



Quick Guide to Greening WFP



1. What does 'Greening WFP' mean?

WFP is committed to taking action to protect our environment, such as reducing and recycling waste, being careful about how much water we use, improving energy efficiency and, where possible, switching from polluting fuels like oil and gas to clean, renewable power like wind and solar. It also means helping staff to adopt sustainable behaviours at home and at work, and raising awareness of the direct effects our actions can have on the environments and the livelihoods of the people we serve.

2. Why does this matter to WFP?

As a UN agency, WFP's actions are shaped by the UN's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, which recognize environment as one of three essential pillars – along with economic and social considerations – necessary for sustainable development. Alarming evidence of depleted oceans, polluted rivers, increasing desertification and flooding – and confirmation that 2015 was the hottest year ever recorded – is lending new urgency to this drive. As WFP works to achieve Zero Hunger, it needs to use all resources wisely to minimize the risk of negative effects on local environments. Increasingly, key donors and the Executive Board require eco-friendly practices to be built into our ways of working.

3. How is WFP doing it?

Every year WFP calculates and reports greenhouse gases emitted from transporting people and cargo, powering our offices and travel to meetings and emergencies. From 2016, we will report on waste management, with water indicators to follow. Reporting helps WFP to work out its main environmental impacts and possible solutions.

Energy is a top priority. By finding ways to conserve energy and choosing more efficient or renewable alternatives, WFP reduced its emissions by almost 10 percent over five years. WFP's trucks are increasingly fuel efficient, and staff hold meetings and training sessions online rather than driving or flying to them. Worldwide, WFP offices are installing energy-efficient security lights and reducing their use of cooling and heating. Creative solutions include using bicycles for duty travel in Nepal, or piloting electric cars in Kathmandu, Geneva and at HQ. In Rome, WFP teams up with FAO and IFAD to buy certified 'green energy' from renewable sources.

Throwing away **waste** carelessly, or overusing increasingly scarce **water**, carry serious and long-term environmental consequences, which often hit the poorest – the same people WFP is helping – the hardest. That's why staff are encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle waste and to use water wisely.

4. Where is WFP going green?

Everywhere, especially in the field, as colleagues take up the challenge. In Kenya, State of Palestine and Sudan, for example, WFP staff are regularly reminded to switch off lights or use automatic timers and other affordable energy-saving devices. The Guinea-Bissau Country Office has installed a battery back-up system, so that fuel-hungry generators can be turned off at night when demand is low. Security lights in WFP offices in Chad, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger and South Sudan are solar powered, while a WFP warehouse complex in Somalia runs on a hybrid system that uses wind, solar, batteries and generator power.

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5. WFP greening in emergencies

Emergency operations can have significant impacts on the environment on top of the stress that local ecosystems may already face due to disasters and conflict. When heavy rains and fighting made roads impassable in South Sudan in 2014, for instance, WFP was forced to fly in food and other supplies, consuming almost 31 million litres of fuel and doubling WFP's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

As part of environmentally responsible emergency preparedness, WFP is contributing to a multi-agency study in a number of high-risk countries to measure the savings in greenhouse gas emissions from pre-positioning food and equipment by sea and land. WFP is also examining actions in procurement, water and waste management, staff travel, building construction and programming decisions to improve environmental performance.

6. Is WFP's greening making a difference?

WFP's actions are already paying off, locally and globally. A programme to increase energy efficiency in the field has so far funded 43 energy-saving projects in 14 countries, which together expect to save an estimated US\$1.35 million and more than 2,600 tonnes of GHG emissions a year.

WFP has also cut by one quarter the emissions from its 600 trucks and 3,000 passenger vehicles, thanks to training courses on 'eco-driving techniques' — such as acceleration and braking, tyre and vehicle maintenance — and fleet management software that helps to save fuel.

In Dakar, Dar es Salaam and Khartoum, staff have cut energy use by up to one fifth, simply through awareness-raising and behavioural change, saving tens of thousands of dollars a year in energy bills.

Sustainable choices can also improve staff health, safety and morale. For instance, when thousands of tonnes of festering rubbish piled up in Beirut in 2015 — because the city's main landfill was closed — WFP provided advice to the resident UN community on how to reduce and recycle their waste, helping to prevent diseases and other health risks.

7. How do WFP's actions fit into the UN's larger environmental agenda?

In addition to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals endorsed by global leaders in September 2015, WFP is one of over 60 UN entities involved in a UN "Climate Neutrality" programme to fight climate change by recording, reducing and offsetting heat-

trapping greenhouse gas emissions. WFP counts among 21 UN organizations that have 'offset' emissions from their global operations by buying carbon credits. WFP is also one of four agencies taking part in a two-year pilot project to create an Environmental Management System, in line with the global standard ISO 14001, making the management and reduction of its environmental impacts a permanent feature of how it does its business. The project is being piloted in Kenya, but its results will inform improvements in WFP offices around the world.

8. What's next?

The next step is making sure that a greener WFP becomes part of everyone's daily work life. WFP will present a new Environment Policy at the Executive Board in November 2016. It contains three key commitments: minimum **standards** for environmental protection, a **screening** process to ensure environmental risks are managed in new projects and programmes, and the **Environmental Management System** to manage environmental impacts from everyday operations. These three elements will help WFP to roll out successful environmental projects in every country where WFP operates, managing risks and reducing operating costs through more efficient resource use. It means finding and adopting new projects that make a difference. And it means ensuring staff embrace green-friendly habits at work and at home.

9. How can I help?

There are plenty of ways staff can help to green WFP. Here are some of the most widespread:

- maximize online meetings to minimize travel;
- combine road trips so one vehicle can be used instead of two, and where possible use public transport, walk or cycle;
- switch off lights and machines to save energy at work and at home;
- minimize printing and paper use; and
- reduce waste by not buying heavily packaged products and dispose of it carefully so it can be reprocessed or recycled.

10. Where can I go for more information?

Within WFP, visit go.wfp.org/web/greening. For more information about UN-wide initiatives, visit www.greeningtheblue.org or the United Nations Environment Management Group: www.unemg.org.