Achievements in Major Climate Change-Related Advocacy Activities

Nippon Steel Corporation

Date	Meetings / Presenters	Detailed Overview	
April 16, 2025	Green Innovation Project Subcommittee of the Industrial Structure Council Working Group on Energy Structure Conversion “Use of Hydrogen in the Steelmaking Process” [Tadashi Imai, Representative Director, President and COO]	In the working group sponsored by the METI, President Imai reported on the progress of the Green Innovation Fund Support Project "Use of Hydrogen in the Steelmaking Process." In reporting, he introduced the "completion and commencement of a test electric furnace at the Hasaki R&D Center" and "achievement of 43% CO2 emissions reduction by hydrogen reduction in a test blast furnace" concerning technology development, and the "issuance of worldsteel guideline ver. 1 based on the Japan Iron and Steel Federation’s Guidelines for Green Steel for GX (November 2024)" and "proposal of comprehensive public-private measures for creating the market for green steel for GX at a session of the Study Group on Green Steel for Green Transformation” concerning the creation of the market for green steel for GX. https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/sankoshin/green_innovation/energy_structure/pdf/028_05_00.pdf [available only in Japanese]	Government GX policy Creation of the GX product market
March 13, 2025	Nippon Steel’s Briefing Session "Nippon Steel's Green Transformation (GX) Initiatives" [Eiji Orihashi, Managing Executive Officer, and Shigeaki Tanaka, Executive Officer]	NSC’s executives explained the progress and challenges of its Carbon Neutral Vision to institutional investors, financial institutions, analysts, environmental protection groups, and the media. They specifically explained 1) the necessity of “a multi-pathway approach through the development and implementation of breakthrough decarbonized technologies” and “the development of social infrastructure such as a supply scheme for huge quantities of cost-effective hydrogen and decarbonized energy” concerning technology development and implementation, and 2) the necessity of “adoption and standardization of green steel for Green Transformation (GX steel)” and “predictability of investment recovery” concerning the creation of the market for GX steel. They also asked the participants for their cooperation toward the creation of the market. NSC’s engagement with society and its basic stance toward solving these issues were also explained. https://www.nipponsteel.com/en/ir/library/pdf/20250313_100.pdf	Government GX policy Creation of the GX product market
March 5, 2025	Presentation at Renewable Energy Institute’s International Symposium "REvision 2025: The Great Decarbonization Competition and Renewable Energy" [Hitoshi Dohnomae, General Manager, Environmental Planning Division]	In the symposium, after explaining efforts to reduce CO2 emissions in the blast furnace process, General Manager Dohnomae explained that, as discussed at the METI’s “Study Group on Green Steel for Green Transformation (GX steel)”, GX steel is important to promote GX during the transition period, and that priority procurement and purchasing support by the government are necessary to expand demand for GX steel. He also explained that matters needed as basic policy for expanding demand for GX steel include 1) to work on expanding demand from an early stage to boost GX investment, 2) to reflect the actual GHG emissions reduction in the CFP (carbon footprint of products) according to international standards and rules, and 3) to promote support measures for stimulating demand for GX steel for the supply and demand sides. https://www.renewable-ei.org/pdfdownload/activities/S3-3_HitoshiDohnomae_NipponSteel_250305.pdf	Creation of the GX product market
November 19, 2024	Presented and participated as a panelist at the COP29 Japan Pavilion during the Japan Iron and Steel Federation-hosted side event “Pathways toward steel decarbonization.” <Hitoshi Dohnomae , General Manager, Environmental Planning Div.>	As a panelist, General Manager Dohnomae explained that the steel industry is pursuing decarbonization through hydrogen-based reduction and the adoption of EAFs and that, given the considerable time and significant costs involved in this transition, green steel certified through a chain of custody is essential for delivering green products to customers as quickly as possible. Additionally, he explained that the Japanese government has pledged support for these efforts, and emphasized the necessity of establishing international regulations to facilitate GX product market formation. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=540nSw0RC8w [available only in Japanese]	Creation of the GX product market
November 7, 2024	Presentation delivered at the Study Group on Green Steel for Green Transformation (GX), hosted by METI <Eiji Orihashi, Managing Executive Officer, Head of Green Transformation Development>	In the presentation, Managing Executive Officer Orihashi explained the necessity of reducing CO_2 emissions from blast furnaces and approaches for mitigating or transitioning from the reduction process were discussed and then emphasized that the transition to GX technologies requires substantial capital investment and increased operational costs, and that the formation of a GX-transformed green steel market is essential to ensure investment predictability. Furthermore, he explained that key challenges for creating a GX product market include establishing evaluation indices for CO_2 reduction achievements and developing international standards for GX-transformed green steel using the steel mass balance approach. https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/mono_info_service/green_steel/002.html [available only in Japanese]	Creation of the GX product market
