

Glossary of Terms

Eco scenario planning (page 5^{*1})

This approach involves creating stories about multiple future environments. We use it to clarify causality by discussing the future condition of the earth's environment and social trends, the manner in which this future will unfold and the factors promoting its development. This enables us to anticipate changes in the social structure intuitively and respond to in advance and in a flexible manner.

Green Procurement (page 7^{*1})

Purchasing that places a preference on products with a low environmental burden.

ISO14001 (page 11^{*1})

The standard set by the International Organization for Standardization for environmental management systems (EMS). It certifies that a company's organization and systems take the environment into consideration, and that the systems are designed to ensure ongoing reduction of the environmental burden of the company's operations.

Environmental improvement (EI) indicator (page 14^{*1})

A measure of the environmental burden reduction effect per unit cost (unit Ton-CO₂ ¥100 million). The EI indicator shows the effect of money spent (in this case, ¥100 million) on environmental measures in terms of the consequent reduction in the environmental burden as measured by the weight of CO₂. It permits comparison of the effectiveness of environmental measures in different periods and segments.

Environmental efficiency (EE) indicator (page 14^{*2})

A measure of total sales relative to the environmental burden (unit: ¥100 million/Ton-CO₂). The EE indicator shows the value added in terms of sales by reduction of the environmental burden. It permits evaluation of the direct environmental burden resulting from business activities.

Law on Promoting Green Purchasing (page 19^{*1})

Formal name: Law Concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities, enforced April 2001
Under this law, national organizations, municipalities such as prefectures, cities, towns and villages, entrepreneurs, citizens and manufacturers strive to construct a sustainable society by promoting procurement/purchasing of eco-friendly goods (eco-marked goods, etc.) that impose a reduced environmental burden.

Life-cycle Assessment (LCA) (page 21^{*1})

A method of analyzing a product's burden on the environment quantitatively throughout its life cycle.

Catalyst (page 23^{*1})

A substance that can markedly alter the rate and selectivity of thermodynamically possible reactions when used in small amounts without being consumed itself in the process.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) (page 25^{*1})

EPR, an abbreviation for "extended producer responsibility," is a concept concerning extension of the producers' responsibility for products to the disposal/recycling stages in addition to the manufacturing, use and distribution stages. This is presented clearly in "The Basic Law for Establishing the Recycling-based Society" enforced in June 2000.

Resources Reuse Rate (page 25^{*2})

Volume ratio of recycled parts and resources to discarded used products based on the calculation method introduced by the Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association.

Inverter compressor (page 28^{*1})

A compressor for controlling the revolution frequency depending on the load. This machine can supply the minimum necessary pressure stably at any time with no waste power consumption by automatically controlling the revolution frequency depending on the volume of compressed air used.

ESCO (page 28^{*2})

An abbreviation for "energy service company," ESCO refers to a business that provides clients with the comprehensive services required to improve energy savings, including technology, equipment, personnel and finance, and receives a portion of the client's energy-saving benefits in exchange. This approach to energy savings developed in the United States following the first oil shock. Its spread to Japan is anticipated as an effective means of realizing energy savings.

PRTR Law (page 31^{*1})

A law passed in Japan in March 2000 requiring companies to report the amounts of chemical substances released or transferred into the environment as emissions or waste, based on the idea that enforced public disclosure will help to reduce the environmental risks associated with chemicals and other pollutants. PRTR stands for Pollutant Release & Transfer Register.

Bill against Soil Pollution (page 33^{*1})

With soil pollution by toxic substances increasing in recent years, the Ministry of the Environment has submitted the Bill against Soil Pollution to the 154th ordinary session of the Diet (January 21 – June 29, 2002). Intended for enforcement in January 2003, the bill would require owners of former sites of factories or operations in suburban areas to take responsibility for investigation and purification of soil pollution.

Dioxins (page 33^{*2})

A class of chlorinated organic compound variants of the chemical compound 2378TCDD that are among the most toxic non-naturally occurring chemical compounds known. Well-documented as potential causes of cancer and birth defects, they vary in toxicity depending on the number and position of chlorine atoms in their triple-ring structure.

e-Japan Plan (page 36^{*1})

Cooperatively conducted by the Japanese government and citizens, this program involving IT measures is being promoted by the IT Strategy Meeting with the Prime Minister as Director-General for the stated purpose of making Japan "the world's most advanced IT nation by 2005."

Biotope (page 39^{*1})

A composite term formed from the Greek "bio" (life) and "topos" (place), a biotope is a small, uniform environment occupied by various living organisms.

Modal shift (page 41^{*1})

A concept of shifting freight shipments from road transportation, such as trucking, to transportation modes such as rail or sea that can handle larger freight volumes per trip. This contributes to environmental conservation by reducing CO₂ and NO_x emissions and saving energy.