



Climate Reality Project Japan Position Paper on Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Issued on February 3rd, 2025

We request that the next Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) scheduled for submission in February 2025, be reviewed considering Japan's responsibility as an industrialized nation with a significant historical contribution to GHG emissions, as well as its current role as one of the largest providers of fossil fuel financing.

[1] The target of reducing Japan's GHG emissions by 60% by 2035 (compared to 2013 levels) is not aligned with the 1.5°C target.

The Japanese government's NDC proposal maintains nuclear and coal-fired power, restricts the introduction of renewable energy, and does not take the carbon budget into account. With the 60% GHG emission reduction target by 2035, it will not be possible to achieve the 1.5°C goal.

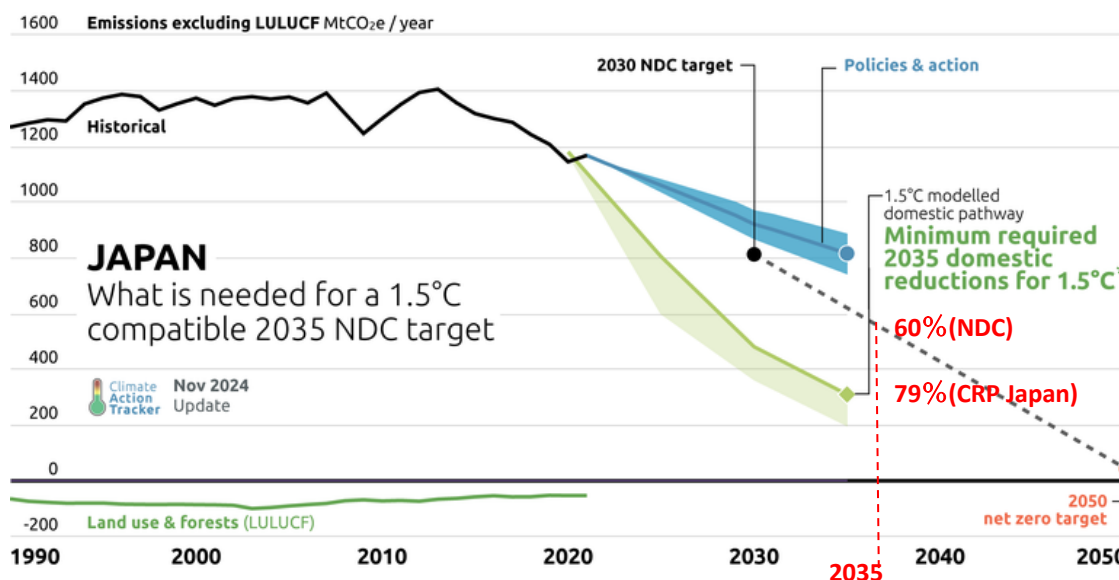


Figure 1 Source: Climate Action Tracker - Additional Notes in Red

- The global carbon budget to achieve the 1.5°C goal is 400 GtCO₂ (with a 67% probability¹), and significant reductions by 2030 are crucial. Japan needs to reduce CO₂ emissions by 81% by 2035 compared to 2013 levels.² It corresponds to a 79% reduction in GHG emissions by 2035.
- The Global North, historically responsible for large CO₂ emissions driving global warming, must cut emissions 80% by 2035 (vs. 2022) in line with carbon budgets.

¹ according to the IPCC AR6 (2023, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>)

² calculated based on Green Transition 2035 (2024, <https://green-recovery-japan.org/pdf/greentransition2035.pdf>)



[2] To achieve an 81% CO2 emission reduction by 2035, energy conservation is not enough; it is also essential to abolish inefficient thermal power generation and all coal-fired power plants, while increasing the share of renewable energy to 80% in electricity generation.

Electricity Sector

- Abolish inefficient thermal and coal-fired power plants (hydrogen/ammonia co-firing and CCS should not be used to maintain coal-fired power plants), and reduce electricity consumption by approximately 30% by 2035 compared to 2013 levels (including shifting energy use from heating and transportation fuels to electricity).
- Introduce 58% renewable energy by 2030 and 80% by 2035.

