

# Environmental Performance Reviews: Japan 2025



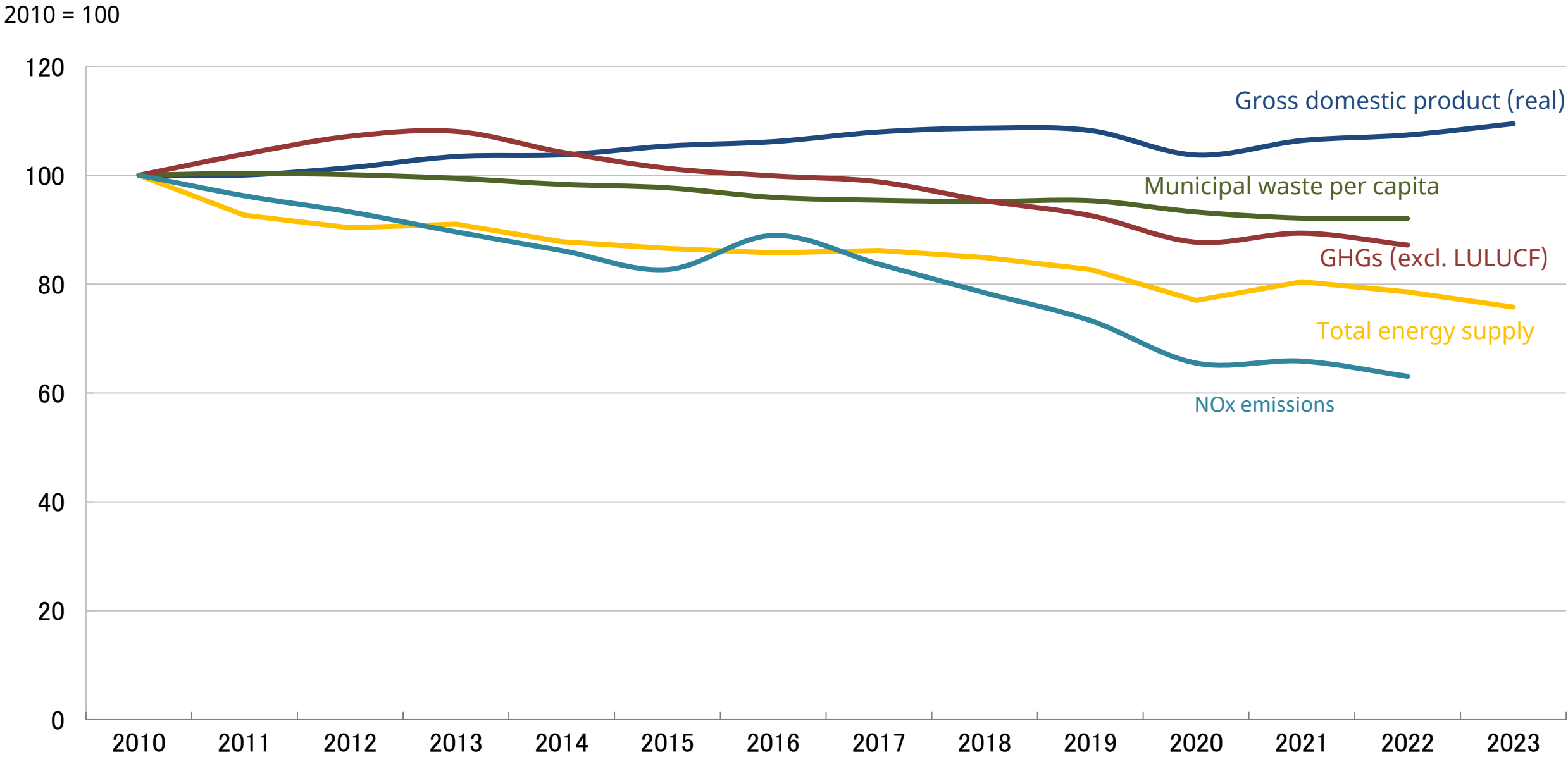
Jo Tyndall, OECD Environment Director  
Yokohama, 21 March 2025



# Decoupling of environmental pressures from economic growth has progressed



Decoupling trends

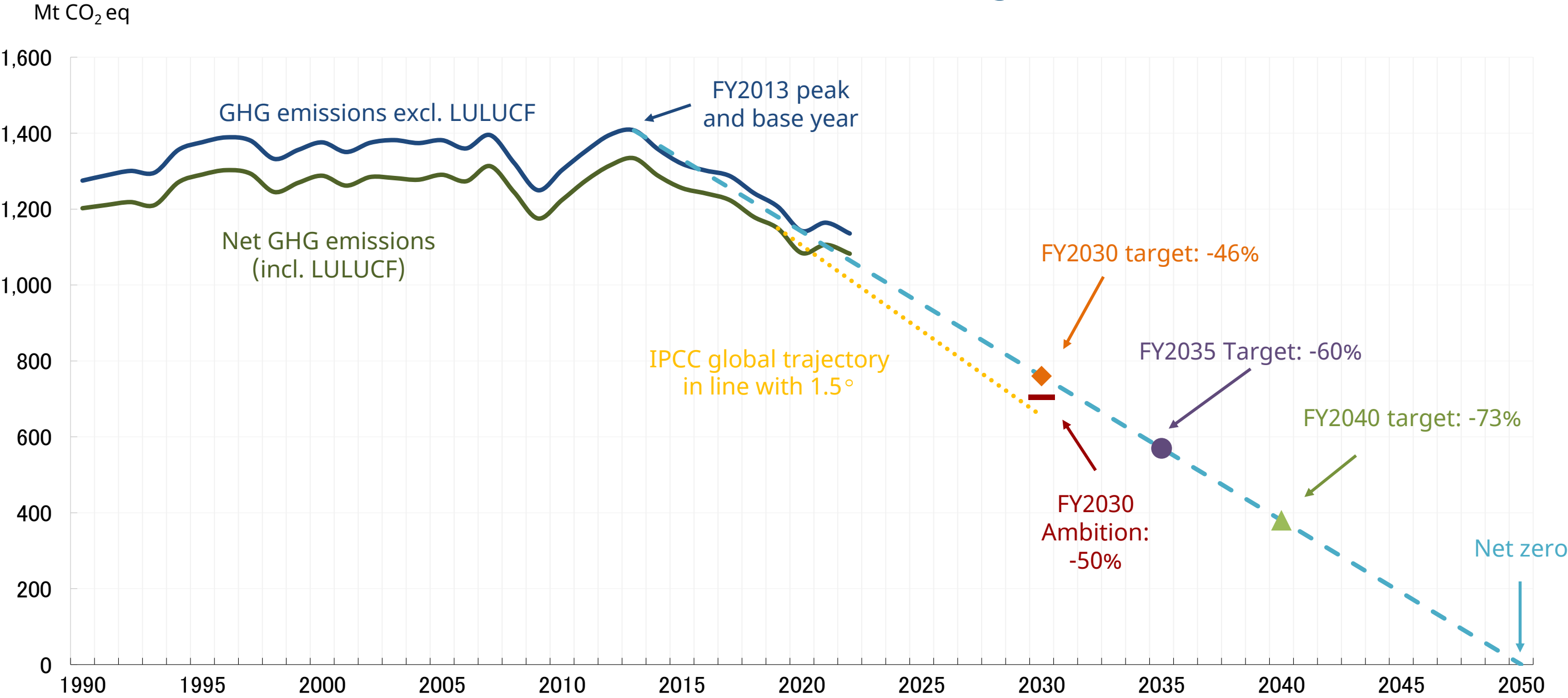


Source: IEA (2024), IEA World Energy Statistics and Balances (database); MOE (2024), National GHG Inventory Document of Japan 2024; OECD (2024), OECD Economic Outlook (database); OECD (2024), OECD Environment Statistics (database).

