

# MOVING TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL UN

## THE UN SYSTEM'S FOOTPRINT AND EFFORTS TO REDUCE IT [ 2013 Edition ]

### OUR COMMITMENT

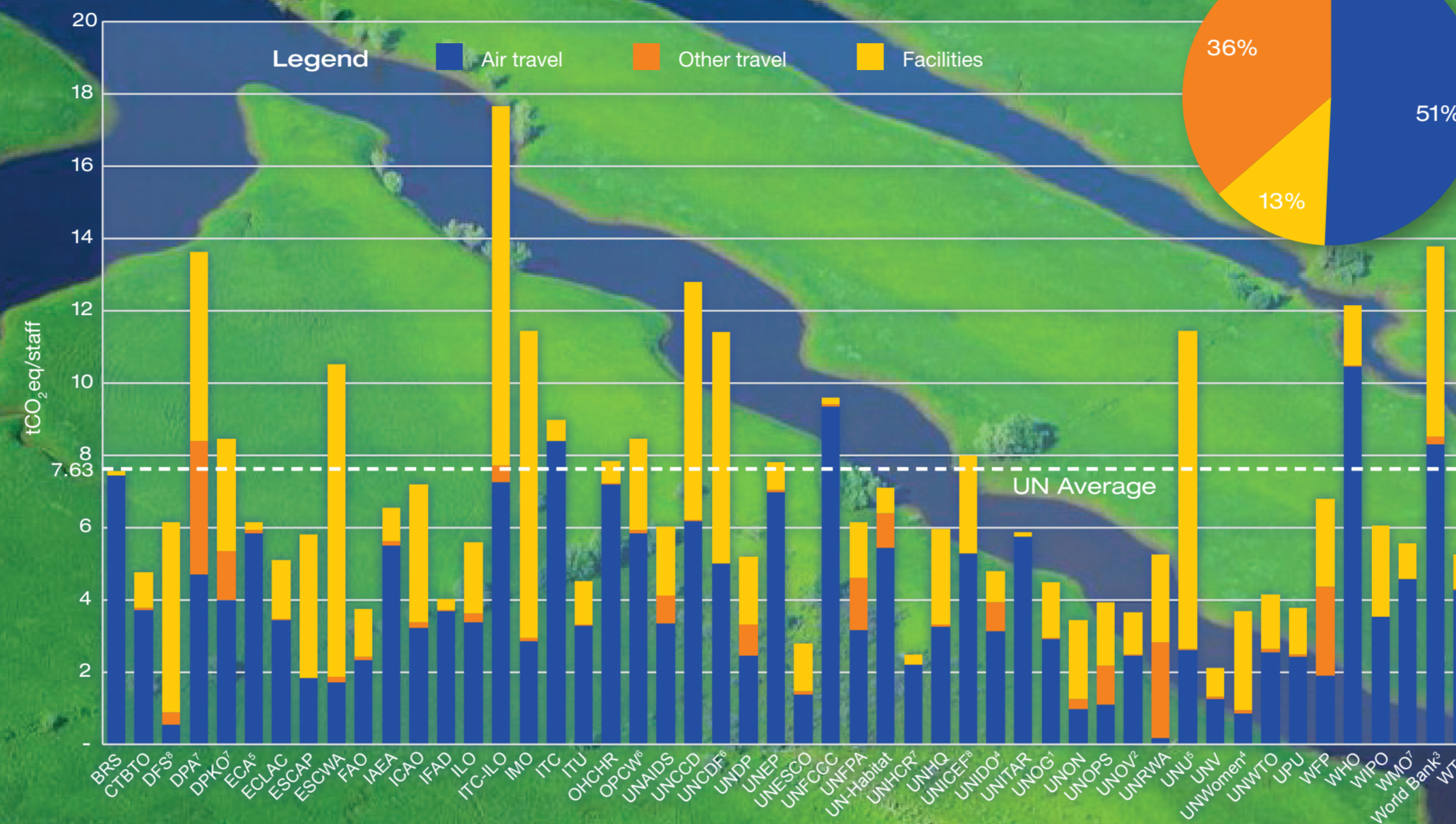
**2007:** The UN Climate Neutral Strategy commits heads of UN entities to:

- Estimate their greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the greatest extent possible
- Analyze the cost implications and explore budgetary modalities of offsetting

**2012:** At the Rio+20 Conference, Member States request that the UN improves the management of facilities and operations by taking into account sustainable development practices (*The Future We Want*, para.96).

