

Funds for Leading Creative Science and Technology Development:
“Comprehensive Promotion of Social System Reform and Research and Development “
---- Social System Reformation Program for the Creation of a New Society Matching Climate Change ----

Urban Reformation Program for Realization of a “Bright” Low-Carbon Society

Final Report

April 2015

The University of Tokyo
Kashiwa City
Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.

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Preface

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In the twenty-first century, Japan faces two major issues that must be addressed simultaneously: the issue of a highly aged society and that of a low-carbon society. For our country to achieve a goal of low carbonization, which has been outlined for the international community, the introduction of low-carbonization technology must be accelerated. Meanwhile, Japan has become the world's most aged society, and if this highly aged society results in the stagnation and contraction of the Japanese economy and society, the realization of a low-carbon society will be inhibited. If the case is such that the growing elderly class are able to play an important role by actively participating in, and contributing to, society as supporters of low carbonization (among other aspects), the realization of an optimal low-carbon society that can maintain sustainable growth could be facilitated.

In the present project, an optimized future vision of a low-carbon city was constructed, the societal reforms required to realize that vision was clarified, and the necessary technologies were researched and developed. Integrated demonstration experiments were conducted in Kashiwa City, in Chiba Prefecture, regarding the implementation of these measures. An optimized low-carbon city was then modeled from the results. The obtained data was packaged, and it is expected that this data will be disseminated and distributed nationwide and to various areas on a global basis.

The present project, the “Urban Reformation Program for Realization of a Bright Low-Carbon Society,” was initiated as a part of the FY 2010 Strategic Coordination Fund Promoting Science and Technology's “Social System Reformation Program for the Creation of a New Society Matching Climate Change.” From FY 2011, the framework changed to the Strategic Funds for the Promotion of Science and Technology, and it continued to be implemented as a part of that program. From FY 2013, the framework changed again to Funds for Leading Creative Science and Technology Development, and it was implemented as a part of the Comprehensive Promotion of Social System Reform and Research and Development's “Social System Reformation Program for the Creation of a New Society Matching Climate Change.” In FY2014, a supplementary budget was compiled for this project, which was carried over to FY2015.

The project will end in March 2015, and has currently reached a level where the project's mission was achieved through a final series of social experiments. At this point, a final report was produced that summarized the project achievements, and we would like to take advantage of these findings as candid opinions received from each and every field for the social realization of project achievements.

With regard to the promotion of this project, it was supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology's Research and Development Bureau Environment and Energy Division; the Japan Science and Technology Agency Department for Promoting Science and Technology System Reform; the Center for a Low Carbon Society Strategy; and the overall support of Kashiwa City. In addition, the project received the cooperation of the residents of Kashiwa City and local NPOs, and we are deeply thankful to all parties involved.

March 31, 2015