



# **MOVING TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL UN**

## **THE UN SYSTEM'S FOOTPRINT AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE IT**

*2013 Edition*

# Message from the UN Secretary-General

The September 2013 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was a stark reminder of the need for urgent action on climate change. This document provides examples of steps taken by the United Nations system in its continued effort to promote sustainable operations, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards climate neutrality.

I am heartened by the commitment of each UN organization to improve its environmental performance and to do so collaboratively as 'One UN'. I reiterate my gratitude to the leaders of UN agencies and their staff for their dedication to 'greening the blue'.

We have made good progress and pledge to continue on this essential path. There is much the UN can learn from Member States and the private sector, and we look forward to sharing experiences and lessons as we work together to turn challenge into opportunity.



*Ban Ki-moon*  
**Ban Ki-moon**  
United Nations Secretary-General

February 2014

# Emission Reduction Strategies

**E**mission reduction efforts in the UN System are as diverse as the organizations themselves. They include reductions in travel-related emissions, schemes to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and raising awareness among staff. Organizations have been working to integrate these efforts into existing budgets, with some adopting innovative funding ideas to invest in energy efficiency, always trying to balance environmental goals with economic considerations. A growing number of UN agencies are choosing to procure Certified Emission Reduction (CER) certificates to offset emissions that cannot be eliminated, leading to partial or full climate neutrality.

In 2013 the scope of environmental management in the UN grew to include waste and water as well as greenhouse gas emissions. This was the result of a decision by the High-Level Committee on Management which received the blessing of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination. This wider scope informs the Environmental Management System (EMS) framework which has been developed to assist UN agencies. Some are already implementing their EMS and have chosen to incorporate additional areas such as energy, hazards, biodiversity and environmental health.

# Peer Review Process

**T**he UN Environment Management Group (EMG) has initiated a process to peer review the environmental performance of its members. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization for the Vienna International Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization volunteered for the pilot phase (2013-2014) with a focus on facilities and operations. The review teams include representatives from UN entities, international organizations and other stakeholders such as local government authorities. The peer reviews are governed by the principles of mutual trust among peers, voluntary participation and firm (but non-binding) recommendations. The first three peer-review reports are expected in September 2014. Encouraged by this approach, more UN organizations are lining up to share their experiences and learn from each other through the peer review process. More information can be found at [www.unemg.org](http://www.unemg.org).

# Emissions from UN Entities

This information has been collected by

## Organizations reporting emissions for 2012

UN agency	Number of staff	Total emissions <sup>+</sup>	Emissions per staff member <sup>+</sup>	Emissions from air travel	Share of air travel of total emissions	Air travel emissions per staff member	Facility related emissions per floor area
		tCO <sub>2</sub> eq	tCO <sub>2</sub> eq/staff	tCO <sub>2</sub>	%	tCO <sub>2</sub> /staff	tCO <sub>2</sub> eq/m <sup>2</sup>
BRS	61	462	7.57	455	98%	7.45	4.89
CTBTO	425	2,018	4.75	1,585	79%	3.73	17.64
ECLAC	700	3,573	5.10	2,401	67%	3.43	55.85
ESCAP	870	5,063	5.82	1,591	31%	1.83	77.39
ESCWA	416	4,380	10.53	715	16%	1.72	89.84
FAO	10,907	40,828	3.74	25,436	62%	2.33	58.63
IAEA	2,876	18,814	6.54	15,832	84%	5.50	16.95
ICAO	831	5,964	7.18	2,674	45%	3.22	73.79
IFAD	900	3,622	4.02	3,323	92%	3.69	11.34
ILO	2,633	14,726	5.59	8,855	60%	3.36	90.17
ITC-ILO	193	3,408	17.66	1,398	41%	7.24	54.65
IMO	333	3,804	11.42	951	25%	2.86	119.32
ITC	264	2,370	8.98	2,216	94%	8.39	19.95
ITU	950	4,287	4.51	3,122	73%	3.29	19.72
OHCHR	600	4,707	7.84	4,323	92%	7.21	19.83
UNAIDS	842	5,084	6.04	2,805	55%	3.33	46.28
UNCCD	50	639	12.78	308	48%	6.16	54.47
UNDP	16,356	85,142	5.21	39,988	47%	2.44	87.69
UNEP	1,263	9,877	7.82	8,795	89%	6.96	37.32
UNESCO	4,881	13,689	2.80	6,779	50%	1.39	20.46
UNFCCC	560	5,378	9.60	5,228	97%	9.34	5.08
UNFPA	3,239	19,934	6.15	10,216	51%	3.15	60.09
UN-Habitat	370	2,627	7.10	2,010	77%	5.43	35.73
UNHQ	8,185	48,673	5.95	26,670	55%	3.26	78.13
UNIDO <sup>4</sup>	1,972	9,420	4.78	6,166	65%	3.13	15.13
UNITAR	124	728	5.87	713	98%	5.75	10.45
UNOG <sup>1</sup>	2,762	12,364	4.48	8,011	65%	2.90	25.94

