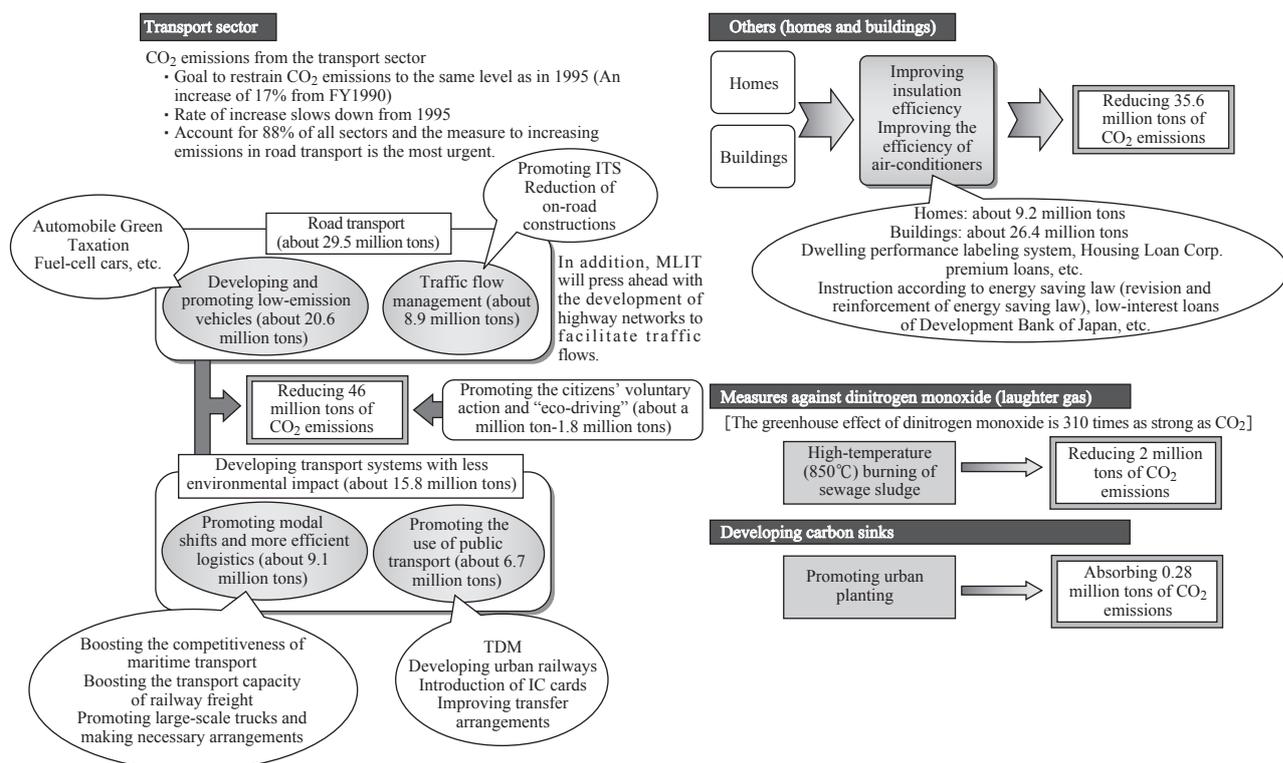


## Chapter 7: Creating and Conserving a Beautiful and Favorable Environment

### [Combating global warming]

To achieve its pledge in the Kyoto Protocol, Japan is working to curb greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector as well as from the minsei sector (i.e., emissions from homes, offices, etc.). By the end of FY2004, the government plans to conduct assess and review in relation to the Outline for Promotion of Efforts to Prevent Global Warming. The government is now assessing the impact of the current policies and measures concerned. As the Kyoto Protocol has come into force, it is also exploring the possibility of strengthening these policies and measures and exploring new ones.