# Japan raised its climate commitments but could be more ambitious



GHG emission trends and targets

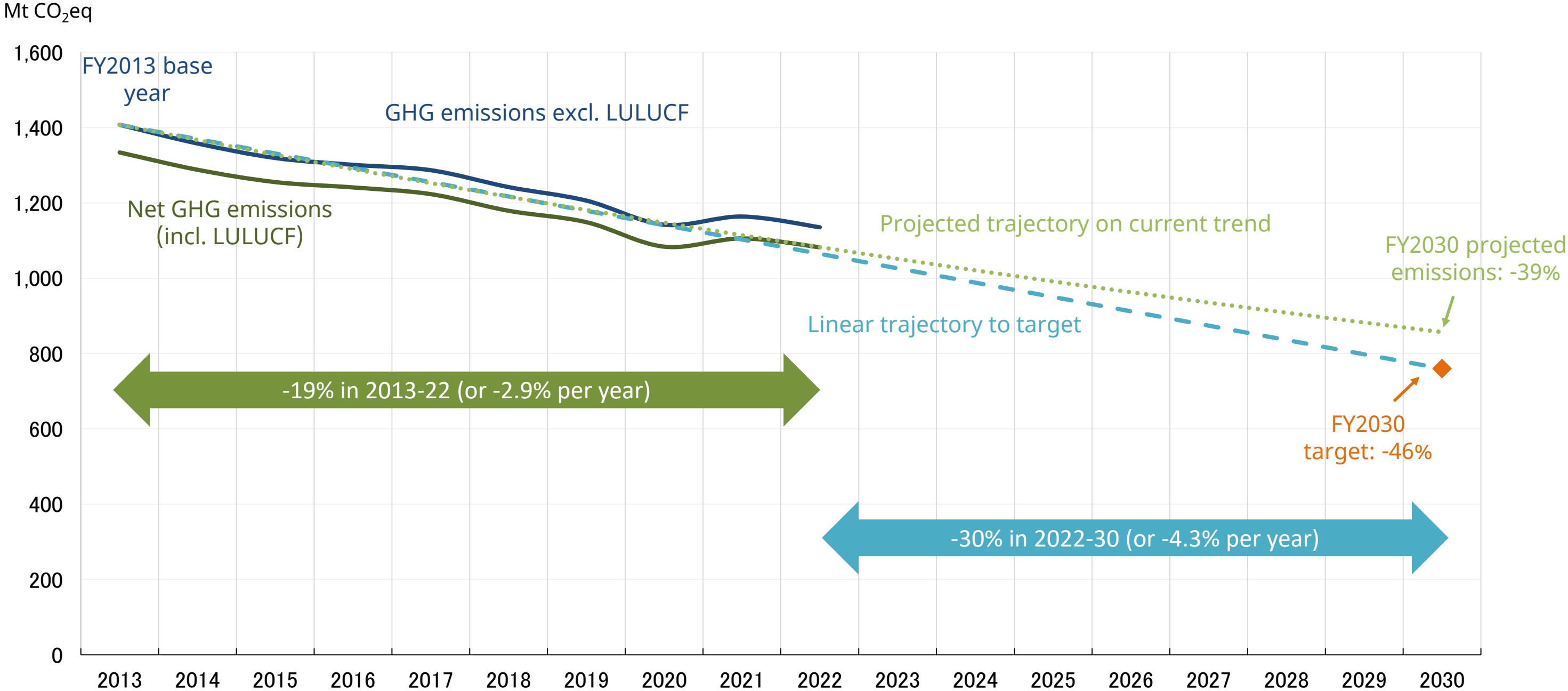


Source: OECD Secretariat's calculations; Government of Japan (2021, 2025), Japan's NDC; MOE (2024), National GHG Inventory Document of Japan; IPCC (2022), "Summary for Policymakers", in Climate Change 2022 – Mitigation of Climate Change.

