

Technological assessment of the Contribution to decreasing Global Warming

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Recognizing that the majority of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with governmental bodies were discharged from government facilities, the Government Buildings Department will focus until 2006 on reducing the CO₂ emissions from government facilities, so as to contribute to the achievement of the government's target (a 7% reduction from 2001 levels by 2006). The Government Buildings Department will concentrate on providing through its own activities in the establishment of green government buildings and the implementation of green assessments and renovations. In addition, the department will work to ensure that all facilities are operated and managed appropriately and that ESCO projects are introduced, and to provide guidance and assistance to other government bodies in their efforts to achieve CO₂ reductions. In promoting these efforts, the department will also work to further strengthen inter-agency relationships to ensure the greatest possible efficacy of the measures taken to reduce the CO₂ originating from government facilities. Therefore, the department will concentrate on the following work in fiscal years 2005 and 2006. In relation to upgrading government facilities, the department will promote the upgrading of facilities to green government buildings that contribute to reducing the CO₂ and LCCO₂ arising from the facilities' operation, by following the "Standards for the Environmental Preservation Performance of Government Building Facilities" (established by the Director-General, Government Buildings Department, Minister's Secretariat, March 31, 2005) in proactively utilizing such greenification technologies as photovoltaic generation, double-glazing, and energy-efficient office equipment. In addition to promoting the establishment of all new facilities under the department's jurisdiction as green government buildings, the department will work to set targets for environmental functionality in terms of issues such as CO₂ emissions and will work to maximize the environmental effectiveness of the facilities. The department will promote the implementation of green renovations, timed to coincide with the scheduled upgrading of existing facilities, based on the "Standards for Planning of the Environmental Assessment and Renovation of Government Buildings" (to be created in late June 2005) and on the results of green assessments, to ensure that greenification technologies are effectively utilized and the environmental performance of the buildings are improved. In particular, every effort will be made to reduce the amount of CO₂ emissions associated with a facility's operation. The department will conduct studies to ascertain which facilities would be suited to the introduction of the new technologies and systems listed in the "Government Action Plan," such as fuel cells, photovoltaic generation, wind power, high-efficiency air conditioning systems, high-efficiency hot water supply systems, further expansion of green areas and water-retentive pavement. It is necessary to introduce these technologies as widely as possible in government facilities. Therefore, the department will emphasize the investigation of the introduction of such technologies and systems to the central government buildings. In addition to compiling the results of the possible technologies for each office building along with the system capacities, costs and expected benefits and preparing at the earliest possible date an "Evaluation of Low-CO₂ Technologies in Central Government Buildings (working title)," the department will work to introduce as many of the new technologies as possible. By providing its "Evaluation" report to other government bodies, the department will contribute to the early introduction of such technologies and systems by other government bodies.