



Thank you Newsletter 2020 Activity Report

18th fiscal year: April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

We would like to express our gratitude for your support of the Eco Card Fund. Your commitment has always been a great help to the Fund's activities, and many messages of appreciation have been received from our project partners as well as people and communities around the world involved in these activities. We would expand our activities further with a view to achieving a low carbon, resource circulating society, and we profoundly thank you for your continuing support.



Thoughts behind the Eco Card Fund

While oil brought us this comfortable lifestyle, it is also a fact that oil has been placing a burden on the environment. From as early as the 1990s, we, COSMO, have been addressing environmental concerns, and set up the Eco Card Fund, one of our initiatives to face the issue, through conducting various activities that we call "Living on the Earth Forever Project." For many years, we have also contributed to the resolution of fundamental problems such as poverty through supporting activities that address climate change and protect the ecosystem.

2021 will be the 20th year for the Eco Card Fund. At this milestone, while continuing to engage in ongoing environment conservation projects, we would like to ramp up our initiatives towards promoting a low carbon, resource circulating society for the sustainability of the earth.

With this direction in mind, we are starting projects to develop and promote renewable energy, and to nurture the next generation.

These unwavering thoughts and initiatives are for the benefit of society and the future. The Eco Card Fund will forge ahead in step with all its members.



Fiscal 2020: New projects have started!

In fiscal year 2020, we have started supporting activities for educating children and local communities as well as projects that address renewable energy usage with a view to strengthening activities directed at achieving a low carbon society. We look forward to your continuing support.

Miyagi

Partner: Spatto Naruko Hot Spring Renewable Energy (NPO)

Living with the geothermal heat of Naruko Onsen

Making greater use of the power of hot springs to support livelihoods, this activity to establish local production of energy for local consumption.

At Naruko Onsen in Miyagi Prefecture, disconnection of the power lifeline following the Great East Japan Earthquake heightened awareness of local production of energy for local consumption. The focus turned to utilizing renewable energy in the form of the geothermal power that is unique to hot spring areas. When establishing utilization of geothermal power, it is important to foster a perspective that assists regional development through educating the children who will be future community leaders. As a specific approach, we are providing educational programs through school visits to elementary and junior high schools, where children learn about hot spring heat, which is a familiar form of energy. Looking to the future, we would like to further contribute to regional revitalization by developing this program into energy and eco-tourism business.



Using renewable energy

Educating the next generation

Scenes of 2019 activities

It makes us happy to see how classroom lectures, experiments and facility tours can change children's faces from puzzled looks of "What?" to happy looks of "Ah, really! Oh, wow!"



From left: Prof. Atsushi Muramatsu, Mr. Atsushi Kishita, Mr. Takashi Takahashi, Mr. Shoji Kikuchi, Mr. Souichi Yusa, Mr. Shinsuke Kikuchi, Mr. Keiji Sasaki



Thank you to all Eco Card Fund members. Young and old are cooperating to protect Lake Biwa and the global environment.



Mr. Michio Kumagai, Mr. Yasuaki Aota and participating elementary to high school students.



Shiga

Partner: Biwako Trust (Authorized NPO)

Learn, protect, connect the waters of Lake Biwa

Together with the children, we will consider the effect of global warming on lakes and seek solutions to the problems.

Are you aware that global warming is having a negative impact on the environment of Lake Biwa? Since 1990, with rapid increases in water temperatures, the natural phenomena known as "Lake Biwa's deep breathing" came to a standstill in the winter of 2019. This means the creation of an environment where creatures living at the bottom of the lake find it difficult to survive. To convey this reality to children and to think about it together, we are first planning a program to build a solar boat where children can experience the amount of solar energy entering deeper water through the surface, and understand the full cycle. We aim to seek methods of problem resolution by involving the local community, with a focus on children, as well as prefectural and national administrations.



Educating the next generation

Scenes of 2019 activities

* A phenomenon where water near the lake's surface containing high levels of oxygen and water from the lake's bottom replace each other.