EXCELLENCE AWARD
[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to fulfilling
the public beneficial functions of forests

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

Implementing forest management by zoning
Contributing to the promotion for reforestation throughout the country

CO_2 absorption

3,415 t-CO_2 per year

Main Management Items

Thinning: 121 ha
Sugi / hinoki
Age-class 3 to 19

Planting and weeding: 750 ha
Sugi / hinoki
Age-class 1 to 2

Management of company-owned forests nationwide

The company's origins can be traced back to "management of forests surrounding the copper mine.“ Over 300 years ago, "House of Sumitomo“ opened Besshi Copper Mine (Niihama City, Ehime Prefecture). They had began collecting timber from the forests, which had been essential as fuel for copper smelting.
As copper mining activities progressed, the surrounding forests were in serious situations of being devastated by cutting own of trees and the emission of sulfurous gas from copper smelting. At this time, the company carried out Great Afforestation Plan with the Spirit of "Kokudo Ho'on" (gratitude for nature's resources). The rich forests of the mountains have been restored today.
Currently, the company owns about 48,000 hectares of forests, about 1/800th of Japan's land area, in four locations: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. The wide-ranging company-owned forests are appropriately managed based on the basic philosophy of "sustainable forestry"

(, in which new trees are planted to replace harvested timber).

Implementing "sustainable forestry"

The basic philosophy of "sustainable forestry" has been passed down to present-day management of company-owned forests. In order to maintain the public beneficial functions of forests, the company has obtained SGEC Forest Certification (see P.5), and has zoned their forests into “working forests", which emphasize wood production, and “conservation forests", which emphasize environmental conservation.
In "working forests," it is stipulated that, based on the company's original "Riparian Forest Management Manual," the area within approximately 15 meters of the water's edge should be protected as a riparian forest management area, and that when adjacent forests are clear-cut, the remaining forests should be cut after confirming that the trees replanted in the previously cut area have taken root. The company conducts forest management with consideration for preventing interference

Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.
- Representative Name: Toshiro Mitsuyoshi, Representative Director, President, and Executive Officer
- Address: 1-3-2, Otemachi, Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo
- Business activities: Environment & Resources Business (including management of company-owned forests), Timber & Building Materials Business, Overseas Housing and Real Estate Business, Housing and Construction Business, Lifestyle Services Business

Click here!
winner’s website

Winner's Comment

I am very honored that our efforts based on the basic philosophy of "sustainable forestry" passed down by our predecessors has been highly regarded. The "sustainable forestry" philosophy also leads to the realization of a decarbonized society, such as through the improved carbon-absorption ability of forests and carbon fixation by using logged wood. We will continue making efforts to promote reforestation throughout the country through sapling business and other activities, while maintaining appropriate forest management.

General Manager, Forest Department, Environment & Resources Division
Kenji Terazawa

with the public beneficial functions of forests as much as possible. In "conservation forests," the company promotes forest management through appropriate thinning and other measures to maintain functions such as water source conservation and prevention of sediment loss.
In addition, the company strives to maintain biodiversity in company-owned forests by preparing a "Sumitomo Forestry Red Data List" for each region of the company-owned forests, distributing it to employees and workers and having them keep it on hand, and confirming the existence of rare species before starting operations.

Spread of technology produced in the company-owned forests

In order to maintain the public beneficial functions in areas where trees were harvested in "economic forests," secure future timber resources, and demonstrate its carbon absorption functions, it is important to revitalize the planted forest as quickly as possible. However, reducing the cost of reforestation and the burden of forestry labor are major hurdles to achieve this. To that end, the company is producing containerized seedlings that are fast-growing and help reduce reforestation costs, such as the "elite trees", as well as developing drones that carry seedlings, which is a large burden. In particular, the company provides a stable supply of high-quality seedlings not only to company-owned forests, but to forests around the country, contributing to the progression of nationwide reforestation.

