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**Footprint reduction:
What can we learn from related initiatives
within, e.g., the UN, WHO, EC, and EEA?**

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1 Context

To strive for sustainability is a prerequisite for improving people's health and their environment in the 21st century

At the EPH 2015 conference, topics included the anthropocene, human impacts on global systems, and planetary boundaries consistent with human health and survival

For an ambitious association like EUPHA, concern for the impacts of our own activities is crucial

This ought to be reflected in the arrangements for our large annual conferences

To intensify efforts would be consistent with the professional responsibility and ethical obligations which are shared by all in Public Health.

2 Reasoning

Various eminent **international institutions**:

- **have expressed concerns** about global environmental change and its impact on human health and well-being
- and (moving beyond analysis and discussion) **have begun to tackle** the issue in practice

Practice measures demand organisational and individual commitment for modification of procedures & behaviour

Reviewing how others approach the issue can provide **opportunities to learn**

Institutions selected to look at: United Nations (**UN**), World Health Organization (**WHO**), European Commission (**EC**), European Environment Agency (**EEA**)

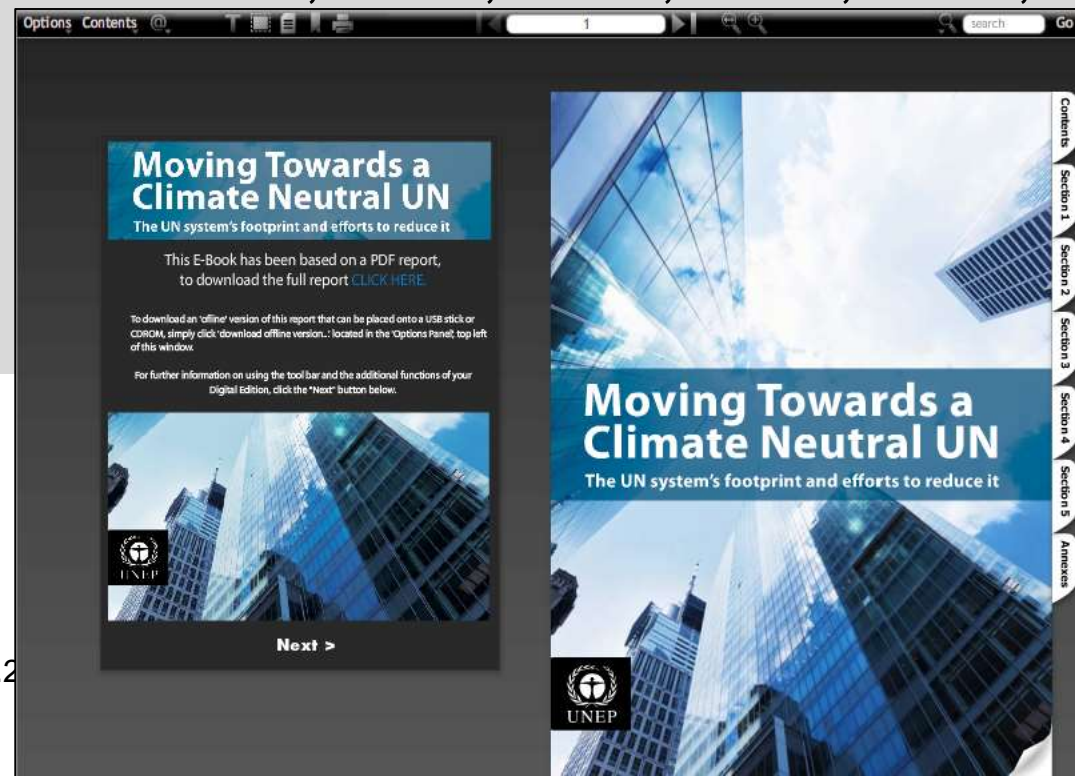
3.1 UN

Ambitious activities since ≤ 2008 , but not trivial to locate. Information moved to *separate website* www.greeningtheblue.org

Kick the Habit: A UN Guide to Climate Neutrality – 2008

Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN: The UN System's Footprint and Efforts to Reduce It - 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Sustainable UN: helping the UN system become sustainable - 2011



GREENING THE BLUE.



For the patient seeker:

www.greeningtheblue.org/

without reference on UN start page

 Search

Environment Management in the United Nations

Our new animation explains the role of Environment Management Systems in the UN

GREENING THE BLUE. 

