

Waseda University's Carbon Net Zero Challenge 2030s

Currently, climate change caused by global warming is giving rise to extreme weather events around the world and is having serious effects on the Earth's ecosystems. We are now confronted with a planetary existential crisis.

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggested that, by limiting global warming to 1.5°C, we could achieve sustainable development, eradicate poverty, and solve a variety of other harmful consequences. In August 2021, the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report clearly stated that "It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land."

In Japan, former Prime Minister Suga declared in an October 2020 policy speech that "by 2050 Japan will aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero, that is, to realize a carbon-neutral, decarbonized society," and currently the national government, local governments, companies, and Japanese society as a whole are accelerating their efforts towards achieving carbon neutrality.

We at Waseda University also believe that it is time to take action.

Waseda University views this problem from a broad perspective, and today we are presenting Waseda University's vision for achieving carbon net zero. Our vision is not only to realize carbon neutrality on the Waseda University campus, but also to proceed with the following initiatives.

First, Waseda University will promote cutting-edge research and development to reduce CO₂ emissions.

Second, those research results will be reflected in education at Waseda University, and a carbon neutral-mindset will be nurtured among undergraduate students. For graduate students, we will provide a learning and research environment that encourages the pursuit of even more innovative research that goes beyond the cutting-edge research on carbon neutrality currently being conducted by our faculty.

Third, in parallel with the above promotion of education and research, Waseda University intends to achieve effective zero CO₂ emissions at each of its campuses by 2032, the 150th anniversary of the University's founding.

Through these efforts, we believe that Waseda University students will viscerally feel that their campus is headed towards achieving carbon neutrality, will learn that Waseda University is contributing to research towards carbon neutrality, and will receive carbon neutrality education that transcends academic departments and enables them to contribute to Japanese society and humankind as a whole after graduation.

Waseda University's vision is to realize carbon net zero in a balanced manner by bringing together these three activities: Advanced Research and Development to Realize Carbon Neutrality, Nurturing Human Resources that Contribute to Carbon Neutrality, and Achieving a Carbon Neutral Campus, and today we are announcing the Waseda Carbon Net Zero Challenge 2030s.

Going forward, we hope that you will take note of Waseda University's vision for achieving carbon neutrality and our progress toward Carbon Net Zero.

November 1, 2021

President of Waseda University

Aiji Tanaka