



Practical Workshop on Climate Assemblies

~Featuring Local Cases in Japan and the UK~

Report: Atsugi Climate Assembly

14 March 2024

Steering Committee, Atsugi Climate
Assembly

Mutsuko Endo, Atsugi Citizens' Power
Station



Introducing the
organizer

Atsugi Citizens' Power Station



Opening ceremony for first unit, Jan. 2020, Iiyama district, Atsugi City

We are a citizen group that has been working for six years to avert a climate crisis and achieve a society that is not dependent on nuclear power.

We are taking on the challenge of citizen-led local production of renewable energy for local consumption and revitalization of agriculture.

We believe all citizens can work together to create a decarbonized and comfortable-living city!

Mutsuko Endo, Chair

Late 2021
~2022

But, the expansion of renewable energy was stagnant...

There was not much progress on decarbonization in Atsugi City

Feb. 2021: Mayor makes Zero Carbon Declaration

Measures in FY2022: Formulation of Carbon Neutral Roadmap, revision of Global Warming Prevention Action Plan (to be implemented from FY2023)

What could ignite the next step?

We decided to organize a Climate Assembly in Atsugi.

Invitations to participate in a "citizen collaboration project"!

Objective: Hold a citizen assembly to realize Atsugi's Carbon Neutral Roadmap

Invitations sent in May 2022 City government gets more proactive

The city promises to accept an action plan created by citizens as its official action plan!

⇒Oct. 2022 Adopted as a citizen collaboration project Became an official one-year project for FY2023

Let's avoid a climate crisis and create a prosperous and comfortable future for Atsugi!

Overview of Planning

Framework of Atsugi Climate Assembly



Organizer: Atsugi Citizens' Power Station & Atsugi City
Partner: Institute for Dialogue of Environmental Policy (IDEP)
Cooperation: IGES, Kanagawa Prefectural Environmental Science Center

Procuring funds/Financial management

Costs: about 6 mil. JPY (participant remuneration, payments to information contributors/instructors, compensation of steering committee staff)
2 mil. JPY from citizen collaboration
Private sector grants: about 2 mil. JPY from Lush Japan (to cover preparatory stage from Feb. 2023)
From Japan Fund for Global Environment (up to 2.5 mil. JPY)
Total: 6.5 mil. JPY

Advisors

Main facilitators

Meeting minutes recorders



Relationship with Administration: Benefits of citizen collaboration

- City adopts "action plan" output as an official plan
- City in charge of random selection
- City gives the project legitimacy, good for PR, provides venues, etc.
- Content fundamentally left up to Steering Committee
- Showing citizens' level of determination to administration! Let's work together! A new form of democracy

Participating residents

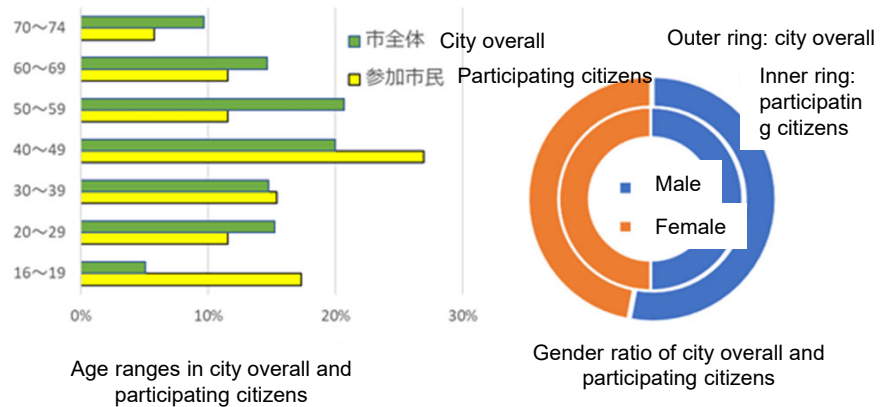
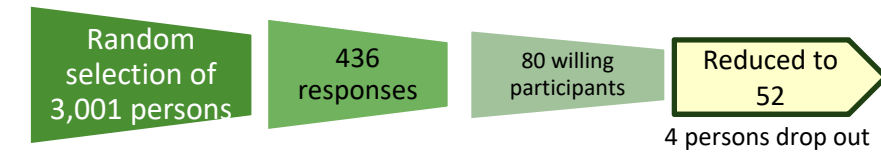
Random selection of 3,000 persons, ages 16-74, men and women, from 10 districts
⇒ Started with 52 people

