



MOVING TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL UN

The UN system's footprint and efforts to reduce it

Summary of 2011 edition

Statement from the United Nations Secretary General

“Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN showcases the enthusiasm of UN staff across the world for making the operations of the UN system more sustainable.

The United Nations system is strongly committed to leading by example and ensuring that our operations are continuously monitored and improved - not just in terms of

what we deliver, but also how we deliver.

We are also looking to this year’s UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – to generate ideas that will energize sustainability efforts worldwide.”

Ban Ki-moon
New York, April 2012

From the Foreword of *Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN 2011*



Greenhouse gas emissions for 2010

In October 2007 the UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination approved the UN Climate Neutral Strategy which commits all agencies, funds and programmes to move towards climate neutrality within the wider context of greening the UN. The strategy requires all UN bodies to estimate their greenhouse gas emissions, undertake efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and analyze the cost implications of purchasing carbon offsets.

Throughout 2011 UN staff from 54 entities worked together to determine

their total greenhouse gas emissions for 2010 and the results are presented here in the third edition of *Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN*.

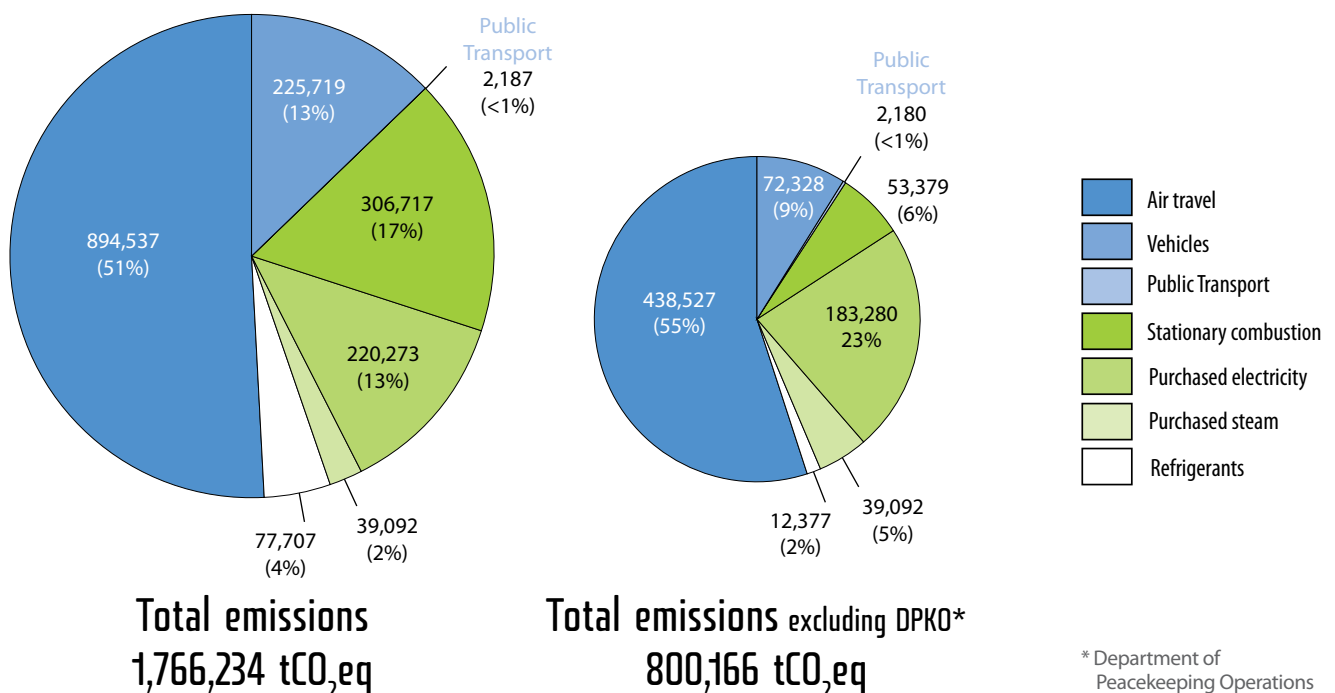
The UN’s greenhouse gas emissions for 2010 were 1.8 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. These include the emissions of 54 entities in hundreds of locations with over 200,000 employees. This is the same amount of carbon sequestered annually by 383,795 acres of pine or fir forests, an area the size of the Faroe Islands.