Industry Sector

- Implement energy conservation measures at a level comparable to the most efficient factories (through equipment updates and renovations).
- Promote recycling of resources, focusing on steel (electric arc furnace steel should account for 50% by 2030 and 60% by 2035).
- Electrification is necessary for the entire sector.

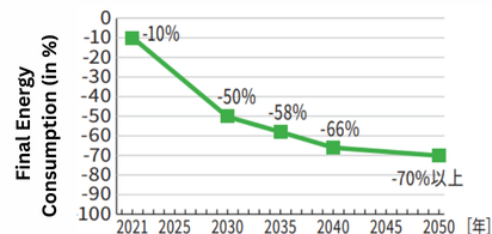
Commercial Sector

- Upgrade to the most energy-efficient equipment by 2035.
- Implement Zero Energy Building (ZEB) in new constructions.
- Electrify heating and hot water systems, while integrating renewable energy for heat where possible.

Residential Sector

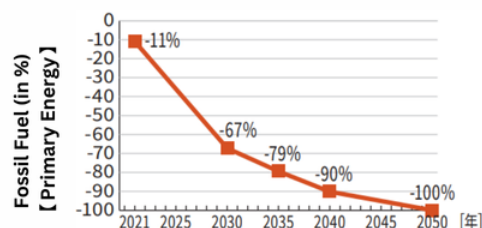
- Upgrade to the most energy-efficient appliances by 2035.
- Implement Zero Energy House (ZEH) standards in new constructions.
- Electrify heating and hot water systems, while integrating renewable energy for heat where possible.

Final Energy Consumption (compared to 2013 levels)



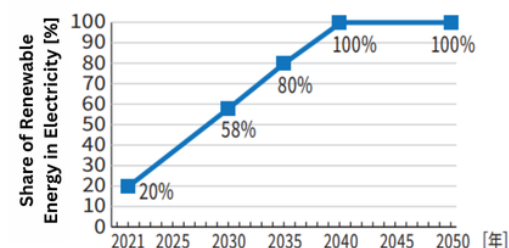
Reduction of emissions by 50% by 2030, 58% by 2035, and over 70% by 2050 through energy conservation and other measures

Fossil Fuel Consumption (compared to 2013 levels)



67% reduction by 2030, 79% reduction by 2035, 90% reduction by 2040, and net zero by 2050 (90%+ from conventional and <10% from new technologies)

Share of Renewable Energy in Electricity



CO₂ Emission Reduction Rate (Compared to 2013 Levels)

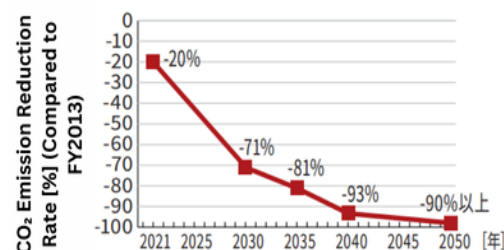


Figure 2. Source: Green Transition (GT) Strategy 2035



Transportation Sector

- Switch to energy-efficient vehicles and electric vehicles during renewals.
- Prohibit the sale of fossil fuel-powered vehicles by 2035.
- Expand charging infrastructure.
- Promote modal shift (use of public transport, such as rail).

[3] Citizen Participation in the Decision-Making Process is Necessary.

Climate change and energy issues, including nuclear power, are all closely related to our daily lives as citizens, and it is we, the citizens, who are directly impacted by the policies. Furthermore, it is also us, the citizens, who can detect anomalies in the field early on.

By allowing citizens to participate in the policy-making process based on information from the ground, the credibility of the policies can be increased. The diversity of proposals will not only broaden the range of better policy choices, but also facilitate cooperation during the policy dissemination and implementation stages, ultimately improving policy effectiveness.

However, past environmental policies have rarely made their results visible, and since it takes a long time for policy outcomes to materialize, the challenge of effectively visualizing these results remains unresolved.

Given this, the insufficient citizen participation and access to information during the NDC formation process must be urgently addressed by Japan, as a member of the international community and a developed country. For this and future NDC formulations, we demand clearer information dissemination, increased transparency in the policy-making process, and improved efforts to provide opportunities for citizen input at earlier stages in the formulation process.

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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.

Produced by: Energy Transition Group, CRP Japan

