

18 December 2020

DAC UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement

Period covered by our Communication on Engagement (COE)

From 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

1. Statement on continued support by CEO Kent Martinussen

I am pleased to reaffirm Danish Architecture Center's support to United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In Danish Architecture Centre, we continue to believe that architecture has a vital role to play in overcoming many of the great challenges of the future. We believe that these challenges must be solved in interaction with different professional perspectives and that we, by pooling our resources together, can achieve greater reach and effect. Therefore, we work as an open platform between citizens and professionals, culture and business, Denmark and the world. An open platform for co-creation, open innovation and democratic engagement that contributes to creating economic, social, and environmentally sustainable development - both in Denmark and internationally.

The Danish Architecture Centre works in accordance with Danish legislation that implements all issues regarding workers' rights, human rights and anti-corruption as described in the UN Global Compact. We have hitherto only reported on our core business projects, which aim to involve, engage, and enlighten citizens, professionals and political decision makers within the green transition, climate adaptation and sustainability, which are an important element in Global Compact.

Recently we have begun the process of documenting Danish Architecture Center's sustainability as part of a bigger value chain where we are suppliers, consumers, employers, and agents in many other ways that impact the UN Global Compact's ten principles and the UN Social Development Goals (SDGs). We aim to be able to produce the first full report in our new framework in 2022.

Kent Martinussen

CEO, Danish Architecture Center

2. Description of Actions

All of Danish Architecture Center's activities reflect our core narrative and thus address issues of sustainable development be it handling the effects of the climate change, building to minimize the negative impacts of construction, or creating environments and buildings that are socially sustainable.

DAC is advisor to the Danish government on architecture and urban development and has as a core task to brand the industry internationally in exhibitions and trade missions. This is undertaken in partnerships with individual businesses in design, construction, and development as well as the relevant federations and governmental departments.

DAC is partly financed by three Danish ministries and partly by Realdania, a member-based philanthropic organization that uses the return of its equity to support projects in the built environment: cities, buildings, and the built heritage.

Thus, forming partnerships has been a way of work since DAC was founded in 1986.

Below a description of DACs actions in 2020.

Energy and resources

With Danish Architecture Center's 2018 move to a new address and newly erected, modern building, the conditions for sustainable operations have improved. DAC is powered by electricity from renewable sources, primarily wind.

Particularly within energy consumption it has been possible to reduce electricity consumption for both heating and lighting. Efforts continue to identify areas where energy consumption may be reduced. DAC is working towards setting annual goals for this which will be reported annually from 2022.

A waste project is also in the pipeline where waste fractions will be further broken down, goals set, and actions reported annually.

DACs exhibitions are already passing on many exhibits and other structures and materials when taking down an exhibition. Going forward we wish to document to what extent.

Exhibitions and learning

In 2020 the main theme for exhibitions, learning activities and tours have been livable cities expressed under the headlines Hello Denmark and Kids' City.

The two exhibitions address the way Danish design, including architecture and urban planning, is based on sustainable values, for example inclusion, trust, affordability, access to the outdoors, bicycling etc.

Guided tours take visitors out into Copenhagen and Denmark to illustrate these points.

Learning activities for schools either at DAC or at the school can be a few hours or a full day. Subjects include general knowledge about architecture and urban planning as well as more specific titles such as 'Sustainable Cities' and 'When the Rain Comes' about facing climate change.

DAC Café and Conferences

DAC Café is working towards achieving the bronze certificate from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's Organic Label. To achieve a bronze certificate 30 – 60 per cent of the food and drink in the café must be organic.

DAC Conferences and Meetings is a partner in Danish Conference Venues. In 2021, DAC will join Danish Conference Venues' SDG program which secures ongoing improvements in minimum 5 of the 17 SDGs.

Projects in the pipeline include documentation and goals for recycling exhibitions materials as well as establishing a code of conduct for DAC's suppliers. Furthermore, DAC Shop will systematically source products with a sustainable profile; fair-trade, organic or NGO-approved items.

