

Environmental Preservation Initiatives

To leave the heritage of a beautiful, unspoiled natural environment to future generations, it is our duty to utilize our technological expertise and all other forms of know-how, from every possible angle, to ensure that all our staff address their efforts to resolving the issue of harmonizing our business operations with the need to reduce their burden on the environment.



OEPC has been publishing a report on its environmental activities annually since 1996

Improving our environmental management

In March 2005, the Power Generation Dept. of OEPC's Electric Power Engineering Division obtained the 1996 version of the ISO 14001 certification of conformity with international standards for environmental management systems. This certification includes a blanket certification for the Company's four thermal power plants, which have hitherto obtained such certification separately. These separate certifications were as follows: February 1999 for the Ishikawa plant; September 2000 for the Gushikawa plant; and October 2000 for the Makiminato plant. The new blanket certification also covers the Kin plant and the Power Generation section at our head office.

Thus, all sections of the Company directly engaged in power generation have now been certified as in conformity with the ISO 14001 standards for environmental management systems. Building on this success, we will ensure that our environmental management systems under the blanket certification work more effectively, and will endeavor to reduce the environmental burden of our operations still further in the future.



An ISO 14001 certificate

Combating global warming

The carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels is said to be the principal cause of global warming, and this is a major issue which the electric power utilities have to address. Up to now, countermeasures have included measures to improve the efficiency of heat utilization at power stations, the introduction of new energy sources such as wind power and solar power, and a variety of energy conservation initiatives. By these means, the utilities have attempted to reduce their volume of combustion of fossil fuels and thus their emissions of carbon dioxide.

At OEPC, we have decided on the construction of a new power station at Yoshinoura, which will burn LNG instead of coal or oil, as this fuel generates much lower carbon dioxide emission levels. As supplemental measures, we are also taking advantage of the mechanisms provided under the Kyoto Protocol to assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions on a global scale, through contributions to the World Bank's Community Development Carbon Fund, among other such projects.



Local environmental improvement initiatives

To ensure that the islands of Okinawa retain their beautiful natural environment for the enjoyment of generations yet unborn, we make a special effort to protect the countryside and seaside in the vicinity of our power plants. We invest considerable efforts in planting greenery on the grounds of our power plants with the aim of providing extra greenery in urban areas for local residents to enjoy, and in pursuing initiatives, on a trial basis, to encourage the growth of coral reefs and seaweed in the seas around the plants.

In preparation for the start of operations at our planned Yoshinoura Thermal Power Station in fiscal 2011, we have conducted environmental assessments covering the likely impact of the construction and operation of the plant on the atmosphere as well as the local marine environment and, on land, on plants and animals. The results of these assessments have been collected in an environmental impact report for presentation to the authorities. We are canvassing the views of local residents as well as the local government, and hope to create a new power plant that will harmonize smoothly with the natural surroundings cherished by the community.



Environmental protection facilities at a power plant

As part of an overall policy of removing harmful chemicals from smoke emitted by our power plants, they are equipped with desulphurization and denitrification equipment.



Conducting a survey of plant and animal life as part of an Environmental Assessment

Creation of sustainable resource reuse system

OEPC is promoting the use of a three-pronged system for handling the waste products generated by its operations. The three-point system incorporates the concepts of “reduce, reuse, and recycle” as a way of optimally utilizing the Earth’s limited natural resources. For example, we use the coal ash and gypsum created by the combustion process at our coal-fired power plants as raw materials for cement, as an alternative to sand in the production of synthetic stone materials, and as an agricultural soil improvement agent.



The picture at left shows a road surfaced with OEPC’s Pozotech, made from coal ash produced at our power plants. The photo at right shows an artificial gravel, also made from coal ash, which has various uses in civil engineering. These two products were certified in December 2004 by the Okinawan prefectural government for sale as recycled road-surfacing and civil engineering materials.



Recycled toilet paper

We collect used paper from our offices and supply it to local paper manufacturers, who recycle it into toilet paper.