

# Legal and Other Support Systems for Eco-towns in Japan



Eco-towns are urban planning and environmental management efforts where industries located in the designated 'eco-town' area practice resource recycling within their manufacturing process and in between the industries. They are developed in pursuit of synergies derived from combined efforts in waste treatment, environmental preservation, and promotion of industrial development.



Eco-Towns in Japan were developed in the last seven years by utilizing regional technologies and industries. 18 eco-towns and 7 industrial clusters have been set up all over Japan, with more than 800 industries and 50 universities participating in them. For example, in the Chubu region of Japan (where Nagoya is located), there are two eco towns established, and the industrial clusters there have seen 80 industries and 11 universities set up collaborative initiatives and manufacturing activities.



This report prepared by the Global Environment Center Foundation in Osaka, Japan specifically looks at the legal and other support systems that were set up at the national and local levels in order to promote eco-towns established in their cities, and the policies that guided the overall shift towards environmentally sustainable economic development.



The report covers the legal frameworks for a sound material-flow society, as well as the subsidies and policies that were set up for eco-towns. It also outlines the roles for a number of stakeholders – governmental and non-governmental – at the national and local levels.

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

<http://gec.jp/gec/EN/publications/ecotown-legal.pdf>