

Climate Emergency Declaration “Go Zero Carbon by 2050”

Extreme weather events have been frequently affecting all parts of the world, including record-breaking heat waves, heavy rainfalls and large-scale droughts. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has announced that the extreme weather is consistent with the long-term global warming trends.

Typhoon Hagibis, which tore through Japan this October, caused massive damage to Nagano as well as many other parts in Japan. In recent years, it is said that climate change is a cause of frequent weather disasters in Japan.

Climate change threatens the survival of human society on the earth. I have an impending sense of urgency that we will not be able to hand over a sustainable society to the next generations if we sit still and fail to act on the emergency.

Responding to the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015, the Japanese Government formulated a long-term strategy, aiming for a Zero Carbon Society as the final goal.

Nagano Prefecture has spearheaded the efforts to fight the global warming, and hosted this year’s G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth. We also announced to the world an urgent call for an action on the climate change, the Nagano Declaration on Partnership for Collaborative Action for Sustainable Development.

The international community has been stressing important roles that local governments and NGOs play in the climate change, and they expect Nagano Prefecture to lead the way.

Now is the time for us to respond to the climate change to protect the lives of future generations using two approaches; Mitigation to reduce the climate change, and Adaptation to build cities that are resilient to disasters

Therefore, we hereby declare climate emergency, and, with determination to achieve zero carbon emissions in 2050, we will unite all citizens of Nagano to promote complete proliferation of energy efficiency and renewable energy in the prefecture. We will also build a disaster-resilient region with independent and distributed energy systems, expecting sustainable development of Nagano Prefecture.

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Governor of Nagano Prefecture ABE Shuichi