While 2022 was a year of ground-breaking progress for the environment, it was also a year when tens of millions of people around the world faced the terror of extreme weather events and war, as well as the threat of the energy crisis and continuing pandemic. During such times, many of us questioned the way we live our lives: what should our priorities be? How should we work? How can we connect with our community?

During times like these, when the world is plagued by uncertainty and insecurity, we should strive for a future where the environment and life are protected, where the world is free from the nuclear threat and plastic pollution, a world without conflict or violence. These issues are all deeply interconnected.

Greenpeace Japan has strengthened its connection with one of Greenpeace’s largest regional offices, Greenpeace East Asia. We have always strived to, taking action on an international level in collaboration with other offices such as those in Beijing, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Seoul. The future that we envisage is always one that will bring positive change to people’s lives.

I am happy to be able to report that we had many successes in 2022.

As part of our plastics campaign, in a first for Japan, we revealed information about how many disposable cups major café chains are using. Our continued discussions with Starbucks, the chain responsible for the most disposable cups, finally came to fruition, with Starbucks announcing in early 2023 that it will introduce reusable glasses in 80% of its stores across Japan.

As part of our work in collaboration with local citizens to create structural change starting in rural areas, the “Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions”, of which Greenpeace is the secretariat, helped to bring about changes in the “Building Energy Conservation Act” meaning that, from 2025, all new buildings will now be required to have insulation. This is a big step forward for energy conservation in Japan.

Thus, positive changes for climate change are not only good for the environment, but also contribute to a better life for the people, and even represent positive progress for corporations and the government as well.

Greenpeace’s mission is to look 20 years, 30 years or even further into the future, and create the changes that we need now, for a future where children will be able to live in happiness.

Japan is host to many global corporations, and choices made by the Japanese government and companies are the focus of international attention. Even just a single decision for change would wield significant global influence and could create a synergistic effect that would change the world.

At Greenpeace, we leverage the experience, skills, technical knowledge, and connections that we have acquired over the past 50 years, and use these to initiate positive change for the people, by actively engaging with organisations that have the power to create structural change.

In order to remain independent, Greenpeace does not receive any financial support from governments or corporations. This is why we are able to conduct our environmental work completely independently and free from any political or corporate interference. Our future work cannot happen without the support of each and everyone of you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your strong support, and to commit to further strengthening our work in the future as an “NGO of Action” that stands on the frontline, promoting rigorous scientific solutions.

Please continue to stand with Greenpeace and to support our work to protect our beautiful planet and the precious lives that inhabit it.

Sam Annesley
Executive Director, Greenpeace Japan
2022 was a year when the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces reminded us once again that current energy security is dependent on fossil fuels. It was also a stark reminder of the great risk posed by nuclear power plants in the event of an emergency. Global climate disasters persisted, with temperatures in Tokyo at the end of June reaching the highest recorded in 147 years. At Greenpeace Japan we disseminated timely responses to current news events as we accelerated our efforts to combat climate change. We leveraged our global network to put more pressure on automakers, who are significant players in the transportation sector, which is responsible for 22% of CO2 emissions derived from energy sources. The "Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions", of which Greenpeace is the secretariat, helped to bring about changes in the “Building Energy Conservation Act” which make building insulation compulsory. In July, a team of Greenpeace scientists collaborated with the Ukrainian government to conduct a radiation survey around the Chornobyl (Chernobyl) nuclear power plant, which was temporarily occupied by the Russian military. The results of the survey were published globally.

As the urgency to decarbonise the transport sector continued to increase, the auto industry saw battery electric vehicles (BEV) make up 10% of all vehicle sales in 2022 globally, a 68% increase from 2021. Although they only made up 3% of sales in Japan, interest in the Japanese market is growing amongst international automakers, with Chinese electric vehicle maker BYD, and South Korea’s largest automaker Hyundai, both pursuing active EV strategies in Japan. Greenpeace promotes a shift to EVs both domestically in Japan and globally, in an attempt to accelerate climate crisis mitigation efforts.

