

Climate Emergency Declaration

Today, climate change is triggering frequent cases of weather anomalies throughout the globe, including drought, floods and forest fires. Japan is no exception to this - torrential rain, super typhoons, sweltering summers, and other weather phenomena that used to be reported once every 50 to 100 years impact the country almost every year, causing large-scale disasters. These anomalous occurrences grow in number as the planet warms up over the long term due to the increase in the emission of greenhouse gases.

In the Paris Agreement, which went into effect in 2016, the international community set a new worldwide goal for mitigating global warming, which reads, “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” To successfully limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C, CO₂ emissions - one of the primary greenhouse gases - must reach net-zero by 2050.

Yet, greenhouse gas emissions keep increasing, with the result that the planet has been warmed by about 1°C since the pre-industrial era. Should this continue and the 1.5°C threshold is reached, it is said that Earth could be caught in a vicious cycle of warming, thus accelerating the temperature increase.

In 2018, CO₂ emissions hit a record high at approximately 33.1 billion tons, which only worsened global warming. If no drastic measures are taken, it is feared that we will continue to have weather disasters that will victimize many people and the environment, making it difficult for humans to live safely and peacefully on this planet.

In order to achieve the goals laid out in the Paris Agreement, the entire international community needs to renew its recognition of this critical situation and work aggressively to curb global warming by making the fight against climate change an imperative.

It is against this backdrop that Akashi City - SDGs Future Resilient City - hereby declares a climate emergency to take preventive steps against global warming hand in hand with its residents from all walks of life, with a view toward realizing a sustainable society where anyone can have hope, without passing negative legacies onto future generations.

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1. We proactively publicize climate change stemming from global warming and the immediate dangers to our residents at large to inform them of relevant facts.
2. We make concerted efforts to control emissions of greenhouse gases to pursue “net zero” CO₂ emissions by making Akashi a carbon neutral city by 2050.
3. We promote waste reduction/recycling and energy conservation, prompt the use of renewable energy, and call upon other municipalities to join together under the “Climate Emergency Declaration,” in collaboration with residents, administrative organs, and concerned bodies.

March 23, 2020

Fusaho Izumi

Mayor, Akashi City