

Environmental Reporting in the Public Sector

Introduction

Environmental Reporting in the public sector is one of the projects under the National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), which forms part of the overall strategy of making public services more sustainable. Government departments are being encouraged to report annually on their performance in reducing their office-based resources consumption and environmental impacts and develop an environmental improvement plan. One of the items considered in the report is the calculation of the carbon footprint.

Implementation of the project

- Implementation has started since July 2009 with the preparation of a guidance manual for undertaking environmental reporting.
- To date 35 officers from various Government agencies have been trained in undertaking environmental reporting.
- The targeted government departments are expected to come up with their first environmental report in 2010.

Carbon footprint

Climate change is recognized as the major environmental concern of this century. In order to reflect this issue, many organizations calculate their carbon footprint (carbon dioxide emission) based on their energy, fuel consumption and other activities that may generate greenhouse gases. The carbon footprint is calculated by using an excel worksheet elaborated by UNEP. Information relevant to air travel, electricity consumption, fuel consumption and number of officers using public transport have been used for the computation exercise undertaken under this project.

Benefits to be derived

This project will sensitise Government departments on their resource consumption and will encourage them to adopt measures aimed at reducing their environmental impact and improving their efficiency. It would also contribute to reduce their expenditure to some extent if improvement measures are adopted

Ministry of Environment and NDU

2 April 2010