

Sixth Yokoze Town Comprehensive Development Plan

3rd Term Yokoze Town Comprehensive Regional Revitalization Strategy

横瀬町

令和6年

YOKOZE TOWN 2024



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Greeting

The Sixth Yokoze Town Comprehensive Development Plan (Second Term) has been completed, with the cooperation of many people.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone that has assisted in this.

There are four main features of the Yokoze Town Comprehensive Development Plan.

- (1) The term is 8 years, or double a normal 4-year term (it was shortened from 10 years to 8 to allow it to respond to rapid changes in the times and to match the mayoral cycle)
- (2) It is thin, and not too wordy (so that residents can easily pick it up and read)
- (3) It was developed by us, without any outsourcing (we expressed our own thoughts in our own words)
- (4) It has detailed and specific numerical targets (specific and high targets)

During the four years of our last Basic Plan, we suffered the harsh eternity of COVID-19, but I believe that as a town we have still been able to make steady progress, one step at a time. We have formulated our plan for the second half based on what we have learned and experienced from this time, and by listening again to the opinions of our residents. The biggest change that we have made is that the Basic Concept now includes the new indicator of the wellbeing of each resident, which is a goal of this plan. We continue to value dialogue with our residents and look forward to working with you as we develop this town, one step at a time. We appreciate your continued support.



TOMITA Yoshinari,
Yokoze Mayor

Basic Concepts

2020-2027

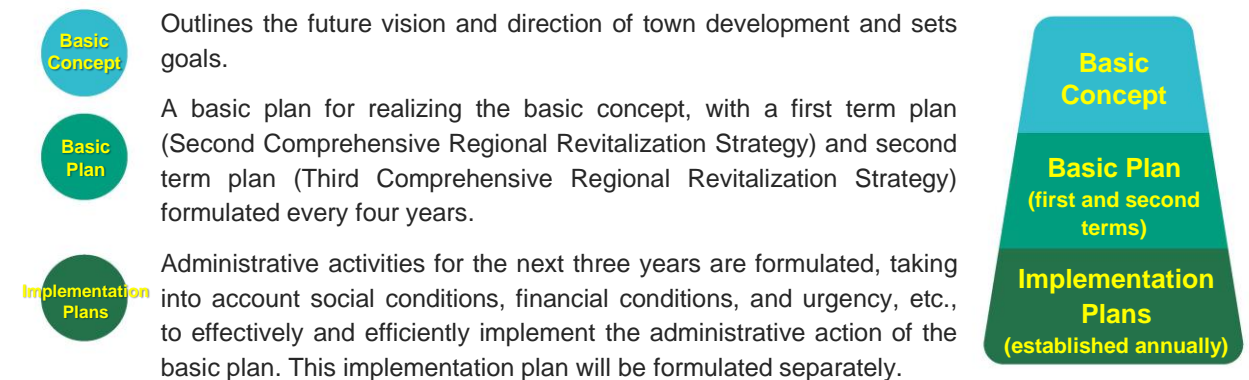
1. Purpose of this plan

Yokoze Town is implementing various measures based on the “Sixth Yokoze Town Comprehensive Development Plan” which was formulated in 2020. In 2014, the government formed a “Long-term Vision for the Revitalization of Towns, People and Jobs,” beginning efforts to revitalize regional areas. In 2015, Yokoze Town formulated the “Yokoze Town Comprehensive Regional Revitalization Strategy, under which it has undertaken a variety of measures.

In recent years, the environment surrounding the local area has been changing at unprecedented speed, including with repeated natural disasters, new emerging technologies, and various forms of globalization, etc. The town is working with residents and other town stakeholders to further expend its efforts so far and to flexibly respond to this rapidly changing era to systematically realize the goal of becoming “Japan’s proudest, most livable town,” and formulated the “Sixth Yokoze Town Comprehensive Development Plan,” including the “Second Yokoze Town Comprehensive Regional Revitalization Strategy.” The “Third Yokoze Town Comprehensive Regional Revitalization Strategy” was also included along with the formulation of the second term basic plan.

