



Passing on our environment to the future— Eco-model city

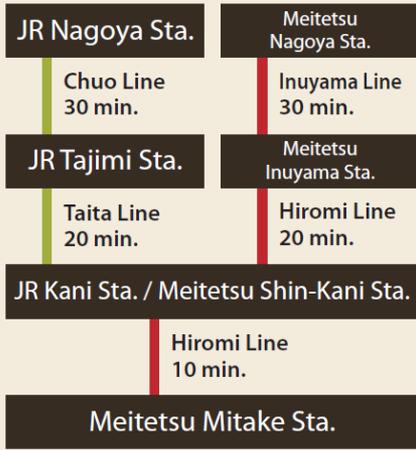
(Mitake Town, Gifu Prefecture)



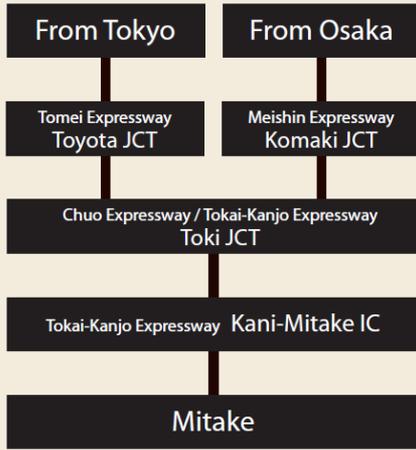
Mitake Town Overview



● By Train



● By Car



◆Population: 18,751 (as of Dec. 1, 2015)

◆Area: 56.61 km²

◆Land utilization rate: approx. 60% consists of forests

◆Main industries: Manufacturing and other industries are opening bases due to the recent establishment of ring road access

◆Historically, Mitake prospered as a post town on the route *Nakasendo*



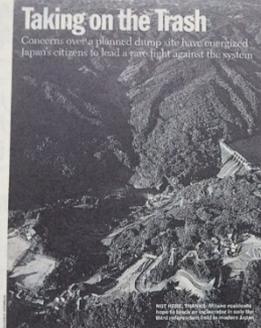
Mitake Town and the environment

- ◆ It is epitomized in a series of events triggered by a plan in the 1990s to construct an industrial waste disposal site
- ◆ The plan proposed to construct an industrial waste disposal site in the mountainous area on the east side of the Town. The site was to become the largest in Asia
- ◆ The opposition escalated, leading to a personal attack on the Town's Mayor (1996)
- ◆ A township referendum was held, in which the residents' opinion was clearly against the construction (1997)

Mitake Town



▼ Source: *The History of Mitake Town: Overview of the modern era*



Taking on the Trash
Concerns over a planned dump site have emboldened Japanese citizens to lead a rare fight against the system.

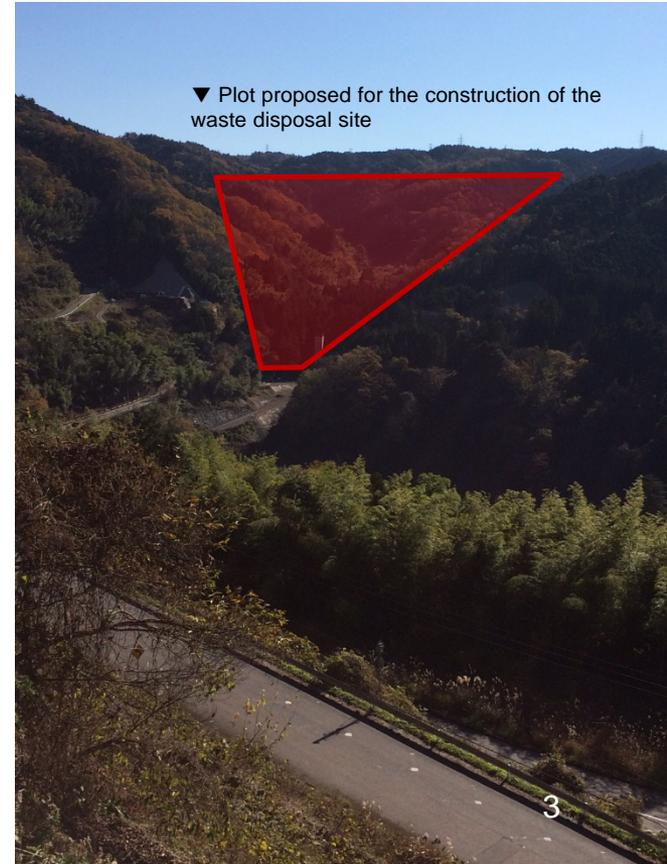
October evening, the noise stopped and I could hear the wind rustling the leaves. It was a relief to be breathing the fresh night air. When I stepped back to the car, I saw a sign that read "Mitake Town Industrial Waste Disposal Site." The sign was posted in 1995 on a campaign to urge the local government to build a new industrial waste disposal site in Mitake, a village east of Tokyo. The sign was posted in 1995 on a campaign to urge the local government to build a new industrial waste disposal site in Mitake, a village east of Tokyo. The sign was posted in 1995 on a campaign to urge the local government to build a new industrial waste disposal site in Mitake, a village east of Tokyo.

