



## *Environment Charter of the Embassy*

**Our Embassy is committed to a collective reflection on ecological measures to make our workplace more environment-friendly.**

- These measures are being progressively put into action in our buildings (Use of recycled paper, recycling of wastes, energy- saving bulbs, shredding of documents, time switches for lighting, etc...)
- A study on the use of solar energy, rainwater harvesting and treatment of wastewater within the Embassy is being carried out.
- Finally, all the requirements for the High Quality Environmental (HQE) Norms have been fulfilled in all the real estate projects of the Embassy.

**But our attitude and some simple gestures can go a long way in reducing pollution.**

**This internal responsibility requires good practices for the environment to be observed at the Embassy as well as at home.**

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### **ELECTRICITY**

*Air Conditioners consume a lot of electricity.*

Open windows greatly increase the consumption of electricity by the Air Conditioning.

- Please keep your windows shut in spring and summer.
- When you leave a room for good, for lunch break or for more than twenty minutes, **please switch off all lights and electronic devices** (the computer, the screen and the printer in your office). **Even on Stand-by**, electronic devices especially computer screens, consume a lot of electricity.
- Change the settings on your computer screen so that it switches off automatically when inactive for more than a few minutes.

## PAPER

*Paper accounts for most of the waste at the workplace.*

- Do not print documents other than those that are **REALLY** necessary.  
All electronic mail do not need to be printed out.

You could also raise the awareness of your addressees with the following message inserted in your electronic signature:

❖ *Think of the environment before you print this.*

- To exchange data with your colleagues, use floppies or USB keys. You could also use electronic mails to circulate electronic documents.
- Some of the offices at the Embassy are equipped with **recto/verso printers**, which allow us to save great quantities of paper.
- Keep a stack of sheets **blank on one side for rough use, writing down or printing unofficial documents** for internal use.
- In the same way, envelopes used within the Embassy can be reused several times.
- For your personal notebooks or drafts, **prefer using a pencil** rather than a pen. Recycling papers can be very toxic when chemicals are used to de-ink the paper.
- Stop all unnecessary subscriptions at the Embassy (newspapers, bulletins, magazines, etc.). If several people subscribe to the same publication, draw up a circulation list. Sort out unsolicited mail: ask the sender to stop sending unnecessary mail (incorrectly addressed information or invitations, advertisements, etc.)

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## TRANSPORT

- **Check the condition of your vehicle regularly.** For example, under-inflated tires increase fuel consumption.

- If you are thinking of buying a vehicle, choose one based on its **fuel efficiency**.

Prefer low emission vehicles. Some Indian car manufacturers sell a CNG kit you fit on your car. Because CNG is not available anywhere at any time, you can still drive on petrol.

For example, the so-called **“all-terrain” vehicles consume four liters** per hundred more than other vehicles and can emit up to three times more CO<sub>2</sub>.

Also think of scooters and other small urban vehicles that consume and emit less. Take the train, the bus, the metro or the rickshaw (CNG-fueled) when possible.

Finally, think about **car pools between colleagues!**

## AT HOME

*Whether you live in the staff quarters, the Residence or in Delhi, there are efficient ways of reducing your daily consumption of water and electricity and thus reducing your ecological debt- and financial bills.*

- Start by eliminating leakage of water.
- Check the **insulation** of your house. Bad insulation wastes energy required for air conditioning and heating.
- To reduce your energy consumption, limit your use of **air conditioning and heating**. Dress in keeping with the weather.

In the same manner, use as much of **natural light** as possible, stay near the windows when reading or working.

- As and when they need replacement, replace your bulbs with **energy-saving bulbs**.
- While shopping, choose products without a lot of packing material and **refuse plastic bags** offered by shopkeepers.
- To save water, do not water your garden or potted plants in bright daylight. Place a brick or a filled bottle of water in your toilet tank.
- **Used batteries are not sorted in India.** Keep them instead of throwing them away, and when on vacation in France, deposit them at sales outlets.
- Used water is not always properly treated. Prefer **environment-friendly cleaning products** (washing powder, dish-washing liquid, shampoo, soap...), soapnuts for instance.

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Write to us, send us your ideas at : [ecologie.new-delhi-amb@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:ecologie.new-delhi-amb@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

### To learn more :

- Environment news by India Together : [www.indiatogether.org/environment](http://www.indiatogether.org/environment)
- Centre for Science and Environment : [www.cseindia.com](http://www.cseindia.com)
- Ministry of Environment and Forests : <http://envfor.nic.in>

### To measure your ecological footprint :

- Earthday Network: [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)
- WWF: [www.wwf.fr](http://www.wwf.fr)
- Global Footprint Network: [www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org)