



TAIYO JYUKEN

Sustainable Development Goals Report

Partnering with local stakeholders
to create a sustainable community
where no one is left behind



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Taiyo Jyuken

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About this report

This publication reports on the efforts by Taiyo Jyuken Co. Ltd. located in Yokohama, Japan to solve social issues through their core business as an example of SDG actions by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). By following the format of the Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Review (VNR) by the United Nations as much as possible, this report tries to capture efforts by individual companies in a reporting framework for reviews of SDGs by national governments.

Although responsibility for SDG implementation lies with each national government, actions by non-state actors including local governments, the private sector, and NGOs are key to achieving the SDGs. Amongst all Japanese companies, 99.7 percent are categorized as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and about 70 percent of all employees work for SMEs. Therefore, even if each individual action by SMEs is rather small compared to those of the national governments or large corporations, the collective impact of their actions would become a great driving force for the achievement of the SDGs. In general, SMEs can be a main actor in the promotion of sustainable development at the local level since many of them run their business in close connection with the local community. SMEs contribution to local sustainability is important in terms not only of CSR activity, but also as a business strategy because local sustainability is key for their business continuity. This report introduces challenges faced by Taiyo Jyuken, a small company with eight employees, which aims to solve the problems of local communities by addressing three dimensions of sustainable development, namely society, economy, and the environment. Through the case of Taiyo Jyuken, this report intends to outline what SMEs can do for the SDGs and share these efforts with more people, thereby encouraging the next steps forward.

This publication was produced by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies with stories and material collected through an interview with Hidenobu Kawahara, Chair of Taiyo Jyuken and Yuki Kawahara, President of Taiyo Jyuken and shared at the “SDG Meetup” and “Customer Meetings” organized by the company. Yatsuka Kataoka, Joint Programme Director of the City Task-force (CTY) at IGES is the main contributor, and Junichi Fujino, Programme Director of CTY carried out planning of this publication. Rie Sugihara, Senior Programme Officer of the Strategic Management Office at IGES also supported production and editorial.

Taiyo Jyuken Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019

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About the cover



The cover picture is drawn by “pukapuka-san”, the disabled persons working with Taiyo Jyuken in solar panel installation work, based on their impression of the company.

Comment about the cover picture

Akira Takasaki, President, NPO pukapuka

We have had “pukapuka-san” (what we call the disabled persons working for NPO Pukapuka) work at solar panel installation sites for Taiyo Jyuken on a number of occasions. The hourly rate of 1,000 yen is remarkably high for our pukapuka-san workers. And they also get experience doing challenging work.

Since employment of disabled workers has benefits both the disabled workers and their employer, increased employment of disabled persons will benefit our society as a whole. Employers find working with pukapuka-san makes every day enjoyable. It warms their hearts. Pukapuka-san have had a really positive impact on Taiyo Jyuken employees.

Employment of disabled persons is something that benefits both the disabled workers and their employers.

So increased employment of disabled persons will benefit our society as a whole.

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Messages



Yuki Kawahara
President, Taiyo Jyuken, Co. Ltd.

“From the viewpoint of the SDGs, we have further clarified the direction in which we aim to proceed”

I am very happy to report that in 2019, our company celebrated its 10-year anniversary. During this year, as well as taking a look back over past initiatives, we have released the “Taiyo Jyuken SDGs Report” that incorporates our goals looking forward to 2030. I am very grateful for all the kind messages from a wide range of relevant entities and would also like to thank the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) for their support in releasing this report.

Taiyo Jyuken is a small company with eight employees located in Yokohama, Japan. Our main business is renovating both housing and commercial properties and installment of solar power equipment. Our company continues to engage in initiatives “making it our core business, benefiting the community”, based on the viewpoint that sustainable local communities and connections between people are important to the continued business activities of small and medium-sized enterprises. For instance, our “Root House Project” takes on vacant houses, which have become an issue for many local governments, and renovates them on behalf of owners to create working spaces for businesses and community spaces rooted in our local community. This project arose from the “Idogaya Living Lab”, a meeting that has taken place since 2017, where a variety of people from community groups, local governments, and businesses come together to share information on issues in the community and come up with solutions.

At the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019, Goal 8 and Goal 13 of Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals (SDGs) are discussed as priority goals, and we have been working on actions related to those specific SDGs. We have collaborated with an organisation that supports the employment of disabled persons in the community, creating new employment opportunities for disabled persons to work with us on the installation and frame construction of solar panels. We have also begun to conduct a solar power generation project using the roofs of welfare facilities that can be used as social welfare evacuation shelter in the event of disasters. In so doing, our project has increased the resilience of evacuation centers during disasters.

In 2019, Taiyo Jyuken set goals for the year 2030 in connection with the SDGs. Many of the activities we have carried out in our community are aligned with the SDGs, and in thinking about our company’s business from the viewpoint of the SDGs, we have further clarified the direction in which we aim to proceed. In our goal-setting, we have not only considered the SDGs, but also how we can contribute to the goals set forth in the Action Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures formulated in October 2018 by our local government here in Yokohama City.

There is a limit to what one small company can accomplish. For that reason, networks between people—thinking and acting together—are all the more important. Taiyo Jyuken will continue to think of our community’s issues as our issues, and our new initiative will be “Making it our core business—benefitting society and company alike”.



Kazuhiko Takeuchi
President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

“I am hopeful that the “Taiyo Jyuken SDGs Report” will serve as a global forerunner to raise the momentum for more small and medium-sized enterprises to engage in actions to achieve the SDGs”

I am very pleased that we are releasing the report on Taiyo Jyuken’s initiatives to provide solutions to social problems in the community from the perspective of the SDGs at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019.

To achieve the SDGs, actions by all stakeholders from national and local governments to private companies and NGOs, are essential, as is cooperation among stakeholders. In general, small and medium-sized enterprises often face difficulties in incorporating initiatives on the SDGs and contributions to other international agendas such as the Paris Agreement on climate change into their companies’ business and management due to financial and personnel constraints. However, there are many things that they can do due the very fact that they are small and medium-sized enterprises.

This report introduces the approaches of Taiyo Jyuken, a company with eight employees, to contribute to creating a sustainable society through building strong partnerships with people in their local communities and endeavoring to solve the community problems through their business activities. Undoubtedly, Taiyo Jyuken’s initiatives on the SDGs serve as a successful example precisely because the company is a small one with roots in its community. Moreover, the goals set by Taiyo Jyuken for 2030, based on the SDGs, clearly specify contributing to its local community, in particular the city of Yokohama’s “Zero Carbon” goal set forth in its Action Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures. It is

the accumulation of commitments such as these that will lead to local governments, and even the national government, achieving set targets.

In the implementation of the SDGs, it is important to move on to the next action following reporting based on objective evaluation. The Voluntary National Review (VNR) is one review process whereby countries prepare reports according to the United Nation’s VNR handbook, with reporting taking place at the HLPF.

At the 2018 HLPF, IGES, together with Shimokawa Town of Hokkaido, Toyama City and Kitakyushu City, released a local version of the VNR entitled the “Voluntary Local Review (VLR)”. Additionally, at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in March 2019, we launched the “VLR Lab”, an information platform on VLR targeted at local governments both in Japan and other countries. The report on Taiyo Jyuken was prepared according to the VNR and VLR processes to create synergy with VNR and VLR. I am very hopeful that the “Taiyo Jyuken SDGs Report 2019” will raise the momentum for small and medium-sized enterprises to engage in reporting on the SDGs, as well as inspire more small and medium-sized enterprises, both in Japan and around the world, to take actions to achieve the SDGs.

