

Hokkaido Declaration of Environmental Conservation

—Making Hokkaido an Eco-Conscious Island—

Foreword

As represented in Shiretoko, designated as a World Natural Heritage site, Hokkaido has bountiful seas, forests, wetlands, rivers and lakes that serve as the habitat of various wildlife species found only in the North. These are our valuable assets that we can boast of to the rest of the world.

Our ancestors lived in harmony with their natural surroundings by caring for these assets based on their wisdom to coexist with nature. Even now, these natural blessings serve as the basis for the comfortable lives of Hokkaido citizens and for various industrial activities, primarily agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

However, global warming and other environmental impacts have become increasingly obvious, and threaten to significantly damage human life and society. These environmental problems have grave implications for Hokkaido and its residents.

Globally, the annual emission of greenhouse gases, including CO₂, is more than 2.3 times the total capacity of natural absorbents, such as forests. We must work toward a carbon-free society that does not rely on fossil fuels in the future. It is a pressing need to change our daily lives and activities to environmentally friendly ones. We must start where we can.

Hokkaido is blessed with natural resources, including fresh air, clear water and vast forests, as well as renewable energy resources, such as biomass, wind, snow and ice. This island has great potential to create an environmentally sound and sustainable society.

We are determined to preserve and pass-on these precious natural assets to future generations, by practicing eco-friendly lifestyles suited to Hokkaido at home, at work and in local communities, in order to live in harmony with nature while appreciating affluent, comfortable and sound lives that the unique climate of Hokkaido has made possible. To express our determination to create the Eco-Island Hokkaido under the consensus to all citizens, we declare as follows.



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Environ

Hokkaido's Environmental Spirit Nurturing the three branches of Hokkaido's environmental 'spirit'

Let's practice environmentally conscious lifestyles based on the following three elements of the 'Hokkaido Environmental Spirit' and ensure that our actions are not harmful to the environment.

Protecting the Earth

We will foster the desire to protect the earth. We will pay close attention to global warming and other worldwide environmental concerns and act in our respective communities to make the most of our wisdom and skills.

- Hokkaido will actively introduce renewable energy sources that are abundant in the region, including biomass, wind power, solar energy and energy from snow and ice.
- We will use environmentally friendly products while promoting efforts for reforestation and the increase of greenery that absorbs atmospheric CO₂.

Mottainai

We will nurture the idea of Mottainai (too good to waste). We will try not to waste anything, will use our limited resources carefully, and will make efforts to save resources and energy wherever and whenever possible.

- We will practice the Three Rs – Reduce (the amount of garbage), Reuse and Recycle.
- Besides the above Three Rs, we will also promote three new 'Rs' – Refuse (do not receive the source of waste), Repair (for long-term use) and Renew (use environmentally friendly renewable resources), to reduce waste generation and promote the effective of resources.

Living with Nature

We will work to successfully coexist with nature. We will endeavour to protect the environment, to grow forests and to live in harmony with our natural environment.

- We will protect the pristine natural environment, including the Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site, as well as the forests and rivers we come into contact with in our everyday life.
- We will learn more about how nature works, and will promote the wise use of natural resources.