

Initiatives for the Environment

Medium-Term Environmental Targets and Initiatives

The KOBELCO Group is committed to environmentally friendly business practices. We established the Medium-Term Environmental Management Plan for Fiscal 2021–2023 and are implementing initiatives in the six key areas of our Basic Environmental Management Policy.

Self-assessment ○:Progressing as planned ▲:Some issues remaining ✕:Plan not achieved

	Initiatives for Implementation	Long-Term Policies	Medium-Term Targets (FY2021–2023)	Fiscal 2020 Results	Initiatives for Fiscal 2021	
VISION 1 Environmentally friendly manufacturing	Measures against global warming	Help prevent global warming by promoting energy conservation and CO ₂ reduction in all business activities <Target for 2030> Reduce CO ₂ emissions from production processes by 30-40% (compared with FY2013). <Vision for 2050> Take on the challenge of achieving carbon neutrality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote medium- to long-term technological development based on the roadmap and continue working on energy conservation initiatives, in order to achieve the targets for 2030 and vision for 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ Reduction Promotion Subcommittee and CO₂ Reduction Technology Study Working Group further studied various issues, reviewed targets for 2030, and formulated the vision for 2050 Demonstrated a technology that reduces CO₂ emissions by around 20% by charging into the blast furnace a large amount of hot briquetted iron (HBI) produced with the MIDREX® Process (developed by U.S.-based Midrex Technologies, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Kobe Steel) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate and announce a roadmap for carbon neutrality in 2050 in cooperation of CO₂ Reduction Promotion Subcommittee and CO₂ Reduction Technology Study Working Group Steadily continue energy conservation initiatives while conducting energy-saving investments to achieve targets 	pp. 36–39, pp. 72–73
	Promoting resource recycling	Continue activities aimed at zero landfill waste <Target> Recycling rate: 99% (FY2025) (Major by-products: slag, sludge, and dust)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue reducing the amount of waste disposed; and achieve and maintain the industry's voluntary action plan targets Carry out appropriate disposal in accordance with the Guidelines Related to Management of Iron and Steel Slag Products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made steady progress as scheduled by the waste treatment plans established by each business and achieved the FY2020 recycling rate of 98.7%, contributing to achieving the targets of the Voluntary Action Program for Environmental Protection of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation Implemented proper operations in accordance with the guidelines at Kakogawa Works and Takasago Works; conducted internal audits at all business locations regarding proper treatment of slag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on the 3Rs to achieve the FY2025 recycling rate target Carry out appropriate disposal in accordance with the Guidelines Related to Management of Iron and Steel Slag Products 	p. 68
	Appropriate management of chemical substances	Reduce hazardous substances in accordance with the Kobe Steel Group Policy on Controlling Hazardous Chemical Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properly manage and reduce or replace chemical substances, and properly comply with the Act on Special Measures concerning Promotion of Proper Treatment of PCB Wastes and Act on Rational Use and Appropriate Management of Fluorocarbons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed JESCO registration of high-concentration PCB waste (transformers, fluorescent lamp ballasts, etc.) owned by business sites in the Kitakyushu and Osaka business areas for disposal by March 31, 2021; facilities in other business areas also expected to finish processing by the legal deadline; continued conducting surveys to identify low-concentration PCBs contained in equipment currently in use and made partial disposals Responded appropriately to the Act on Rational Use and Proper Management of Fluorocarbons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue disposal of high-concentration PCB waste according to plans at remaining sites in our business areas; continue conducting surveys to identify low-concentration PCBs contained in equipment currently in use and formulate plans for disposal by legally mandated deadline Properly manage equipment that use fluorocarbons 	Our website
	Reducing environmental impact	Ensure thorough voluntary controls and make continuous efforts toward reducing the environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue thorough operational management and facility management in an effort to reduce environmental impact from air emissions, etc. <Targets> Maintain water recycling rate of 95% or higher for the entire Group; Water pollution load COD: 474 tons/year; total nitrogen: 2,513t/year; total phosphorus: 23 tons/year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued thorough management of soot/smoke and wastewater Achieved voluntary targets every month (3t/km²/month) for dust fall at Kakogawa Works Achieved a water recycling rate of 96% Water pollution loads: 243 tons/year of COD; 1,915 tons/year of total nitrogen; 3 tons/year of total phosphorus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue thorough operational management and facility management in an effort to reduce environmental impact from air emissions, etc. 	p. 68
