

April 30, 2013

Nipponkoa Provides Reconstruction Support through Carbon Offsetting Utilizing Offset Credits (J-VER) from Disaster-stricken Areas

-Japan's largest offset (8,000t-CO₂) through applying the J-VER scheme-

Nipponkoa Insurance Co., Ltd. (President: Masaya Futamiya), supports low-carbon reconstruction projects¹ in the disaster-stricken areas, with the aim of contributing to the swift reconstruction of the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the creation of environmentally friendly communities.

We are hereby pleased to announce that the amount of carbon emissions offset due to offset credits (J-VER)² from disaster-stricken areas and supported by our carbon offsets³ has reached 8,000t-CO₂. This is the largest quantity offset in Japan by J-VER alone.

Moving forward, Nipponkoa will continue to support low-carbon reconstruction projects in the disaster area, and contribute to the swift reconstruction of the afflicted areas and the creation of environmentally friendly communities.

An offset of **8,000 tons** corresponds to the amount of CO₂ that is absorbed in one year by a cedar forest as large as approx. 219* Tokyo Domes.

* The calculation assumes that CO₂ absorption per hectare of a cedar plantation planted in 1980 is 7.8 tons per year.

(Source: Forestry Agency website)

◆Supported projects and offset amount (project summaries are provided in Reference)

Group Name	Group Type	Project Site	Type	Offset Amount (t-CO ₂)
Iwate Prefecture	Local government	Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture	Forest sink	1,780
Miyagi Prefecture	Local government	Kurihara City, Miyagi Prefecture	Forest sink	1,650
Forestry Cooperative of Tsunan Town	Forestry cooperative	Tsunan Town, Niigata Prefecture	Forest sink	1,320
Ofunato City	Local government	Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture	Emission reduction	1,250
Office Chonan-kai	Private organization	Iwaizumi Town, Iwate Prefecture	Forest sink	555
Iwaki Zorin Co., Ltd.	Private enterprise	Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture	Forest sink	555
Forestry Cooperative of the Kamaishi Region	Forestry cooperative	Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture	Forest sink	530
Miyagi Forestry Public Corporation	Incorporated association	Kesenuma City and Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture	Forest sink	360
			Total	8,000

The supported projects were selected on the basis of the applications received through a call for projects, and took into consideration the “level of devastation suffered,” “revitalization of local economies and creation of job opportunities by project implementation,” and “synergistic effects other than greenhouse gas reduction and removal, such as biodiversity conservation, national land conservation, and watershed conservation.” The selection was made in association with the reconstruction support efforts utilizing the offset credit (J-VER) scheme being promoted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

Notes:

1. low-carbon reconstruction project

A low-carbon reconstruction project contributes to the creation of a low-carbon society through the use of woody biomass and forest management, including tree thinning in afflicted areas. It is expected that these projects will contribute to an expansion of employment opportunities and economic growth in disaster-stricken areas.

2. offset credits (J-VER)

J-VER is a scheme implemented by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, which verifies credits generated through the emissions reduction and removal of greenhouse gases via domestic projects that can be used for carbon offsetting.

3. carbon offsets

A carbon offset is a partial or total compensation (offset) of greenhouse gas emissions generated in daily life, etc., by using emissions reductions realized through projects carried out elsewhere.





◆ Nipponkoa’s insurance policies or accident repairs are applicable for carbon offsets

- When customers select “Eco-Net clause” or “Web confirmation” when enrolling in an automobile insurance policy
- When “Eco-parts (recycled parts)” were used for repairs, or when resin bumpers were not replaced but mended for accident repairs covered by motor vehicle insurance policies

*If the above is applicable, Nipponkoa will pay a certain amount for each applicable case and implement carbon offsetting.

(END)

Summary of Supported Projects

Group Name	Iwate Prefecture	Miyagi Prefecture	Forestry Cooperative of Tsunan Town	Ofunato City
Form of Emission Credit	J-VER	J-VER	Prefectural J-VER	J-VER
Offset Amount	1,780 t-CO ₂	1,650 t-CO ₂	1,320 t-CO ₂	1,250 t-CO ₂
How Project Aids Reconstruction	Supports reconstruction of disaster area by creating jobs and promoting forestry activities	Boosts Miyagi's forest industry that stagnated due to the disaster and promotes sustainable forest management	Supports continuous employment at the forestry cooperative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes debris removal and secures employment • Promotes a smooth reconstruction process through sequential cement production
Scenes from the Project				

Group Name	Office Chonan-kai	Iwaki Zorin Co., Ltd.	Forestry Cooperative of the Kamaishi Region	Miyagi Forestry Public Corporation
Form of Emission Credit	J-VER	J-VER	J-VER	J-VER
Offset Amount	555 t-CO ₂	555 t-CO ₂	530 t-CO ₂	360 t-CO ₂
How Project Aids Reconstruction	Supports children's growth, etc. by using sales revenue from J-VER for solar power generation and acquisition of farming experience	Secures employment, donates 1% of J-VER sales toward local reconstruction	Secures employment at the forestry cooperative, contributes to disaster mitigation through road maintenance	By maintaining forests owned by the corporation in the disaster area, contributes to the restoration of the afflicted downstream areas and promotes employment creation
Scenes from the Project	