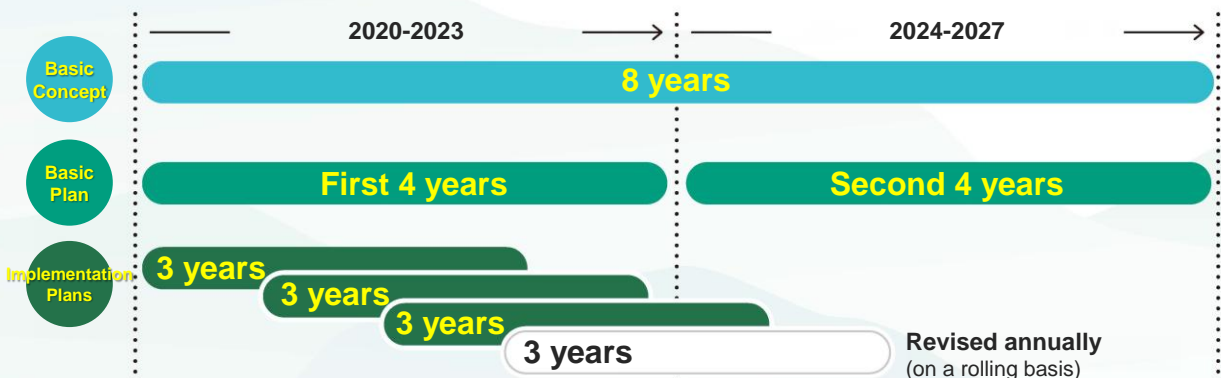
2. Plan structure and term

(1) Plan structure



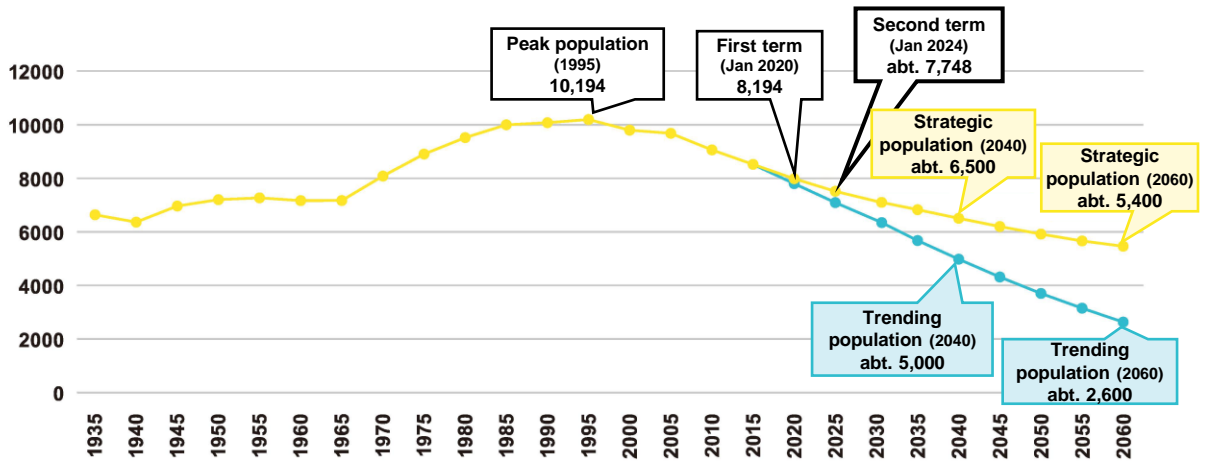
(2) Plan term

For this plan, the basic concept was set to cover the eight-year period from FY 2020 to FY 2027, with the first term basic plan covering FY 2020 to FY 2023 and the second term covering FY 2024 to FY 2027. Implementation plans are structured in units of three years, and they are revised every year.



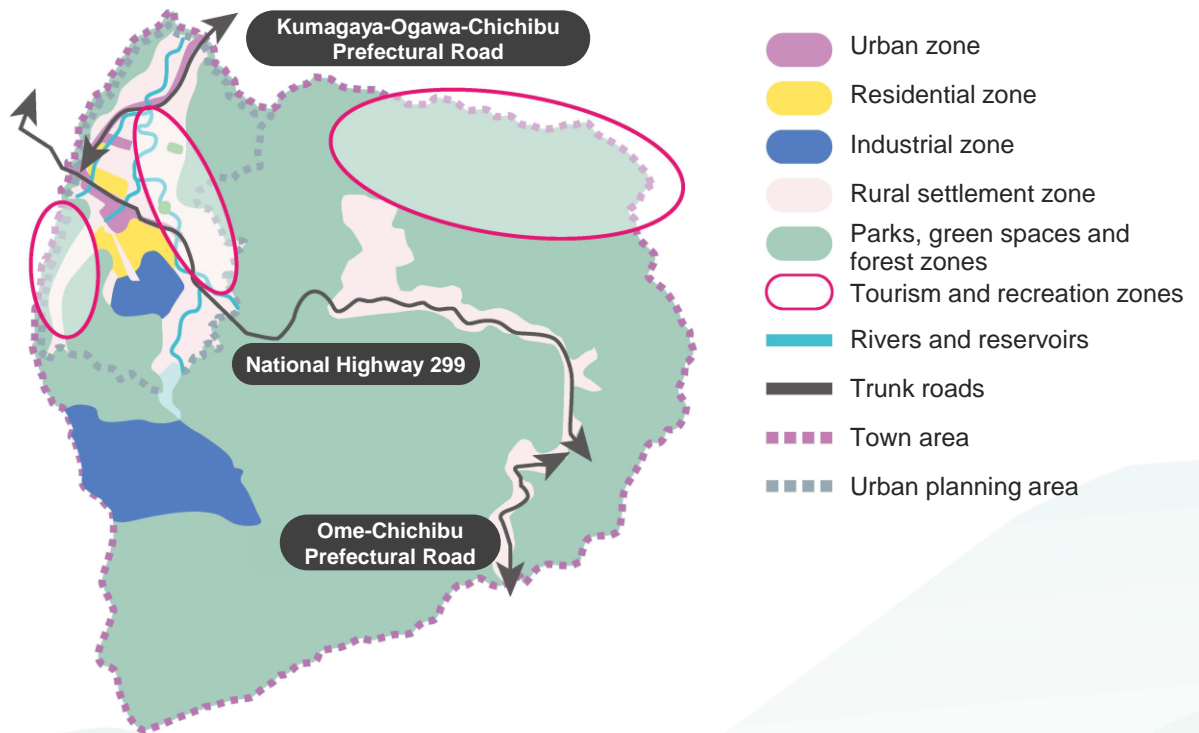
3. Future population projections

Yokoze Town has a population of 7,748^{*1}, but this population is expected to continue to decline going forward, and if this continues it is expected to fall to about 5,000 in 2040 and 2,600 in 2060 (trending population). The town is taking measures to curb this decline in population, such as improving the child-rearing environment and encouraging people to relocate to the town and will also implement policies to prepare for and mitigate future population decline, with the aim of maintaining a strategic population of about 6,500 in 2040 and 5,400 in 2060.



4. Land usage concepts

Yokoze Town Land Usage Concept Map (Sixth)



*1) Based on Basic Resident Register, as of January 2024.

5. Plan direction

(1) Future vision and goals of this plan.

Future vision

Japan's proudest, most livable town

Goals of this plan



A beautiful and colorful town. A town of diverse happiness. A town where the beautiful, colorful scenery changes with the seasons, and where the people interact warmly. A town where everyone is different but lives happily in their own way.

Yokoze Town has set being “Japan’s proudest, most livable town” as its future vision, and is promoting various policy measures to maximize the happiness of our residents and to achieve maximum effect with minimal cost. To realize this future vision, this plan has set the goal of being a “Colorful Town,” promoting fully diverse town development.

(2) Seven Pillars

This plan will focus on the following seven pillars for measures to realize a “Colorful Town.”

Pillar 1: Developing people

Create a town where it is easy to raise children and where children can live vibrant lives, through the seamless cooperation of child-rearing support and education, to develop people capable of living happy and resilient lives in a rapidly changing society.

Pillar 2: Promoting health

Create a town that is friendly to the elderly and people with disabilities, where everyone can live with physical and mental health, by strengthening prevention and welfare measures for a super-aging society and an era of 100-year lifespans

Pillar 3: Promoting safety and security

Create an environment in which everyone from children to the elderly and people with disabilities can live safely and securely without worry, by promoting disaster prevention, crime prevention, fire prevention and road safety measures. Also promote sustainable administrative management.