One of our main actions this year was to take part in Toyota’s annual general meeting of shareholders held in Toyoda City in Aichi Prefecture. Greenpeace is a minimum shareholder of Toyota stock so that we can campaign for decarbonisation as a shareholder. We spoke with both journalists and Toyota officials about some of our concerns regarding Toyota’s current direction and lack of proactive action to decarbonise.

We also called on the Japanese government to extend its EV subsidy policy. We met with representatives of the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry and presented them with our 2022 Auto Environmental Guide and petition. We also made an appeal for the importance of this subsidy policy extension. In October 2022 Prime Minister Kishida announced that he would extend subsidies for the purchase of “environmental vehicles” (electric vehicles etc.). At Greenpeace, we will continue to work to make Japan’s largest manufacturing sector sustainable.
The Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions - working with the community to make local authorities carbon neutral

The “Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions”, a climate change focused activism community founded by Greenpeace Japan in September 2020, achieved many successes in 2022. The “Building Energy Conservation Law” will have a huge impact on the move to make insulation for homes compulsory. Insulation is extremely important for not only conserving energy but also for public health.

In January 2022, it became apparent that the submission to the Diet of an amendment to this law would likely be postponed. In response, the “Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions” collected petitions while also organising educational seminars for members of the media or locally elected diet members, as well as working with NGOs, other experts and the corporate sector on a wide variety of other initiatives. As a result, there was a turnaround in the decision and the amendment was submitted to the Diet and passed in June, making insulation mandatory for all new buildings as of 2025. This is a huge step forward, however Japanese insulation standards are still significantly lower than those of Europe and elsewhere, and Greenpeace will continue to work with citizens to improve insulation standards in Japan.

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it is important to expand the use of renewable energy, as well as conserve energy. At the municipal level, the installation of roof-mounted solar panels is a particularly effective way to achieve this. In May 2022, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government began soliciting public comments on a revised bill that included changes that would make solar panel installation mandatory for housebuilders. Entities and groups, including companies that would be affected by this revision, voiced their opposition to the bill at Tokyo’s Liberal Democratic Party members, and a series of questions were submitted at the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly in June calling for “caution”. In response, the “Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions” held various workshops, including a public comment writing workshop. The group publicised the fact that the solar panel installation mandate is an effective measure to mitigate the climate crisis, and called for the submission of public comments. As a result, the number of those in favour of the proposal exceeded those against it, thus supporting the Tokyo Metropolitan Government’s proposal of the mandate. The bill was passed and enacted in December 2022.

The “Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions” supports its members making it possible for them to take action, even if they are the only member in their local municipality. It is also exploring new ways for people to recruit members locally and build teams to take action together. The right to submit public comments and petition parliament are precious “citizens’ rights” that our predecessors worked hard to attain. The “Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions” takes action to mitigate the climate crisis by making sure that local residents’ opinions are properly reflected in local policy by reactivating and effectively using these mechanisms, many of which are not known about enough or have become mere formalities.

Members of ‘The Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions, Yokohama’. They’re lobbying Yokohama-city to raise their targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to over 68% by 2030 and to become a leading city for zero emission.

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Campaign Summary

03  Participating in the United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP27

2022 was also a year when Greenpeace Japan participated in Greenpeace's global work calling for international climate justice. Greenpeace Japan was happy to be able to send its own representative to participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27), held in Egypt, alongside Greenpeace colleagues from other countries. During the conference, Greenpeace representatives participated daily in discussions and negotiations with delegates from around the world. We amplified the voices of those who are already facing the effects of climate change, such as victims of the devastating floods in Pakistan. We also strongly urged the Japanese government to support the founding of a global “Loss and Damage Fund” and to phase out fossil fuels, something it has been particularly reluctant to commit to.

