



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

GRØNN BYGGALLIANSE (NORWEGIAN GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL)
PERIOD COVERED: FROM: 2020 TO: 2021

PART I. STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

June 13, 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Grønn Byggallianse (Norwegian Green Building Council) 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. 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 an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Katharina Th. Bramslev, Chief Executive Officer

(electronically signed)

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

Background

Grønn Byggallianse is a Norwegian non-profit organization headquartered in Oslo. The organization is politically independent and multi-stakeholder orientated with a particular focus on ensuring sustainability becomes a driving-force and an integral business consideration of companies in the built environment sector.

The organization's mission and vision is "to ensure that sustainability becomes a first and foremost consideration in the built environment sector". Our aim is to become a centre for knowledge and expertise in developing a greener real-estate sector and develop sustainable local communities.

To achieve this, we focus on 5 key activities:

- Knowledge and Training - We offer targeted and industry specific training to sustainability professionals in companies from the entire value-chain in the built environment sector, as well as for public sector professionals. We produce tools and instruments such as checklists, manuals, and guidance documents.
- Certification – We develop and offer BREEAM-NOR certification for new buildings and renovated buildings; we provide introductory courses for BREEAM In-Use.
- Advocacy - We challenge and help change regulations, incentives, policies, practices, and narratives that support a greener built environment sector, for a more sustainable society and a healthier planet.
- Sharing of Best Practice – We offer services such as Forums and Study-Trips where members can share and learn from each other's strategies, activities and projects, focusing on improving sustainability performance.
- Communication and Outreach – We produce targeted communication through products such as newsletters, Op.Eds., case-studies, to increase awareness on the issue of the built environment sector's impact on the environment, and the solutions available to reduce its ecological footprint. We disseminate key research findings and innovative solutions, as well as identify the need for further research and innovation.

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS IN 2020 AND 2021 RELEVANT TO UNGC

As Grønn Byggallianse operates in a broad scope, the organisation cannot be classified solely as an academic institution, business association or civil society organisation but rather as a hybrid of these. Activities conducted by Grønn Byggallianse correlate to the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact and are underpinned also by the many UN Conventions on the Environment and the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 17 is at the core of what we do. A key effect of our work is strengthened instruments, interaction and management for a more sustainable construction and real estate sector.

The last two years have been impacted by the global pandemic. This situation led to a reorganization of activities where physical meetings were substituted with digital ones. As a result, the climate and environment footprint of our activities is reduced, and a higher number of participants in our

activities were recorded. Grønn Byggallianse also developed a new strategy, identifying 6 thematic areas, where outcome-orientated goals are formulated for each area. The new strategy is operational from January 1, 2022. A full and comprehensive description of our activities is available in our Annual Report 2020 and 2021 (in Norwegian). The reports are accessible at www.byggalliansen.no

For the purpose of our COE, we have identified some key activities, which include:

Knowledge and Training: 2020: More than 1,500 participated in training sessions targeted to reduce energy and environment footprint in the operations of buildings. More than 100 professionals from 67 different companies signed up to and completed training in how to use greenhouse gas accounting in construction projects. 2021: In total, more than 1.700 professionals participated in training sessions. Training sessions and courses spanned from BREEAM-related sessions to greenhouse gas accounting, to Green Property Management. We also conducted campaigns, arranged stand-alone conferences, a study trip and co-hosted several break-fast meetings. We conducted Forum-meetings to discuss: Materials; Building Operations; BREEAM In-Use user forum. In addition, tailor-made Forums for Green experts in the real-estate sector and a dedicated CEO-forum were held. Forum meetings were primarily held digitally.

Advocacy: We regularly and actively participate in various standing for a hosted by the Government, such as the EEA forum for the environment, and on behalf of the built environment sector, we provide the Minister of Climate and Environment with an update on progress on the Real Estate sector's roadmap towards 2050. 2020: We have produced and submitted 11 written inputs where we advocate for policies, regulations, and incentives to be improved to support global commitments and nationally adopted environment and sustainability goals, including the Government's proposal for the State Budget, the National Climate Action Plan, Norway's Action Plan for Sustainability and to the EU's work stream on the EU Building Products Ordinance. We also participated in several reference groups for environmental policy development, including a National Strategy for the circular economy. 2021: A Special Advisor on policies and advocacy was hired in 2021, focusing on policy development and decision making at the national level, as well as to identify forthcoming key policy considerations in the EU and at the national level pertaining to environment impacts in the built environment sector.

Communications and Outreach - The website of Grønn Byggallianse provides a digital platform for sharing information, inspiration, best practice, and knowledge around how companies in the value-chain in the built environment sector can best integrate climate and environment into their own operations and, the design and construction of new or renovated buildings. The website provides a space where some of the best 3 reports, tools, instruments, case studies and practice for a sustainable built environment on the topic is shared. Grønn Byggallianse issues a monthly newsletter, including a monthly Op-ed. by the CEO, reaching around 5000 subscribers in the built environment sector. In 2021, Grønn Byggallianse regularly participates in external events relevant to our mission. In 2021, this included keynotes at staff training for government professionals in the built environment sector, The Norwegian Forest Owners' Federation, Norwegian Concrete Federation, Norwegian association of Construction Companies (EBA), and several local/regional business associations.

All referenced materials can be accessed on our website byggalliansen.no

SUPPORTING REQUESTED ACTIONS

We believe the above activities support many of the requested actions, for example:

- Conducting applied research and thought leadership in relation to the UN Global Compact
- Disseminating the Global Compact Principles

We believe the above tools and guidance, advocacy, events and communication activities have supported many of the requested actions, such as:

- Attracting new participants to the UN Global Compact through our outreach efforts and awareness raising
- Organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops, and training for the participants to get a better understanding of the principles of the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability
- Provide expertise for Global Compact working groups and special initiatives
- Engaging with Global Compact Local Networks
- Joining and/or proposing partnership projects on corporate sustainability
- Engaging companies in Global Compact-related issues

PART III. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

The mission of Grønn Byggallianse is to ensure that sustainability is fully integrated into business operations and decision making in the built environment sector. To accomplish this, we provide knowledge, tools, create initiatives for voluntary commitments, and best practice to inspire facilitate an informed dialogue in the built environment sector. We also engage state, regional, and local authorities in that dialogue, and highlight what is needed to transform business operations in the built environment sector to support national and global goals. The outcomes of our activities are believed to be long-term.

Measuring impact and value creation on business practice is however challenging, since Grønn Byggallianse works in an indirect fashion, as a mobilizer, raising awareness and inspiring to commitment and action. To date our main way of measuring impact has been through the establishment of initiatives such as immediate actions to reduce emissions and integrate environment considerations into a company's core business, and the steady rise of signatories to those voluntary commitments. Another measurement of our impact is the increase in membership of the organization, as membership in Grønn Byggallianse can be seen as a token of business' interest in improving its environment performance. Thirdly, an outcome of our activities should also be



reviewed by the changes in floor-area in Norway certified with BREEAM-NOR or BREEAM-In-Use. We will advance this as our latest strategy covering the period 2022-2024 has an outcome orientated goal formulation, and we will work through this period to establish a system of measuring impacts from our activities in the 6 identified strategic areas.