



CARBON POLICY TOKYO

Global Environment Outlook

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Introduction

It is well known that carbon emissions are directly linked to climate change and will likely impact our world negatively in the future if we do not more aggressively work to reduce them. These impacts will extend to our daily lives impacting our wallet's in many ways including through additional health, food, extreme weather, energy, and transportation costs. This short essay will examine Tokyo's carbon impact as well as carbon policy and recent changes made to reduce these impacts.

Tokyo's Carbon Status

According to a March 2017 report compiled by the Bureau of the Environment, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Japan is currently the fifth largest carbon emitter in the world behind China, USA, India, and Russia making up 1,189 M tons of carbon emissions. Tokyo is considered to be 5.1 % of this total at 60.6 M tons which is equivalent to some small countries like Austria and Greece. Although 60.6 M tons may not seem like a lot in comparison to a country's like China, Tokyo as Japan's biggest city does contribute significantly to global emission making it an important pillar for global climate change mitigation.

Local Government Policy Regarding Carbon Emissions

Tokyo seems to be combatting climate change aggressively with an overall target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 % from the 2000 level by 2020. There are also five main initiatives in regard to Tokyo's Climate Change Strategy from 2007 including the promotion of CO2 reductions in the private sector, reductions within local households, reduction rules in urban development, reductions from vehicle traffic, and the creation of a mechanism to promote these energy saving activities within all sectors. One unique mechanism for the promotion of energy saving activities is the introduction of a CO2 cap and trade program which makes it mandatory to cut emissions therefore contributing to a lower carbon city. It seems that the program has contributed greatly to reductions within a variety of new buildings and retrofits and it will be interesting to see the results of these policies as these ambitious targets only have 2 years remaining.

Sources

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[2] Japan, Bureau of Environment Tokyo Metropolitan Government. (2017, March). *Final Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Tokyo*. Retrieved December 9, 2018, from <http://www.kankyo.metro.tokyo.jp/en/climate/index.files/b0548c2a69e7883f1945aca50f606a92.pdf>