# GHG emissions need to decline faster than in the past decade



GHG emission trends, projections and targets

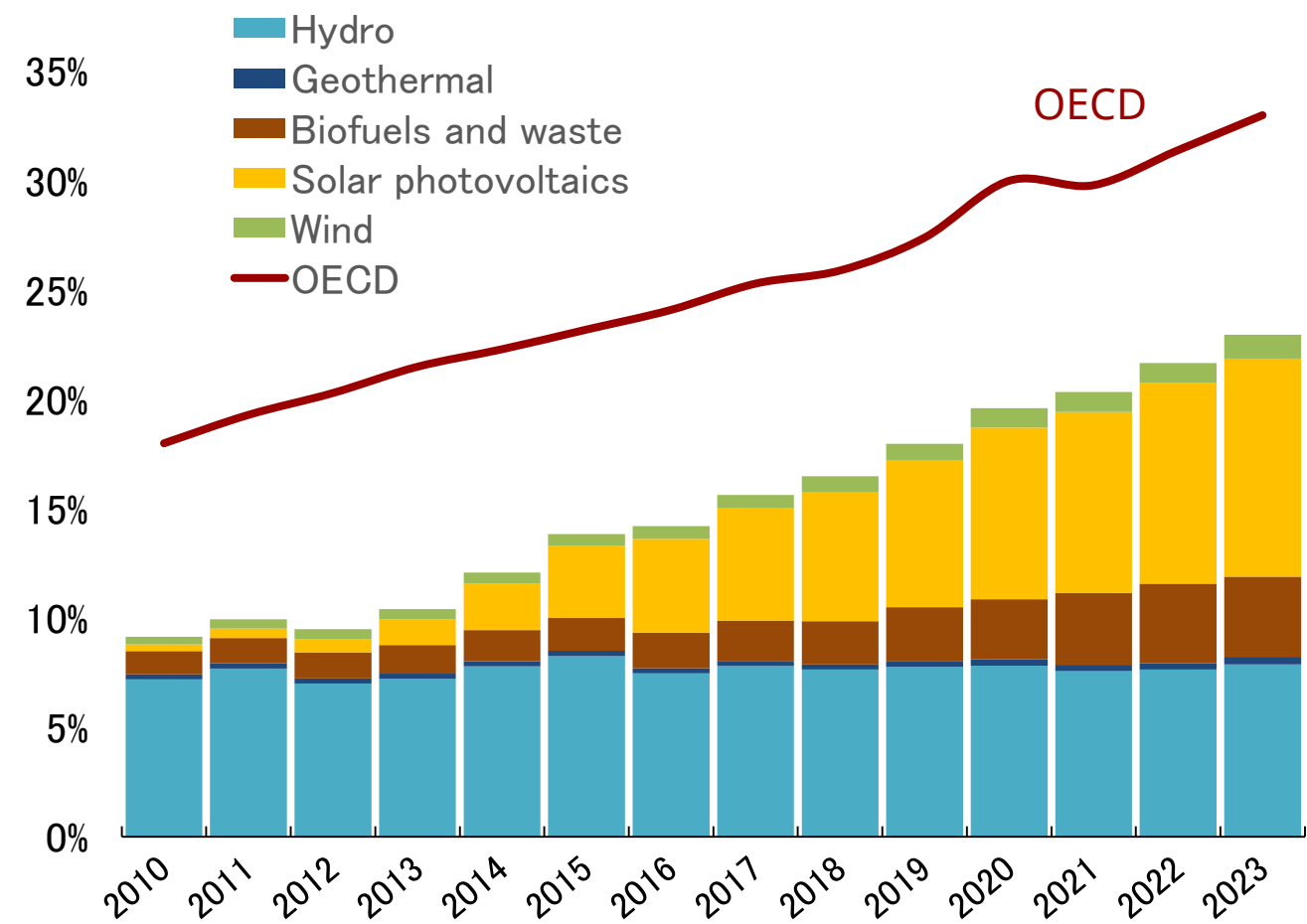


Source: OECD Secretariat's calculations; Government of Japan (2021), Japan's NDC; MOE (2024), National GHG Inventory Document of Japan.

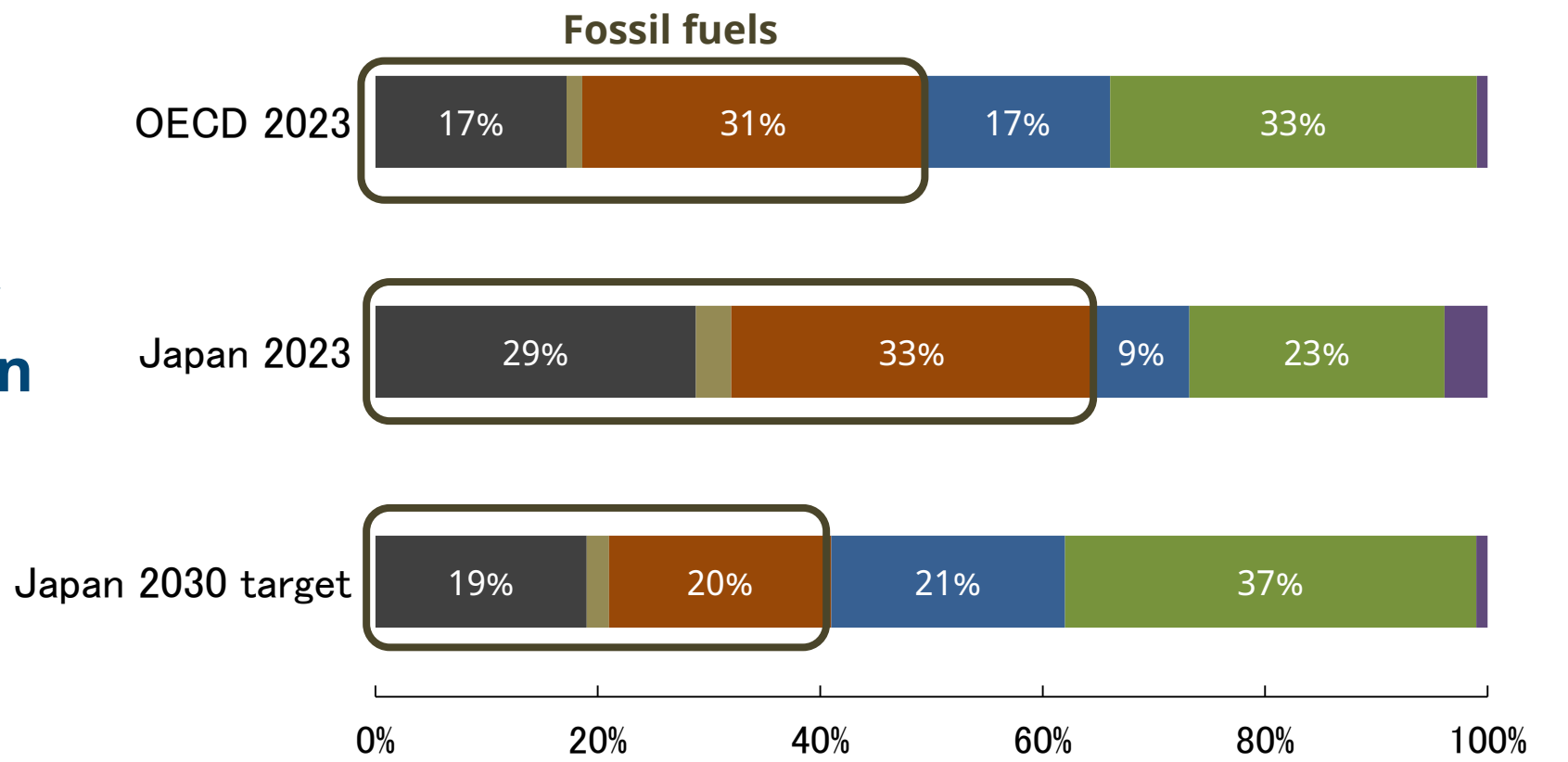
# A quicker transition away from fossil fuels is essential