04  Stop the slapdash decommissioning plan - don’t pour contaminated water into the sea

In April 2021, then Prime Minister Suga announced a decision to release the contaminated water currently stored within the grounds of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean. Greenpeace has been conducting regular radiation surveys since the nuclear disaster occurred to scientifically demonstrate the risks posed by nuclear power from numerous perspectives and disseminate this information to the world. From 2012, Greenpeace has also been addressing the issue of radiation-contaminated water from the planet.

The government and TEPCO refer to the polluted water as “tritium water”, however the water also contains many other residual substances at levels above the accepted standard including cesium, strontium, plutonium, and carbon-14, and therefore should not be referred to as “tritium water”. The results of expert research commissioned by Greenpeace reveal that the decommissioning plan, and the plan to release the contaminated water into the ocean are both completely unrealistic solutions to the problem. Based on the results of this research, we worked with other civil society organisations and local residents to call on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, TEPCO and Fukushima Prefecture to put a stop to the “ocean release plan”, and presented an alternative solution. We also provided reports to the media about the current situation. Greenpeace will continue to listen to the voices of those affected by the disaster, lobby international society and work to stop the release of radiation-contaminated water into the ocean.

Good Life

Towards a solution for plastic pollution

There were two big developments relating to plastic in 2022. The first was that the United Nations Environment Assembly decided to establish a comprehensive international convention to address plastic pollution. The other was that the Plastic Resource Circulation Act came into force in Japan. Unfortunately Japan’s new plastic act is limited in scope, and is not enough to solve the worsening problem of plastic pollution. Negotiations for an international plastic treaty have started and an acceleration in global movements to greatly reduce single-use plastics is expected. Japan must also urgently make the shift to a circular society that is based on “reusing” resources, as well as review its plastic related policies. Greenpeace will continue to call on corporations and the government to drastically reduce production and consumption of plastic.

Reports

Disposable Cups in the Japanese Café Industry

Published July 2022

We published the first investigative report to calculate how many disposable cups are used by major café chains in Japan: “Disposable Cups in the Japanese Café Industry”. The investigation revealed that just 9 major café chains used over 369 million disposable cups in just one year. Starbucks Japan in particular used over 231 million disposable cups, more than all the 8 other chains put together.

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**Campaign Summary**

**01 Investigative Report “Disposable Cups in the Japanese Café Industry”**

Based on the results of the report, Greenpeace started a petition calling on the three chains that used the most disposable cups, Starbucks, Tullys and Pronto, to stop using single-use cups. One big success from this campaign was in February 2023, when Starbucks announced that it would introduce reusable glasses in 1,500 or 80% of all its stores nationwide. We will continue to lobby corporations to create a society where cafés no longer use disposable items.

**02 For an international treaty to put an end to plastic pollution**

The UN Environment Assembly, held in March 2022, decided to establish a legally binding international treaty that will comprehensively address the issue of global plastic pollution. This is a historic achievement, demonstrating that international society has acknowledged that plastic is a source of toxic waste that is endangering the planet's environment and humanity. It is also a sign that a movement to regulate plastic has started. In order to resolve the global issue of plastic waste, it is not enough to simply address marine plastic pollution. It is essential to have international regulation of all stages of the plastic life cycle, from the extraction of raw materials and production, to distribution, consumption and disposal. Greenpeace has sent representatives to the UN Environment Assembly and to the intergovernmental negotiation committee that started in November. We will continue to lobby governments and stakeholders around the world for the creation of an ambitious treaty.

**03 Citizens’ movement “Nishi-Ogi Goodbye Waste Daisakusen”**

In collaboration with citizen’s group “Nishi-Ogi Daisakusen”, Greenpeace founded the “Nishi-Ogi Goodbye Waste Daisakusen” in April 2022, to work towards a reduction of single-use plastics in the Nishi-Ogikubo area in Suginami ward, Tokyo. Over 300 people participated in events we organised, such as a screening party for the film “The Story of Plastic” and opportunities for people to shop with their own reusable containers and without using any disposable packaging. More than 40 Nishi-Ogikubo stores are registered on the “Goodbye Waste” map that was launched in 2021 as a waste-free shopping map. In October we organised the “Nishi-Ogi plastic waste ghosts halloween parade”. The concept behind the parade was that “plastic waste had returned as ghosts to wreak havoc on the town” and local residents paraded the streets of Nishi-Ogikubo dressed in costumes made of domestic plastic waste. The parade was a great opportunity to engage the community, with parade participants telling other residents about stores where you can shop using your own reusable containers. The parade also delivered a message to three supermarkets on its route, asking that they stop using single-use packaging.
Radiation level monitoring and on-the-ground investigation in Ukraine