Development and sales of forestry transportation drone "Morito"

Containerized seedlings (Japanese larch)

Sumitomo Forestry Company Group is engaged in business based on wood, from forest management to procurement and manufacture of wooden building materials, wood construction, and wood biomass power generation, both domestically and internationally. The "Sumitomo Forestry's WOOD CYCLE" of logging, processing, use, reuse, and reforestation provides unique " Sumitomo Forestry's wood solutions," and the company is working toward the realization of a decarbonized society.

Review by the Review Committee

As a large company, they are taking a leading role in many aspects, from regional efforts to technological development, and are systematically tackling the conservation of biodiversity. Biodiversity is attracting more attention worldwide recently, and we hope to see global initiatives.

Miyako Enokibori

■ What is the "elite trees"?

The "elite trees" are varieties for forestry with superior growth which were selected from varieties obtained by artificial hybridization between trees with good growth and wood quality. It is expected that planting the "elite trees" will reduce the number of weeding and the cost of reforestation.

■ What are containerized seedlings?

They are seedlings grown in a multi-cavity container, making the soil and roots form a "root clump." Because these seedlings can be expected to survive even when these are planted outside of optimal planting seasons (spring and fall), it's possible to introduce and spread an "integrated harvesting and planting system" in which harvesting and planting are performed consecutively.

EXCELLENCE AWARD
[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to fulfilling the public beneficial functions of forests

Pigeon Corporation

"Raising trees and raising children" Creating a forest for children

A boy plants a seedling for his new-born sister in a tree planting ceremony.

CO_2 absorption

40 t-CO_2 per year

Main Management Items

Thinning: 22 ha
Sugi / hinoki
Age-class 4 to 7

Planting and weeding: 7 ha
Broadleaf trees
Age-class 1 to 2

Planting trees for new-born babies

As a company that manufactures and sells childcare products, Pigeon started the "Newborn Baby Commemorative Tree-Planting Campaign" in 1986, in which many people share the excitement and joy of giving birth and raising babies, and contribute to the creation of forests in which the natural environment is permanently protected for the next generation of babies.

Parents with new-born babies can apply for this campaign, and they will receive a wooden "letter from the forest". Babies and their families who wish to participate in the event will be invited to plant trees in "Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori" in Ibaraki Prefecture. After the families plant trees, Miwa Wood Cooperative Association is entrusted to manage the forests: they weed the forests every year for several years after the planting and keep and maintain thereafter as the forest of all babies who applied for this campaign.

Over 200,000 babies in total have participated in the event, where people raise forests in a similar manner to how they raise children.

Rich forests that foster diverse animals

In the early days of the campaign, the company concluded a "Forests for Corporations" contact for national forests in Hitachinomiya City (formerly Miwa Village), Ibaraki Prefecture and started to plant sugi and hinoki.

They acquired forests in the city in 2007, and have been planting trees in Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori since. At the time of acquisition, the forest consisted of a single species of conifers, and the trees were ready for use as timber. Therefore, they harvested the trees for building materials and planted broadleaf tree seedlings on the area where the trees were harvested.

As the forests have become mixed forests of conifers and broadleaf trees, various kinds of vegetation have been generated by the formation of leaf mold.

Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Pigeon Corporation
- Representative Name: Norimasa Kitazawa, President and CEO
- Address: Nihonbashi Hisamatsu-cho 4-4, Chuo Ward, Tokyo
- Business: Manufacturing, sales, and import/export of child care, maternity, women care, home health care, and nursery products, and childcare services

Click here!

winner's website (in Japanese)

Winner's Comment

I am very honored that our forest management through the "Pigeon's Newborn Baby Commemorative Tree-Planting Campaign" has been highly evaluated. We have been planting trees since 1986, and in order to preserve a rich natural environment for the future of babies, we will contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society by continuing tree planting and managing the forest appropriately.

