

## CLIMATE-NEUTRAL UN

Following the Secretary-General's urging to "lead by example", the CEB decided in October 2007 to move towards a climate-neutral UN. A UN Climate Neutral Strategy devised through the UN's Environment Management Group provides the framework for doing so.

In accordance with the strategy CEB members committed to achieve the following by 2009:

- Estimate greenhouse gas emissions consistent with accepted international standards;
- Undertake efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the extent possible; and
- Analyze the cost implications and explore budgetary modalities- including consulting with governing bodies as needed - of purchasing carbon offsets to eventually reach climate

### Progress made as of late 2008

- The majority of UN system organizations have now designated climate neutral focal points. Eight of them have established internal task forces to address climate neutrality within their organization, while ten have designated a 'senior-level champion' to drive the process. Eight organizations have prepared a strategy document outlining how they intend to move the organization towards climate neutrality.
- The organizations main sources of greenhouse gas emissions are from official travel, refrigerants use in air conditioning, official vehicles, and electricity consumption. Good progress has been made by organizations in estimating their greenhouse gas footprints, with some seventeen agencies having begun the process, eight of which have preliminary data, and four of which have final or near-final numbers.
- Some ten agencies have developed strategies outlining how they will reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, of which seven have already begun implementing some measures. Seven organizations have organized climate-neutral events made possible through the purchase of offsets.
- A UN Climate Neutral Knowledge Management website has been established to provide a platform for sharing experience, tools, methods, guidelines, bench-marking and documenting best-practice. It will also document individual agency's greenhouse gas emissions and reductions.

### Next steps

- Further refine the UN climate neutral strategy, in particular, agreeing on methodological issues where a common approach is needed.
- Follow through on commitments for 2009.