

Hosei University Initiatives to Promote Carbon Neutrality

Greenhouse gas emissions from around the world are increasing the average global temperature and prompting climate change and natural disasters, both of which have had significant impacts on economic and social activities that support our lives. In response to this situation, the Japanese Government in October 2020 declared its goal of “realizing a carbon-neutral, decarbonized society” by 2050 through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero.

Hosei University established the “Environmental Charter” in 1999, and based on it we have launched specific efforts to realize a sustainable society, becoming the first university in Japan to be certified according to ISO 14001, the international standard for environmental management systems (EMS). We have organized our own EMS and are continuing university-wide endeavors toward the realization of a “Green University.” Our mission of “contributing to the solution of challenges facing the global society” is also clearly stated in the Hosei University Charter established in 2016, and based on it the President issued a statement on the university’s sustainable development goals (SDGs) initiatives in 2018.

In light of these developments, in April 2022, the university added a new special committee for carbon neutrality promotion to its structure to realize its long-term vision, HOSEI2030, under which we are now strengthening our carbon neutrality efforts through the assessment and target setting of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. We also promote human resource cultivation in education and advance research and technology development in collaboration with other universities, local governments, and businesses.

Since the university has such a background, we consider the promotion of carbon neutrality a goal that should be shared with current students, alumni, faculty members, other universities, and public and private entities.

Therefore, the university promotes the following initiatives for the realization of carbon neutrality to contribute to a sustainable society.

- 1 With a deep awareness of the current climate crisis, the university strengthens its efforts to realize a decarbonized society by sharing environmental concerns with a wide range of people in the society.**
- 2 The university endeavors to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, particularly CO₂ emissions, on campus by setting specific targets and action plans.**
- 3 The university offers diverse educational programs on carbon neutrality to develop human resources capable of addressing global environmental issues and social problems as well as to improve students’ environmental literacy.**
- 4 To promote carbon neutrality, we collaborate with other universities, local governments, and businesses to advance research and technology development, co-creating opportunities to widely disseminate research outcomes and promote their social implementation.**
- 5 While promoting efforts toward carbon neutrality to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the university implements measures to adapt to climate change ^(*1) and alleviate its impacts on nature and the human society by helping people adjust themselves to the changing climate and minimize damage.**
- 6 The university endeavors to contribute to the realization of a carbon-neutral and sustainable society based on the nexus approach ^(*2), by addressing Goal 13 of the SDGs, “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” and other related goals at the same time.**

(*1) Taking measures against and preparing for climate change impacts that are already evident or likely to occur (e.g., prevention of heat stroke and countermeasures against infectious diseases).

(*2) A method for solving global issues while considering their interrelationships.

The university uses this declaration as a basis to further strengthen internal and external collaboration and promote initiatives aimed at solving global issues while raising awareness of the environmental impact of each of its actions and lifestyle choices.

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Katsuya Hirose, Hosei University President