

Research and Planning Center

The Research and Planning Center carries out the following activities in order to actively promote the introduction of new energy sources and to create greater awareness for the diffusion of new energy technologies.

Organization of a New Energy Industrial Forum and the Formulation of Policy Proposals

The NEF organizes a New Energy Industrial Forum, which is composed of its councilors, to conduct research and to make policy proposals so that the intentions and expectations of the related industries can be reflected in the programs for introducing and diffusing new energy planned by the government.

The New Energy Industrial Forum compiles policy proposals based on the outcome of the work of the committees for each individual sector.

The following is a list of the committees organized by the Research and Planning Center and some of the topics of their discussions.

1. Planning Committee

- (1) This committee discusses the draft proposals based on the outcome of the activities of each committee as well as topics that are not covered by any of the other committees.
- (2) Subcommittees can be set up under the Planning Committee in order to discuss specific topics.

2. Fuel Cell Committee

This committee conducts research on the state of the development and the introduction of fuel cells and draws up draft proposals for the related organizations.

3. Coal Energy Committee

This committee conducts research on the state of the development and the introduction of the use of coal energy and draws up draft proposals for the related organizations.

4. Wind Energy Committee

This committee conducts research on the state of the development and the introduction of the use of wind power and draws up draft proposals for the related organizations.

5. Waste Power Generation Committee

This committee conducts research on the state of the development and the introduction of power generation from waste and draws up draft proposals for the related organizations.

6. Biomass Committee

This committee conducts research on the state of the development and the introduction of the use of biomass energy and draws up draft proposals for the related organizations.

Compilation and Provision of Information

1. Provision of Information

The NEF organizes and analyzes information on its operations and on new energy from outside sources, and provides this information to the member companies.

2. International Exchange Activities

Information is exchanged with overseas governments, organizations and research institutions concerning the development and the practical application of new energy technologies and on current status of cooperation between governments and the industry in this field.

3. Investigations on New Energy

In order to contribute to the policy reviews on the introduction new energy in Japan, investigations are conducted on the status of technological development, the technical problems, and the efforts being made to solve these problems both in Japan and overseas.

Promotion of the Introduction of New Energy

1. New Energy Awards Program

In order to achieve the further diffusion of new energy, an open awards program has been organized since 1996. These awards are given for advanced and creative products concerning new energy, outstanding cases of the introduction of the use of new energy sources, and for activities that effectively raise public awareness. The members of the committee of judges are academic experts in this field. The excellent examples selected by the judges receive the "Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Prize," the "Director-general of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy Prize," and the "Chairman of the New Energy Foundation Prize." Many enterprises and organizations that have developed and introduced excellent examples of new energy applications have received these prizes, and the program plays a significant role in the development and promotion of new energy technologies and their diffusion.

2. Human Resources Development Program on New Energy

In order to train the entrepreneur managers, experts and coordinators who will be responsible for the new energy businesses, curriculums and teaching materials have been developed and training workshops are provided.

The following workshop courses are organized: (1) commercialization support course, (2) wind energy course, and (3) biomass course (wood biomass course, biogas course, biofuel course). The curriculum of these courses are based on the requirements for the creation of a new energy business.



Promotion of Fuel Cell Introduction

1. 1. Large Scale Stationary Fuel Cell Demonstration Project

A lot of stationary fuel cell systems are installed at general houses and the operational data under actual usage conditions are obtained in this project. Analyzing these data the technological level of the stationary fuel cell and the problems for the commercialization are clarified. Thus identifying the technological development issues this project aims to promote the commercialization of stationary fuel cell.

Subsidies are provided to energy suppliers those who install the fuel cell systems and collect the operational data.

This project started in FY2005. In FY2005 subsidies are provided for 480 fuel cell systems (6 million yen per system), followed by 777 systems (4.5 million yen per system) in 2006 and 930 systems (3.5 million yen per system) in 2007. In total, 2187 systems have been subsidized.

2. Support for the FCCJ

In order to achieve the smooth and effective organization of Fuel Cell Commercialization Promotion Conference in Japan (FCCJ), NEF performs as its secretariat. FCCJ was established for the commercialization and diffusion of fuel cells in March 2001.



Exhibition for the promotion of stationary fuel cells

Large scale stationary fuel cell demonstration project : Number of systems subsidized from FY2005 to FY2007

Energy Supplier	System manufacturerer	Fuel	FY2005		FY2006		FY2007		Total FY2005 - FY2007	
			By Energy Supplier	By manufacturer	By Energy Supplier	By manufacturer	By Energy Supplier	By manufacturer	By Energy Supplier	By manufacturer
Tokyo Gas	Ebara	City gas	150	80	160	85	210	100	520	265
	Panasonic			70		75		110		255
Osaka Gas	Sanyo	City gas	63	45	80	40	81	29	224	114
	Toshiba FCP			14		40		52		106
	Panasonic			4		—		—		4
Toho Gas	Toyota	City gas	12	—	40	24	38	28	90	52
	Ebara			12		8		5		25
	Panasonic			—		8		5		13
Saibu Gas	Ebara	City gas	10	10	10	5	13	5	33	20
	Panasonic			—		5		8		13
Hokkaido Gas	Ebara	City gas	—	—	10	10	10	10	20	20
Nippon Gas	Toshiba FCP	City gas	—	—	10	3	10	3	20	6
	Toshiba FCP	LPG				7		7		14
Nippon Oil	Sanyo	LPG	134	134	301	226	396	250	831	610
	Ebara	Kerosene		—		75		146		221
Idemitsu Kosan	Toshiba FCP	LPG	33	33	40	40	50	50	123	123
Japan Energy	Sanyo	LPG	30	—	40	—	34	16	104	16
	Toshiba FCP			30		40		18		88
Iwatani International	Toshiba FCP	LPG	10	10	34	34	29	29	73	73
Cosmo Oil	Sanyo	LPG	10	—	19	—	19	9	48	9
	Toshiba FCP			10		19		5		34
	Ebara	Kerosene		—		—		5		5
Kyushu Oil	Toshiba FCP	LPG	8	8	10	10	12	12	30	30
Taiyo Oil	Toshiba FCP	LPG	8	8	13	13	18	18	39	39
Showa Shell Sekiyu	Toshiba FCP	LPG	6	6	10	10	10	10	26	26
Lemongas	Toshiba FCP	LPG	6	6	—	—	—	—	6	6
	Total		480	480	777	777	930	930	2,187	2,187