

Environmental impact and 10:10

The MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit is actively committed to fulfilling the MRC's Environmental Policy to minimise the impact of our business on the environment. In 2001 the Unit adopted a Green Policy primarily aimed to reduce our use of energy and paper. Since then the electricity demand of the computing network has been reduced by 75%, only recycled paper is sourced, default photocopying is double-sided, and phone and video-conferencing is increasing. In 2009 the SPHSU committed itself to the 10:10 pledge: to reduce the Unit's carbon emissions by 10% in 2010. We aim to achieve this primarily by reducing business flights, through a combination of phone/video conferencing, managing diaries to combine meetings, substituting domestic flights with train journeys, and not making low-priority journeys. In committing the Unit to 10:10 the Director, Sally Macintyre, commented:

"The MRC is committed to generating the best scientific evidence to describe health problems and intervene to improve them. There is very strong evidence that climate change is happening, that it will have a devastating effect on global health, and that it is largely man made. Given the MRC's commitment to improving health and to follow the best evidence, we are pleased to sign-up to 10:10 and so contribute to the solution to climate change, rather than exacerbate the problem."