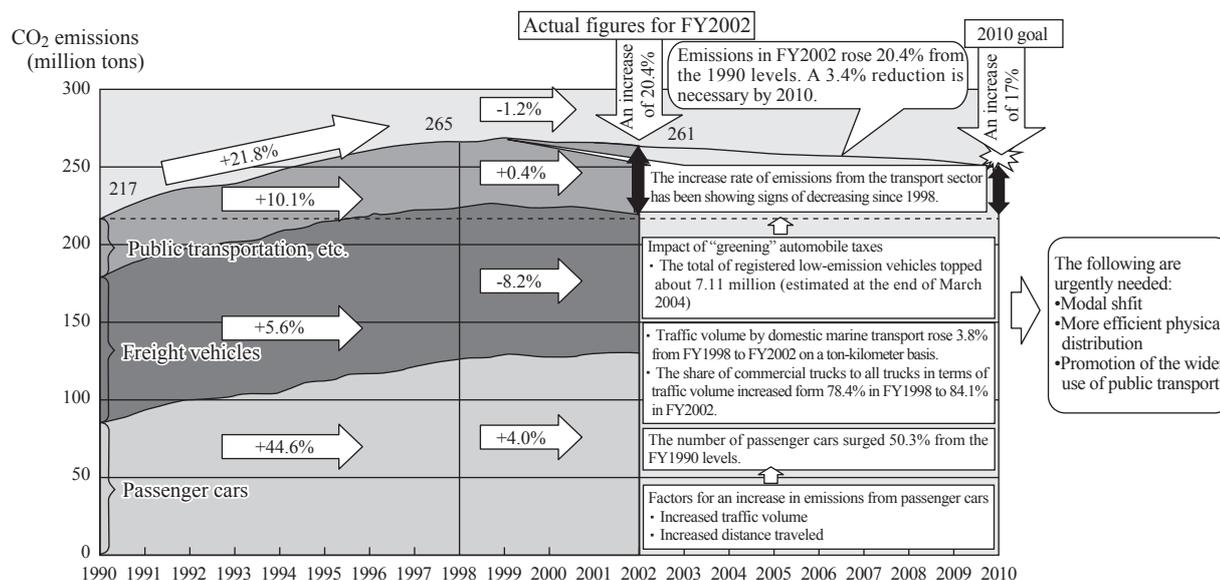
#### <MLIT's measures to combat global warming>



#### ○Measures in the transport sector

MLIT is promoting a range of measures designed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the transport sector. Such measures involve: the creation of a mechanism that gives incentive for more low-emission and fuel-efficient vehicles; the Automobile Green Taxation; the development and promotion of Environmentally Friendly Vehicles with emphasis on and fuel cell vehicles; traffic flow management; environmental management in the physical distribution, including the promotion of a modal shift; and measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions from vessels.

**<Trend in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the transport sector>**



Note: Public transport includes buses, taxis, railways, passenger ships, domestic marine transport, and domestic airlines.

○Measures concerning homes, buildings, sewerage, and urban planning

MLIT is promoting energy saving for homes and buildings by conducting dwelling performance labeling system. Other measures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions include the development of environment-friendly government buildings (green government buildings), eco-friendly operation of sewerage, conservation of nature and urban planting.

**[Promoting a recycling-oriented society]**

○Construction materials recycling

MLIT is committed to promoting recycling construction waste, which account for about 20 percent of waste discharged from all industries. To that end, the ministry is taking measures to ensure the performance of the Construction Materials Recycling Law and developing a joint mobile collection system for small-lot construction byproducts. It is also making efforts to reduce and recycle sewage sludge and promoting solid waste management in the housing and construction fields.

**< Recycling rates of construction waste by item >**

	FY2002	Goal for FY2005	Goal for FY2010
Recycling (R) and volume reduction (VR) rate	92%	Achieved 88%	Achieved 91%
(R) rate for asphalt concrete blocks	99%	Achieved 98% and more	Achieved 98% and more
(R) rate for concrete blocks	98%	Achieved 96% and more	Achieved 96% and more
(R) & (VR) rate for construction sludge	69%	Achieved 60%	Not achieved 75%
(R) & (VR) rate for construction-derived wood chips	89%	Not achieved 90%	Not achieved 95%
(R) rate for construction-derived wood chips	61%	Achieved 60%	Not achieved 65%
Reduction in mixed construction waste emissions from FY2000 (%)	30% reduction	Achieved 25% reduction	Not achieved 50% reduction

Note: The targets are according to *Construction Recycling Promotion Plan 2002*.

Source: MLIT, 2002 survey on the state of construction byproducts.

