Toward a Greener GGGI

Travel and Facility

Since 2013, GGGI has made efforts to measure and manage its environmental footprint, especially its carbon emissions. Using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology, GGGI assessed its environmental footprint in 2015 by measuring carbon emissions from Air Travel and Facility Operations.

2014 & 2015 Carbon Emissions (%SHARE)

A total of 944 tons of CO2 (tCO2) was emitted by GGGI in 2015, with Air Travel and Facility Operations emissions amounting to 705 and 239 tons respectively. The decentralization of GGGI’s country programs helped to decrease the number of total flights from 1,595 in 2014, to 1,544 in 2015. However, as GGGI has focused on decreasing air travel costs, the number of cost-efficient transit flights increased relative to direct flights, thereby increasing total air travel emissions in 2015.

Moreover, 2015 also marked the first complete year where GGGI utilized 4 floors of office space; 3 in its Seoul offices and 1 in its Songdo offices. In 2014, GGGI utilized only 3 floors of office space.
Staff

When comparing results from the United Nations Environment Programme’s February 2015 report, Moving Towards a Climate Neutral UN: The UN System’s Footprint and Efforts to Reduce It, GGGI has maintained a tCO2/per personnel emission average that lies well below the average emitted by other United Nations organizations in 2015. Although GGGI’s 2015 emissions demonstrate progress, GGGI continues to seek a more progressive approach toward lowering its overall carbon emissions.

Paper Consumption

In 2014, GGGI made the decision to begin measuring paper consumption. Based on available purchase and consumption data, GGGI’s paper consumption in 2015 increased by 25% from its 2014 average.

Looking Ahead

GGGI plans to continuously measure its carbon emissions and paper usage, and seek ways to reduce its environmental footprint. Efforts to reduce carbon emissions include better travel planning and bundling missions, making more use of teleconferences and online communication tools such as Skype and WebEx, and selecting itineraries with minimal layovers where appropriate. Further, simple awareness raising campaigns to conserve energy, and reduce paper consumption are planned.