Pillar 4: Creating industry and employment

Create an environment in which people can realize diverse working styles and lifestyles suited to their personalities, to attract people, goods, money and information by encouraging people to move to the town and promoting agriculture, forestry, commerce and industry

Pillar 5: Creating a Vibrant town center

Promote a lively town taking advantage of the town’s features of openness and friendliness, with the aim of increasing visitors for tourism etc. (exchange population) and the number of people from outside of the town who have diverse interactions with the local community (related population). Also make use of the town’s main facilities, such as the station and community spaces, to revitalize the downtown area as a central space and create a town filled with hope, excitement and anticipation for the future.

Pillar 6: Creating landscape and environment

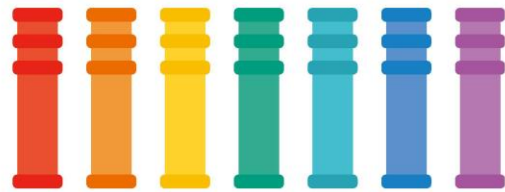
Create a comfortable living environment which values nature and fosters a lifestyle that is close to nature and in coexistence with the environment. Also create a sustainable living environment that effectively utilizes vacant homes and idle farmland.

Pillar 7: Creating community

Create a town full of diversity in which local people help each other in times of trouble or difficulty, by continuously fostering many circles of warm-hearted people.

(3) Foundation supporting the Seven Pillars

As a foundation supporting the overall policy and the further enhancement of the feasibility of this plan, we are building an environment in which every worker can maximize their capabilities and promote sustainable administrative management. In addition to working with residents, we are actively cooperating with broader stakeholders and the private sector, etc. We are also actively adopting even more “people-friendly technologies” and promoting the creation of a town that takes on challenges and also supports people who take on challenges.



Foundation supporting the seven pillars

- Maximize worker capabilities
- Promote sustainable administrative management
- Promote cooperation and participation
- Utilize wide-area collaboration and self-sustainable settlements
- Utilize private sector vitality
- Utilize people-friendly technologies
- Take on challenges

(4) Yokoze Town and SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)^{*2} consist of 17 goals and 169 targets to promote sustainable development in an integrated manner in the three dimensions of the global economy, society, and the environment. The town has incorporated the concepts from the SDGs into this plan, aiming to solve local issues while also achieving the SDGs. In promoting this plan, we are maintaining a consciousness of the basic concepts of the SDGs of “Leave No One Behind,” aiming to realize a “Colorful Town” that respects diversity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



^{*2}The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are international goals for the period of 2016 to 2030 which were adopted at a United Nations Summit in September 2015. They consist of 17 goals and 169 targets, and are a universal set of initiatives for not only developing countries but developed countries also to work towards, and Japan is also actively working towards these initiatives.

(5) Yokoze Town and Wellbeing

In the second term Basic Plan of the Sixth Yokoze Town Comprehensive Development Plan, the following indicators were incorporated for each of the seven pillars to promote the “wellbeing^{*3}” of every resident. The seven pillars of the Sixth Comprehensive Development Plan for the creation of a “Colorful Town” begin with “developing people” and end with “creating community.” The focus of this policy is “People.” The aim is to create a town of “diversity in which everyone can live their own way.”

Wellbeing indicators for the seven pillars



Pillar 1: Developing people

Easy place to raise children and have children live a vibrant life.



Pillar 2: Promoting health

Feel physically and mentally healthy.



Pillar 3: Promoting safety and security

Not feel worried about disasters or crime.



Pillar 4: Creating industry and employment

Financial freedom to do and buy what you want.



Pillar 5: Creating a vibrant town center

Sense of expectation, excitement and anticipation for the town's future.



Pillar 6: Creating landscape and environment

Feel close to nature.



Pillar 7: Creating community

People help each other in times of trouble or difficulty.

*3) In this town, “wellbeing” is defined as “living happily the way you want to live,” and we seek to do everything we can as a government to make this possible. Wellbeing indicators have been developed based on the opinions received in the “Town Voices Listening Project” conducted from June 2023 and the “Survey of 1,000 Residents” conducted in August.

Second Term Basic Plan

Third Yokoze Town Comprehensive Regional Revitalization Strategy



A beautiful and colorful town. A town of diverse happiness. A town where the beautiful, colorful scenery changes with the seasons, and where the people interact warmly. A town where everyone is different but lives happily in their own way.



Foundation supporting the seven pillars

- Maximize worker capabilities
- Promote sustainable administrative management
- Promote cooperation and participation
- Utilize wide-area collaboration and self-sustainable settlements
- Utilize private sector vitality
- Utilize people-friendly technologies
- Take on challenges



Pillar 1: Developing People



1. Aims

We aim to create a town where it is easy to raise children and where children can live vibrant lives, and which fosters people who can live happy and resilient lives in the rapidly changing future, through seamless cooperation between child-rearing support and education.

2. Major Initiatives

- (1) Improve childcare services, expand systems for providing information, consultations and support for child-rearing, and strengthen systems that allow parents to have hope as they raise their children, with someone nearby that they can talk to when they face worries or trouble. Also work to improve support for everyone to be able to raise their children with peace of mind, including the prevention of child abuse and reducing financial burdens. Also provide opportunities for parents and children to come together and interact in a casual manner and provide appropriate guidelines and play opportunities for children from homes where parents are away during the day, thus promoting the healthy development of children.
- (2) In school education, work to cultivate the qualities and abilities of teachers and staff and promote work style reform, and to promote the use of ITC in education, while respecting the individuality and personality of each student and steadily nurturing life skills (Strong academic ability, rich humanity, health and physical ability for a robust life, and media and information literacy), and enhancing student's motivation to learn and non-cognitive abilities.
- (3) Actively promote human rights education and awareness activities through the sharing of accurate information on human rights education, awareness and human rights issues, in cooperation with local and human rights institutions, etc., to ensure that all residents respect each other's human rights and to create a bright, livable local community. Also work to improve human rights consultation systems to resolve any human rights worries or concerns, including LGBTQ+, abuse and domestic violence.
- (4) Promote policies that allow everyone to participate equally and with their own intent in all aspects of society.

