

Recommendations on CBS Flight Sustainability Policy

18th December 2018

Justification: As the scientific evidence makes increasingly clear, urgent action is necessary to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, requiring both short and long-term initiatives to change our present unsustainable practices. As CO₂ emissions from flights make up a substantive share of CBS' Global Footprint, action is particularly needed on this front. Overall objective (which in the long term should be part of a CBS Sustainability Policy): To achieve a meaningful, long-term reduction of CO₂ emissions related to CBS business flights, we recommend STM to take the following steps in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Taskforce:

Process recommendations

1. Develop a system to calculate the CO₂ emissions from all flights related to CBS. This includes support through allocation of resources and required data. Emissions from 2018 will be calculated and serve as a baseline to measure future development.
2. Identify applicable, impactful and cost-effective practices to reduce CO₂ through the means of research and stakeholder outreach.
3. Test these practices in at least two departments that voluntarily commit themselves to exploring their impact over the coming year (2019).¹
4. Scale the best practices to a CBS wide level and monitor their effectiveness.

The SDG Taskforce has identified several **candidate practices** to be tested on the local level.

Action needed by STM is highlighted in italics/bold below. The practices are here listed according to their carbon reduction potential:

5. In planning participation in workshops/seminars/conferences as part of research networks and research projects, ***CBS staff are encouraged by STM;*** a) to consider how and where to meet in order to have the least CO₂ impact, b) to prioritize whether video- or Skype-conferencing can provide an alternative to flying or indeed a way of avoiding travelling.² A guide will be drafted providing examples of good practices along with the procedures for ensuring sufficient technical assistance at CBS for hosting/participating in such internet based events.
6. When possible, CBS staff are encouraged to use alternative means of transport than airplane; these can be train, or bus or even car. ***A specific service provider (DSB or similar) should be contracted for services.*** Tickets ensuring proper work facilities on route (whether 1st class, 'Quiet' Coupes or similar) are allowed. A short guide providing good advice on how to plan and undertake work during such travelling will be drafted, including inspirational examples of staff travels. A record of non-flight emissions should also be kept. To this end, we recommend the use of www.ecopassanger.org.

¹ The departments appoint an 'Admin. CO₂e Resource Person' who coordinates the measuring of the CO₂e impact and assists colleagues in need of support for calculating CO₂e emissions and/or adhering to new practices.

² See e.g. The Tyndall Centre's Travel Strategy, 2014:

https://tyndall.ac.uk/sites/default/files/tyndall_travel_strategy_updated.pdf And the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies Travel Policy at: <https://www.lucsus.lu.se/>.

If flying, CBS staff are encouraged to use the lowest CO₂ emissions flight available and with reasonable standards.³ As this will (most likely) mean more direct flights compared to (cheaper) round-tour arrangements, **CBS STM should allocate funds to cover the difference**. Note that different airlines have different emissions as can be seen at Atmosfair. We recommend travellers to take these alternatives into account.

7. When procuring an air-ticket, all employees should report the estimated CO₂ emissions from the trip. These can be *rapidly* calculated using Atmosfair's calculator. We recommend this calculator as it takes all GHG emissions into consideration and includes differences among airlines (<https://www.atmosfair.de/en/offset/flight>).
8. **CBS STM should ensure the facilitation of efficient and smooth working video- and Skypeconferencing.** Facilities should be available at least two sites at CBS. The training of administrative staff and/or student assistants may also be required. As immediate action is required, the SDG Taskforce recommends **implementing the following two ad hoc campaigns** starting 2019 on a CBS wide level:
9. The CBS SDG Taskforce will disseminate examples of good practices of 'CO₂ reducing practices and efforts' via email, CBS Wire and more. The SDG Taskforce will coordinate the process, drafting guides and reports on a regularly basis to CBS STM. Contact person is Louise Thomsen, CBS Sustainability & PRME.
10. From 2019 onwards, an annual prize should be established and awarded to the department or CBS Unit which reduces their CO₂ emissions from flights the most (in relative terms). Similarly, a prize for the most innovative new initiative/practice should be awarded to member of a CBS staff (VIP and TAP) or a CBS student.

We are pleased to see that other Danish, Nordic and European universities are undertaking similar initiatives and we welcome the cross-fertilization of ideas.

³ Some airlines, like Ryan Air, do provide low emission flights, but have other disadvantages (limited luggage) and socially problematic features of their business model. Hence, other low emission alternatives maybe be considered.