

Development Promotion Center

1. Policy Proposals

(1) Solar Energy Committee

Through the Photovoltaic Power Generation Working Group set up under the committee, research and analysis aimed at facilitating the spread of photovoltaic power generation systems and strengthening the industry towards self-sustainability was undertaken, with a research report and policy proposal document prepared.

(2) Indigenous Energy Committee

Through the working groups on Combined Use and Environmental Impact Assessment set up under the committee, the following activities were undertaken: an investigation into greater exploitation of dispersed indigenous energy sources, such as river water, seawater, coastal waters and treated wastewater, waste incineration heat and other urban waste heat, through their combined use; and an investigation into environmental value assessment based on the life cycle assessment (LCA) method. Based on the results of these investigations, a research report and policy proposal document were prepared.

2. Survey

Survey on promotion of photovoltaic energy

With products qualifying as residential building roofing materials developed, expectations are high for a further expansion of the use of photovoltaic power generation systems. Against this background, a survey for small to medium-sized roof installation

contractors handling building sheet metals, roofing tiles, etc., who take on the bulk of residential building roof installation jobs, was conducted to gauge their views on the assurance of sound roofing functions, thereby identifying the tasks at hand to promote photovoltaic power generation systems as alternative roofing materials.

3. Introduction Promotion Programs

(1) Program for Infrastructure Development of Residential PV Systems (Subsidy program)

To accelerate the spread of photovoltaic power generation and bring about self-sustained growth, subsidies have been provided for people having a residential PV power generation system installed to help cover costs in exchange for supplying system operation data since 1994. In order to explain the subsidy program to prospective residential PV system users, ready-built house suppliers, local government representatives, installation contractors and others, seminars were held at 18 cities across the country.

In FY 1999, there were a total of 17,396 applications. In this regard, four local governments filed local government-assisted mass applications as follows: Iida City, Nagano Pref. (120 individual applicants), Nagoya City, Aichi Pref. (50 individual applicants), Tokorozawa City, Saitama Pref. (12 individual applicants) and Matsukawa Town, Nagano Pref. (3 individual applicants).

Fiscal year	No. of applications	No. of systems installed	Installed capacity (kW)	Budget (bil. yen)	Upper limit
FY 1994	1,066	539	1,860	2.00	Max 5 kW
FY 1995	5,432	1,065	3,916	3.27	Max 5 kW
FY 1996	11,192	1,986	7,536	4.06	Max 4 kW
FY 1997	8,329	5,654	19,485	11.11	Max 4 kW
FY 1998	8,229	6,352	24,123	14.70	Max 10 kW
FY 1999	17,396	—	—	16.07	Max 10 kW
Total		15,596	56,920	51.21	

(2) Interest subsidization program

The interest subsidization program helps businesses engaging in thermal utilization of indigenous energy or power generation using geothermal or other new or renewable energy obtain low interest loans from financial institutions through top-up interest payments to these institutions using funds provided by the National Government.

• Thermal utilization of indigenous energy development/use (amount lent per project)

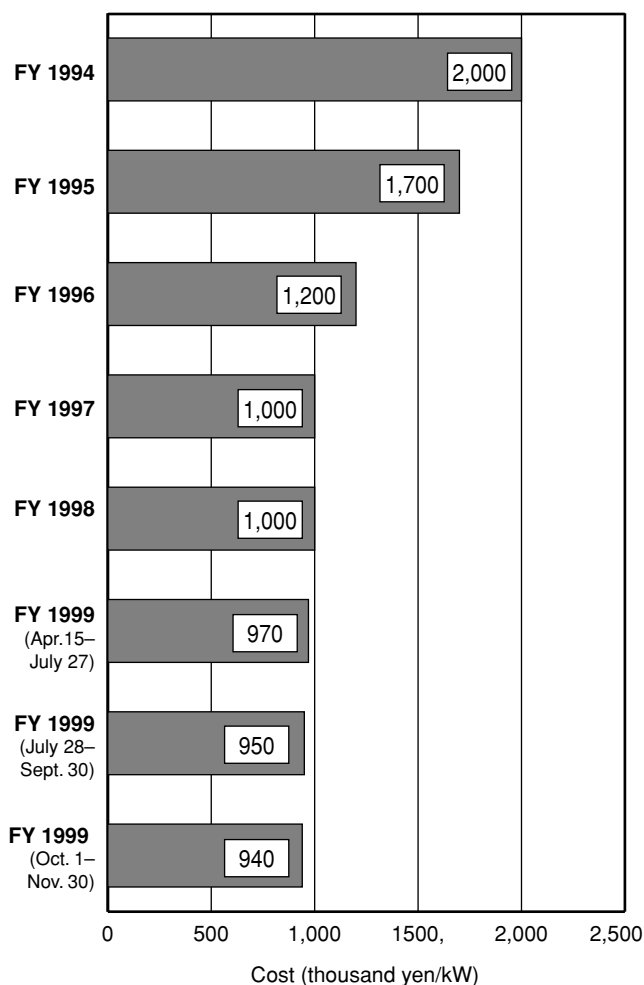
- Geothermal energy
 - Waste heat use
 - Thermal energy conversion
- } up to ¥500 million
- Waste material recycle up to ¥300 million