Steering Committee staff: Most are typical citizens

Put call out to citizens (power station members, agricultural support team members, residents involved in civic activities)
Asked universities in and outside the city to consult/cooperate
Put call out to companies in the city
Introductions from advisors
Jan. 2023 Steering Committee Preparatory Kick-off Meeting
Facilitator Training: Organized by IDEP
Official launch in Apr. 2023 (Appointments with confidentiality obligation⇒written agreements) 44 persons registered
Supervisory Team, Operations Team (Secretariat), PR Team, facilitators, supporters

Overview of Planning

Composition of citizen participants



Supporting persons

Experts and advisors

| Sessions | Name |
|---|--|
| 1 st Session (foundational) | Seita Emori, U. of Tokyo; Atsushi Watabe, IGES |
| 2 nd Session (State of community) | Satoshi Arai, Kanagawa Prefectural Environmental Science Center; Toru Maeba, City Planning, Atsugi City; Naohiro Yamazaki, Environmental Policy, Atsugi City |
| 3 rd session (4 special topics) | Hironao Matsubara, ISEP; Yoshitaka Kajita, Tokai U.; Yoshitsugu Yamamoto, Tokyo Polytechnic U.; Chisato Murakami, Consumer Affairs Advisor |
| 4 th session (Resource persons for special topics) | Atsugi Citizens' Power Station, Tantan Energy, Odawara City, Nissan Motor Co., MONET Technologies, Kanagawa Chuo Kotsu, Ecomado Promotion Committee, local architects, Research Inst. for Humanity and Nature, No-till farming practitioners |
| 5 th session (Symposium on scaling out) | Misuzu Asari, Research Inst. For Humanity and Nature, Sachi Ninomiya-Lim, Tokai U., Akane Iwasaki, U. of Tokyo; Hideaki Suzuki, Shoin U. |
| Overall advisors | Masaharu Yagishita; Chisato Murakami; Naoyuki Mikami, IDEP; Hitoshi Takei, Chair, Kawasaki Citizen Assembly on Decarbonization |

