

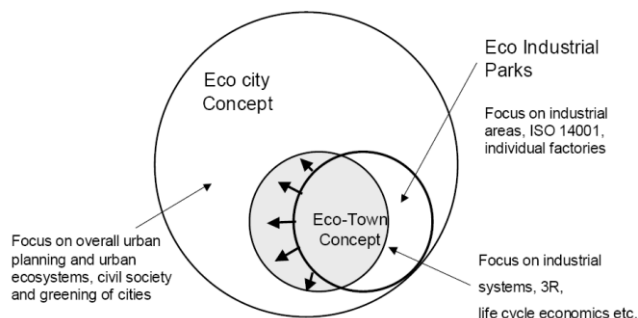
Eco-towns in Japan

Implications and Lessons for Developing Countries and Cities

Eco-Towns in Japan were developed in the last seven years by utilizing regional technologies and industries in Japan. Eco-Towns have a number of key features such as (a) strong legislation, shifting the market towards a sound material-cycle society, (b) national and local governments are spearheading the drive to bring together industry clusters to be more sustainable, (c) increasing product research and development – in both public and private sectors, including universities, (d) large and rapidly expanding eco-business market, domestically and internationally, (e) strong focus on environmental technologies and ESTs, and innovative/cutting-edge solutions to solve environmental problems, and (f) focus on energy conservation, material development and integrated waste management are also features of Eco-Towns.



This report prepared by the Global Environment Center Foundation in Osaka, Japan covers a basic description of the concept of eco-towns in general, within the overall framework of sustainable consumption and production. It provides a historic overview of eco-towns in Japan, and the support systems, policies and projects implemented by national and local governments in setting up eco-towns.



The report also present four case studies, from Kawasaki, Kita Kyushu, Minamata and Naoshima. It concludes by outlining the lessons learnt from the establishing of eco-towns in Japan, and a summary of the key issues.

*An electronic version of the report can be downloaded
in PDF format from the following website:*

http://gec.jp/gec/EN/publications/Eco_Towns_in_Japan.pdf