

Climate Emergency Declaration

OOKI-TOWN Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan

In recent years, weather disasters caused most likely by anthropogenic global warming, have become increasingly violent. Disasters directly affected by extreme weather; such as strong typhoons, localized torrential rains, droughts and heat waves, have occurred in many places around the world, causing extensive loss and damage including a large number of human death.

According to the United Nations IPCC, the average global temperature has already risen by 1°C since before the Industrial Revolution. In its “Special Report on 1.5°C” published in 2018, it reiterated the enormous negative impacts of climate change to the world and consequently the urgency of countermeasures. Furthermore, it warned that 1.5°C would reach in 10 years from now at the earliest case until the temperature rise stopping within minimum impacts. In the future, if we would keep going as usual, global warming (climate change) would definitely become more serious, and also the impacts on the next generation would be deeply worried.

In light of the severe effects of global warming, our town “Ooki-machi” had published the "Ooki-machi Mottainai Declaration (Zero Waste Declaration)" in 2008, aiming to create a sustainable town in cooperation with residents. However, the impacts of climate change caused by global warming over these years are truly critical and pose a threat to human society and the natural ecological system. Considering these current situation, our town declare herewith a climate emergency and express our determination to make every effort to address global warming measures listed below, with the aim of realizing a society with virtually zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as proposed by the United Nations IPCC.

1. We will share with residents by inheritance of the spirit of “the Mottainai Declaration”, that climate change is in a state of emergency, and challenge to a sustainable community development in which the environment, the society and the economy coexist harmoniously.
2. We will promote adaptation measures against climate change, so as to minimize impacts on health hazards and the agriculture caused by natural disasters and extreme heat waves getting serious.
3. By 2030, we will replace all the electricity used by public facilities in our town with renewable energy. Furthermore in cooperation with residents, we will strengthen our efforts to realize a decarbonized society.
4. We will join hands with people from all over the world who share the same aspirations and widely work with the Japanese government and other local governments to cooperate toward "realizing a virtually zero greenhouse gas emitting society."

(End)