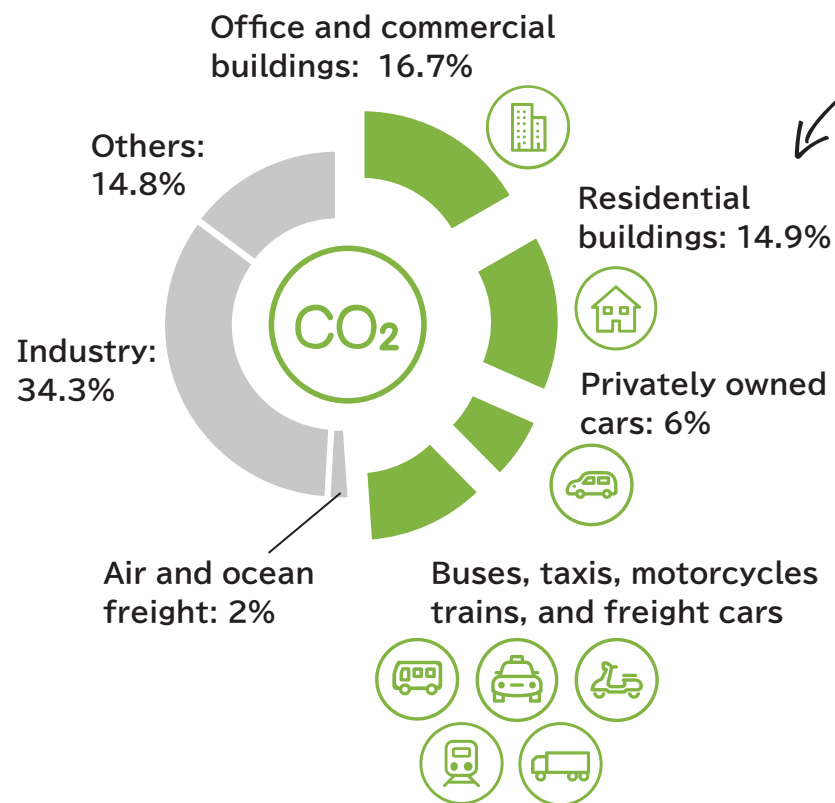


Cities have enormous potential to contribute to climate change measures!

The urban population is growing rapidly, with more and more people choosing to live in cities. Current projections estimate that by 2050, approximately 70% of the global population will reside in urban areas. Cities are nexuses where people, goods, and energy converge. In Japan, for instance, approximately 50% of CO₂ emissions are attributable to urban activities. However, cities can also be the site of innovation to reduce CO₂ emissions. Making changes to how people live in cities is an important step in reducing the impact of climate change. Globally, new initiatives are emerging to decarbonize urban areas.



Japan' s CO₂ footprint of urban activities*

It is estimated that approximately 50% of CO₂ emissions originate from activities within urban areas.



*The graph was created by the Urban Environment Division, Urban Affairs Bureau, MLIT, based on the Ministry of the Environment and the National Institute for Environmental Studies' 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Absorption in FY2022 (FY2022 (confirmed values)' (April 2024).

GX Creation Meeting

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) in Japan is leading a new initiative aimed at promoting exchange, integration, and collaboration among professionals and citizens engaged in carbon neutrality* and urban policies. As part of this effort, MLIT organized a series of seminars called the “GX Creation Meeting” in 2024, focusing on climate change initiatives in cities around the world. Experts and practitioners working in relevant policy areas were invited to share their insights with the participants.



MLIT held six seminars with a total of 2,600 participants. At each seminar, the participants engaged in small-group discussions, and lively debates took place.

