



# Sustainable United Nations (SUN)

Division of Technology, Industry & Economics • Sustainable Consumption & Production Branch • [www.unep.fr/scp/sun/](http://www.unep.fr/scp/sun/)



“I would like to see our renovated Headquarters complex eventually become a globally acclaimed model of efficient use of energy and resources. Beyond New York, the initiative

should include the other United Nations headquarters and offices around the globe.

We need to work on our operations, too, by using energy more efficiently and eliminating wasteful practices. That is why, today, I am asking the heads of all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to join me in this effort. And I am asking all staff members throughout the United Nations family to make common cause with me.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
Madrid, 5 June 2007 (World Environment Day)

This statement was endorsed by the Chief Executives Board (26 October 2007): “We, the Heads of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, hereby commit ourselves to moving our respective organizations towards climate neutrality in our headquarters and United Nations centres for our facility operations and travel.”

## What is SUN ?

UNEP’s Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) in liaison with the Environmental Management Group (EMG) secretariat has set up a new team, Sustainable United Nations (SUN). SUN will provide advisory services and support to UN and large public organizations to reform towards climate neutrality, namely to reduce the generation of greenhouse gases.

SUN’s activities take place in three focus areas with direct impact on the climate change performance:

- Procurement;
- Buildings and facilities; and
- Management and organizational culture.

SUN’s fields of action include:

- Physical assets (buildings, equipment, vehicles etc);
- Management processes (procurement, travel requirements, management systems etc); and
- Organizational culture (day-to-day behaviour of staff).

## SUN’s three focus areas of work

### Procurement

The Sustainable UN initiative is designed to assist UN agencies and other public organizations in setting up and implementing a sustainable procurement policy. SUN advisory services are not only confined to the UN but also available for governments and other large organizations (NGOs and various levels of public authorities).



### Buildings & facilities

Creating and operating buildings accounts for about 40% of global energy consumption and up to one-third of greenhouse emissions annually.

With widespread adoption of energy efficiency measures, however, up to 30% of baseline building-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions projected for 2020 could be avoided at no cost or with cost savings to the sector.



### Management & organizational culture

SUN will support voluntary action by staff and formal initiatives by organizations to promote sustainable behaviour. It will encourage awareness campaigns and information initiatives. It will provide innovative approaches for influencing staff behaviour.

SUN will also provide guidelines for smart office design encouraging positive staff behaviour, including incentives for sustainable commuting, waste recycling, and energy conservation.



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## What SUN offers

SUN can help organizations work towards climate neutrality and sustainability by offering the following products and services:

- Guidelines, checklists and other tools to help reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Expert advice on processes, facilities and culture to help identify improvement opportunities.
- Technical support to develop action plan to meet the UN climate neutrality objectives.
- Contacts with experts and providers of know-how, expertise and technologies.
- Training, awareness raising and capacity building in organizations.



## How we can cooperate

In order to fully benefit from SUN's support, we ask our clients to help us with the following:

1. Assign a contact person for SUN.
2. Provide data and access to key staff and managers, as needed for SUN to carry out an initial assessment.
3. Based on the initial assessment and with SUN's assistance, elaborate an action plan for moving the organization towards climate neutrality.
4. Commit resources as needed to implement the action plan.
5. Provide SUN with a regular update about the implementation of the plan.

A number of functional areas will need to be improved, including administrative systems, and management and control of the performance of operations.

SUN products	SUN focus areas	Buildings & Facilities	Procurement	Management & Organizational culture
1. GHG inventory methodology		●	○	●
2. Initial sustainability screening		●	●	●
3. Performance audit system		●	○	
4. Facility management guide		●		○
5. Sustainable building technology source book		●		
6. Field companion		●	●	●
7. Sustainable operations manual		●	●	●
8. Life cycle budgeting tool		●	○	○
9. Expert network		●	●	●
10. Sustainable travel & transport guide		●	●	●
11. Procurement policy interventions		○	●	○
12. Product guidelines		○	●	○
13. Procurement capacity building		○	●	○
14. Sustainable procurement reporting		○	●	○
15. Organizational culture guru		○	○	●
16. Training and awareness		●	●	●
17. Green meeting instructor		○	○	●
18. Information gateway		●	●	●
● Fully relevant ○ Partly relevant				

Sustainable United Nations (SUN) focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Environmental Management Group (EMG) deals with GHG inventories and offsetting.

## Climate neutrality

Becoming climate “neutral” means changing the way we do business in order to reduce and compensate for the impact of our operations on the world’s changing climate.

In 2007, climate change truly became an issue of highest concern to the United Nations, because it will fundamentally affect the way the world operates in the 21st century - from health care, aid and water to economic activity, humanitarian assistance, peace-building and security concerns. The focus on climate change is now geared towards concrete actions.

## For further information:



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