

# SHIGA × SDGs “Pledge for Our Future”

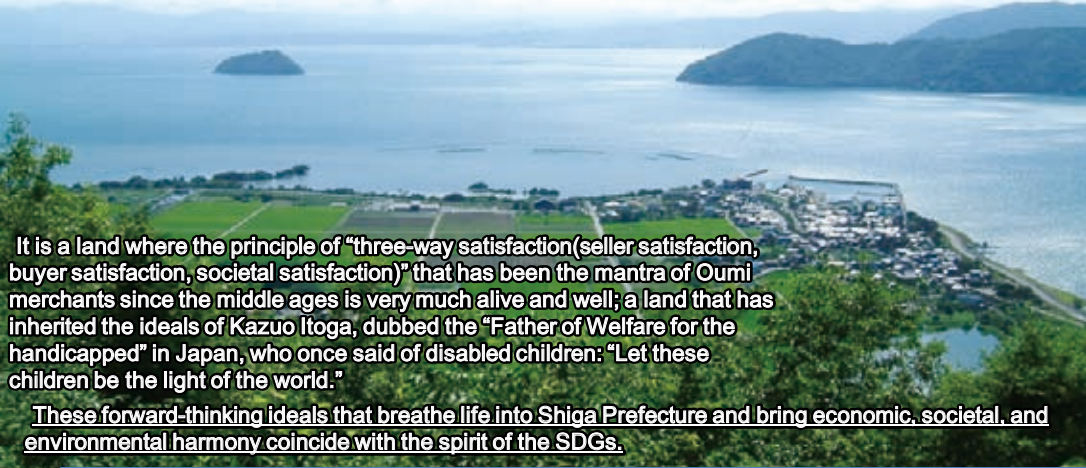


SHIGA × SDGs

Shiga Prefecture incorporates SDGs into its prefectural policies beginning January 2017, ahead of the national government.

Shiga Prefecture is passionate about its commitment to environmental preservation. It works together with the public and private sector to implement initiatives such as the “soap movement”, an initiative to use eco-friendly, with the goal of maintaining the health of Lake Biwa for future generations to enjoy.

Shiga Prefecture  
Population: 1,412,916  
Land Area: 4,017.38km<sup>2</sup>  
As of October 1 2015(National Census)



It is a land where the principle of “three-way satisfaction (seller satisfaction, buyer satisfaction, societal satisfaction)” that has been the mantra of Oumi merchants since the middle ages is very much alive and well; a land that has inherited the ideals of Kazuo Itoga, dubbed the “Father of Welfare for the handicapped” in Japan, who once said of disabled children: “Let these children be the light of the world.”

These forward-thinking ideals that breathe life into Shiga Prefecture and bring economic, societal, and environmental harmony coincide with the spirit of the SDGs.



Lake Biwa, the largest and oldest lake in Japan, is located in the center of Shiga Prefecture.

Shiga Prefecture has expanded its partnerships with various stakeholders such as the business community and the colleges as it accelerates its adoption of the SDGs into prefectural policy. New partnerships and initiatives take shape one after the other within the prefecture in its efforts to accomplish the SDGs.

## Shiga SDGs × Innovation Hub: solving social problems through business



The aim is to create innovations leading to solutions to social problems and to discover and develop new business models through collaboration between industry, financial institutions and government.

## Environmentally-focused Agriculture: promoting eco-friendly agriculture



Promoting sustainable agriculture by advancing organic farming methods that do not use pesticides or chemical fertilizers, and undertaking initiatives to preserve Lake Biwa and its biodiversity.

## Promotion of Environmental Education: Elementary school experiential learning program (“Umi no Ko”(“Child of the Lake”))



All students in the 5th-grade board the learning ship “Umi no Ko”(“Child of the Lake”) for an overnight experiential learning program on Lake Biwa as a part of their school curriculum.

## June 2017 “Sustainable Shiga × SDGs” symposium



From United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Thomas Gass’ keynote speech:

We face a global test... Sustainable development cannot be achieved by one country. Let’s make sure that every economic and financial activity contributes to the sustainable development goals.

The principle “to leave no one behind” has many implications. Everyone’s contribution inspires the hope!

## April 2018 “Learning Food/Agriculture/Lifestyle for a Sustainable Future with Alice Waters” Symposium

From Ms. Alice Waters’(\*)keynote speech:

How we eat affects not only our own lives, but also the health of this planet... The most natural way to transform our culture is by changing what we eat, where we find it, and the way we eat it.

The school is the best place for the next generation to learn this. Shiga can lead this revolution by committing the sustainable farming.

\* Alice Waters is an activist and author known for spearheading education initiatives involving food(such as the Edible Schoolyard Project) and her involvement in the slow food movement.