• Power generation (amount lent per project)

- Wind power
 - Photovoltaic
 - Waste heat
 - Waste incineration heat
 - Geothermal
- } up to ¥400 million
- } up to ¥300 million

	Thermal utilization	Power generation
Number of newly approved loan	4	1
Total amount of new loans	¥178.5 million	¥100 million

System Installation Cost

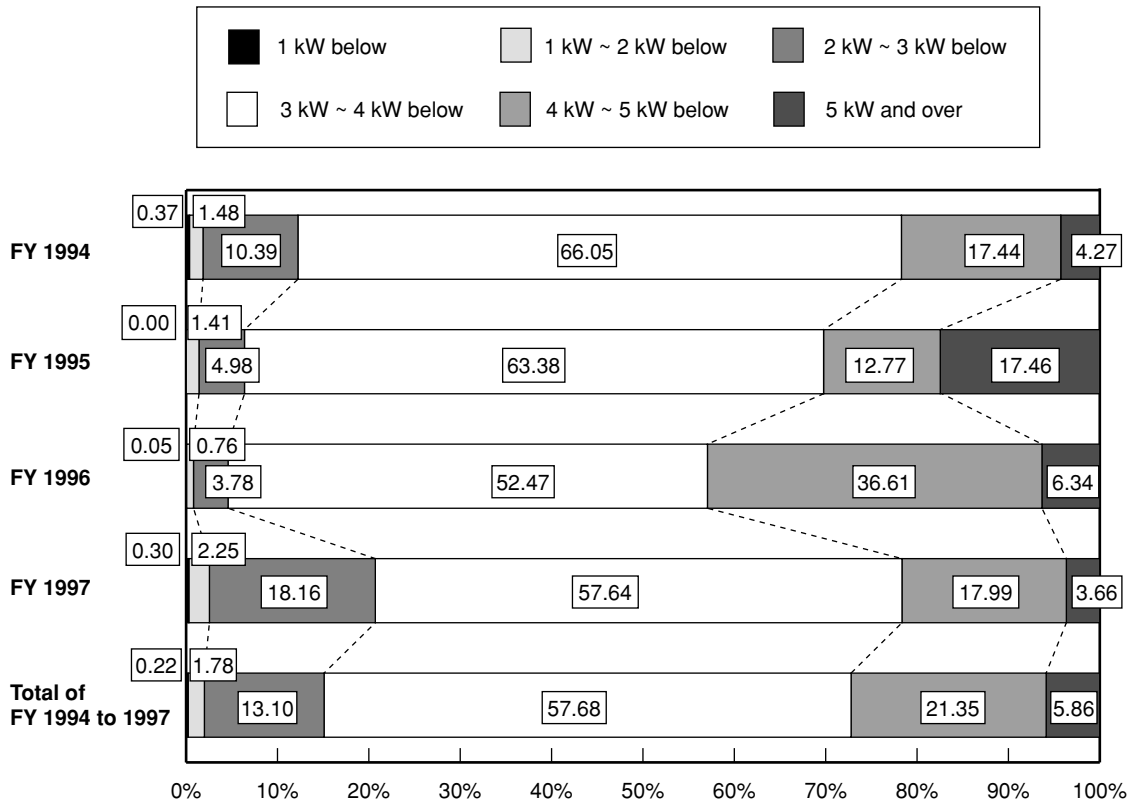


Installation Method of Residential PV System FY 1994–97

Installed place	Installation method	(%)			
		FY 1994	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997
Roof of newly-built house	Building material integration		8.69	7.86	12.31
	Framework installation		24.36	27.62	29.34
	Subtotal	94.25	33.05	35.48	41.65
Roof of already-built house	Building material integration		1.13	0.55	2.94
	Framework Installation		58.45	59.58	49.13
	Subtotal		59.58	60.13	52.07
Ground		2.60	2.27	2.02	1.08
Veranda		0.74	0.28	0.20	0.44
Others		2.41	4.82	2.17	4.76

Voices from Subsidy Recipients

Distribution of PV System Output



Electric Charge After Installation of Residential PV System