Director, Senior Managing Executive Officer
Tadashi Itakura

In order to achieve a biodiverse forest, Pigeon has arranged a biotope in Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori. Since starting this initiative, various creatures such as frogs, loaches, mayflies, and fireflies have appeared in the forest. As the company has developed the forest and made the ecosystem richer, you can see birds that were not able to seen before, such as gray wagtails and butcherbirds, so it's safe to say that the forest management has conserved biodiversity.
The company has repeatedly conducted research on the forest with specialists in order to plan a long-term management for Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori.

Connecting people and forests

In addition to participating in the tree planting ceremony, the families that participated in the campaign visit Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori to see how the trees they planted have grown at important points in their child's life. The company built a log house called "Sukusuku House" in the forest. Inside, there is a list of tree planters' names and messages from parents to children.

People from Miwa Wood Cooperative Association (at a tree-planting ceremony)

Tree planters' names and messages in Sukusuku House

The family that visited the forest can look back on the time they planted trees, and Pigeon Miwa-no-Mori and the families have been connected for many years.
As urban residents visit the forest through these efforts, they can interact with the natural environment and realize about how getting in touch with nature is important and how forest management is meaningful and important.

Review by the Review Committee

By connecting the birth of babies and tree planting, the company effectively makes children realize how important forests are.
We also appreciated the fact that they have conserved biodiversity by creating diverse forests through planting trees, and that the concrete effects of these efforts are being demonstrated.

Yoshitsugu Minagawa

■ What is Forests for Corporations?
This system allows companies to use profit-sharing forest systems to manage forests as a place for social contribution, employee education, and interaction with customers.

Click here!

Visit the Forestry Agency website (in Japanese) for more information.

EXCELLENCE AWARD
[Forestry Agency Director-General Award]

Contribution to fulfilling the public beneficial functions of forests

Nissay Green Foundation

Forest management with an emphasis on public beneficial functions together with forestry workers and volunteers

Volunteers thins out Nissay Kumamoto Forest

CO_2 absorption

147 t-CO_2 per year

Main Management Items

Thinning: 25 ha
Sugi / hinoki
Age-class 4 to 6

Planting and weeding: 11 ha
Todomatsu (*Abies sachalinensis*) / Karamatsu (Japanese Larch)
Age-class 1

39,000 participated in tree planting and raising

Nissay Green Foundation was established in July 1993 with the aim to "protect and nurture the greenery, and thereby contribute to the extensive environment conservation".
Back before the foundation was established, Nippon Life Insurance Company consumed a lot of paper and was interested in conservation and regrowth of forest resources. In order to plant trees and raise forest resources that match the amount of paper it uses, the company started a campaign aiming to plant one million trees in "Nissay Forests" in 1992, for which Nissay concluded agreements and contracts on forest management with forest owners and forestry workers. In line with this, the company established the foundation. As a result of continuing to plant 100,000 trees each year, the company achieved one million trees planted in 2002.

As part of Nissay's project to manage forests for the future, the foundation has conducted weeding, cutting of branches, and thinning, as well as planting trees since 2003 so that the seedlings the foundation planted can grow better. So far, the foundation has planted 1.38 million trees in approx. 204 locations (471.2 ha) in Japan, and approx. 39,000 volunteers participated in Nissay's forest management programs (as of March 2022).

To create a sound forest

Of the 204 Nissay Forests in Japan, 190 are national forests for which the foundation has concluded a "Forests for Corporations" contract with the government (See P.21 for details). By using the system, the company is working on the management of a variety of forests in national forests throughout Japan, not only with conifers, but also with broadleaf trees.

Overview of Award Winner

- Company name: Nissay Green Foundation
- Representative Name: Ichiro Shimizu, Chief director
- Address: Toranomon NN Building 8F, 1-21-17 Toranomon, Minato Ward, Tokyo
- Business: Operates "Forest Development Project" and "Projects for Developing Forest-loving People" in "Nissay Forests"

Click here!

winner's website (in Japanese)

Winner's Comment

Thank you very much for choosing us for the "Excellence Award [Forestry Agency Director-General's Award]". I would like to thank many people who have been working with us for many years, including District Forest Offices, forestry workers, and volunteers. We will continue to work to ensure that our activities contribute further to the environment.

