

Prospectus for Establishing the Renewable Energy University League of Japan

As higher education institutions, universities are required to contribute to society as well as to education and research. Creating a sustainable society is a common goal for all humankind, and contributing to this goal is a mission shared by all universities. Part of our mission is to create zero carbon society in order to solve the climate change problem, which threatens our survival. By utilizing the renewable energy that exists in our respective region, we can transform our society to a decentralized, regional energy supply-based society.

The proactive use of renewable energy, away from fossil fuels and nuclear power, has become a global movement. The share of renewable energy in the world's electricity supply reached 26.4% in 2019. Though Japan attained 18.5% in that year, it still lags behind many European countries. Since our land is rich in renewable energy resources, we have the potential to put forward a model for a 100% renewable energy society towards decarbonization.

To achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs, each actor in society needs to take an active role, including universities. Along with the prevention of global warming, energy issues are essential to our lives and economy, and are related to the various goals of the SDGs. Addressing this issue as a university has two significant meanings as follows.

First, on its own, the university can influence other entities, such as businesses, local governments, public organizations, and NGOs. The society would begin to change when each social entity starts working for 100% renewable energy towards creating sustainable decarbonized society. Universities can lead this change.

Second, as higher education institutions, we have a mission to educate students who can transform society into one powered by 100% renewable energy. In order to do so, it is necessary for us to set an example, not only in academic studies, but also in practical learning, by each university actually realizing 100% renewable energy. This is really living education.

Specifically, as a first step, we set our goal to become an RE100 University with 100% renewable energy in terms of electricity. RE here stands for Renewable Electricity. We will start by declaring to be an RE100 University and move forward step by step, each at its own pace. Cooperation among universities can be of great help in the process. Eventually, we aim to convert all of our energy supplies, including heating and transportation, to renewable energy.

We would like to establish a league of universities that meet the following criteria to carry this out together. We would also like to send this proposal to universities abroad to build an international network.

1. The university decides and announces its decision to produce or procure renewable electricity by a self-determined time frame before 2030 or 2040 at the latest, based on a target for the amount of electricity used by the university (or on campus).
2. The university will make a concrete plan to meet its target and implement it.

Let us form a league of university with renewable energy where universities, faculty members and staff, and students who share this vision, as well as the experts who support them, get together to study with each other and take action. We look forward to your participation.

June 7, 2021

Preparatory party for the “Renewable Energy University League of Japan” (*The representative of the party)

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