Talks and Sector activities

BLOXtalk

A two-hour talk (live and podcast) with some of the world's most important experts, who are right now setting their mark on our future. Get inspired by their big visions and ideas within architecture, urban planning, design, technology and larger-than-life matters.

2020 program

- World-renowned Danish architect Bjarke Ingels, BIG, and Canadian innovator, artist and writer Douglas Coupland talking about art and architecture.
- Science journalist Tor Nørretranders and BIG partner Jakob Lange, head of BIG Ideas and the Mars City project talking about sustainable ways to push the boundaries of development perhaps into Outer Space.
- Architect Anders Lendager, Minister for Housing Kaare Dybvad and NREP CEO Claus Mathisen talking about building sustainably.

MorgenDAC

A morning event (live and podcast) every Tuesday for professionals and citizens who want to stay updated on different relevant topics about urban development and architecture.

2020 program

- Urban spaces
- Tourism
- How do we use the space in our cities
- Biking in the city
- Democracy, citizen involvement
- Developers in the cities
- Looking back on the development of Copenhagen
- Sustainable urban development
- Housing in the future
- Urban development in Copenhagen
- The responsibility of architects
- Social housing

Podcasts

Besides the BLOXtalk and MorgenDAC podcasts DAC also produces Byens Ånd (the City Spirit) and Let's Talk Architecture which introduce you to the creative and innovative minds behind the future of our buildings and cities, hopefully in a more sustainable world. The Danish Architecture Center's masterclass Let's Talk Architecture explores key issues around professional practice in the built environment.

Urbantech

Gathers professionals, citizens and start-ups to discuss tomorrow's tech-solutions and how they can contribute to more sustainable and circular cities.

Nordic Innovation Communication material

The purpose of the activity is to promote sustainable Nordic solutions in North America, India and China. The hope is that by doing so, knowledge and demand for sustainable solutions will rise in these countries.

Session: Deliberative democracy

Event in a collaboration with DIPD, We Do Democracy, OECD, and DAC where the OECD report on 'deliberative democracy' was launched.

Strategic Urban Governance (SUG)

SUG (in Danish Strategisk Byledelse, SBL) are comprehensive skills development programs with a focus on the strategic development and adaptation of cities. The focus is on city management in a time marked by green transition, globalization, and the challenges of the welfare state in addition to building networks, both nationally and internationally.

The Danish Architecture Centre offers three different programs: SBL for Directors, SBL for Technical Directors and SBL for Politicians. Through SUG programmes, mayors, municipal managers, technical directors, development managers and the like develop skills to undertake strategic leadership, identify challenges and potentials and implement strategic goals.

SUG is designed and operated by Danish Architecture Center on behalf of a partnership between Realdania and The Association of Technical Directors in Danish Local Authorities (KTC) and The Danish Association of Local Government Executives (KOMDIR).

Sustainable build

This program brings together the industry in an innovation process where we identify challenges, develop solutions, share knowledge, strengthen cooperation and accelerate innovation. Sustainable Build is an industry partnership and innovation program aiming to accelerate the sustainable transition in the built environment. The process is centered on innovators with new sustainable solutions and accelerating their way to market and implementation. The project increases knowledge sharing and collaboration in the industry through an annual theme which challenges the whole industry. The process helps strengthen the competitiveness of sustainable solutions and scale new sustainable products and business models.

Sustainable Build is realized in close cooperation with the construction sector's suppliers, builders, businesses, and organizations.

Founding Partners: NCC, the Central Denmark Region, PensionDanmark, Henning Larsen Architects, Tarkett.

The project is a collaboration between the Danish Industry Foundation, The Danish Landowners Foundation and was developed by Danish Architecture Center in cooperation with Leaderlab.

