

GREEN NETWORK

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS REPORT 2020

COVERS THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2020-31.12.2020



Contents



About this report

3



Statement from the CEO

4



A network of partners

6



Sustainable Business Partner Certification

8



Green Network Advisory

10



Overview of Results 2020

12

About this report

In this communication on progress, we describe the actions, initiatives and work that we do in the area of corporate responsibility and sustainability. For Green Network however, this also describes what we do as a business. Green Network has since it was founded in 1994, as a public-private partnership, worked with sustainability and our goal is to enhance the capacity and practice of companies in the areas of corporate responsibility and sustainability.



This means that what we do in cooperation with our business partners, is creating our strongest impact. Therefore, this communication on progress describes how we work with our partners to influence, impact and push them in a more sustainable direction regarding all the issues involved in both the UN Global Compact as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The work with our network business partners is based on a partnership model, where Green Network facilitates events and knowledge sharing. In addition to this, we offer more intensive training and capacity building for our partners, as well as a Sustainable Business Partner certification that our partners can achieve if they complete all 3 training modules.

The last element in our business model is our ad-

visory services and project development. It entails doing concrete, custom tailored advisory service and projects that develop new business models and build up knowledge and capacity for us and our business partners.

This report thus consists of chapters describing each of our business areas and how we through each area seek to impact our business partners – and others – to work with the sustainability agenda, the Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals.



This is our **Communication on Progress** in implementing the principles of the **United Nations Global Compact** and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.

Statement from the CEO

Customer demands, legal developments, resilience, innovation - The need for companies to implement measures to address their sustainability and responsibility is becoming more and more evident. Many corporations have matured a lot in their work with the sustainability agenda, and there is a growing understanding of its importance. At the same time stronger demands and legal requirements puts new pressure on companies, both financially and timewise, underlining the need for efficient management systems and well-laid strategies. Green Network's role as a forum for companies to gain knowledge, share best practice and find the right solutions for their sustainability and responsibility has thus only grown in importance and relevance and we look forward to continuing the journey with our more than 120 partner companies in 2021.



This sustainability report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020. With this report, we strive to provide a fair, comprehensive and relevant picture of our company.

This includes an overview of selected activities, a transparent progress report on KPIs set and how we strive to be a Model Company. This report represents our Communication on Progress under the UN Global Compact. The scope of this sustainability report and its disclosures cover most of Green Networks A/S activities.

In 2020 we experienced how an unprecedented situation underscored the need for companies to embrace sustainable practices and enhance their focus on building more resilient business models.

As we look towards a reopening of businesses and society in the not-so-distant future we thus also look at a world where the sustainability agenda has only gained in importance. For example, Amnesty International published an analysis where 7 out of 10 Danes supported the creation of a law on mandatory due diligence on human rights and impact on the environment. Furthermore, more than 95% of consumers expect that goods are produced in a responsible manner. The renewed focus has in turn meant that more competitors have appeared and that the market has matured.



Our intern and our senior adviser - also known as 'The Kaspers' hard at work

From the political level we witnessed how statements and policy processes started coming to fruition in 2020. The publication in July of the EU Taxonomy Regulation and its first delegated acts in December, establishing what will become a common classification system for sustainable economic activities, has already sparked great interest and new activities throughout our industry. It will impact a large selection of our industrial partner companies in the future, and we see this, and other future national and international legal developments as definite game-changers in the



In 2020 Green Network engaged with Vejle Municipality in different projects

sustainability arena.

Therefore, we have embarked on a journey that will place us and our partners at the forefront of this development.

OUR FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIPS INCREASED AND NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WERE INITIATED

In 2019 we joined CSR Advisors Denmark with the ambition of creating Denmark's largest and strongest community of CSR- and sustainability competencies, allowing us to compete with the larger consulting firms. This work has progressed massively in 2020 and we embarked on our first strategic development project as well as advisory projects within this framework.

