



MOVING TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL UN
THE UN SYSTEM'S FOOTPRINT AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE IT

2012 Edition

Message from Ban Ki-Moon

Five years ago, the Executive Heads of all UN agencies, funds and programmes responded to my call to make the UN more efficient in its operations, and committed to move their organizations towards climate neutrality.

This fourth edition of *Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN* is further testament to the progress that we have made towards measuring, reporting and reducing the UN's climate and environmental footprint. At the same time, we still have a long way to go. At the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, Member States asked the UN to integrate sustainable development considerations more fully into our management practices. UN leaders are strongly moving in this direction.

The UN will continue to cut greenhouse gas emissions and take a more holistic approach to environmental sustainability management. As the world addresses the climate challenge and strives towards a new, comprehensive, legally binding agreement, the Organization must lead by example. We will continue to report on this and invite you to follow our efforts.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ki Moon Ban".

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary General

June 2013

Overview of Emissions Reduction Strategies

To date, thirty-six UN agencies have started work on emission reduction strategies. This entails carrying out baseline studies, creating policies and outlining specific actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ten agencies have achieved senior management approval for their strategies, making emission reduction efforts part of corporate policy. Some are expanding their efforts from managing greenhouse gas emissions to the implementation of broader Environment Management Systems.

Individual agency greenhouse gas inventories provide valuable information for emission reduction strategies. Air travel is consistently reported to be the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions for UN agencies, representing slightly over 50% of total emissions on average. Consequently, many agencies are focusing efforts on reducing the number of flights undertaken, particularly in business class, and are introducing e-communications as a substitute for air travel.

The operation of facilities and offices are also major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Energy management strategies are being applied, including the production of renewable energy on site, and the use of passive design strategies and energy efficient technologies such as LED lights and control system, are helping to reduce the carbon footprints of many UN facilities.

Secretary-General Travels Green to Washington, D.C.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre) travelled from New York to Washington, D.C., by train, opting for rail over flying to reduce his carbon footprint. Also pictured: Oscar Fernandez-Taranco (left), Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs; and Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

Emission Reductions and Cost Savings in Action

Universal Postal Union (UPU) - Building renovations

In 2009 the Director General of UPU pledged to reduce the International Bureau's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2012, from 2008 levels. UPU exceeded the target, achieving a 27% reduction in three years. These savings were largely achieved through the renovation of UPU's building façade, which helped to reduce energy consumption by 42% in the first year, and is expected to lead to annual savings of around US\$110,000 on the energy bill.



UPU International Bureau. Photo: UPU

World Food Programme (WFP) – Raising awareness

An energy efficiency campaign in WFP's regional bureau in Dakar, Senegal, reduced energy consumption by an estimated 46,000 kWh per year, saving US\$14,000 in energy bills and reducing emissions by 22%. Simple no-cost

actions included repositioning desks to utilize natural ventilation, reducing air conditioning demand; reminding staff to turn air conditioning off when windows are open; reprogramming thermostats to 23°C; setting printer defaults to double-sided; and encouraging colleagues to switch off lights and equipment when not in use. Awareness materials included emails, posters and reminders at staff meetings. The key lesson—small changes from everyone can make a big difference.



WFP green champions who led the awareness campaign in Dakar, Senegal From left to right: Lucas Rieger, Cédric Charpentier, Mame Abdoulaye Sarr, Janeen Madan, Malick Ndiaye and Omar Mbaye. Photo: WFP

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) – Energy efficiency

Twelve elevators were upgraded to use gearless motors and regenerative drives at FAO’s headquarters in Rome in 2012 (an additional one to be completed by June 2013). Both these technologies improved efficiency and can generate electricity. The project saves FAO over US\$140,000 and around 280 MTCO₂E each year through a reduction in electricity usage. With a financial payback of about three years, the project represents a smart investment towards economic and environmental savings.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) - Waste management

The IMF Sustainability Team implemented an innovative waste management programme in their HQ2 facility alongside an extensive outreach and communication strategy to secure staff support for the new measures. As a result, recycling and composting rates increased from 24% to 57%. The programme secured the IMF the accolade of being the first commercial building in Washington DC, USA to collect organic matter for processing offsite at a commercial composting facility.



IMF Waste recycling and composting bins. Photo: IMF

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) - Reducing emissions from air travel

ICAO achieved approximately a 5% reduction in flight-related greenhouse gas emissions per staff member per kilometer between 2010 and 2011. This was achieved through a modification of the travel policy. ICAO changed internal policies and restricted eligibility for business class tickets so only staff travelling for more than nine hours are eligible for business class travel.