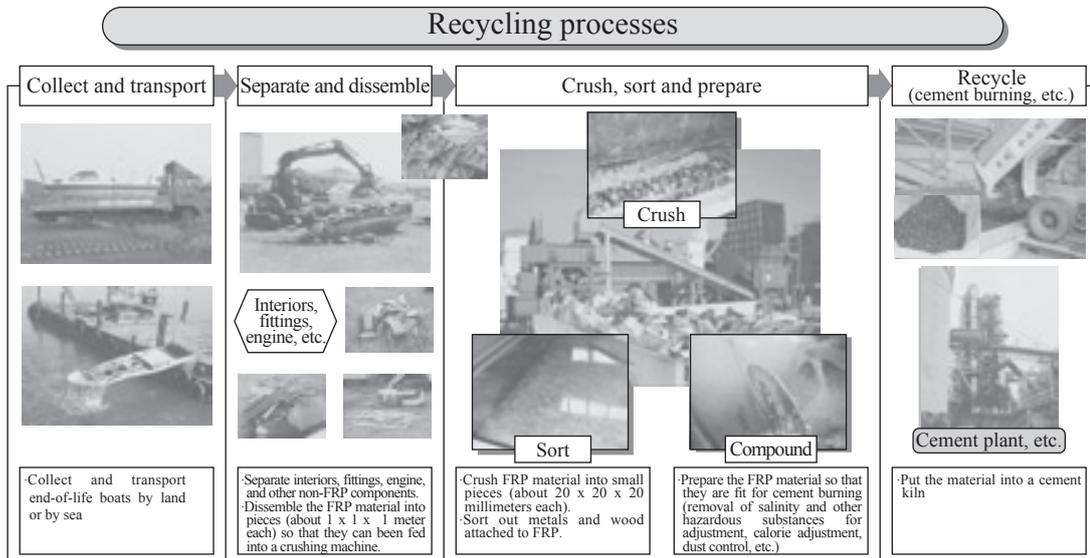
○Developing recyclable resources logistics systems

MLIT is committed to developing an efficient venous logistics networks. To this end, the ministry has recently designated integrated recyclable resources logistics hub ports (Recycle Ports).

○Recycling of vehicles and FRP boats

MLIT is working to promote appropriate treatment of end-of-life vehicles and thus prevent illegal dumping with the implementation of the vehicle recycling system and the enforcement of the Road Transport Vehicle Law. The ministry is also working for the development of a recycling system for FRP (Fiberglass Reinforced Plastics) pleasure boats.

< Recycling system for FRP boats >



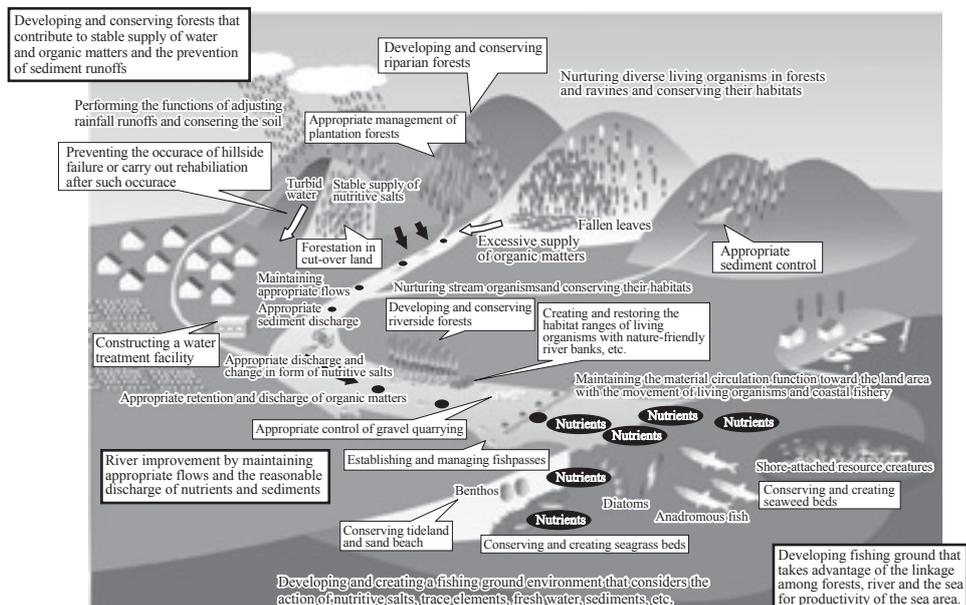
○Promoting procurement of eco-friendly goods

MLIT is promoting procurement of eco-friendly goods and services and wider use of wood in public works projects.

