

# WEF Environmental Policy Statement

The Water Environment Federation is committed to fulfilling its mission to preserve and enhance the global water environment by reducing the environmental effects of its activities and helping others in the water sector to do the same. Members, volunteer leaders, partner organizations, and other associations in the water sector look to the Federation as a leader that often serves as a model for others.

## **WEF will implement practices that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the effects of global climate change.**

Our commitment to environmental awareness and preservation will be reflected in our internal and external business practices. Through the **WEFeco Program**, the Federation seeks to achieve an appropriate balance between environmental goals and economic health.

Our commitment to achieving this goal involves the following:

1. **Publication Production, Distribution, Sales, and Service Processes** - WEF is committed to conservation, efficient use, and recycling of raw materials, and reduction in the amount of waste generated. Actions for reduction of environmental effects on the environment include:
  - [WE&T](#) produced using at least 10% post-consumer waste paper stock;
  - [Highlights](#), Technical Bulletins, and [Regulation Watch](#) are provided online only;
  - No overwrapping packaging policy on magazines and journals (effective November 2008);
  - Print-on-Demand when feasible for books, reducing inventory and unused copies.
2. **Meetings, Events, and Conferences Support** - WEF is committed to reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials produced and utilized for [WEF events](#). Actions for reduction of environmental effects on the environment include:
  - Use of at least 30% post consumer waste copy machine paper;
  - Conference materials produced using at least 10% post-consumer waste paper stock;
  - [WEF Awards](#) made of renewable or recycled materials.
  - Recycling, reuse, and reduction of onsite conference materials and facility resources;
  - Consideration of travel options that have the lowest impact on the environment.
3. **Vendors Working for WEF** - WEF is committed to encouraging and utilizing vendors that reduce environmental impacts on the environment. Actions include:
  - Providing technical information to vendors to assist their own sustainable practices;
  - Giving high priority for contracts to those vendors and suppliers that have incorporated environmentally sustainable practices;
  - Encouraging vendors to upgrade their environmental standards, such as printers holding a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or other credible certifications, increasing high post-consumer waste content in paper stocks held in inventory, and use of soy inks and co-mailing.
4. **WEF Building**- WEF is committed to efficient use of natural resources and raw materials including energy, water, and paper consumption. Actions for the reduction of effects on the environment include:

- A green roof to save on energy heating and cooling costs and to reduce the volume and increase the quality of stormwater runoff;
- An energy management system for the WEF building to reduce energy consumption and costs;
- High efficiency lights that reduce energy consumption and costs;
- Motion sensors in lightly used areas to further reduce energy use and costs;
- Use of reusable dishes and flatware instead of paper products for employee meals and beverages;
- Low flow bathroom fixtures to reduce water and energy use;
- Use of eco-friendly cleaning agents and soaps;
- Use of post consumer recycled toilet tissue and hand towels.

5. **WEF Staff** - WEF staff are committed to having each employee work toward reducing environmental effects on the environment. Actions include:

- Encouraging environmental awareness among all employees through education and training so that environmental factors are considered in decision-making;
- Monitoring business practices and recommending improvements to processes;
- Supporting staff to the extent possible in efforts to reduce impacts on the environment;
- Clearly communicating WEF's environmental policy, practices, and impact to interested parties including WEF members, the public and others;
- Reduction of impacts on the environment due to staff commuting to and from work.

We will continually improve the environmental performance of our relationships, products, and processes. The overall success of the WEFeco Program will be promoted and measured in pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) reduced and our ability to diffuse and promote sustainable behavior among all our constituencies – staff, members, water businesses, suppliers, and vendors.