**2013:** The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the UN Secretary-General, commits to implement Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in each UN organization through a gradual, voluntary and flexible process, focusing on low-investment and high-return initiatives. In addition, they commit to mainstream EMS in programming and planning processes.

### UN GHG EMISSIONS\* IN 2012, PER STAFF & BY EMISSION SOURCE



**GRAPH NOTES:** (1) includes UNCTAD, UNECE, UNIDIR, UNISDR, UNJSPF, UNRISD, JIU & Geneva offices of: OCHA, UNODA, CEB and OIOS • (2) includes UNODC • (3) includes IBRD, IDA, IFC, ICSID, MIGA, GEF • (4) Reporting in 2012 updated for available locations and sources only • (5) Reporting 2011 data • (6) Reporting 2010 data • (7) Reporting 2009 data • (8) Reporting 2008 data • (+) GHG emissions excluding optional and biomass emissions

\*This information has been collected by UNEP and is based on data provided by each UN organization for 2012, unless otherwise stated.

### KEY FIGURES FOR 2012\*

Number of UN staff covered by the inventory	224,755
Number of reporting entities	64
Total emissions	1,714,188 tCO <sub>2</sub> eq
Average emissions per staff	7.63 tCO <sub>2</sub> eq
Average facility emissions per staff	2.77 tCO <sub>2</sub>
Average air travel emissions per staff	3.86 tCO <sub>2</sub>

### ACHIEVING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

The organizations below have achieved climate neutrality in part or all of their operations through a combination of reduction and offsetting activities:



World Bank and IFC have achieved climate neutrality through Verified Emission Reductions (VERs) rather than UN approved Certified Emission Reductions (CERs).

### THINK. EAT. SAVE



The theme for World Environment Day (WED) 2013 was *Think.Eat.Save* - reducing food waste and food loss. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. Greening the Blue invited UN staff and others around the world to show their support via a photo competition, which invited people to make a pledge to reduce their food waste. A total of 183 photos were received as can be seen at: [facebook.com/greeningtheblue](http://facebook.com/greeningtheblue).

### UNRWA'S FLEET EFFICIENCY



The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been working to increase the fuel efficiency of its vehicle fleet for several years now. The latest measure is a new electronic system called Fleetlog, which provides insights into fleet usage patterns, enabling resources to be coordinated to maximum efficiency. As a result, in 2013, the Jordan Office not only reduced emissions but also saved around \$70,000 on fuel. Another benefit was a decline in the number and severity of accidents, leading to lower repair bills.

### FAO, IFAD & WFP CUT WASTE



The Rome-based UN agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – joined forces when tendering for a new catering contract. This enabled them to increase their buying-power and include clauses requiring bidders to include anti-food waste measures as part of their day-to-day work. As a result FAO reduced waste from its Rome cafeteria from an average of 199kg per day in May to 110kg per day in October – a reduction of 45%.

### LEED CERTIFICATION AT UNFPA

Many UN facilities are rented or leased, which limits opportunities to introduce green features, but working together with landlords can deliver surprising results. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office in New York recently underwent a LEED process and achieved Gold certification for existing buildings. With UNFPA's full support, the landlord implemented several sustainability measures including recycling, water saving measures, sustainable purchasing of building and cleaning materials, as well as energy saving practices.



### UN ERITREA GOES SOLAR

Power outages and a lack of generator fuels have been hampering the work of the UN in Eritrea over recent years. Productivity was severely impacted and staff resorted to working during evenings and weekends – often in unsafe circumstances. The Eritrean-based UN organizations came together to find a sustainable solution. In 2013, a solar energy system was installed, providing energy continuously during office hours. Now the Eritrean Country Office has gone even further, by designing a financing mechanism whereby staff may use salary advances to purchase photovoltaic modules for use in their homes.

