



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AT FAO

## 2017 Report

### Introduction

In line with the Corporate Environmental Responsibility [Policy](#), FAO manages its functional operations (i.e. facilities management, travel and procurement) to safeguard the ecosystems hence the communities that inhabit them. This Report outlines FAO's main achievements in planning and taking action to nurture sustainability at Headquarters (HQ) and in Decentralized Offices (DOs) in 2017.

### Strategy 2017-2020 and Sustainable Development Goals

At the FAO 2017 Conference, the Organization has launched its [Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2017-2020](#), which identifies the key steps required to reduce the Organization's ecological footprint, namely:

- Continue monitoring environmental impacts through annual inventory exercises;
- Reduce overall CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 5.4% (2015 baseline) through energy efficiency and transition to renewables, and continue to offset remaining unavoidable emissions;
- Ensure sustainable water use;
- Support circular economy with sustainable procurement (in at least 20% of tenders) and waste management; and
- Develop Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in key DOs.



In conjunction with the Organization's activities and projects responding to the FAO [Strategy on Climate Change](#), FAO is therefore further contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as follows:



Ensure sustainable management of water.



Build/renovate resilient infrastructure and foster innovation.



Integrate sustainability in procurement and waste management.



Reduce water consumption and conserve blue resources.



Make lighting systems efficient and sustainable, and shift to renewables.



Make FAO buildings inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Reduce air travel (*Skype for Business* if feasible or travel economy class).



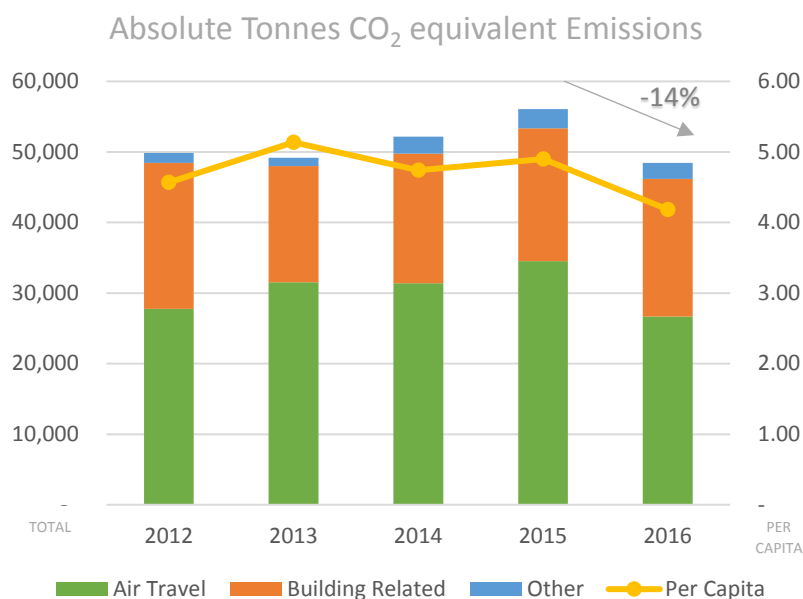
Collaborate with UN agencies, public/private sectors and civil society.

#GREENINGTHEBLUE

## Environmental Reporting: Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Water Use, Waste Management and Sustainable Procurement

**FAO** focuses its environmental sustainability work in 3 priority areas – climate (greenhouse gas emissions and energy), water and circular economy (sustainable procurement and waste management). The table below summarizes environmental statistics in these areas.

**Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** from functional operations have gone down (47,108 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, -14% compared to 2015 emissions), especially due to a reduction in air travel emissions (associated to travel limitations). For the first year, FAO is reporting its **2017 water usage, waste management and sustainable procurement** as well – which will constitute a benchmark for the coming years' performance.