Chief Director
Ichiro Shimizu

Every year the foundation receives an "Environmental Contribution Evaluation", which a Regional Forest Office (which manages national forests) has conducted since 2003 for companies who have concluded "Forests for Corporations" contracts. The forests the foundation has managed nationwide have been reported to have stored 1,703 t-CO2 and stored and purified rainwater equivalent to 120,760,000 two-liter plastic bottles for a single year in 2020. The foundation is widely spreading the information through its website and other locations and trying hard to make the results and significance of its forest management activities known to people.

Hands-on experience (ESD: Learn from forests)

Original guidebooks of trees in the school

Making forests' public beneficial functions known to people

The foundation holds events for all ages, including forest experience workshop and nature observations in Nissay Forests, as well as forest management activities. The foundation also holds workshops for students on summer vacation for their independent research or wood handcrafts using thinned wood from Nissay Forests, and donate original guidebooks of trees in the school and plates with tree names for schools. In addition, the foundation started online environmental classes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
Through these efforts, the foundation has been able to communicate the public beneficial functions and attraction of forests in an easy-to-understand manner, and increase people's interest in and understanding of forests.

Review by the Review Committee

I express my deep respect for the foundation's forest activities that have continued from the start of the forest management by the foundation.
We highly valued its efforts in the circulation cycle of forests, including silviculture and thinning, as well as planting. We hope the foundation will convey the value and charm of forests to more people.

Toru Kodera

■ What is "Environmental Contribution Evaluation" of Forests for Corporations?

This is an initiative in which the Regional Forest Office takes into account forests for which a company concluded a "Forests for Corporations" agreement, and numerically expresses the forests' contribution to CO_2 storage, water resource conservation, and mountain conservation and tells the company the result upon the company's request, so that the company can explain their contribution to environmental conservation in their environment reports and other documents.

List of Green Partner 2022

Applicants for the "Forests × Decarbonization Challenge 2022" will be listed on the Forestry Agency website as "Green Partner 2022" which contributes to decarbonization through forest management, along with their CO_2 absorption amount and other relevant data. Green Partners 2022 can use the "Green Partner 2022 Mark" to promote their forest management efforts.

Green partner 2022 mark

CO_2 absorption amount refers to "Annual CO_2 absorption amount by forests managed between 2021 and 2022", which was submitted by each applicant.

Company/organization name	Prefecture	CO_2 absorption (t-CO_2 / year)	How to calculate CO_2 absorption
Akamatsu Kaseikougyou Co.,Ltd.	Tokushima	12	B
"Iida no Mori wo Sodateru Kai" of Iida Region Youth Development Liaison Council	Kumamoto	4	C
Asahi Group Japan, Ltd.	Tokyo	816	A-a-1
Ajinomoto AGF, Inc.	Tokyo	6	A-a-1
Arakawa Chemical Industries, Ltd.	Osaka	6	B
Imari Mokuzai	Saga	23	A-a-1
Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd.	Hyogo	7	A-a-1
NPO Environmental Relations	Tokyo	100	A-a-1
Kyudai Rinsan	Oita	1,303	A-a-1
Construction Management Shikoku Co., Ltd.	Kagawa	81	B
Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan Inc.	Tokyo	42	A-a-1
KOKUYO Co., Ltd.	Osaka	842	B
Koshii & Co., Ltd.	Osaka	346	A-a-1
The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd.	Shimane	41	B
Sanden Corporation	Gunma	9	B
JX Nippon Mining & Metals Corporation	Tokyo	9	B
Shigasato Moriei Co., Ltd.	Kyoto	135	A-a-1
Shikoku Create Association	Kagawa	32	B
Shimizu Corporation	Tokyo	3	A-c
Shimizu Seiko Co., Ltd.	Osaka	12	B
Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	3,415	A-a-1
Tanji Satoyama Preservation Association	Hyogo	8	A-a-1
The Chugoku Bank, LTD.	Okayama	15	B
TSUMURA & CO.	Tokyo	31	B
Tokyu Resorts & Stays Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	17	A-a-1
TOKYO WOOD Co., LTD.	Tokyo	42	A-a-1
TEPCO Renewable Power, Incorporated	Tokyo	49	A-a-2
Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo	Tokyo	27	B
Toyota Boshoku Shiga	Shiga	11	B

