

Japan's 7th SEP, GX 2040 Vision, Climate Plan

An Analysis of Policy Making Processes

The Japanese government adopted the 7th Strategic Energy Plan ("SEP"), GX 2040 Vision, and Global Warming Countermeasures Plan ("Climate Plan") all at once by Cabinet decision in February 2025. They set Japan's greenhouse gas emission targets and energy policy directions up to Fiscal Year (FY) 2035 and FY2040. Here we examine the decision-making processes, with a focus on the 7th SEP as a case study.

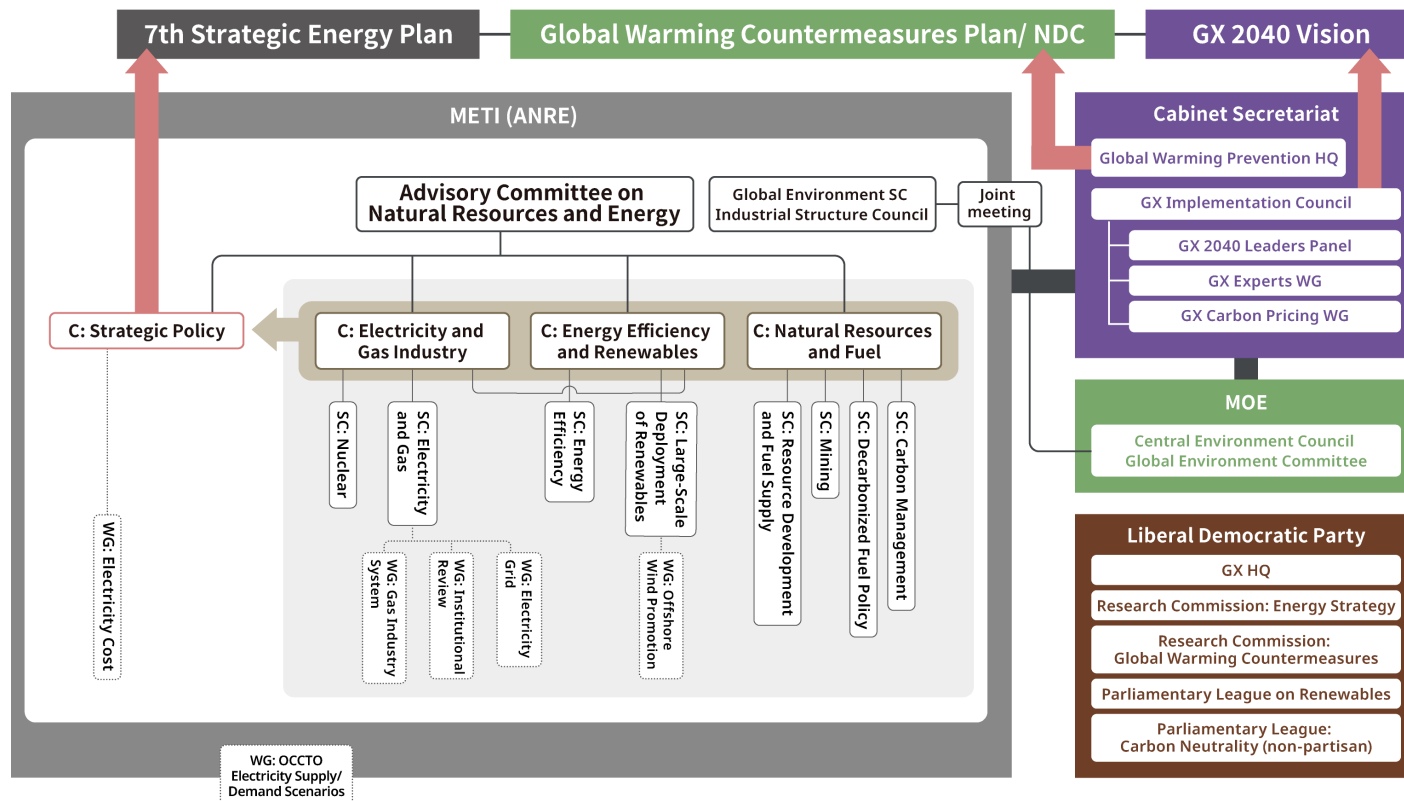


METI-led deliberations lack climate-energy policy alignment

Focus of analysis	This analysis takes a close look at the processes leading to the Cabinet's February 2025 approval of the 7th SEP, GX 2040 Vision, and Climate Plan. Therefore, this analysis focuses on the 7th SEP.	
Key findings	Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) takes the lead in the entire decision-making process for climate and energy policies, using the government's typical committee structure. (p.3) • Deliberations on the draft 7th SEP start in topic-specific consultative bodies (councils, working groups, subcommittees, committees) and work their way up to the highest level to the Strategic Policy Committee. The committee compiled the draft, simply accepting what had already been discussed by subordinate bodies in each sector. It did not engage in overarching discussions. (p.4) • Consideration of GHG emission reduction targets proceeded without adequate linkages to energy policy. Climate policy was not sufficiently integrated into deliberation and policy formulation. (p.3, p.5) • Public comments were conducted only at the final stage, after the draft was published. The final document was adopted with virtually no change. Public comments had no impact on the content. (p.4) • During deliberations, many called for a review of the policy-making process, including youth, the corporate sector, and NGOs, etc. The fact that youth groups were invited to hearings was one improvement, but this did not lead to any substantial change in process.
	Composition of consultative bodies	<p>Equity and balance are lacking in terms of sector, age, gender, and stance. The structure gives certain groups greater influence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector: Many energy-intensive industries. Few demand-side companies and NPOs that support an energy transition. (p.6) • Age: Most members in 50s to 70s. Almost no representation for next generations (in 30s and younger). (p.7) • Gender: Average over 70% male. Limited female participation. (p.8) • Stance: Majority are cautious about transitioning from fossil fuels (based on Climate Integrate analysis, p.9)
	Comparison with 6th SEP	Less political leadership than in 6th SEP. More control by ministries/agencies. No changes in structure/composition of bodies. (For analysis of the 6th SEP, see our April 2024 report, “Policy Making Process in Japan: Strategic Energy Plan as a Case Study”)

