

2. Environmental Month Initiatives

June has been designated "Environmental Month," and every year a variety of environmental activities are carried out nationwide over the course of the month. We, too, host environmental communication events, and in FY2016 we undertook a variety of community-based activities throughout Kyushu, including promoting environmental education amongst the next generation under the slogan of "Kyuden Environmental Month Eco-Challenge 2016 - Spread the Word! Our Commitment in Our Communities."

[Environmental Education for the Next Generation]

We carried out a range of the next generation-focused environmental education activities aimed at local kindergartners, elementary and junior high school children. Among the various activities were environmental and energy-related on-demand courses, sweet potato harvesting (and planting) and sweetfish fry (juvenile fish) release activities at 22 offices around Kyushu.



Kindergartners and daycare children plant sweet potatoes (Shin-Oita Power Plant)



Juvenile fish release activity (Mimi River Hydro-Power Development Office)



My Environmental Action

"Sweet Potato Harvest Experience"

Hiyoko-no-Kuni Land Daycare
Principal

Hitomi Sasaki



At our daycare we understand how essential it is that children have a zest for life, and we pursue activities that will impart it to them. Two of our annual activities, that we do with the help of Kyushu Electric Power, are sweet potato planting and harvesting, the latter of which is done by parents and children together. The children love being out under a blue sky in the open field, experiencing its colors, smells and textures as they pull sweet potatoes from the dirt, exclaiming, "Look! Look! I got a potato!" And the joy they feel as they open their dirt-black hands, beaming proudly, is shared equally by their parents and all the other adults.

Their harvesting experience gives them a sense of the significance of the grace they say before their meals. It makes them that much more grateful for the food they eat and for the work done to prepare it. And it gives them a deeper appreciation of the value of life.

I hope we can continue these activities so that, through them, we can continue to teach our children about the importance of nature and the value of life.