[Main jurisdictional departments: General Affairs Div., Resident Affairs Div., Health and Childcare Div., Board of Education]

3. Basic Goals to be Achieved

Item	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target	
Percentage of people who feel it is easy to raise children and that children live vibrant lives (%)	1-A	52	-	-	-	60
No. of births (people)	1-B	38				35
Total fertility rate (%)	1-C	1.36				1.80
Saitama Prefecture Academics and Learning Status Survey of Overall Growth in Academic Achievement in Elementary and Junior High Schools (Comparison with growth targets for Yokoze Town students) (stages) ⁴	1-D	13				23

⁴) The Saitama Prefecture Academics and Learning Survey describes academic abilities in 36 levels. The difference in academic ability from the previous year is expressed as "growth in academic ability" for each subject from fifth grade of elementary school to the third grade of junior high school.

4. Key Indicators to be Achieved

Indicator	Responsible Dept.	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Percentage of women in the Town Council (%) 1-1	General Affairs Div.	25				50
No. of children under 15 who moved in (people) 1-2	Resident Affairs Div.	21				25
Total No. of annual users of local childcare support center programs (people) 1-3	Health and Childcare Div.	3,120				3,120
Total No. of annual users of after-school childcare center (people) 1-4	Health and Childcare Div.	600				600
No. of children enrolled in day-care centers (people) 1-5	Health and Childcare Div.	41				50
No. of items achieving 80% of targets for "Disciplined attitudes" in the Saitama Prefecture Academics and Learning Status Survey (items/total items) 1-6	Board of Education	68/72				72/72
Percentage of students receiving A, B or C grades in the New Physical Education test (%) 1-7	Board of Education	81				90

5. Key Related Individual Plans

Name	Responsible Dept.	Target period (FY)	Underlying law, etc.
Fourth Yokoze Town Gender Equality Plan	General Affairs Div.	2024-2027	Basic Act for Gender Equal Society
Yokoze Town Child/Childcare Support Program Plan	Health and Childcare Div.	2020-2024	Child and Child Care Support Act
Yokoze Town Basic Education Promotion Plan	Board of Education	2024-2027	Basic Act on Education

6. Relationship with SDGs: Key Related Goals and Targets

Goals							
Targets	1.b	3.7	4.1 4.7 4.a	5.1 5.5	8.5	10.2	16.1 16.2



Pillar 2: Promoting Health



1. Aims

Strengthen prevention and welfare in anticipation of a super-aging society in which people live into their 100s, and create a town that is friendly to elderly people and people with disabilities where everyone can live with physical and mental health.

2. Major Initiatives

- (1) Support the mental and physical health of everyone at every stage of life, from children to adults.
- (2) Monitor the health of children and their families, from pregnancy and childbirth, creating a healthy and comfortable environment for raising children.
- (3) Provide support to help residents think about their health and take needed steps to maintain and improve it.
- (4) Encourage the taking of health checks and medical examinations and proactively provide specific health guidance, health education and consultations to encourage people to visit appropriate medical institutions to prevent, detect and treat diseases early.
- (5) Work to promote sports and enhance programs centered on walking, in which people of all ages can participate, fostering a walking mindset among residents to make the town “the most walkable town in Japan.”
- (6) Continue to share information and raise awareness on the knowledge of mental health and work to improve consultation services and home visits to achieve a state of mental and physical wellbeing.
- (7) Support and cooperate with local welfare organizations, including the Social Welfare Council, the main local welfare organization, and actively promote local welfare activities.
- (8) Work to prevent the need for long-term care so elderly people can live healthy and independent lives, while also actively strengthening connections between people through elderly salons, etc. Also support people with dementia to be able to live in their familiar local community. In addition, continue the mobile supermarket program aimed at improving the convenience of daily life.
- (9) Enable people with disabilities to independently live their own lives by improving consultation systems, strengthening cooperation with relevant organizations, and providing various support such as improving the environment and providing employment opportunities.

[Main jurisdictional departments: Resident Affairs Div., Long-term Care and Welfare Div., Health and Childcare Div.]

3. Basic Goals to be Achieved

Item		Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Percentage of people feeling physically and mentally healthy (%)	2-A	70	-	-	-	80
Healthy life expectancy at age 65 *5 (Men) (years)	2-B	17.18				17.98
Healthy life expectancy at age 65 (Women) (years)	2-C	20.70				21.10

*5 The period for which a person who reaches the age of 65 can expect to live a healthy and independent life. More specifically, this is the period until a person reaches the level of “Care Level 2” or higher.

4. Key Indicators to be Achieved

Indicator		Responsible Dept.	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
National Health Insurance medical expenses per person (JPY)	2-1	Resident Affairs Div.	365,169	-	-	-	367,000
Medical expenses per late-stage elderly person (JPY)	2-2	Resident Affairs Div.	729,886				766,400
National Health Insurance specific health checkup attendance rate (%)	2-3	Resident Affairs Div.	44.3				50.0
Late-stage elderly person medical health check attendance rate (%)	2-4	Resident Affairs Div.	24.9				30.0
National Health Insurance specific health guidance implementation rate (%)	2-5	Resident Affairs Div.	38.9				45.0
Total No. of users of Elderly Salons and Orange Cafes (people)	2-6	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	2,433				3,000
Total No. of annual users of mobile supermarket program (people)	2-7	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	7,800				10,000
No. of people registered at Silver Human Resource Centers (people)	2-8	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	110				125
Total No. of annual residents using General Welfare Centers (Welfare Centers) (people)	2-9	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	13,000				20,000
No. of participants in preventive long-term care programs (people)	2-10	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	1,600				1,800
No. of participants in Dementia Supporter Training Courses (people)	2-11	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	80				100
Total No. of annual participants in exchange programs with people with disabilities (people)	2-12	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	115				130
Total No. of people taking sign language courses (people)	2-13	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	70				90
No. of participants in walking activities (people)	2-14	Health and Childcare Div.	300				400
Percentage of people receiving gastric cancer screenings (%)	2-15	Health and Childcare Div.	8.06				9.00
Percentage of people receiving colon cancer screenings (%)	2-16	Health and Childcare Div.	12.00				13.00
Percentage of 1 year and 2-3 month old children receiving health checks (%)	2-17	Health and Childcare Div.	0				100