### Water Usage



85 reporting DOs  
(91% total personnel)  
**4,566 m<sup>3</sup> per capita**  
48,159,949 m<sup>3</sup> total

### Waste Management



22 reporting DOs  
(40% total personnel)  
**257 kg per capita**  
41% total recycling rate

### Sustainable Procurement

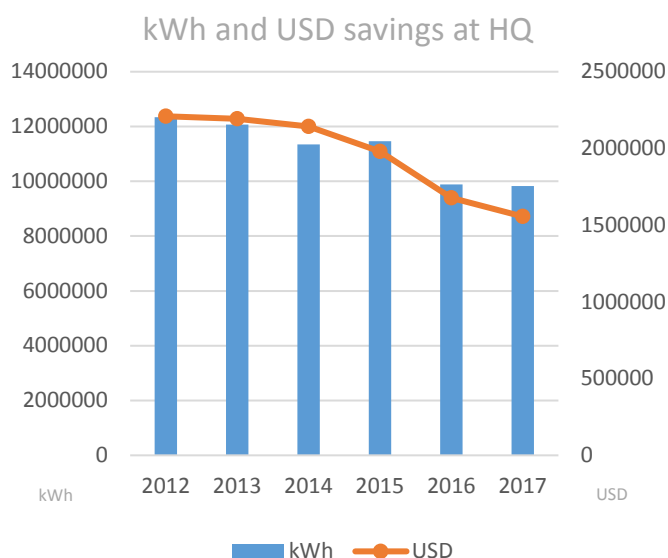


Sustainability included in **15%** of tenders for goods and contracts

## Reduction Efforts

In order to strive to be environmental stewards in whatever we do at FAO HQ and in DOs, in 2017 we have implemented several greening projects across the different areas of work.

### Headquarters



Like in the past years, there has been a strong focus on energy efficiency and climate action in facilities management, in order to:

- Ensure that FAO HQ is powered by renewable energy.** The solar photovoltaic system installed over the roof of the Building A produced approx. 120,000 kWh since its installation (July 2016). In addition, Guarantees of Origins were purchased for the remaining quantity of electricity consumed at HQ (see graph on the left) to virtually source electricity from 100% renewable energy sources;
- Reduce energy consumption.** The following table summarizes the projects implemented in 2017 with relative expected annual environmental and financial savings.

Activity	kWh	CO2e	USD
Lighting Upgrades	31,076	11,964	5,270
Dismissal of Commissary	431,655	166,187	73,200
Data Centre Renovation	38,170	14,695	6,470
Telephone Exchange Renovation	23,214	8,937	3,825
Air Handling Units Replacement	18,098	6,968	3,070
Solar Water Heater	-	11,116	2,508
Windows replacement	-	32,233	20,250



The Infrastructure and Facilities Management Unit (CSAI) has also developed *Guidelines on Sustainable Use of Building Material* to help practitioners integrate environmental sustainability considerations in the construction or renovation of offices and meeting spaces. For example, sustainable materials and equipment (e.g. LED lights, highly insulating windows, Energy Star® IT appliances, natural wood flooring/paneling/furniture) have been used for the construction of the Sudan Room, which was inaugurated at the presence of the FAO Director-General and the Sudanese Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in July 2017.



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Sustainability has furthermore been integrated in two new contracts for services, namely:



@FAO/Alessia Pierdomenico

- a. **Catering service.** 80% of food products in the D Bar are purchased from socially or environmentally sustainable value chains (e.g. Friends of the Sea, Fairtrade and Organic certified products, products from biodynamic/social enterprises). Moreover, the contractor is committed to managing operations in an environmentally responsible way (e.g. all detergents are EU Ecolabel certified, all takeaway containers/tableware are 100% recyclable, food waste is donated to a local food bank). Find out more [here](#);

- b. **Vending machines and water fountains.** The contract has entered into force in late 2017 and in 2018 new energy saving devices with ecological refrigerant gases will be installed. Vending machines will automatically provide hot drinks in biodegradable cups. At least 75% food and beverage choices will be healthy (e.g. low calories, low sodium, whole grain) – 30% of which shall be certified Organic and Fairtrade. These healthier and more environmentally friendly options will be placed at eye level where they are most noticeable and more likely to be purchased.