During the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces that started in February 2022, Chornobyl (Chernobyl) nuclear power plant was occupied by Russian forces on the 24th February. Following that, on the 4th of March, Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southeastern Ukraine was attacked, and on the 6th of May, a nuclear research facility in Kharkiv was also attacked. These events shocked and frightened many people around the world. Greenpeace has a specialist radiation protection team, which Japanese staff are also a part of, and has been conducting 24 hour/day monitoring of radiation levels in Ukraine since immediately after the invasion by Russian forces. Japanese staff helped to provide important backup for the investigation. In July we collaborated with the Ukrainian government to conduct a survey of radiation levels in the area surrounding Chornobyl nuclear power plant and published the results.

Coca Cola to make 25% of their packaging “reusable” by 2030

Coca Cola promised to make more than 25% of its packaging reusable by 2023. Greenpeace has been running an international petition campaign calling on four major plastic waste producing corporations, including Coca Cola, to stop their mass production of single-use-plastic. We welcome this announcement by Coca Cola while also continuing to call for other companies to make the shift to reusable packaging and for the adoption of even more ambitious goals.

Although it has been over three years since the outbreak of COVID-19 the number of people who have died from the disease continues to increase. The invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces threatens the lives of citizens and has exacerbated global energy insecurity. Climate disasters are becoming more frequent and more severe. As lives are threatened and we are faced with energy insecurity and the rising cost of living, international solidarity is needed now more than ever. In order to turn the tide on this situation, Greenpeace has been collaborating with partners all over the world to conduct important research and lobby organisations that have the power to create structural change, such as governments and corporations. We will continue to use our network across 55 countries and regions, and join hands with others who share our goals, to confront the sense of insecurity that spreads throughout our world.
Volunteers & Interns

Learning and taking action together

01 Volunteers

As we make a gradual return to more in-person events following the COVID-19 pandemic, our volunteer team participated in numerous events through 2022, such as hosting a booth at Tokyo Rainbow Pride, which is held annually in Yoyogi park, and organising an event for people to experience shopping using their own reusable containers. Greenpeace volunteers also joined the march in Shibuya for the “Global Climate Action 0923 #Climate Crisis is a Matter of Life and Death”, which was held offline in Tokyo for the first time in almost three years and was attended by approximately 400 people.

The Goodbye Waste team continued its work to showcase “zero-waste stores” on social media in order to increase the number of users and registered businesses on the “Goodbye Waste” shopping map. More than 200 stores in total were newly registered on the platform over the year. In 2023 we intend to apply the experiences and ideas of our volunteer team to create even more buzz around our campaigns as well as focusing our efforts on offline actions.

A total of 80 people have participated in monthly seminars that the volunteer team “Side by Side” has been organising since 2020. During 2022, in addition to the existing “input and output” incorporated into the events, we also created opportunities for “action”. For example the “Power Shift” session was an opportunity for participants to actually change their household’s electricity company contract to a renewable energy company, or, as part of a collaboration with the plastic campaign’s “Nishi-Ogi Goodbye Waste Daisakusen”, we also held an event for participants to shop in Kichijoji and Nishi-Ogikubo using their own reusable containers.

