

► Environmental Management

How Does the JR East Group Promote Environmental Management?

The JR East Group is working to enhance its environmental management system in order to promote efforts to protect the environment. We also provide programs to raise the environmental awareness of employees.

Implementation of Environmental Management

Committee on Ecology

JR East established the Committee on Ecology with the mandate of ensuring that various environment-related initiatives proceed smoothly – these include studies about impacts of business activities; establishment of targets; implementation of activities; monitoring the achievement of targets; and support for the checking functions of the corporate management. The committee is an inter-departmental body consisting of general managers from every corporate department, and is chaired by the Chairman of JR East; the secretariat is hosted by the Management Planning Department.

As in the previous year, we held the JR East Group Environmental Management Advancement Conference, with participation from members of the entire corporate group; the conference discussed

ways to strengthen the Group's overall environmental efforts, and worked to expand activities.

ISO14001 certification

JR East has continued with its efforts to acquire ISO14001 certification, an international standard for environmental management systems, particularly for locations with relatively high environmental impacts. Several sites acquired the certification since the Niitsu Rolling Stock Manufacturing Factory was the first to do so in fiscal 1998, with the most recent being the Nagano General Rolling Stock Center in fiscal 2004.



A maintenance facility for railcars in the Nagano area, the Nagano General Rolling Stock Center acquired ISO14001 certification in fiscal 2004.

► ISO14001-Certified Sites

Site	Date
Niitsu Rolling Stock Manufacturing Factory	February 1999
Kawasaki Power Plant	March 2001
Tokyo General Rolling Stock Center	March 2001
Niigata Mechanical Technology Center	March 2001
Omiya General Rolling Stock Center	March 2002
Shinkansen General Rolling Stock Center	November 2002
Koriyama General Rolling Stock Center	December 2003
Nagano General Rolling Stock Center	February 2005

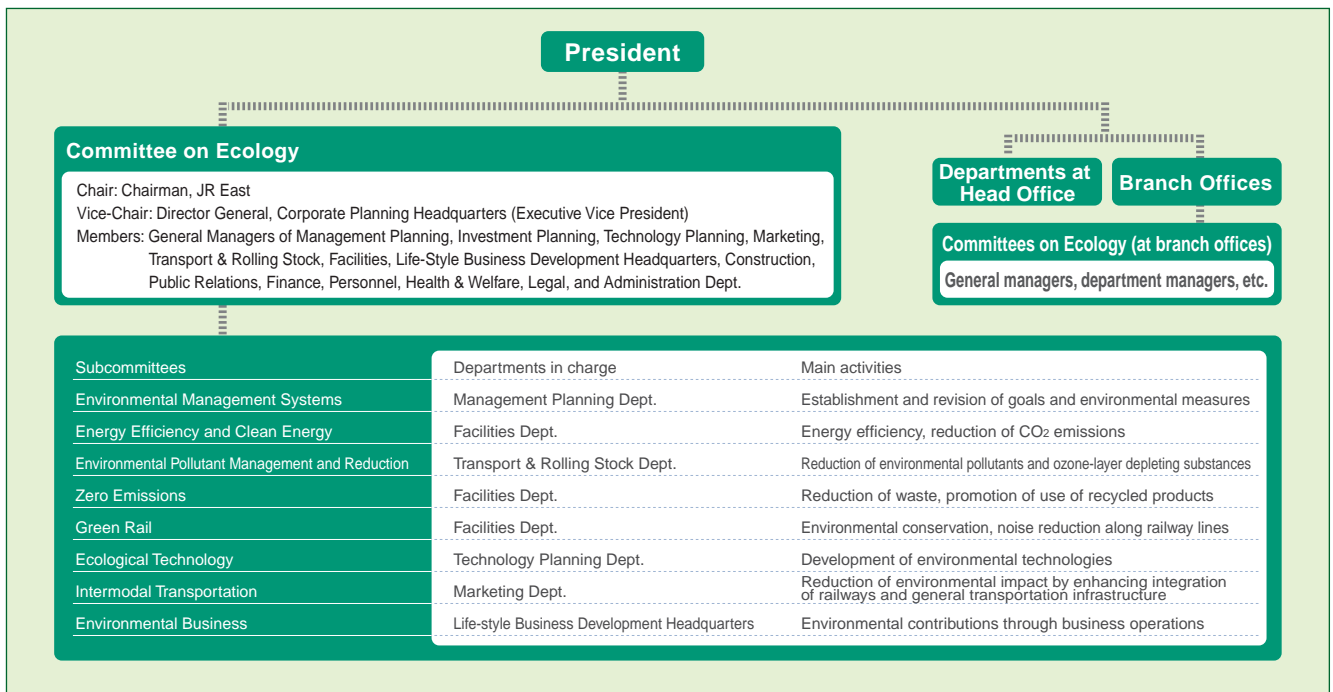
JR East Group companies that have acquired this certification include East Japan Eco Access Co., Ltd., LUMINE Co., Ltd. and Nippon Restaurant Enterprise Co. (Production Operation Division).

