

Japan: Jo-Town Kanokodai

BIODATA

PV community name:	Jo-Town Kanokodai
Kind of urban area:	Residential – urban
Main building type in community:	Houses - single houses
New/Retrofit/Added:	New district/community – building integration
Type of project:	Commercial project
Start of operation:	Year 2002
City, state, etc.:	Kita, Kobe, Hyogo
Country:	Japan
Latitude:	N34 51' 38"
Longitude:	E135 12' 58"

PV SYSTEM CHATACTERISTICS

Total PV power:	285 kW
Number of houses/buildings:	95 houses
PV power per unit:	3 kW/house
Energy yield per year:	-
Main PV system type:	Grid-connected - demand side
Main PV application type:	Inclined roof – integrated: PV roof tiles
Main PV module type:	PV roof tile
Main PV cell type:	Amorphous Si
PV module manufacturer/brand:	Kubota corporation
Inverter manufacturer/brand:	Kubota corporation
Investment for PV systems:	-

OWNERSHIP

Building owner:	Inhabitant
PV owner:	Inhabitant
PV energy user:	Inhabitant



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PV COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

PV Community Brief

Jo-Town Kanokodai is located in the north of Kobe city, Hyogo.

Jo-Cooperation is aspiring to build environment-conscious houses as an effort toward a global environmental problem in the residential sector. They are focusing on PV system as a typical equipment to give environmental conscious life-style to customers and decided all houses in this community should be equipped with PV system.

Originally, the number of house compartments planned was 70. However, many customers had a great deal of empathy for their plan and 25 compartments were added to the development plan. As a result, the community has 95 houses equipped with PV systems.

Grid issue

When the development was planned, the number of PV systems installed in a limited area with a high-density grid-connection was the largest in the Kansai area. Therefore, to avoid negative influences against a grid network by the high-density PV systems installation, a precise negotiation with a utility company (Kansai Electric Power corporation) was implemented.

Urban planning and architectural issues

The compartments before building houses were sold with carrying option to build an all-electric house equipped with a PV system. Then each house was designed and built on the compartment according to users' (inhabitants') requirements.

To create a well-designed appearance of the houses and a harmonized streetscape as a community, PV roof tiles were selected for the PV systems.

Economic / financial issues

The PV system received a governmental subsidy, available through Japan's residential PV program. After starting operation, a net-metering scheme was applied so that surplus PV is traded between the inhabitant and the utility company, at the same price of the residential electric tariff.

Other remarks

The concept of the community development and equipping PV systems was well accepted and handed down to the inhabitants. The number of houses equipped with PV system was over the original development plan.

The project has been contributing not only to deploying areal PV system installation in residential area but also to increasing publicity of the project companies.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Project leader company: Jo-Cooperation Co., Ltd.

Other project company: Kubota corporation, Fujimoto-Yogyo Co., Ltd.

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