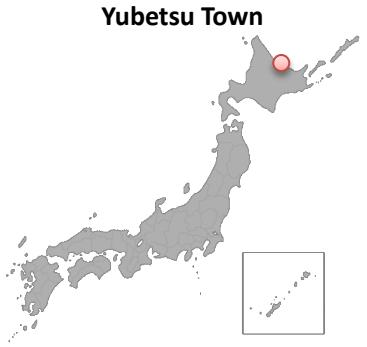
Establishing an environmentally friendly Sound Material-Cycle Society in which the whole community work in unison



Situation (background, aims, etc.)	The current number of dairy cattle in the town has exceeded 20,000, which is a 15 percent increase compared with that of 20 years ago. On the contrary, the number of dairy farms has dropped by 46 percent which means the number of dairy cattle per farm has more than doubled. This has led to raising the issue of inappropriate disposal of livestock excrement caused by a labour shortage of the farmers, and also the foul odour from the piled-up manure and the spill of manure to the rivers due to heavy rain have become problematic. The number of complaints from local residents has also been on the rise. Therefore, Okhotsk Yubetsu Biogas Inc., a SPC (special purpose company), was founded in November 2021 to establish a Sound Material-Cycle Society with renewable energy as a foothold, which will be generated from livestock excrement appropriately processed by the whole community working in unison.
Details (project outline, etc.)	Project details: Construction of a centralised biogas plant (a size equivalent to process 3,400 cattle) Project period: 2022—2025 (4 years) / Expected to be operated in October 2025 Project budget: Approximately 3.6 billion yen Members: JA Yubetsu-cho, Yubetsu Town, JA Enyu, Yubetsu Fishery Cooperative, Biomass Research & Development, Co., Ltd., Biostock Inc., 23 participant farms Throughput per day: 290 tonnes (dairy cattle's excrement) Generated power: 1,026kW
Results (features and innovations, future developments, etc.)	As a plant operating company as well as a SPC (special purpose company), the company consists of administration, local agricultural and a fishery organisation and private enterprises. We have been reviewing the appropriate process of livestock excrement and utilisation of renewable energy from the diverse perspectives. From now on we would like to develop a protected horticulture using waste heat and gas generated from the plant and to look into the branding of local crops by collaborating with local disabled people and high school students.