



Energy Saving in the Rokugatsudashimo Community

Japan

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In Japan, both before and after the earthquake on the 3rd of March 2011, saving energy was considered to be one of the most important elements in building a sustainable society in the long run, particularly by the younger generations. However, energy conservation is likely to be more successful if the older populations, including those in rural areas, take the lead on this issue. For example, in the Community of Rokugatsudashimo in Izumi City, Kagoshima prefecture in Southern Japan, all households contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emissions, particularly the elderly. The community has been largely successful in achieving its targets for the past four consecutive years (since 2006). This target equates to a 10 % reduction compared to the 2006 figure. In 2007, 6.1% of CO₂ emissions for whole community and \$29,000 Yen of heating and lighting expenses for the year were reduced. Since 2008, the community has achieved a “10%” or 40,000 yen reduction from heating and lighting expenses.

The good results stem from an innovative programme of “joyful eco action”. The programme involves the incorporation of enjoyable social activities, such as night life and sports, into environmentally-supportive actions, as a means of reducing opposition to and encouraging the community to “take ownership” of the overall initiative.

After the successes of the first year of action, a local environmental authority was created, and an “Eco-Master Registration System” was launched for the certification of emissions reductions in line with the -10% target. Thus far, over 80% of households in the community have registered with the system, to which a “Report Card System” distributes results on a twice-yearly basis.

These activities have been complemented with a community-based education for sustainable development initiative aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability issues and exploring good practices that might be applied at a local level. Recently, the younger community members have begun following their elders lead, and have taken the initiative to launch a collective investment scheme to encourage the proliferation of LED lighting throughout the community. Already having achieved positive energy efficiency savings, it has made an already green community even greener.



Appendix 1

References	http://www.challenge25.go.jp/roadmap/case4_en.html
Photos, press clippings, video materials	http://www.challenge25.go.jp/roadmap/case4_en.html , One community member engaged in a renewable energy study the UK. In what was his first trip abroad, he was awarded with a major prize for Low-carbon action for his efforts.



Device of saving water to adjust width of water flow from a tap as same as pencil



Usual class