GREENING THE BLUE REPORT 2018
THE UN SYSTEM'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE IT

WORKING AS ONE

The UN System is committed to improving resource efficiency, achieving climate neutrality by 2020 and internalising the Sustainable Development Goals.

We reduced greenhouse gas emissions from travel, facilities or both in **32** UN entities in 2017 compared to 2016

The UN System came together to #BeatPlasticPollution with at least **14** UN entities taking action against single-use plastics

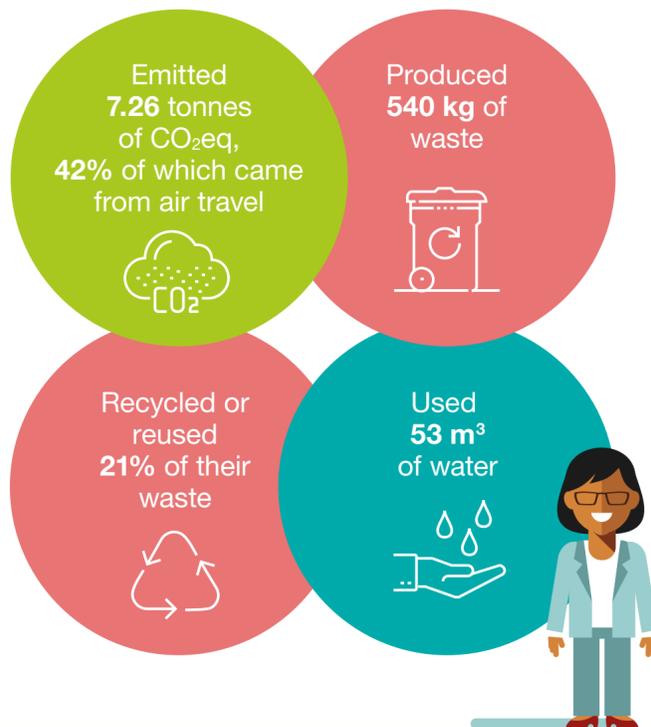**26** UN entities either have or are developing an environmental management system to help reduce their footprint

We offset **39%** of the UN System's reported 2017 greenhouse gas emissions

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS FROM ACROSS THE UN SYSTEM IN 2018

UNICEF's Haiti office became its first country office to go 100% solar, avoiding the release of 155 tonnes of CO_2 and pollutants into the air every year.

IFAD Headquarters in Italy reduced its water consumption and lawn-maintenance needs by planting *Lippia nodiflora*, which offers a tough and drought-resistant ground cover.

UNON, **UN Environment**, **UN Habitat** and **WFP** in Kenya have been working together to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste going from the UN's Gigiri complex to landfill. By improving collection and sorting, it is expected that at least 90% of all office waste will be recycled.

COP23 (2017, Germany), which hosted over 22,000 participants, was the third UN Climate Change Conference to obtain third-party certification for its sustainability management system. Sustainable catering, free low-emission local transport and awareness-raising all played a part and the event was climate neutral.

DID YOU KNOW...

Per capita, in 2017, the UN System:

Emitted **7.26 tonnes** of CO_2eq, **42%** of which came from air travel

Produced **540 kg** of waste

Recycled or reused **21%** of their waste

Used **53 m³** of water

Each day, UN offices and personnel are helping to reduce the UN System's footprint by:

Saying 'no' to single-use plastics

Switching to renewable energy

Hosting more meetings online

Choosing economy instead of business class travel, reducing travel emissions by up to **50%**

"The United Nations must lead by example. I am committed to accelerating sustainability efforts and supporting the UN System to achieve climate neutrality by 2020. I call on UN leaders, staff and business partners to promote efficient energy use, zero waste to landfill, low-emission transportation, carbon neutral buildings and sustainable supply chains and procurement"