On the Occasion of the Taiyo Jyuken SDGs Report Publication



Yuji Kuroiwa
Governor, Kanagawa Prefecture

Kanagawa Prefecture has set the concept of “Kanagawa for Vibrant Lives” as a basic principle in its comprehensive plan, “Kanagawa Grand Design” and will promote the comprehensive plan and the SDGs in an integrated manner.

In June 2018, Kanagawa Prefecture was selected by the national government as a “SDGs Future City” and “Local Government SDGs Model Project”, the only prefecture in Japan to receive both these distinctions.

Additionally, in January 2019 we held the “SDGs All Japan Meeting 2019”, and released a declaration on the “SDGs Japan Model”, which was approved by 136 local governments from across Japan.

In this declaration, we outlined our aim to achieve the SDGs through proactive utilization of private business based on public and private sector partnerships. Our prefecture will actively unfold a range of measures to bolster the SDG-related initiatives of the small and medium-sized companies that play a key role in the implementation and realization of the SDGs.

Taiyo Jyuken Co., Ltd., is actively engaged in addressing the SDGs and has been featured in the “Kanagawa SDG Guidebook”, which is targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises in our prefecture. I am hopeful that the most recently issued SDGs report, with examples of leading initiatives that serve as models for such companies, will encourage more and more small and medium-size enterprises to expand their activities to achieve the SDGs.

As the prefecture leading the country on the SDGs, Kanagawa will continue to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders towards achieving the SDGs.



Fumiko Hayashi
Mayor, City of Yokohama

Iwould like to offer my sincere congratulations on the publication of Taiyo Jyuken Co., Ltd.’s initiatives in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals, based on collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my appreciation to IGES for its close collaboration with Yokohama City in areas such as measures on climate change.

Taiyo Jyuken has made a considerable contribution to solving a wide range of challenges faced in our community. Through installation of solar power equipment, Taiyo Jyuken has not only helped to promote renewable energy, but has also worked hard on programs that support the employment of disabled persons and measures to address the issue of vacant houses, contributing to local disaster prevention in cooperation with local government and non-profit organizations.

In June 2018, Yokohama City was selected by the Japanese government as a “SDGs Future City”. We are working to simultaneously address environmental, economic and social issues. Then, last October, we announced “Zero Carbon Yokohama”, aimed at achieving decarbonization. To achieve this goal, we have intensified global warming countermeasures and energy measures, and are working to realize a sustainable major city model.

The initiatives of Taiyo Jyuken are expressly aligned with the measures and the direction in which our city is headed. This June, I presented Taiyo Jyuken with the grand prize of the “Yokohama Environmental Action Awards”.

The City of Yokohama will continue to dispatch information both in Japan and overseas on exemplary initiatives such as those of Taiyo Jyuken as we promote initiatives to achieve the SDGs. We will also work to accelerate initiatives to realize sustainable cities, as aimed for in the SDGs, by strengthening partnerships with diverse entities including local government, private companies, organizations and citizens.



Sayaka Yoshihara
Secretary-General, Shimin Sector Yokohama

I first met Chair Kawahara and President Kawahara of Taiyo Jyuken about three years ago when they both visited the Yokohama Citizens Empowerment Center, which runs the Shimin Sector Yokohama NPO.

I distinctly remember our enthusiastic discussion on ways to enable community locations such as local community halls to function as bases during disasters, as well as ways to utilise vacant houses to solve problems in our community.

I was surprised to find a local company working so earnestly to find solutions to social problems through its core business. Because their company is also involved in community support, including experience in providing support for disaster-stricken areas and working with residents’ associations, we have naturally developed a relationship as “partners” through our many interactions.

Subsequently, when Taiyo Jyuken had the chance to utilise vacant houses in the Sumita district of Isogo Ward and participated in launching this effort, I watched them carefully develop trusting relationships with not only the members of the residents’ association, but also with city hall, the ward’s social welfare council, and the community care plaza, as well as with representatives of companies conducting business in different specialisations.

The Idogaya Ohisama Square project is also one in which numerous people placed their trust in Taiyo Jyuken, not merely the company, but the executives and staff as well, viewing them as partners.

I would like to cherish our relationship, which is an important asset for all parties, as we continue to work together in the future.

About Taiyo Jyuken

Addressing on local issues through our core business

Taiyo Jyuken is a company based in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture. The core business of the company is installation and sales of solar power generation equipment for residential and industrial use, and home renovations. The company has only eight employees, but through their core business, they work hard to solve social issues faced by the local community. In the solar power generation-related business, for example, the company contributes not only to the reduction of greenhouse gases through renewable energy promotion, but also provides working opportunities for disabled people in installation of solar power generation

Home Renovation



Solar Power Generation Sales and Installation



equipment. Under the home renovation business, Taiyo Juken promotes “Root House Projects” that address the issue of vacant houses that have become a social issue in Japan in the era of population decline and aging society. The company also opens up part of its office for community activities, holds workshops to solve local social issues, contributes to work experience for local elementary and junior schools, and carries out clean-up activities. Such activities are conducted in close partnership with various local stakeholders, which make it a company with its roots in the local community.

Contribution to and partnership with the local community

- Clean-up activity (Greenbird)
- Learning support
- Idogaya Urban Design Centre (UDCiD)



Taiyo Jyuken’s 2030 Goals and Targets

Contributing to sustainable and resilient communities

In 2019, Taiyo Jyuken set its 2030 goals aligning with the SDGs. As described below, goals and targets are set out respectively for home renovation business and solar power generation business.

Goals and targets in home renovation business

Partnering with companies and NPOs to renovate vacant houses and develop community spaces



Taiyo Juken addresses the issue of vacant houses by turning them into spaces open to the community and offices for local people who want to run businesses, aiming to revitalizing the local community. In order to enable local stakeholders to utilize vacant houses in accordance with their needs, the company will collaborate with local organizations to create an environment in which vacant houses can be utilized more sustainably. In the future, the company will contribute to the creation of disaster-resistant communities by installing earthquake-resistant shelters and solar power generation equipment so that vacant houses can be used as temporary shelters in the event of a disaster.

Related SDG targets

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

TARGET 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises

11

COMMUNITALITY AND COMPACT CITIES

TARGET 11.3: Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management

11

COMMUNITALITY AND COMPACT CITIES

TARGET 11.7: Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

TARGET 12.8: Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

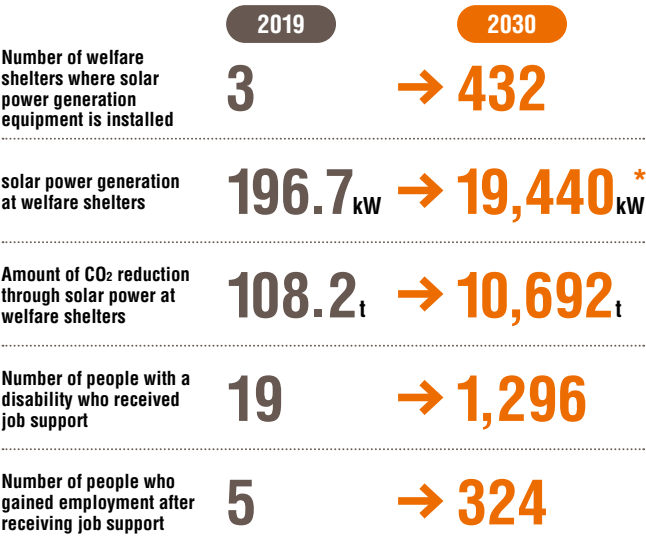
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PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

TARGET 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development

Goals and targets related to the solar power generation business

Creating inclusive and resilient communities by promoting solar power and decent work



*We contribute to 12.15 percent of Yokohama City’s solar power generation goals for 2020 and 2030.

Taiyo Jyuken aims to contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society by installing solar power generation equipment in more facilities and houses. In particular, by promoting solar power generation equipment to social welfare facilities that are designated by Yokohama City as “Social Welfare Evacuation Shelters”, Taiyo Jyuken contributes to increase the number of disaster-resilient evacuation shelters for those who have special needs or require special support in the event of a disaster such as elderly people, people with disabilities and expectant mothers. In addition, Taiyo Jyuken employs people with disabilities to do some of the installation of solar power generation facilities, in partnership with their support groups, which contributes to decent work opportunity creation for people with disabilities.

Taiyo Jyuken is also going to address the issue of solar power waste by promoting reuse and recycling.

Related SDG targets

7

RENEWABLE ENERGY

TARGET 7.2: Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

13

CLIMATE ACTION

TARGET 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

TARGET 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

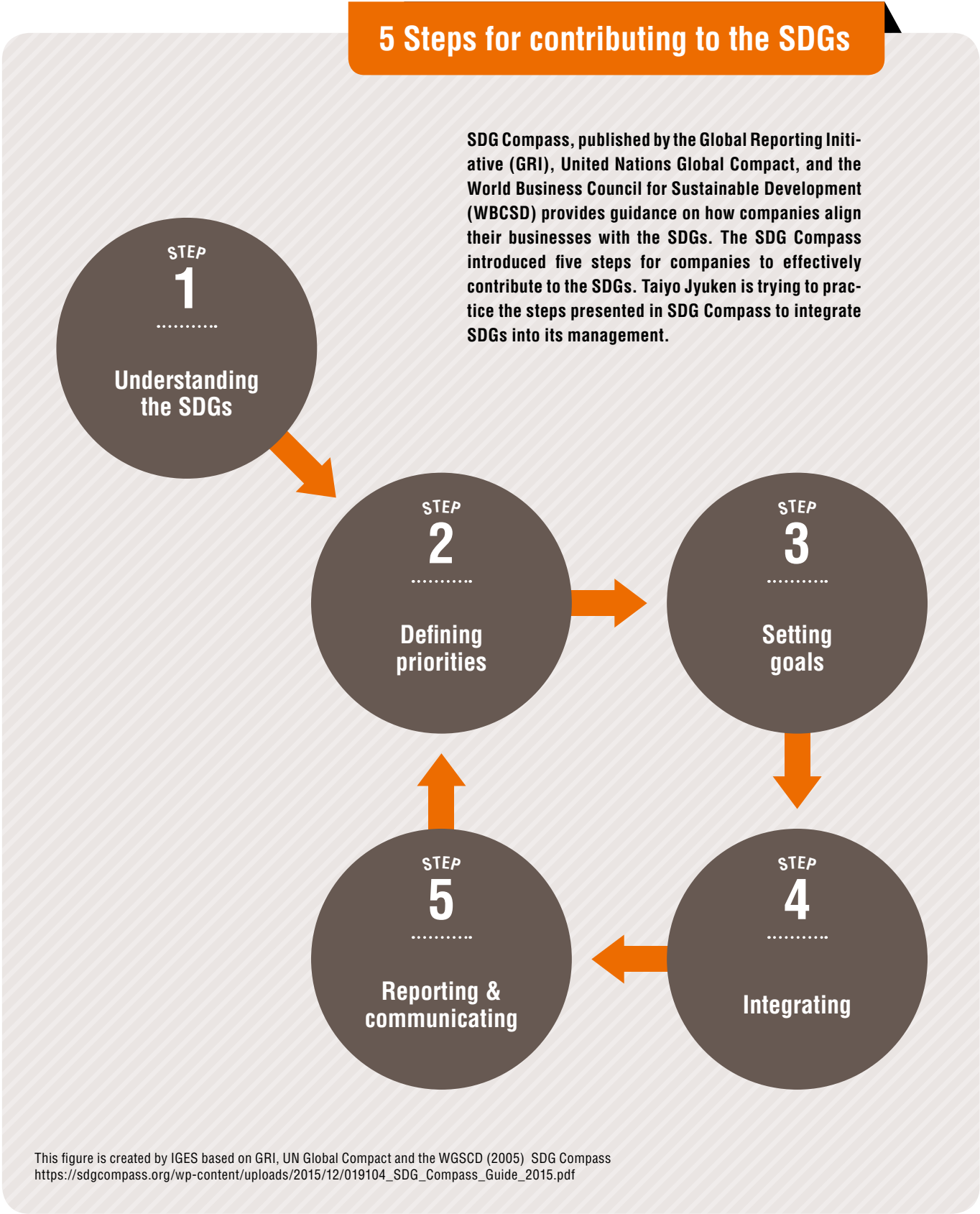
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PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

TARGET 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development

Integration of the SDGs into Management

Working on five steps of the “SDG Compass”



Creating Ownership of the SDGs

Learning about the SDGs and encouraging actions

1 Company actions

Although there are no special initiatives to understand the SDGs, Taiyo Jyuken utilizes a variety of opportunities to deepen understanding of the SDGs for each and every employee.

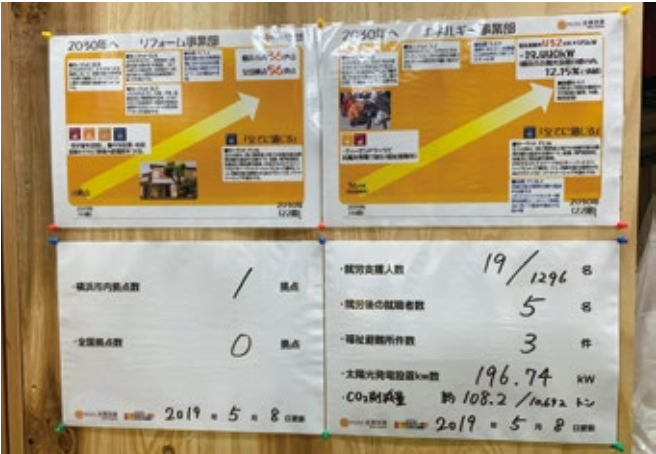
Take up and discuss the SDGs at an internal meeting called a “Customer Meeting”, in which all management and employees participate every month.

Employees attend external seminars related to SDGs, including the ones where the chair and president participate as speakers.

Employees participate in exchanges and discussions such as the Idogaya Living Lab and the “SDG Meetup”.

From their experience in supporting the work of disabled people in the solar power panel installment, and in taking measures related to vacant houses, employees of Taiyo Jyuken can get a real understanding of the SDGs, especially the concept of integration of different aspects, no one left behind and the importance of partnerships. The chair and president of the company take leadership and encourage employees to take actions to make the local community better through their daily work such as at the monthly Customer Meetings. The gratitude shown by customers and people with disabilities and their families also greatly encourages the employees and helps to maintain and improve employee motivation.

In setting Taiyo Jyuken’s goals for 2030, both the chair and the president at management level had dialogues with their employees and shared a common understanding of the goals and the path to achieving the goals. The goals for 2030 and the state of progress are put up on the wall of Ohisama Square, an office space open space for the community, so that both the employees and local stakeholders who visit the open space can know about the goals and their progress.