5. Key Related Individual Plans

Name	Responsible Dept.	Target period (FY)	Underlying law, etc.
Third Yokoze Town Data Health Plan	Resident Affairs Div.	2024-2029	National Health Insurance Act
Fourth Yokoze Town Specific Health Checkup Implementation Plan	Resident Affairs Div.	2024-2029	Act on Assurance of Medical care for Elderly People
Sixth Yokoze Town Plan for Persons with Disabilities/Seventh Disability Welfare Plan/Third Child Disability Welfare Plan	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	2024-2026	Act on Providing Comprehensive Support for the Daily Life and Life in Society of Persons with Disabilities
Third Yokoze Town Community Welfare Plan/Yokoze Town Community Welfare Activity Plan	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	2022-2026	Social Welfare Act
Yokoze Town Elderly Welfare Plan/Long-term Care Insurance Program Plan (Ninth)	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	2024-2026	Act on Social Welfare for the Elderly Long-Term Care Insurance Act
Yokoze Town Child/Childcare Support Program Plan	Health and Childcare Div.	2020-2024	Child and Child Care Support Act
Third Yokoze Health Plan 21 (Health Promotion Plan/Food Education Promotion Plan)	Health and Childcare Div.	2020-2024	Health Promotion Act
Yokoze Town Suicide Prevention Plan	Health and Childcare Div.	2020-2024	Basic Act on Suicide Prevention

6. Relationship with SDGs: Key Related Goals and Targets





Pillar 3: Promoting Safety and Security



1. Aims

Promote disaster prevention, crime prevention, fire prevention and road safety measures to create an environment in which everyone, including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, can live safely and securely without worry about disasters or crime. Also promote sustainable administrative management.

2. Major Initiatives

- (1) Continue conducting practical disaster prevention drills to foster an awareness of the dangers of natural disasters among residents. Share hazard maps with residents through media and other opportunities and use them in drills, encouraging active participation particularly from younger generations. Also, regularly update information on residents in need of assistance in evacuation and share this information closely with relevant stakeholders. In addition, promote the maintenance of disaster prevention supplies and equipment in preparation for emergencies.
- (2) Review organizations and work to strengthen firefighting capabilities by securing new fire corps volunteers, improving conditions, and improving equipment and materials, etc., due to the decline in fire corps volunteers as the population declines.
- (3) Conduct activities such as traffic safety campaigns in cooperation with police and traffic safety organizations to raise awareness, with particular concern for vulnerable road users such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Also, continue installing traffic mirrors and warning signs at dangerous locations such as intersections with poor visibility etc., to prevent traffic accidents.
- (4) Improve the convenience of local public transport, such as railway, route buses, share taxis and taxis, etc., by reviewing the overall system, taking into account the elderly and people with disabilities, who are vulnerable to the transport system.
- (5) Levy and collect appropriate town taxes and actively secure financial resources to promote sustainable administrative management.
- (6) Improve the safety and convenience of users by prioritizing main town roads and school routes along national and prefectural roads, and routes desired by local residents. Also promote proper maintenance and management for road bridges by updating bridge longevity plans through regular inspections and soundness evaluations and carrying out repair work on high priority bridges.
- (7) Ensure the safety of users and reduce traffic congestion by promoting the early completion of sidewalk construction and improvement of intersections on wide-area trunk roads, such as National Highway 299, and the major regional road Kumagaya-Ogawa-Chichibu Line.
- (8) Promote bank construction and dredging on Class A rivers, including the Yokoze River, and take measures to prevent overflow and flooding due to typhoons and heavy rains.

[Main jurisdictional departments: General Affairs Div., Town Management Div., Tax and Accounting Div., Resident Affairs Div., Long-term Care and Welfare Div., Construction Div.]

3. Basic Goals to be Achieved

Item		Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Percentage of people satisfied with disaster and crime prevention measures (%)	3-A	50	-	-	-	60
No. of casualties due to disasters (cases)	3-B	0				0
No. of crimes (cases)	3-C	21.6				20
Financial soundness ratio (future burden ratio) (%)	3-D	36.9				39.3
Municipal (town) tax revenue (JPY 100M)	3-E	11.9				11.6
No. of traffic accidents involving elementary and junior high school students (cases)	3-F	1				0

4. Key Indicators to be Achieved

Indicator		Responsible Dept.	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
No. of fire corps volunteers (Actual number/capacity (people))	3-1	General Affairs Div.	120/144				130/144
No. of participants in disaster prevention drills (people)	3-2	General Affairs Div.	600				800
No. of Traffic accidents (personal injury accidents) (case)	3-3	General Affairs Div.	20.3				20.0
No. of share taxi users (people)	3-4	Town Management Div.	5,407				6,000
Municipal (town) tax collection rate (%)	3-5	Tax and Accounting Div.	96.1				96.3
General consultation desk consultation rate (No. of consultations/town population x 100) (%)	3-6	Resident Affairs Div.	1.21				1.55
No. of traffic safety awareness activities for the elderly, etc. (Traffic safety advice: No. of visits to local comprehensive support centers) (activities)	3-7	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	1,000				1,200
Length of road improved (town roads) (km)	3-8	Construction Div.	63.87				64.53
Length of roads with sidewalks (km)	3-9	Construction Div.	7.450				8.103

5. Key Related Individual Plans

Name	Responsible Dept.	Target period (FY)	Underlying law, etc.
Yokoze Town Regional Disaster Prevention Plan	General Affairs Div.	2016	Basic Act on Disaster Management
Yokoze Town Civil Protection Plan	General Affairs Div.	2011	Civil Protection Act
Yokoze Town Regional National Resilience Plan	General Affairs Div.	2021	Basic Act on National Resilience
Yokoze Town Financial Plan	Town Management Div.		-
Yokoze Town Comprehensive Management Plan for Public Facilities, etc.	Town Management Div.	2017-2056	April 22, 2014 MIAC Notice "Promotion of the Comprehensive and Planned Management of Public Facilities, etc."
Yokoze Town Individual Public Facility Plans	Town Management Div.	2021-2060	//
Yokoze Town Regional Public Transportation Action Plan	Town Management Div.	2015	-
Yokoze Town Evacuation Support Plan for residents in need of assistance in evacuation (Overall Plan)	Long-term Care and Welfare Div. Health and Childcare Div.	2014	Basic Act on Disaster Management
Yokoze Town Child/Childcare Support Program Plan	Health and Childcare Div.	2020-2024	Child and Child Care Support Act
Yokoze Town Building Seismic Retrofitting Promotion Plan	Construction Div.	2020-2025	Act on Promotion of Seismic Retrofitting of Buildings
Yokoze Town Bridge Longevity Repair Plan	Construction Div.	2023-2032	Road Traffic Act
Yokoze Town Forest Road Facility Longevity Plan	Construction Div.	2020-2029	Forestry Agency Forest Road Regulations
Yokoze Town Urban Planning Master Plan	Construction Div.	2021-2040	City Planning Act