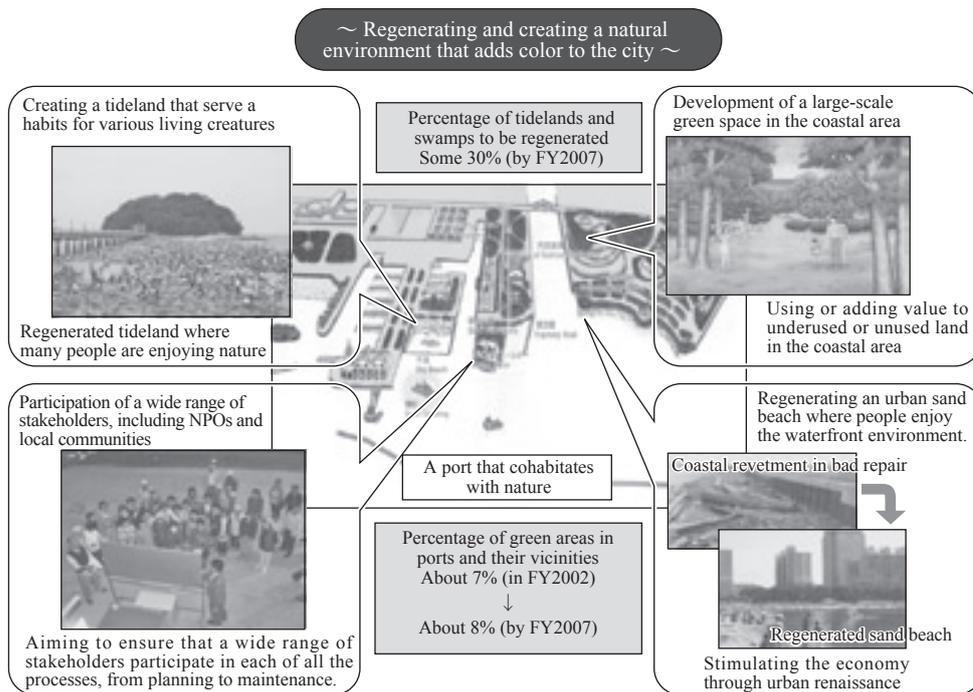
[Conserving and regenerating an affluent and beautiful natural environment]

MLIT is promoting “renaturalization of rivers” and working to conserve, regenerate and even create waterfront environments in cooperation with local communities and NPOs. The ministry is also developing roads with full of shade.

< Maintaining continuity regarding rivers >



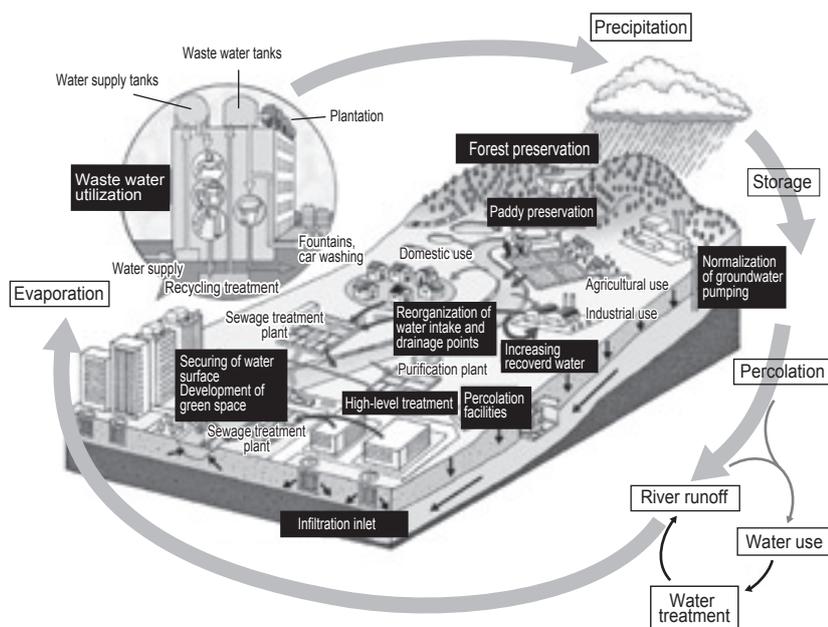
< Project to regenerate a natural environment in an urban coastal area >



**[Promoting Sound Hydrological Cycles]**

MLIT is working on Promoting Sound Hydrological Cycles in association with other ministries and agencies concerned. The ministry is also implementing the phase II emergency action plan for improvement of water environment called “Clear Water Renaissance II”. Other efforts by MLIT include improving the water environment in closed sea areas and developing sewerages designed to improve the water environment.