Goals and the progress exhibited over the wall

2 Ownership-building at the community level

Taiyo Jyuken is in charge of management and operation of the Ohisama Square, where a living lab and various events are organized. Diverse stakeholders gather at the open space and discuss how they can develop sustainable communities, which contributes to SDG promotion at the local level. Taiyo Jyuken also share its activities for local sustainability at seminars and meetings organized by local governments and other organizations.

SDG Meetup



In September 2018, the “SDG Meetup—Connecting people living and working in the Ooka River basin and beyond (‘Kawa-de Tsunagaru SDGs Koryu-kai’ in Japanese)”, as a multi-stakeholder meeting on the SDGs was launched by three organizations: Ohkawa Printing that works on CSR and the SDGs through its printing business; NPO Uminomori-Yamanomori Secretariat that works for nature conservation; and Taiyo Jyuken. The meetups are held in

the Ohisama Square and provide a venue where citizens, companies, and NPO get together, share SDG actions by participants, and exchange ideas and opinions on the SDGs.



Places for gathering together local communities like the SDG Meetup, provide opportunities to create new partnerships among local stakeholders, which will further strengthen SDG actions.

The name of the exchange meeting comes from the Ooka River that is loved by Yokohama city residents and also flows near Taiyo Jyuken's office. With the keyword “river”, the name implies that the meeting aims to connect people living and working in this river basin, while also extending actions to other basin areas in Japan. In fact, participants from other regions also participated in the meeting.

Sharing experiences at open seminars organized by other entities and contribution to the seminar organized by Kanagawa Prefectural government

As a SME that takes leading SDG actions, Taiyo Jyuken gave presentations at seminars held by local governments and other organizations, where there was an introduction of its activities related to decent work opportunities for disabled people to carry out the solar panel installation work. In addition, the company has contributed to awareness-raising and networking on the SDGs by providing support to SDG seminars organized by Kanagawa Prefecture.



Integration of Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions 1

Renewable energy promotion X creation of decent work opportunities X strengthening resiliency

Recognizing local challenges

Realisation of a decarbonized society

The spread of renewable energy including solar energy is a key to achieving "decarbonization" as pursued by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In urban areas, there is no large land suitable for large-scale solar power generation facilities, but it is hoped that roof-tops of buildings can be used to promote solar power.

Provide an environment that enables decent work for ALL

The working-age population in Japan in 2060 is expected to drop by nearly 50% from the figure in 2010*. The average effective job opening ratio for construction engineers in 2018 is more than six times higher**, and there are concerns about a shortage of human resources. On the other hand, there is a reality that there are only a limited number of places where people with disabilities and the elderly can play an active role.

*Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. "Information and Communications in Japan -White Paper 2014"

**Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. "Employment Referrals for General Workers, February 2019"

Develop resilient communities where no one is left behind

Local governments must prepare evacuation shelters for those who need special care such as the elderly, disabled people and expectant mothers. Such shelters are called "Social Welfare Evacuation Shelters". Yokohama City has designated social welfare facilities as Social Welfare Evacuation Shelters by concluding agreements with those organizations managing the facilities. It is important to establish strong lifelines such as electricity and water for the shelters in case of disaster, thereby increasing resiliency in the city.

A solution for local concerns

Introduction of solar energy at social welfare evacuation shelters, and engaging persons with disabilities in the installation work

Taiyo Jyuken is implementing initiatives to address social issues described above with an integrated approach. The company started an initiative to hire disabled people to work on installing solar panels on the roof of the Yamato City Environmental Management Center in Kanagawa Prefecture, in partnership with the Crossover Yamato, a local organization that provided employment support to disabled people. This has proved a great success. The young people with disabilities who worked on a small scale solar power plant construction had a sense of satisfaction with the work.

It is notable that their performance was very high and the work was completed earlier than expected. Since then, Taiyo Jyuken extended the scope of work for disabled persons to the assembly of solar power frames and waterproofing construction. Some of disabled persons who experienced installation work were hired by other companies after they worked at the Taiyo Jyuken sites. The number of such cases is one of the Taiyo Jyuken's 2030 goals.

In addition, in terms of employment support, Taiyo Jyuken provide an hourly wage of 1,000 yen to workers with disabilities, which is higher than the wage generally paid to disabled persons, based on the idea of creating a model for improving wages for disabled people.

In order to make it easier for people with disabilities to engage in construction work, Taiyo Jyuken selected technologies that are easy to handle. The solar panel named "D Dome" is lightweight and allows the workers to install from the front. Taiyo Jyuken developed a guideline of the construction work that illustrates work procedures using more pictures and photographs, as well as providing a short training session based on the manual.

Taiyo Jyuken employs disabled people in construction work for installing a solar power generation systems on the roof of social welfare facilities designated as social welfare evacuation shelters, in partnership with organizations supporting the disabled persons. This business model contributes to the spread of renewable energy, employment support for people with disabilities, and increased urban resilient capacity by increasing the number of energy self-sufficient evacuation shelters with renewable energy supplies. This modal was applied to construction work at a Ikuseikai-Yokohama Hospital based on a proposal made from discussions among local stakeholders at "Living Lab*" organized at the Ohisama Square.

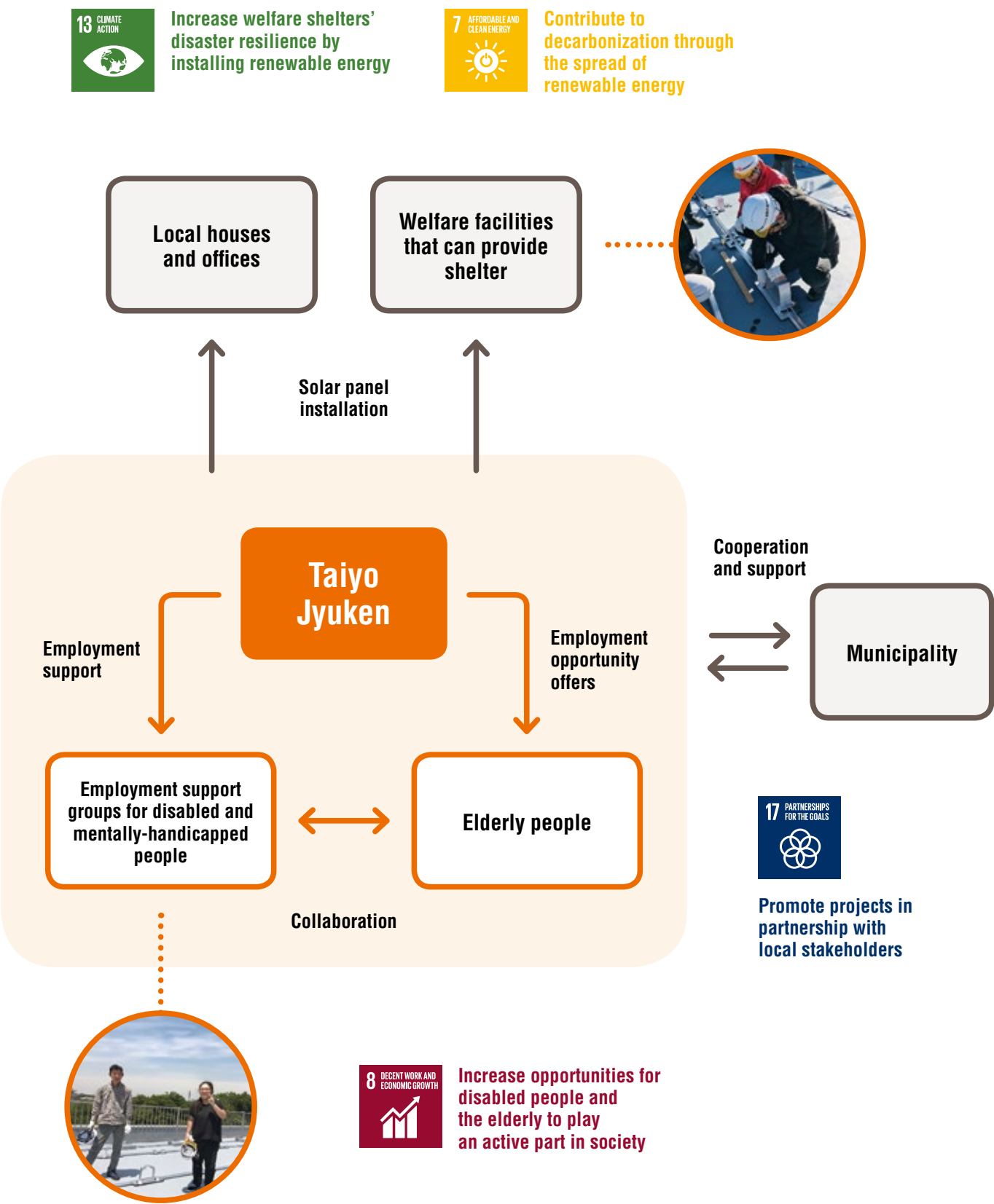
Taiyo Jukens also employs senior citizens between the ages of 74 and 79 as temporary sales staff to provide job opportunities for seniors who want to work and make the most of their life.

