

SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES FROM JAPAN

Sustainable technologies are those which advance sustainability measures both by businesses and consumers aimed at solving environmental problems including health, safety and security while reducing society's carbon footprint. Japanese public and private institutions are pursuing such technologies in many fields, driven by a desire not only to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and meet increasingly tough environmental measures, but also to create new demand, spur productivity and thereby foster mid- to long-term economic growth. Japan's overarching goal is to realize "Society 5.0," in which challenges are resolved by incorporating into industry and social life the various innovations of the fourth industrial revolution such as IoT, big data, artificial intelligence and robots. In this month's Feature, we single out a few sustainable technologies and innovations of the fourth industrial revolution that promise significant rewards in the very near future.