bio-jet fuels and diesel by absorbing CO₂ into Microalgae that grow 1000 times faster than usual

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<tr>
<td>Large-scale demonstration project under various conditions to establish large and constant cultivation systems of Microalgae in the natural environment. Establishing a research hub in Hiroshima to conduct the cultivation test using CO₂ from coal-fired power plants. Promoting research to maximize CO₂ absorption efficiency.</td>
<td>Realizing commercial flights powered by bio-jet fuel in 2030. Project operation such as demonstration project in a large-scale cultivation pond.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Target cost: Equal to or less than current jet fuel |
| Potential of CO₂ reduction: A part of 2.0 billion tons/year* |

Bio-fuels

| Potential of CO₂ reduction: 11.9 billion tons/year* |

*Potential for reduction of global GHG emissions is estimated by NEDO, etc.
Acceleration Plans

In order to robustly enhance and apply the Innovation Action Plans, the Government will form and implement the Acceleration Plans, and: (1) systematically make efforts together with an inter-agency chain of command; (2) gather a wide range of wisdom not only in Japan but also of the world, and; (3) promote private investments in the light of the increase in ESG investments. The Acceleration Plans will be reviewed periodically, taking into account the progress in the Innovation Action Plans.

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### Innovation Action Plans

#### Green Innovation Strategy Meeting
(appraising existing projects and considering efficient system of promoting R&D)

- **Support for young promising researchers** *(Zero-Emission Creators 500)*
  (Identifying promising young researchers and supporting joint research with companies)

- **Feasibility Study Program**
  (JST¹, NEDO: identifying innovative technologies and fostering demonstration and implementation)

- **Utilization of the Moonshot Research and Development Program**
  (Basic R&D for Innovative technologies for implementation)

#### International collaboration at the Global Zero Emission Research Center (GZR)
(Also cooperating with academia-industry-government collaboration of RD20, ICEF, Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting, International Conference on Carbon Recycling, and playing a focal role in the collaboration between universities, public institutions and companies)

#### Research Center for Basic Energy Sciences

- **Zero-Emission Startup Support**
  (JST, NEDO; Promotion of VC investment for R&D startups)

#### Circulating and Ecological Economy
(Social decarbonization, resource circulation)

- **The Tokyo Bay Zero-emission Innovation Area**
  (Demonstration site)

- **Carbon Recycling R&D and Demonstration Base**
  (R&D for utilizing CO₂ as resources)

#### Zero-Emission Initiatives (Strengthening international engagement)

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¹) Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Zero-Emission Initiatives

The leaders of the industry, finance and academia from around the world gather in Japan annually and take concrete actions to address climate change. At the Green Innovation Summit and 5 international conferences, continuous efforts will be made to: i) share the latest information on innovative technologies; ii) offer the opportunity of collaboration and to promote the green finance, and; iii) accelerate applying the outcomes.

Innovation Action Plans

Acceleration Plans

Zero-Emission Initiatives

Green Innovation Summit

Led by the Prime Minister, the leaders of the industry, finance and academia gather to share Japan's concrete initiatives with the world. International engagement will be strengthened.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting</th>
<th>International Conference on Carbon Recycling</th>
<th>RD20</th>
<th>TCFD Summit</th>
<th>ICEF</th>
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<tr>
<td>Countries, regions, and institutions with a strong interest in global hydrogen utilization discuss the direction of policies.</td>
<td>In order to realize carbon recycling, innovative initiatives and latest knowledge of each country, as well as the chance of collaboration will be shared. The network of the industry, academia and government in participating countries will be strengthened.</td>
<td>R&amp;D activities and experiences will be shared among the leaders of research institutes in the field of clean energy technology from G20 member countries, in order to create disruptive innovations for significant reduction of CO₂ emissions.</td>
<td>The global leaders of companies and finance discuss ways forward to attract funds to companies keen on environmental measures, thereby realizing a virtuous cycle of environment and growth.</td>
<td>More than 1,000 experts from about 70 countries and regions gather to discuss measures to address climate change with technological innovation.</td>
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