



UNDP AND
CLIMATE
NEUTRALITY
»

IN MANY AFRICAN
COUNTRIES, THE
POST-HARVEST
LOSSES OF FOOD
CEREALS ARE
ESTIMATED AT
25%
OF THE TOTAL
CROP
HARVESTED
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WORLD
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WORD FROM
THE GREENING
COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON
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GREENING POST **UNDP GOES GREEN**

1st Edition, May - July 2013 ■ PREMIER ISSUE

Unveiling Our Green Agenda

In line with UNDP corporate policy and the Global Staff Survey recommendations, the Country Office has established a team to coordinate greening initiatives at the workplace and the Arundel Office Park.



The Country Office also intends to intensify its efforts in getting involved in local and national environmental causes for the promotion of a green community.

The group will work closely with the representatives of the UN family and other tenants within the park. Members are Verity Nyagah, James Wakiaga, William Tsuma, Bertha Charowedza, Sammy Mwiti, Daisy Mukarakate, Mitchell Robitaille, Tina Sibanda, Tinashe Mariga and Winfreda Magava. It will be led by Daisy in her capacity as environmental specialist. However, kindly note that more colleagues are welcome to join. The door is open to volunteers from operations and programme units.

The team will develop a CO greening strategy based on the findings of the green audit,

anticipated to be conducted next month (June).

In October 2007, the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) adopted a decision to move towards a climate neutral United Nations including the commitment to report UN Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions on an annual basis.

“Following the pledge of the United Nations Secretary-General on World Environment Day in 2007 and follow-on commitments by the UN Chief Executive Board, UNDP is joining the rest of the UN and ‘walking the talk’ on climate change. We are taking steps to conduct an institution-wide greenhouse gas inventory, and will pilot a carbon neutrality initiative in one of our bureaux with the aim of taking it across the organization,” said Helen Clark on

World Environment Day 2009.

Following relocation to new premises about 3 years ago, the UNDP Office has a few potted indoor plants. There is mostly pool printing and photocopying but most of the machines are over 5 years old. However, office computers are relatively new. Most kitchen appliances are old – refrigerators and microwaves may

“As a leading organization on sustainable human development, UNDP is walking the talk on tackling climate change by reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from our operations.”

— Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator

Coming soon: Green Audit

As a demonstration of its commitment to providing a cleaner, safer and healthier workplace, the CO is conducting a green audit. This is aimed at inculcating environmentally responsible behavior and practice among staff and development partners. The process will culminate in the drafting of guidelines and policy measures with Quick Win greening options including high impact energy conservation measures. In addition, the audit should recommend an effective green information management system that will facilitate long-term data capture, analysis and monitoring.

As a leading organization in the fight against climate change UNDP is committed to monitor, reduce and report the environmental footprint of its operations. Being transparent and taking on responsibility for our environmental impact is essential for complying with UNDP’s overall commitments to accountability. Highest standards of accountability and transparency are key to protecting UNDP’s reputational integrity and to securing donor funding for projects and programmes helping those in need.

In a climate that increasingly

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Quick Wins for Office Greening

Instead of driving, fitness fanatic Lisa Orrenius rides a bicycle to work three times a week. At the office, Colleague Kennedy Chimso-ro avoids waste, especially paper. "I try to minimize my printing at all times," he says.

Through their actions, the two

UNDP staff members are working towards reducing carbon emissions that lead to pollution and other greenhouse gas emissions. Like Lisa and Kennedy, you can demonstrate your green engagement by posting a list of self-commitments, say experts. For instance, you can

replace at least one face-to-face meeting with a web-based meeting, voluntarily fly economy class when entitled to business or use earned frequent flyer miles for non-travel.



