

Tsukuba Technology Research Institute certified as a “Natural Symbiosis Site” and also awarded the “Nikkei Award”

Accelerate efforts to achieve nature-positive and carbon-neutral status simultaneously

TODA Corporation (Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President: Otani Seisuke) ’s greening efforts at the Tsukuba Research Institute (Tsukuba, Ibaraki) were recognized as a “Natural Symbiosis Site” in October 2023 which the Ministry of the Environment is promoting to achieve the “30 by 30”*1 target. In addition, the Tsukuba Research Institute was selected for the Nikkei Inc. Award in “the Rooftop and Wall Greening Technology Competition” sponsored by the Organization for Landscape and Urban Green Infrastructure (public interest incorporated foundation).



Photo1: Green Office Building and the locality native plant biotope “Tsukuba Regeneration Village” at the Tsukuba Technology Research Institute



Photo2: “Tsukuba Regeneration Village”, the locality native plant biotope at the Tsukuba Technology Research Institute (photo taken from the sky)”

We are actively promoting the following two initiatives

- ① “Nature Positive” aims to halt and restore the loss of biodiversity.
- ② “Carbon neutral” to reduce overall greenhouse gas emission to zero by 2050

The details are described below.

① Overview of “Natural Symbiosis Site” and certification details

In 2023, the Ministry of the Environment established a new system to certify “areas where biodiversity is being conserved through private-sector efforts, etc.” as “Natural Symbiosis Site,” and 122 sites (35 prefectures) have now been certified. In addition, those “certified areas” excluding overlapping protected areas will be registered in the international database as OECM*2, contributing to achieving the “30 by 30” goal.

The certification covers the green space of the entire grounds of Tsukuba Technology Research Institute. In order to be recognized as a Natural Symbiosis Site, the site had to satisfy one or more items in the “Criteria for the Value of Biodiversity” and we were evaluated in two items: “Ecosystem Services & Healthy Ecosystems” and “Rare Species”.

We transplanted and cultivated native species, including rare species that used to grow in the Tsukuba area, to create a local native plants biotope and continuously conduct monitoring surveys six times a year to ensure proper maintenance and management. This initiative, in particular, was recognized by the review committee as contributing to the improvement of biodiversity in the region, leading to the certification.



Figure 1: Logo for certification as a Natural Symbiosis Site

② Outline and Selection Details of the Rooftop and Wall Greening Technology Competition

Established in 2002, the competition*3 aims to improve the urban environment and enrich urban lifestyles and recognizes companies and organizations that actively engage in greening unique spaces such as rooftops and walls, which were previously considered challenging to green, and are achieving outstanding results.

The award was presented to the greening of the walls of the Green Office Building, which is used as an office space for employees of the Tsukuba Technology Research Institute. Unlike conventional wall greening designed with only outdoor design in mind, this building is also designed with an emphasis on views from the interior. The four outer walls of the building were covered with ten types of native vines, which were evaluated for their ability to shield the building from solar radiation and provide a biophilia effect*4, making the space highly productive for the office workers.



Photo 3: View from inside

【Category:】 Wall and Special Greening Division

【Name of work:】 Toda Corporation Tsukuba Technology Research Institute
Green Office Building / Tsukuba, Ibaraki

Future Development

With the release of the TNFD (Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures) recommendations in September 2023, there is an increased focus on corporate activities to conserve and restore natural capital. We will actively promote greening with an awareness of biodiversity to become “nature positive” and “carbon neutral.” In addition, we will continuously monitor the plants and organisms in the biotopes and greenery at the Tsukuba Technology Research Institute and use the knowledge gained to contribute to the development of a sustainable society and the conservation of the global environment through the resolution of issues related to our customers’ natural capital.

※1 “30 by 30#

A global goal that seeks to effectively conserve at least 30% of the land and oceans as healthy ecosystems by 2030.

※2 OECM (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures)

Lands other than protected areas, such as satochi-satoyama (mountain villages and neighbouring agricultural, forest, etc. areas), corporate forests, shrine and temple forests, where biodiversity is being conserved by local communities, companies, and organizations.

※3 The Organization for Landscape and Urban Green Infrastructure (public interest incorporated foundation) has determined the 2023 Urban Greenery 3 Awards winners.

https://urbangreen.or.jp/info-grant/3hyosho/3toshisho/231016_press_toshinomidori3hyosho

※4 Biophilia effect

Being in contact with nature reduces stress, heals the body and mind, and improves concentration.

We will strive to optimize our business portfolio by promoting strategic investments in priority management businesses and intangible assets that will drive future growth, and to achieve our mid- to long-term goal of 8% ROE as well as to further enhance corporate value.