

Environmental & Social Responsibilities



Environmental efforts

Isuzu strives to be a leader in environmental responsibility. We take a two-pronged approach, aiming to develop cleaner vehicles and minimize the environmental burden of our manufacturing facilities.

Contributing toward slowing global warming

Now that the Kyoto Protocol—an agreement among developed countries that set targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases—has taken effect, companies are required to dig deeper in their efforts to counteract global warming. Two specific examples of Isuzu's approach to applying the brakes to global warming are participation in the Japanese government-led Team Minus 6% Project and developing products that help combat global warming.

The Isuzu Global Environmental Committee decided that the company should join the Team Minus 6% Project, and the Isuzu Team Minus 6% program kicked off on June 20, 2005.

Purpose of participation

As a CV/DE manufacturer, Isuzu's mainstay business is to provide fuel-efficient vehicles—vehicles with low CO₂ emissions—worldwide. Our Mimamori-kun Online Service, built around a vehicle diagnostic system that collects and analyzes data on driving habits to help truck drivers improve their fuel economy—also contributes toward slowing global warming.

We decided to take part in the Team Minus 6% Program because we believe that, as good global citizens, Isuzu as a company and Isuzu employees as individuals must do their utmost to curtail CO₂ emissions in all aspects of daily activity as well as through our mainstay business. We look forward to seeing active participation from all employees in our efforts to help create an environmentally sustainable society.

Isuzu's team structure

We intend to develop specific action programs for the following committees: Plant Environment Committee, Product Development Environment Committee, Sales and Service Environment Committee, and General Affairs Committee. All Isuzu group companies and sales companies will be taking part in the program—Isuzu group companies and all their employees are members of the Isuzu Team.

Action plan

Isuzu decided on the following policies in line with guidelines set by the Japanese government:

1. Set air conditioner thermostats at plants, headquarters offices, and in homes at 28°C. Employees are encouraged to dispense with suit jackets and ties during the summer, from June through September (Cool Biz dress code).
2. Turn off water taps after use and fix leaks immediately.
3. Minimize engine idling when driving delivery vehicles, conveyance vehicles, and private cars.
4. Use energy-saving appliances and eco-friendly household goods.
5. Avoid use of unnecessary packaging and take own shopping bags to the store.
6. Turn off power outlets and mains supplies when not in use.

The Team Isuzu's target

Our target is to reduce CO₂ emissions by 6% from their current level by 2010. This is an ambitious undertaking on a consolidated basis and it assumes our current production volume remains constant. We remain committed to taking aggressive steps to help counteract global warming, such as by introducing energy-efficient facilities.

Developing cleaner vehicles

In April 2005, Isuzu announced the addition of a new model that runs on compressed natural gas (CNG) to its lineup of ELF low-pollution, light-duty trucks. The ELF CNG-MPI is the first CNG vehicle that meets the new long-term exhaust emissions regulations and conforms to proposed post new long-term exhaust emissions standards for diesel engines. Equipped with a 4.6-liter new 4HV1 multi-point injection (MPI) engine, the ELF CNG-MPI sets a new standard for the low emissions levels typical of CNG vehicles. Power and performance has also been upgraded with best-in-class maximum output of 96kW (130PS) and maximum torque of 363N.m (37.0kg.m). Demand for vehicles that use natural gas as fuel is growing among local governments and logistics companies in major cities that suffer from severe air pollution problems. Since its debut, sales of the ELF CNG range has topped 7,000 units and maintained a dominant market share of approximately 70%. The latest model combines the low noise, low-vibration advantages of CNG vehicles with excellent fuel economy.

Also in April 2005, Isuzu announced the addition of a new diesel hybrid truck to the ELF range of low pollution, light-duty trucks. The new ELF Hybrid, based on the 4HL1 diesel engine, achieves low-CO₂ emission levels and high fuel efficiency by fully recovering energy available when the vehicle decelerates. A diesel vehicle that can be serviced anywhere, the ELF Hybrid achieves world-class fuel economy compared with other hybrid vehicles and delivers the high durability and safety performance required of commercial vehicles. It has been certified as an ultra-low PM emission diesel vehicle and designated a "good low-pollution vehicle" by eight prefectures in the Tokyo area. As well as the standard Smoother-E automatic shift, the ELF Hybrid is equipped with a secure PTO-type parallel drive hybrid system, with the motor and generator installed on a shaft different from that of the engine. This ensures that in the event of a failure of the hybrid system, the vehicle can continue to drive using the diesel engine. Furthermore, it is the first Japanese truck to use a lithium ion battery.

Isuzu positions the two new series—CNG-MPI vehicles with excellent low-emissions performance and practical diesel hybrid vehicles that require no specific fuel infrastructure—as the two mainstays of its low-pollution vehicle lineup.