

63% of Japanese voters want strong climate targets.



Will they get them?

A decision next week on climate targets will shape Japan's global reputation—and a new poll shows their is political support set a strong target.

To stop a climate catastrophe, scientists say emissions cuts of 25% to 40% are needed from developed countries like Japan by 2020. These cuts will drive clean energy innovation and a sustainable economic recovery, and get developing countries like China and India on board with a global deal.

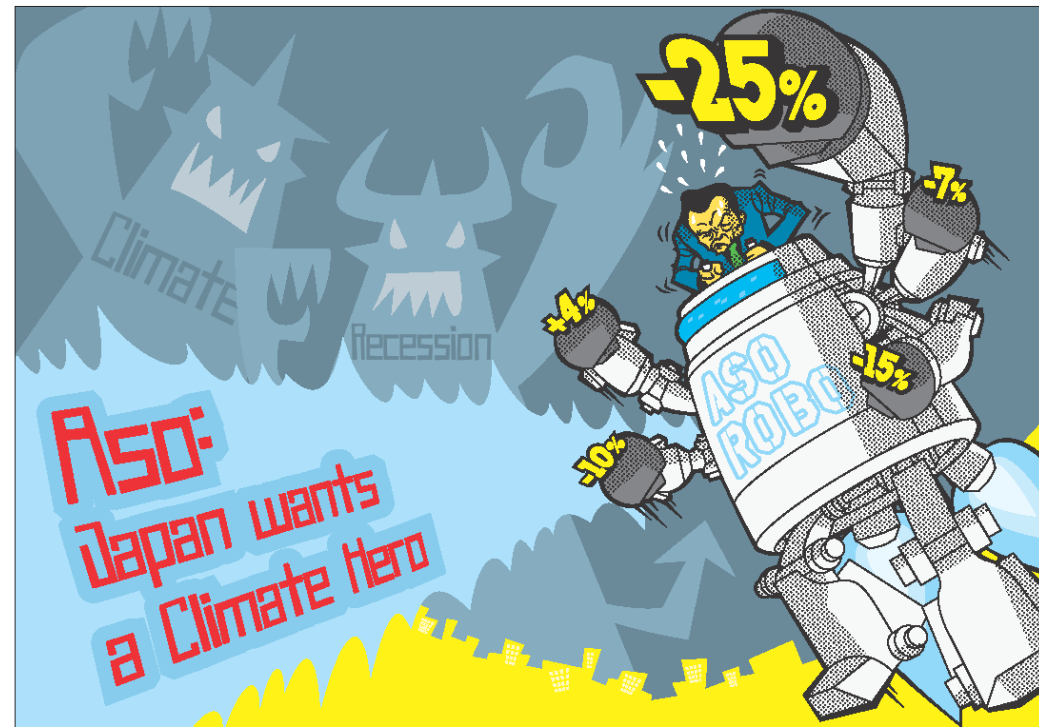
Some claim that public support in Japan for bold climate action is low. But an independent poll released today found that 63% of Japanese voters support a target of cutting emissions by 25% or more. 61% of voters say ambitious 2020 targets would help the Japanese economy. And 85% say it is important for Japan to be seen as a world leader in combating climate change.

After a public consultation process for Japan's 2020 target (stage-managed by industry lobbyists), advisers urged weak measures that would undermine Japan's global image and set the bar low for other countries. If Japan fails this test, hopes will shrink for a strong global deal at the climate summit in Copenhagen, leaving the world at risk.

The time for action is running short. The people of Japan and citizens around the world should seek a bold move by their leaders

Set a 25% or stronger 2020 climate target!

The poll, conducted by the global firm Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, surveyed 976 voting-age Japanese adults via telephone from May 18-25, 2009. For details, see www.aaz.org/japanpoll



Aso: Japan wants a Climate Hero

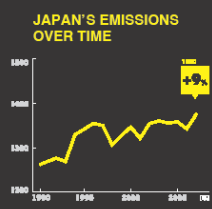
The People Call for 25% Target

Two great enemies, climate change and the recession, are menacing the people of Japan – and all of planet Earth. Aso, the leader of Japan, has called on the Japanese people to advise him.

A new poll shows that 63% of the Japanese people want Aso to attack the two enemies with his strongest weapon: a 25% or greater cut in carbon emissions by 2020, the target that scientists say is necessary to prevent a global climate catastrophe. And a majority of Japanese believe that such a cut will help fight both climate change and the recession at the same time by spurring innovation, efficiency and creating millions of new green jobs.

But polluting villains tell Aso he is not strong enough to defeat both the enemies – that he should run away. In the guise of "Industry", these villains have gained the ear of Aso's advisors and have been allowed to dominate Aso's supposedly open public consultation process. If these villains have their way, Japan will fall behind other countries in global leadership on energy efficiency and climate action and will be defeated by the twin enemies of recession and climate change.

Aso has just a few days left to make his decision. The people want Japan to lead, the world needs Japan to lead... But will he?



- MORE INFORMATION**
- Although Japan is a world leader in energy efficiency, it has continued to increase climate emissions since 1990, breaking its Kyoto commitment.
 - The Stern Review estimated the global costs of cutting emissions by 25-40% at an average of 1% of GDP. Failing to act would have much, much higher costs: 5-10% GDP!
 - The Ministry of the Environment estimated that the effect of "Japanese Green New Deal" will increase

environmental market and employment from 70 trillion JPY to 120 trillion JPY and from 1.4 million to 2.8 million respectively by 2020.

- Europe has set a renewable target of 20% by 2020; the US wind energy target is 20% by 2030. What about Japan? RPS sets a target of only 1.36% by 2014. Does Japan want to fall behind in the shift to low carbon society?

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