

Community

Summary

Why the topic is material	<p>The Daigas Group operates a business that is rooted in and supported by local communities. We believe that our various contributions to local communities will lead to a virtuous cycle, leading to the development of both the Group and society.</p> <p>The Group recognizes that it is important to proactively disclose information, enhance management transparency, and promote co-creation through constructive dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders for the public's better understanding of its corporate activities. We have positioned coexistence with the local community as one of our material issues.</p>
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	Items to be addressed	Specific initiatives	
Co-creation activities with local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community building Recommendations to society through research activities Partnerships with social service organizations Contribution to next-generation education Contribution to local communities through sports Corporate volunteering activities under the Small Light Campaign <p>Materiality Coexistence with local community</p>	Policy and promotion system	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging networks with a wide range of stakeholders, including local governments, schools, and NPOs, to provide knowledge and programs aimed at resolving social issues Promoting sound development of the next generation through the Group's energy and environmental education, disaster prevention, food education, sports menus, etc. 	
		KPIs based on the materiality	FY2023.3 results
		Participation in local governments' activities (i.e. community development planning)	38 cases
		Number of joint efforts with local communities	326 times
		Initiatives undertaken in FY2023.3	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local contribution activities under the Small Light Campaign and collaboration with neighboring companies and local organizations by employees 	
Activities by public interest incorporated foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting the elderly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Osaka Gas Group Welfare Foundation Doing our part on the international scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Osaka Gas Foundation of International Cultural Exchange 	Policy and promotion system	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Foundation engages in activities to improve and enhance the welfare of the elderly by subsidizing local welfare activities for the elderly and surveys/research conducted by universities and medical institutions and by promoting health to help senior citizens maintain and improve their health. The Foundation continues its activities to grant subsidies in the fields of education, academics, and science and technology in natural gas-producing countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania, with the aim of deepening international mutual understanding between Japan and these countries and contributing to international goodwill. <p>Initiatives undertaken in FY2023.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy projects for welfare activities for the elderly and surveys/research: 62 subsidies for welfare of the elderly (5.24 million yen); 14 subsidies for surveys/research (9.88 million yen) Health promotion projects aimed at helping senior citizens maintain and improve their health: 96 times, 3,514 participants Subsidy projects for universities, students, etc. in Indonesia, Malaysia, and East Timor: Scholarships, grants for experimental research, etc. (21.89 million yen) 	

Co-creation Activities with Local Communities

Principle and Outline

As a corporate group operating in a community-based manner, the Daigas Group believes that its good relationships with local communities is an indispensable foundation for its management. To help local residents better understand our business, we are proactively disclosing information and increasing the transparency of our company operations, as well as communicating with the general public. In addition, we will promote activities that are highly compatible with the Group's management strategy and that can contribute to coexistence with local communities. We have been making proposals for and cooperating in local governments' activities and working on joint efforts and activities with communities to create value in communities by taking full advantage of knowledge and resources which the Group has acquired through its business operations.

Examples of activities

Theme	Examples of activities	
Participation in local governments' activities (i.e. community development planning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for SDGs promotion activities by local governments through proposals for community building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proposals for/participation in councils, committees, etc. organized by various organizations and local governments
Co-creation with local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research activities with third parties to create attractive cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding the Uemachi-Daichi past and present forum event • Production of Storytellers' Theater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for activities by elderly people in collaboration with local governments, NPOs, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collaborative activities with NPOs and social entrepreneurs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication related social issues through NPO for social designing • Supporting NPOs through Osaka Gas member's club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holding social design forums and workshops
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holding "Fureai Bazaar," etc. under the "Small Light Campaign" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities to revitalize communities in collaboration with local governments and third parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talkin'About and Walkin'About activities • Histoire project
Other activities (next-generation education, consumer support, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental communication activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NOBY T&F activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disaster response education and fire education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research on disaster response and network activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lectures and presentations at universities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Response to consumer groups and consumer centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community clean-up by sports clubs ● Holding coaching sessions for baseball and track and field, etc.

Social contribution activity costs

FY2023.3: 197 million yen

Community Building

As an energy service provider focusing on businesses closely related to people's day-to-day lives as well as addressing environmental preservation with a great sense of mission, the Daigas Group is working on giving the public greater safety and security by cooperating and making proposals in fields related to daily lives, such as cooperation and proposals for community development that takes into account the local environment and disaster prevention, as well as the health of local residents and other areas of life.

Recommendations to Society through Research Activities

The Research Institute for Culture, Energy and Life (CEL), the in-house research institute of the Daigas Group, was established in 1986 as one of the projects commemorating the 80th anniversary of the founding of Osaka Gas.

We work on research, practice, and recommendations to analyze the social structure and solve problems in society with the aim of creating value in communities ((i) responding to an environment-oriented and recyclable society, (ii) responding to security and mutual assistance in a mature society, and (iii) responding to utilization of the vitality of communities and creation of attractive cities). It also makes good use of them in outside activities undertaken in cooperation with government agencies, business committees and NPOs.

In addition, efforts have been made to disseminate information through media, including the CEL magazine, its website, and SNS. Furthermore, the CEL is taking advantage of a laboratory set up at the Knowledge Capital facility at Grand Front Osaka on the north side of JR Osaka Station for the purpose of studying the attraction of cities. Seminars and study sessions are being held on various themes, such as region/community and super-ageing society.

Partnerships with Social Service Organizations

Local communities face many social issues, and these issues are becoming more advanced and complex. The Daigas Group regards the practitioners of "My Project = Starting to Solve Social Issues by Considering Them as if They Were My Own" as future partners in livening up communities in the Kansai region. The Group disseminates their activities to society and aims to collaborate with various stakeholders.



Produced "Osaka Midotsuji Monogatari" and released it on Youtube.

Collaborative activities with NPOs, etc.

Osaka Gas Network Co., Ltd., which is one of the Daigas Group companies, has been operating the online magazine "My Pro Showcase Kansai" jointly with the NPO Greenz since 2013 to introduce regional projects undertaken by Kansai-based "social designers" and nonprofit organizations. Outside Japan, Osaka Gas USA Corporation (OGUSA), which develops and invests in natural gas and power generation projects, etc. in the U.S., works on social contribution activities, including reforestation projects in public parks.



Efforts to realize an inclusive society

The "Hajimaru-kun Personal Computer Donation Program," being organized by Group member OGIS-RI, based on the idea of helping the environment by encouraging the reuse of PCs, is also a social contribution activity that provides employment support for the disabled to whom recycling operations are outsourced, as well as IT support for donation recipients. Since this program started in 2009, it has donated over 4,533 PCs to social welfare organizations. FY2023.3, the 13th Daigas Group Hajimaru-kun Personal Computer Donation Program donated 190 "Hajimaru-kun PCs" to 150 welfare facilities in six prefectures in the Kansai region, Japan.



PC recycling work at a welfare workshop

Community contribution activities in collaboration with customers

Osaka Gas and Osaka Gas Marketing Co., Ltd. have been working with our customers to consider and support social issues in local communities through the implementation of "Social Design+," a project that supports social design leaders who are striving to solve social issues on the membership-based website "My Osaka Gas," and of the "Let's Do Something Good for Our Planet — Connecting Project," which supports groups that carry out environmental activities.



Contribution to Next-generation Education

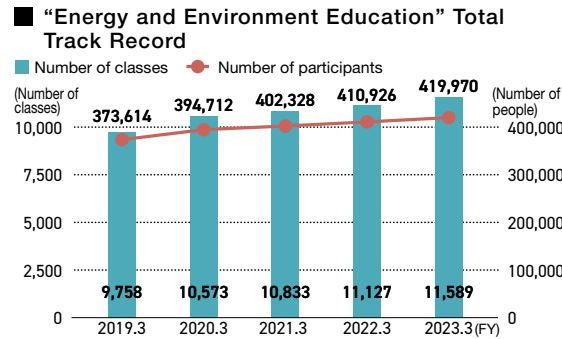
Energy and environment education

Since FY2007.3, the Daigas Group employees and alumni traveled to elementary, junior and senior high schools to teach lessons on energy and the environment in order to help children think about and understand increasingly important environmental issues. The Group's instructors offer two programs, including Eco-Cooking.*

In addition, Osaka Gas runs the Gas Science Museum (located on the premises of the Senboku LNG Terminal) where visitors can learn about energy and the environment. In December 2022, its content was completely renewed to provide the latest information. The museum is also used by the general public for experimental learning programs at nearby elementary and junior high schools or local events.

In FY2023.3, the number of participants in energy and environment education was 9,044, and the number of times it was held was 462.

*Eco-Cooking is a registered trademark of Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd.



Disaster response education

In response to the increased need for disaster response education following the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of 2011, we created an original textbook for an upper elementary school on the theme of disaster response Lessons in Disaster Response that we distribute to local elementary schools. The textbook teaches children about natural disasters in Japan. While studying it, children take a workshop designed to impart useful knowledge about the changes that take place in people's lives when a disaster strikes. The textbook also contains a checklist of items to prepare and things to do at home to prepare for emergencies. Over a period of nine years, the textbook has been used widely at junior high schools, high schools, and universities, as well as by local governments and local residents' associations. Over 240,000 textbooks in total have been distributed.



Left: Learning material for upper grades of elementary school (A4, 40 pages, full color)
Right: Teacher handbook (with worksheets and supplementary teaching materials for the class, A4, 40 pages, full color)



"Lessons in Disaster Response," in which children learn in a workshop format how their lives can change during a disaster and useful knowledge for disaster preparedness

Contribution to Local Communities through Sports

NOBY T&F CLUB, a track club led by Nobuharu Asahara, a Daigas Group employee and Beijing Olympics medalist, aims for the sound development of the next generation and creation of a new community through athletics and track and field.

In addition to focusing on fostering top athletes by leveraging the experience and leadership of former Olympians and Japanese national team members for world championships, the club also offers courses aimed at improving the health of seniors.

The training programs that have been held for more than 10 years and the instructional know-how are also used at municipal events or in school classes.

Furthermore, we disseminate information on tips for rich eating habits and body building that lead to good health through seminars, websites, and SNS.



NOBY T&F CLUB training program

Corporate Volunteering Activities under the Small Light Campaign

As a "corporate group that works together with local communities," the Daigas Group has always actively participated in local activities.

The Small Light Campaign was launched in 1981, the UN International Year of Disabled Persons, as a company volunteer effort.

Based on donations made by group employees, we provide support for children in need of social care, employment support for people with disabilities, support for disaster-stricken areas, and support for employees' volunteering activities.

The Midosuji Fureai bazaar, an initiative to support the employment of people with disabilities that was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was held for the first time in two years in April 2022 under infection control measures. In October of the same year, the "Midosuji Disaster Stricken Area Recovery Assistance Bazaar" was also resumed.



The Midosuji Fureai bazaar held for the first time in two years

Fund management

The Small Light Campaign gathers funds through various activities, including charity calendar donations and proceeds from the Midosuji Fureai bazaar, a used book bazaar, as well as donations from workplace groups, individuals, and the Suzurankai (Osaka Gas alumni) — all managed as the Small Light Fund. The money is used to support the activities of the Small Light Campaign, to support recovery in disaster-hit areas, and to donate items for social welfare or educational purposes, such as wheelchairs and picture books, to all municipalities served by Osaka Gas.



A charity calendar for raising donations from Daigas Group employees, alumni, other relevant parties and customers

The Fund's operating balance for FY2023.3 was 7,600 thousand yen in income and 9,144 thousand yen in expenses, including a special expense for the 40th anniversary of the Fund.

Social contribution activities by employees with the mindset of the Small Light Campaign

Business activities of the Daigas Group are closely tied to the daily lives of everyone in the community. Our employees contribute to local communities as members of the community, or “good corporate citizens.”

In addition to donating blood, collecting unused postcards and used stamps, and donating proceeds from sales of used books, we continue to participate in volunteer activities to support a citizen marathon race aimed at supporting regional revitalization.

The Osaka Gas Tomoshihi Club, which donates welfare points granted to employees by the company to social service organizations, donated a total of 2.344 million yen to seven organizations in FY2023.3, along with the best wishes of the employees.

In FY2023.3, we launched the “Social Contribution Portal Website” to encourage participation in community contribution activities.



The “Social Contribution Portal Website,” an in-house bulletin board that provides employees with information on volunteer activities, etc.



To support the Osaka Marathon 2023, 83 employees participated in the event as volunteers.

Activities by Public Interest Incorporated Foundations

Principle and Outline

In order to further the welfare work that the Daigas Group has conducted as a company volunteer through the “Small Light Campaign,” which was started in 1981 (the UN International Year of Disabled Persons) in a more planned and ongoing manner, 362 companies including Osaka Gas and affiliate companies, the associations comprised of contracted companies providing sales of gas appliances and other services, pipe working joined together in October 1985 to establish and fund the Osaka Gas Group Welfare Foundation in honor of Osaka Gas’ 80th anniversary. The Foundation is involved in subsidizing local welfare activities for the elderly and surveys/research conducted by universities and medical institutions, and in promoting fitness efforts aimed at helping senior citizens maintain and improve their health.

In September 1992, the Osaka Gas International Exchange Foundation was founded and fully funded by Osaka Gas, and in October 2010 the Foundation was granted authorization by the Cabinet Office to transition into a public interest incorporated foundation. The Foundation now works to deepen mutual understanding with natural gas producing countries and to make international contributions through the foundation’s activities.

Assisting the Elderly - The Osaka Gas Group Welfare Foundation

Set up in 1985 through the contribution of Daigas Group companies, the Osaka Gas Group Welfare Foundation operates in six prefectures of the Kansai region, mainly engaging in (1) funding welfare projects, (2) researching and surveying the elderly population and (3) supporting health-promotion projects to help maintain and improve the health of the elderly.

In FY2023.3, the Foundation provided 5.24 million yen in subsidies to 62 welfare projects for the elderly, and 9.88 million yen in subsidies to 14 investigation and research projects, and carried out 96 health-promotion projects involving 3,514 participants.



Health-promotion project: Gathering for health promotion



Subsidy for the welfare of the elderly: Subsidy for farm tools for agricultural workshop courses

Results of each activity (cumulative total from FY1986.3-FY2023.3)

(1) Funding to Enhance the Welfare of the Elderly	3,045 cases	691 million yen
(2) Funding for Research and Surveys	658 cases	440 million yen
(3) Health-promotion project	6,102 times	443,790 participants

Distribution of “Health Seminar for the Elderly” on YouTube

In conjunction with the renewal of our website in FY2022.3, we have created the video content “Health Seminar for the Elderly” and have started distributing it on YouTube.

We will continue to annually distribute content that can be used for health promotion in the elderly.



Video content “Health Seminar for the Elderly”

Stakeholder Comment

Striving to Build a Sense of Community

Ms. Naoko Kitao,

Section Chief, Area Social Welfare and Volunteer Promotion Section,
Kyoto Prefectural Social Welfare Council



I would like to express my great appreciation for the efforts your foundation has made since 1985 to help build a community for an aging society by providing assistance for welfare programs for the elderly, activities for encouraging them to participate in society, and other activities.

As the environment surrounding the community is changing rapidly these days, it is important to catch up with the issues that have emerged and are being faced by local residents, and the cooperation of not only professionals but also local residents and community activists is essential for this.

With COVID-19 being reclassified to Class 5 from May 2023, efforts to create a place to stay and build connections in the community will be resumed, and a community culture that respects diversity more than ever will be fostered. Also, the Social Welfare Council will work to promote community welfare activities with an eye toward a society coexisting with COVID-19.

Organizations in Kyoto Prefecture that have received subsidies from your foundation have been promoting such efforts as exchanges at salons for the elderly, etc., creation of a place to stay for foreign nationals, and cross-cultural exchanges, aiming at creating a community where everyone can live with peace of mind.

Our Council will continue working to achieve its basic principles of the fifth medium-term plan: To create a society where everyone can live with dignity while connecting with others. We sincerely ask for your continued support of these community welfare efforts.

Doing Our Part on the International Scene - The Osaka Gas Foundation of International Cultural Exchange

Deepening friendship and mutual understanding with natural gas-producing countries

The Osaka Gas Foundation of International Cultural Exchange provides aid services to promote mutual understanding with natural gas-producing countries in Southeast Asia and Oceania and contribute to international goodwill.

In FY2023.3, the Foundation provided a total of approximately 14.62 million yen in aid to Indonesia, including grants for educational equipment to elementary and junior high schools, scholarships for 300 students, research grants in the energy and environment fields for three universities, and a short-term training program in Japan for four graduate students. For Malaysia, the Foundation provided a total of approximately 5.22 million yen in subsidies, such as English education assistance, experimental research grants, and scholarships to 12 university students. For East Timor, it provided a total of approximately 2.05 million yen in scholarships to 30 university students.

Marking its 30th anniversary, the Foundation reviewed its aid activities to date, in which it has provided subsidies totaling approximately 590.11 million yen, scholarships to 10,494 people, and grants for 438 research themes. In addition, it held an interview with the Chairman and an online meeting with local students to further explore future directions of its activities.



Graduate students of University of Indonesia visiting the Gas Science Museum during their Japanese language training program



Meeting at the Ministry of Education Malaysia

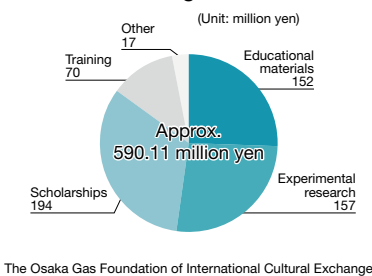


Presentation ceremony at National University of East Timor

Scope of Funding



Total Assistance Provided from FY1993.3 through FY2023.3



Grant Disbursement (single-year base)

(unit: thousand yen)

	FY2018.3	FY2019.3	FY2020.3	FY2021.3	FY2022.3	FY2023.3
Educational materials	2,512	1,878	1,873	1,760	1,973	2,115
Experimental research	5,888	5,401	5,172	5,049	5,332	6,935
Scholarships	8,483	6,558	8,092	7,737	8,512	9,564
Training	4,592	3,212	3,175	371	313	3,281
Total	21,475	17,049	18,311	14,917	16,129	21,895