EMS in the UN

Stick and Bean

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Measuring



POLL

Should the UN have targets to reduce its emissions of greenhouse

GREENING THE BLUE ON TWITTER

RT @UNEP: How does war impact our environment & what are we doing about it? Amb. Marie Jacobsson blogs for #EnvConflictDay:.... <https://t.co/N3loTe1rDx>

3.2 WHO: „WHO measures and reports its greenhouse gas emissions”

“The UN system is committed to implementing the 2007 Climate Neutral Strategy, which commits all UN organizations to measure and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions...

“The WHO has been measuring and reporting its greenhouse gas emissions every year since 2009...

“The most recent... inventory... [2015]... shows that WHO emitted... 9.6 tonnes per head of personnel, a little above the UN average... Air travel remains the largest contributor to WHO’s climate footprint, accounting for 89% of emissions.

www.who.int/globalchange/health_policy/examples/en/

KEY FIGURES: GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	2015	2014	2013	
Number of personnel	2,211	2,159	2,049	
Total emissions (tCO ₂ eq)	22,820	20,721	23,156	
Per capita total emissions (tCO ₂ eq/personnel)	10	10	11	
Share of total emissions (%)	Facilities	9	11	10
	Air travel	89	89	90
	Other travel	2	0	0
Per capita air travel emissions (tCO ₂ /personnel)	9	9	10	
Facilities-related emissions intensity (kgCO ₂ eq/m ²)	19	22	23	

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

"Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Climate change will affect, in profoundly adverse ways, some of the most fundamental determinants of health: food, air, water. In the face of this challenge, WHO is committed to do everything it can to ensure all is done to protect human health from climate change"

Margaret Chan, Executive Director, WHO

www.greeningtheblue.org/what-the-un-is-doing/world-health-organization-who/

EXPERIENCE SO FAR

Since 2008 WHO has worked on the annual assessment of WHO's greenhouse gas emissions, and various proposals to reduce emissions and improve sustainable management practices.

REDUCTION EFFORTS

- WHO is currently exploring a possible policy (including targets) for reducing air travel
- Renovations work's studies, which are estimated to reduce by up to 80% of WHO HQ current level of CO2 with respect to power generation and electricity consumption, are under way.

OFFSETTING

Under discussion

NEXT STEPS

To include all the WHO Regional offices in the carbon footprint assessment exercise and develop a global WHO Sustainability Management System

WHO TEAM LEADER CYCLES FROM GENEVA TO PARIS

TUE, 26/07/16

Related Organisation/Agency: [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, team leader of the climate change and health team within WHO's Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, biked from Geneva to Paris to attend the Second Global Conference on Health and Climate on 7-8 July.



Along his 550 km trip, Diarmid blogged on the topic of the conference, using the ride to connect to health issues as individuals experience them – from physical activity, to nutrition, to air quality and road safety. You can [see his journey from Geneva](#) through the vineyards of the Burgundy region of France to his final destination in Paris. Below are some [excerpts from his blog](#):

Day 1: Mountains

- Hours cycling: 9:09
- Km cycled: 211.1
- Metres climbed: 2755
- Maximum speed: 66.2 km/h
- Calories burned: 5455

The first part of the journey is over the Jura range, with views of the Alps. You really feel the temperature drop as you climb- so although it is summer I could see my breath near the top.

"Everywhere is within cycling distance- if you've got the time."

Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Team Leader, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization

3.3 EC: “Greening the European Semester”

European Semester: established in 2010 as a mechanism to better coordinate economic policies in EU countries

“ **'Greening the European Semester'** is about how to ensure that our macroeconomic policies are sustainable, not only economically and socially, but also environmentally... there are many... themes, such as environmental fiscal reform, including tax shifts from labour to environmental pollution

“... a challenge for both the EC who prepares each year Country Specific Recommendations, and the Member States, who update their National Reform Programmes annually.”

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/green_semester/index_en.htm

EC: “Green public procurement” (GPP)

“Europe's public authorities are major consumers. By using their purchasing power to choose environmentally friendly goods, services ..., they can make an important contribution to sustainable consumption and production...

“a strong stimulus for eco-innovation

“requires the inclusion of clear and verifiable environmental criteria for products and services...”

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm



EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

“a premium management instrument developed by the EC for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report, and improve their environmental performance ... It spans all economic and service sectors and is applicable worldwide

“PERFORMANCE: ... finding the right tools

“CREDIBILITY: Third party verification ...

“TRANSPARENCY: Providing publicly available information”

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm

European
Commission

Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

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3.4 EEA: Environmental management / EMAS

“As an organisation we recognise that managing Europe’s environment begins with mitigating the environmental impact of our actions at home and in the workplace

“In 2004... the first EU body to introduce an environmental management system... [2015]... registered... under... EMAS

“As of 2014,... part of a family of 4 049 organisations and 7 556 sites... worldwide... annual environmental statement...

“We welcome enquiries on our environmental management system and how to introduce a similar system in any organisation”, www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/emas



4 Conclusions

Major categories of concern

- **Flow of energy and materials** incl. resource consumption, waste production, greenhouse gas emissions
- **Health** and **Equity**

Domains / Settings

- Mode of **travel**, especially by air
- Conference **venue** and accommodations
- **Food** (incl. fluids) consumption
- **Waste** management
- **Physical (in)activity**

Approaches

- **Modification towards benign options**
- **Reduction / avoidance**
- **Offsetting**
- Env management systems (ISO 14001)

Conclusions – ctd.

Major international institutions working towards sustainability

(Side remark: Their info could be made easier to find on home pages; more barrier-free to read; easier to compare over time and across institutions)

There is **potential for conflicts** between:

- sustainability vs. health perspectives
- sust & health vs. other mission issues, e.g. vibrant meetings
- sust & health vs. personal preferences (food, travel) as well as efficiency/budgets

EUPHA is challenged to prove that it has the profile and capacity to solve such conflicts and **create positive example**.

Conclusions – ctd.

A promising approach for EUPHA/EPH might have regard to:

- **Awareness-raising** among conf organizers and participants
- **Tools** for “benign and responsible” conference organization
- **Existing approaches** of good practice
- Ways to “make the (eco-) healthy choice the easy choice”
- **Target-setting; measuring** and **reporting** progress.

Timewise, EPH conference ~ (intensive) 1% of the year

Other 99%: in work / study environments (labs, offices...), home / family / urban-rural environments, mobility, leisure time ...

Success for EUPHA and EPH conf’s could provide a template for adoption by other **associations** and **institutions**, and encourage **individuals** to move along similar pathways.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

HOME ABOUT SECRETARY-GENERAL GOALS TAKE ACTION KEY DATES MEDIA WATCH AND LISTEN

THE LAZY PERSON'S GUIDE TO SAVING THE WORLD



Things you can do from your couch

- Save electricity by plugging appliances completely when not in use, including your TV.
- Stop paper bank statements and pay your bills online. There is no need for forest destruction.
- Share, don't just like. If you see an interesting article about climate change, share it so that others can see it too.
- Speak up! Ask your local and national representatives to don't harm people or the planet. You can be a hero.

Agreement and ask your country to ratify it or sign it if it hasn't yet.

- Don't print. See something online you need to remember? Jot it down on a post-it note and spare the paper.
- Turn off the lights. Your TV or computer screen provides a cosy glow.



Things you can do outside your house

- Shop local. Supporting neighbourhood businesses helps prevent trucks from driving far distances.
- Shop Smart—plan meals, use shopping lists, and don't succumb to marketing tricks that lead you to buy more than you need, particularly for perishable items. Though they may be a little more expensive overall, they can be more expensive overall.
- Buy Funny Fruit—many fruits and vegetables that are out of shape, or color are not "right". Buying them at a farmer's market or elsewhere, utilizes food that might otherwise go to waste.

- When you go to a restaurant and are ordering seafood always ask: "Can you tell me if this is sustainably sourced?" Let your favorite businesses know that ocean-friendly seafood's on your mind.



Things you can do at home

- Air dry. Let your hair and clothes dry naturally. You do wash your clothes, make sure you wash them in cold water.
- Take short showers. Bathtubs are a lot of water.
- Eat less meat, poultry, and fish. Eat more plants.
- Freeze fresh produce and leftovers. Freeze them before they go bad. You can always use them in soups or stews.

- Compost—composting food scraps can reduce climate impact. You know you will not feel like eating it the next day. You can use it in your garden.