Advisory committee structure for climate and energy policy

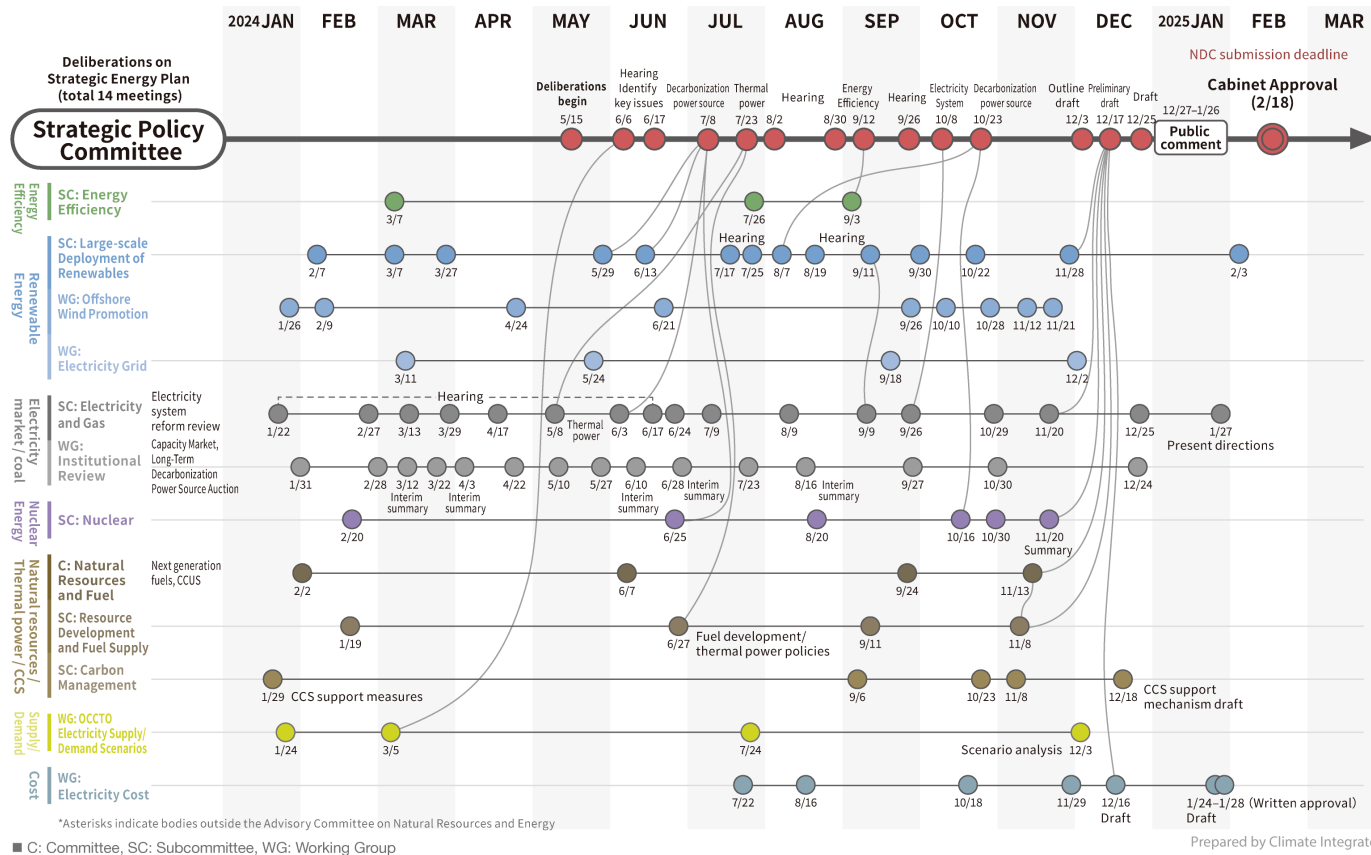
Multiple bodies under METI steer deliberations



