

United Nations Global Compact

DANSKE ARK Communication on Engagement

April 2014 – April 2016

I am pleased to confirm that DANSKE ARK reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

We also warmly support the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and will taken action to pursue these in our sphere of influence.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for Business Associations like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders.



Lene Espersen

Chief Executive Officer

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Nature of business

DANSKE ARK is a business association for architectural firms based in Denmark. Our objective is to represent the commercial interests of practicing architects and strengthen the position, quality of work and professionalism of its member firms. We have more than 650 member firms which employ about 5000 persons combined and account for 85-90% of the aggregate building contract sums in Denmark. The majority of members are small and medium size enterprises.

DANSKE ARK works strategically to promote sustainability by pursuing political influence towards smart regulation for resource efficiency and social value in the built environment. We strive to build competencies and develop business models for the life cycle processes of design, construction, operation and reuse of buildings, urban areas and landscapes that our members are involved in.

We are continuously engaged in the public debate on urban development, building standards and the quality of the built environment. We aim to communicate and discuss how architecture creates value – for society, users and clients.

As a member of Green Building Council Denmark we work to build alliances with other progressive organizations and companies in the building and design sector to push the boundaries of quality and sustainability performance in the built environment.

Key focus areas

DANSKE ARK has four committees, one of which is entirely devoted to address and pursue questions of sustainability in the built environment. The other three committees deal with political issues, business development and legal issues. Though sustainability has its own committee, sustainability is – in varying ways – a core consideration in all committees. The committee on sustainability has identified three focus areas that are given priority among the various questions the committee addresses:

- Building a knowledge base, identifying and communicating how sustainable architectural solutions create value - socially, environmentally and economically
- Building frameworks for sustainable construction in building and planning codes as well as green building standards
- Developing services and business models for sustainability in architectural practice

Activities

UN Global Compact Nordic Network

DANSKE ARK participates in the UN Global Compact Nordic Network. The network is hosted by Dansk Industri - the Confederation of Danish Industries - which DANSKE Ark is a member organisation of. On the Nordic Network meeting May 4-5 2015 Peter Andreas Sattrup – Senior adviser on sustainability to DANSKE ARK – gave a dinner talk on the subject of value creation by sustainable architecture and planning. Two DANSKE ARK member firms – Henning Larsen Architects and Third Nature – gave key note talks on climate adaptation and resilient cities,

The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

DANSKE ARK welcomes and embraces the 17 SDGs and will work to find ways that we can support these in action with our members. As a first initiative we are organizing a member meeting 20th of April 2016 to discuss possible participation and sponsorship of the 'Future City of Africa' Conference in Nairobi, Kenya June 9-11. The rapid urbanization in Africa is a challenge which Danish architects can develop solutions for in partnerships with African organizations and businesses.

Promoting Green Architecture and Planning

A key aim in DANSKE ARKs political work is improving the quality of the built environment through smart regulation and creating incentives for resource efficiency and social value. We are continuously engaged in discussions with government bodies on local, national and EU levels on legal frameworks with a view to promote sustainable architecture and planning. On the EU level we have commented on the Energy Efficient Buildings Directive and are promoting an ambitious Danish implementation of circular economy. In a Danish context we have argued politically for an 700m DKK incentive scheme for energy efficiency retrofitting and climate adaptation of housing which has now been implemented. DANSKE ARK is - along with other business associations for stakeholders in the construction sector - working for political awareness that the built environment needs to be considered an inherent part of the energy system, when policies for the transition to renewable energy are decided. The Danish building regulations are currently in a reform process which DANSKE ARK is engaged in. We seek to develop a system that not only defines a base standard of construction, but offer incentives and standards for superior performance and resource efficiency as well.

Green Building Council Denmark

As premium members of DK-GBC DANSKE ARK is part of a non-profit association of businesses and organizations that work to promote green building standards, education, business models and design across the value chain of the building industry. DANSKE ARKs senior advisor Peter Andreas Sattrup is member of the board of the DK-GBC, and app. 25% of DK-GBCs member firms are architectural firms.

Sustainability Tools

The DK-GBC has chosen the DGNB certification system as a standard tool to design and document sustainability of buildings and urban districts. DK-GBC has to date educated more than 350 DGNB consultants, contributing to improved competencies in the construction sector. Approximately half the DGNB consultants are architects. DANSKE ARK is working with DK-GBC to expand the field of certifiable building types, while updating standards and push performance. DANSKE ARK is developing new standards for architectural quality certification in collaboration with Green Building Council Germany.

DANSKE ARK is contributing to an industrial PhD project on Green Building Certification and architectural Design with the Technical University of Denmark and JJW Arkitekter.

DANSKE ARK is contributing to the development of the life cycle costing tool LCC-Byg and the Life Cycle Assessment tool LCA-Byg that were released in 2015 by the Danish Energy Agency. DANSKE ARK is arranging member meetings to promote their implementation in practice during spring 2016.

Social Responsibility

DANSKE ARK is a member organization of the Danish Council on Health and Safety in Construction – BAR Branchearbejdsmiljørådet for Byggeri og Anlæg - that works to improve health and safety on Danish construction sites. Key activities are education, guidelines and awareness building. DANSKE ARK is contributing partner in a new Nordic educational initiative, and a partner in the Health and Safety Hotline and knowledge center.

DANSKE ARK is also a member in the Byggeriet Samfundsansvar - Social Responsibility of the Construction Sector association.

Communication


DANSKE ARK is regularly participating in public debates on sustainability, through print, broadcast and social media. We encourage debate on the quality of the built environment, and pursue awareness of the influence of architecture on the social, environmental and economic sustainability of society.

A key communication initiative by DANSKE ARK is the 'Architecture creates value' collection of built cases and research documenting social, environmental and economic value creation in the built environment through sustainable

architectural design. Other communication initiatives include a contribution to State of Green's White paper on Smart Buildings: Thinking smart in the design phase <http://stateofgreen.com/files/download/8165>. A contribution to the book Nordic Built Innovation: 30 Sustainable Nordic Buildings http://nordicbuiltcities.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Katalog_webb.pdf. A contribution to Harvard University workshops and upcoming publication on sustainable Scandinavian architecture <http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/#/events/sustainability-in-scandinavia.html>.

DANSKE ARK is occasionally hosting delegations from abroad interested in knowledge transfer and Danish experiences and competencies in green building and urban development: Recent visits include delegations from Chile, China and the United Kingdom in collaboration with State of Green.

The following members of the Board of Directors in Danish Association of Architectural Firms, hereby declare that adhere to the present document.




Kolja Nielsen
CEBRA A/S

Katja Viltoft
JJW Arkitekter

Anders Strange
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Kristian Hagemann
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