6. Relationship with SDGs: Key Related Goals and Targets

Goals	1 貧困をなくそう	3 すべての人に健康と福祉を	4 質の高い教育をみんなに	5 ジェンダー平等を實現しよう	9 産業と技術革新の基盤をつくろう	11 住み続けられるまちづくりを	13 気候変動に具体的な対策を	16 平和と公正をすべての人に	17 パートナーシップで目標を達成しよう
Targets	1.5	3.3 3.6	4.a	5.5	9.1	11.2 11.5 11.7 11.b	13.1	16.4 16.6	17.17



Pillar 4: Creating Industry and Employment



1. Aims

Create an environment in which people, goods, money and information can continue to gather by promoting migration and the development of agriculture, forestry, and commerce and industry, so that people can realize their own unique working and living styles.

2. Major Initiatives

- (1) Improve conditions for those who want to live a life based on agriculture to increase the number of settlers involved in agriculture and increase the appeal of agricultural management to foster agricultural successors. Also, strengthen agricultural foundations through farmland patrols by agricultural commissioners, support for farmland conservation efforts, and the use of cropland intermediary management institutions.
- (2) Create an environment that strengthens cooperation between commercial and industrial business operators so that they can maintain and improve sustainable management capabilities. Also promote the management foundations and business succession of commercial and industrial business operators.
- (3) Promote the attractiveness and an image of the town as easy to live and work in and create opportunities to experience life in the town to encourage people to move in, settle, and start businesses.
- (4) Develop employment measures through industry-academia-government and wide-area collaboration, promote the introduction of digital technologies in commercial and industrial businesses, utilize outside human resources such as regional revitalization cooperation volunteers and regional revitalization entrepreneurs, etc., and create a new economic cycle and promote industry. Also create an environment in which people can do what they want and experience financial comfort through the creation of job opportunities.
- (5) Actively utilize the hometown and company hometown tax systems. Aim to increase the number of payers and the amounts paid by polishing up existing gift products, developing new gift products, and enhancing our e-commerce site, etc.

[Main jurisdictional departments: Town Management Div., Promotion and Development Div.]

3. Basic Goals to be Achieved

Item	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Percentage of people who feel the financial freedom to be able to do what they want and buy what they want (%)	4-A 48	-	-	-	55
No. of people moved out (net loss) (people)	4-B 15				0
Total hometown tax/corporate hometown tax donations (JPY 1,000)	4-C 73,000				100,000
No. of new employees at businesses (through Hello Work) (people)	4-D 75				85

4. Key Indicators to be Achieved

Indicator	Responsible Dept.	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Total No. of passengers using town train stations (people) 4-1	Town Management Div.	590,500				602,300
Total No. of outside human resources used (regional revitalization cooperation teams, town regional revitalization entrepreneurs) (people) 4-2	Town Management Div.	36				64
Total No. of business proposals on Public-Private Partnership Platform (proposals) 4-3	Town Management Div.	234				335
Total No. of Public-Private Partnership Platform business related entrepreneurs (people) 4-4	Town Management Div.	5				9
Total No. of Public-Private Partnership Platform business related migrants (people) 4-5	Town Management Div.	4				8
Total No. of Public-Private Partnership Platform business media exposures (exposures) 4-6	Town Management Div.	841				1,250
No. of attracted companies (companies) 4-7	Promotion and Development Div.	0				4
Area of idle farmland (ha) 4-8	Promotion and Development Div.	35.5				33.5
Total roadside station sales (JPY 100M) 4-9	Promotion and Development Div.	4.6				5.0
No. of business innovation plan approvals acquired (cases) 4-10	Promotion and Development Div.	9				12
No. of grants to promote permanent employment for residents (grants) 4-11	Promotion and Development Div.	4				8

5. Key Related Individual Plans

Name	Responsible Dept.	Target period (FY)	Underlying law, etc.
Yokoze Town Agricultural Promotion Region Establishment Plan	Promotion and Development Div.	1999 –	Act on the Establishment of Agricultural Promotion Regions

6. Relationship with SDGs: Key Related Goals and Targets





Pillar 5: Creating a Vibrant Town Center



1. Aims

Promote a vibrant town known for its openness and friendliness, by increasing the number of visitors for tourism and other purposes (exchange population) and the number of people from outside the area with diverse connections with the local community and its people (related population). Also, use the town’s main facilities such as the station and community spaces, etc. to revitalize the town center and create a town that is full of hope, excitement and anticipation for the future.

2. Major Initiatives

- (1) Actively develop tourist attractions in cooperation with the Yokoze Town Tourism Association with an eye to inbound tourism to attract many tourists.
- (2) Continue to develop walking courses for residents and people from outside the town to be able to walk safely, securely and with a sense of excitement, while strengthening cooperation with leaders in the field of walking to promote “the most walkable town in Japan.”
- (3) Work to provide comprehensive support for mountain climbing and hiking trails and the development of safe and secure mountain climbing and hiking trains to make mounting hiking more comfortable, including on Mt. Buko, the symbol of the Chichibu region.
- (4) Promote the enhancement of the function of the area around Yokoze Station as a transportation hub, improving convenience for railway users. Also strengthen cooperation with Chichibu City in considering the planned Miyaji-Yokoze Line (tentative name) to serve as a linking road to the West Kanto Expressway.
- (5) Make effective use of various town center facilities such as Area 898 and town-owned assets such as Water Park Shirayama, the former Ashigakubo Elementary School, etc. and idle assets, encouraging the inflow of people, goods, money and information, increasing exchange population and related population, and developing new local resources and expanding the local community. Also, by creating this base, create an environment in which there are opportunities for interaction between residents and related population and opportunities to take on challenges such as places for co-creation, etc.

[Main jurisdictional departments: Town Management Div., Health and Childcare Div., Promotion and Development Div., Construction Div.]

