

Hitachi will invest in water treatment

TOKYO — [Hitachi, Ltd.](#), the global electronics company, said in a recent [press release](#) that investment in water treatment systems will be one part of its new “Environmental Vision 2025” corporate plan to promote environmental conservation and battle global warming.

Although curbing carbon dioxide emissions in Hitachi’s operations is key to the plan, one of the plan’s five major goals is to “strengthen environmental businesses,” which includes a “focus on investing in environmental equipment and water treatment systems,” the December 20 release said.

The other four goals of the plan are to: push for early attainment of its goal of achieving “emission neutral” status by 2015 through energy conservation and use of alternative fuels; reinforce global warming countermeasures by curbing carbon dioxide emissions from its products; collaborate with other companies, governments and universities in research to reduce societal carbon dioxide emissions; and strengthen its own internal mechanisms for promoting environmental management. To further the last goal, the company has created within the past month the position of chief environmental strategy officer and, in parallel, a corporate environmental strategy office.

The company has released no further details about its plans for developing water treatment systems. However, the company’s sheer size and global reach — it had revenues of \$86.8 billion in fiscal 2006 and has about 384,000 employees worldwide — suggests that its influence could be substantial.