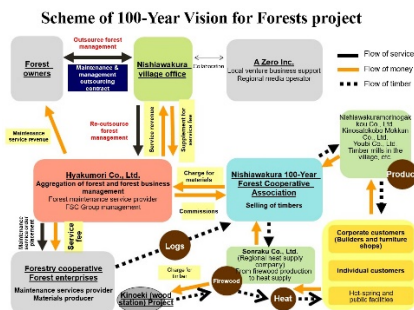


Collaboration with Local Venture Companies with the “100-Year Vision for Forests” as a base

Nishiawakura village



100-Year Vision for Forests project



Scheme diagram of the 100-Year Vision for Forests project

Situation (background, aims, etc.) Nishiawakura village, where the majority of the land is covered by forest, is engaged in generating new added-values by encouraging young people to start a local venture business and maximizing the forest value of natural capital while vitalising forest-related industries.

- Details (project outline, etc.)**
- Local governments take the initiative to concentrate forest management functions and perform forest maintenance. They vitalise forest-related industries by encouraging young people to start businesses.
 - External and regional mentors provide support to young people who aim to start businesses based on the village.
 - The village has built hydroelectric power plants that use river water and reinvests the income derived from sales of electricity in forest development and introducing new renewable energy.
 - The village has installed wood boilers into hot-spring spots, which use unutilised timber from forest thinning and remaining forest wood, and developed a system to supply heat and hot water by supplying hot water to public facilities using woodchips.

Results (features and innovations, future developments, etc.)

- The forest area of which management work is aggregated is 1,488ha, and 1,649 ha of tree thinning has been completed and 100 km of logging roads have been developed.
- Thirty-four companies have been started, creating 180 jobs. The production volume of the local venture businesses has reached approximately 1.3 billion yen.