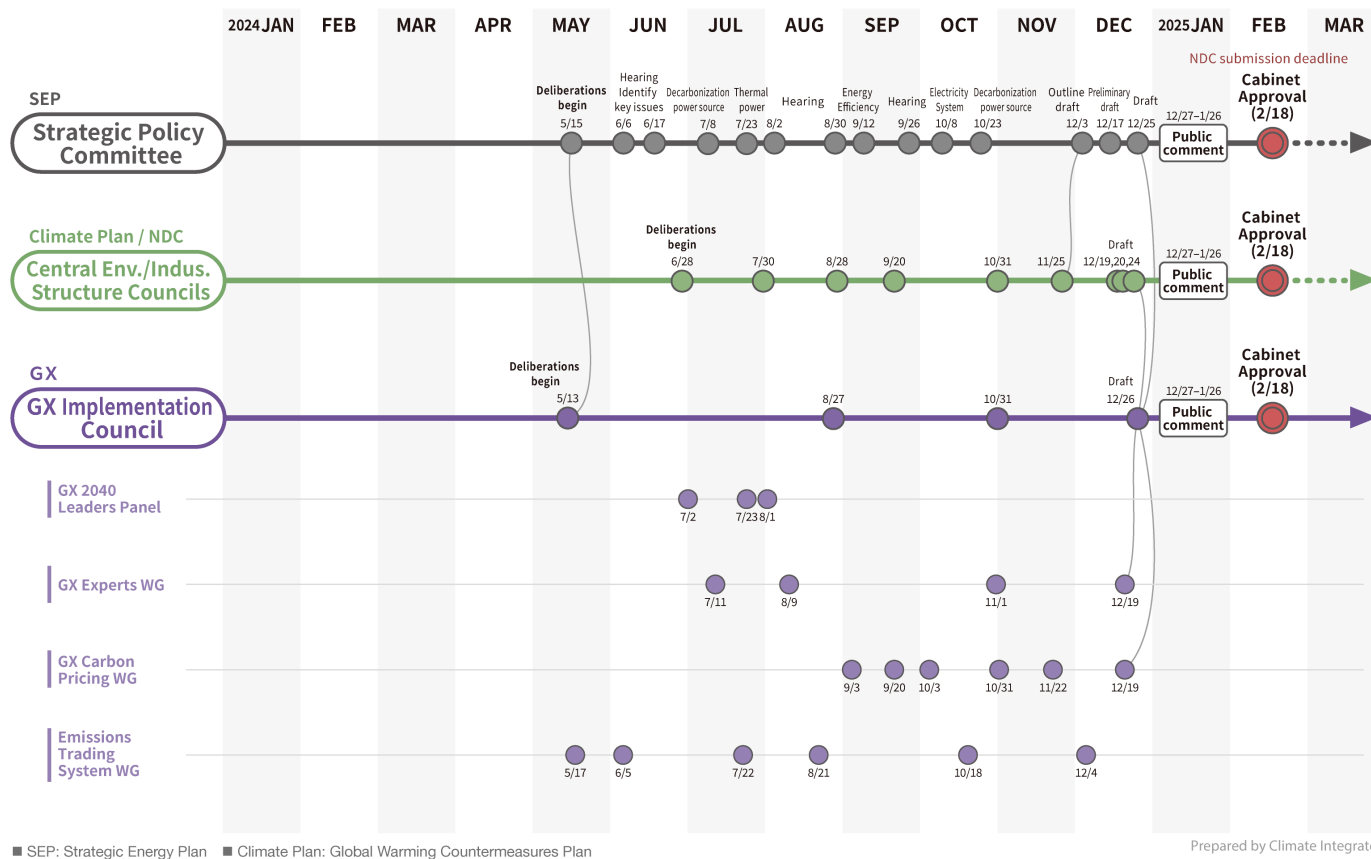
■ C: Committee, SC: Subcommittee, WG: Working Group ■ MOE: Ministry of Environment, METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, ANRE: Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

