

Press Release Chiba University of Commerce

**Chiba University of Commerce becomes Japan's first "RE 100% university"!
101.0% of its electricity consumed over the past year was generated by natural energy.**



Chiba University of Commerce (President: Dr. Sachihiko Harashina) announces that it has **achieved one of the goals set in 2017—to make CUC the first "RE 100 university" in Japan in 2018—as the power it generated by natural energy over the year, from February 2018 to January 2019, reached 101.0%***. This means the electricity consumed on its Ichikawa campus was offset by the power generated at its Noda mega solar power plant and others.

*calculated by dividing the power generated by the electricity consumed, omitting the second decimal place.

CUC's environmental goals

Achieved

【Goal 1, by 2018】 Make CUC the 1st "RE100 University (of electricity)" in Japan.

· offset the electricity consumed in Ichikawa campus by the power produced from its mega solar

【Goal 2, by 2020】 Make CUC the 1st "RE100 University (of final energy consumption)" in Japan.

· offset the total energy consumed in Ichikawa campus by renewables produced from CUC facilities

RE100 announced by corporations means using 100% renewable energy for the company's own electricity consumption. "RE100 university" is its university version, and CUC is Japan's first university to attempt it.

To contribute to environmental preservation to combat global warming, CUC is aiming to become Japan's first "100% natural energy university." This "natural energy university" refers to a university which generates by natural energy the power equivalent to all the electricity it consumes.

CUC built a mega solar farm on its land in Noda City, Chiba Prefecture, the largest one in Japan as a single university and started a "solar power generation project" in April 2014, selling the generated electricity to TEPCO. The system consists of 11,642 panels with a capacity of approximately 2.88MW in a space of 46,781m², producing approximately 3150 MWh in 2017, which is equivalent to supplying power to approximately 800 households.*

*assuming the annual consumption of a household is 4MWh.

To achieve these environmental goals, CUC is promoting a university-wide scheme based on the three initiatives of hardware, software, and heartware, involving its faculty, staff, students, and CUC Energy Inc., a regional energy company established by CUC. This scheme is firmly rooted on CUC's past activities to tackle global warming. In the one year since setting the environmental goals, CUC has achieved the following:

In "hardware," it installed additional panels at the Noda solar plant and changed the lights on its Ichikawa campus to LED.

In "software," it introduced an energy management system, or EMS, to make the campus energy consumption visual.

In "heartware," which is raising environmental awareness leading to concrete action, a student organization for natural energy, or SONE, was established to work with the university towards becoming Japan's first "100% natural energy university." SONE students regularly carry out energy patrol, checking lights and air-conditioning not turned off in unused classrooms, stage events such as "uchimizu," cooling down by sprinkling water on the ground, to promote energy awareness, and reduce energy consumption by installing a "green curtain," planting plants near windows to shield excessive sunlight.

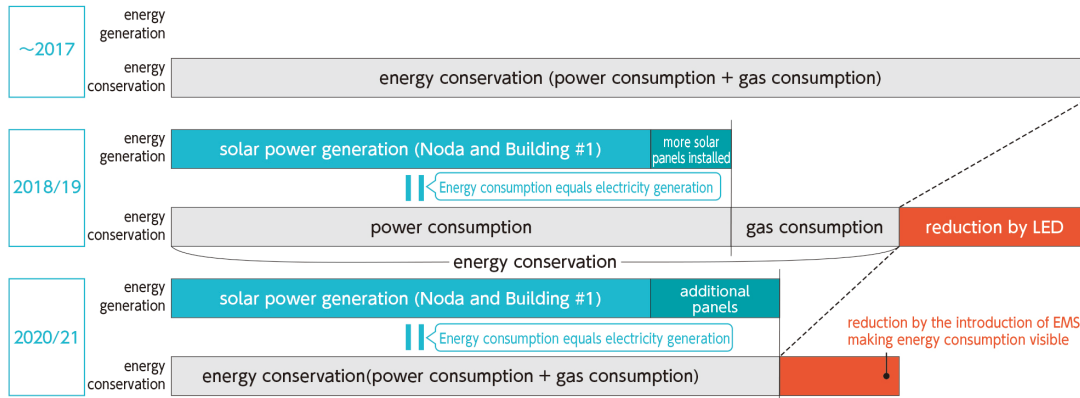
As a result of these efforts, CUC became the first educational institution in Japan to have its declaration and action plan registered on the global initiative "100% renewable energy platform" operated by CAN-Japan. (February 27, 2019)

CUC will continue to work towards its goal of making CUC, by 2020, the first "RE 100 University (of final energy consumption)" in Japan—meaning all energy, including gas—by installing additional solar panels on the roof for in-house consumption, and starting solar-sharing experiments on campus. We are also calling on nearby schools and universities to use our system as a model to become RE100 themselves. The Great East Japan Earthquake taught us the risk of depending on large-scale centralized power generation and the need to shift to small-scale decentralized power generation and distribution. We think it is important for educational institutions and small-to-medium businesses to tackle this issue by setting their own goals and trying to "generate all the energy they consume." This is the way to transform our society to a sustainable decentralized energy society.