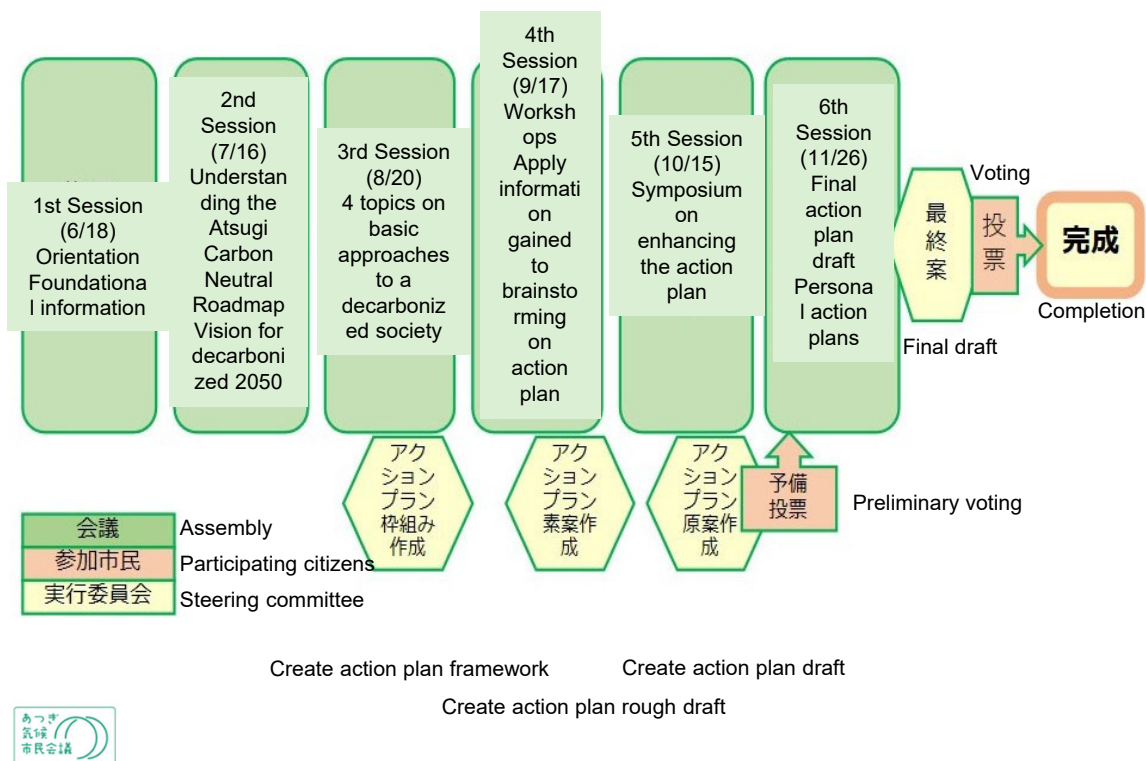
Steering Committee

【Supervisory Team】 5 persons 【Main facilitator】 Akane Iwasaki
 【Operations Team】 6 persons + 5 supporters 【Facilitators】 13 persons + 6 supporters
 【PR Team】 5 people + 1 citizen illustrator 【Meeting minutes recorders】 2 persons



Meeting design

Timeline on completion of the Decarbonization Action Plan in Atsugi



Special considerations when formulating the Atsugi Decarbonization Action Plan in Atsugi

- "Avoid a climate crisis and **create a comfortable future for Atsugi**" as the objective.
- Ensure the realization of the '**Atsugi City Carbon Neutral Roadmap**'. A major transformation in our society, economy and values is required.
- Backcasting from a **vision of a decarbonized world in 2050**.
- **Be just, fair, and leave no one behind.**
- Aim to '**create mechanisms**' that enable even uninterested people to live normally while transitioning to a decarbonized society.
- '**Citizens**' are the actors of the action plan. Consider actions that citizens can take, and seek cooperation from government and business to create the necessary conditions for other actions citizens want to take.

Scenes from meetings



Second session on 16 July 2023



First session on 18 June 2023

Meeting
outcomes

Action Plan documents 74 action items separated into 5 sections

Section 1: Local production of renewable energy for local consumption

Section 2: Mobility and community building

Section 3: Energy conservation and housing

Section 4: Consumption, food, agriculture, waste

Section 5: Initiatives to actualize, practice, and establish the Atsugi Decarbonization Action Plan



