

## **Evolving Requirements in Sustainability:**

### **Learn About Biomass and GHG requirements Currently under Development in Japan**

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As Japan looks to improve its energy security and economic efficiency while at the same time greening its energy production and reducing carbon emissions, woody biomass can play a key role in decarbonization that Japan aims to realize by 2050.

Energy production inputs have shifted significantly in Japan following the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011 – and renewable energy production (including hydropower, bioenergy, geothermal, wind and solar) reached a 23% share in the first half of 2020. Japan continues to invest in its bioenergy production capacity, which has driven a rapid increase in biomass imports to Japan, including wood pellets from Canada.

Not all biomass is created equal from a sustainability perspective, and there have been concerns raised within the Japanese market regarding the sustainability credentials of biomass fuels as a result. The Japanese Government is undertaking detailed discussions aimed at developing sustainability criteria to evaluate various biomass energy inputs. These are predicated on three pillars of sustainability – measuring GHG reduction impacts, evaluating land sustainability practices and ensuring traceability.

These discussions were launched in April 2019, and the evaluation scheme remains under development, with draft criteria and an evaluation of certification programs for land management and chain-of-custody traceability in progress. Through this evaluation scheme, which is being managed collaboratively between different responsible government agencies, reliable and transparent documentation of the sustainability benefits of biomass will be achieved, which will be critical to future growth of bioenergy utilization in Japan.

By developing and implementing a sustainable biomass governance scheme, international partners in Japan and Canada can create a robust sustainability business case for growing our trade and investment in biomass energy.

Click [here](#) to listen to Takanobu Aikawa's presentation.