Throughout 2013, 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 agency	Number of staff	Total emissions <sup>+</sup>	Emissions per staff member <sup>+</sup>	Emissions from air travel	Share of air travel of total emissions	Air travel emissions per staff member	Facility related emissions per floor area
		tCO <sub>2</sub> eq	tCO <sub>2</sub> eq/staff	tCO <sub>2</sub>	%	tCO <sub>2</sub> /staff	tCO <sub>2</sub> eq/m <sup>2</sup>
UNON	785	2,694	3.43	776	29%	0.99	37.99
UNOPS	3,675	14,398	3.92	4,093	28%	1.11	68.54
UNOV <sup>2</sup>	950	3,483	3.67	2,343	67%	2.47	20.42
UNRWA	2,700	14,160	5.24	518	4%	0.19	17.78
UNV	150	317	2.11	187	59%	1.25	11.23
UNWomen <sup>4</sup>	523	1,923	3.68	453	24%	0.87	125.08
UNWTO	148	614	4.15	375	61%	2.53	35.73
UPU	256	963	3.76	623	65%	2.43	26.19
WFP	11,335	76,872	6.78	21,691	28%	1.91	9.43
WHO	1,820	22,096	12.14	19,039	86%	10.46	30.41
WIPO	1,358	8,218	6.05	4,782	58%	3.52	32.99
World Bank <sup>3</sup>	15,520	213,647	13.77	128,892	60%	8.30	103.23
WTO	845	4,426	5.24	3,615	82%	4.28	16.63
<i>Organizations reporting emissions data prior to 2012</i>							
DFS <sup>8</sup>	500	3,075	6.15	276	9%	0.55	45.18
DPA <sup>7</sup>	1,339	18,227	13.61	6,289	35%	4.70	1,444.92
DPKO <sup>7</sup>	114,206	966,068	8.46	456,010	47%	3.99	246.23
ECA <sup>5</sup>	1,494	9,179	6.14	8,713	95%	5.83	3.64
OPCW <sup>6</sup>	611	5,163	8.45	3,573	69%	5.85	75.86
UNCDF <sup>6</sup>	35	399	11.40	175	44%	5.00	181.94
UNHCR <sup>7</sup>	1,040	2,593	2.49	2,281	88%	2.19	20.21
UNICEF <sup>8</sup>	1,197	9,565	7.99	6,316	66%	5.28	9.98
UNJ <sup>5</sup>	105	1,201	11.44	273	23%	2.60	154.99
WMO <sup>7</sup>	600	3,330	5.55	2,750	83%	4.58	20.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,755</b>	<b>1,714,188</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>866,609</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>3.86</b>	<b>70.91</b>

Notes: (1) includes UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDIR, UNISDR, UNJSPF, UNRISD, JIU & Geneva offices of: OCHA, UNODA, CEB and OIOS • (2) includes UNODC • (3) includes IBRD, IDA, IFC, ICSID, MIGA, GEF • (4) Reporting in 2012 updated for available locations and sources only • (5) Reporting 2011 data • (6) Reporting 2010 data • (7) Reporting 2009 data • (8) Reporting 2008 data • (+) GHG emissions excluding optional and biomass emissions

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 2012. A more detailed breakdown is available on the reverse of this poster and at [www.greeningtheblue.org/what-the-UN-is-doing](http://www.greeningtheblue.org/what-the-UN-is-doing).

