

The Asahi Kasei Group’s Vision for the Future of People and the Earth

The Asahi Kasei Group contributes to solutions for various social issues through business activities aimed at achieving sustainability. With a uniform aspiration of “Care for People, Care for Earth” when creating value in all of our businesses, we will deliver new value in a variety of fields that contribute to the sustainability of society.

Materiality

In fiscal 2017, we identified the important issues and themes that we should prioritize as the materiality of the Asahi Kasei Group. We have since added two new material issues—Initiatives toward Carbon Neutrality and Initiatives toward a Circular Economy—in consideration of the further growing sense of urgency regarding the global environmental impact of climate change and resource extraction and depletion as well as the importance of these matters to the management of the Asahi Kasei Group.

Process for Identifying Materiality

1) Identification of Issues

We identified issues in light of requirements of society and our Group Mission, Group Vision, and Group Values while making reference to international guidelines such as ISO 26000 and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards as well as the evaluation criteria of the major ESG rating institutions.

2) Determination of Degree of Importance

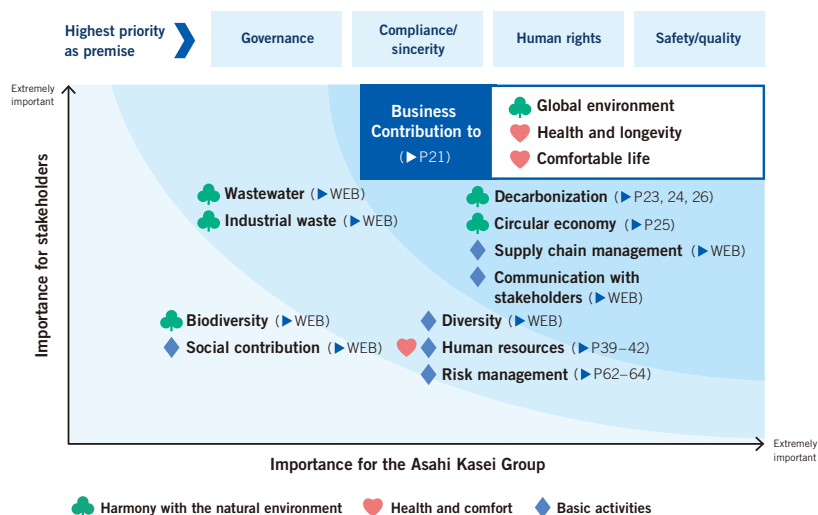
We evaluated the degree of importance both to society and to the Asahi Kasei Group and mapped it on two axes.

3) Evaluation of Appropriateness

We verified the appropriateness of the material issues by examining them from a diverse range of perspectives, such as through deliberations involving the leaders of various divisions, discussions with outside companies, and consultations with Outside Directors.

4) Examination and Approval

The Board of Directors approved the material issues after examination at the Management Council.