< Promoting Sound Hydrological Cycles >



**[Management of the marine environment]**

MLIT’s efforts in this field include: averting large-scale oil pollution by eliminating substandard ships that fail to meet requirements prescribed in laws concerning maritime safety and marine environment conservation; regulation of emissions from vessels; and control of harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water.

**[Improving the living environment through measures against air and noise pollution]**

○Addressing environmental degradation associated with road transport

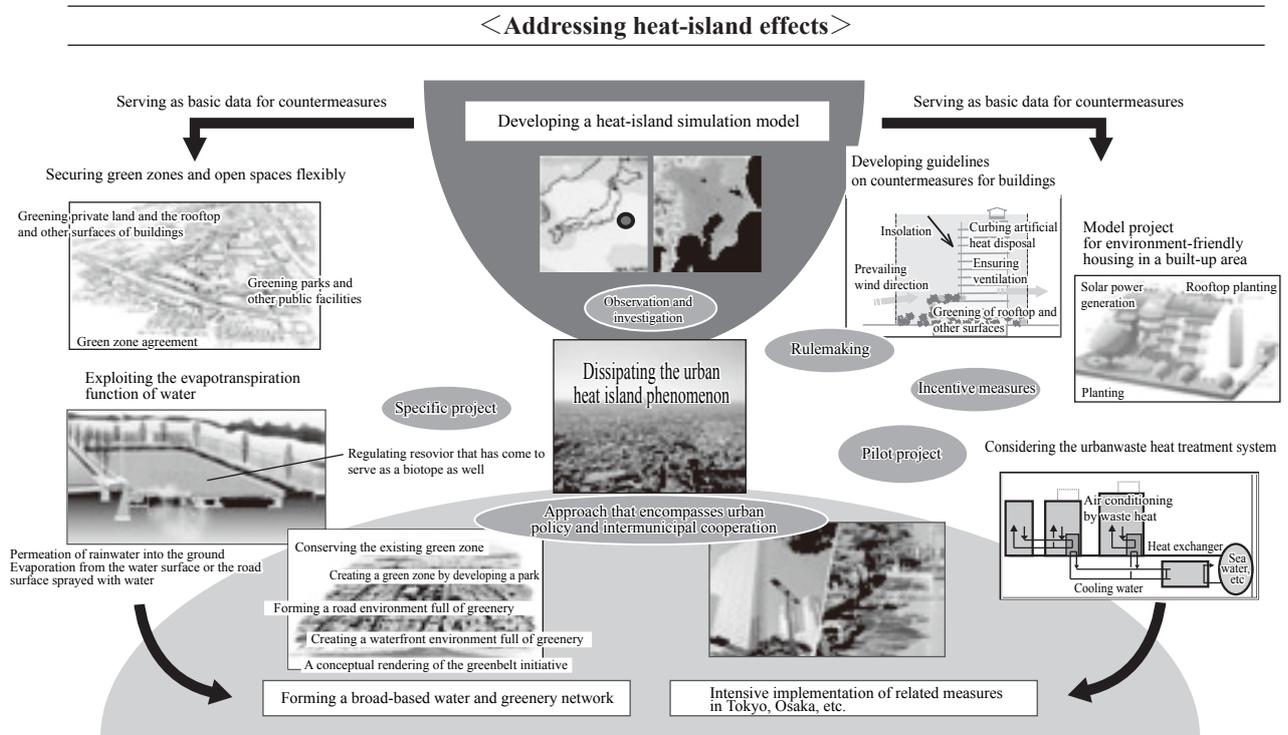
With regard to vehicles themselves, MLIT is promoting strict auto emission standards and other environmental-related measures. The ministry is also focusing on: traffic flow management through TDM; road use that is less harmful to the environment with the introduction of various and flexible toll-charge policies; and the improvement of the roadside environment by modifying the road structure.

○Airports and its vicinity

MLIT is proactively promoting the development of “eco airports”, designed to conserve and even improve the local environment.

○Addressing heat-island effects

Addressing this issue, MLIT is focusing on specific countermeasures identified in the Outline of the Policy Framework to Reduce Urban Heat Island Effects. This policy statement was formulated in March 2004 by the Inter-Ministry Coordination Committee to Mitigate Urban Heat Island.



**[Observation and monitoring of the global environment]**

MLIT’s efforts in this field include: (i) the promotion of the ARGO project (which aims to develop a broad-scale global array of temperature and salinity profiling floats in the oceans); (ii) monitoring of the sea level rise caused by global warming; and (iii) the development of global maps and the global geodetic observation network.