

MILESTONES

1 September 2009

Publication of a philatelic book on climate change, in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization.

5 June 2009

The UPU, the International Postal Corporation (an association of Posts) and PostEurop (a UPU Restricted Union) announce that they will be working together to create a common standard for measuring greenhouse gas, in order to harmonize the data collected through their three programmes.

This should, ultimately, make it possible to produce reliable results for the sector as a whole. This partnership has involved the creation of a tripartite working committee with the objective of developing a common standard for collecting data on greenhouse gas emissions, the *Standard Protocol*.

Based on internationally recognized sources in this field, such as the WRI/WBCSD (World Resources Institute and World Business Council for Sustainable Development) *GHG Protocol*, the International Energy Agency, the *Global Reporting Initiative* (GRI) and ISO standards ISO 14 000 (14 064 and 14 065), this Standard Protocol can be used by the designated postal operators of the 191 UPU member countries.

The objective of this document is to identify all possible sources of emissions resulting from postal activities. It is a tool for understanding the methods of calculation used to carry out a carbon inventory. To this end, it provides information on the indicators used, the preferred methods of collection and consolidation, and definitions of the terms used.

As such, it is the most advanced tool for the postal sector. Identifying, collecting and consolidating all the data as part of a global, detailed inventory to be included in this Standard should therefore be the ultimate aim of operators over the coming years.

1 April 2009

The UPU's International Bureau announces several measures taken to make the organization more climate neutral, given its involvement in the Sustainable United Nations Programme.

31 March 2009

Launch of the UPU's Global Greenhouse Gas Overview and Mitigation Project.

12 December 2008

The UPU reiterates its commitment to helping postal operators worldwide better manage their CO₂ emissions at the United Nations climate change conference in Poznan, Poland.

24th Universal Postal Congress (July-August 2008)

Congress adopts recommendation C 27/2008 inviting postal operators of member countries to promote initiatives that aim to reduce the negative effect of their activities on the environment.

Resolution C 34/2008 recognizes the importance of adopting a programme for the postal sector to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

24 July 2008

The UPU Sustainable Development Project Group teams up with PostEurop, a Restricted Union representing 48 European public postal operators, which agrees to share the results of the work carried out within the framework of its greenhouse gas reduction programme.

June 2008

The first questionnaire aimed at calculating greenhouse gas emissions associated with postal activity is sent out to the 191 UPU member countries.

5 MAY 2008

The UPU and the UNEP sign a new agreement to work together to cut the CO₂ emissions produced by members of the postal sector.

24 April 2007

The UPU's Sustainable Development Project Group develops 20 priority actions for postal operators, including several in the field of the environment. They include:

- measuring the volume of harmful emissions generated by postal vehicles (including those of subcontractors and vehicles used in the supply chain), and taking measures to reduce fuel consumption (technological, logistical and drivers' behavioural solutions);
- developing a postal infrastructure with the lowest possible environmental impact;
- using renewable electricity where possible and developing the use of on-site renewable energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal);
- saving energy and developing awareness-raising activities to educate staff (information, training);
- developing products that consume fewer natural resources (using recycled paper, paper from sustainably-managed forests, reusable wrappings and packaging, etc.);
- developing a global approach to waste management: sorting, recycling and recovery of main waste (paper, cardboard, wood pallets, PCs and peripherals, postmen's bicycles, sorting frames, etc.), based on the waste management hierarchy (eliminate, reduce, reuse, recycle, and energy recovery and disposal).

April 2007

Creation of the Alternative Vehicles Subgroup, with the objective of analyzing the best solutions available, forming partnerships with the automobile industry and advising Posts on purchasing new vehicles.

April 2005

The working group on Posts and Environment (1994) integrates sustainable development issues and becomes the Environment and Sustainable Development Working Group.

