

# Regional Zero Carbon WG

## Outline

Currently, approximately 400 municipalities are aiming to become zero-carbon cities by 2050. In order to achieve this, local social transformation is essential to achieve multiple values that maximize the benefits for future generations toward achieving SDGs and the following issues must be addressed: digitalization, the structural transformation of energy, mobility, etc., the introduction of adaptive measures, and solving region-specific issues such as a declining birthrate and aging population. For this reason, each region should mobilize all knowledge from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences in order to solve social issues and transform economic and social systems based on scenarios backcast from the vision of a future society in which decarbonization has been achieved and each university and other organization is required to promote initiatives in collaboration with local governments and businesses as regional "hubs of knowledge."

The advanced regional models achieved through these efforts need to be disseminated to other regions, countries, and the world. From this perspective, it is necessary to create knowledge that will support university-region collaboration efforts, as well as their horizontal expansion and upscaling, including knowledge that can be generally used by regions in formulating scenarios and plans, and mechanisms and methodologies for decision-making and guiding social change that take into account the interests of future generations.

In addition, a forum will be created to share the knowledge and practices among universities and other institutions. In addition, issues identified through the initiatives of each region will be shared, discussed, and disseminated.

## Mission

We will promote collaborative initiatives between universities, local governments, and companies to encourage local social change toward carbon neutrality, and will create and implement knowledge to support the horizontal expansion and upscaling of local case studies, in order to build diverse regional models and expand them to other regions, etc. We will also share, discuss, and disseminate information on issues identified through these initiatives.

## Direction of Activities

To promote university initiatives in cooperation with local governments and businesses in the region, the WG will collaborate with the local government network, etc., and provide a forum for developing the relevant knowledge and initiatives, promoting initiatives based on the needs of local governments, and sharing and discussing solutions to issues.

Examples of initiatives by universities, etc. in collaboration with local governments, etc.

Support for the creation of scenarios and plans for zero carbon emissions in local communities

Planning of policies based on scientific knowledge

Establish a mechanism for decision-making and planning that takes future generations into consideration.

The project will also compile and disseminate information on the initiatives of each university and other institutions, and, where necessary, compile information about any institutional issues that have been identified through the implementation of the project in each region, as necessary.

Establish a research team to create knowledge and tools that can be utilized in collaborative efforts between local governments and universities and deploy the results.

(Example of a research team)

◆Regional Innovation Methodology Research Team: Tools that can be used universally to promote and evaluate regional decarbonization, and methods to introduce decarbonization based on regional needs, the visualization of decarbonization potential and the effects of initiatives, and knowledge on how to introduce regional examples to other regions and upscaling to other countries, etc.

\*Multiple teams are expected to be established depending on the project.

◆Scenario research team: Scenario researchers from related ministries and agencies gather to create a common understanding of national scenario development, create knowledge that can be used for regional scenario development based thereon, and promote social implementation through practices involving citizens.