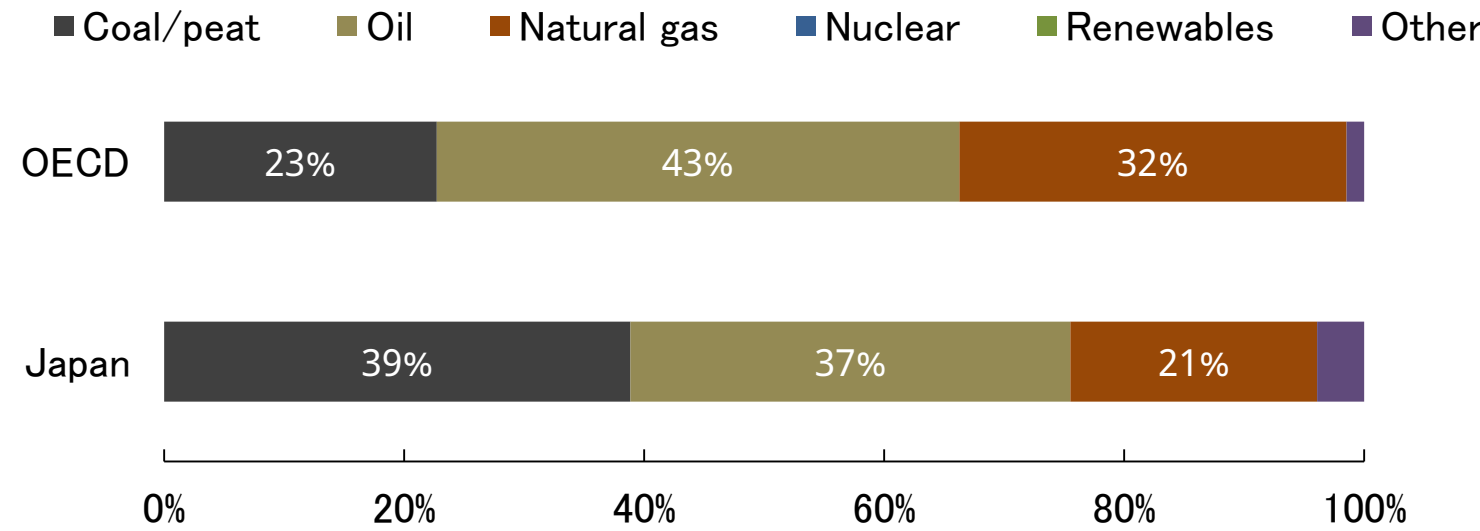
## Renewable share of electricity generation



## Electricity generation by source



## GHG emissions by fuel, 2023

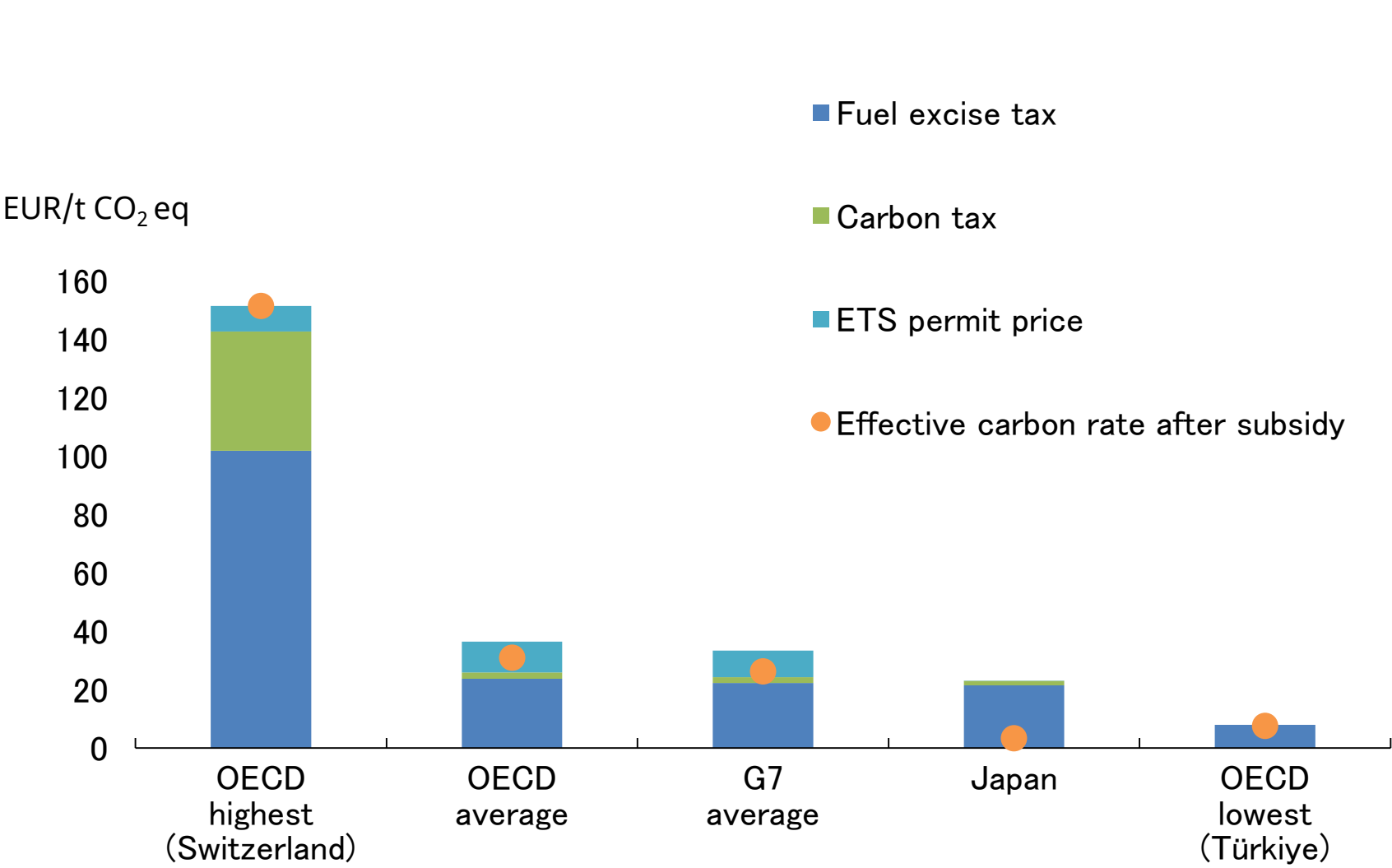


Source: IEA (2024), IEA World Energy Balances (database); IEA (2024), IEA Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Fuel Combustion (database); METI (2024), Japan's Energy.

