



sustainability report 2009



Communication on Progress - UN Global Compact



Architecture for a better world

“Norway should take a leading role when it comes to developing sustainable architecture and cities. The building industry needs to face these challenges and take responsibility for a large part of the emissions threatening our planet.”

-The Norwegian Minister of Foreign affairs Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre.

INDEX

- 01** About Alliance Arkitekter
- 02** Statement of continued support
- 03** Concrete actions 2007/2008
- 04** Living the Principles
- 05** Our Goals for 2009/2010



01 About Alliance arkitekter

Alliance arkitekter AS is a Norwegian architectural studio established in June 2005, with headquarters in Oslo.

The majority of our projects are located on the west coast of Norway and we are currently developing an assortment of projects in the eastern parts of Norway. The studio collaborate with various international offices as we participate in both national and international architectural competitions frequently.

The scope of Alliance arkitekter's work spans from case studies and zoning/development/master plans to the development and completion of various building projects.

The scales of our projects range from the detailing of a 50m² boathouse to 220,000m² zoning plans. We primarily work with new construction, but are also involved in renovation, restoring and extensions to existing structures. The majority of our commissions consist of residential and commercial developments.

In the spring of 2007, as the first architectural office in Norway, we became

members of the UN's Global Compact where members commit themselves to aligning their operations with ten principles concerning environment, sustainability, human rights and labour. Our involvement is initially concerned with environmental issues and sustainability in conjunction with the role of architecture as a trigger in encouraging the public to social participation. As architects we aspire to encourage a discourse in urban development, where the interests of private developers may diverge from the needs of the society.

We value diversity in our work environment. Our studio is organized as a non-hierarchical/horizontal structure and we continuously seek to collaborate with groups and individuals from other disciplines. We believe that this collaboration will contribute to a positive synergy effect as well as add positive and diverse energy to the work processes, resulting in creative methods and original results. We carefully assemble teams that possess the necessary experience requested in combination with innovative strategies. This represents an energy and an attitude that inspire us in our daily work.

Architecture, as a part of the building industry, is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions, worldwide. Every time we design a building, we project its energy consumption pattern and its greenhouse gas emissions pattern for the next 50-100 years. This emphasizes why the building industry and the sector we work within is so critical. This is why our membership in The Global Compact is a vital and relevant tool for our practice.

Since the office was launched in June 2005, we have been focusing on how to utilize the ten principles within our sphere of influence. Another important area is how to encourage other companies, partners and collaborators in our industry to act likewise. After two years of Global Compact activities it is clear to us that even a small architectural office can make a considerable contribution in our common efforts to improve the world.

During the last two years our contribution to enhance the use of the principles has mainly been through changing our client's attitude on environmental design. We also implemented different internal measures to improve our social impact.

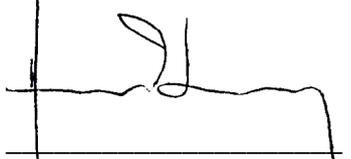
We attended different network meetings and seminars where CSR, Climate Change and Sustainability have been some of the main topics.

We actively participate in the public debate concerning the architect's social responsibility and role in society. We strive for a sustainable and innovative architecture, as a result of a reciprocal process between the individual and the society.

We believe that the social and environmental components are crucial in the development of long term profits and competitive advantages and we plan to continue and further develop our commitment to the Global Compact principles.

Additionally we continuously seek ways to develop our work and proficiency of the various aspects of the profession through workshops, a wide range of interdisciplinary collaborations, study trips, literature as well as the constant exchange of ideas and information.

Oslo, June 2009



Mr. Harald Martin Gjøvaag
Founder & Director
Alliance arkitekter AS

Participation in Nordic Network activities:

We attended the Global Compact Nordic Network meeting held in Oslo in May 23rd and 24th 2007, where the role of enterprises regarding CSR and sustainability as well as climate change, were two important issues. The Oslo Spectrum Event the following evening with speeches by Kofi Annan and Bill Clinton increased our inspiration and ambitions. Recently we attended the GC Nordic Network meeting held in Oslo on May 18th and 19th 2009, where Business and Climate were one of the main topics.

Participation in CSR Forums:

We attended the Forum for CSR and Sustainability organized by the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO), in Oslo 12th of June 2007.

Internal Awareness Sessions:

There is no quick fix when it comes to implementing a sustainable CSR-strategy in a company. We believe that the driving force, the wish to contribute and the wish to improve this world, must arise from the interior, both inside each individual as well as being manifest in the policy of the company. The financial strategy for the company must reflect this as well. During 2007/2008 we had multiple sessions internally discussing our responsibility as a private cooperation, as architects, as humans, as individuals and as a group. We also discussed different ways we could act out our responsibilities. We asked ourselves: What are we here to do? What are our attitudes? What kind of behavior do we want to be known for? What would we like to see ourselves become? These questions resulted in answers that led us to a common vision and a common set of core values which are essential in our work today. All employees participated in this process. We also evaluated these sessions and the results

were unanimous: the actual process, the discussions we had and the thoughts we shared were just as important to us as the final results.