This initiative not only provides a place for people with disabilities and the elderly to work actively, but also helps improve the shortage of human resources engaged in construction work.

* Living Lab is an initiative where local stakeholders explore solutions to local issues, discuss means of implementation, and take necessary actions to improve their own lives.



Guidelines for construction work



Integration of Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions 2

Sustainable consumption and production X sustainable city development X partnership building

Recognizing local challenges

✂ "Vacant houses" have a negative social impact on the community

With the aging population and population decline, it is projected that one in three houses in Japan will become vacant by 2030*. Vacant houses can be a factor bringing negative social impacts such as increased crime rate, as well as negative impacts of disasters and a deterioration in the sanitary environment. Therefore countermeasures against vacant houses are in need for a safe and secure urban environment. Some individual owners of vacant houses need ideas on how to make use of or manage them. For example, if the owner inherits the house from his/her parents or needs to manage it instead of them because the parents have passed away or moved out to nursing homes, some owners feel that the house is filled with memories and therefore they hesitate to demolish it or rent it out to strangers. However they do need good way to manage/use it.

*Nomura Research Institute News Release as of 22 June 2015

✂ As the declining birthrate and aging population continue, private-sector initiatives are important

With the declining birthrate and aging population, there is a nationwide challenge of how to maintain administrative services. The population of Yokohama City is predicted to decline for the first time from 2019, and it is important to consider how to maintain necessary administrative services in the future. A way to address this issue is that the private sector and the local community to take the lead in providing urban services currently provided by city government.

A solution for local concerns

✂ Measures to utilize local vacant houses

Minami Ward, where Taiyo Jyuken is located, has one of the largest numbers of abandoned and vacant houses in Yokohama City. Based on discussions at Living Lab, a project to address the vacant house issue called "Root House Project" has been launched.

One of the characteristics of the Root House Project is that SMEs and organizations in the region take the lead on the project instead of local government. Taiyo Jyuken President, Yuki Kawahara noticed that vacant house utilization projects are not well operated or maintained in the end without ownership of local people, and proposed that the Root House Project should be managed by stakeholders in the region who would have responsibility to create

spaces that make use of the vacant houses.

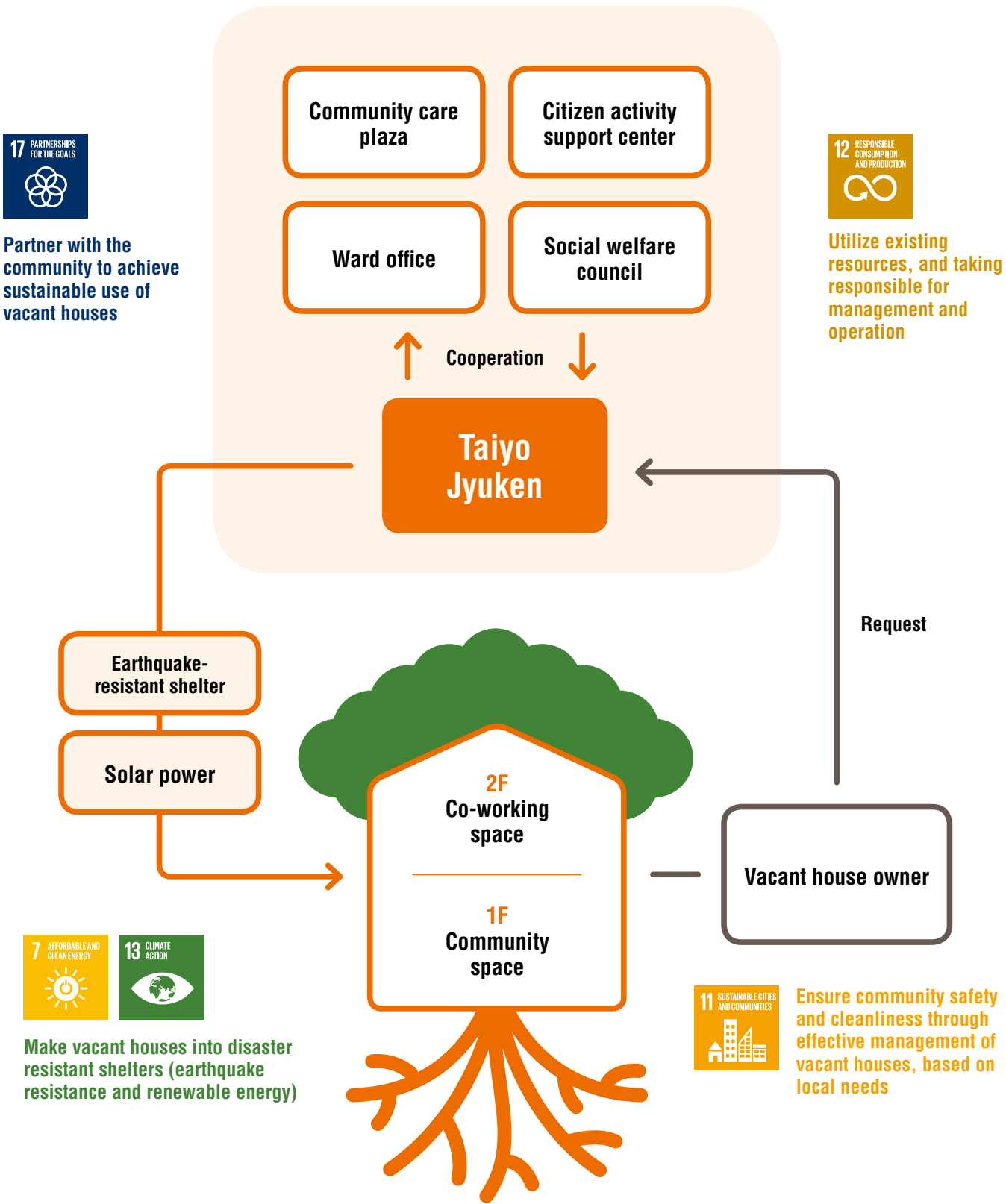
In practice, with the support of the district's social welfare councils, community care plazas, and a ward office, stakeholder meetings or "Regional Conferences" are organised monthly to ensure that vacant houses are being used based on local needs. Neighborhood associations and NPOs are also partners in the project. Through dialogues at Regional Conferences, more people agree with the concept of the project and are willing to cooperate. For example, indoor fittings for the houses are donated by local partners, creating a good circulatory system for the project.