Here's a checklist of what actions we can do—individually and collectively—to support this cause

1. Have a meat-free day once a week
2. Avoid using disposable cups, plates and bottles
3. Avoid travel where possible and to use web- and phone-based communication systems instead
4. Default double-side printing setting
5. Setting default printing on recycled paper
6. E-publications and documentation production
7. E-operations procedures introduction
8. Explore the possibility of car pooling for staff when attending meetings away from Arundel Office Park
9. Remind colleagues to switch off lights, computers and other electronic equipment over night and on weekends, e.g. by posting reminders close to staircase/elevator, doors, copy machines etc.
10. Consider improving the convenience to switch off appliances, e.g. by providing multi-plug strips where several pieces of equipment can be switched off with one button.
11. Verify that air conditioning is reduced or switched off after office hours
12. Office should consider the installation of water-efficient, dual-flush toilets
13. If an office is remodeled or renovated ensure maximal use of natural daylight

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Unveiling our Green Agenda

be over 10 years old. A shredder is installed at each printing/photocopying station. In some cases, the number of persons/printer is rather high and there is no system for waste segregation, meaning, for example, waste paper and kitchen waste are disposed in the same bin.

The Global Staff Survey (GSS) 2012 results indicate that one of the weakest areas of the UNDP Zimbabwe Country Office mentioned by staff was on greening the workplace.

Did You Know?

The Country Office uses an average of 3 boxes of paper every week*. That's 15 reams, or 7500 sheets of paper.

That is the equivalent of chopping one tree every month!



* Source - Registry Office

UNDP and Climate Neutrality

An organization is considered to be “climate neutral” if aggregated net GHG emissions associated with its operations are zero. The UN Climate Neutrality Initiative focuses on emission reductions as a first priority. Typically however it is not technically feasible or economically reasonable to reduce all GHG emissions resulting from organizations’ operations. In order to achieve climate neutrality, remaining emissions are offset by the purchase of carbon credits, which are generated by projects that reduce emissions in order to sell these credits.

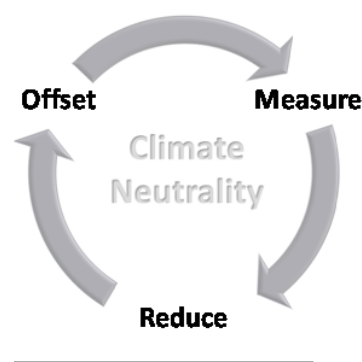
UNDP, as a leading organization in the fight against climate change, is now committed to comprehensively compile its annual GHG inventory and to take action towards reducing (and ultimately, offsetting) its GHG emissions towards a target of institutional climate neutrality.

In April 2010 the UNDP Operations Group decided to make annual GHG reporting mandatory for all UNDP offices from 2009 onwards. A solid GHG reporting mechanism has been established subsequently and the recently completed third annual GHG inventory includes data from 59 UNDP offices, covering 55% of global UNDP staff.

According to UNDP greening specialists Andrew Hudson & Anne Fernqvist, in 2009 global UNDP operations resulted in 55,569 tonnes CO₂-equivalent, with 16% generated at HQ. The majority of GHG emissions were travel-related (56%) with air travel accounting for 42% and vehicle fleet for 13%. Public transport contributed



only 1% of total GHG emissions. GHG emissions resulting from facility operations accounted for 43% of emissions with electricity being the second largest single emission source (26%). “On-site fuel combustion made up for 10% of emissions and purchased heat/steam for 3%. Emissions from leakage from air conditioning systems were approximated at 4% of total emissions.”



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Coming Soon: Green Audit

calls on international organizations like UNDP to take responsibility for the environmental footprint they leave behind, monitoring, managing and reporting our environmental performance has become an integral aspect of UNDP core operations.

Gaining a solid understanding of an office’s environmental performance is crucial for developing effective corresponding greening strategies, discovering cost-saving opportunities and directing investment to win-win opportunities. Continuous and consistent tracking of our environmental performance allows us to monitor and make credible claims about successful and efficient greening initiatives.



Did You Know?

Standby power, also called vampire power, vampire draw, phantom load, or leaking electricity, refers to the electric power consumed by electronic and electrical appliances while they are switched off or in a standby mode.

“Because we don’t think about future generations, they will never forget us.”

— Henrik Tikkanen



Word from the Greening Committee Chairperson Daisy Mukarakate

UNDP is the lead agency in providing support to environmental programmes in Zimbabwe. However, UNDP staff feel that a lot needs to be done in-house in terms of greening its Office as revealed by a staff survey held in 2012. The UNDP Country Office in Zimbabwe has thus decided to clean its house first. A Greening Committee came into being in April, 2013 to spearhead efforts to green the work place. It is made up of committed UNDP staff that has a passion for the environment.

