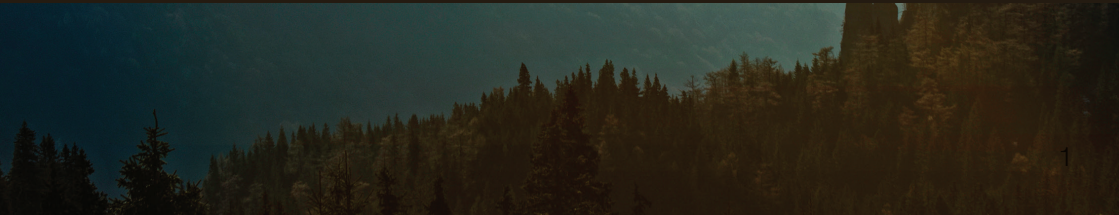




MOVING TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL UN
THE UN SYSTEM'S FOOTPRINT AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE IT

2014 Edition



Message from the UN Secretary-General

At the Climate Summit in September 2014, leaders from government, business, finance and civil society were invited to advance low-carbon economic growth and climate action by cutting emissions, mobilizing money and markets, pricing carbon, strengthening resilience and mobilizing new coalitions.

This invitation was also extended to the United Nations family. I called on leaders of UN organizations to guide their respective entities to become climate-neutral by 2020.

The work towards realizing this ambition is now well under way. The number of UN organizations becoming low- or zero-carbon is steadily increasing, and more are looking into opportunities for doing so with help from the United Nations Environment Programme and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Moving Towards a Climate-Neutral UN tells the story of an organization headed down the low-carbon pathway that we will all need to follow to reduce climate impacts and promote sustainable development. It is a time for all hands on deck. I will continue to engage with all leaders in the UN system to advance this effort and I look forward to continued progress in the coming years.



Ban Ki-moon

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General

February 2015

Overview

Responding to the call from the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to 'go green' and become climate neutral, in October 2007 the Executive Heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes committed to:

1. Estimate the greenhouse gas emissions of their organizations consistent with accepted international standards;
2. Undertake efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
3. Analyze the cost implications and explore budgetary modalities of purchasing carbon offsets to eventually reach climate neutrality.

In December 2009, the UN's first greenhouse gas emission inventory was published in Copenhagen as a result of a combined effort by more than 40 UN organizations. The exercise has been repeated every year since and has improved in accuracy and scope, providing an ever-more detailed picture of the UN's emissions and their sources.

Work has continued in reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the UN's activities. More than 300 stories of emission reductions and greening measures across areas such as buildings, meetings, procurement, transport and travel have been reported on the web portal www.greeningtheblue.org, indicating the scale and scope of efforts to move the UN towards climate neutrality. In 2013, recognizing the cost-savings associated with reducing emissions, the UN Heads of Agency agreed to the gradual and systematic implementation of Environmental Management Systems.

As many as 9 organizations have gone further and have become wholly or partly climate neutral through the purchase of carbon credits.

Staff at all levels across the UN continue to show their support by getting involved in the Greening the Blue campaign. Through organizing events in celebration of World Environment Day, or cycle-to-work schemes, these initiatives play a critical role in raising awareness of the issues.

Emissions from UN Entities for 2013

This information has been

| UN agency | Number of staff | Total emissions ⁺ | Emissions per staff member ⁺ | Emissions from air travel | Share of air travel of total emissions | Air travel emissions per staff member | Facility related emissions per floor area |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | tCO ₂ eq | tCO ₂ eq/staff | tCO ₂ | % | tCO ₂ /staff | kgCO ₂ eq/m ² |
| BRS | 63 | 697 | 11.06 | 691 | 99% | 10.97 | 4.85 |
| CTBTO | 425 | 1,973 | 4.64 | 1,449 | 73% | 3.41 | 20.79 |
| ECA | 1,709 | 4,501 | 2.63 | 4,131 | 92% | 2.42 | 2.83 |
| ECLAC | 700 | 3,795 | 5.42 | 2,591 | 68% | 3.70 | 57.69 |
| ESCAP | 870 | 5,034 | 5.79 | 1,784 | 35% | 2.05 | 72.44 |
| ESCWA | 416 | 4,500 | 10.82 | 927 | 21% | 2.23 | 93.03 |
| FAO | 10,174 | 34,566 | 3.40 | 23,153 | 67% | 2.28 | 43.23 |
| IAEA | 2,943 | 17,498 | 5.95 | 14,673 | 84% | 4.99 | 15.95 |
| ICAO ¹ | 804 | 5,937 | 7.38 | 2,691 | 45% | 3.35 | 72.69 |
| IFAD | 900 | 4,085 | 4.54 | 3,756 | 92% | 4.17 | 12.59 |
| ILO | 3,640 | 14,826 | 4.07 | 10,746 | 72% | 2.95 | 45.12 |
| ITC-ILO | 283 | 2,887 | 10.20 | 1,976 | 68% | 6.98 | 22.65 |
| IMO | 332 | 4,140 | 12.47 | 732 | 18% | 2.20 | 139.77 |
| ITC | 410 | 2,169 | 5.29 | 2,000 | 92% | 4.88 | 21.24 |
| ITU | 915 | 4,219 | 4.61 | 2,936 | 70% | 3.21 | 21.79 |
| OHCHR | 600 | 5,129 | 8.55 | 4,713 | 92% | 7.86 | 21.56 |
| UNAIDS | 817 | 5,723 | 7.00 | 3,723 | 65% | 4.56 | 44.37 |
| UNCCD | 50 | 1,182 | 23.64 | 1,132 | 96% | 22.64 | 8.28 |
| UNCDF ¹ | 43 | 918 | 21.34 | 691 | 75% | 16.07 | 181.87 |
| UNDP ¹ | 16,500 | 69,896 | 4.24 | 34,877 | 50% | 2.11 | 50.56 |
| UNEP | 1,233 | 10,825 | 8.78 | 9,522 | 88% | 7.72 | 60.18 |
| UNESCO | 5,959 | 27,542 | 4.62 | 11,971 | 43% | 2.01 | 41.43 |
| UNFCCC | 580 | 3,985 | 6.87 | 3,844 | 96% | 6.63 | 3.98 |
| UN-Habitat | 350 | 1,011 | 2.89 | 741 | 73% | 2.12 | 34.83 |
| UNHCR ¹ | 830 | 1,837 | 2.21 | 1,771 | 96% | 2.13 | 6.57 |
| UNHQ ² | 8,718 | 45,435 | 5.21 | 28,520 | 63% | 3.27 | 62.12 |
| UNICEF | 1,923 | 11,960 | 6.22 | 6,302 | 53% | 3.28 | 111.03 |
| UNIDO ¹ | 1,951 | 11,144 | 5.71 | 7,985 | 72% | 4.09 | 14.15 |