# Improving price signals is key for decarbonising the economy

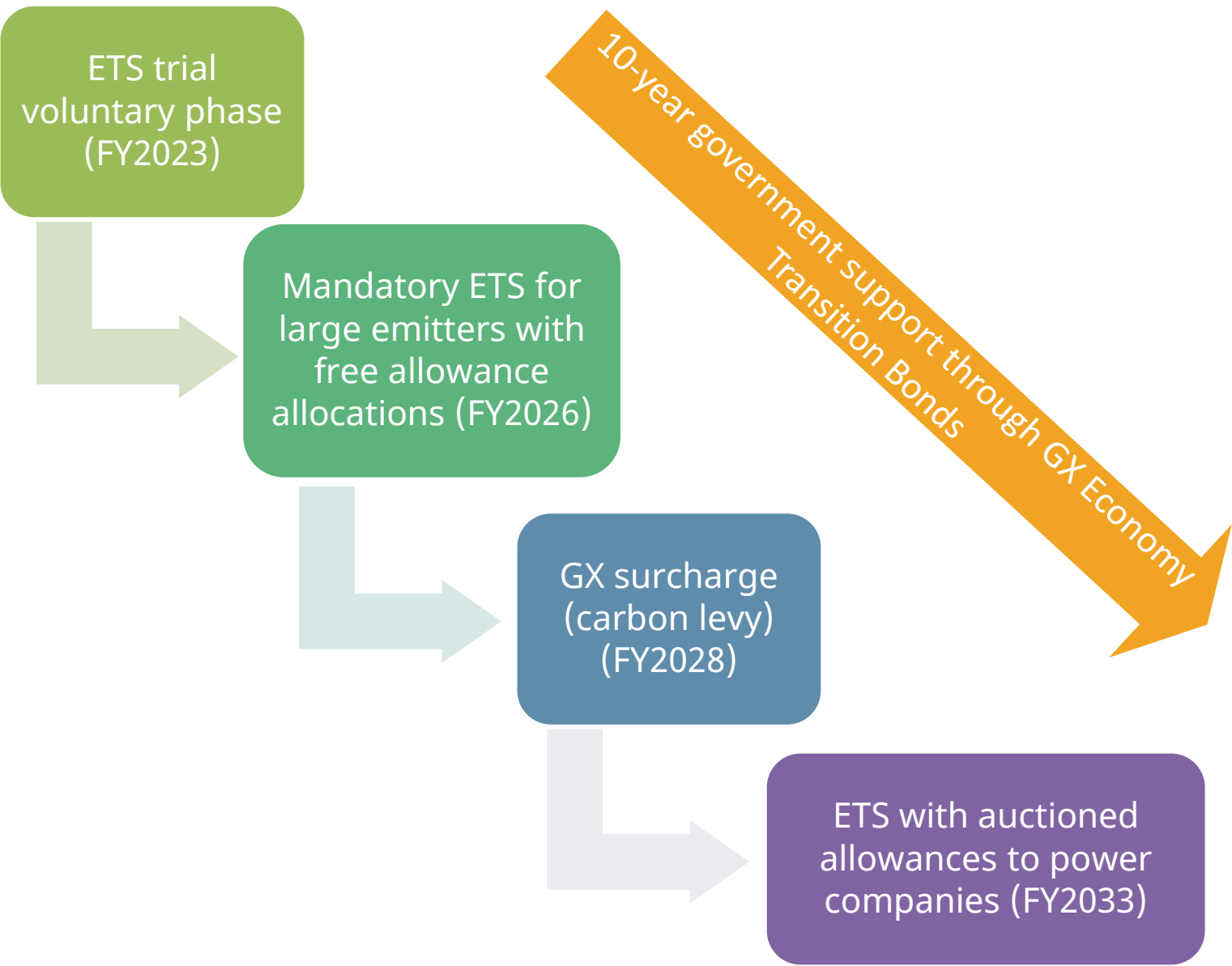


Average effective carbon rates, 2023



Note: ETS = emissions trading system. Effective carbon rate is the sum of prices from the carbon tax, fuel excises and ETS permits. The subsidy is provided under the “Project to mitigate drastic changes in fuel oil prices”.  
Source: OECD (2024), Tax and Environment (database).

