

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Japan opens comment period for its Basic Policy for Promoting Decarbonization of Aviation

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Biofuels

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**Report Highlights:**

On October 4, 2022, Japan’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) invited public comments on the proposed Basic Policy for Promoting Decarbonization of Aviation. The proposed policy identifies Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) introduction as a key strategy for reducing CO2 emissions in Japan’s aviation sector.

## General Information

On June 10, 2022, Japan revised the [Civil Aeronautics Law](#) and related regulations. Based on Article 131-2-7 of the [revised Civil Aeronautics Law](#) (available in Japanese only), the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism must develop a Basic Policy to Promote Decarbonization in Aviation to set the policy direction for regulators and private sector.

On October 4, 2022, Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) [invited](#) public comments on the [draft Basic Policy for Promoting Decarbonization of Aviation](#) (in Japanese only).

The proposed Basic Policy establishes three targets for airlines:

- Stabilization of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (i.e., carbon-neutral growth) from international flights at Japanese fiscal year 2020 (JFY: April-March) levels<sup>1</sup>.
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per unit transport from domestic flights will be reduced by 16 percent by JFY 2030 compared to JFY 2013 levels.
- Both international and domestic flights will be carbon neutral by JFY 2050.

To achieve these targets, airlines must (i) introduce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)<sup>2</sup>, (ii) improve air traffic management and aircraft operations, and (iii) introduce innovative aviation technologies. MLIT's draft policy emphasizes the importance of (i) collaboration with SAF producers and distributors, (ii) availability of price competitive and reliable SAF in Japan, and (iii) proactive procurement of feedstock(s) for stable SAF production. The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), rather than MLIT, oversees SAF production (for details see [Japan's Biofuels Annual](#)).

Out of Japan's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in JFY 2019, 18.6 percent came from the transportation sector, with aviation contributing 5.1 percent<sup>3</sup>. Japan pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent by JFY 2030 compared to JFY 2013 levels and to become carbon neutral by JFY 2050. Reduction of emissions from Japan's aviation sector is an integral part of that plan.

In 2016, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) adopted a global market-based mechanism, the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), to address CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international aviation.

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<sup>1</sup> This target is in line with the International Air Transport Association's "carbon-neutral growth by 2020" goal (<https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/2009-releases/2009-06-08-03/#:~:text=The%20commitment%20to%20carbon%2Dneutral,in%20carbon%20emissions%20by%202050>).

<sup>2</sup> SAF is the aviation bio-kerosene (bio-jet fuel) that meets the sustainability criteria established by the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

<sup>3</sup> The JFY 2019 emission figures are the most recent publicly available emission figures, and MLIT references them in the proposed Basic Plan. The values only include CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from domestic, not international flights, and do not represent other greenhouse gases (e.g., methane and nitrous oxide).

**Comment Submission:**

MLIT will accept public comments on the proposed Basic Policy for Promoting Decarbonization of Aviation through November 4, 2022 (Japan standard time). MLIT will receive comments (in Japanese only) via:

- the [e-Gov](#) web form (click “意見入力へ”)
- [Email](mailto:hqt-kouku-datsutanso-pc@gxb.mlit.go.jp) sent to [hqt-kouku-datsutanso-pc@gxb.mlit.go.jp](mailto:hqt-kouku-datsutanso-pc@gxb.mlit.go.jp) (email attachments will not be accepted)
- [Mail](#) sent to 100-8918 2-1-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. To: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Civil Aviation Bureau, Aviation Network Department, Aviation Strategy Office.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.