Company/organization name	Prefecture	CO_2 absorption (t-CO_2 / year)	How to calculate CO_2 absorption
Nice Corporation	Kanagawa	85	A-b
Nakagawa Co., Ltd.	Wakayama	8	A-a-2
Nakabayashi Co.,Ltd.	Osaka	28	B
Nissay Green Foundation	Tokyo	147	C
Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	364	A-a-1
Nihon Forest Co., Ltd.	Oita	34	A-a-1
Higashi Shirakawa Village Forest Owners' Cooperatives	Gifu	187	A-a-1
higomokuzai inc.	Kumamoto	631	A-a-1
Pigeon Corporation	Tokyo	40	A-a-1
Hitachi Metals, Ltd., Yasugi Works	Shimane	11	B
Hiranogumi Co., Ltd.	Iwate	15	A-a-1
Hiramatsu Ward Forest Association	Hyogo	21	A-a-1
FUJIFILM BI Yamagata Corp.	Yamagata	13	B
VENICHU CO., LTD.	Osaka	3	B
Hokuetsu Corporation	Tokyo	433	A-a-1
Ikeda Town, Hokkaido	Hokkaido	10	A-a-1
Hokkaido Electric Engineering Co., Ltd.	Hokkaido	14	C
Sumitomo Mitsui Card Co., Ltd	Tokyo	218	A-a-1
Mitsubishi Motors Corporation	Tokyo	13	B
Miyoshi Sangyo Co., Ltd.	Kagoshima	1,904	A-a-1
MORIYA CO., LTD.	Miyagi	17	A-a-1
Yachi Ringyo Co., Ltd.	Iwate	123	A-a-1
The Yamagata Bank, Ltd.	Yamagata	342	B
Yuasa Lumber Co., Ltd.	Tokyo	22	A-a-1
Yukiguni Maitake Co., Ltd.	Niigata	5	A-a-1
Watarai Electrical Construction Co., Ltd.	Yamagata	58	B

[How to calculate CO_2 absorption]

Each applicant selected how to calculate CO_2 absorption from the following choices.

- **A** **Calculation method based on "Calculation Method for Carbon Dioxide Absorption by Forest" (3Rinseiki No. 60 Notice by Director-General of Forestry Agency on December 27, 2021)**
  - **a** **Method for calculating the amount of CO_2 absorbed by forests per year**
    - **1** **Simple method**
    - **2** Detailed method
  - **b** Method for calculating the additional amount of CO_2 absorbed by forests as a result of reforestation and growth
  - **c** Method for calculating soil carbon (in CO_2 equivalent) retained by forest growth
- **B** Calculation method based on the certification system for CO_2 absorption by some prefectures
- **C** Calculation method based on the environmental contribution rating of "Forests for Corporations" in national forests

Q. How much CO_2 do the forests we manage absorb?
Q. How much do we need to manage forests to obtain an absorption amount that matches the CO_2 we emit in our business operations?

Why not calculate it?
Here is all you need:
- ✓ **Location of forest** (Prefecture)
- ✓ **Forest area**
- ✓ **Tree species (such as sugi, hinoki, karamatsu, etc.)**
- ✓ **Forest age**

＼ Click here! ／

Visit the Forestry Agency website (in Japanese) for more information.

Created by: Forest × Decarbonization Challenge Secretariat (Planning Division, Forestry Agency)
Published: June 22, 2022
Website: https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/kikaku/forest_co2_challenge.html
The content of this report is based on information that was available in June 2022.