02 Interns

Greenpeace Japan welcomed five interns during 2022. Over the year, our interns undertook a wide range of roles and responsibilities, such as supporting the running of events by the “Citizen’s Lobby for Zero Emissions” (of which Greenpeace Japan is the secretariat); conducting research on waste-free stores for the “Nishi-Ogi Goodbye Waste Daisakusen”, posting on social media; preparing documentation for the “Power Shift” session was an opportunity for participants to actually change their household’s electricity company contract to a renewable energy company, or, as part of a collaboration with the plastic campaign’s “Nishi-Ogi Goodbye Waste Daisakusen”, we also held an event for participants to shop in Kichijoji and Nishi-Ogikubo using their own reusable containers.

The reason I applied for an internship at Greenpeace was because I thought it would help me to realise my dream to work in environmental protection in the future. Because Greenpeace actively works on a wide range of issues at the global level, it was an opportunity for me to get one step closer to making my dream a reality. Another reason was because the work I would undertake as a Greenpeace Japan intern related to climate change and energy issues. Working on environmental issues that I am particularly interested in has helped me to grow as a person. I am looking forward to sharing what I have learnt as a way to encourage more people to join the movement. In the future I hope to work together with diverse people to protect people and the planet.
As the COVID-19 pandemic dragged on, 2022 was a year when, for the first time in a long time, we were able to hold in-person events or conduct face-to-face interviews with a diverse range of celebrities and key influencers. This renewed interaction reminded us of the importance of connecting with other people. The influence and reach of celebrities and key influencers who are aligned with Greenpeace’s desire to solve environmental issues has enabled us to further expand our network and reach new audiences.

In order to solve the numerous challenges that threaten the environment and to pass on a beautiful and healthy planet into the next century, we must build solidarity with more people and revolutionise the systems that underpin our society. Greenpeace Japan’s “NEXT100 Project” was born from this desire and is an opportunity for Greenpeace and various celebrities to come together and share their vision of the world in 100 years. In 2022 we interviewed four celebrities and key influencers who are all active at the forefront of their respective fields: Kiko Mizuhara (fashion model/actress), Eichiro Yamada (chef), Fumi Nikaido (actress), Yusuke Takahashi (CFCL President and Creative Director).

While all industries need to greatly reduce their CO2 emissions, the transport sector in particular stands out as being responsible for 22% of all CO2 emissions derived from energy sources. We interviewed Tetsunari Iida (Executive Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy Policy, ISEP), Jun Hori (journalist), Ayako Ota (weather forecaster) and Takuma Sato (racing driver) about how to achieve 100% Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) by 2030 from the point of view of urban transport, natural disasters, extreme weather and the future of cars.

We submitted Greenpeace’s global “Protect the Oceans” petition to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Environment in the run up to the international conference for a “United Nations Ocean Treaty”, a treaty which aims to protect one third of the world’s oceans. Together with Greenpeace Ambassador Masahiro Takemoto and Ocean Ambassador Lillian Ono we delivered signatures from approximately 4 million people from all over the world and Japan. Following this, on the 4th March 2023, governments from around the world finally agreed to establish a global oceans treaty.

Today we were able to submit a petition signed and supported by 16,381 people in Japan. I feel that we made the first step. It might be a small step, but I hope that it will become a significant start towards protecting our oceans and the planet.

When I heard that international talks were actually taking place to discuss protecting 30% of the world’s oceans, I was excited to think that if it really happened, this would be a turning point that will be written about in the textbooks of the future. We have the opportunity to be part of something that changes history. Even as individuals, I believe that we all wield immense power.
Ambassadors

04
Working with Artists to Promote Climate Action - “Nature Sound Project”

We released the song “FOREVER”, co-created with singer songwriter SIRUP and music producer guitarist Shin Sakurai, in order to raise awareness about the climate crisis and its effects on Japan. Sounds captured during field recordings conducted with both artists in the lush natural habitats of Japan’s “Sato-yama” were used in the song. The song was well received, ranking third in Spotify’s R&B/Soul genre. This was a new project that also led to donations to Greenpeace from individual artists.

