

Kitakyushu Sustainability Newsletter !

September 8th, 2025

Kitakyushu is Japan's leading sustainable city, built on altruism and regeneration. This newsletter brings you the latest updates on Kitakyushu's sustainability initiatives !

Vol. 3

Beacon of Hope: Kitakyushu — Escaping the Rust Belt Fate

Since 1901, when Japan's first state-owned steelworks (today's Nippon Steel) began operations, Kitakyushu grew into a major industrial hub—one of the nation's four great industrial zones but from the 1980s, the city's population began to decline.

Now, after years of bold initiatives that placed population at the heart of city strategy, the tide is finally turning. Kitakyushu is starting to see results—and a new chapter of growth is unfolding.

Editor's Note

Meet Kitakyushu's "Positive Monster" — Mayor Takeuchi!

Defining a leader as one who brings hope to citizens, Mayor Takeuchi calls himself a "Positive Monster," demonstrating fearless, forward-looking leadership that drives the entire city forward.

Editor Ken

Population Growth Returns After 60 Years

In 2024, in-migration exceeded out-migration, boosting Kitakyushu's net population by 492 residents as the city's industrial initiatives pay off.

589 Companies, ¥1 Trillion Invested

In the past two years, 93 companies have invested ¥388.6 billion, with digital and manufacturing industries transforming Kitakyushu and attracting people and growth.

3,000 STEM Graduates Every Year

Kitakyushu, with abundant water, reliable power, and excellent transport infrastructure, produces 3,000 STEM graduates and around 9,000 graduates overall each year.

Leading the Way: Mayor Kazuhisa Takeuchi.

Kitakyushu is changing perceptions with proactive initiatives, showing fearless leadership that inspires citizens and makes people want to visit and live in the city.