



About the Green Forum Initiative

Aiming to reduce the 5th World Water Forum's environmental footprint

Introduction

Overview

The *Green Forum Initiative* has been established by the 5th World Water Forum Secretariat to examine and address the environmental impacts of the preparatory process of the Forum as well as the Forum and its diverse components.

Greening Mandate

Policy: As a first step, the Green Forum Initiative has drafted an environmental policy and action list which was signed by the organizing partners in June 2008. This policy and action list guide the Forum's greening activities.

Priorities: Key priorities for greening the 5th World Water Forum include minimizing solid waste generation, efficient use of water resources, minimizing use of energy and related CO₂ emissions, elimination of hazardous chemical use, and appropriate disposal of unavoidable waste.

Personnel: A Green Team has been established in the secretariat to explore and follow-up on Forum greening activities. The professional congress organizer participates actively in Green Team meetings. There are currently five active members of the Green Team.

Greening programme and status (02.01.09)

Forum Transportation within Istanbul

Green buses which run on natural gas will be used for transporting participants from hotels to the ferry docks where participants will board shuttle boats to the Forum venue. Using shuttle boats will significantly reduce traffic load on the overcrowded Istanbul thoroughfares.

The Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul will be providing public transit access cards in the participants' package to allow use of the public transit system for free.

One tree will be planted per Forum participant by the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Secretariat of the 5th World Water Forum to help offset a portion of the CO₂ emissions related to the Forum.

Transportation to Istanbul

Participants are asked to voluntarily offset their emissions of travel to Istanbul through a reputable offsetting company. A web site will be suggested during the on-line registration process.

Printing

All major publications are printed on either recycled paper or paper which has been made with trees from sustainably managed forests (FSC/PEFC).

As an example, for the printing of the 2nd Announcement, REFLECTA vegetable-based inks have been used. M-REAL Mega paper which contains pulp from sustainably managed forests has been used. The mill producing this paper is ISO 14001, PEFC and FSC certified. The number of pages was reduced by 1/3 from the original plan to reduce paper use and CO2 emissions related to distribution.

Secretariat operations

The secretariat has a paper recycling programme in place with partner TEMA, a Turkish environmental NGO.

Employees are encouraged to privilege: 1) opening the windows instead of turning on the air conditioners/closing doors to heated rooms, 2) using daylighting instead of the lights, 3) avoiding printing where possible and printing double-sided hard copies.

A poster with 100 tips to protect the environment has been put up in the offices.

Sutluce – the Forum venue

The Secretariat Green Team visited Sutluce Cultural Centre, the venue of the Forum to identify the state of the building in terms of its environmental footprint. While the renovation design itself did not intentionally include greening strategies, many of the building's components contribute to reducing the building's environmental footprint. For example, daylighting is used extensively in the two entry foyers reducing the need for artificial lighting. This daylighting is achieved with reflective glass which allows the light in, but reduces the heat gain and thus reduces the need for cooling. Other examples are described in the report on the Green Team's Sutluce visit.

The recycling company ISTAÇ has designed the Forum's recycling programme. Maximum recycling of wastes and separating at the source are priorities for the Forum venues. Plans are being made to redistribute carpeting and PVC banners to underprivileged residents around the Forum venue.

Forum participants' package

It is foreseen that the participant's packages will have a minimum of printed materials. A USB key with the documentation on it will be included in the package.

A vegetarian meal option is being offered during the Forum. Participants can choose this during their on-line registration process. Reducing the amount of meat products in the lunch packages will reduce the environmental footprint of this part of the Forum, and will meet the needs of an increasing number of vegetarians.

World Water Expo and Fair

The expo and fair organizer is very aware of the need to green their part of the Forum. The exhibitor's manual has included greening information and requirements.

All expo/fair communication materials are printed on recycled paper. Electric equipment will be highly energy efficient and have energy-saving modes.

Communicating the Green Forum Initiative

Web Page

The Green Forum Initiative has launched a section on the web page of the 5th World Water Forum which describes the Forum's greening activities.

The billboard campaign in Istanbul advertising the Forum includes the GFI logo.

The Forum venues will have Green Forum Initiative Kiosks where information about our work and the work of our partners will be showcased. Awareness-raising on water footprints and CO2 footprints will also be undertaken at the kiosks.

Newsletter

The Forum's newsletter *Water Bridges* will focus some GFI themes in upcoming issues.

Encouraging Sponsors to be Green

The Forum Greening Hall of Fame has been created as a *bonus for environmentally-friendly sponsors*. It is a web site that has been created to give additional profile to sponsors of the Forum that clearly demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. Sponsors' commitment can be demonstrated within their internal activities, their products, through external projects, or through initiatives undertaken for the Forum itself. Members of the Forum Greening Hall of Fame will be profiled on the Hall of Fame page of the 5th World Water Forum web site as well as in *Water Connections*, the Forum's electronic newsletter.

Greening Expertise in Turkey

Building Information Centre: The Istanbul-based *Building Information Centre*, an organization with green building expertise. They have provided valuable advice and support during the visit to the Forum venue (Sutluce).

TBCSD (Turkish Business Council for Sustainable Development) has also been consulted to provide general support and contacts to move the GFI work programme forward.

TUROB and Bureau Veritas have come together with the GFI to conceive the Hotel Greening Project, which aims to move the environmental agenda forward in Istanbul hotels. A series of introductory meetings, a workshop have taken place. Hotel Greening Audits are underway and an award for the top performing hotels will be given during the Forum.

Other NGO and private sector organisations in Istanbul have been consulted in connection with the GFI work programme.

For more information, consult our web site:

www.worldwaterforum5.org