Pro-Growth Carbon Pricing

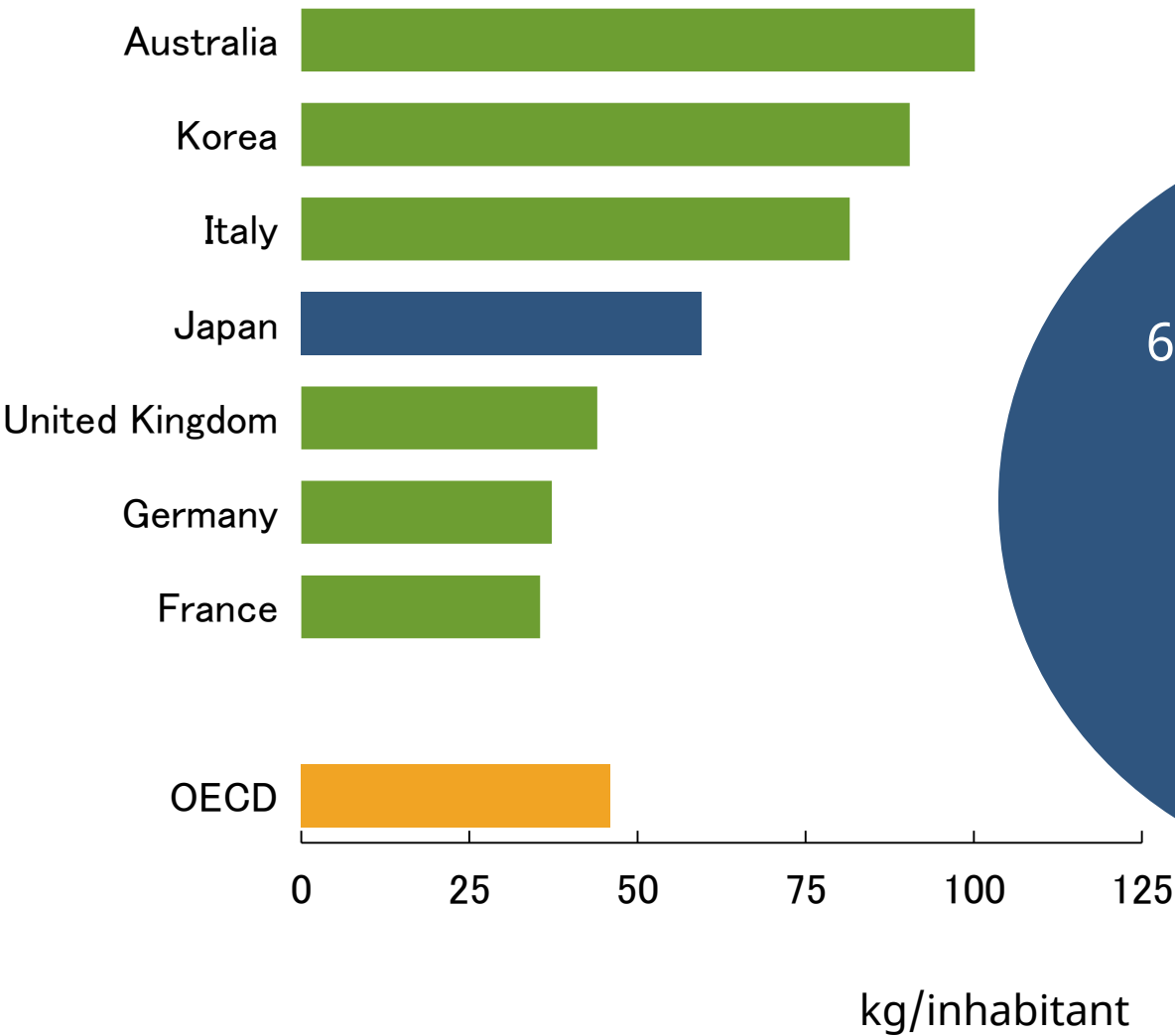
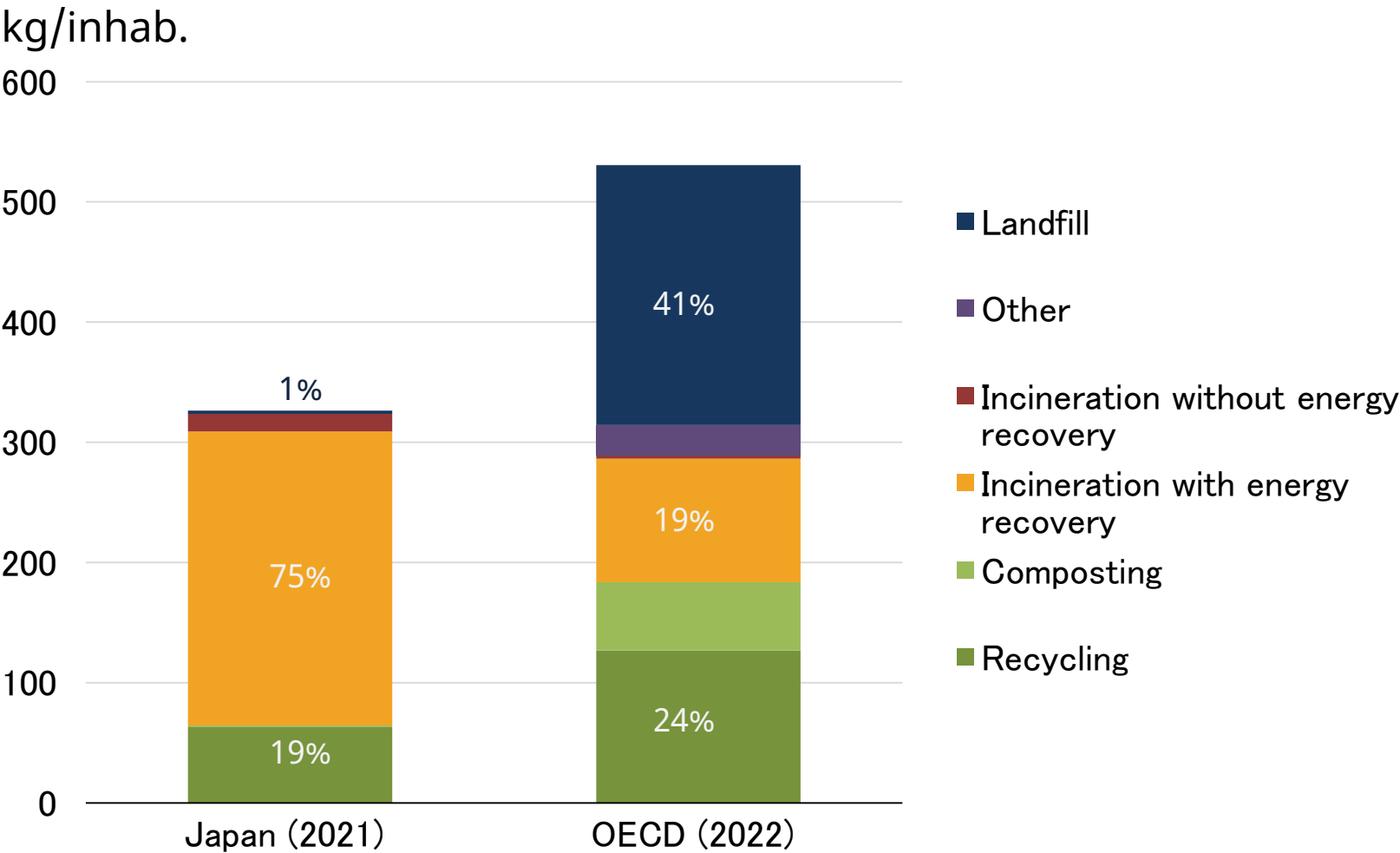


# Japan's has an effective waste management system, but recycling could be increased



## Plastic waste generated per capita, 2021 Top 10 OECD countries

### Municipal waste per capita by treatment



62% of plastic waste is incinerated for energy recovery, while only 25% is recycled into new materials

