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## **Scientific Perspectives on Sustainable "Cities and Livelihoods"**

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### **Chapter 1: Think about the environment.**

#### **Section 1. Introduction (in brief)**

The situation in the Asian region, where Japan is located, has seen an increase in the use of plastics due to urban development and increased consumption, as well as events thought to be influenced by global warming. One example is the mass mortality of various fish species, including sea urchins, salmon and whelks, which is believed to be caused by red tide in the vicinity of Kushiro, Atsukishi, Hamanaka and Nemuro on the east coast of Hokkaido from around mid-September 2021. This disaster's actual cause is unknown, but it was the worst disaster in the country's history, with significant damage estimated. It is undeniable that rising sea temperatures may have caused this disaster due to global warming and the influx of unmanageable plastics and other substances, which have led to eutrophication and the rapid destruction of the marine environment.

For the world to simultaneously realise solutions to environmental problems caused by such a complex interplay of events, it is necessary to reduce greenhouse gases based on international cooperation, including the 'SDG targets' and the 'Paris Agreement', and to become 'carbon neutral' at an earlier date than 2050.

With high food, energy and resource consumption in Japan, there is an urgent need to move away from the current oil-dependent socio-economic activities. The permanent maintenance and management of a safe and just space for humanity requires the appropriate conservation of energy, water, a safe climate, biodiversity and ecosystems, and the urgent need to realise a 'circular economy', which is the effective use of resources based on the precautionary principle.

This paper addresses the question of whether carbon neutrality could be a key to economic growth, taking up the environmental initiatives of Sweden as a case study considering the current situation in Japanese society, where the spread of the new coronavirus infection and the war in Russia and Ukraine have caused a severe economic downturn in the world.

#### **Section 2. How students perceive global environmental issues**

#### **Section 3. To encourage lifestyle change in With Corona**

#### **Section 4. The feasibility of resource recycling and circular economy**

#### **Section 5. Can the realisation of 'carbon neutrality' be a growth strategy?**

#### **Section 6. The Swedish approach to using organic waste.**

#### **Section 7. Can the world achieve a 'carbon neutral' society?**