	Ensuring thorough risk management	Pursue systematic and deliberate efforts to reduce risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue on-site environmental audits by the Head Office and expand audits to Group companies and affiliated companies in an effort to promote the establishment of independent environmental management systems For overseas Group companies, promote the same level of environmental management as in Japan and improve risk management through activities such as on-site environmental inspections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved environmental management levels at production sites through the use of environmental management systems and carried out environmental audits and other measures to confirm the progress Postponed local environmental audits of overseas Group companies due to the impact of COVID-19, and conducted self-checks using checklists; Conducted remote audits of Group companies in the U.S. with the support of regional headquarters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase environmental management levels through training for employees at production sites, implement environmental audits and confirm progress Carry out on-site environmental assessments for Group companies in Singapore and China, and increase environmental management levels at each company 	Our website
	Promoting environmental initiatives with full employee participation	Constantly improve the environmental awareness of all KOBELCO Group employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue initiatives such as stratified training, e-learning, and environmental training for Group companies, and encourage the use of the KOBELCO Eco-Life Notebook (household eco-account book), in an effort to increase environmental awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased employees' environmental awareness and knowledge through KOBELCO Group Environmental Meeting, stratified training, and e-learning Encouraged use of KOBELCO Eco-Life Notebook to raise environmental awareness at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise environmental awareness by continuing measures such as stratified training and environmental training for Group companies, as well as promoting the use of the KOBELCO Eco-Life Notebook 	Our website
VISION 2	Contributing to the environment through technologies, products, and services	Create environmentally sustainable products and new businesses with due consideration to the environment in all technological and product development <Target for 2030> Contribution to CO ₂ emission reduction: 61 million tons (including at least 45 million tons of MIDREX®) <Vision for 2050> Contribution to CO ₂ emission reduction: 100 million tons or more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the creation of a low-carbon society through the efforts of the entire KOBELCO Group by working on issues related to the environment and energy fields, such as weight reduction of transportation vehicles, the creation of a hydrogen-based society, and the diversification of power sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ Reduction Promotion Subcommittee and CO₂ Reduction Technology Study Working Group further studied various issues, reviewed targets for 2030, and formulated the vision for 2050 Demonstrated technology that reduces CO₂ emissions by around 20% by charging into a blast furnace a large amount of hot briquetted iron (HBI) produced with the MIDREX® Process (developed by U.S.-based Midrex Technologies, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Kobe Steel) Established and participated in the Japan Hydrogen Association with eight other private companies to promote global collaboration and formation of supply chains in the hydrogen field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate and announce a roadmap for carbon neutrality in 2050 in cooperation of CO₂ Reduction Promotion Subcommittee and CO₂ Reduction Technology Study Working Group Work to achieve CO₂ emission reduction targets and help reduce CO₂ emissions in society by expanding sales of CO₂ reduction technologies, products, and services and conducting technical development of multi-materials 	pp. 36–39, pp. 72–73
	Coexisting and cooperating with society	Promote coexistence and cooperation with local communities from the environmental perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the KOBELCO GREEN PROJECT, centered on the three key activities of the KOBELCO Forest Fairy Tale Prize, forest development, and environmental education outreach to children's centers, in an effort to cooperate and coexist in harmony with local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received more than 400 submissions for the 8th annual KOBELCO Forest Fairy Tale Prize, with backing from all municipalities in which our 12 domestic business sites are located Suspended environmental education outreach to children's centers and forest development activities due to COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote KOBELCO GREEN PROJECT (comprising KOBELCO Forest Fairy Tale Prize, forest development activities, and environmental education outreach to children's centers*) to better coexist and cooperate with local communities <p>* Environmental education outreach to children's centers has been suspended due to COVID-19.</p>	p. 79
VISION 3	Disclosing environmental information	Take active steps to disclose environmental information and improve communication with all stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue disclosing information in an effort to communicate with all stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosed environmental information via Integrated Report, Company website, environmental monitors, and other sources; introduced Group environmental technologies and products at exhibitions Expressed support for the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) and joined the TCFD Consortium (organization of supporting companies in Japan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue disclosing information and enhance communication with all stakeholders 	Our website