Internal environmental audits

Under the supervision of the Committee on Ecology, JR East performs environmental activities based on the Plan-Do-Check-Action (PDCA) cycle.

At general rolling stock centers, for example, in an effort to evaluate environmental activities,

► Organizational Structure to Promote Environmental Management



in-house auditors are trained through external training programs, and conduct routine audits at the centers. One internal environmental audit pointed out that reevaluation of the environmental aspect had not been conducted after changes were made to certain wastewater treatment facilities, so action was later taken to rectify this situation.

Environmental risk management

By strengthening its management of chemical substances, JR East has set a structure to prevent environmental accidents.

We have compiled emergency response manuals for the handling of chemical and other hazardous substances at the thermoelectric power plant and general rolling stock centers. We make an effort to ensure proper handling on-site, including holding seminars and training on how to handle the substances, and efforts to ensure that essential information reaches all the relevant personnel.

Environment-related accidents

Agricultural crops near the rail lines were damaged due to improper application of herbicides to clear vegetation along the Banetsu East Line (June 2004) and the Suigin Line (July 2004) (see page 39).

Trial phase of "JR East Eco Activities"

JR East is implementing what it calls "JR East Eco Activities," which nurture a corporate culture that encourages employees to think about the environment, and promotes more dynamic and practical environmental activities at each workplace. In fiscal 2004, seven operational bodies were established as models for this purpose at the JR Hachioji Branch Office.

Environmental education

For environmental management to function properly, it is essential that all employees have a proper awareness about environmental issues. We therefore provide environmental education when employees are hired and promoted, as well as seminars and online trainings on environmental topics. A total of 2,700 employees received environmental education during fiscal 2004.

In fiscal 2004, we also launched a new training program for personnel responsible for environmental matters at all Group companies. In addition, we distributed a summary version of the *JR East Group Sustainability Report* to all employees.



Summary version of *JR East Group Sustainability Report* is given to all the employees. In-house magazine "JR Higashi" also carries environmental information.

Recognition and awards

JR East recognizes and rewards employee efforts for the environment.

One example is the "Hokushin Fighters" team of the Morioka Shinkansen Rolling Stock Center (Hachinohe Facilities), which received a commendation award in December 2004 at JR East's 18th Presentation Meeting for Small Group Activities.

This team found a way to save 583 tons of water per year. Conventionally, water was left running in the railcar-washing hose to prevent it from freezing but this team used compressed air to completely remove water from the hose, thereby reducing water consumption.



Held in collaboration with the Japan Environmental Education Forum, the "Environmental Management Strategy Game" served as training for environmental managers in the JR East Group.

► Environmental education

Seminars and Lectures	No. Sessions	No. Participants
Training for environmental managers of the JR East Group	1	111
Training for new on-site supervisors	8	177
Training for work-implementation managers	1	198
Training for new recruits	1	1,398
Environmental seminars, etc.	5	644
Online training	—	180