

# Act on the Promotion of Environmental Conservation Activities through Environmental Education (Environmental Education Promotion Act)



Promulgated and enacted in 2003 and amended in 2011 (both as legislation introduced by members of the Diet)

Jointly administered by five ministries: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; and the Ministry of the Environment

## ○ Purpose (Article 1 of the Act)

With the aim of **building a sustainable society**, the Act establishes basic principles concerning environmental conservation activities, the promotion of motivation for environmental conservation, environmental education, and collaborative efforts; clarifies the responsibilities of citizens, private organizations, etc., the State, and local governments; and provides for the formulation of basic policies and other necessary matters.

## ○ Basic Principles (Article 3 of the Act)

- The Act respects the voluntary intentions of citizens, private organizations, etc., and establishes that environmental conservation activities are to be carried out through mutual cooperation on an equal footing.
- The Act takes into account the importance of integrated development with the economy and society and the formation of a recycling-oriented society.
- The Act promotes, through hands-on learning activities, the cultivation of attitudes that respect life, cherish nature, and contribute to environmental conservation.
- The Act takes into account the preservation of the national land, harmony with industry, the stability of local residents' lives, and the inheritance of culture and history.

## ○ Formulation of Basic Policies (Article 7 of the Act)

**In June 2012, the Cabinet approved the basic policy concerning the promotion of environmental conservation activities, motivation for environmental conservation, environmental education, and collaborative efforts. This basic policy was amended in its entirety in June 2018 and again in May 2024.**

## Strengthening of the Foundations of Environmental Education, etc.

### ○ Designation of Support Organizations for Environmental Education, etc. (Article 10-2 of the Act)

The State designates non-profit organizations that support environmental education and other efforts by various entities as support organizations for environmental education, etc.

### ○ Registration of Human Resource Certification Services, etc. (Article 11 of the Act)

The State registers and makes public services conducted by private businesses, such as the training and certification of environmental education instructors and the development of teaching materials related to environmental education, etc.

## ○ Framework for the Promotion by Local Governments (Article 8 of the Act)

Creating an action plan for promoting environmental education and other efforts and establishing a regional council for the formulation of the plan.

## ○ Certification of Places Offering Hands-on Learning Experiences (Article 20 of the Act)

Prefectural governors certify, as meeting safety and other requirements, places offering opportunities for hands-on nature experiences, etc. provided by landowners, etc.

## ○ Framework for the Promotion of Collaborative Efforts (Articles 21-4, 21-5 of the Act)

Relevant entities, including administrative bodies, citizens, and private organizations etc., conclude agreements for **collaborative efforts** related to environmental conservation.



## ○ Responsibilities of Citizens, Private Organizations, etc., and Administrative Bodies (Articles 4 to 6 of the Act)

- Citizens, private organizations, etc.: Voluntarily implementing environmental education, etc. at home, in the workplace, in the community, etc.
- The State and local governments: Implementing measures related to environmental education, etc., in accordance with their respective roles, etc.

## ○ Enhancement of Environmental Education in School Education, etc. (Article 9 of the Act)

- Measures are implemented to provide information, develop teaching materials, and improve the quality of teaching staff, so that systematic environmental education can be conducted according to developmental stages.
- Measures are implemented to develop and utilize environmentally considerate school facilities (eco-schools).

## ○ Other

- Implementing environmental education, etc. for employees
- Ensuring consideration for student work experience, etc. in the workplace
- Awarding persons with outstanding achievements, etc.

**Supplementary Provisions: review to be conducted approximately five years after enforcement of the Act, etc.**

# 環境教育等による環境保全の取組の促進に関する法律（環境教育等促進法）

2003（平成15）年公布・施行、2011（平成23）年改正（公布・施行）（いずれも議員立法）

文部科学省、農林水産省、経済産業省、国土交通省、環境省の5省共管

## ○目的（法1条）

持続可能な社会の構築に向け、環境保全活動、環境保全の意欲の増進及び環境教育並びに協働取組について、基本理念を定め、国民、民間団体等、国、地方公共団体の責務を明らかにするとともに、基本方針の策定その他の必要な事項を規定。

## ○基本理念（法3条）

- 国民、民間団体等の自発的意思を尊重し、対等な立場で相互に協力して実施。
- 経済社会との統合的発展、循環型社会形成の重要性を考慮。
- 体験活動を通じて、生命を尊び、自然を大切に、環境保全に寄与する態度を醸成。
- 国土の保全、産業との調和、地域住民の生活の安定、文化・歴史の継承等に配慮。

## ○基本方針の策定（法7条）

平成24年6月「環境保全活動、環境保全の意欲の増進及び環境教育並びに協働取組の推進に関する基本的な方針」閣議決定。

## 環境教育等の基盤強化

### ○環境教育等支援団体の指定（法10条の2）

各主体による環境教育等の取組を支援する非営利団体を環境教育等支援団体として国が指定。

### ○人材認定等事業の登録（法11条）

民間事業者が行う環境教育等指導者の育成認定、環境教育等に関する教材の開発等の事業を、国が登録し、公示。

## ○地方自治体による推進枠組み（法8条）

環境教育等の取組推進の行動計画の作成と計画策定等に際しての地域協議会の設置。

## ○体験の機会の場の認定（法20条）

土地所有者等が提供する自然体験等の機会の場について、安全性等の要件を満たすことを都道府県知事が認定。

## ○協働取組推進のための枠組み（法21条の4,5）

行政機関及び国民、民間団体等の関係主体による、環境保全に係る協働取組の協定の締結。



## ○国民、民間団体等、行政機関の責務（法4条～6条）

- 国民、民間団体等：家庭、職場、地域等において環境教育等を自ら進んで実施。
- 国、地方公共団体：相互の役割分担の下、環境教育等に関する施策を実施。

## ○学校教育等における環境教育の充実（法9条）

- 発達段階に応じて、体系的な環境教育が行われるよう、情報の提供、教材の開発、教育職員の資質向上のための措置を実施。
- 環境を考慮した学校施設（エコスクール）の整備・活用。

## ○その他

- 雇用する者に対する環境教育等の実施
- 職場における学生の就業体験等への配慮
- 顕著な功績のある者に対する表彰 等

附則 法施行後5年を目途とした検討 等