

Climate Action

Getting greener: getting slimmer, and going digital!

Published by:

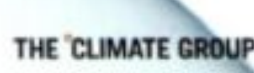


In partnership with:



UNEP

Supported by:



Climate Action

Published by **Sustainable Development International** in partnership with the **United Nations Environment Programme**

Carbon Neutral Climate Action

As part of our corporate responsibility, **Climate Action** is committed to mitigate its climate impacts and contribute to global efforts to tackle climate action. In accordance with our climate policy we calculate our emissions related to the Climate Action publication, reduce our emissions where feasible and offset our unavoidable emissions.

At the time of finalising this publication, Climate Action is working with the **Gaia Group** to calculate the carbon footprint of the organisation, production and distribution of the Climate Action publication. Please find more and updated information about our carbon footprint, mitigation actions as well as our offset decision on www.climateactionprogramme.org/carbonneutral

Our expert partner on climate solutions is **Gaia Group**.

Getting greener, getting slimmer, and going digital...

Climate Action is also available online and on sustainable bamboo USB Keys.

UNEP promotes

environmentally sound practises globally and in its own activities.

Climate Action is published by Henley Media Group. It is printed on chlorine-free paper made from wood pulp from sustainably managed forests by an ISO 14001 certified printer. All coatings are water based and the percentage of paper bleach is minimal.

ISBN: 9-780955-440885
Published November 2008

Sustainable Development International

Henley Media Group
Trans-world House, 100 City Road
London EC1Y 2BP
Tel: +44 (0)207 871 0123
Fax: +44 (0)207 871 0101
www.climateactionprogramme.org

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

PO Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 762 3292
Fax: +254 20 762 3927
www.unep.org

Publisher:	Jane Henry
Project Director:	Ally Lee
Commercial Director:	Malcolm Lewis
Sponsorship:	Michael Gray Jack Mizel
Editorial Assistants:	Lisa Pike Mary Hagenbach
Sub Editor:	Abby Allen
Design:	Andy Crisp
Cover Design:	Tina Davidian
Print:	St Ives Andover Ltd
Distribution Manager:	Diva Rodriguez

To purchase further copies of this publication, please visit www.climateactionprogramme.org



FSC
Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests and other controlled sources
www.fsc.org
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

Printed on:
LPM Finesse 90gsm
LPM Finesse 350gsm

CLIMATE
ACTION



The Publishers wish to thank all the individuals and organisations who have contributed to this book. In particular we acknowledge the following for their help and advice in producing Climate Action:
Sylvie Lemmet, Director of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP
Satinder Bindra, Director of the Division of Communications and Public Information, UNEP
Kaveh Zahedi, Climate Change Coordinator, UNEP
Cornis Van Der Lugt, Programme Officer Corporate Responsibility, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP
Niclas Svenningsen, Head SUN, Sustainable Consumption and Production Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP
David Simpson, Editor, Division of Communications and Public Information, UNEP
Peter Fries, Consultant

The information contained in this publication has been published in good faith and the opinions herein are those of the authors and not of the United Nations Environment Programme or Sustainable Development International. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Environment Programme or Sustainable Development International concerning the legal status of any country, territory or city or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The United Nations Environment Programme and Sustainable Development International do not endorse any of the products advertised herein and cannot accept responsibility for any error or misinterpretation based on this information. The use of information from this publication concerning proprietary products for publicity or advertising is not permitted.

Reproduction in whole or part of any contents of this publication (either in print form or electronically) without prior permission is strictly prohibited. Volume copyright Henley Media Group Limited unless otherwise stated.

VISIT: WWW.CLIMATEACTIONPROGRAMME.ORG

This One



4F71-KGQ-BDKR

Foreword



BAN KI-MOON
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Unite to combat climate change

Earlier this year, for World Environment Day, I wrote that our society is in the grip of a dangerous carbon habit. Our dependence on carbon-based energy is causing global warming. The Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has quieted the skeptics. We know that climate change is happening, and we know that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that we emit are the cause.

It is time to move from knowledge to action. To do that, we need strong leadership and far-sighted vision. These are currently still lacking. It is true that government leaders are increasingly saying the right things and even putting in place policies and mechanisms to address climate change. And I am heartened by the prominence that a new US President will bring to the issue. Nonetheless, there remains a huge gulf between what scientists are saying needs to be done and achievements on the ground.