In a short of space of time since its formation, the UNDP Greening Committee has achieved the following:

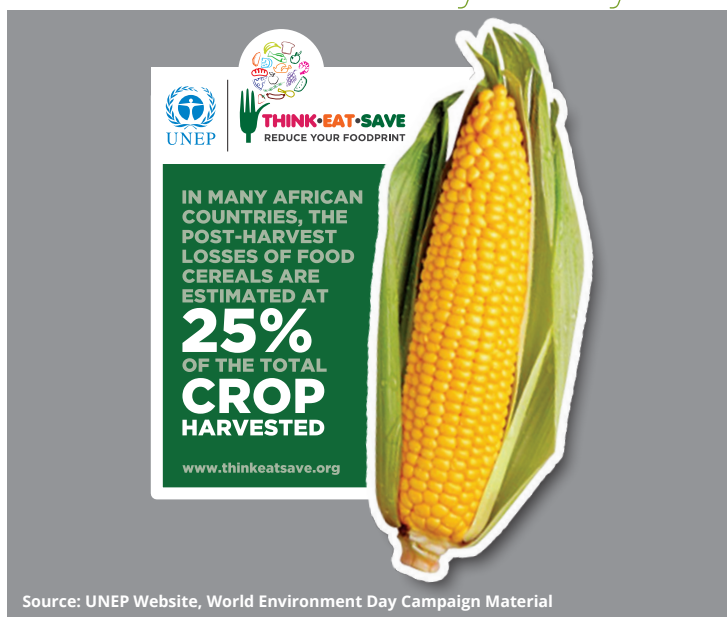
- Commissioned a green office audit.
- Developed an action plan and budget.
- Involved fellow Arundel Office Complex tenants (other UN agencies and the Private Sector) in the organisation of the Arundel Office Complex World Environment Week to be held from 3-7 June, 2013 and further greening actions in the Office Complex.
- Actively participated in the organisation of the Government-led National World Environment Day celebrations to be held on the 5th of June, 2013.

Let us keep the momentum going. If you want to share any greening ideas or if you want to join the winning team, please send an e-mail to Gogreen.zw@undp.org.

Celebrating World Environment Day in Style

Ahead of the World Environment Day that will be commemorated on 5 June, the CO is planning to invite all Arundel Office Park tenants for a joint celebration. This will be the first major task for the recently named Green Team. Consultations are already underway, with the first meeting involving nearly a dozen tenants (including from the private sector), held on 10 May, 2013.

The theme for this year's World Environment Day celebrations is Think.Eat.Save. Think.Eat.Save is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your foodprint. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same



amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same

time, 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more

than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger.

According to UNEP, the global food production occupies 25% of all habitable land and is responsible for 70% of fresh water consumption, 80% of deforestation, and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is the largest single driver of biodiversity loss and land-use change.

"Making informed decision therefore means, for example, that you purposefully select foods that have less of an environmental impact, such as organic foods that do not use chemicals in the production process. Choosing to buy locally can also mean that foods are not flown halfway across the world and therefore limit emissions."

Arundel Office Park Green Alliance mooted

Plans are underway to rally the tenants of the Arundel Office Park behind the green cause. Through strategic partnership with the private sector, the green committee hopes to increase awareness

about environmental issues such as climate change and pollution. Already discussions are underway for joint commemorations of the World Environment Day, with at least 5 companies expressing interest in the matter (see related story by Daisy).

There are six buildings or blocks within the Arundel Office Park, housing UN agencies, NGOs, private companies and consulting firms.

During a meeting held on 10 May, participants came up with suggestions that could be integrated as part of the overall greening efforts of the complex. These include the need to engage a specialist waste collection company capable of recycling waste. Experience in this regard can be gained from UNFPA and PWC who have such arrangements in place. In addition, there were calls for a reflection on how best

to manage waste and especially 'separation' of the organic from the non-organic. As a philanthropic gesture, there was a suggestion to consider distributing warm clothing and blankets to the under-privileged in the city, given that WED falls within the thick of winter. Both individuals and corporates were encouraged to make these donations.