Prepared by Climate Integrate

Strategic Policy Committee compile input from subordinate bodies

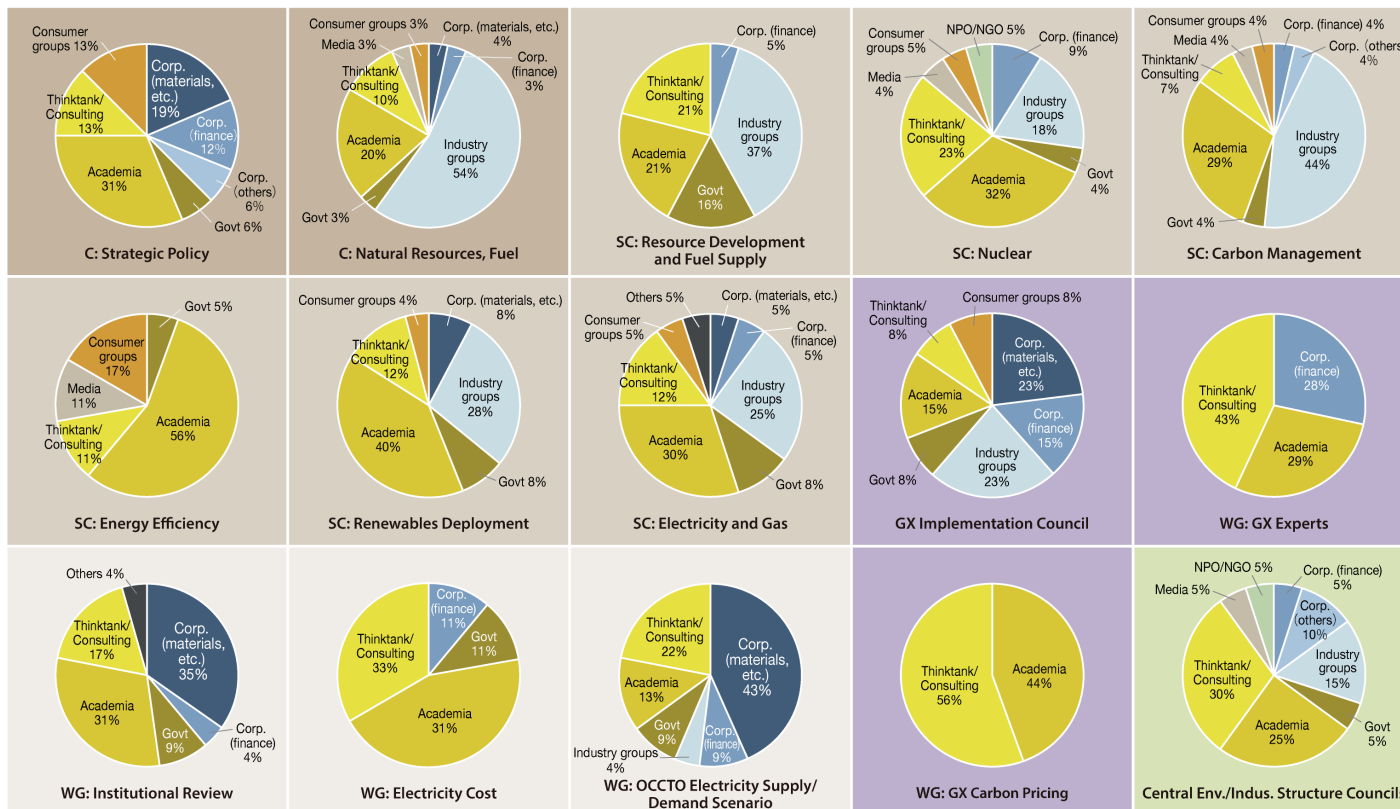


Parallel deliberations of energy, climate, industrial policies



Composition of consultative bodies influencing the development of 7th SEP (by Sector)

