

Aya Municipal Aya Junior High School — SDGs for Sustainable Community Development

Aya Municipal Aya Junior High School, located within the Aya Biosphere Reserve in Miyazaki Prefecture, integrates the natural resources of the region into its comprehensive learning and Student Council-led activities. Under the slogan "Action – Take Action Now, Toward Our Future," the school implemented a variety of initiatives this year to advance the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

Greeting Campaign

The school resumed its Greeting Campaign, which had been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to foster a culture of vibrant greetings among students. This initiative revitalizes the school atmosphere and strengthens connections within and beyond the school community. It aligns with Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) of the SDGs.

Tsui DAY Activities

On Tsui DAY, held every Wednesday, the school collects PET bottle caps as part of a recycling effort. This year, the campaign collected 127 kg, or approximately 63,500 caps, which funded vaccines for 32 people. Quantifying these results has encouraged greater participation.

Forest Health Checkups and Tree-Planting Activities

During integrated studies, the school collaborates with the AEON Environmental Foundation to monitor tree growth and calculate CO₂ absorption in the AEON Forest. This year, the students determined that 174 trees absorbed 15.1 tons of CO₂ annually, contributing to the region's sustainable development. These efforts correspond to Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 15 (Life on Land) of the SDGs.

Laurel Forest Project

As part of the Aya Laurel Forest Project, first-year students cultivate acorns to grow seedlings, while third-year students plant these seedlings back into the forest. This collaborative effort with the Aya UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Center and the Forestry Agency serves to preserve the local natural environment and pass it on to future generations.

UNIQLO Clothing Donation Project

Third-year students participated in UNIQLO's THE POWER OF CLOTHING Project, collecting children's clothes to support refugees. This activity contributed to Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) of the SDGs.

Future Aspirations

Aya Junior High School remains committed to fostering connections with the community and nature while striving for a sustainable society. By understanding the purpose of their initiatives, students are encouraged to act independently and deepen their learning to create a better future.