The IPCC scientists tell us we need a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of between 50 and 85 per cent from 2000 levels by 2050 if we are to limit global warming to less than 2.4°C above pre-industrial levels. Yet, if we look at current trends we see that emissions are increasing and even accelerating. So the stark reality is that we need a major shift in mind-set and in how we do business. That shift needs to happen at all levels of society – from the decisions we make as consumers, up



Climate Action is produced by Sustainable Development International in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme to encourage and assist governments and business to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This book and supporting website feature a range of articles that encourage the sharing of best practice and the development of new technologies and initiatives and illustrates the opportunities for business and governments to reduce costs and increase profits while tackling climate change.

There are a number of steps that you, as business and government leaders, can take to reduce your carbon footprint; the fourth part of this book is dedicated to these actions. Some require little investment in time or money, while others require substantial time and capital. What they all require is a commitment to succeed.

to government policies on trade, transport, agriculture and indeed everything that dictates how we generate and use energy.

In just one year's time, negotiators will convene in Copenhagen, Denmark, to finalise a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period, which ends in 2012. It has to be inclusive, comprehensive and – most importantly – ratifiable. In order for governments to sign up to a new climate deal – and justify it to their electorates – they need to be able to clearly demonstrate how it will benefit national economies, company bottom-lines, and the welfare of ordinary people from the least developed countries to the wealthiest nations.

Some may argue that today's global economic volatility means we should postpone some of the hard decisions that will have to be made. They are wrong. For every

‘‘ There is another emerging argument: that kicking our carbon habit will not just avert catastrophe, but will provide a multitude of additional economic and social benefits. ’’

year that we fail to reduce GHG emissions the economic, as well as the social, costs will dramatically increase. Insurers and investment banks understand this already, and are working with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other partners to make the case that combating climate change makes sound economic sense.

Nonetheless, while the unfolding scenarios of ecological devastation and economic collapse are valid, they have not yet proved sufficiently compelling to make us change our ways. But, there is another emerging argument: that kicking our carbon habit will not just avert catastrophe, but will provide a multitude of additional economic and social benefits. This publication shows how the private sector, local and national governments and organisations such as the United Nations are working to make these benefits real.

With such evidence, I believe that governments and their citizens can be persuaded to rally behind the United Nations campaign call to ‘Unite to combat climate change’. I am convinced this is no pipe dream. Every day I see growing recognition of the multiple benefits of tackling global warming.

The private sector, in particular, is competing to capitalise on what they understand is a massive business opportunity. Earlier this year, UNEP and the International Labour Organization released a report showing the economic and employment opportunities linked to reducing global warming. The renewable energy industry alone has created 2.3 million new jobs in recent years, half of which are in the developing world. The potential for governments to green their cities, for businesses and households to cut their energy costs, and for developing economies to harness the market potential of emerging sectors, such as sustainable biofuels, is immense.

Around the world, nations, cities, organisations and businesses are looking afresh at green options, and I am pleased to say the United Nations is taking a lead. I have asked the chief executives of all UN programmes, funds and specialised agencies to move swiftly towards carbon neutrality, assisted by UNEP’s Sustainable UN programme, and I have instructed that the Capital Master Plan for renovating the UN headquarters in New York follows strict environmental guidelines.

Earlier this year, UNEP also launched a climate neutral network – CN Net – to further energise this growing trend among countries, cities and companies. The inaugural members are pioneers in a movement that I

believe will increasingly define environmental, economic and political discourse and decision making over the coming decades. As this publication amply shows, most of the tools we need to move towards climate neutrality have been developed or are in the pipeline. The challenge now is to make full use of them before it is too late.

Author

Ban Ki-moon, of the Republic of Korea, is the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, bringing 37 years of service, both in government and on the global stage.

At the time of his election as Secretary-General, Mr Ban was his country’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. His long tenure with the ministry included postings in New Delhi, Washington DC and Vienna, and responsibility for a variety of portfolios, including Foreign Policy Advisor to the President, Chief National Security Advisor to the President, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning and Director-General of American Affairs. Throughout this service, his guiding vision was that of a peaceful Korean peninsula, playing an expanding role for peace and prosperity in the region and the wider world.

Organisation

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. The UN officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the UK, the US and a majority of other signatories.

The purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in attaining these ends.

Enquiries

Website: www.un.org/sg/