Illustration by Shiori Kikuchi, citizen participant

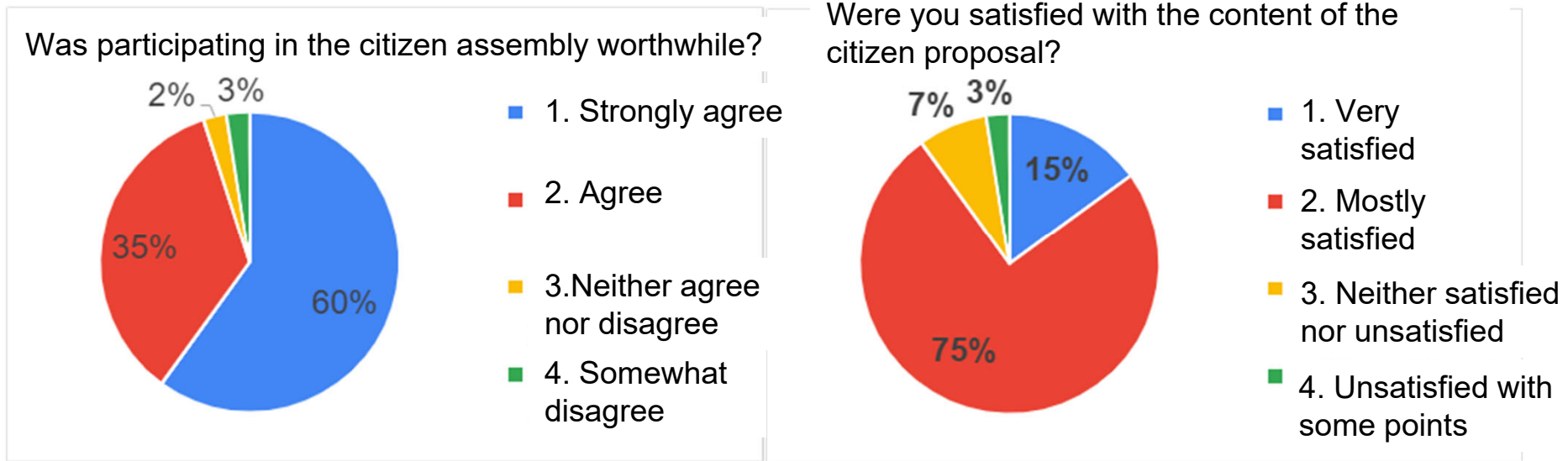


Atsugi Climate Assembly Completion on 26 November 2023



Overview of questionnaire results and reflection on assembly

Questionnaire respondents: 40 out of 48 participants

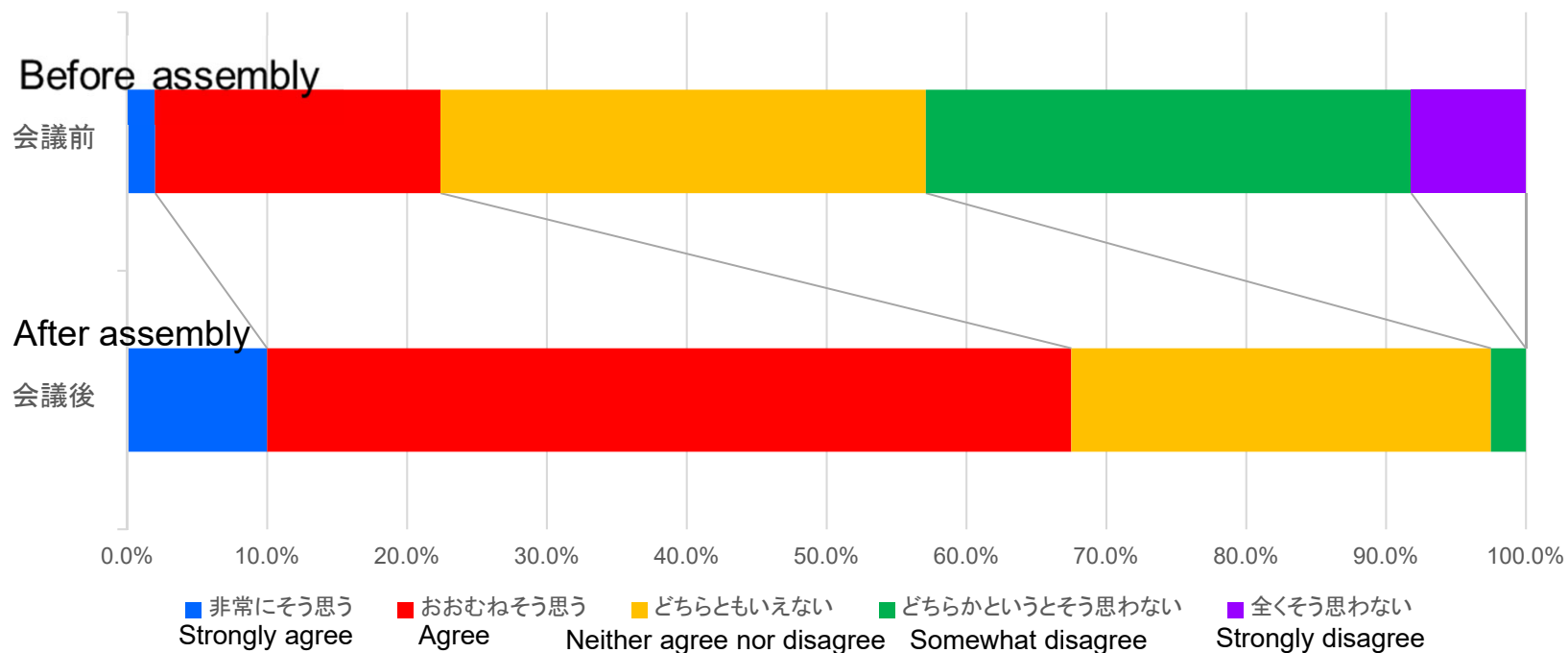


- 【Reasons】**
- ① Gaining knowledge and understanding (including inspiration and insights)
 - ② Change in awareness/action
 - ③ Networking and creating connections



Overview of questionnaire results and reflection on assembly

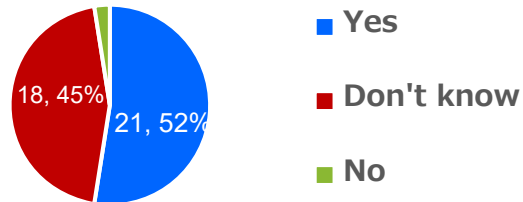
I am clearly aware of what initiatives and measures should be implemented in daily life and the community towards achieving a decarbonized society.



Overview of questionnaire results and reflection on assembly

Actions toward realizing a decarbonized society

Do you want to participate in activities to actualize the measures in the action plan?