Owing to the diversity and complexity of the UN System, it is easier for some organizations to collect data than for others. The table above reflects the best available data for 2013. A more detailed breakdown is available on the reverse of this poster and at www.greeningtheblue.org/what-the-UN-is-doing.

| UN agency | Number of staff | Total emissions ⁺ | Emissions per staff member ⁺ | Emissions from air travel | Share of air travel of total emissions | Air travel emissions per staff member | Facility related emissions per floor area |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | tCO ₂ eq | tCO ₂ eq/staff | tCO ₂ | % | tCO ₂ /staff | kgCO ₂ eq/m ² |
| UNOG ³ | 2,762 | 8,869 | 3.21 | 8,556 | 96% | 3.10 | 1.43 |
| UNON | 816 | 1,958 | 2.40 | 551 | 28% | 0.68 | 15.46 |
| UNOPS | 3,481 | 14,035 | 4.03 | 3,630 | 26% | 1.04 | 72.16 |
| UNOV ⁴ | 950 | 4,771 | 5.02 | 3,665 | 77% | 3.86 | 19.75 |
| UNRWA | 3,770 | 14,286 | 3.79 | 280 | 2% | 0.07 | 126.80 |
| UNU | 82 | 791 | 9.65 | 197 | 25% | 2.40 | 91.08 |
| UNV | 300 | 363 | 1.21 | 222 | 61% | 0.74 | 11.92 |
| UNWomen ¹ | 498 | 2,132 | 4.28 | 592 | 28% | 1.19 | 107.91 |
| UNWTO | 170 | 620 | 3.65 | 358 | 58% | 2.11 | 38.22 |
| WFP | 11,536 | 77,299 | 6.70 | 23,287 | 30% | 2.02 | 10.00 |
| WHO | 2,049 | 23,156 | 11.30 | 20,854 | 90% | 10.18 | 22.83 |
| WIPO | 1,402 | 6,824 | 4.87 | 6,499 | 95% | 4.64 | 1.87 |
| World Bank Group ⁵ | 16,429 | 236,441 | 14.39 | 154,998 | 66% | 9.43 | 107.13 |
| WTO | 845 | 4,741 | 5.61 | 4,201 | 89% | 4.97 | 12.90 |
| Organizations reporting emissions prior to 2013 (year of emissions in brackets) | | | | | | | |
| DFS ⁷ (2008) | 500 | 3,075 | 6.15 | 276 | 9% | 0.55 | 45.18 |
| DPA ^{6,7} (2009) | 1,339 | 18,227 | 13.61 | 6,289 | 35% | 4.70 | 1,444.92 |
| DPKO ^{6,7} (2009) | 114,206 | 966,068 | 8.46 | 456,010 | 47% | 3.99 | 246.23 |
| OPCW (2010) | 611 | 5,163 | 8.45 | 3,573 | 69% | 5.85 | 75.86 |
| UNFPA (2012) | 3,239 | 19,934 | 6.15 | 10,216 | 51% | 3.15 | 60.09 |
| UNITAR (2012) | 124 | 728 | 5.87 | 713 | 98% | 5.75 | 10.45 |
| UPU (2012) | 256 | 963 | 3.76 | 623 | 65% | 2.43 | 26.19 |
| WMO (2009) | 600 | 3,330 | 5.55 | 2,750 | 83% | 4.58 | 20.56 |
| Total UN | 230,103 | 1,721,184 | 7.48 | 898,368 | 52% | 3.90 | 73.27 |