To make Japan a 100% renewable energy society, we think it is important to take the first step, however small. As well as educating its students, CUC will promote research on many fronts and carry out other concrete activities to find out how best to distribute renewable energy by using its "power of commerce."

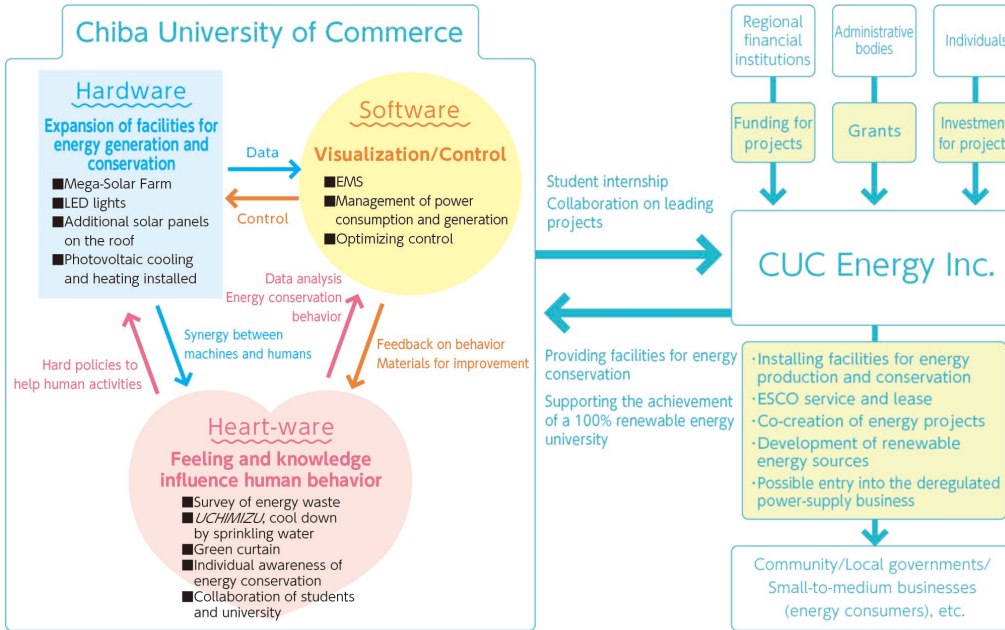
With the faculty, staff, and students working together as one, CUC will continue to tackle this challenge, which falls under SDG 7, 12, and 13, as a social responsibility of a university nurturing the next generation as well as a contribution to solving one of the problems facing the world.

Process for achieving these goals



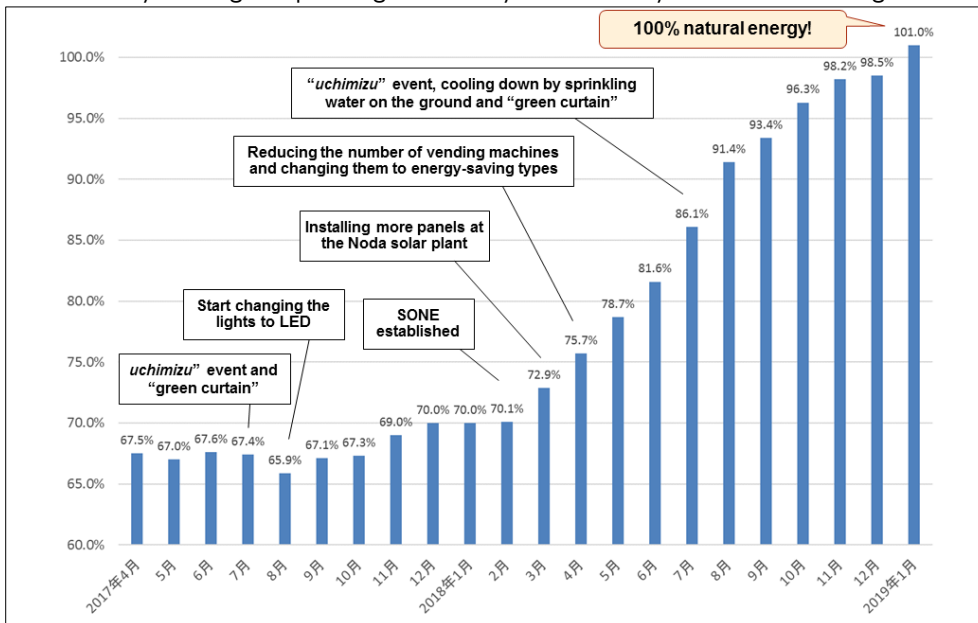
In Japan, the fiscal year is from April to March the following year.

University-wide scheme for achieving these goals



How CUC achieved 100% natural energy*

*calculated by dividing the power generated by the electricity consumed, omitting the second decimal place.



[Inquiry and Contact] E-mail: p-info@cuc.ac.jp