



Environmental Protection Initiatives

The Showa Shell Group is engaged in measures to control global warming and other environmental protection initiatives.

Voluntary Action Program

The 1992 Earth Summit raised awareness of the global warming problem worldwide. A number of mechanisms and numerical targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions were adopted for inclusion in the Kyoto Protocol at COP3 (the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), which was held in Kyoto in 1997. At COP3, Japan made a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 and 2012 by 6% from 1990 levels. The Kyoto Protocol took effect on February 16, 2005, after Russia's ratification fulfilled the conditions for it to enter into force. In Japan, the Kyoto Protocol Target Achievement Plan received cabinet approval in April 2005.

Greenhouse gases—primarily CO₂—are believed to be the main cause of global warming, and CO₂ production is largely the result of fossil fuel consumption. Thus, efforts to combat global warming necessarily include energy conservation measures. Japan was hit hard by the 1973 "oil shock," but this served as an opportunity to promote energy conservation. The petroleum industry, including Showa Shell, contributed to these efforts by introducing improved energy-saving equipment. In 1997, in response to the Petroleum Industry Global Environmental Protection Voluntary Action Plan, Showa Shell further developed its own program. This included definite deadlines and numerical targets and was a new approach to addressing the issue.

The Petroleum Industry Global Environmental Protection Voluntary Action Plan

The Petroleum Association of Japan unveiled its Global Environmental Protection Voluntary Action Plan in February 1997, with a seventh Follow-Up Plan offered in October 2004. Other industry groups representing industries that consume considerable quantities of energy, such as the electricity, steel, and chemical industries, have similarly developed their own voluntary action plans to counter global warming. Nippon Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) has compiled these plans into its own Environmental Protection Voluntary Action Plan to present Japanese industries' efforts to counter global warming both within and outside Japan.

- I. Global warming reduction measures (promoting unit energy consumption)
 - Reducing oil refinery unit energy consumption by 10% from 1990 levels by 2010.
 - Reducing fuel consumption for transport of manufactured goods by 9% from 1990 levels by 2010.
- II. Waste reduction measures
 - Reducing oil refinery final waste disposal of industrial waste by 67% (2/3) from 1990 levels by 2010.
- III. Environmental management system development
- IV. Overseas technical assistance
- V. Ocean environment protection measures
- VI. Promotion of PR activities