Industry groups, materials companies dominate

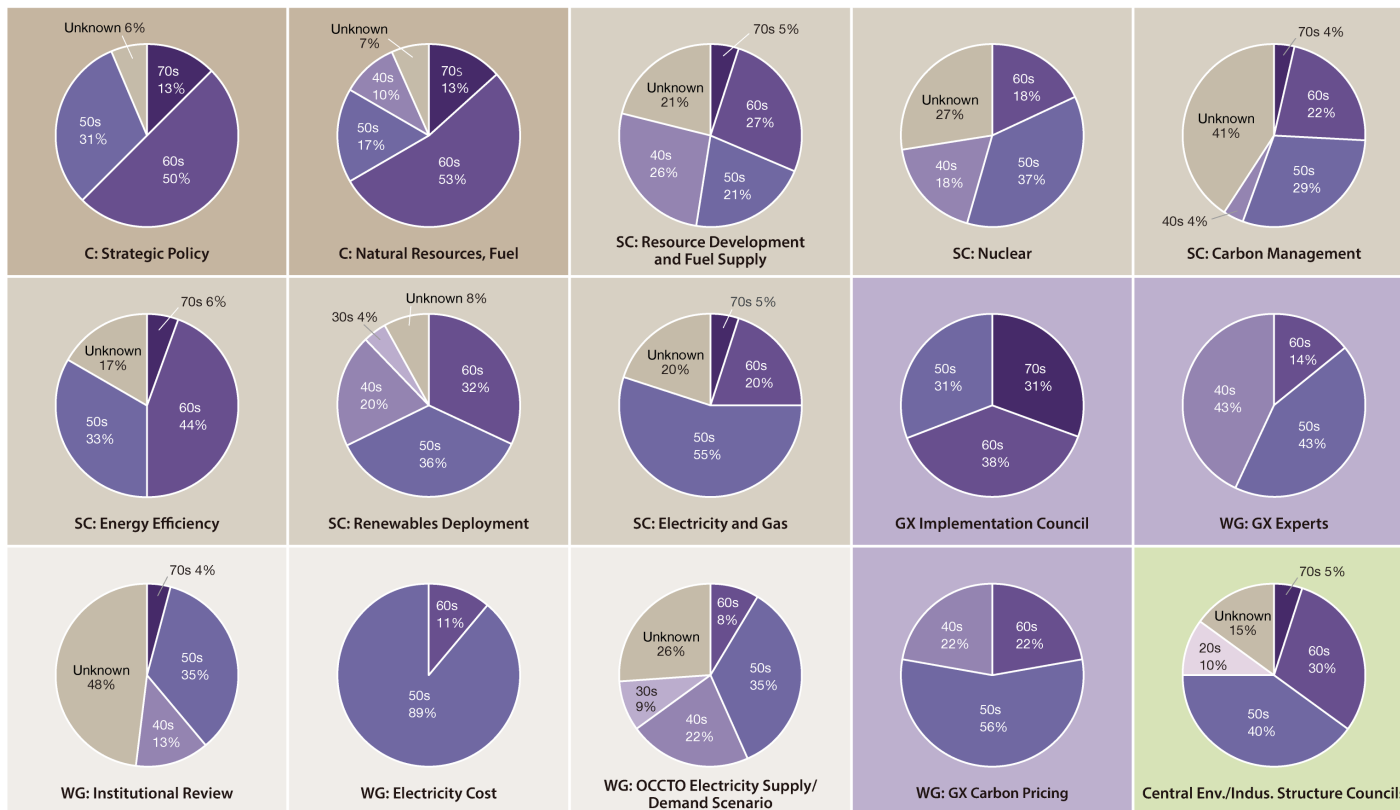


■ SEP: Strategic Energy Plan ■ C: Committee, SC: Subcommittee, WG: Working Group ■ "Companies (Corp.) (materials, etc.)" refers to companies (materials, resources and energy supply, transportation). ■ Different background colors in graphs indicate committee, subcommittee, working group, etc., and Strategic Energy Plan, GX, and Global Warming Countermeasures Plan.

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Composition of consultative bodies influencing the development of 7th SEP (by Age)

