



Press Release

Japanese businesses: Coronavirus crisis must accelerate the zero carbon transition

**A leading business group in Japan releases proposals on economic measures to ‘recover better’
Tackling the climate crisis is essential to building a more resilient economy and society**

Tokyo, Japan, June 25, 2020 – Prominent Japanese businesses are today launching a public call for the Government to learn from the experience of the Coronavirus crisis in order to accelerate the transition to zero carbon.

Japan is now making every effort to overcome the Coronavirus crisis. The Coronavirus crisis demonstrates how our behavior today determines the number of people infected in two weeks’ time, and the death toll one month later. It is also evident it takes a period of several months to bring the infection under control.

Climate change is similar in that our actions today result in rises in temperature years and decades later, destroying ecosystems and disrupting socioeconomic stability. The social and economic damage caused by a worsening of climate change is predicted to be far greater than that of the Coronavirus, and we do not know if it will be possible to reverse such damage.

Therefore, even in the midst of Coronavirus crisis, tackling the climate crisis is essential in order to build a more resilient and secure society.

Against this backdrop, the Japan Climate Leaders’ Partnership (JCLP) is working to accelerate the zero carbon transition, and making the following proposals to the Japanese Government:

- **Ensure lessons from the coronavirus crisis address the greater crisis of climate change**
- **Harness the "V-shaped recovery phase" as an opportunity to shift to a zero-carbon society**
 - Mainstream new lifestyles and ways of business operation conducive to decarbonization
 - Create a transmission and distribution network to enable a large-scale expansion and cost-reduction of renewable energy and incentives for corporate renewable sourcing
 - Timely introduction of carbon pricing

As a corporate network, JCLP is committed to doing everything possible to work together to build back better and **is determined to further strengthen its own steps to decarbonization.**

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Toshihiro Kawakami, Co-Chair, JCLP (Head, EHS Department, LIXIL Corporation), said

“This crisis has changed the way we do business, but we are determined to take on the opportunity to build back better. Our actions today will shape progress in decades to come. Now, developing and implementing a resilient and clean recovery plan which also addresses the impending climate crisis is not a choice, but a matter of necessity.”

Kenichi Ishida, Co-Chair, JCLP (Managing Executive Officer, Sekisui House), said

“The impact of the Corona virus was worsened because we failed to heed the early warnings. A similar failure to respond in time to the climate crisis could result in irreparable damage. We need to learn from our mistakes during the pandemic and work together to accelerate the zero carbon transition.”

Kahori Miyake, Co-Chair, JCLP (Executive Officer, CSR & Communication, AEON), said

“Our new normal must be one that is more resilient to the challenges of climate change than before and business has an important role to play in creating solutions and accelerating recovery. Our commitment for climate actions are not limited to our own operations. We can change the fundamentals of our economy and we stand ready to work with the government to build back better.”

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Japan Climate Leaders’ Partnership (JCLP) is a coalition of companies (144 as of June 2020) that aims to create a zero-carbon society, built on the idea that decarbonization is essential to economic development. It was set up in 2009 to encourage the business sector to develop a sense of urgency on climate action. The members share a common goal and proactively communicate with policy makers, business peers and the civil society. The coalition has a unique focus on policy engagement to accelerate decarbonization in the country. Since April 2017, JCLP has been The Climate Group’s regional delivery partner on RE100, EP100 and EV100 initiatives in Japan.

URL: <https://japan-clp.jp/en>

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