of this, we focus as much as the United States, which has some of the most hazardous waste disposal sites in the world. The waste disposal system in Japan is a complex one. It is a system that has been developed over the years. It is a system that has been developed over the years. It is a system that has been developed over the years. It is a system that has been developed over the years.



“The waste will be here forever. We don't know what it will do to the next generation.”
—Yoshiko Yamamoto, Mitake Mayor

...of having government to the government. This, in 1996, a major political plan for the construction of industrial waste disposal sites in the town. The plan was to build a new industrial waste disposal site in Mitake, a village east of Tokyo. The plan was to build a new industrial waste disposal site in Mitake, a village east of Tokyo.



▼ Plot proposed for the construction of the waste disposal site

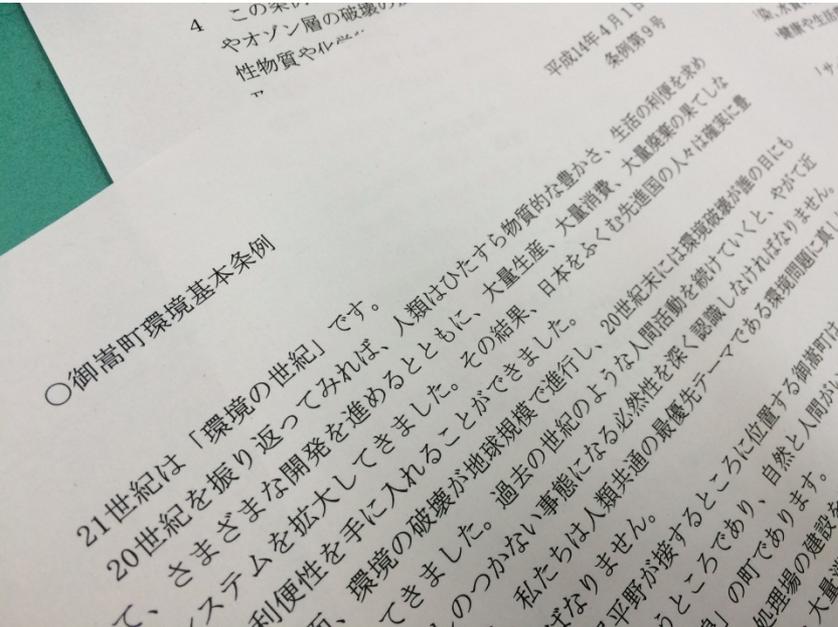


Mitake Town

Mitake Town and the environment

- ◆ The issue of the industrial waste disposal site construction plan prompted residents to act with respect to environmental protection
- ◆ The Town enacted a basic ordinance on local natural environment conservation (2002)
- ◆ Collaborations began between the municipality, the corporate sector and local residents
 - { to conserve the excellent natural environment
 - { to create amenities for enjoying it

▼ Mitake Town Basic Ordinance of Local Natural Environment





Mitake Town

Tackling global environmental problems

- ◆ The Town prepared a basic plan for the environment (2005)
- ◆ Environmental Goals
 - (1) Foster a rich natural environment
 - (2) Provide peaceful and comfortable living
 - (3) Adopt environmentally-conscious lifestyles
 - (4) Think and act on environmental protection and conservation



◆ Extend our environmental conservation efforts to global environmental problems!



▲ Mitake Town Basic Plan for the Environment





Tackling global environmental problems

- ◆ Recognizing that we are part of the global environmental problems, we aim to form an environmentally-friendly society that is well-adapted to natural and material cycles

(Mitake Town Basic Plan for the Environment)



- ◆ Mitake applied for Eco-model city candidacy as part of the Town's effort to achieve a low-carbon society through a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (2008)