3. Basic Goals to be Achieved

Item	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Percentage of people who feel hope, delight and excitement regarding the future of the town (%) 5-A	33	-	-	-	40
No. of visitors (tourists) (people) 5-B	672,000				700,000
No. of passengers at Yokoze station (people) 5-C	455,800				467,000

4. Key Indicators to be Achieved

Indicator	Responsible Dept.	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Total No. of new and effective use cases for Town-owned Assets (No.) 5-1	Town Management Div.	0				3
No. of users of migration, settlement and exchange promotion facilities (Area 898, etc.) (people) 5-2	Town Management Div.	8,473				10,000
No. of exchanges and collaborations with other local governments, universities and companies, etc. (No.) 5-3	Town Management Div.	19				25
No. of participants from outside the town in healthy walking classes (people) 5-4	Promotion and Development Div.	40				40
No. of times Yokoze Town Tourism Association website accessed (No.) 5-5	Promotion and Development Div.	372,178				380,000

5. Key Related Individual Plans

Name	Responsible Dept.	Target period (FY)	Underlying law, etc.
Third Yokoze Health Plan 21 (Health Promotion Plan/Food Education Promotion Plan)	Health and Childcare Div.	2020-2024	Health Promotion Act
Yokoze Town City Planning Master Plan	Construction Div.	2021-2040	City Planning Act

6. Relationship with SDGs: Key Related Goals and Targets

Goals	5 ジェンダー平等を 実現しよう	8 働きがいも 経済成長も	11 住み続けられる まちづくりを	12 つくる責任 つかう責任	17 パートナリシップで 目標を達成しよう
Targets	5.5	8.9	11.7 11.a	12.b	17.17





1. Aims

Value nature and foster a lifestyle of coexisting with nature, in a comfortable living environment where people can feel close to nature. Also, make effective use of vacant houses and idle farmland to create a sustainable living environment.

2. Major Initiatives

- (1) Understand the actual state of vacant houses and encourage the proper management of vacant houses, and promote their effective use with the sale, rental and renovation of vacant houses using a vacant house database (Akiya bank). Also promote the demolition of dilapidated vacant houses that have a negative impact on the surrounding environment.
- (2) Build energy-efficient and zero-carbon homes and renovations, etc. to promote energy and resource conservation. In addition, promote activities to prevent the illegal dumping of waste, a common issue in the Chichibu area, and raise awareness of the 4Rs^{*6}, promoting the reuse and recycling of waste resources.
- (3) Promote water purity and beautiful clear streams so that people can use waterside areas with peace of mind.
- (4) Prevent wild animals from invading homes and causing harm to people. Also, in addition to supporting activities to protect farmland, implement measures in cooperation with relevant organizations etc. to prevent damage by birds and animals and reduce damage to agriculture. In addition, make use of ICT to implement efficient measures against bird and animal damage, reduce the burden on members of hunting associations, and secure hunting association membership.
- (5) Promote forest management systems such as forest intention surveys and consolidation to effectively advance forest management. Also build a system for promoting sustainable forest management by cultivating new forestry workers in cooperation with relevant organizations and through the utilization of the forest environment transfer tax.
- (6) Work with volunteers to create parks that are comfortable and beautiful, and that residents can be proud of, attracting people from inside and outside of the town.
- (7) Carry out rapid development in underdeveloped areas within the Specific Environmental Protection Sewerage System Project Plan area and develop combined septic tanks in Septic Tank Treatment Promotion areas to improve public health and living environments.

[Main jurisdictional departments: Town Management Div., Promotion and Development Div., Construction Div.]

*6) The 4Rs refers to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Refuse.

3. Basic Goals to be Achieved

Item	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Percentage of people who feel close to nature (%) 6-A	87	-	-	-	100
No. of Vacant House Database properties handled (No.) 6-B	8				8
No. of home renovation (vacant house) subsidies granted (No.) 6-C	2				6
No. of grants to remove dilapidated vacant houses (No.) 6-D	4				6
Area of agricultural damage from wildlife (ha) 6-E	0.89				0.71
Achieved water quality environmental standard (Yokoze River lower downstream BOD: mg/L) 6-F	0.90				0.90

4. Key Indicators to be Achieved

Indicator	Responsible Dept.	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Amount of combustible/non-combustible waste (per person per day) (g) 6-1	Promotion and Development Div.	639				640
Amount of recyclable waste (per person per day) (g) 6-2	Promotion and Development Div.	87				100
No. of Resident Clean Patrol members (people) 6-3	Promotion and Development Div.	67				71
Total No. of energy-efficient homes (homes) 6-4	Promotion and Development Div.	0				4
No. of hunting club members (people) 6-5	Promotion and Development Div.	18				22
Total area of consolidated artificial forest (ha) 6-6	Promotion and Development Div.	148.08				180.00
No. of projects subsidized under Forest Environment Transfer Tax (No.) 6-7	Promotion and Development Div.	6				10
Total No. of volunteers participating in Hanasakiyama Park maintenance (people) 6-8	Promotion and Development Div.	461				500
Population sewage treatment coverage rate (%) 6-9	Construction Div.	83.7				85.4

5. Key Related Individual Plans

Name	Responsible Dept.	Target period (FY)	Underlying law, etc.
Yokoze Town Forest Improvement Plan	Promotion and Development Div.	2018-2027	-
Yokoze Town Agricultural Promotion Area Development Plan	Promotion and Development Div.	1999	Basic Guidelines for Securing Agricultural land, etc.
Yokoze Town Basic Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plan	Promotion and Development Div.	2015-2025	Water Pollution Prevention Act
Third Yokoze Town Global Warming Measures Action Plan	Promotion and Development Div.	2020-2030	Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures
Yokoze Town Bird and Animal Damage Prevention Plan	Promotion and Development Div.	2022-2024	-
Yokoze Town Vacant House Measures Plan	Construction Div.	2020-2024	Special Measures Act on the Promotion of Measures for Vacant Houses, etc.
Yokoze Town Specific Environmental Protection Sewerage System Project Plan	Construction Div.	2018-2026	Sewerage Act
Yokoze Town Public Sewerage (Second Phase) Stock Management Plan	Construction Div.	2024-2028	Sewerage Act and Guidelines for the Stock Management of Sewerage Businesses
Yokoze Town Sewerage Business Management Strategy	Construction Div.	2024-2033	August 29, 2014 MIC Notice Points to Note when Managing Public Enterprises
Promotion of Sewerage in Yokoze Town (Priority Plan) [Comprehensive Social Capital Development Plan]	Construction Div.	2018-2027	Guidelines for Grants for Comprehensive Social Capital Development
Plan for Promoting the Creation of a Recycling-oriented Society	Construction Div.	2024-2025	Guidelines for Grants for Promoting the Creation of a Recycling-oriented Society

6. Relationship with SDGs: Key Related Goals and Targets

Goals							
Targets	4.7	5.5	6.2 6.4	7.2 7.3	8.4	9.4	11.3 11.6 11.7
Goals							
Targets	12.5 12.8	13.1 13.3	14.1	15.1 15.2 15.4	17.17		



Pillar 7: Creating Community



1. Aims

Continue to foster many warm relationships to create a town with rich diversity where local people help each other in times of concern and difficulty.