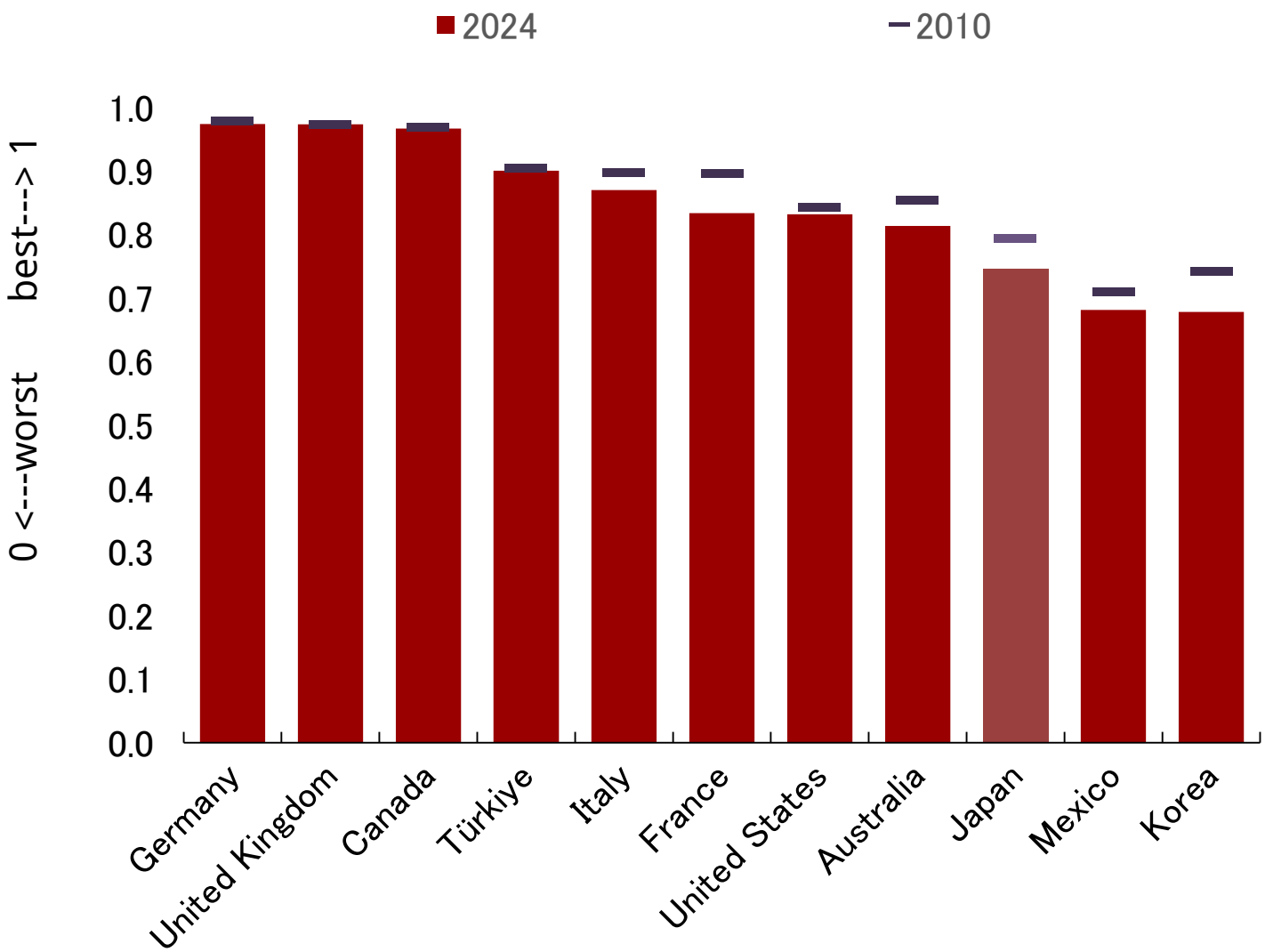


Source: OECD (2024), OECD Environment Statistics (database); Plastic Waste Management Institute (2024), An Introduction to Plastic Recycling.

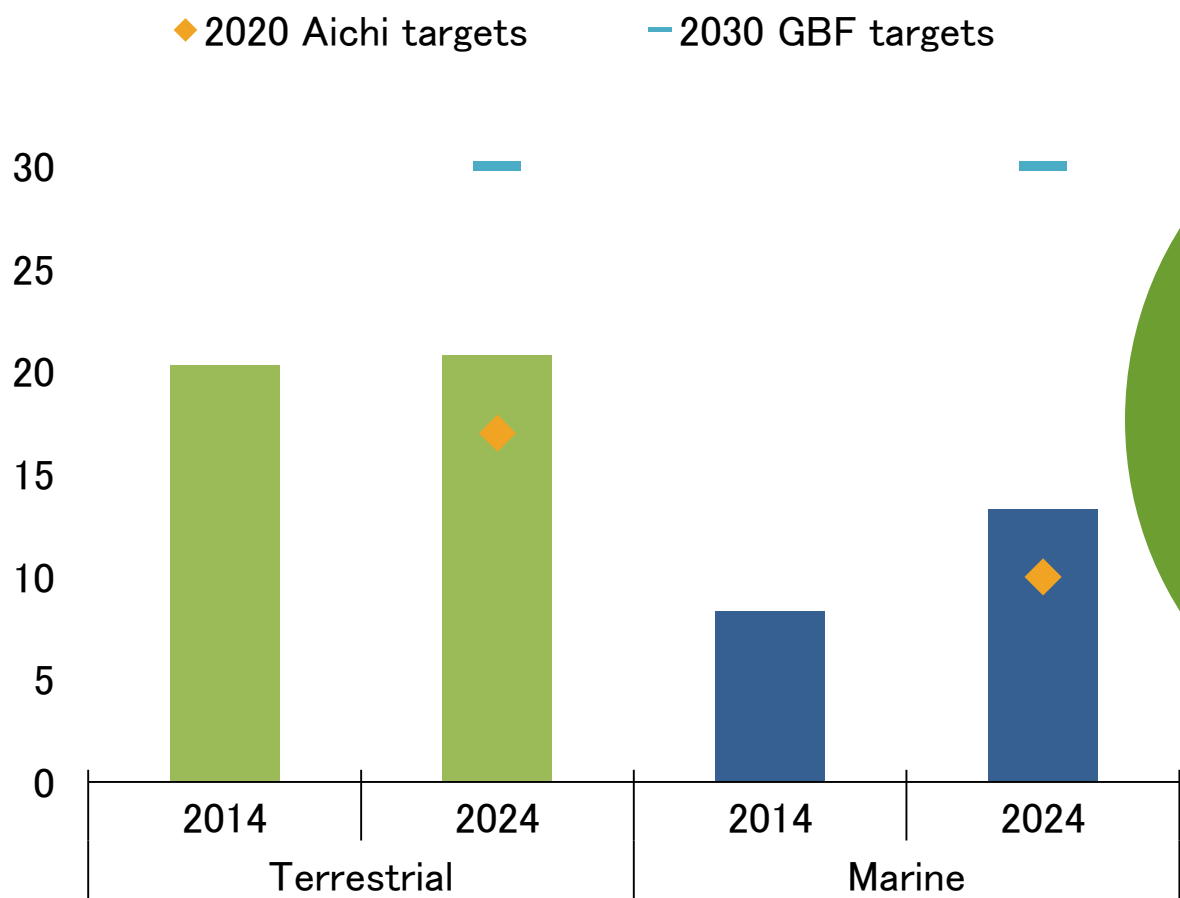
# Japan has stepped up efforts to alleviate strong pressures on biodiversity



Red list index of threatened species



Share of protected areas & Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures



253 Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites (Oct. 24) and 159 OECM sites (Dec. 24)



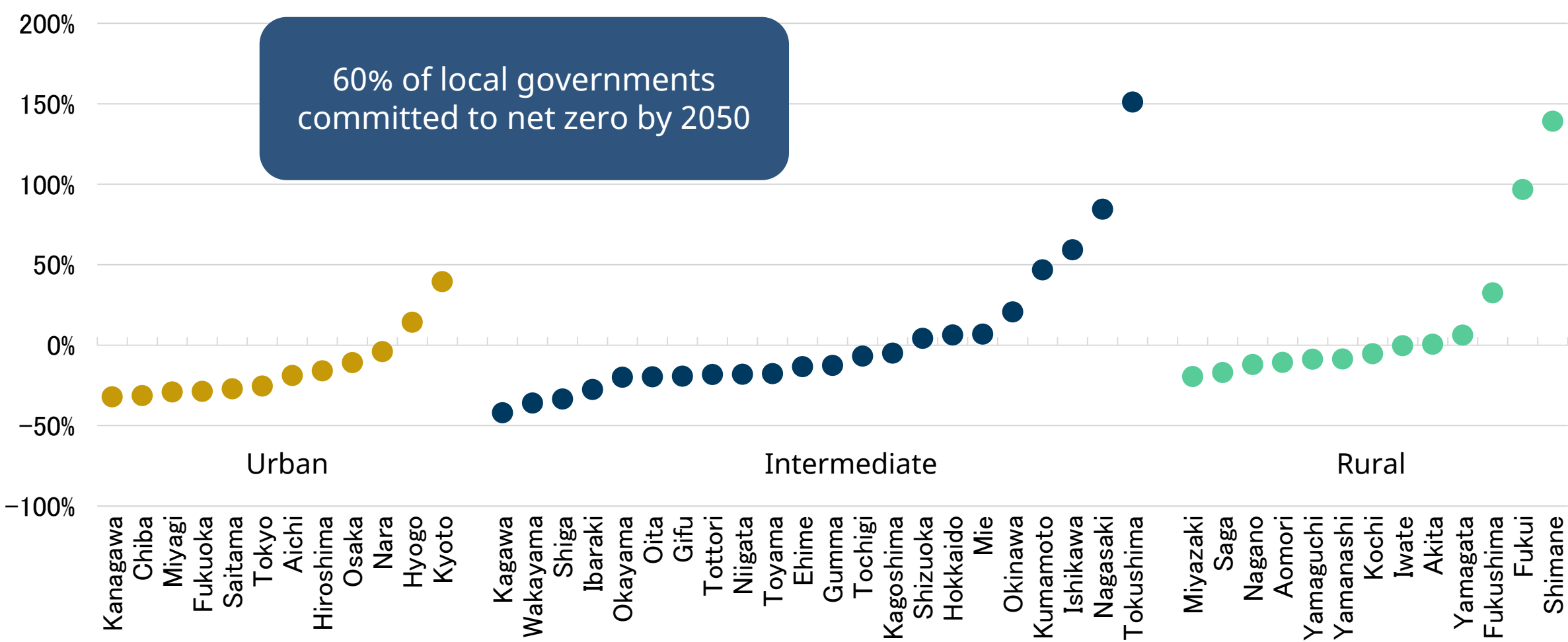
Note: The Red List Index measures the extinction risk across groups of species based on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. The index varies from 1, if all species qualify as “Least Concern”, to 0, if all species are categorised as “Extinct”. Source: Country submission. UN (2024) SDG Global Database.



