



CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AT FAO

2016 Report

INTRODUCTION

FAO recognizes climate change and environmental degradation as threats to the planet as well as to the credibility and effectiveness of the Organization. As such, on a daily basis it strives to responsibly manage the environmental aspects of its functional operations – i.e. facilities, procurement, and air travel and fleet.

While continually improving its environmental performance, FAO has solidified its commitment to setting a good example in this sector by launching a Corporate Environmental Responsibility Policy on the occasion of the 2016 World Environment Day. The Policy applies to both FAO headquarters and its decentralized offices and sets out criteria for dealing with environmental risks within internal operational areas.¹

FAO has developed a holistic global environmental responsibility framework. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, it has embedded environmental protection into its activities by:

- a. Maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing all sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs);
- b. Implementing a circular economy strategy through sustainable procurement and waste management;
- c. Greening the logistics of meetings and conferences.

¹ Complementary to the Organization's *Environmental and Social Management Guidelines* (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4413e.pdf>) for technical projects



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GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG) INVENTORY AND GAP ANALYSIS

As per an internal UN and FAO mandate, in 2016 the Organization produced a GHG Emissions Inventory for its 2015 functional operations at headquarters (HQ) and decentralized offices (DOs). The carbon footprint for the entire Organization amounted to **56 065 tonnes CO₂e** (approx. 5 tonnes of CO₂e per capita).



While this might seem like a significant increase compared to 2014 (+7%), the latest figure is actually the result of:

a. Improved monitoring of all Travel Authorizations (TAs) requested at HQ and in DOs.

The use of multiple systems to record travel data (ATLAS and GRMS) and the stabilization changes implemented in 2013 has resulted in a partial extraction of data from GRMS and consequently not all air travel segments have been included in previous inventory exercises. A gap analysis was performed, starting with data from 2013. For 2013, a 22 percent increase in the number of TAs was recorded as compared to the previous exercise for the same year, while for 2014, a 177 percent was recorded. While the data correction has resulted in a significant improvement of the monitoring system, it has also resulted in higher levels of CO₂e being recorded.

b. An increase in air travel, FAO's highest emission source (62% of the total).

FAO has increased its technical capacities by reinvesting resources cut from administrative sectors into technical areas² and devoting greater resources to decentralization in order to better support its DOs. The combination of these two factors led to a considerable increase in air travel (+38% TAs in 2015 compared to 2014) but with reduced emissions per TA (-20% in 2015 compared to 2014). This demonstrates that although FAO has travelled more in order to better fulfil its mandate, this travel involved shorter distances with a comparatively lower environmental impact.

c. More DOs participating in the exercise.

While the greatest bulk of emissions derives from air travel, a significant portion is due to facilities. In order to keep better track of the energy situation in DOs and ultimately identify offices where it is possible to implement energy-saving projects, the Corporate Environmental Responsibility team requested stronger participation by DOs in the GHG Inventory exercise. Local Focal Points responded well to the call, with 10 percent more buildings in DOs participating in the 2015 exercise compared to 2014.

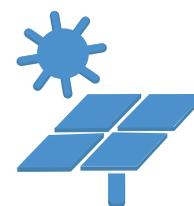
EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS AND OFFSETTING

Energy efficiency at headquarters

After an innovative procurement process, FAO upgraded nearly all **corridor lighting** with the latest LED and sensor³ technology around headquarters.

- Energy savings: annual 520 000 kWh
- Finance: USD 85 000 annual savings
- Environment: 200 000kg CO₂e per year (equivalent to 48 passenger cars driven for one year)

In October 2016, a **solar photovoltaic system** donated by the Federal Republic of Germany was inaugurated at FAO HQ, in the presence of FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva. The system (512.74 m² of photovoltaic modules over building A) represents a milestone not only for FAO but also for Rome, as it is the first to be installed in the city's historic centre.



2 Independent Assessment of FAO's Technical Capacity, January 2017. Available at: http://intranet.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FAO_Communications/documents/FAO_Assessment_of_Technical_Capacity.pdf

3 Upon detecting movement the lights within the sensor area will become operational for one minute at 100% power and reduce to 10% for 30 minutes thereafter, whereas frequently trafficked areas will maintain 10% power at all times for security reasons.

- Energy production: 81 kW power electricity, 104 000 kWh annual production
- Finance: USD 18 000 annual savings
- Environment: 40 000 kg of CO₂e per year (equivalent to 8.5 passenger cars driven for one year)

Together with other minor projects implemented in 2016, these changes resulted in significant energy (-12.6% kWh) and financial savings (-14% EUR) at FAO HQ compared to the previous year.