# Reducing our Environmental Footprint

## ISO 14001 certification shows UNOPS commitment to environment



UNOPS construction at the IGSS Regional Hospital of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Photo: ©UNOPS

In August 2013, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was awarded ISO 14001 certification for its commitment to protecting the environment. UNOPS developed an Environment Management System (EMS) to help staff determine how construction projects should handle waste, make the best use of natural resources, create opportunities for extra environmental benefits and protect plants, animals, water, air and the soil.

UNOPS in Jerusalem was the first field office to fully implement an EMS and achieve ISO 14001 certification. The EMS is now being rolled out at all UNOPS field offices.

## ITU saves emissions and costs using remote meeting technology

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has been piloting a multilingual, interactive remote meeting service that allows delegates from across the world to meet together without the need to travel. This has resulted in substantive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and cost savings to Member States.

In the three years that the service has been in operation, approximately 1,000 meetings have been held involving more than 10,000 participants who have avoided travelling 38 million kilometres. This has resulted in savings of 24 million kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> and US\$ 9 million.



Find out more about the methodology used to calculate UN greenhouse gas emissions at

<http://www.greeningtheblue.org/our-approach/measuring-our-impacts>



ITU remote meeting service. Photo: ©ITU

*Reducing waste is one of the easiest ways for individuals within the UN to reduce their environmental footprint. Below are two examples. You can find plenty more at [www.greeningtheblue.org/news](http://www.greeningtheblue.org/news)*

## **FAO regional office wins waste award**

The Food and Agriculture Organization Regional Office for Latin America (FAORLC) was recognized for its recycling work with a 2013 Waste Award, granted by a national foundation devoted to environmental awareness in Chile. FAORLC succeeded in recycling 4.5 tonnes of old and unused electronic equipment.

This was just one of a series of measures undertaken. The office reduced paper usage by 47% between 2011 and 2013 by changing the print preferences in all computers and is now recycling 350 kg of glass, paper, cardboard, Tetrapak, cans and plastic bottles per month.

## **IFC Waste Challenge**

In 2013, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) held a Global Waste Challenge - the first coordinated, global effort to reduce IFC's waste footprint. Nearly 1,000 staff in 65 countries participated. In Washington, IFC launched a new waste program which included a compost collection program; a new colour-coded recycling system; clear bin labelling; and online reference guides.

The result was an increase in the combined compost/recycle rate from 35% to 93%, according to an external waste audit.

As part of the global effort, over a dozen IFC country offices from around the world also implemented waste reduction programs and adopted office-based targets, while nearly 1,000 staff worldwide made individual commitments. IFC's Chief Executive Officer Jin-Yong Cai has announced a target to reduce IFC's paper consumption by 15% by July 2014.



IFC HQ Waste Carnival. Photo: ©IFC

## Next Steps

**A**n organization can only manage what it measures, which is why the UN needs to continuously improve the timeliness, accuracy and scope of the emissions data it collects and reports. Currently, the software used does not allow comparisons between years, nor does it allow assessment of emissions per dollar spent. A working group has been set up to explore a **better system for capturing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental data**. A more systematic data collection system will enable the UN to make more informed decisions on how to reduce its environmental footprint.

There is an urgent need to improve the UN's on-the-ground performance in resource efficiency, energy consumption and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, both in headquarters and in country offices. **This will be achieved by sharing knowledge and scaling up existing solutions**. The peer review process will also contribute to this and many examples of successful practice can be found on the Greening the Blue website.

While most UN staff are aware of the challenges related to sustainable development, not all are aware of how these translate into day to day behavior and of the power each of us has to promote change. A new **online tutorial to assist UN staff gain a better understanding of in-house sustainability**, and to provide hands-on guidance on how to be part of the solution, will be launched in early 2014. The one-hour tutorial, which follows a day in the lives of two fictional UN staffers called *Stick* and *Bean*, has been developed by United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme and will be available to all UN agencies.

Today, the UN system still tends to perceive environmental sustainability as a stand-alone goal, rather than as an integrated part of its core business. The challenge ahead, through a stronger relationship with the High Level Committee on Management, is to forge **a closer connection between the UN's greening efforts and ongoing management reforms**.

For more information visit

[www.greeningtheblue.org](http://www.greeningtheblue.org)



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