

The Eight Municipal Government Leader's Summit

Report Summary on the Promotion of Renewable Energy

1 Efforts by the Summit and Renewable Energy Policy Trends

The Eight Municipal Government Leader's Summit has been investigating renewable energy with concerned ministers, and has been leading the national renewable energy policy by utilizing related efforts and an abundance of local and citizen resources.

Furthermore, these local governments are within the metropolitan area, where energy is consumed and supplied in large amounts due to the fact that the country has not yet implemented adequate efforts in utilizing renewable energy. So the Summit must continue to take action and work to encourage a drastically increased use of renewable energy.

2 Direction of Efforts to Promote Renewable Energy

In order to build a low-carbon society, a significant growth in the use of renewable energy is vital. In recent years, while the circumstances surrounding renewable energy have been radically changing, its implementation has been slow.

In particular, our focus is on solar energy, which is an inexhaustible renewable resource harnessed by well-established technology. We believe the following three points must be recognized as urgent issues in the metropolitan areas, so we have discussed the best direction of approach needed to solve these issues.

(Direction of Approach)

1) Expand the implementation of solar hot water

Since a high percentage of energy consumed in homes is for heating and hot water, the use of solar hot water in homes would be an effective measure against global warming. However, the number of installations of solar hot water in Japan has been falling in recent years. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out promotional and educational activities to improve consumers' awareness of solar hot water.

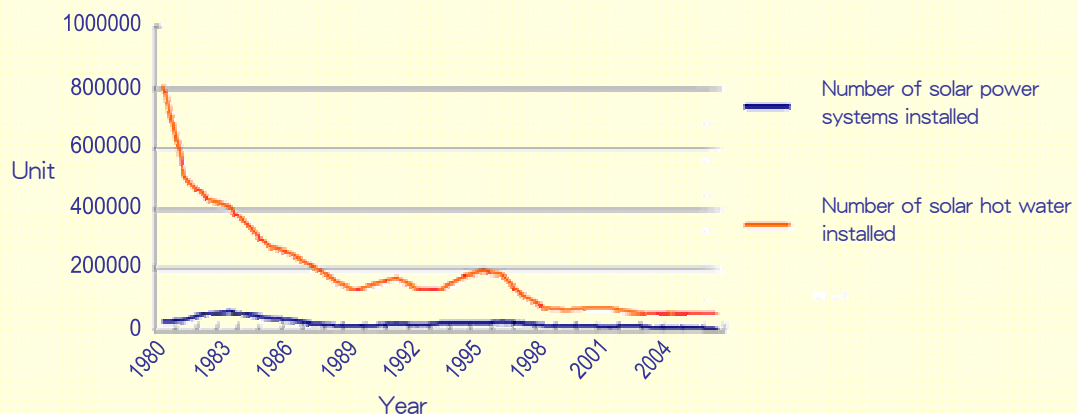


Figure 1. Trend in the sales volume of solar hot water
(source: Solar System Development Association)

2) Promote the implementation of solar energy in offices and other business facilities

Since the increase of solar energy in business establishments has been slow, there is a possibility of creating a manual or similar document to provide information to potential users of solar energy equipment, and of establishing regulatory measures that require companies to consider this equipment when building new structures over a certain size.



**Figure 2. An example of solar energy equipment in implementation
(The solar cooling system in the Tokyo Gas Nakahara building (Kawasaki City))**

3) Guarantee the fairness of grid connection in large-scale introduction of solar PV

In order to implement fair grid connection when introducing solar PV on a large scale, the following three needs must be carefully addressed in advance.

- A. First, it is necessary to establish a system to share information related to the grid connection.
- B. In the mid- and long-term, it is necessary to evolve the existing supply-and-demand electric power systems through phases of operations and facility improvements in order to reinforce the power system itself and prepare it for the significant impact of eventually implementing renewable electricity.
- C. Based on the fact that power systems are the most important infrastructure in any community, it is necessary for all of society to increase awareness of how this system should be managed, including the management of the burden of costs.

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