Most members in 50s to 70s, little representation by younger generations

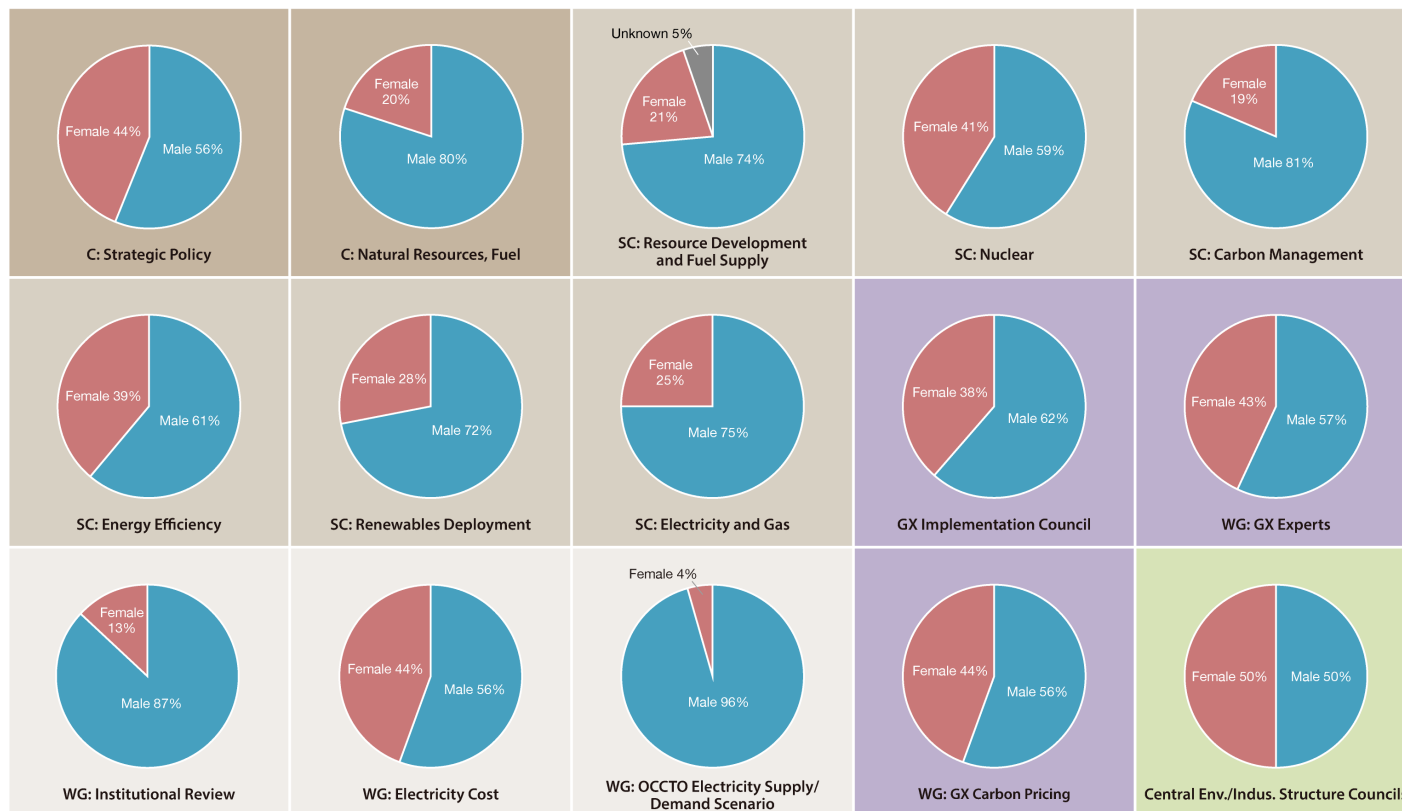


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Composition of consultative bodies influencing the development of 7th SEP (by Gender)