Over 50% of the UN’s emissions are from air travel (4.2 tonnes per capita)

making this the biggest challenge for the organization in reducing its overall carbon footprint.

The emissions calculations in the report have been compiled using internationally recognised guidance based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, a widely used methodology developed by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The UN greenhouse gas inventory includes emissions from all activities that are under the direct financial control of the organization, such as the heating and cooling of buildings and the travel of staff members.

Emissions by source (in tonnes CO₂ equivalent)



* Department of Peacekeeping Operations

2010 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
		tonnes CO ₂ eq	tonnes CO ₂ eq	tonnes CO ₂ eq	% of total emissions	tonnes CO ₂ eq	kg CO ₂ eq/m ²
CBD**	95	3,426	36.1	1,555	45%	16.4	707
CTBTO	426	2,773	6.5	1,756	63%	4.1	42
DFS**	500	3,074	6.1	276	9%	0.6	45
DPA**	1,339	18,227	13.6	6,289	35%	4.7	1,445
DPKO**	114,206	966,068	8.5	456,010	47%	4.0	246
ECA	1,545	4,373	2.8	4,133	95%	2.7	3
ECLAC	700	3,868	5.5	2,737	71%	3.9	54
ESCAP	954	6,764	7.1	1,184	18%	1.2	277
ESCWA	401	4,155	10.4	658	16%	1.6	91
FAO	5,992	45,473	7.6	29,709	65%	5.0	66
IAEA	2,563	25,312	9.9	14,470	57%	5.6	69
ICAO	719	6,080	8.5	2,454	40%	3.4	33
IFAD	900	5,599	6.2	3,796	68%	4.2	71
ILO	3,117	15,000	4.8	9,550	64%	3.1	86
IMO	331	4,447	13.4	1,393	31%	4.2	127
ITC	320	3,447	10.8	3,285	95%	10.3	21
ITU	961	4,883	5.1	3,390	69%	3.5	25
OHCHR	520	5,164	9.9	4,787	93%	9.2	18
OPCW	611	5,163	8.4	3,573	69%	5.8	76
UNAIDS	904	6,678	7.4	4,313	65%	4.8	49
UNCCD	50	406	8.1	318	78%	6.4	14
UNCDF	35	399	11.4	175	44%	5.0	182
UNDP	10,600	54,516	5.1	25,849	47%	2.4	91
UNEP	1,210	13,505	11.2	12,710	94%	10.5	40
UNESCO	5,333	26,581	5.0	10,589	40%	2.0	34
UNFCCC	500	5,119	10.2	4,941	97%	9.9	7
UNFPA	3,303	21,756	6.6	13,503	62%	4.1	38
UN-Habitat*	536	4,057	7.6	3,661	90%	6.8	30
UNHCR*	1,040	2,593	2.5	2,281	88%	2.2	20
UNHQ	8,185	76,912	9.4	29,126	38%	3.6	172
UNICEF**	1,197	9,565	8.0	6,316	66%	5.3	10
UNIDO*	2,019	11,127	5.5	7,015	63%	3.5	67
UNITAR §	124	494	4.0	478	97%	3.9	12
UNOG ¹	2,502	13,105	5.2	9,638	74%	3.9	22
UNON	750	2,261	3.0	863	38%	1.2	34
UNOPS	2,548	11,054	4.3	4,565	41%	1.8	76
UNOV (incl. UNODC)	950	6,216	6.5	3,925	63%	4.1	41
UNRWA	2,565	12,623	4.9	447	4%	0.2	45
UNU	61	1,512	24.8	318	21%	5.2	199
UNV	150	416	2.8	282	68%	1.9	11
UNWomen* (UNIFEM)	917	3,599	3.9	2,838	79%	3.1	75
UNWTO	148	797	5.4	508	64%	3.4	42
UPU*	250	1,061	4.2	359	34%	1.4	70
WFP	12,390	80,045	6.5	22,422	28%	1.8	9
WHO	2,443	30,319	12.4	26,846	89%	11.0	31
WIPO	1,346	7,069	5.3	3,819	54%	2.8	37
WMO*	600	3,330	5.5	2,750	83%	4.6	21
World Bank (incl. IFC)	14,933	219,763	14.7	137,721	63%	9.2	104
WTO	845	6,061	7.2	4,955	82%	5.9	34
UN TOTAL	214,634	1,766,234	8.2	894,537	51%	4.2	104
TOTAL minus DPKO	100,428	800,166	8.0	438,527	55%	4.4	102

