



# International Co-operative Alliance

## Strategy to address Climate Change

*Adopted by the ICA Board  
2 April 2008, Washington DC (USA)*

### Introduction

The ICA General Assembly resolution, “Climate Change: Our Co-operative Commitment” adopted in October 2007 calls on the ICA and its members to focus on the issue of climate change; asserts that ICA members will make a significant and appropriate contribution to the cause of reducing future climate change impacts, and commits co-operatives to:

1. measure and reduce (pro rata) the greenhouse gas emissions
2. communicate with, inform and motivate members towards a lower carbon lifestyle.
3. use political influence play a constructive part in the Kyoto negotiations.

### Strategy

The following strategy sets out a number of areas which ICA can address to implement the resolution.

#### • Leadership

The ICA leadership – the ICA president and vice-presidents, global and regional boards, chairs of the sectoral organisations and thematic committee, ICA senior officials all must take action to demonstrate their commitment to climate change and make their commitment visible to the movement and international community. They must actively promote initiatives to mitigate the impact of climate change and assist cooperatives, their members and the communities they serve to adapt to climate change impacts. These can include both political and practical actions including :

1. The Board take action to enable ICA to join the UN Global Compact and become a signatory to the “Caring for Climate: The business leadership platform”.
2. The global and regional boards commit to ensure that the ICA head and regional offices are carbon neutral.
3. ICA offset its carbon emissions for travel of ICA staff; ICA leadership offset emissions for travel to ICA events and encourage ICA members to also offset emissions of travel to ICA events.
4. ICA set up a “leadership council” of interested ICA members and experts to provide advice and guidance propose goals and targets as well concrete actions to be taken by the organisation, sectors and members.
5. ICA and its members seek to partner with key organisations involved in climate change and participate in international, regional and national events to

highlight the co-operative contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- **Information**

One of the key roles of the ICA is to be a knowledge-based organisation on the co-operative model of enterprise. It therefore should seek to identify and share good practice on co-operative action in the area of climate change. Action may include:

1. Collect good practice from ICA members in all regions and sectors and disseminate through websites, ICA publications, etc
2. Identify reputable sources of information on the theme for members and advise of key international and regional trends that will impact co-operative activity
3. Publish a fact sheet on co-operatives and climate change
4. Identify partners, certification schemes, consultants, assessment resources, etc.
5. Create visibility and raise awareness on co-operative best practices on climate change issues

- **Build Capacity**

1. Explore way to integrate capacity building on how to address climate change in existing ICA training programmes
2. Undertake specific training for ICA leadership at global and regional levels
3. Seek to expand partnerships/support, such as *The Natural Step*, for specific training on sustainability issues in co-operatives and specific support for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
4. Assist members identify reputable partners for certification, assessment etc.

- **Research to make the case of co-operatives**

Support or encourage research on sustainability and the co-operative form of enterprise