Average ratio over 70% male, limited female participation

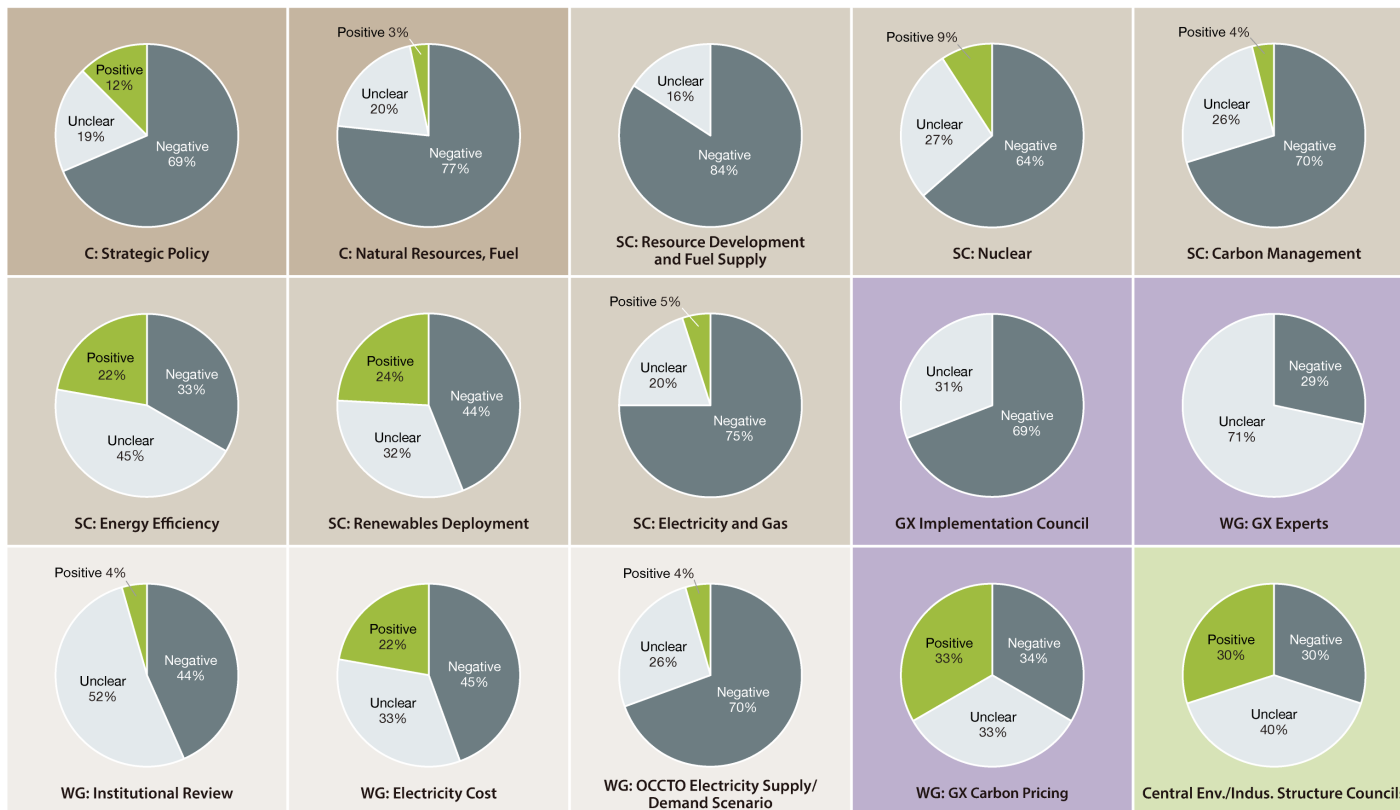


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Composition of consultative bodies influencing the development of 7th SEP (by Stance)

Very few members support transition from fossil fuels



■ SEP: Strategic Energy Plan ■ C: Committee, SC: Subcommittee, WG: Working Group ■ Classification of stance is based on our own criteria regarding a member's attitude toward transitioning away from existing systems centered on fossil fuels ■ Different background colors in graphs indicate committee, subcommittee, working group, etc., and Strategic Energy Plan, GX, and Global Warming Countermeasures Plan.

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Japan's climate and energy policy development processes need review, reform

This review of the FY2024 process to develop Japan's SEP, GX 2040 Vision, and Climate Plan reveals a host of problems in the processes that determine the country's climate and energy policies. We have identified the need to consider the following points regarding processes going forward.

- **Climate and energy policies are being deliberated and determined by consultative bodies that have a biased composition in terms of sector, gender, age, and stance, all dominated by METI's influence and control. Considering the impacts on present and future socio-economic activities, the current processes need to be reviewed from the perspective of fairness and transparency.**
- **Mechanisms for reflecting public opinion in policies are not functioning properly. Public comments are merely treated as a formality. Processes need to be restructured to incorporate the views of a wide range of stakeholders, in order to enable fair and proper deliberations.**
- **There is a need to restructure the current policy advisory/consultative system as well as the roles and powers of government bodies.**



“An Analysis of Policy Making Processes: Japan’s 7th SEP, GX 2040 Vision, Climate Plan”

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