Energy and Decentralized Offices

Our focus going forward is to increase our assistance to DOs and provide tools to help develop business cases for energy efficiency projects. In 2016 FAO collaborated with the UN Development Group (UNDG) on drafting the *Common Service Package for LED Lighting Installation*. The package comprises a tool that provides an initial assessment of a given lighting system as well as the potential savings and cost recovery time from a proposed new lighting project. In 2016 FAO also collaborated with UNDP in

piloting a seven-step process in five locations: Accra (GH), Santiago (CL), Banjul (GM), Freetown (SL) and Havana (CU). The first step (ongoing) involves completing a preliminary site survey and setting up energy meters. Upon installation, the energy demand will be assessed and more accurate proposals for energy efficiency projects will be developed.



Offsetting unavoidable emissions

For the second year in a row, in 2016 FAO became climate neutral and offset unavoidable emissions produced in 2015. The Organization achieved this by purchasing Certified Emission Reduction credits (CERs) from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and investing in Adaptation Fund projects.⁴

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Throughout 2016 the UN system developed an approach to measuring and reporting waste management practices. The methodology requires the collection of data on waste quantities by type of treatment and disposal (e.g. landfill, recycling, reuse), collection method (e.g. municipality, private contractor, take-back scheme) and type of waste (e.g. paper, plastics, metal, e-waste). While striving to reduce its waste production and improve the separation system in all offices, FAO participated in the exercise and reported its HQ waste production.

- Waste per capita: 257 kg
- Reused/recycled/composted/recovered waste: 88%
- Landfilled waste: 12%

⁴ The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM, <http://cdm.unfccc.int/>) allows emission-reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO₂. A 2% levy on CERs is issued by the CDM to sustain the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund (<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/>). The Fund finances adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Clean up Rome 3

Volunteers from the UN Rome-based Agencies organized the 3rd edition of *Clean Up Rome* in a public park of Rome, *Parco di Colle Oppio*. In collaboration with the local waste management company, they cleaned up and separated waste according to local regulations. This initiative contributed to the betterment of our Headquarters' host city and raised awareness on eco-friendly waste management at the workplace and at home.



Siticibo

In 2016, the food bank *Siticibo* collected 12 000 meals, 4 800 side dishes and approximately 500 kg of bread from the FAO cafeteria (8% more compared to 2015). The non-profit food bank retrieves all cooked and fresh food (except for salad, which by law must be thrown away) as well as baked goods of acceptable quality. Volunteers then deliver and serve these meals to recipients in need across Rome. This initiative helped FAO HQ avoid food waste and have a positive social impact among people in need.

SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

Building on previous successes, sustainability was systematically institutionalized in several conferences throughout 2016, such as at the 32nd Committee on Fisheries (COFI), the 23rd Committee on Forestry (COFO), the 24th Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the 43rd Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In addition to the default sustainable services already available at HQ (e.g. waste separation systems, drinkable water fountains throughout the premises, sustainably-sourced food and drink menus), there are several areas on which the Corporate Environmental Responsibility team is currently working, including:

- Recommending “green” accommodation in Rome;
- Providing sustainability tips before the conference;
- Making the events as paper-smart as possible ([information available online or through QR codes](#));
- Producing communication packages that summarize the sustainable initiatives taken during the events;
- Reporting the event's greening initiatives on the conference website⁵;
- Raising awareness on FAO's Corporate Environmental Responsibility activities by linking to the dedicated [website](#) and [video](#) in the conference pages.

WAY FORWARD

FAO will further strive to reduce its environmental impact in 2017 by:

- Continuing to operate robust environmental management systems (EMS) to drive good practices and compliance across HQ and to a pilot FAO Regional Office;
- Implementing more energy efficiency projects in decentralized offices;
- Integrating more sustainability considerations in catering and other contacts;
- Drafting a Sustainable Procurement Policy;
- Extending the Waste Inventory exercise to regional offices;
- Institutionalizing the Water Inventory exercise at HQ;
- Raising awareness among staff on environmentally aware behaviour at the workplace.

⁵ Links to the websites:

CFS 43: <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs43/en/>

COFI 32: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/information-for-participants/en/>

COFO 23: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofo/greening/en/>

COAG 24: <http://www.fao.org/coag/greening/en/> (this is a very interesting example as the content of the website was produced in all official languages)