A vacant house is currently being made use of in Isogo Ward, Yokohama—the first floor is open to the public freely as a communication space equipped with a kitchen, and the second floor is rented out as a co-working space. The income from co-working space is managed by Taiyo Jyuken and used for operating and managing the communication space on the first floor. The local people who rent the co-working space also make use of the communication space. For example, an IT engineer had a programming class for children, and a hairdresser held a one-coin children's hair salon. There are business people who feel that the communication space on the first floor is attractive in terms of connecting local communities and businesses. By renting out the office space to business people, it is hoped that the communication space will also be put to good use.

In addition, in order to actively develop such connections of people, ICT is utilized to "visualize" who is making use of the communication space.

Furthermore, based on experiences to support earthquake disaster reconstruction in other areas of Japan, it is planned to install a solar power generation system and earthquake-resistant shelter in one room of vacant houses and use these as shelter in the event of a disaster. This strengthens the disaster resiliency of the community, and neighboring residents welcome such a way to utilize vacant houses.



Institutional Structure for Pursuing the 2030 Goals

Every employee understands our goals and takes action

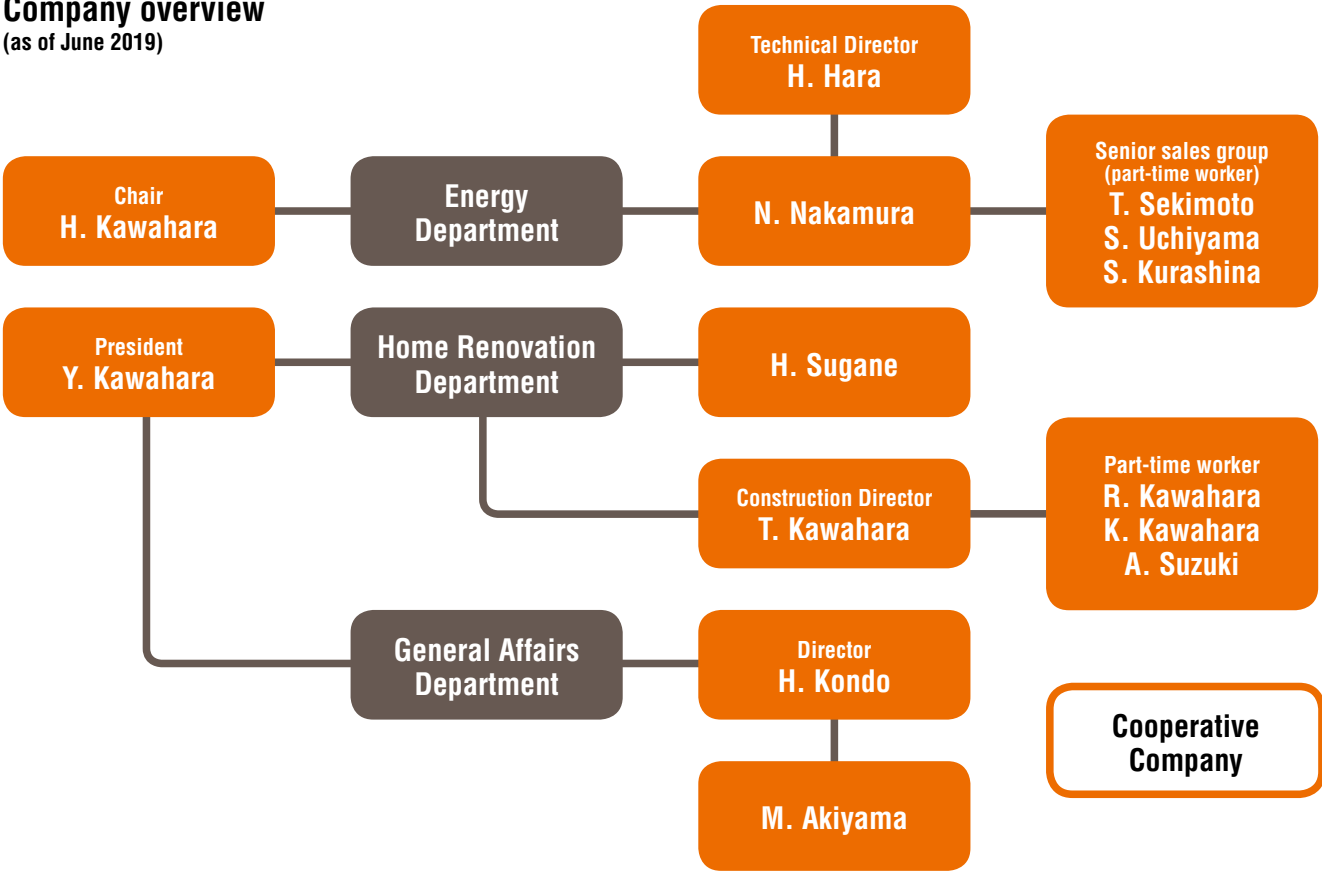
Taiyo Jyuken's organization consists of the Energy Division and the House Reform Division, which are aligned with the two pillars of the business. Each employee will be able to work with awareness of the company's 2030 goals, which have been set in response to the business of each division. In addition, three senior staff members are appointed to the Energy Department. The General Affairs Department is named "Making it Our Business Department" and conducts various activities related to commu-

nity activities. All employees will always share our goals through communication and through monthly customer meetings, and will make the necessary improvements.

Taiyo Jyuken is recognized by Yokohama City as a Yokohama-model Regional Contribution Company, with the aim of local growth and development , and engaging in social activities that contribute to the community.

Company overview

(as of June 2019)



Company	Taiyo Jyuken Co. Ltd.
President	Yuki Kawahara
Number of employee	Eight full time workers / Six part-time workers
Capital fund	10 million yen (about USD 92,500)

Comments from Taiyo Jyuken's Staff

What we will do for the future we want to create

In order to achieve our goals in 2030, we would like to create a place where people with disabilities can improve their skills. I would like to extend partnership with other companies and organizations in order to spread our initiative of employment support to disabled persons.—H. Kawahara



I hope that I can contribute to the realization of 100% renewable energy society in the future, which will contribute not only to the reduction of CO₂ emissions but also energy safety and security. Such a society also contribute to realise a society that runs on the money that would otherwise be spend on importing energy from overseas.—H. Kondo



In response to reports that plastic litter is having a negative impact on the ecosystem, I would like to aim for a zero plastic society through Greenbird activities and other efforts.—H. Sugane



I want to create a working environment where not only people with disabilities but also their families feel safe. I hope that we can create the environment where we can work with the disabled people anywhere in the prefecture.—T. Kawahara



I wonder if we can incorporate the perspective of agriculture into our scheme of employment support to the disabled persons in solar power facility installation work. For example, I would like to see the possibility to develop a scheme of using solar power in farming and people with disability work on the installation work for the power generation systems.—H. Hara



I am working for a future in which disabled people are engaged in construction work for solar power installation as a matter of course. I want to share Taiyo Jyuken's practical experience of creating a decent work scheme with people in and outside of Japan for duplication.—N. Nakamura



Now I am an expectant mother working from home, and I often hear other mothers saying that they wish they could use a telework system too. I would be happy if in the future we can have an environment where mothers who want to work can do so.—M. Akiyama



I like fishing, so I know all too well the problem of marine plastic litter. I would like to be involved in solving garbage problems through the Greenbird activities.—K. Kawahara



Aging society is a major challenge and I feel that it is necessary to start actions now to create a barrier-free city in 2030. I also think that it is necessary to strengthen local connections for a society where both young and old can interact more.—S. Uchiyama



We must create a society where all sort of different people can live together. I want to create communities where people can help each other in the event of a disaster, and to create a society that "makes us feel good about being alive."—S. Kurashina



Since I joined this company, I have learned about waste problems and the employment of people with disabilities that I didn't have much interest in before. I want to be a person who can take action on such issues, just like Taiyo Jyuken does.—A. Suzuki



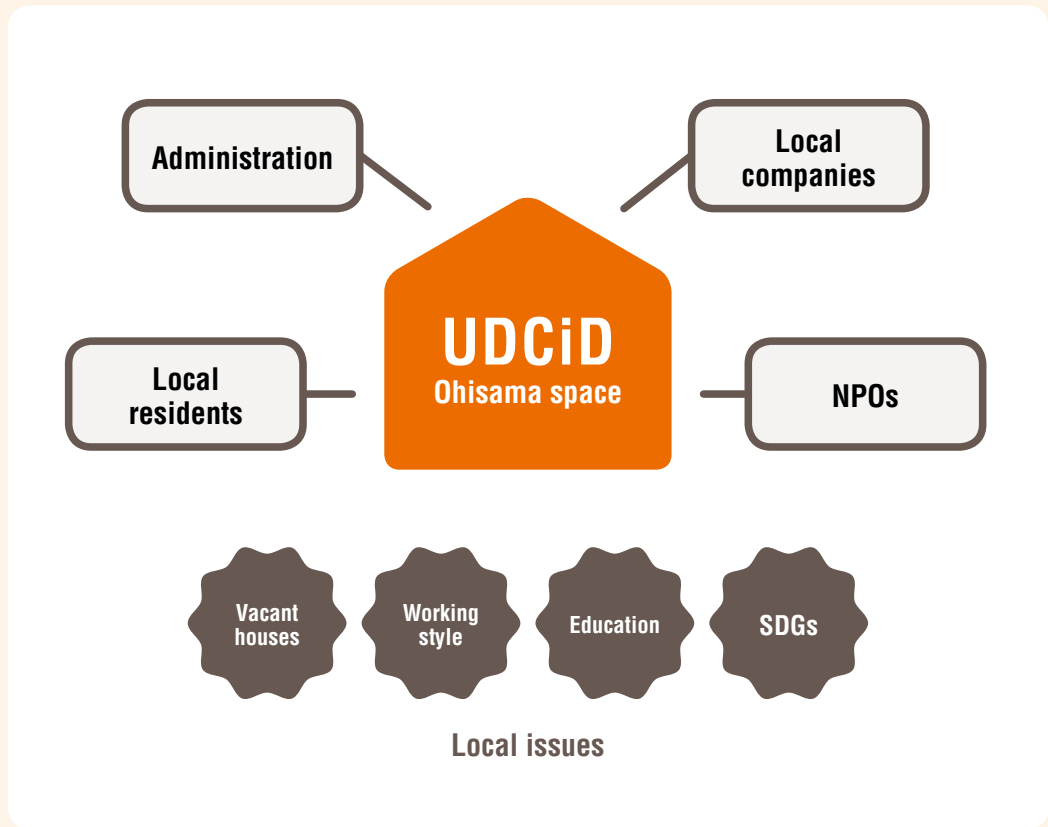
I wish a future society where elderly people and children have more interaction. I was impressed by hard work of the disabled people on waterproofing work for solar panel installation even under on a very hot day. I would like to continue to work with them.—R. Kawahara



Partnership in Achieving the SDGs

One company cannot do all that is possible without a variety of partnerships

A partnership through the Idogaya Urban Design Center (UDCiD)



Taiyo Jyuken engages in a variety of regional initiatives through partnerships ranging from government, NPOs, and local small businesses to elementary schools. The foundation of this partnership is the Idogaya Urban Center (UDCiD)*. In January 2017, as part of Yokohama City Housing Supply Corporation's "Living Revitalization Project", it was launched using a vacant house owned by the corporation. Taiyo Jyuken operates and manage UDCiD in cooperation with local actors as a space to connect people and communities. A total of 6,000 people visited UDCiD during the year and a half before the meeting place moved to their current office in September 2018.

As a part of UDCiD activities, a Living Lab is organised, where residents, local organizations, businesses, and local governments get together to discuss the solution to regional issues. The "Root House Project", which makes use of vacant houses, was developed based on the discussion at the Living Lab. From September 2018 after the relocation of UDCiD, the SDG Meetup was organized.

Various events and activities conducted by different stakeholders at UDCiD and help people connecting each other. In this way, the partnership is growing through UDCiD.

Taiyo Jyuken has also long contributed to community-based clean-up activities ("Green bird" activities), as well as providing learning experiences in cooperation with local elementary schools. Through such activities, partnerships with local people for a better community have been expanding, and this will connect to the achievement of SDGs at the local level. In this regard, Taiyo Jyuken will continue to implement activities in partnership with various stakeholders.



*The Urban Design Center (UDC) is a platform where various actors, including the public sector, companies, and academics, can get together to solve local issues and develop the community they desire. The first UDC in Japan was established in Kashiwanoha, Chiba Prefecture. As of August 2018, there are 19 UDCs throughout the country, including UDCiD (<https://udc-initiative.com/all-udc/>).