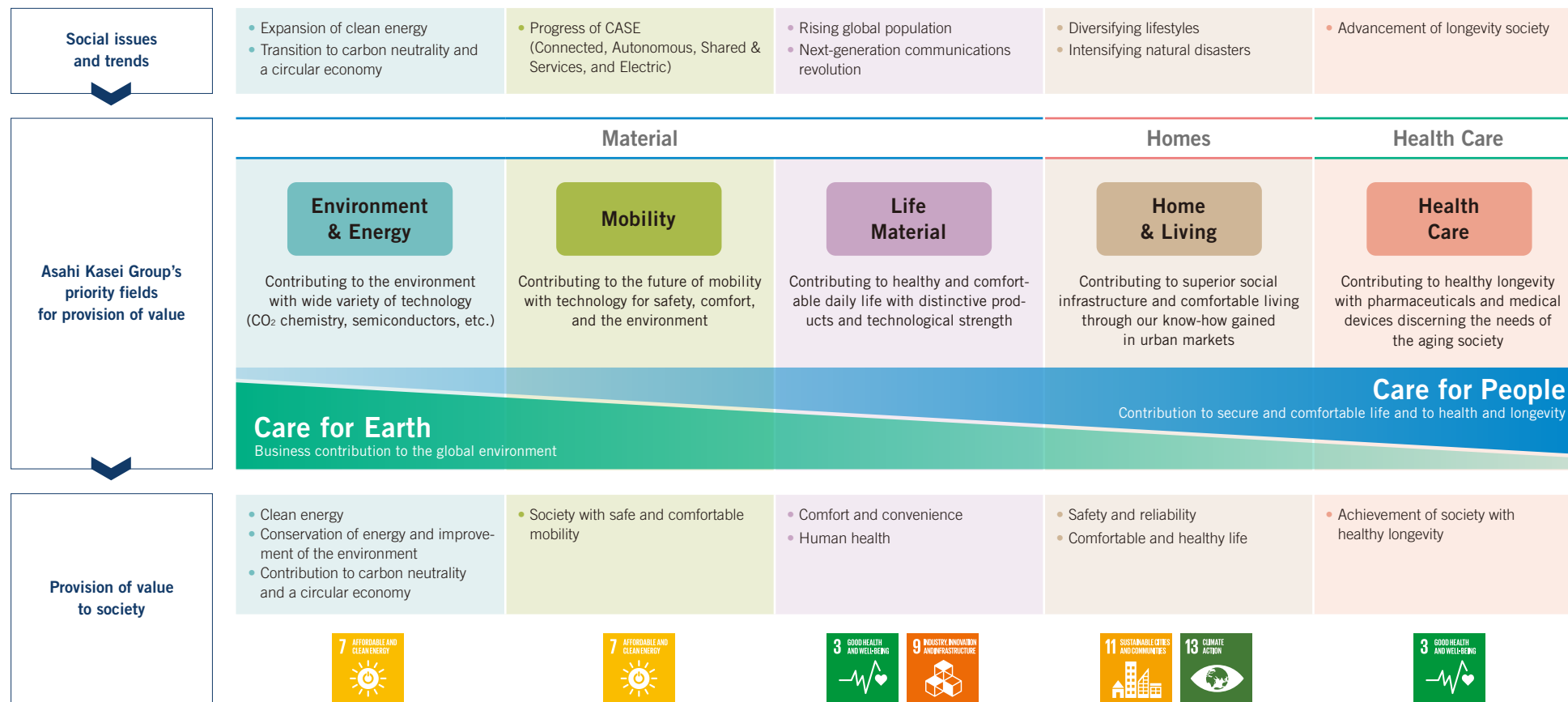
Governance	Asahi Kasei is constantly pursuing an optimal state of corporate governance. (▶P53-56)
Compliance/sincerity	While strictly following laws, regulations, and internal rules, Asahi Kasei strives to practice a high level of corporate ethics while engaging in various business activities in good faith. All executives and employees of the Asahi Kasei Group adhere to the Asahi Kasei Group Code of Conduct and undergo thorough training in their departments, including case study sessions in fiscal 2020.
Human rights	Asahi Kasei endorses and is a signatory to the United Nations (UN) Global Compact. In addition, we are formulating a human rights policy in accordance with the UN's <i>Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights</i> and will implement human rights due diligence to ascertain human rights violation risks in the business value chain and take action to prevent or reduce such risks.
Safety/quality	Operational Safety; Workplace Safety and Hygiene Through our Responsible Care program, we aim to achieve zero severe industrial accidents and zero occupational injuries. We provide employees with education and training, perform risk assessments during construction in order to ensure safe and stable plant operation, and repeatedly review existing processes. Quality Assurance Asahi Kasei focuses on activities to improve quality in order to continue providing reliable quality to our customers. In fiscal 2020, we strengthened the quality assurance system, augmented employee training to develop human resources for managing and ensuring quality, performed on-site quality audits, and conducted verification and inspection activities.

Provision of Value through Our Businesses for Realizing a Sustainable Society

To achieve our vision for the future of people and the earth and provide greater value to society, we have determined five priority fields for provision of value and are allocating management resources to them. These fields are Environment & Energy,

Mobility, and Life Material in the Material sector, Home & Living in the Homes sector, and Health Care in the Health Care sector. In these priority fields for provision of value, we will continue contributing to the future of people and the earth through our

business activities while pursuing the development of a portfolio of high-profitability and high-value-added businesses from the perspective of “Care for People, Care for Earth.”



Increasing Opportunities through Care for People, Care for Earth



Care for People

**Active life
in the new normal**

With the aim of creating a society in which health and longevity and a secure and comfortable life are available to all, we facilitate high-quality medical care and fulfilling life through our technologies, products, and solutions.

Social Issues	Solutions through Our Businesses
Contribution to secure and comfortable life	
Storm and flood damage / Intense heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilient homes/communities (total resilience)
New styles of living and working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homes/consumables/apparel meeting new needs
Digitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Products related to next-generation communications (glass fabric, etc.)
Contribution to health and longevity	
Response to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilators Therapeutic apheresis Virus removal filters Surface disinfection solution 3Cs visualization solution Medical gowns Masks
Facilitation of high-quality medical care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defibrillators Implantable neurostimulator device Osteoporosis treatment Rheumatoid arthritis treatment Immunosuppressive agent Artificial kidneys



Care for Earth

**Carbon neutral
sustainable world**

We are accelerating innovations for addressing a variety of environmental issues, such as realizing carbon neutrality and a circular economy, and offering solutions through our businesses.

Social Issues	Solutions through Our Businesses
Business contribution to the global environment	
Circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material recycling Chemical recycling
Carbon recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ separation/recovery CO₂ chemistry
Next-generation energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alkaline water electrolysis (green hydrogen)
Electric drive vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithium-ion battery separator Lightweighting resins
Other environmental contribution products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ion-exchange membrane process for chlor-alkali electrolysis Purging agent for plastic molding machines Elastomer for asphalt modification CO₂ sensors S-SBR synthetic rubber for fuel-efficient tires Hebel Haus™, Hebel Maison™ High-performance insulation Biomass feedstock products Manufacturing process for acrylonitrile High-volume water filtration module Bio-PLA (polylactic acid) nonwoven fabric