

## **Yokohama City: Model City for Climate Action**

Climate change is undeniably a crucial topic currently in focus by all countries. It is not only concerned with environmental issues, but also linked to economic and social development towards low carbon, sustainable pathway. Promoting climate actions through city's activities gives the opportunity for cities to play their roles in making a better living for their people, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Among several cities, Yokohama city has gained its popularity as a model city for climate action. Since 2008, Yokohama city has established "Climate Change Policy Headquarter" aiming at improving institutional arrangement, integrating climate change policies, and facilitating synergistic implementation between public and private sectors. To enhance the action, Yokohama city pledges to cut its greenhouse gas emission by 16% in 2020, increasing to 24% by 2030, and achieving 80% by 2050, as compared to 2005 level.

Yokohama city initiates a number of mitigation activities that deploy advanced low carbon technologies. The Yokohama Smart City Project is one of the most successful activities. Implementing in cooperation between public and private sectors, the Yokohama Smart City Project promotes energy efficiency improvement by installing the Energy Management System in a large number of commercial buildings and houses.

During 2010–2014, the government of Japan supported two-third of the investment cost for the installation of the Energy Management System in Yokohama city including:

- CEMS – Central Energy Management System
- HEMS – Home Energy Management System
- FEMS – Factory Energy Management System
- BEMS – Building Energy Management System

Moreover, households in Yokohama city were encouraged to use solar energy and people to drive electric cars.

The Yokohama Smart City Project was overachieved in 2013. There were 4,200 buildings installing the Energy Management System – 200 buildings more than anticipated. Solar panels were installed by households formulating a 36 MW capacity in total – 9 MW beyond expected. There were 2,300 electric cars introduced on roads, as compared to the initial target of 2,000 cars.

Yokohama city also puts a lot of effort in raising public aware and promoting climate activities. Yokohama Eco School (YES) is a platform for learning and actions in environment and climate change, currently implemented by Yokohama city. It targets private enterprises, public agencies and academic institutions to improve their capacity in creating and promoting low carbon activities for people, in order to increase participation of communities in mitigation activities.

These practical activities cannot be successfully implemented without full engagement from relevant stakeholders. The achievement of climate actions helps to reduce greenhouse gases, while improving quality of life and removing unnecessary costs imposed by fossil fuel uses. It is thus essential to increase public perception on these advantages and bring in participation from everyone.

By Strategy Office

Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (Public Organization)