



Greening the 5th World Water Forum

1. Background

Large meetings are increasingly being criticized for their negative environmental impact. It is thus important to address, to the fullest extent possible, these negative impacts from the planning stage up to the final event. Also important is to ensure that any 'greening' initiatives are properly communicated both within the group of organizers, the sponsors and goods and service providers, and to the general public. For this reason, the Communications Committee has assumed the responsibility for developing a proposal to 'green' the 5th World Water Forum preparatory process and event.

2. Experience from Previous Fora

Previous Fora have not given as much priority to greening initiatives, so this initiative is breaking new ground.

3. Objective

To make the Forum an environmentally sound event by incorporating environmental considerations where cost effective into the planning and execution of the event by all partners.

4. Application

The proposed activities should not only be planned and executed for the actual 5th World Water Forum in March 2009 but should also be implemented to the fullest extent possible throughout the preparatory process and in the general office procedures of the Forum's organizers.

5. 5th World Water Forum Environmental Policy

The organizers of the 5th World Water Forum are committed to minimizing the environmental impact of the 5th World Water Forum.

We will accomplish this, in general terms, through:

- Decreasing the amount of solid waste produced by the event;
- Reducing energy and water consumption at the event;
- Minimizing or off-setting harmful emissions resulting from vehicular transportation and energy consumption associated with the event;
- Disposing of solid and liquid waste in an environmentally responsible manner;
- Eliminating the use of harmful chemicals at or for the event.

More information on the Green Forum Initiative: www.worldwaterforum5.org