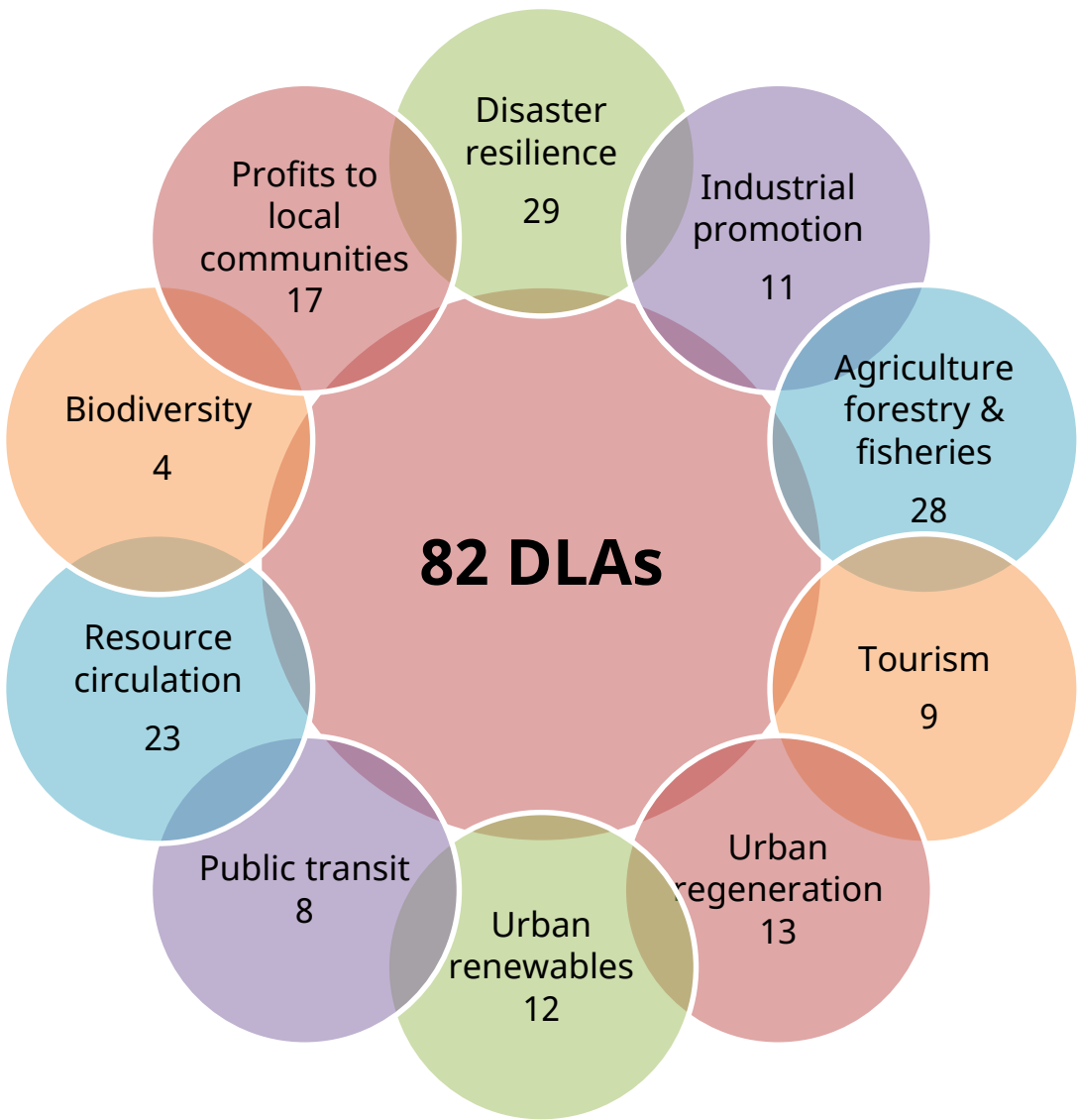
# Scaling up successful subnational initiatives would benefit Japan's decarbonisation and circular economy goals



GHG emissions per capita by type of prefecture, % change 1990-2022



## Decarbonisation Leading Areas



Source: OECD (2024), OECD Database on Regions, cities and local areas; Crippa et al. (2023), EDGAR v8.0 Greenhouse Gas Emissions, European Commission, Joint Research Centre (dataset); OECD Secretariat's elaboration based on Ministry of the Environment (2024), "Leading regions for decarbonisation" (in Japanese), website.

# This Review provides 34 recommendations



- A more comprehensive and cost-effective policy package
- Better cross-policy alignment
- Enhanced institutional co-ordination and public participation
- Systematic co-operation with local governments to leverage place-based approaches

# Thank you!



## OECD Environmental Performance Reviews: Japan 2025

The report and all data are available on  
<http://oe.cd/epr-japan>

## Environmental Performance Review programme

<http://oe.cd/epr>

### CONTACTS

Head of Division: **Nathalie Girouard**  
[Nathalie.Girouard@oecd.org](mailto:Nathalie.Girouard@oecd.org)

Report Co-ordinator: **Ivana Capozza**  
[Ivana.Capozza@oecd.org](mailto:Ivana.Capozza@oecd.org)

Communications: **Fiorella Cianchi**  
[Fiorella.Cianchi@oecd.org](mailto:Fiorella.Cianchi@oecd.org)