



## MISSION AND ENVIRONMENT

### HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IMPACT MISSION AGENCIES

#### Becoming Ecologically Literate

Consider the place where you are serving:

1. How does the area/community/society relate to the natural systems that are there?  
(how does the ecosystem work? What is used by the community? What are the main species? What are the food chains? Etc)
2. What is the state of health of the area? What are its 'vital signs'?  
(population growth, energy use, waste disposal, pollution, soil loss, species extinction, deforestation, desertification etc)
3. What historical, political, economic and religious forces have molded your area?
4. What understanding and perception of nature is there?
5. How might the community and natural systems relate sustainably?

#### Practical Implications

1. *Raise awareness internally*
2. *Conduct an audit: what are your biggest ecological impacts?*  
([www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk); and DEFRA have conversion factors)
3. *Greening your travel*



- How do people travel to your offices?
- How are vehicles used, both in the UK and abroad?
- How many flights per year does your agency take?
- How many of those are longhaul and how many are short?
- What conference call facilities do you have?
- How often do you gather together all your workers?
- Do you offset your travel? ([www.climatestewards.net](http://www.climatestewards.net))
- See The Man in Seat Sixty-One to discover how you can travel overland to places you thought were only accessible by plane ([www.seat61.com](http://www.seat61.com))

#### Case Study: Tearfund

- No flights within the UK except N.Ireland and time off in lieu for journey times.
- No flights to any Eurostar destinations
- No flights within Europe if feasible
- Direct flights where possible, using newer airlines
- No single-issue trips
- Offsetting through Carbon Stewards
- 'smart' working
- Carbon budget??

#### 4. *Greening your office*

- Switch off electrical appliances at the wall when not using. Ask the office manager to supply remote control switches if it is difficult to get at the sockets.
- Turn off all lights outside office hours.
- Recycle, recycle, recycle.... And put in place systems that make it easy for people to do that.
- Use recycled products (paper, envelopes, toilet roll, pencils...).
- Set printers to print duplex as a default (and turn off when not using).
- Shut the blinds when it is too hot or cold to save power on heating and air conditioning.
- Leave a tray by the photocopier with single-sided scrap paper for people to use for drafts and working documents.
- Use proper mugs not plastic cups.
- Ensure all cleaning products are environmentally friendly.
- Install a heating system that is flexible and can be easily turned on/off/up/down.
- Put up a notice in the kitchen encouraging people only to boil the water they need.
- Get rid of bottled water. Keep jugs of water in the fridge or use units that use tap water.
- Encourage the canteen to source food that is local, organic, fairly traded and free range.
- If a large area is being heated, consider installing infrared heaters rather than electric or gas ones. Have a look at [www.infra-red-system.com](http://www.infra-red-system.com); [www.heatinfrared.co.uk](http://www.heatinfrared.co.uk); [www.leisureheating.co.uk](http://www.leisureheating.co.uk)
- Develop a paperless office
- If putting in a new heating system, and if space outside allows, consider a ground source heat pump, using geo-thermal energy ([www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)). This can both heat the office in winter and keep it cool in the summer.
- Change to a 'green' energy supplier (eg. Ecotricity or Good Energy in the UK)