October 15, 2024	Participation in the GGX Finance Summit, hosted by METI and co-hosted by WBCSD, TCFD Consortium, and GX Acceleration Agency Session 1： Expanding the GX Market - Participation as a panelist <Hitoshi Dohnomae, General Manager, Environmental Planning Div.>	To expand the GX market, which is essential for industrial decarbonization, it is crucial that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the manufacturing process are reflected in product value. In this context, the participants confirmed the current status of international debates on green procurement and held discussions on the selection of appropriate indicators for quantifying emissions reductions. We, as a panelist, explained the necessity of using “actual reduction volume” as an indicator was explained, along with considerations for international deployment and examples of its application in the steel industry. https://ggxf-summit.go.jp/programEn.html	Creation of the GX product market
July 23, 2024	Statement made as a committee member at the Strategic Policy Committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy <Eiji Hashimoto, Representative Director, Chairman and CEO>	Chairman Hashimoto referred to the two fundamental premises: first, power demand is increasing; second, the transition from thermal power to green power—comprising both renewable energy and nuclear power—is subject to temporal constraints, and stated that, regarding renewable energy, Japan’s natural conditions and geographical disadvantages impose significant cost constraints and that at present, both solar and wind power installations entirely rely on foreign materials and equipment. Consequently, he argued that while expanding renewable energy, it is necessary to simultaneously promote domestic production and assess economic feasibility and that this must be pursued pragmatically while adhering to the fundamental principles of S+3E and national security. https://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/en/committee/council/basic_policy_subcommittee/	Energy policy

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July 8, 2024	Statement made as a committee member at the Strategic Policy Committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy <Eiji Hashimoto, Representative Director, Chairman and CEO>	Chairman Hashimoto made the following statement. A robust supply system for green power is indispensable to achieving a carbon-neutral (CN) society in Japan while maintaining international and industrial competitiveness in the CN era. We also noted that given the clear shift toward increasing power demand, it is imperative to swiftly implement concrete measures and that, considering that major countries have already introduced new policies based on the assumption of a significant rise in power demand, falling behind in this regard would jeopardize Japan's industrial base and, ultimately, the livelihoods of its citizens, adding that this sense of urgency must be acknowledged. He explained that the fundamental conditions for a robust power supply system must include S+3E as well as national security and that from a national security perspective, the power supply system must meet the following three essential requirements: - domestic capability to manufacture equipment independently; - possession of operational technologies; - reduction of reliance on overseas sources for fuel procurement. He then argued that, given the fact that the primary approach should be the transition to renewable energy, but Japan faces exceptionally challenging natural conditions for renewable energy, and given the high dependence on overseas procurement for equipment and materials, pursuing economic viability solely through renewable energy expansion is impractical. Therefore, he asserted that while expanding renewable energy and maximizing economic efficiency, it is necessary to urgently promote the safe utilization of nuclear technology that meets the fundamental security conditions. Furthermore, based on the experience gained from the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant, he stated that it was confirmed that comprehensive safety measures, both in terms of software and hardware, have been fully implemented, which underscores the inherent safety of nuclear power plants. https://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/committee/council/basic_policy_subcommittee/index.html	Energy policy
May 15, 2024	Statement made as a committee member at the Strategic Policy Committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy <Eiji Hashimoto, Representative Director, Chairman and CEO>	Chairman Hashimoto made the following statement. Decarbonization is a shared global necessity and the decisive factor lies in technological development capabilities for both processes and products, making this the final significant opportunity for Japan's economic revival. Seizing this opportunity depends on whether the outcomes of research and development can successfully translate into full-scale domestic implementation and capital investments. He noted that, while the private sector is the primary driver of implementation, the development of essential infrastructure for decarbonization—such as green power and green hydrogen—should be government-led, and in this context, he welcomed the government's new policy direction of assuming a more proactive role in the formulation and execution of industrial policies. In the steel industry, the transition to electric arc furnaces (EAFs) is one pathway to achieving decarbonization, but it is contingent on a stable supply of green power. Similarly, hydrogen reduction steelmaking depends on the reliable supply of hydrogen produced through electrolysis powered by green power. Of these two strategies, the transition to EAFs is prioritized for implementation by 2030. After explaining this, he asserted that, given that several years are required from the construction to the commissioning of such facilities, it is imperative to make substantial investment decisions no later than the end of the year. To enhance predictability in discussions for the 7th Strategic Energy Plan, he proposed addressing the following three key themes: - projections of future supply and demand; - a proper evaluation of each power source, accurately reflecting the comprehensive functions required of electric power, rather than assuming renewable energy as the sole solution; - identification of realistic transition strategies and associated challenges. This is not a special request but simply a reaffirmation of the fundamental principle of S+3E—seeking a viable approach to power generation and decarbonized power systems based on reality and data. He requested the following measures based on the premise of a stable supply of green power: - verification of the economic viability of renewable energy expansion; - safe utilization and expansion of nuclear technology, including new construction and replacements; - long-term reactivation of existing nuclear power plants as a transitional measure; - construction of high-efficiency thermal power plants that contribute to CO_2 reduction. https://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/en/committee/council/basic_policy_subcommittee/	Government GX policy Energy policy
December 4, 2023	Compilation of a report by the GX League's "Working Group on Adding Value to Green Products"	NSC participated in the Working Group on Adding Value to Green Products and contributed to drafting the Green Candidate Product Use Cases. The findings on the green value of products and services were compiled and published as the final report. The report provides a cross-industry perspective on organizing concepts related to green value and offers recommendations for future market development. https://gx-league.go.jp/news/2023120401/ [available only in Japanese]	Creation of the GX product market
June 28, 2023	Statement made as a committee member at the Strategic Policy Committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy <Eiji Hashimoto, Representative Director and President>	President Hashimoto made the following statement. While Europe optimizes its energy mix as a whole rather than on a country-by-country basis, Japan cannot integrate its power grid with neighboring countries as Europe does and must formulate its energy strategy independently, and therefore it is self-evident that Japan faces less favorable cost conditions when developing renewable energy infrastructure. Therefore, while self-sufficient power sources include hydropower and geothermal energy, concrete measures—including the construction of new nuclear power plants—are necessary. He added that large-scale investment in plant and equipment for decarbonization will only become financially viable through increased production and added value, and stated that for capital expenditures (CAPEX), the government must share costs with the private sector and that for operational expenditures (OPEX), the government must establish a supply system for electric power and hydrogen that ensures international competitiveness without disadvantaging domestic industries. Unless clear and specific policies on CAPEX and OPEX are established, he stressed, investments in domestic plant and equipment are unlikely to materialize. Accordingly, he urged that such investments be positioned as part of a national strategy involving both public and private sectors. https://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/committee/council/basic_policy_subcommittee/index.html	Energy policy Government GX policy
February 14, 2023	Participation as a panelist in the GX League Symposium 2023, organized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). <Eiji Hashimoto, Representative Director and President>	President Hashimoto participated as a panelist at the GX League Symposium, which promotes initiatives such as the GX Emissions Trading System (GX-ETS). He explained that the GX League aims to advance carbon pricing mechanisms that foster economic growth, as carbon pricing that stifles research and development could undermine the nation's long-term interests. He stressed that for GX to be genuinely integrated into Japanese society, public understanding and behavioral changes are essential and that public acceptance of cost increases associated with new technologies is also necessary. He argued that broad corporate participation in the GX League and a deeper understanding among companies would ultimately lead to greater public awareness and acceptance. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsQHtLACrUg [available only in Japanese]	Carbon pricing

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May 17, 2022	Publication of the Keidanren proposal “Towards Green Transformation (GX)”	Keidanren where Chairman Hashimoto serves as Vice Chairman proposed that discussions on the “cap-and-trade emissions trading system”—which requires careful consideration within the context of carbon pricing under the “GX Policy Package” for achieving carbon neutrality (CN) by 2050—should commence immediately. https://www.keidanren.or.jp/journal/times/2022/0428_01.html https://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/2022/043_point.pdf	Carbon pricing
February 21, 2022	Presentation delivered at the Manufacturing Industry Subcommittee of the Industrial Structure Council <Eiji Hashimoto, Representative Director and President>	President Hashimoto explained the need for a Japanese-specific policy package, including the expansion of research and development support (such as the GI Fund), comprehensive assistance across all stages from R&D to facility implementation for decarbonization, and support for increased operational costs associated with hydrogen, electric power, and raw materials. https://www.meti.go.jp/shingikai/sankoshin/seizo_sangyo/011.html [available only in Japanese]	Government GX policy
November 17, 2020	Statement made as a committee member at the Strategic Policy Committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy <Eiji Hashimoto, Representative Director and President>	President Hashimoto expressed support for the perspective that achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 should be regarded as a vision and a strategic direction for Japan to pursue. He pointed out that the target was extremely ambitious and could not be achieved with current technologies alone, and emphasized the importance of setting an ambitious vision to accelerate efforts. He highlighted that regarding renewable energy, the most important issue was whether it could be established as a primary power source while maintaining the 3E+S principles (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, Environment, and Safety). He stressed the necessity of expanding offshore wind power generation as a key option for future energy supply and requested the development of policies to promote domestically produced offshore wind power. https://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/en/committee/council/basic_policy_subcommittee/	Government GX policy Energy policy