Sustainordic

This platform and network aim to promote sustainable consumption and production based on a Nordic perspective, in accordance with the UN's SDG no.12 of Agenda 2030. The initiative takes its starting point in a joint manifesto with twelve underlying subgoals. The manifesto has interpreted SDG no. 12 into more concrete points of

action which resonate with Nordic values.

Sustainordic is a collaborative network between six Nordic design and architecture institutions. The project owners are the Swedish Centre for Architecture and Design (SE) and Form/Design Center (SE), the co-partners are DogA (NO), DAC (DK), Design Forum Finland (FI) and Iceland Design and Architectur (IS). The project was founded in 2015 with the support of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Nordic smart city model

Municipalities and organizations from all over the Nordic countries have joined forces to define a smart city model based on Nordic social values. Based on already existing work, smart city initiatives and strategies in the Nordic countries, we will develop a united Nordic smart city model, which can serve as a framework for smart city work in cities and municipalities both in the Nordics and internationally. The model will describe how Nordic cities and municipalities can act as drivers and facilitators for collaborative processes and use new technology while protecting and putting forward the interests of the inhabitants.

In addition to defining and describing a Nordic smart city model, we will identify projects from each Nordic country that demonstrate the model in practice. These projects will be showcased in selected Nordic and international arenas.

The following organizations are behind the initiative:

Nordic Smart City Network
Nordic Edge
Design and Architecture Norway (DOGA)
Danish Design Center
Danish Architecture Center
BloXHUB
Demos Helsinki
Iceland Design and Architecture
Nordic Urban Resilience Institute

Renover Prisen

The 100.000 DKK Renover (Refurbish!) prize money was won by Architema, Moe engineers and others for transformation of The Royal Danish Library in Aarhus. Realdania and Grundejernes Investeringsfond are behind the prize which celebrates the best refurbishing projects among Denmark's older buildings.

3. Measurement of outcomes

Activity	Attendance (persons) in 2020
Exhibitions	95,611
Learning	3,849
Tours	3,361
Podcasts	12,614 downloads
BLOXtalk	510
MorgenDAC	977
Renover Prisen	> 1,000 attending digitally
Urbantech	50
Sustainable Buils	80
Sustainordic	-
Nordic smart city model	-
Nordic Innovation Communication material	Ongoing
Session: Deliberative Democracy	110
Strategic Urban Governance	85

Recently, DAC has begun the process of setting up a framework as well as key performance indicators and goals for our sustainability efforts as part of a bigger value chain where DAC has the role of supplier, consumer, employer, and agent in many other ways that impact the UN Global Compact's ten principles and the UN Social Development Goals (SDGs). We aim to be able to produce the first full report in our new framework in 2022.

The direction our work is taking at this point is described below.

Human rights

Employee mental well-being policy

As DAC adheres to Danish law employee rights and working conditions are well regulated. However, the debate in society in general regarding representation, equal rights, and harassment has resulted in a new policy for employees' mental well-being which will be formally approved by the employer/employee board, SAM in February of 2021.

Inclusion and representation

DAC plans to set firm goals for inclusion and representation in 2021 to secure gender, ethnic and social representation in exhibitions, cultural programs, and staff that mirrors Danish society.

Labour

SAM

DAC's employer/employee board, SAM, consists of four staff representatives and four management representatives who meet at least four times per year to discuss matters regarding the work environment and DAC's activities in general.

In 2020, three new staff members have been elected and the whole board has passed the mandatory work environment course. Furthermore, a plan for updating DAC's APVs (workplace evaluations) has been approved. The APVs will be updated in the first quarter of 2021.

Environment

As described above, a framework will be in place in 2021 to measure our progress in reducing energy consumption.

Starting in December 2020 waste will be sorted into more fractions which will automatically increase recycling. Reporting on progress will be possible from 2021.

Corruption

As DAC adheres to Danish law, accounting and financial reporting are audited, and procedures for governance are in place. DAC does not tolerate corruption in any form.