



Why form an ecovillage?

With anxiety over an economically driven society, weakening of interpersonal relationships, and disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake, we have become more conscious of the vastness of nature and preciousness of life. We have come to question the **true meaning of wealth.**

We have realized the importance of a “new way to live” that is symbiotic with nature, in which one can sense the richness of mutual bonds of support within a community. The Nanto Ecovillage was founded to **develop a self-reliant community**, supported by the flow and exchange of local resources, including people, things, nature, culture, and money.



[The Concept of the Nanto Ecovillage]

Fundamental Principal Community design based on small-scale cycles

[Main Goals]

1 Develop technology and independently sustained inner community energy sources through the utilization of renewable energy

Building a self-sustaining community capable of withstanding disasters by promoting the implementation of renewable energy, including water, wood, and geothermal energy throughout the city, beginning with public facilities.

2 Renew agricultural and forestry industries, strengthen bonds within the commercial and tourism industries

In building a self-sustaining, peaceful community, focus on agriculture and food as the sources of life, and undertake production of high-value added products while working to preserve mountain communities.

3 Maintain quality and strengthen bonds between healthcare and public nursing welfare centers

Build a community in which one can live a healthy and peaceful life, even in today's aging and declining population society, by improving the quality of local public nursing welfare and healthcare centers.

4 Educate for the future and raise the next generation

Work towards raising sensible and creative youth, and pass down local traditions and culture inherited from ancestors to future generations.

5 *Promote Ecovillage endeavors through social and community businesses

Create employment opportunities and revitalize the community by supporting social and community businesses that solve local town development issues.

*A social/community business is a non-profit business founded to solve local community issues.

6 Revitalize villages by reevaluating the traditional lifestyle and utilizing forests and mountain settlements

Through green tourism* and ecotourism*, works towards the revitalization of forests, mountain settlements, and villages by reevaluating the lifestyle closely connected with the natural environment, including mountain settlements, forests, trees, wild fields, and mountain plants, and adopting this lifestyle once again.

*Greentourism: Tourism in which visitors stay in an agricultural, mountain, or fishing village to enjoy the exchange of nature, culture, and people

*Ecotourism: A business that promotes the importance and preserves the value of the local natural environment, history, and culture

What do we actually do?



Create natural energy



Create methods to utilize local energy sources

Use of biomass
Use biomass resources from unused leftover woodlands

Small hydroelectric generation
Use rivers, surrounding agriculture, and waterways

Solar power generation
Equipment installation on public facility roofs and wall surfaces

Use of solar heat, subterranean heat, and snow and ice heat
Use rooftop hot spring water wells for snow melting and air conditioning

Develop a lifestyle in balance with the forest

Use of local lumber and preservation of forests

Environmental economy

restoration of relationship between man and the forest

Revitalization of forestry

- Tree resources through planned growing and deforesting
- Scrap wood from manufacturing including woodcarving and bats
- Scrap lumber from gassho-zukuri roof rethatching

◆ A lifestyle symbiotic with local trees
Houses and furniture, everyday goods, toys

◆ Cycling of wooden materials
Pellets, woodchip gas, ethanol, charcoal, compost

Utilization of forestry

- The promise to live in harmony with nature, passed down from the age of the hunter-gatherer society

◆ Blessings of a prosperous forest
Mountain vegetables, mushrooms, honey, boars

◆ Lessons from nature
Experiences in nature, learning through the environment, inheritance of culture

Human development

Create a system to raise and preserve mountain resources for cyclic use



Develop strong forestry

Promote harmonious cycles within the community, preserve food resources and health

Succession of community bonds

New agricultural projects, community building opportunities, agricultural research, promoting the return of residents from cities to countryside homes

Consumption network

Direct sales, surrounding area, online sales, restaurants, hands-on agricultural experiences, contract farms

Stable inner and outer community consumption

Supply and demand

Safe and reliable, organic farming, no added pesticides, self-sufficiency

Cyclical agricultural growth and self-sustaining of safe agricultural products



Human development
Develop strong people

Everyday life culture

Create an active community

Hot springs, arts culture, blessings of the mountains and fields, views of the natural environment, traditional culture, festivals

Sympathy, hospitality, local character, smiles

Direct sale stores, highway service areas, lodging facilities, hands-on activity facilities, kitchen car, variety of playground equipment

People Resources Facilities

Health & Education
Medicinal cooking research, education on reusable energy, naturopathy research, agricultural research, environmental studies, mental health care

Industrial Tourism
Hands-on agricultural and traditional culture experiences, craftsmanship tourism, hands-on forestry experiences

New Tourism
Craft tourism, therapy tours, eco tours, tourist farms, green tourism, health tourism

Gather community resources and develop a system for a continually flowing cycle