Notes: (1) Where available, previous data has been updated with emissions for 2013 • (2) Includes New York based operations of DPKO, DFS and DPA • (3) Includes UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDIR, UNISDR, UNJSPF, UNRISD, JIU and Geneva offices of OCHA, UNODA, CEB and OIOS • (4) Includes UNODC • (5) Includes IBRD, IDA, IFC, ICSID, MIGA and GEF • (6) 2008 data with 2009 amendments for available locations • (7) Excludes New York based operations of DPKO, DFS and DPA • (+) GHG emissions excluding optional and biomass emissions

Throughout 2014, the UN Department of Field Support continued to host and maintain the UN greenhouse gas calculator and reporting tool. Emissions from air travel were calculated using the International Civil Aviation Organization's Carbon Emissions Calculator.

UN Greenhouse Gas Inventory Methodology

The journey towards climate neutrality starts with the compilation of a greenhouse gas emission inventory - a database that lists, by source, the type and amount of emissions discharged into the atmosphere during a given time period. Within the UN, this activity is coordinated by UNEP's Sustainable United Nations (SUN) facility and undertaken by individual UN organizations.

The methodology used to estimate the UN's greenhouse gas emissions is based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). The UN's inventory accounts for six greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride) and nine emission sources mainly covering emissions from travel and the use of energy and refrigerants (purchased electricity, stationary combustion, purchased steam, refrigerants, air travel, mobile sources, public transportation, process and optional emissions including waste and emissions of refrigerants that are covered in the Montreal Protocol).

Individual UN organizations collect data that are compiled by the SUN team into a UN System-wide emissions inventory. The emissions of each UN organization are determined by a combination of their activities and the number of offices and personnel they are responsible for.

A total of 56 UN organizations compiled greenhouse gas emission inventories for 2013. An additional eight agencies have been included using the most recently available data. This takes the total number of reporting agencies to 64. The methodology continues to improve each year, along with the level of participation and the depth of reporting. There are still many opportunities for improvements in data quality and analysis.

The UN is now looking at options to replace the existing reporting system with a more versatile software that will also have the ability to deal with other environmental management and resource efficiency issues such as waste management and the use of water.

UNFCCC Staff Walking the Climate Talk

In July 2014, UNFCCC launched an innovative campaign aimed at promoting a long-term vision of a climate neutral world. Staff members and their families were invited to become climate neutral by calculating their personal climate footprints, reducing them as much as possible, and then offsetting the rest using UN-certified emission reductions from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

As a result of this campaign, 78,500 Certified Emission Reductions (CER) were purchased from the Adaptation Fund. In addition to reducing emissions through CDM projects around the world, proceeds from the sale of CERs from the Adaptation Fund directly finance adaptation projects in about 40 developing countries.

The UNFCCC's Executive Secretary, Christiana Figueres, led this campaign by example by offsetting her own, as well as her family's, lifetime footprint. "We all devote countless hours to the complex challenge of addressing climate change. This is usually an exercise in perseverance over the long term. Here is an opportunity to do something simple and concrete in the immediate term. Let's go climate neutral now!", she said.

The Climate Neutral Now initiative will look beyond the UN climate change secretariat and seek to encourage people and organizations from all parts of society to go climate neutral. Once the campaign is launched, all staff members in the UN system will be given the opportunity to cancel their personal climate footprints as well.



Next Steps

In September 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on all UN organizations to further their work on the Climate Neutral Strategy by reporting their emissions by the end of 2015 and achieving climate neutrality by 2020. His message gave renewed impetus to this work and helped strengthen initiatives already under way.

The United Nations Environment Programme's Sustainable UN (SUN) facility, together with the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) and the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), will continue to support UN organizations in 'walking the talk' on climate change. SUN's work will focus on three fronts in 2015:

1. **Monitoring emissions:** An analysis is under way to identify the gaps in the UN's current greenhouse gas inventory, which will allow the development of an improved system for measuring and managing the UN's environmental footprint. With the support of the (HLCM), this system will further inform management decisions of UN organizations and enable emissions trends to be analyzed. The system is planned for implementation by the end of 2016.
2. **Reducing emissions:** Efforts to reduce the UN's environmental footprint will continue with a second phase of inter-agency peer reviews and through the pilot implementation of Environmental Management Systems in some UN organizations.
3. **Climate neutrality:** Achieving climate neutrality will require work in two areas. First, further engage UN organizations and their governing bodies in the process of moving towards climate neutrality. Building on the Greening the Blue campaign, UNEP and UNFCCC will undertake additional efforts to familiarize colleagues with the concept and encourage further progress before the end of 2015. Second, establish processes to raise – internally – the funds necessary to purchase offsets.

Ensuring that this work is effective across various UN headquarters, country and field offices is an ongoing challenge that the SUN team continues to address.

For more information visit

www.greeningtheblue.org



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