

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina Green Pledge

Bosnia and Herzegovina is ranked amongst the worst environmental performers in Europe and indeed the world.¹ Environmental issues are a serious obstacle to sustainable development in BiH and have a detrimental impact on the living conditions, health and human security of all of us. Understanding the urgent need for collective action in ensuring a safe and sustainable future in BiH and in order to reduce its own environmental footprint, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina pledges to undertake the following efforts:

1) Strive to reduce energy consumption and increase the saving of power and water.

- Encourage staff to shutdown desktops when leaving the office for weekends and official holidays.
- Encourage staff to use public transport and other eco-friendly modes of transport.
- Share Mission vehicles when travelling for the same purpose or when travelling for different purposes but to the same destination or in the same direction.
- Promote the use of video-conferencing instead of travelling for meetings whenever possible.
- Regulate temperatures in Mission premises with a view to saving energy after-office hours and during summer and winter months.

2) Promote sustainability practices, including the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle principle.

- Stop serving water in plastic bottles at internal meetings.
- Encourage staff to bring their own cups and reusable bottles for filling up at the water coolers.
- Increase recycling and the sorting of rubbish.
- Provide for periodic collection of expired electronic items and explore options for safe disposal of other hazardous waste.

¹ The Environmental Performance Index (EPI), which is produced jointly by Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, ranks BiH 158 out of 180 countries.

- Ensure the reuse and recycling of Mission furniture and other assets wherever possible.
- Reduce unnecessary printing.
- Eliminate the use of single-use plastic products wherever possible.

3) Conduct in-house awareness raising to sensitize staff and families on ways to reduce their environmental impact and advance environmentally-friendly practices.

- Provide information and instructions on recycling and responsible disposal.
- Organize an annual recycling day.

4) Provide support to local initiatives and ensure that projects and activities contribute to a better environment in BiH.