



November 13, 2020

ACCJ Statement on Japan's Goals to Reach Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) applauds the Government of Japan (GOJ) on its recent announcement of a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. This target is a welcome sign of Japan's forward-leaning approach to long-term and sustainable economic growth. As a business association that represents U.S.-centered companies with extensive partnerships in Japan, ACCJ member companies are committed to contributing their collective capabilities, including through innovation and adoption of new technologies, to help Japan achieve its target.

Many ACCJ member companies have also pledged to reach net carbon neutrality by 2050, and join a growing number of businesses in Japan in enthusiastically supporting Japanese leadership in setting even more ambitious national targets for renewable energy by 2030 as the first in many steps that will be required for Japan to meet its net-zero goal.

We note also that the International Energy Agency and the International Monetary Fund have advocated for a combination of policy actions and targeted green investments over the next several years to bring about a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and to boost economic growth. The ACCJ acknowledges and appreciates the GOJ's efforts to date to support renewable energy and sustainable business practices. By pursuing actions necessary to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, Japan will further reinforce its position as a global leader and destination for foreign investment. These actions include:

- Decarbonizing energy, starting by increasing targets for renewable energy as a proportion of Japan's overall energy mix.
- Reducing regulatory / administrative burdens and streamlining processes to make it easier for developers and technology providers to build new renewable power generation, and for corporate consumers to meet their global renewable energy procurement commitments in Japan.
- Support growth in renewable power generation and related ancillary services by investing in new energy infrastructure—e.g. in increasingly cost-competitive energy storage, in reliable integration of variable renewable energy resources, as well as in demand response technologies, energy efficiency improvements, and other demand-side management approaches.
- Supporting aggressive moves away from coal and other carbon-intensive fuels by wholeheartedly endorsing the acceleration of renewable energy resources and demand-side management approaches, in addition to transitioning existing thermal power generation facilities towards use of lower-carbon fuels.
- Actively encouraging private sector efforts to develop sustainable products and programs that encourage sustainable practices, which are growing in response to environmental concerns as well as to consumer demand. To further efforts to achieve Japan's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and raise the recycling rate in Japan, the GOJ should establish mechanisms to encourage and support these private sector efforts, by setting standards that clarify how to make carbon reduction contributions and alleviating public concerns about the safety of recycled and remanufactured products.