Notes: * 2009 data, ** 2008 data amended for available locations, § Air travel data extracted from UNOG report, ¹ UNOG data includes OCHA, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNISDR)

Emission reduction efforts

As well as measuring emissions, the UN Climate Neutral Strategy commit all UN entities to reduce emissions where possible. Throughout 2011 progress was made at the UN system level and within individual organizations on this front.

JANUARY

- UNEP, UNOPS and the WFP's Fleet Forum published guidelines to assist UN agencies in procuring better vehicles. The guidance helps operations managers consider environmental and social impacts resulting from the production, use and disposal of vehicles, as well as technical specifications.

FEBRUARY

- Guidance for the purchasing of catering services was issued by the SUN facility in collaboration with UNOPS and the HLCM Procurement Network.

MARCH

- UN.org - the main website for the UN system -launched a new page on sustainability. The page highlights the UN's environmental, social and economic performance and provides information on the UN Climate Neutral Strategy.
- UN offices in New York, Geneva and Nairobi joined millions of people across the world to mark Earth Hour at 8pm on 26 March 2011 by switching off the lights to raise awareness of energy waste.

APRIL

- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the ambitious new showcase building which houses the UN in Nairobi. 6,000 square metres of solar panels, energy saving lighting, natural ventilation systems and other green features enable the office to generate electricity for its 1,200 occupants.
- For the second year running the UN reported its greenhouse gas emissions. The total for 2009 was 1.7 million tonnes CO₂eq, or 8.3 tonnes CO₂eq per capita.

MAY

- In preparation for World Environment Day 2011, Greening the Blue launched a photo

competition. UN staff were invited to submit images on the theme of Visions of a sustainable UN.

- The UN Secretariat in New York established a new position to coordinate its move towards environmentally responsible operations. The post of Senior Advisor on Sustainability is co-funded by UNEP and provides support to the SUN facility as well.

JUNE

- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon renewed his commitment to keeping sustainable development at the top of his agenda following his re-election by the UN General Assembly.

JULY

- The World Bank achieved Gold Certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for two of its Washington offices.

AUGUST

- The Secretary-General presented DFS and UNEP with the UN21 Award. UNEP was recognised for its continuing efforts to advance sustainability initiatives across the UN, and DFS for a host of measures to reduce CO₂ emissions from field operations.

SEPTEMBER

- Senior officials of the inter-agency Environment Management Group approved a Strategic Plan for

Sustainability Management in the UN System, to move the UN towards a consistent, systematic and cost-effective approach to managing sustainability. They also acknowledged the importance of a common sustainability office to support implementation of the plan.

- Buying for a Better World, a guide to sustainable procurement, was published by UNEP, ILO, UNOPS and ITC/ILO in collaboration with the HLCM Procurement Network. The report provides advice on how the purchase of products and services can support the UN's sustainability aims.

OCTOBER

- Once again, the UN office at Geneva invited hundreds of sheep to graze the grasslands surrounding the Palais des Nations. The sheep cut the grass in an ecologically sustainable manner whilst providing natural fertilizer for the grass and flowers to grow in spring.

NOVEMBER

- In celebration of UN Day, the UN in Viet Nam hosted a green picnic for nearly 600 staff, family and friends. The day included a range of activities and attractions.

DECEMBER

- The number of Green Champions and Green Groups across the UN doubled in 2011, with over 100 volunteers from across the UN working to make their offices more sustainable.

For more information and to download the full report visit

www.greeningtheblue.org