2. Major Initiatives

- (1) Support and develop activities for people and organizations involved in the community to support each other throughout the region. Also strengthen relationships among people at familiar places in the community including community gathering places and elderly salons, etc. In addition, provide active support for local community activities, such as the assignment of village support staff, etc.
- (2) Continue to examine new ways to involve residents while supporting local groups, companies, NPOs, and schools, etc. as cooperative partners in promoting urban development through resident participation.
- (3) Work with Silver Human Resource Centers and volunteer organizations, etc. to promote activities that focus on connecting families and community. Aim to maintain and improve an environment in which the community can help each other and live in comfort, health, and peace of mind.
- (4) Raise awareness of the need to prevent fraud through warnings over disaster prevention radio and safety emails to prevent harm from special fraud. Also work with police and crime prevention organizations to conduct crime prevention activities such as visiting elderly people in their homes and conducting Blue Security Patrols.
- (5) Aim to create and improve unifying forces for young people with a long-term view of creating an atmosphere and environment that attracts young people to the town.
- (6) Promote collaboration between schools, families and communities to create open school and education environments for the community, through activities such as school support groups and community schools, and events that utilize resources within and outside the town.
- (7) Support lifelong learning (social education organizations, community centers, public halls, libraries).
- (8) Properly protect, preserve and utilize cultural assets, hand down traditional culture, and promote culture and arts through the Yokoze Music Festival and Resident Cultural Festival.
- (9) Promote healthy and vibrant town development through sports. Promote lifelong engagement in sports and recreation, by properly maintaining and making effective use of social sporting facilities.

[Main jurisdictional departments: General Affairs Div., Town Management Div., Long-term Care and Welfare Div., Health and Childcare Div., Promotion and Development Div., Board of Education]

3. Basic Goals to be Achieved

Item	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
Percentage of people who feel that others in the community will help each other in times of concern or difficulty (%) 7-A	55	-	-	-	65
Percentage of people who want to continue living in the town (%) 7-B	60				70
Satisfaction with the response of city workers (%) 7-C	98				100

4. Key Indicators to be Achieved

Indicator	Responsible Dept.	Ref. Value	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 Target
No. of recognized special (communications) fraud cases (cases) 7-1	General Affairs Div.	0				0
No. of times town website accessed (No.) 7-2	Town Management Div.	232,132				250,000
No. of assigned village support staff (people) 7-3	Town Management Div.	0				7
Percentage of participants at 25-year-old gatherings (%) 7-4	Town Management Div.	25				35
No. of people registered at volunteer centers (people) 7-5	Long-term Care and Welfare Div.	110				130
Yokoze Festival participation rate (participants/town population x 100) (%) 7-6	Promotion and Development Div.	77.0				77.0
School education supporter rate (actual number of school education supporters/town population x 100) (%) 7-7	Board of Education	6.0				7.0
Town Cultural Festival participation rate (participants/town population x 100) (%) 7-8	Board of Education	17.5				30.0
Yokoze Music Festival participation rate (participants/town population x 100) (%) 7-9	Board of Education	7.9				15.0
Annual sporting event participation rate (participants/town population x 100) (%) 7-10	Board of Education	33.0				40.0

5. Key Related Individual Plans

Name	Responsible Dept.	Target period (FY)	Underlying law, etc.
Yokoze Town Basic Education Promotion Plan	Board of Education	2024-2027	Basic Act on Education

6. Relationship with SDGs: Key Related Goals and Targets

Goals						
Targets	4.7	5.5	10.2	11.7	16.7	17.17

Foundation Supporting the 7 Pillars —Realizing the Plan

The foundation that supports the seven pillars to realize the goal of this plan of a “Colorful Town” is very important. We will actively work on the following as a foundation to further improve the feasibility of this plan.

1. Maximize the capabilities of staff

Secure staff and allocate them appropriately based on optimized staffing plans, provide training for staff, improving individual specialized skills, and strengthen teamwork through team building to create an environment in which staff can demonstrate their abilities in various administrative fields. Also, with a motto of “open and friendly,” aim to be “the most approachable town in Japan” by having staff gather a wide range of information from residents and from outside of the town, and by expanding the circle of people who place importance on relationships and dialog.

2. Promote sustainable administrative management

Flexibly respond to social and contemporary trends and promote efficient administrative management while maintaining a sense of planning. Also, seek to achieve maximum results with minimum expenses by levying and collecting appropriate town taxes, actively securing financial resources, and selecting and concentrating on effective projects with a view to medium to long-term financial management. Promote sustainable administrative management through these efforts.

3. Promote collaboration and participation

Work to encourage all residents, regardless of gender or age, or whether they have disabilities, to take an active role in town development and administration, working to improve PR, public hearing activities, and information disclosure.

4. Make use of wide-area collaboration and self-sustaining settlements

Make active use of the Chichibu Wide Municipal Area Association and other systems for self-sufficient settlements which help fulfill the roles of both urban and daily living environments. Also promote diverse collaboration among diverse municipalities in a wide range of fields, making use of the resources and characteristics of each municipality, including small ones, etc.

5. Make use of the vitality of the private sector

Continue to embrace vitality from outside private sector, schools, and finance, etc., and formulate a regional revitalization plan that makes active use of public-private partnerships, including a corporate hometown tax system.

6. Make use of people-friendly technologies

Take security measures to protect personal information, etc., and make appropriate and proactive use of technology to improve convenience for residents, communicate with residents, and streamline administrative work.

7. Taking on challenges

Emphasize “taking on challenges” and continue to be a town that takes on challenges. Also support people inside and outside of the town who want to take on challenges through “Public-Private Partnership Platforms,” etc.



横瀬町

この計画は町の目標を定めた大切な書類です。
基本目標や指標の達成状況を毎年度公表しますので、お手元に置いていただき、進捗の確認にご活用ください。

Colorful Town
カラフルタウン