05
Contemplating peace and the environment with Greenpeace ambassadors

The world we live in is plagued not only by environmental degradation but also by war and conflict, such as the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces. In September, the month that Greenpeace was founded, we invited Greenpeace Ambassadors Masahiro Takemoto and Daisuke Yosumi to join us as guests for an event about “Peace and the Environment”. The event was hosted in collaboration with NGO Peace Boat that promotes peace around the globe, and was attended by over 100 people (online and in person). At a time when peoples’ lives and the future of the planet are under threat, the event was an opportunity to explore the solutions that can be discovered when people from different areas of expertise unite. Greenpeace volunteers also got together for the first time in many months to run the event as a team. The whole process was a strong reminder of the positive energy that is created when people are united and work together.

Finance

Greenpeace Japan’s financial report for the fiscal year 2022 (January - December) was prepared in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in Japan (J-GAAS) and audited by the SCS Global LLC Accounting & Auditing Firm. As in previous years, we received both staffing and financial support from Greenpeace International and Greenpeace East Asia, and donations from individual supporters and private foundations. These invaluable contributions enable us to act as an independent campaigning organisation highlighting global environmental issues and developing solutions for a sustainable, green and peaceful future.

In 2022 our campaigns focused on zero emissions; the #DriveChange campaign (decarbonisation of the automobile industry); the plastic waste issue; foodloss; nuclear power and radiation. 2022 was also a year of internal restructuring to strengthen our collaboration with other Greenpeace offices, which enabled us to maximise our strength as an international environmental organisation and respond even more quickly and more effectively to global issues.

2022 saw an increase in revenues, both from supporters’ donations by ¥24M, a 13% increase on last year’s donations, and an increase in contributions from Greenpeace International and Greenpeace East Asia by ¥141M, a 95% increase on last year. Total revenue in 2022 was ¥497M, up by ¥165M on the previous year’s ¥332M.

Expenditure decreased by ¥13M, a 3% decrease on last year. This decrease was due to a more efficient fundraising program. Total expenditure in 2022 was ¥408M.
Overview of Greenpeace Japan Organization

Address 2nd Floor, NF Building, 8-13-11 Nishi Shinjuku, Shinjuku, Tokyo, Japan 160-0023
Year established April 1989
Board chairs Yoko Aoki and Makoto Teranaka
Area engaged in Global environmental protection which covers issues of climate change, plastics, toxics and forests
Organization goal The prevention of environmental destruction on a global scale
Our approach ❶ Conducting scientific research on environmental destruction and releasing to public
  ❷ Providing information to media and supporters
  ❸ Calling for environmental actions  ❹ Protesting at environmental destruction site
  ❹ Presenting alternative solutions to resolve environmental problems
  ❼ Lobbying and advocacy to the government and corporate sectors
  ❺ Monitoring and making suggestions in the process of negotiating international treaties
Principles Non-violent direct action, political and financial independence
Supporters 8,069 people in Japan, and 3 million people worldwide as of Dec. 2022
Office staff 31 staff members in Japan (including 6 part-time staff) as of Dec. 2022
Int’l HQ location Amsterdam, Netherlands

Our Offices

Offices in more than 55 countries and regions including Japan

- Greenpeace International (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- Greenpeace European Unit (Brussels, Belgium)
- Greenpeace Research Laboratories (Exeter, U.K.)
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- UK
- France / Luxembourg
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden)
- Greece
- Italy
- Spain
- Czech Republic
- Central & Eastern Europe (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)
- Mediterranean (Israel, Turkey)
- Australia Pacific (Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands)
- Aotearoa (New Zealand)
- Africa (South Africa, Congo, Senegal, Kenya, Cameroon)
- Middle East & North Africa (Beirut)
- Mexico
- Brasil
- Andino (Argentina, Chile, Colombia)
- Southeast Asia (Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia)
- India
- East Asia (Beijing, Taipei, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo)

Please support Greenpeace

All of Greenpeace’s work is supported solely by individual donations. Please join us as a donor to help save lives and protect the future. Your donation will help to solve the environmental destruction taking place around the world.