

Recent progress in local governmental planning to climate change adaptation in Japan

*Masayuki Hara¹, Tomohide Shimada¹

1. Center for Environmental Science in Saitama

The surface air temperature in Japan continues to rise, as can be seen from observations beginning in the 1890s. The temperature rise is not only caused by urbanization but also greatly affected by global climate change. Under these circumstances, movement toward adaptation to climate change in local governments has recently begun in Japan.

Since the national plan for adaptation to the impacts of climate change of Japan was issued in November 2015, the formulation of adaptation plans in local governments has steadily progressed. This is partly attributed to the fact that support for the development of local government adaptation plans by national projects has been carried out, a climate change adaptation information platform has been launched by the Ministry of the Environment, and access to climate change adaptation information is becoming easier. We survey and review present state of climate change adaptation planning in local governments, especially prefectural governments and designated city governments, in Japan.

Keywords: climate change adaptation, thermal environment, local government