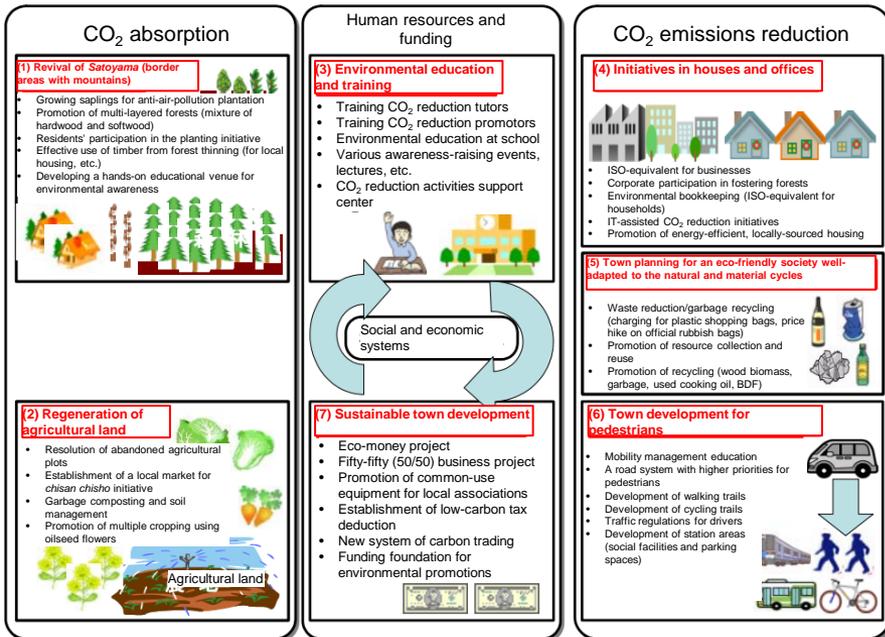
- ◆ The Town proposed a new local community that is well-adapted to the natural and material cycles, for the harmonious coexistence of Nature and local residents

- ◆ Unfortunately the application was not successful...

- ◆ Executive participation in the Promotion Council for Low Carbon Cities, set up by the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government.



Eco-model City Proposal by Mitake Town (Kani, Gifu Prefecture) (Form 2)



▲ Cited from the Eco-model City Action Plan Proposal



Tackling global environmental problems

- ◆ Continuing the efforts to tackle global environmental problems, Mitake re-applied for Eco-model city candidacy upon the Cabinet Office announcement calling for additional candidates

(2012)



▼ Mayor Watanabe accepting the Eco-model city certificate from Mr. Sakamoto, then-deputy-minister of internal affairs and communications



- ◆ Proposed the plan for "Mitake", a low-carbon community based on local resources (forests, public transportation, renewable energy, etc.)
- ◆ The proposal received high appraisal for being a realistic plan mainly involving forest management and transportation adjustment.
- ◆ **The Cabinet Office's approval on March 15, 2013**
- ◆ Mitake Town Eco-model City Action Plan was prepared (2014)



Initiatives as an Eco-model City

◆ Five pillars of Mitake Town's Eco-model city initiatives

Mitake's "Visions for an Eco-model city"
Mitake - a low-carbon community based on local resources



(1) Revival of forests

(2) Regeneration of the public transportation system and a shift to next-generation vehicles

(3) Emissions reduction initiatives in homes and offices

(4) Transition toward distributed energy supplies

(5) Promotion of training and provision of opportunities

Mitake Town



Blueprint for Mitake's "Visions for an Eco-model City"



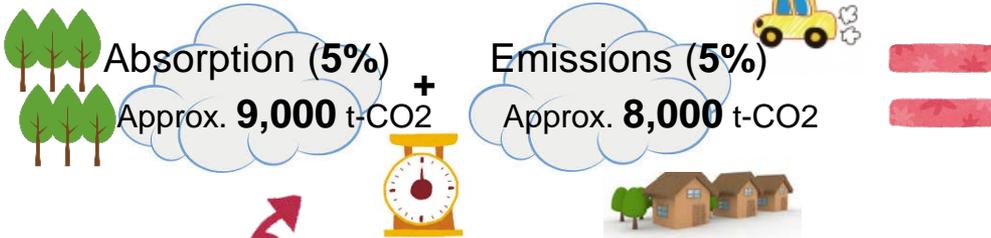


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Mitake Town's
★ reduction targets ★



- **10%** reduction by
FY2018 (in 3 years)

- **20%** reduction by
FY2030 (in 15 years)

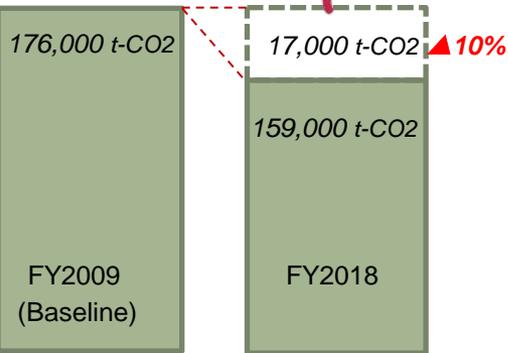
- **39%** reduction by
FY2050 (in 35 years)

