

Greening of the public sector
Government of Mauritius
The Green Charter for the Public Sector



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Government leading by example

Today's triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution is a result of humanity's unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. There is therefore an urgency to review and redefine our way of life.

According to UN reports, our planet Earth is under enormous pressure by using resources twice faster than what our planet can cope with. If human activities continue on this pace, by 2050, we will need three planets to sustain our way of life! "Business as Usual" is therefore no longer an option!

As a vulnerable Small Island Developing State, Mauritius, has also not been spared from the impacts of the triple planetary crisis, which is threatening our hard earned development gains, impacting on the sustainable development and weakening our country's ability to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a responsible Government, we are determined to **ACT**. Being a large consumer of resources and a big waste generator, Government is committed to lead by example in greening the **public sector**, fulfilling its role as a public steward of resources. We have a responsibility to work together to reduce our environmental impacts by accelerating our own action and mobilizing others to do so.

To this effect, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change has come up with a Green Charter for the Public Sector. The adoption of this Charter is a major step to galvanize and steer collective action towards reducing public expenditure, improving the sustainability performance of the public sector and fostering a green culture and behaviour within public organisations.

Our Vision

The Public Sector is committed to be a model of sustainability and inclusiveness towards achieving the Government's vision of ecological transition and green economy.

Our Mission

The Public Sector endeavours to set ambitious sustainability goals and safeguard natural and social capitals in the most cost effective manner.

Our **TEN** Core Guiding Principles

- 1) We will work together to achieve the vision and mission of our Green Charter.
- 2) We will embrace a green culture and behaviour across our public organisations;
- 3) We will continuously evaluate and improve our environmental performance in our organisations;
- 4) We will support and encourage sustainability initiatives and objectives in our organisations;
- 5) We will optimise the use of resources at all levels by enabling sustainable consumption and circularity;
- 6) We will embrace the 9Rs of circular economy:
 - R1: Refuse
 - R2: Rethink
 - R3: Reduce
 - R4: Reuse
 - R5: Repair
 - R6: Refurbish
 - R7: Remanufacture
 - R8: Repurpose
 - R9: Recycle and Recover
- 7) We will foster sustainable public procurement of products and services;
- 8) We will move towards digitalisation of our operations and services;
- 9) We will adopt smart, green and innovative technologies in our operations; and
- 10) We will support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Commitments

Culture and Behaviour

- We will continuously sensitise our staff and colleagues to adopt sustainable practices with respect to efficient use of resources, saving energy and water, waste minimisation, paperless work, avoidance of plastic products and hazardous chemicals and adoption of sustainable technology.
- We will support green skills development within the workforce.
- We will put in place enabling mechanisms to promote green practices such as shredding and recycling of waste paper, recycling of electronic equipment, central printing services, repair and refurbishment of office furniture and amenities.

Green Procurement

- We will mainstream sustainability criteria in procurement specifications.
- We will support green business practices through procurement of eco-friendly and sustainable products.
- We will support local businesses through sourcing of local green products and services.

Buildings and Infrastructure

- We will promote green design in new buildings and infrastructure.
- We will promote energy and water efficiency in new buildings and existing buildings of public organisations.
- We will as far as possible optimise on natural light as well as use energy efficient lighting to save energy.

- We will identify and implement renewable energy opportunities across the public sector.
- We will, as far as possible, create and maintain green areas within our public buildings and premises to enhance the indoor air quality by cooling buildings and reducing the need for air conditioning.

Mobility

- We will encourage and incentivise sustainable ways of travelling, including carpooling.
- We will procure efficient and low emission vehicles for our organisations.

Digital transformation

- We will demonstrate a commitment to digital engagement and unleash digital innovation.
- We will work towards going paperless.
- We will foster use of digital resources, technologies and infrastructure to enable work from home as far as possible.
- We will provide capacity building on digital skills.

The list of commitments is non-exhaustive and each public organisation is invited to work on their own pledges.