2011 Emissions from UN Entities

UN agency	Number of staff	Total emissions	Emissions per staff	Air travel	Share of air travel	Air travel per staff	Building related emission intensity
		<i>tonnes CO₂eq</i>	<i>tonnes CO₂eq</i>	<i>tonnes CO₂</i>	<i>% of total emissions</i>	<i>tonnes CO₂</i>	<i>kg CO₂eq/m²</i>
CTBTO	388	2,644	6.8	1,723	65%	4.4	38.8
DFS ¹	500	3,075	6.1	276	9%	0.6	45.0
DPA ¹	1,339	18,228	13.6	6,289	35%	4.7	1,445.0
DPKO ¹	114,206	966,068	8.5	456,010	47%	4.0	246.0
ECA	1,494	9,179	6.1	8,713	95%	5.8	3.6
ECLAC	700	3,853	5.5	2,613	68%	3.7	57.2
ESCAP	870	5,692	6.5	1,707	30%	2.0	87.2
ESCWA	400	4,602	11.5	745	16%	1.9	91.0
FAO	6,824	43,137	6.3	27,736	64%	4.1	46.2
IAEA ³	2,563	25,312	9.9	14,470	57%	5.6	68.8
ICAO	719	6,177	8.6	2,870	46%	4.0	74.2
IFAD	900	3,925	4.4	3,595	92%	4.0	10.4
ILO	3,510	16,749	4.8	9,190	55%	2.6	114.2
ITC-ILO	193	2,894	15.0	1,797	62%	9.3	28.1
IMO	331	3,817	11.5	955	25%	2.9	119.6
ITC	320	2,892	9.0	2,761	95%	8.6	16.7
ITU	960	3,938	4.1	2,620	67%	2.7	22.4
OHCHR	600	5,066	8.4	4,777	94%	8.0	13.5
OPCW ³	611	5,163	8.4	3,573	69%	5.8	75.9
UNAIDS	904	7,051	7.8	4,501	64%	5.0	52.9
UNCCD	50	1,307	26.1	1,267	97%	25.3	5.9
UNCDF ³	35	399	11.4	175	44%	5.0	181.9
UNDP	16,356	85,020	5.2	42,644	50%	2.6	90.3
UNEP	1,275	11,883	9.3	10,456	88%	8.2	49.7
UNESCO ⁴	5,393	21,728	4.0	5,615	26%	1.0	33.2
UNFCCC	540	7,334	13.6	7,152	98%	13.2	6.5
UNFPA ³	3,303	21,756	6.6	13,503	62%	4.1	38.0
UN-Habitat ⁴	444	3,267	7.4	2,817	86%	6.3	34.2

For this edition of the UN greenhouse gas inventory UN Department of Field Support continued to host and maintain the UN greenhouse gas calculator and reporting tool. Emissions due to air travel were calculated thanks to the International Civil Aviation Organization's custom-built interface to their Carbon Emissions Calculator.

UN agency	Number of staff	Total emissions	Emissions per staff	Air travel	Share of air travel	Air travel per staff	Building related emission intensity
		tonnes CO ₂ eq	tonnes CO ₂ eq	tonnes CO ₂	% of total emissions	tonnes CO ₂	kg CO ₂ eq/m ²
UNHCR ²	1,040	2,593	2.5	2,281	88%	2.2	20.0
UNHQ	8,185	63,059	7.7	30,560	48%	3.7	116.2
UNICEF ¹	1,197	9,564	8.0	6,316	66%	5.3	10.0
UNIDO ²	2,019	11,127	5.5	7,015	63%	3.5	67.0
UNITAR ³	124	494	4.0	478	97%	3.9	12.3
UNOG ⁵	2,162	12,844	5.9	9,679	75%	4.5	21.1
UNON	775	2,436	3.1	843	35%	1.1	32.8
UNOPS	3,285	13,715	4.2	4,913	36%	1.5	71.2
UNOV ⁶	950	5,338	5.6	3,034	57%	3.2	41.4
UNRWA	2,591	11,455	4.4	246	2%	0.1	66.2
UNU	105	1,201	11.4	273	23%	2.6	155.0
UNV	150	528	3.5	389	74%	2.6	11.8
UNWomen	555	1,420	2.6	453	32%	0.8	103.3
UNWTO	148	693	4.7	411	59%	2.8	43.9
UPU	256	732	2.9	341	47%	1.3	38.2
WFP	11,799	78,385	6.6	23,575	30%	2.0	9.0
WHO	2,057	20,635	10.0	18,661	90%	9.1	18.1
WIPO	1,374	10,001	7.3	6,134	61%	4.5	28.8
WMO ²	600	3,330	5.5	2,750	83%	4.6	21.0
World Bank ⁷	15,312	205,133	13.4	125,388	61%	8.2	96.8
WTO	845	4,700	5.6	3,755	80%	4.4	28.9
UN TOTAL	221,257	1,751,534	7.9	888,045	51%	4.0	
TOTAL minus DPKO	105,212	764,164	7.3	425,470	56%	4.0	

Notes: ¹ 2008 data • ² 2009 data • ³ 2010 data • ⁴ 2010 data updated for available locations and sources • ⁵ includes UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDIR, UNISDR, UNJSPF, UNRISD, JIU, and the air travel of the Basel Convention HQ & Geneva offices of: OCHA, UNODA, CEB and IOS • ⁶ includes UNODC • ⁷ includes IBRD, IDA, IFC, ICSID, MIGA, GEF

Challenges and Next Steps

In 2007 the Sustainable United Nations (SUN) facility and the Issue Management Group (IMG) on Environmental Sustainability Management were created to work on measuring, reducing and offsetting the UN's carbon footprint. Since 2012 this mandate has been strengthened and broadened by Member States and UN System leaders.

The SUN team and IMG now need to create the conditions to facilitate the implementation of Environment Management Systems (EMS) in each UN organization. This will include the development of common indicators on waste, water and staff engagement, a focus on capacity building and the design of the first UN-wide environment management report.

Meanwhile progress on greenhouse gas emission reductions continues: the use of a common methodology has helped to improve the **comparability of the emissions data across entities and between years** but detailed analysis is needed to interpret trends. Such analysis is not easy as it requires consideration of each organization's size, nature and operations, changes in coverage of operations and improvements made to the greenhouse gas emissions calculator and underlying data across the years.

The most effective way to ensure long-term behaviour change is to **ensure staff are engaged** with the benefits of more sustainable working practices. UNDP and UNEP are therefore working together to produce a web-based training tutorial to shift the UN's working culture and make greening simpler for all staff.

Lastly, if the United Nations is to be truly serious about its commitment to environmentally sustainable operations, one of the key steps needed is to set binding targets across the whole organization.

For more information visit

www.greeningtheblue.org



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