

CLIMATE CHANGE – energizing A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Grameenphone (GP) being a responsible corporate entity, continually strives to reduce the impact of its operations on the environment & climate and inspires its employees to act responsibly. This is why, GP launched its Climate Change Program in 2010. The program focuses on six key areas- reduce carbon emission, create employee awareness, adopt green practices, create green momentum in society and provide green services for its customers.

Since 2008, projects and initiatives like network modernization, introduction of green base stations, consolidation of core locations, and swapping air-conditioners with DC ventilation fans have helped reduce GP's carbon intensity. Through awareness and adoption of greener practices GP has also been successful in reducing paper, electricity and water usage in its premises. Green services, Mobicash and Billpay, have been instrumental in reducing customers' travel requirement and hence contributed to minimizing carbon emission of the society as well. Online school and Tele dermatology joint venture like projects are also enabling society to benefit from services moving nearer to them.

In 2013, GP continued its carbon reduction efforts through adoption of zero generator-only site policy and continuing core consolidation initiatives. A pilot project on Rain Water Harvesting has opened the prospect of further reduction in the usage of groundwater. Furthermore, GP has completed the largest BTS and Core cabinet recycling project in the history of Bangladesh.



Green Initiatives of 2013:

A Carbon (CO2) emission reduction

Core Site Consolidation and Optimization Project

GP has planned and executed various energy-saving initiatives spread over last few years with the aim of going green. The NANO project is one such initiative that had been started with the aim to consolidate and optimize the core locations to reduce power & fuel consumption. Reduction of locations from 22 to 14 with energy efficient modern equipments saved approximately 11 GW-Hr electricity and 400 thousand liters of fuel, which is around 7 thousand tons of CO2 reduction per year.

Zero generator-only site

GP has the widest coverage among all the mobile operators in Bangladesh. To cover the most area, GP had to build base stations in areas where commercial power is still unavailable. Power source for these base stations were generators only, a major fuel consuming and a large carbon emission source. In the quest for a lower

carbon solution GP has decided to convert all generator-only sites, existing and upcoming, to solar-DG hybrids. From 2013 onwards, GP will have Zero generator-only sites. In 2013, GP has converted all the 120 generator run sites to solar hybrids and also rolled out 112 new solar hybrid sites. Today, GP has a total of 496 solar hybrid sites in its network. As a result there will be 2.04 million liters of yearly fuel savings, which is over 5,400 Tons CO2 reductions per year.

B Green Company

Largest cabinet recycling project

After 2011 network modernization, GP had over 15 thousand cabinets, 13,977 BTS cabinets and 1,404 core cabinets, returned to warehouse, more than 2000 tons of e-waste! As these are all frequency related equipment, GP had to take permission from BTRC to dispose these off. After permission, all of those, except the circuit boards, were recycled to recover the constituent iron, aluminum, stainless steel, copper, and plastic for reuse. The circuit boards had been drilled and exported to partner facility to extract valuable metals. Around 98.40% of this e-waste has been successfully recovered for reuse. The recycling work performed in Bangladesh and abroad was done in accordance to ISO 14000, OSHAS 18000, and R2 standards.

Rainwater harvesting in GPHouse

GPHouse accommodates 2500 inhabitants on a daily basis to run its daily operations. Average daily water consumption at GPHouse is 250,000 Liters. To meet the requirements, we are mostly dependant on ground water, extracted through deep tube well. However, as a part of the continuous improvement, a rain water harvesting system has been implemented at GPHouse recently. The current rainwater harvesting system at GPHouse is a pilot project to capture the rain water which falls into our court yard and water body. The water collected in the catchment area, is transferred to storage tank and then used for the toilet flushing purpose. Approximately 93,000 toilet flushes annually can be done by using the collected rainwater. However, it also has a separate flow path fitted with sand filter to transfer the rain water to a raw water tank, where it can be treated further by sand filter, chemical dosing and carbon filter and be used as potable water.

C Green Services

Paper savings through ebill

As an environment conscious organization, GP introduced electronic bill service in 2009. Starting with only 4,000 subscribers, it has gained popularity over the years. Recently, the total eBill subscriber base reached the 100 thousand milestone. The eBill service provides various advantages. It is the fastest and most secure way for subscribers to receive monthly mobile bills and also enhances efficient operation in bill distribution by Grameenphone. Due to less paper use, approximately 250 trees have been saved per year since this service was initiated.

D Initiatives undertaken for awareness/consciousness purposes

Awareness Programs

GP always encourages and promotes various awareness and engagement programs to enable people to make a difference. A few such initiatives are: Celebrating Earth Hour 2013, Sharing Knowledge with Young School Students, Sponsoring, and Knowledge Based articles, etc.