

Saving for a Bright Future
“A manual for efficient lighting procurement in UN agencies”
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Saving for a Bright Future is a technical manual issued by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the UNEP/ Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP). The manual outlines how energy efficient lighting options can help the UN save money and considerably reduce its carbon footprint.

The “**Saving for a Bright Future**” manual provides convincing and factual arguments tailored to UN offices on cost saving options through more efficient lighting. The manual targets building managers, procurement officers, environmental officers and staff. It provides advice and guidance from the most ambitious to the simple and affordable measures as well as case studies based on UN agencies’ experiences (UN Offices in Vienna and Nairobi, World Bank and FAO) to illustrate the interest in investing in green lighting options.

The manual has been designed to be “paper free” and can be read entirely on the computer as a self explanatory PowerPoint. It is also in line with the current trend among UN agencies to reduce their climate impact and to “walk the talk” in relation to their environmental impact. In June 2007 the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced: “I would like to see our renovated headquarters complex eventually become a globally acclaimed model of efficient use of energy and resources. I am asking the heads of all UN agencies, funds and programmes to join me in this effort. And I am asking all staff members throughout the UN family to make common cause with me.”

As a response to the Secretary-General's call, in November 2007 all UN heads of agencies committed themselves to make the operation of their respective organizations climate-neutral through measures for emissions reduction, energy saving, alternative energies sources and (as a last option) carbon sequestration.

Efficient lighting represents an extremely interesting option for UN procurement and office managers both from an environmental and a financial point of view: The application of commercially available green lighting options can reduce some 30-70% of the total lighting electricity consumption.

According to a study carried out for the UN Environmental Management Group in October 2007, the total emissions estimate of the UN in 2006 is one million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions. Electricity and steam purchases make up approximately 56% of these emissions whereas business travel represents about 42% of it.

An OECD study carried out by the CADDET, Dutch research institute, highlights how energy consumption in office buildings is shared as follows: 45% for Lighting, 34% for Office equipment, 6% for Air conditioning and 15% for various other activities. Lighting is therefore by far the highest electricity expense in an office. In the four UN offices mentioned above for instance, lighting represents around 30% of the facility costs.

The document is the first of a series of tools, capacity building materials and guidelines UNEP will be issuing in the next two years to assist UN agencies and other organizations to become Climate Neutral and lower their environmental impact through the inclusion of sustainability considerations in they way offices and operations are managed. To do this, a special Unit called *Sustainable UN* (SUN) has been set up in the UNEP Division of Technology Industry and Economics (DTIE) in Paris. The Manual will support UNEP's growing work in the thematic priorities of climate change and resource efficiency.

To have more information about the Manual and a paper-free copy please contact:
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