

# Saitama Prefecture

## Saitama eco-town project



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### Situation

- Saitama prefecture suffered from rolling blackouts and fuel shortages after the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at the Fukushima No.1. nuclear power plant in March 2011.
- Resolving the supply shortage of electricity and other energy sources has become a major challenge for not only Japanese government but also local governments in Japan.

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### Intervention

Saitama prefecture launched pilot energy related projects in several cities collaborating with home builders that developed the city areas.

#### ***To promote energy savings in households:***

- The prefecture offered subsidies to support the installation of a home energy management system (HEMS), the switch to eco-friendly home appliances, and home refurbishments to add energy saving features.
- Higashiyama-city, one of the model cities that the prefecture designated, gave residents the local currency that can be used at local shops in accordance with the amounts of electricity consumption they reduced.

#### ***To increase the supply of renewable energy:***

- The prefecture supported unique programmes such as biomass-based power generation, introduction of solar electricity to city offices and public housing flats.

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### Impact

#### **From 2012 to 2014**

- The proportion of residents who participated in the pilot projects: 44.0%
- Reduced amount of energy procured from outside model areas through the introduction of renewable energy etc.: 22.5%
- Penetration ratio for solar power equipment in model areas: 18.4% (triple the level for the entire prefecture)