Our vision for the future is to create architecture for a better world, by being challenging, curious and responsible.

Pioneering:

Being the first architectural office in Norway to commit to the ten principles of the Global Compact comes with some challenges. Through awareness, knowledge and involvement we will continue to encourage architects and other companies in our industry to join the Global Compact.

Paper recycling initiative:

We installed recycling paper boxes in our offices. Due to the nature of our business, it has been challenging to reduce the consumption of paper. However, we have urged our employees to use 2-sided print as much as possible.

Now we are recycling paper, reducing our environmental impact.

Competence mapping:

We went through the process of mapping all our different competences, in order to take full advantage of the knowledge of each individual.

Employments:

In 2007 we hired a Chaospilot with experience from CSR in various business sectors to assist us in implementing the principles and at the same time work with our in-house culture, design and facilitate awareness workshops.

In 2008 we hired two persons with extensive experience and education within sustainable architecture in terms of energy efficiency, sustainable design, building management, methods and materials.

04 Living the Principles:

Due to the type and small size of our business, our biggest impact is via our clients, various connections to collaborators and the media. We are committed to raise awareness around The Global Compact and The ten principles, and proactively encourage them to take actions.

We find it realistic for us to incorporate two principles each year, this being our first year, we have chosen focus on the principles concerning the environment.

Human Rights - Principles 1 and 2

Alliance arkitekter is committed to the protection of international human rights within our sphere of influence.

Alliance arkitekter fulfills all its responsibilities according to Norwegian law, and we have developed a health and safety management system. Where available, we use Fairtrade products at the office.

Labor - Principles 3, 4, 5 and 6

Alliance arkitekter is committed to protect labour rights, including freedom of association, abolition of forced and child labor, and the elimination of any type of discrimination. Alliance arkitekter fulfills all its responsibilities according to Norwegian law. We have collectively gathered a considerable amount of experience through employment with other architectural firms in Norway and abroad. At the end of 2008, 10% of our working force was from abroad, promoting ethnic diversity. The office focuses on maintaining a good gender balance.

Environment - Principles 7, 8 and 9

Alliance arkitekter is committed to the promotion of greater environmental responsibility and precautionary approaches to environmental challenges.

“Energy efficiency is fast becoming one of the defining issues of our times, and buildings are that issue’s ‘elephant in the room’. Buildings use more energy than any other sector and as such are a major contributor to climate change.”

-Björn Stigson, president of the WBCSD.

As architects we have a remarkable opportunity to influence the building industry in areas considering design, methods and materials. We take advantage of this opportunity as often as possible.

To our clients we promote both environmentally friendly and sustainable materials and methods. We see the possibility for much improvement in this field and by being the first architectural office in Norway committed to these principles, we seek to influence our colleagues and consultants to do the same.

Urban planning and development is among our major assignments. Our ambition is to expand our projects to involve elements that contributes to an environmentally sound and sustainable transformation of an area.

In-house precautionary measures:

During 2007 we used 29 kg of paper per person. This was reduced to 26 kg per person in 2008.

We recycle all paper waste.

All lights and computers are shut down during off hours.

We plan to establish an office on the west coast of Norway, where most of our projects and clients are located. This will reduce the number of flights.

Corruption - Principle 10

Alliance arkitekter is committed to work against corruption in all its forms.

05 Our goals for 2009/2010:

In order to measure our progression and development of our work with the ten principles, we have set some specific goals for the coming year.

By June 2010 we aim to achieve:

- Five projects where we have had a thorough discussion, in the preliminary stages of the project, regarding sustainable options and solutions as well as methods and materials.
- Two projects where we have integrated environmental impact tools and energy simulation tools.
- Attended two external courses or seminars within the field of sustainable architecture and building.
- Published two articles on the architects role and responsibility in society.
- Four project contracts with entrepreneurs and/or clients where we have implemented the GC-principles.
- Attended two network meetings (different networks), in regards to sustainability and CSR.
- Invited other architects to an open workshop where we mobilize and discuss the challenges architects face in regards to sustainable and environmentally friendly design and building management. And how we face the barriers together.
- Establish a partnership relation for a specific project with a Norwegian or foreign NGO working with environmental issues.
- Establish a partnership relation with a local contractor with high environmental ambitions.

**This Communication of progress has been discussed, reviewed and approved by
our board and all our employees.**

**This report is published on the United Nations Global Compact website
www.unglobalcompact.org and our own website www.allark.no**



kristian augusts gate 13 0164 oslo
t: +47 22 36 40 44
e: post@allark.no www.allark.no