21 persons chose "Yes" on participating in activities to actualize the action plan



【Some reflections by Supervisory Team】

- ◆ Due deliberation not achieved
 - Insufficient group discussion time
 - Opinions not opposed or questioned added to action plan as is
 - Facilitation issues
 - Swayed by persons with strong opinions
- ◆ Was the quality and quantity of information provided appropriate?
 - Has a major influence on group discussion
 - Saves time during group discussion
- ◆ Process from sharing group discussion contents to drafting of final action plan
- ◆ Steering Committee operational issues



Toward the next proposal

To do at 17 Feb. Briefing Session

Section 5: Initiatives to actualize, practice, and establish the Atsugi Decarbonization Action Plan

- (1) Continuation of citizen collaboration
- (2) Create a framework for citizen collaboration

Citizens will continue in citizen collaboration and engage in implementation of the Decarbonization Action Plan. City and citizens will establish a **collaborative entity** to ensure the early achievement of carbon neutrality.

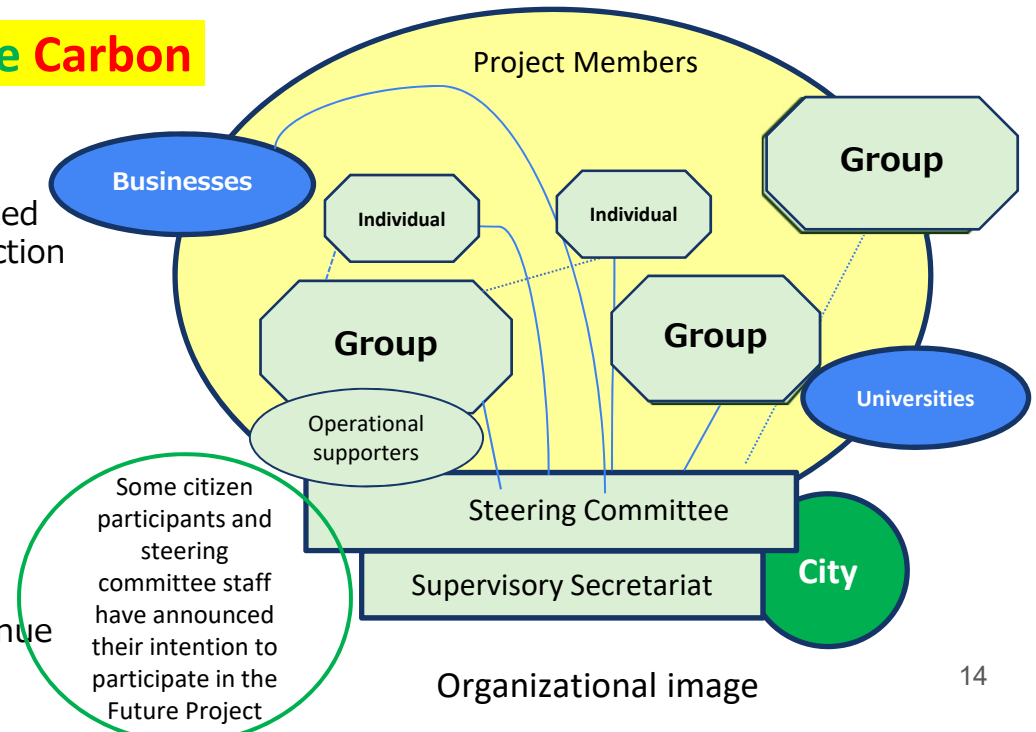
New collaborative entity: Launch of the Carbon Neutral Atsugi Future Project

- ◆ Popularization of the action plan
- ◆ Initiate concrete actions, support for actions: relaxed framework that enables those who want to take action to get advice and support
- ◆ Build connections (in community, with other communities)
- ◆ Progress evaluation
- ◆ Information exchange with city, opinion exchange, proposals

Continue 2 years as Atsugi Citizen Collaboration Project

After that, find another method by which to continue

Maintain independence of citizens as much as possible, including fundraising





It was a challenge at the citizen level, but with the support and guidance of many people, we managed to achieve some results. We deeply appreciate it. Those paving the way to the future have begun to connect. There is a bumpy road ahead, but we will continue to rise to the challenge!

Thank you



Atsugi Climate Assembly's Atsugi
Citizen Collaboration Project



Atsugi Climate Assembly Report