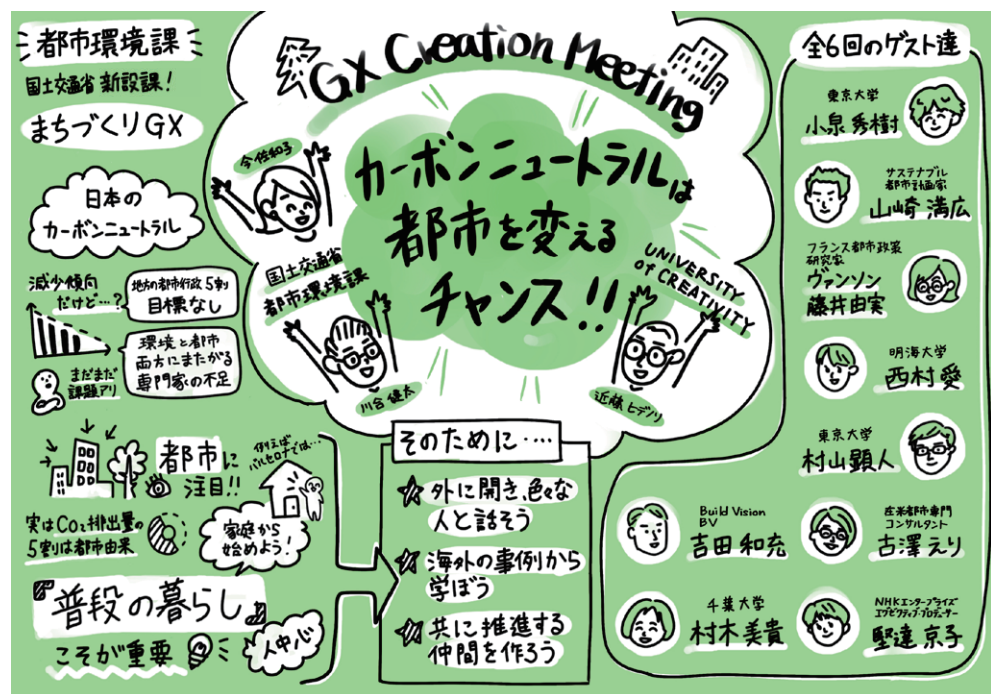
* Carbon Neutrality refers to a state where the total amount of CO₂ emissions is balanced by the amount of CO₂ absorption, resulting in a net zero. It is also known as Net Zero.



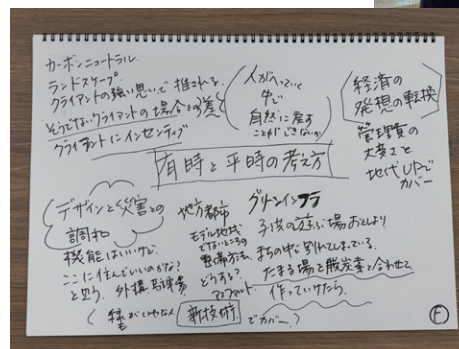
Visit the MLIT website to access the seminar presentations!



We have summarized the key points from each session as graphic recordings!
(Available on the GX Creation Meeting website)



Words might fade away,
but visual images remain
in our minds.
Let's try this approach
at our town's event
as well.



Here are the main points of the policies in the overseas cities that were identified through the seminars.



Environmental policy as a goal and a means

Environmental policy can be both a goal in itself and a means to achieve that goal. The key is to address social and economic challenges, such as urban traffic, public health, and local economic development, in a way that aligns with environmental objectives.



Top-down and bottom-up initiatives

It is essential to advance a city-wide plan and vision through a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches; one driven by leadership from heads, councils, and executives, and the other led by residents and citizens.



City's structure, mobility, buildings, blocks, and green spaces

When cities adopt environmental policies, the primary focus areas include urban structure, transportation, buildings, and green infrastructure



Storytelling and visualization

Visualizing initiatives and their effects is an important part of promoting measures. However, it is also important to create and convey a story without becoming too focused on numbers.



Together with Residents

From planning to implementation, it is important to work together with the people who live in the community.

To explore the possibilities of new urban development, we ventured beyond Kasumigaseki, the governmental district, and undertook collaborative learning to achieve carbon neutrality.



In the seminars, experts from various fields gave passionate presentations about the realities of city policies and actions overseas.

Sitting in a circle must have encouraged open discussions. It's so important to create the right atmosphere.



The circular venue is designed to encourage free discussion. Participants found the group discussions engaging, and many wished for more time to talk!



Green and Livable: Ideas and Insights from Cities Worldwide



1 Go People-friendly
Instead of Car-friendly



4 Smart Buildings,
Smarter Cities



2 Increase City Value
with More Tree Shade



5 Urban Transformation
Starts from Districts



3 Local Citizens
Driving Local Growth



6 Future Starts with a
Vision and a Step