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

For more information visit **www.greeningtheblue.org**

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	MEASURE			REDUCE	OFFSET
	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	WASTE	WATER	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	CLIMATE NEUTRAL
BRS					
CBD					
CTBTO					
ECA					
ECE					
ECLAC					
ESCAP					
ESCWA					
FAO					
Field Missions[1]					
IAEA					
ICAO					
IFAD					
ILO					
IMF					
IMO					
IOM					
ITC					
ITC-ILO					
ITU					
OHCHR					
OPCW					
Ozone Secretariat					
UNAIDS					
UNCCD					
UNCDF					
UNDP					
UN Environment					
UNESCO					
UNFCCC					
UNFPA					
UN-Habitat					
UNHCR					
UNHQ[2]					
UNICEF					
UNIDO					
UNITAR					
UNOG[3]					
UNON					
UNOPS					
UNOV[4]					
UNRWA					
UNSSC					
UNU					
UNV					
UN Women					
UNWTO					
UPU					
WFP					
WHO					
WIPO					
WMO					
World Bank Group[5]					
WTO					

UN NEPAL GOES SOLAR

This year, the UN in Nepal took a huge step towards a future of clean energy, with the installation of a solar-energy system at UN House in Kathmandu. This project was the joint effort of UNDP, WHO, FAO and UNICEF – all of whom are based at the facility – and the Green Energy Solutions team at UNDP Denmark.

The new system of 426 photovoltaic panels and a 204-kilowatt hour lithium battery will power the office's computers, LED-lights, printers and server-room equipment. It is anticipated that this will save US$26,000 on electricity bills and 52 tonnes of CO_2 emissions each year.

"By switching to solar and encouraging staff to use energy more efficiently, the UN in Nepal is practising what we preach. We hope to inspire organisations and individuals to take action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and create a renewable energy future," said Ms Pippa Bradford, Acting Interim UN Resident Coordinator.

WFP'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME CUTS CO_2 EMISSIONS

In an effort to reduce its environmental footprint, whilst simultaneously making financial savings, WFP developed an Energy Efficiency Programme (EEP). The EEP provides technical guidance, including energy surveys and electricity metering, and helps fund energy-efficiency projects around the organisation. Funding comes from an internal carbon tax.

Between 2012 and 2018, more than 100 WFP premises have been involved in energy surveys and a total of 42 projects have been co-funded in 21 countries. These are expected to help WFP achieve savings of US$720,000 and more than 2,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions each year.

The EEP has also had a positive impact on WFP employees. Staff at sites where projects have been implemented report that they now pay more attention to the ways in which they use energy and strive to take steps to reduce their energy consumption.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Entity reported greenhouse gas emissions for all of its personnel within the defined boundaries for the reporting year.
- Entity reported greenhouse gas emissions for a percentage of total personnel for the reporting year or reported on emissions from previous years.
- Entity did not report on greenhouse gas emissions.

WASTE

- Entity reported quantitative data for some or all of its waste for the reporting year
- Entity reported qualitative data for some or all of its waste for the reporting year.
- Entity did not report on waste for the reporting year.

WATER

- Entity reported quantitative data for some or all of its water for the reporting year.
- Entity reported qualitative data for some or all of its water for the reporting year.
- Entity did not report on water for the reporting year.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Entity is certified under an established system, i.e. ISO 14001, LEED, BREEAM or equivalent, or is considered to have a complete environmental or sustainability management system covering at least headquarters or a majority of its personnel.
- Entity has other systematic approaches to environmental management, such as an approved Emissions Reduction Strategy, Climate Neutral Strategy, Environmental Policy, or Sustainability Policy or an environmental management system under way – having policy and designated roles and responsibilities – in at least headquarters.
- Entity has no systematic approach to environmental management.

CLIMATE NEUTRAL

- Entity is climate neutral as a result of offsetting all reported greenhouse gas emissions for the reporting year.
- Entity is not climate neutral for the reporting year.

1. Field Missions refers to peacekeeping operations, special political missions and support missions. Reported figures are for all missions under the peacekeeping support account, which includes peacekeeping operations, UNSOS and two service centres (GSC and RSCE). Special political missions and support missions have not been included.

2. Includes building-related emissions of UN Secretariat offices located at the UNHQ complex, including New York-based operations of DFS, DPA and DPKO, and travel emissions financed by UNHQ entities (Umoja business area S100). Excludes New York offices of UN Environment and non-Secretariat entities.

3. Includes building- and travel-related emissions of UNOG and of the Geneva offices of OCHA, CEB/HLCM Secretariat, UNCTAD and UNRISD.

4. Includes UNODC.

5. Includes GEF, IBRD, IDA, ICSID, IFC and MIGA.

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UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme