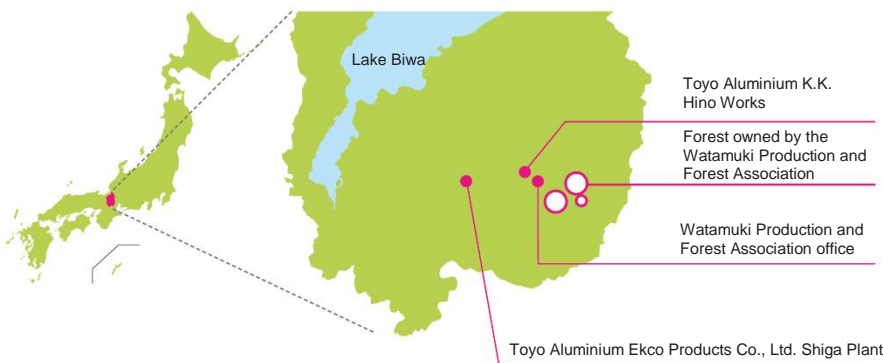


# Contributing to Nature Conservation and Carbon Neutrality Through Employee Participation Initiatives

In June 2022, the Toyal Group sponsored and participated in the 72nd National Arbor Day in Shiga Prefecture, 2022. Taking this opportunity, in August 2022, Toyo Aluminium K.K. and Toyo Aluminium Ekco Products Co., Ltd., entered into the Lake Biwa forest making partnership agreement with the Watamuki Production and Forest Association, and are working on a specific area of forest called the “Lake Biwa Future Forest, Created by All Members of the Toyal Group.” Approximately two-thirds of Japan’s land area is covered by forests, and proper maintenance and conservation of these forests will increase CO<sub>2</sub> absorption and contribute to achieving carbon neutrality. We exchanged opinions on nature conservation and carbon neutrality with the Watamuki Production and Forest Association, with whom we have entered into a partnership agreement.



## Lake Biwa forest making partnership agreement

As part of the effort to develop forests supported by all citizens of the prefecture based on the Lake Biwa forest making ordinance, companies and organizations that agree with the purpose and structure of the partnership agreement enter into agreements with forest owners and participate in the promotion of forest development and maintenance.

Notice regarding the signing of the Lake Biwa forest making partnership agreement  
<https://www.toyal.co.jp/whatsnews/2022/08/2022081901.html>

Watamuki Production and Forest Association  
<https://www.rmc.ne.jp/watamukisan/>



Counselor (at the time of interview)  
 Watamuki Production and Forest Association  
 Satoshi Nishimura

## It is only with mountains that we can enjoy the benefits of water. I want to spread the word about the charm of mountains and mountain work

As many as 117 rivers enter Lake Biwa and flow to the Yodo River via Lake Biwa to reach the sea. The mountains of Shiga and the urban and bay areas are also closely connected. I hope that those of us living upstream will continue to disseminate information so that as many people as possible can learn about environmental issues and nature.

It is also important to have partnership agreements that allow people from different industries to come to the mountains and become aware of mountain work. I think that by inviting various people to come see and experience the mountains, it is an opportunity for them to deepen their understanding. Well-managed forests store rain and serve as a source of water. They are also factories that produce delicious air, and we all benefit from the mountains in many ways.

Companies that are committed to carbon neutrality feel overwhelmed by the difficulties they are experiencing. In January 2023, we were able to obtain certification under the J-Credit System, in which the government certifies reductions and absorption of greenhouse gas emissions as “credits.” I hope that we can further collaborate through this as well.



General Manager, Shiga Plant  
 Production Unit  
 Toyo Aluminium Ekco Products Co., Ltd.  
 Masahiro Ueda

## By looking at environmental issues from multiple perspectives, we can make employees’ jobs and lives richer

The Toyal Group has an activity for promoting autonomous management called “OKR.” At the Shiga Plant, goals were limited to the factory itself, such as no accidents or quality improvement, but we wished there were more activities that could be worked on together with the local community. At that time, I heard about forest creation from the Hino Works, and decided to participate because I wanted to work with them on this wonderful activity.

Demand for our food containers has been growing thanks to being highly evaluated for their cleanliness and simplicity. That said, the containers we produce are disposable, and have a large impact on the environment. Because of this, in 2009 we shifted our production from plastic containers to paper containers, while at the same time obtaining forest certification. Thanks to that, we have been able to make environmentally friendly products by quickly using base paper made from properly managed forests.

As we continue to aim for carbon neutrality, we hope that not only our products but also our employees will participate in forest-building activities with forest associations, and that by tackling environmental issues, we can be proud of our company and enrich both our forests and our spirits.



CSR Promotion Team Leader  
 Business Supporting Unit  
 Corporate Division  
 Toyo Aluminium K.K.  
 Masanobu Kikukawa

## Encouraging employees’ families to take an active role in environmental conservation activities

Our company has a voluntary employee initiative called the Sustainable Link Lab. Through this activity we participated in the 72nd National Arbor Day in Shiga Prefecture, 2022, which led us to meet the Watamuki Production and Forest Association. We felt it would be a waste to only do this one time for Arbor Day and wanted to continue these activities, which led to us entering into the Lake Biwa forest making partnership agreement.

In October of last year, we held an unveiling ceremony and other activities such as tree planting, but as a result of COVID-19, it was a small scale event.

We would like the families and children of our employees to participate as well if possible. We want to encourage them to take part in forest-building activities where they can see insects, birds, and other creatures living in the forest, experiencing the joy and wonder of nature. If employees look forward to participating, I think it would be a success.

While employees have a thorough awareness of efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and waste at manufacturing sites, having an awareness of those issues can be difficult when working in an office. In an effort to raise awareness even just a little bit, we also implemented “Toyal Zero Carbon Action.”

We would like to establish a solid foundation within the company and continue our activities with the Watamuki Production and Forest Association.



General Manager, Hino Works and  
 Hino Works Unit Leader  
 Powder & Paste Headquarters  
 Toyo Aluminium K.K.  
 Katsuya Moriguchi

## I want to work with stakeholders to preserve Shiga’s beautiful environment

Shiga Prefecture is home to Lake Biwa, the water jug of the Kinki region, and so environmental regulations such as air and water quality are very strict. All of our manufacturing sites strive to comply with those regulations.

Last year I participated in the National Arbor Day held in Shiga Prefecture. The event was very interesting, not only for the planting of trees, but also for the explanation of the natural environment that makes up the surrounding area from those in charge of forest management.

In addition, lots of trees and greenery grow on the grounds of the Hino Works, and thanks to growing awareness of nature conservation, last year a group of volunteers called the Woodland Restoration Project began activities such as clearing undergrowth, removing fallen trees, and planting cherry blossom trees.

Achieving carbon neutrality has become an important point not only for protecting the global environment but also for continuing business. Recently, we have been receiving many inquiries from customers such as “How much greenhouse gas is emitted in the manufacturing of your products?” Achieving carbon neutrality will require a variety of initiatives in the future, and we will work together with forest associations, our customers, and local communities to achieve this goal, along with our activities to protect the natural environment.