

Special Topic 5

Introduction of the Environmental Technology

Use of Ecoste Model Station Begins

Use of JR East's fourth Ecoste (eco-station) model station, Yumoto Station on the Joban Line, began in March 2015. This station actively uses local resources such as thermal spring heat, timber from Fukushima Prefecture, and natural sunlight. The waiting room is equipped with flooring and panel heating that employ thermal spring heat, while the platforms are outfitted with footbaths for customers' benefit, which make secondary use of the thermal spring water employed for heating.



Waiting room equipped with flooring and panel heating that use thermal spring heat (Yumoto Station)



Organic thin-film solar cells on overpass for transferring passengers (Fukushima Station)

At Fukushima Station on the Tohoku Main Line, in collaboration with the local community, we are continuing to develop the Fukushima Prefecture Renewable Energy Promotion Vision formulated by the prefecture. A variety of green features have been incorporated, including lightweight solar panels on the shinkansen platform roof, organic thin-film solar cells on the overpass for transferring passengers, and a heat pump based on geothermal heat, with use beginning in April 2015.

Creation of Renewable Energy Hub in Northern Tohoku

In order to actively promote the use of renewable energy such as solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal power, we have made it a policy to create a renewable energy hub in northern Tohoku and are developing various measures to this end.

In terms of solar power generation, we began operation of the Hanamaki Atago solar power plant in February 2015 followed by the Akita Oiwake solar power plant and Akita Tenno solar power plant in March 2015. We also plan to establish a 2 MW-class wind power generation facility within the railway forest site between Michikawa and Shimohama on the Uetsu Main Line, which is scheduled to begin operation in the fall of 2016. Moreover, with the aim of expanding our wind power generation activities, we have established JR East Energy Development Co., Ltd. as a joint venture with Community Energy Development Co., Ltd.

Meanwhile, in the area of biomass power generation, we have established Hachinohe Biomass Power Generation Co., Ltd. as a joint venture with Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Osaka Cement Co., Ltd., and with regard to geothermal power generation, we are involved in a resource development survey in the northwest of Hakkoda in Aomori Prefecture, in partnership with Obayashi Corporation and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.

Solar light

Akita Oiwake solar power plant
Approx. 3.1 MW
(Began use in March 2015)

Akita Tenno solar power plant
Approx. 0.3 MW
(Began use in March 2015)

Hanamaki Atago solar power plant
Approx. 0.3 MW
(Began use in February 2015)

Biomass

Abundant forest resources and railway forest of the Tohoku region

Hachinohe biomass power plant
Approx. 12 MW (Use scheduled to begin in December 2017)

Wind

Abundant wind resources along shorelines, etc.

Between Michikawa and Shimohama on Uetsu Main Line
Wind power generation facilities: approx. 2 MW
(Use scheduled to begin in fall 2016)

Geothermal

Abundant geothermal resources in the Tohoku region's volcanic areas

Hakkoda northwest region geothermal resource development survey
JOGMEC: project adoption and surface study currently underway