◆ COP21
Target for Japan

- **26%** reduction by
FY2030 (in 15 years)

*Based on the FY2013 figures

*Based on the FY2009 figure



"Mitake Town Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Target"



Initiatives as an Eco-model City

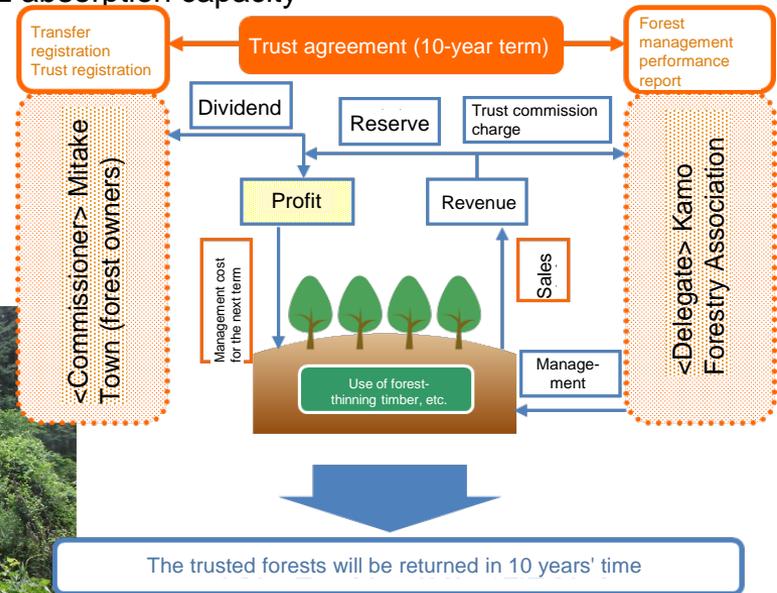
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(1) Revival of forests

◆ Sustainable business model mainly based on a forest management trust, the second example in Japan, and reinforcement of CO2 absorption capacity



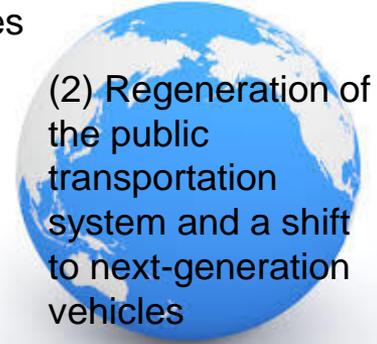


Mitake Town

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(2) Regeneration of the public transportation system and a shift to next-generation vehicles

◆ Promotion of the use of local railways and community buses as well as a shift to electrical vehicles to reduce CO2 emissions





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(3) Emissions reduction initiatives in homes and offices

◆ Encourage people to use green curtains and forest-thinning timber for wood stoves to reduce CO2 emissions



▼ Town's own model house equipped with a PV generation system





Mitake Town

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(4) Transition toward distributed energy supplies

◆ Own power generation to reduce CO2 emissions in view of a possible major collapse of the land over disused lignite coal mines

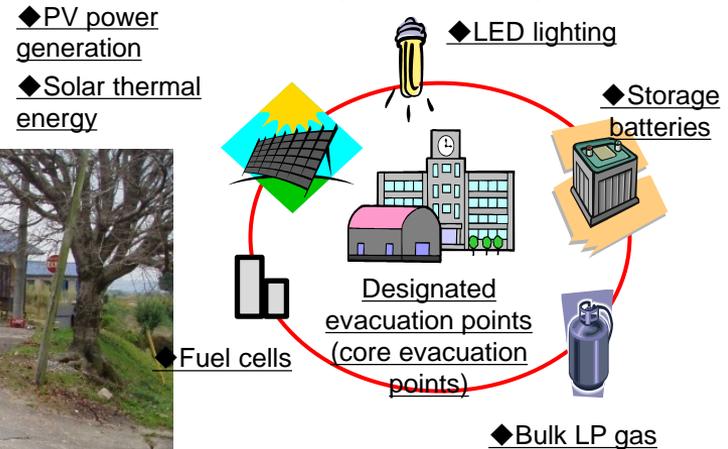
▼ Devastation after the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake



▼ Land collapse due to the lignite coal mine underneath



▼ Concept diagram of an "independent evacuation point"





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(5) Promotion of training and provision of opportunities

◆ Promote environmental education to raise awareness among local residents, and encourage actions against global warming





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How people changed their awareness?

- ◆ One year into the implementation of the Action Plan, no noticeable changes were seen among people as a result of taking actions...
- ◆ Each initiative is a painstaking process. Developing a support base (collaborators) is crucial.
- ◆ We hope to make sure progress in order to preserve this environment for the future.

This is for us, and for our children's bright future!

