

DAC UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement

December 2022

Period covered by our Communication on Engagement (COE) From 1 January 2021 to 15 December 2022

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 Center 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.

The process of documenting Danish Architecture Center's sustainability as part of a bigger value chain and producing the first full report in our new framework in 2022 was held up by the several COVID-19 lockdowns in 2021 and 2022 and the efforts afterwards to get Danish Architecture Center back on track with a full program of activities and solid attendance.

In 2022, DAC signed the Planet Copenhagen manifesto (<https://www.wonderfulcopenhagen.dk/sites/wonderfulcopenhagen.com/files/2022-10/Planet-Copenhagen-Manifest-WoCo-EN-V3.pdf>) which gathers the whole industry around the goal to become the World's most sustainable tourist destination.

Furthermore, a new certificate, Green Attractions, has been introduced in Denmark for museums, aquariums, amusement parks etc. We are now working towards Green Attractions certification in 2023.

The triple focus on People, Planet and Profit constitutes the framework for our work. For practical purposes we have decided on four focus areas: Circularity – Climate footprint – Dissemination – Social sustainability. Each area is subdivided into themes or subjects that fit into the Green Attractions certification. The full program and system for reporting should be in place in Q2 2023.

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 as expressed in the UN's 17 SDGs 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 on 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 2021 and 2022.

Production

Danish Architecture Center works continuously to lessen the environmental impact of our operations.

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 inflation and the rise in energy prices in 2022 have led to new initiatives to save energy. Thus, DAC's landlord has switched to LED lighting in our offices and also adjusted the heating/cooling system. Now we do not heat beyond 19 degrees Celsius, and the cooling system has been switched off.

The waste project announced in 2020 is now in place and waste is sorted in 10 different fractions. The waste sorting program works in the entire BLOX building where Danish Architecture Center rents 25 per cent of the building.

DACs exhibitions are increasingly passing on exhibits and other structures and materials when taking down an exhibition. A reliable way to document to what extent is still underway. We expect to have a system up and running by Q2 2023.

There is an increasing focus on sourcing sustainably as well as on reusing podiums, display cases etc.

DAC Café and Conferences

DAC Café is no longer working towards achieving the bronze certificate from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's Organic Label. This decision has been made because a sole focus on sourcing organic produce will lead to other sustainability issues concerning for example animal welfare or local or seasonal produce.

DAC Café is now focused on sustainable sourcing key performance indicators regarding organic produce, animal welfare, seasonal produce, and local produce. We are currently looking at ways to document our progress.

Furthermore, DAC Café now has a key performance indicator regarding food waste and is currently looking at ways to monitor food waste.

Policies for both sourcing and reducing food waste are now in place as part of DACs work towards achieving the Green Attractions certificate in 2023.

DAC Design Shop

DAC Design Shop recently reevaluated its entire assortment and will continue to systematically source products with a sustainable profile; fair-trade, organic, or NGO-approved items. Furthermore, there is a focus on sustainable work processes (waste sorting, gift wrapping etc.) and it has been decided to stop using plastic carrier bags.

Dissemination

Educating, facilitating, knowledge sharing, debating within the field of design, architecture and the built environment is what we do at Danish Architecture Center.

Exhibitions and learning

In 2021 and 2022 the main theme for exhibitions, learning activities and tours has been sustainability expressed in the exhibitions Backstage (sustainable materials, livability, inclusion) Living Better Lives (tiny living, communal living, building materials) and Hermès in the Making (sustainability of objects, employment, and local anchoring).

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

Learning offers architecture education for primary and secondary schools with a focus on sustainability in the broadest sense of the word. From social sustainability in 'Our sustainable city' to climate challenges in 'The rain is coming'. In addition, Learning offers teaching in DAC's temporary exhibitions – either for students on their own with the help from free learning materials or in the company of a DAC-educator.

MorgenDAC

A morning event (live debate and podcast) every Tuesday for professionals and citizens who want to stay updated on different relevant topics about urban development, architecture, livable cities, democratic development processes etc. Among the topics in 2022 were: *Do certification and fancy language lead to greenwashing in the building sector?; Can "the good life" become sustainable?; and Should and could investors take sustainability more seriously?*

Podcasts

Besides the MorgenDAC Live podcasts, DAC also produces the English language podcasts Let's Talk Architecture which in 2022 have been leading up to 2023 when Copenhagen hosts the UIA World Congress for architects and is also UNESCO's World Capital of Architecture.

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 programs, 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).

Sprout

A program to connect with students in engineering, architecture, design, landscaping, urban planning etc. throughout Denmark was launched in 2021 and has been successfully continued in 2022. Over two hours the students learn about Danish Architecture Center and the BLOX eco system to bridge the sometimes too wide gap between educational institutions and the practices of businesses.

3. Measurement of outcomes

Activity	Attendance (persons) in 2021	Attendance (persons) in 2022 (Jan – Nov)
Exhibitions	96,280	151,183
Learning	7,031	15,097
Tours	5,659	9,427
Sprout	n/a	1.500
Strategic Urban Governance	300	300
Podcasts:		
MorgenDAC	17.341	22.771
Let's Talk Architecture	10.847	15.877
Strategic Urban Governance	2.705	1.038

Furthermore, to tap into the UN Global Compact terminology, we would like to report on the below subjects.

Human rights

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 was formally approved by the employer/employee board, SAM in February of 2021.

Labor

DACs 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 2022, elections were held and the four staff representatives re-elected. DAC's APV (workplace evaluations) has been finalized and approved. The APV is based on the results of the annual staff satisfaction survey and the measures resulting from the initiatives to enhancing the work environment be it physically or mentally.

Environment

As described above, a framework will be in place in 2023 to measure our progress in improving our circularity and minimizing our climate footprint.

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. Policies have been adapted in 2022 regarding the hiring of new staff as well as regarding procurement. Both address the issue of dealing with near relations, whether friends or family, to avoid corruption and nepotism.