Events at UDCiD



Thinking about the future in 10 years



A class to improve hand-writing in business situation

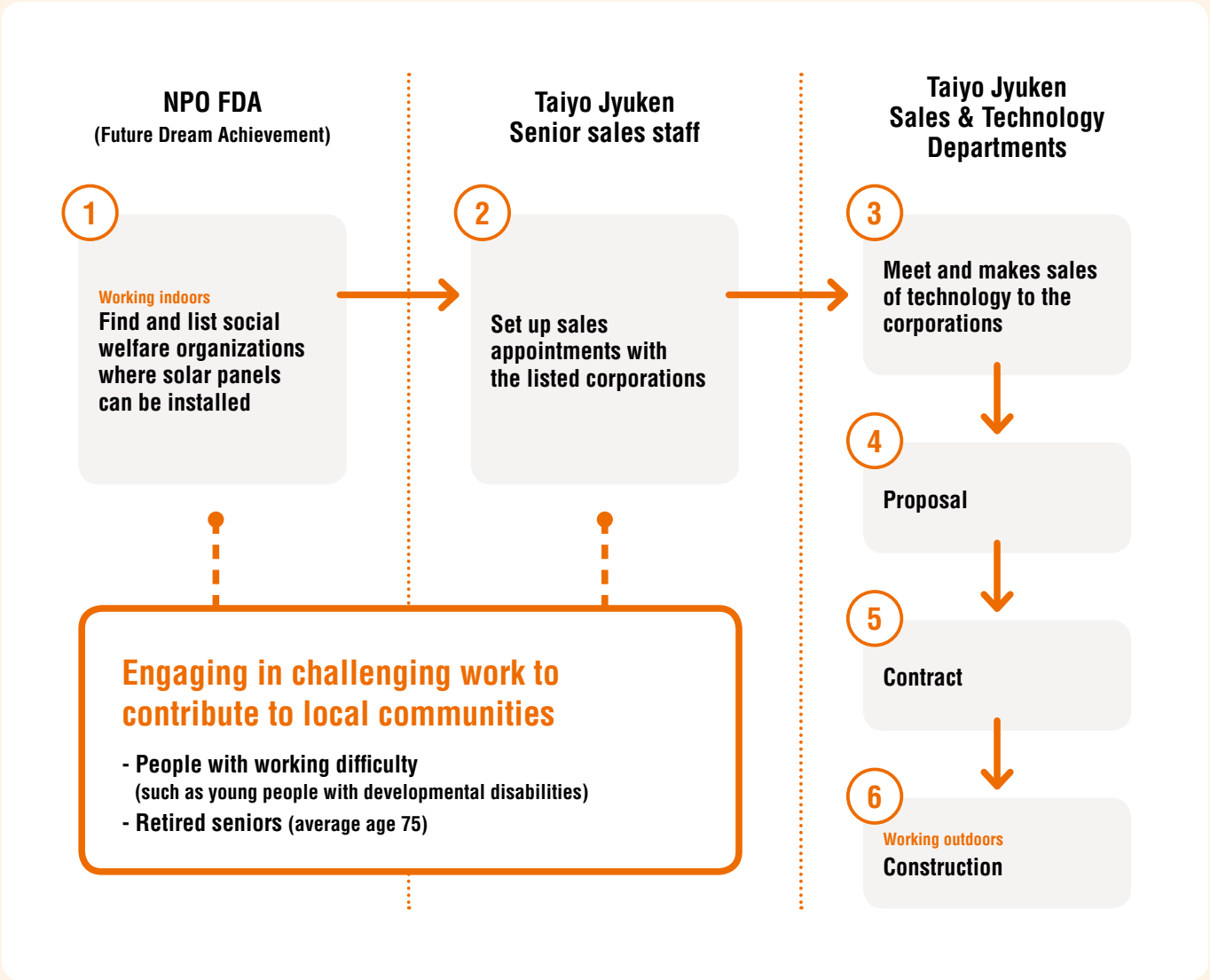


Kanagawa Study Tour

Cooperation between employees of Taiyo Jyuken, senior members, and employees who have difficulty working, in the operation of the solar power generation business

Employment support is provided for people who have difficulty working due to disabilities. This support is offered not only at construction sites of solar power generation facilities, but also in its sales activities. In cooperation with the FDA, a non-profit organization that supports the transition and continuation of work for those who have difficulty working and other needy persons, Taiyo Jyuken asks young people who have difficulty working outdoors to carry out work on a computer to list up facilities where roof-top solar panel could be installed, using an online mapping and imag-

ing app. Then, then senior staff at the company contact potential customers to enquire about their interest in solar energy systems and make appointments based on the list. When an appointment is successfully booked, Taiyo Jyuken employees with expertise in field surveys, proposals, and contracts for facilities follow up with the enquiries. This kind of work-sharing among disabled persons, the elderly and non-disabled staff alike is realized through the scheme.

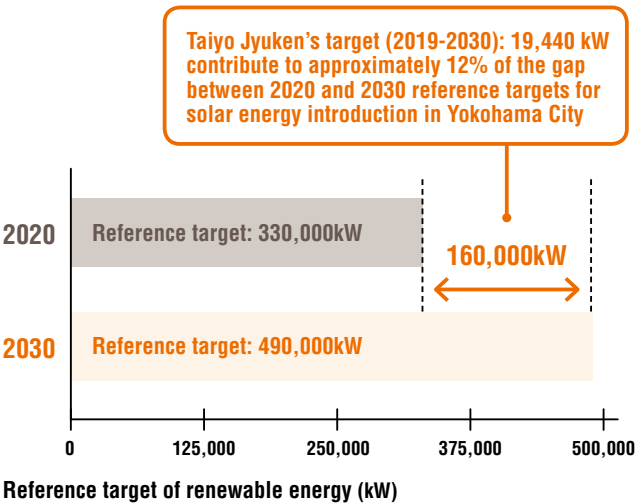


Goals and Targets, and Means of Implementation

Strengthening partnership in pursuit of the 2030 goals

In 2019, Taiyo Jyuken set specific goals for 2030 (p.9). These goals are closely linked with the local government policies to address social, economic and environmental issues. For example, “Yokohama City Action Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures”, announced in October 2018, recognized the introduction of renewable energy as a major policy to meet the goal of carbon neutrality aiming at 2050. Taiyo Jyuken set a target to, between 2019 and 2030, install a solar power generation system with a total capacity of 19,440 kW, and which would account for about 12 percent of the solar energy that needs to be introduced from 2020 to 2030 in order to meet Yokohama City’s 2030 reference target.

Relationship between Taiyo Jyuken’s target in renewable energy and the reference target of Yokohama City



The targets for utilization of vacant houses is also echoed within Yokohama City’s policy to address vacant house issues. Its Plan to address Vacant Houses (2nd phase), formulated in February 2019, included local community utilization of vacant houses as one of the major actions to be promoted.

Tracking progress is very important. Data for monitoring the progress towards the target is those for management of the company, such as the number of installations of solar power generation system and the number of vacant houses managed, and therefore it is not difficult to collect and manage the data appropriately. By posting the progress on the wall of "Ohisama Square" which is open to the community, not only all employees but also

the whole community and Taiyo Jyuken's partner organizations can easily see the progress being made on goals. The monthly customer meeting is a place to monitor the progress among the employees. By reviewing its business, Taiyo Jyuken consider to set new targets as necessary.

Taiyo Jyuken also has structural problems, such as human resources and financial resource constraints that are often common issues for small and medium-sized enterprises. It is difficult to resolve these constraints as a single company, so we are working to address the constraints by working in partnership with various stakeholders.



Providing learning opportunities to local elementary school kids



Customer Meeting

Next Steps

Establish a model for addressing local issues through a company’s core business

In many ways, the SDGs have had a positive impact on Taiyo Jyuken's business.

Internally, by setting a goal for 2030, we have clearly outlined what we should aim for in the future, and by sharing common goals with our employees, we have created a ground for employees to come together and move forward with their goals. In addition, by associating our work with the international goals of the SDGs, employees can recognize the value of their daily work, which will also lead to increased motivation. As such, the SDGs give employees more pride in their work and there are also words of appreciation from customers and encouragement from local people, which have been shared at the monthly customer meetings.

The SDGs gives Taiyo Jyuken as a company an opportunity to clearly recognize the direction it wants to take for, that is the company to contribute to the local well-being and sustainability with its core business. The 2030 targets of the company are one of the positive results brought by the attempt to integrate the SDGs into its business, and clear goal setting is expected to facilitate the vitality of the company's activities. Taiyo Jyuken implement and strengthen these activities to achieve its targets for 2030, i.e. the company will install solar power generation faci-

ties in more social welfare evacuation shelters and contribute to a more disaster-resilient community where no one left behind. The company will continue to offer job support to people with disabilities, to realise a society in which disabled people working at construction sites is not a special thing but a very normal scene. Since there are not many opportunities for people with disabilities to practice what they learned in their technical training, Taiyo Jyuken would like to provide capacity development opportunities for them by provision of an enjoyable place to practice what they learned. Contributing to the establishment of a regional energy company providing electricity generated from renewables is one future action for Taiyo Jyuken to pursue local production and consumption of energy.

Furthermore, by utilizing vacant houses, Taiyo Jyuken will further strengthen and expand partnerships with local people and organizations, and as a way to explore business opportunities. Taiyo Jyuken will continue to find ways to address local issues through its core business.

Finally, Taiyo Jyuken aims to build a model that balances "contribution to the core business and local communities", and to expand it to other small and medium-sized enterprises and organizations.



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