

Greening the Blue in 2018

23 February 2018, Windhoek: UNDP and UNESCO hosted a UN Staff 'Brown Bag' discussion to introduce staff members to UN Namibia's Greening the Blue (GtB) initiatives for 2018.

GtB is a UN-system wide initiative aimed at ensuring that the UN goes green and reduces its carbon footprint. In line with SDG 13 'Climate Action', GtB also raises environmental awareness amongst UN staff so that they in turn can lead by example and take climate action.

Last year, under the umbrella of GtB, UN Namibia installed solar panels at the UN House in Klein Windhoek, Namibia – where the offices of various UN agencies are located. With the installation, UN Namibia was able to save energy costs. Recycling bins were also introduced throughout the building to encourage staff to take responsibility for reusing, reducing and recycling.

The 'Brown Bag' discussion platform is an informal space that encourages open and free discussion among staff members. At this session, staff members were able to provide their inputs on GtB initiatives for 2018.

This year, the GtB Task Team will introduce minimal printing days, encourage the use of reusable water bottles or glasses in UN meetings, and reintroduce plant life into the UN building and provide proper training to staff in order to ensure plants survive.

UN Staff Members will also be identified as GtB Champions to encourage their peers to reuse, reduce and recycle. Everyone is encouraged to also carry the spirit of GtB in their own lives – with a united effort of people across Namibia and the globe, we can make 2018 a year of change.

