

Strategy 8. Promote renewable energy and integrate climate measures into operations and policies

Energy demand will increase as economies recover after the COVID-19 pandemic. While supporting this recovery, it will also be important to encourage the transformation from low carbon to decarbonization. If energy market prices rise rapidly again like they did in early 2020 and affect small power producers, there could be concerns about that affecting the growth of renewable energy. It is necessary to avoid this kind of vicious cycle, to promote renewable energy,¹² and to make climate change countermeasures go mainstream.

Key points for achieving the SDGs

1. Shift to generating renewable energy instead of purchasing it: Make the shift from purchasing renewable energy to the stage of producing electricity in-house with solar power or other means; also, by developing decentralized power systems, promote the development of resilient infrastructure. The government should introduce and strengthen incentives to promote this. It is also important to adopt measures for power procurement that will not be affected by market price fluctuations. It is also important for companies to clarify their goals through participation in initiatives such as RE100, and to adopt systems that will encourage teleworkers to procure renewable energy for the electricity they use at home.
2. Develop technologies for greater power storage capacity, etc.¹³
3. Reduce the environmental impacts of operations: Use the digital transformation to calculate, visualize, and report energy consumption.

¹² United Nations (2020): UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19 to save lives, protect societies, recover better, 6pp.

¹³ Shunpei Takemori, Hiroaki Nakanishi, Takeshi Niinami, Noriyuki Yanagawa, "Toward transformation for the future (sustainability and innovation investment): To prevent the recurrence of the low growth of the post-Lehman period," presented to 6th meeting of 2020 of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Document 4-1 (in Japanese)

https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai-shimon/kaigi/minutes/2020/0427/shiryo_04-1.pdf

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Key targets to help achieve the SDGs

- 7.1 (Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services)
- 7.2 (Increase substantially the share of renewable energy)
- 7.3 (Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency)
- 13.2 (Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)
- 13.3 (Improve capacity on climate change)