



Niseko Town Declaration of Climate Emergency

Various abnormal weather phenomena have been observed all over the world, and the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) has announced that the main cause is long-term global warming from increasing greenhouse gases. In addition, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reports that patterns in our daily lives and manufacturing processes are playing a heavy part in the increase of greenhouse gases. Here in Niseko Town, the amount of snowfall this year was less than half that of two years ago. Climate change not only has a major impact on tourism in Niseko and its world-famous powder snow, but also causes yearly fluctuations to temperatures, sunshine, and rainfall which impacts Niseko's agricultural industry.

Niseko considers global warming an urgent issue, and has responded in various ways as Eco Model City and SDGs Future City. However, the accelerating progress of climate change in recent years continues to threaten the survival of the world. I fear that our children will not be able to inherit a sustainable society from our generation. Therefore, as the mayor of Niseko Town, I hereby declare a climate emergency and announce Niseko's aim to virtually eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Our two-pronged approach focuses on mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation involves the controlling of greenhouse gas emissions, whereas adaptation involves dealing with impacts of climate changes that are already occurring or may occur in the future.

At present, economic activity has stagnated under the influence of COVID-19 and greenhouse gas emissions are decreasing. Even whilst recovering from the pandemic, we hope that by avoiding over-reliance on fossil fuels and promoting both energy conservation and renewable energy we can create a sustainable society.

July 21, 2020

Mayor of Niseko Town