



GCOS GOES GREEN STRATEGY



GCOS Steering Committee Meeting 2019

Paris, 28th October 2019

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on behalf of SC Task Team on Green Strategy



International
Science Council



1. “Keeping Watch Over Our Climate” – Background
2. “Monitoring the Observing System” – Measuring GCOS’ footprint
3. “GCOS’ Determined Contributions” – Goals
4. “Walk the talk” – Reduction Measures
 - 4.1. Meeting culture and structural efficiency
 - 4.2. Green working culture
5. “Do good and talk about it” – Communication approach

“Keeping Watch Over Our Climate”

- Initiative by Michael Zemp, GCOS SC Meeting 2018, Helsinki
- Creation of Task Team on Green GCOS Strategy, developing draft
- „The experts contributing to the GCOS programme are only too well placed to see the negative impacts on ongoing climate change, and as a result feel both a concern, and a responsibility, to reduce their own impacts on climate, and that of the GCOS programme. “
- GCOS GREEN STRATEGY builds on UN’s “Greening the Blue” initiative”, WMO, UN Environment and UNESCO IOC already part of it
- Pledge to measure and report GHG emissions and environmental waste generation and to make serious efforts to reduce both.

“Monitoring the Observing System”

- The GCOS Secretariat monitors all CO2 emissions and costs of travel of GCOS.
 - The GCOS Secretariat keeps track on travels that have been avoided in order to reduce the footprint.
 - The GCOS Secretariat will request the average per capita use of energy as well as waste production from WMO on an annual basis.
- The statistics for air travel and the avoided CO2 emissions for all GCOS related travels as well as energy and waste production of the GCOS Secretariat will be presented annually to the GCOS Steering Committee.

“GCOS’ Determined Contributions”

- To reduce air miles and related emissions by 25% by 2025 compared to the average of 2015-2019 as a first step.
- To reduce air miles and related emissions by 50% by 2030 compared to the average of 2015-2019 as a second step.
- To further reduce air miles and related emissions continuously towards the minimal travel required to be operational.
- To reduce energy consumption and waste production of the GCOS Secretariat in accordance with the “Greening the Blue” initiative goals.
- To encourage the members of all its bodies as well as its partners to reduce their individual ecological footprints and be ambassadors of sustainable working within their organizations.

“Walk the talk” – Meeting culture and structural efficiency

- Future meetings based on air miles scenarios.
- Plan joint and virtual meetings in view of the upcoming reporting cycle.
- Conduct the work of subsidiary bodies through flexible means (videoconferences, interactive shared document writing, delegated work tasks etc.).
- Use the savings on travel budget as an incentive.
- All GCOS bodies are challenged to come up with proposals during each meeting until the 50%-reduction goal for the body is reached (compared to 2015-2019). Plans will be presented to the GCOS Steering Committee.

“Walk the talk” – Green working culture

- All GCOS Secretariat staff attends the online tutorial of “Greening the Blue” and members of experts encouraged to do so (<http://portals.unssc.org/mod/scorm/view.php?id=9>).
- The GCOS Secretariat implements and promotes several immediate measures:
 - Hold paperless meetings
 - Ban plastic bottles and non-recyclable coffee/water cups
 - Encourage vegetarian and regional catering during meetings
 - Encourage hosts to avoid using disposable plates, cups and bottles during meetings



GCOS GREEN REPORT 2019



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- Not enough time for report, but necessary resources included in 2020 planning.
- Reporting avoided emissions not straightforward, more work needed.
- Currently unclear how WMO travel agency (Carlson Wagonlit) calculates emissions for flights.
- WMO Management encourages GCOS to come up with more ambitious plan.