

## The Climate Reality Project Japan: OUR ASKS FOR COP28

At COP28, The Climate Reality Project Japan demands to advance the global and Japan's commitment to achieve the Paris Agreement goal, to limit the global warming within 1.5 degrees, through our asks and voices from our community of diverse groups of people in Japan.

The branch also acknowledges the country's historical responsibility of being one of the biggest GHG emitters and the largest funders of fossil fuels globally. The climate crisis is a justice and human rights issue, and we believe in the power of our collective efforts to resolve such.

### Climate Reality's Global Position

This section summarizes the Climate Reality's positions on the key elements for COP28, both from the global and Japan-specific perspectives.

#### Reducing Emissions

##### Global

COP must commit to an equitable phase-out of all fossil fuels, responsible for 75% of global emissions, at least triple renewable energy capacity and at least double efforts in energy efficiency by 2030, and reduce methane emissions from the energy sector to near zero by 2030.

##### Japan

Japan, the world's 5th largest greenhouse gas emitter<sup>1</sup>, must swiftly shift to clean energy and completely eliminate fossil fuels. Japan's reliance on fossil fuels, constituting over 70% of its energy mix in 2022, necessitates a more ambitious approach<sup>2</sup>. While the country explores technologies like ammonia co-firing and CCUS on coal power plants, these are still experimental and unreliable measures for achieving emission reduction goals by 2030.

#### Financing a Just Transition

##### Global

COP must agree to stop financing fossil fuels and fund just transition. Developed countries must provide evidence that they have materialized their promise to mobilize \$100 billion for climate finance in developing countries. Also, COP must make a commitment to the Green Climate Fund and ensure that this year's replenishment is the largest yet.

##### Japan

Japan is the world's largest financier of fossil fuels, having contributed \$10.6 billion USD per year on average of public finance to fund fossil fuel projects between 2019 and 2021<sup>3</sup>. Despite G7 commitments to cease new direct public support for unabated fossil fuel energy, Japan has still indicated its intention to continue financing oil and gas developments. Japan's fossil fuel finance increases host countries' reliance on fossil fuels, worsening the climate and energy crises and impacting people's livelihoods<sup>4</sup>. The country must shift its fund to support a just transition as well as adaptation and loss and damage in developing nations.

#### Calling out Conflicts of Interest and Reforming the System

##### Global

This year's COP agenda lacks a crucial item: phasing out fossil fuels. The COP must tackle the problem of outside influence from fossil fuel lobbyists that influence outcomes and support the interests of fossil fuel-producing nations, and make sure the message around COP outcomes does not get greenwashed. A conversation must start around how to reform the COP process to prevent one nation from blocking progress and make other reforms such as objective agenda setting.

<sup>1</sup> Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies

<sup>3</sup> CAN-International

<sup>4</sup> Oil Change International

## Japan

Japan must actively pursue collaborative paths for a rapid, just, and equitable shift to renewable energy, instead of endorsing "false solutions". "Green Transformation (GX)" policy, passed by the Japanese government in May 2023 places significant emphasis on the adoption of technologies based on fossil fuels, such as gas/LNG, co-firing of ammonia, hydrogen, and CCUS. Similarly, fossil fuels projects and technologies to promote them are receiving corporations investment despite their official stance on supporting a decarbonized society<sup>5</sup>.

Furthermore, Over 140 groups from 18 countries have issued an open letter urging Prime Minister Fumio Kishida to halt the promotion and expansion of fossil fuels, which threatens to hinder the transition to renewable energy in Asia. Specifically, plans for 34 new gas power plants and 11 LNG import terminals in the Philippines, supported by the Japanese government and corporations, pose environmental threats to livelihoods, ecosystems, and communities in the Philippines and Southeast Asia<sup>6</sup>.

## Voices from Climate Reality Leaders in Japan

Climate Reality is a community of people of diverse background, mobilizing in various parts of our society across Japan. This section introduces opinions from some of our active Leaders.



**Tomoaki Ota**

***Orthopedic surgeon, Biodiversity Impacts Action Group***

"For the protection of human life and the ecosystem, we advocate for the mandatory measurement and reporting of military-related greenhouse gasses."



**Kohei Suzuki**

***Teacher, Business and Industry Action Group***

"An agreement is needed to create an effective plan for achieving the 1.5-degree goal this COP, for a fair distribution of responsibilities among countries based on climate justice."



**Miho Soga**

***Writer, Climate Education Action Group***

"Climate justice and its related issues are largely unknown in Japan. We hope for increased awareness and activism in Japan, aligning with global movements for climate justice."



**Climate Reality Project Japan Interns, International Students**

"Urgently calling for climate justice, we affirm the link between climate change impacts and fundamental human rights. Emphasizing the right to a safe and healthy environment, we advocate for equitable climate funds, prioritizing collaboration between the Global North and South through empathy. We seek inclusive voices, particularly from the Global South, to ensure equitable climate funds."

## Contact

The Climate Reality Project is a global initiative tackling the climate crisis through training and mobilizing people worldwide to accelerate climate action to reach true net zero by 2050.

<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/>

The Climate Reality Project Japan

<https://climaterealityjapan.org/>

Yuiko Mitani, Program Manager

[japan@climatereality.com](mailto:japan@climatereality.com)



For a full version with detailed list of reference, please access the right QR code,  
or <https://bit.ly/EN-positionpaper>



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<sup>5</sup> Influence Map

<sup>6</sup> Fossil Free Japan