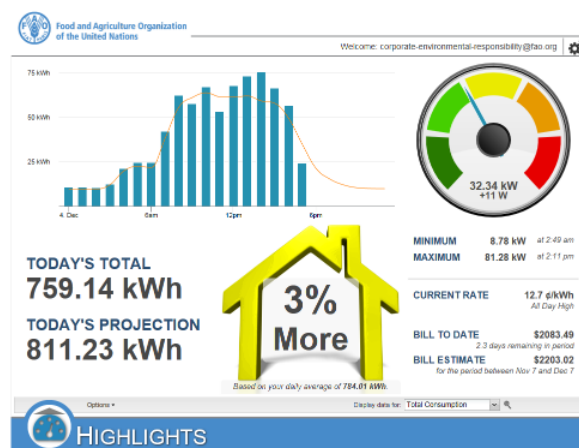
In order to actively engage colleagues to act more sustainably, awareness raising campaigns have been produced on the Intranet regarding different areas in which staff can make the difference such as: the use of water fountains (instead of plastic bottles), sustainable use of lighting and air conditioning, green eating at work habits, other tips in celebration of the World Environment Day 2017.

Finally, conferences such as the 44<sup>th</sup> Committee on World Food Security ([CFS44](#)) have also integrated sustainability considerations (e.g. [Tips Before the Conference](#) and a list of [Rome Eco-friendly Hotels](#) were shared among delegates) through the conference planning and management.



## Decentralized Offices

As established by the Corporate Environmental Responsibility Strategy 2017-2020, renewed efforts have been devoted to reducing the environmental impact of FAO's operations in DOs. Particularly, energy metres have been installed in the FAO Regional offices for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC, Chile) and Africa (RAF, Ghana) as well as the offices in Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. Based on information collected with these metres, the Corporate Environmental Responsibility team in collaboration with the respective offices are working on energy saving projects for lighting upgrades (e.g. Ghana, Cuba) and solar photovoltaic installations (e.g. Djibouti).



## Activities across FAO and Climate Neutrality

In addition to site-specific activities, 2017 has been a fruitful year for Organization-wide Corporate Environmental Responsibility initiatives in many ways. To start with, FAO has engaged in partnership with the private lighting manufacturer [Aura Light](#), which donated materials for FAO HQ (external) and RAF (internal) lighting.

Moreover, in conjunction with the *Skype for Business* deployment at HQ and the Shared Services Centre (SSC, Hungary), staff was informed of the reduced environmental impact of using teleconferencing facilities over travelling. An average FAO mission (that requires air travel) has a 1.2 tonne carbon footprint: it would take almost 1 hectare forest grown to sequester these emissions! Preferring teleconferences over air travel when feasible can be environmentally sound, less stressful for the staff and ultimately cheaper for the Organization!

As in the previous years, FAO offset its 2016 unavoidable emissions to claim [climate neutrality](#), hence joined the [record number of UN entities](#) that compensated their carbon footprint by investing in Adaptation Fund projects.

Finally, a Sustainable Procurement training was delivered in September 2017 at HQ to 46 members of personnel among HQ/DOs procurement officers and key requisitioning staff. The training was provided by UNOPS and included fundamentals of sustainable procurement as well as case studies relevant to FAO's most purchased product types.



## Way Forward

Several projects are awaiting the Corporate Environmental Responsibility team and all colleagues involved. Among the others, in 2018 FAO is expected to:

- At HQ: substitute additional air-conditioning units with more energy efficient ones; replace more windows; add electric vehicles and chargers for the official fleet.
- In DOs: install more energy metres in FAO offices with critical energy situations, invest in solar photovoltaic systems for the FAO offices in RAF, Ethiopia, Nepal, Djibouti; upgrade the lighting system in Cuba; pilot the first Environmental Management System in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP).