



**environment and sustainable development  
action plan 2008**



**capacity global**

living in a clean and healthy environment is everyone's right

## Introduction

In the light of climate change-related disasters affecting both developed and developing countries, and in compliance to UK governmental legal targets, Capacity Global publicly affirms its responsibility towards carbon emissions reduction for the protection of people and the environment.

This paper aims to analyse selected areas of intervention for the implementation of an environmental strategy developed to achieve the main objective of becoming a “zero carbon emissions” organisation. In order to achieve its goals, the organisation is committed to the principles of sustainable development. Its policies and areas of intervention will be discussed further.

## Commitments

Capacity Global's Ethical Policy highlights the organisation's commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in all areas of its conduct. Moreover, being an organisation focusing on environmental justice, Capacity has made a public commitment to the following:

- Third Sector Declaration on Climate Change<sup>1</sup>;
- Women's Manifesto on Climate Change<sup>2</sup>;
- Vienna Declaration<sup>3</sup>.

The organisation's Environment and Sustainable Development Action Plan will be used as a basis to analyse the areas of action. This report is meant to clarify and define the terms of action in the short, medium and long term.

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<sup>1</sup> Every Action Counts, 2007, “The Third Sector Declaration on Climate Change”, available on line at <http://www.everyactioncounts.org.uk/declaration/declaration.htm> (accessed on the 03/02/08).

<sup>2</sup> The Women's Manifesto on climate Change” created and issued by Women's Environmental Network (WEN) and the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI), is available on-line at [http://www.wen.org.uk/general\\_pages/reports/manifesto.pdf](http://www.wen.org.uk/general_pages/reports/manifesto.pdf) (accessed on the 30/01/08).

<sup>3</sup> The “Vienna Declaration to reinforce the Aarhus Convention” of the 18th of December 2007 is available on-line at <http://www.participate.org/documents/vienna-decl-final-version-201207-with-logos.pdf> (accessed on the 06/02/08).



## Areas of intervention

### Save energy

Since December 2006, Capacity Global has implemented energy and resource-saving strategies, some of which are shown below. Capacity will be reviewing its baseline consumption of energy, water and gas, with a view of a 10% reduction within the next year, when monitoring and evaluation activities will take place. To achieve the set goals, Capacity is now reviewing its current resource usage (gas, electricity and water).

Action	Time-line	Target
Use of energy saving equipment: e.g. energy efficient light bulbs	1 year	10%
Switch off lights when not needed	1 year	10%
Reduce heating use during working hours	1 year	10%

## Travel wisely

Capacity Global encourages the use of public transport (train, buses, and underground) when travelling for work reasons, as well as walking or cycling to get to the office. Certified offsetting options are adopted, as a last resort. Capacity recognises its limitation in reducing long haul journeys to poor countries, as it is needed to engage directly with deprived communities, and also for the lack of availability and access of these people to technological means of communication.

Action	Time-line	Target
Reduce the need to travel by plane	1 year	60% (in Europe)
Introduce online or telephone conference equipment	1 year	N/A
Offset plane travel by certified systems	1 year	100%

## Shop ethically

It is part of Capacity Global's Ethical Policy to ensure ecological and fair trade purchasing. The organisation is, in fact, using only 100% recycled stationery items and paper and, in selecting suppliers and services, considers the sustainability and environmental impact of each individual product.

Action	Time-line for monitoring
Purchase ecological products	1 year
Purchase ethical (fair trade, organic) products	1 year

## Save resources

Waste is recycled and disposed in appropriate bins by staff members, and all appliances (printers, copy machines, fax machine, etc.) are set to minimise energy and paper consumption. Moreover, all office equipment is shared between Capacity team members, who also re-use items whenever possible.

Action	Time-line	Target
Reduce waste production	1 year	10%
Reduce paper consumption	1 year	10%
Recycle (paper, plastic, glass, cans)	1 year	10%

### Care for your area

Staff members are required to periodically assess local green space, to agree and propose aims for improvement, as well as to identify problem areas (litter, etc.) and raise these issues to the local council. The Capacity team is also encouraged to join or work with local schemes that care for the Bankside area, where the office is located.



### Limitations

In achieving the established targets, Capacity Global is aware of its limitations in terms of both time and resources management. In particular, considering that it is a small non-governmental organisation with a limited budget, expensive changes cannot be implemented in the short term.

Additionally, Capacity is a tenant in a shared office space. This means that decisions related to the use of the office environment and management of shared resources must be agreed with the other tenants and the owner of the building. If curbing carbon emissions via collective agreement is not possible, Capacity will adopt offsetting options through investments in certified offsetting systems.

## **Monitoring**

Capacity Global ensures that monitoring and evaluation of the targets will be done through regular meetings with staff members. Moreover, Capacity will also publish its monitoring and evaluation activity on an annual basis.

## **Conclusions**

Capacity Global is aware of its responsibility towards a better environment, and aims at contributing to its protection as well as to the protection of people living in it, through the implementation of carbon emissions reduction strategies and the promotion of a “green” culture.

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Signed by  
The Director