Our enhanced online focus was also pushed forward by our new strategic partnership with CSR Forum – a network for companies based in Copenhagen. The first result of our partnership has been a series of webinars 'Business for the Future' which have generated both new memberships in Green Network and driven our visibility in the Danish sustainability market to new heights.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH VEJLE MUNICIPALITY

As part of our commitment to bringing companies closer to the national and international sustainability agendas, 2020 saw Green Network engaging in projects focused on public-private partnerships to promote the agenda. This meant that we have actively stepped up our efforts and cooperation with our local municipality in identifying possibilities to create impact and partnerships. We joined the project Crethink and look forward to using our new experiences and competencies to develop more projects in 2021.

Susanne Lydholm

Susanne Lydholm,
Managing Director/
Owner



A network of partners

Green Network functions as a network for companies wishing to develop their capacity to work with corporate sustainability and responsibility. In 2020 the partnership-model was challenged by the pandemic and we were not able to make our traditional partner visits. Also, our total attendance number at meetings fell overall, but this was due to meetings being postponed or cancelled. On the plus side we engaged in new strategic partners as part of a series of initiatives such as public-private development projects, and to enhance our online presence and geographic scope. All our strategic partnerships are guided by our goal to enable as many companies and organizations as possible to better incorporate sustainability into the heart of their business models.



2020 presented a major challenge to our partner network, as we could not conduct our network meetings and activities as we have done before. Our network of partners is still the basis for Green Network’s business model and our work with the principles of the UNGC. But after the initial confusion we were able to transition to a web-based model that was then supplemented with smaller physical meetings, when restrictions were eased. We were thus able to almost keep up our level of activities compared to our 2019 level (SOURCE/Numbers).

Our work and contribution to the development agenda is often done “by-proxy” through enabling our partner companies to work more effectively or structured with issues relevant to the UNGC.

OUR DIRECT IMPACT

Our own internal and direct impacts were markedly down compared to 2019, again due to the unusual circumstances. For long periods all staff worked from home and with no possibility to visit our partner companies on-site. This means that both are emissions from transportation as well as that from our facilities are markedly down and should be considered as an anomaly. We therefore expect these numbers to go up again this year but will of course do our utmost to reduce them as much as possible. For example, by using public transport when feasible.

15
EVENTS HOSTED

160+
INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING
EVENTS

Green Networks largest source of emissions is traditionally transportation:

Year:	Km:	Co2 emissions (tonnes):
2018	29.492	4,53
2019	15.663	2,41
2020	4.377	0,54

Electricity usage at our facilities:

2019	3853 Kwh = 816 kg Co2
2020	2657 Kwh = 605 kg Co2

As we see there is a fall in emissions from both our office facilities located in a shared building as well as from transportation – in line with our overall goals. The fall has though not been intentional but to a high degree defined by the lock-down measures. The results show that our facilities overtook transportation as the main source of emissions.

72%

A SHARP REDUCTION IN CO2-EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT DUE TO COVID-19

11

COMPANIES AWARDED WITH DIPLOMAS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

This is of course due to the fact that our consultants were unable to visit our partner companies or attend in-person meetings for long periods. We will continue our focus on bringing down emissions but expect a rise in transport-related emissions when we see further openings of society.

NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS

2020 saw Green Network joining the Erasmus project Crethink along with Vejle Municipality and 3 other municipalities across Europe. The Danish part of the project aims to help small b2c shops incorporate sustainability measures to gain a competitive advantage.

Furthermore, we joined up with CSR-Forum to exploit the synergies between our two networks. CSR Forum is a network primarily based in Copenhagen so through online activities, and planned physical meetings we are better able to cover all of Denmark with our services.

The 2019 initiative 'CSR-Advisors Denmark' got up to speed in 2020, and we saw a great interest in our joint offers and services through our online channels. This partnership also developed as we took on our first joint development project, due to be finished and presented in Q2 of 2021.

WEB-BASED AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES GREW - AND GREEN NETWORK GREW WITH IT

Digitalisation took on new importance in 2020. It did so in terms of the increased need for online meeting platforms and as a vital part of calculating, gathering and reporting on sustainability indicators.

For Green Network our use of webinars and online network meetings was essential to keep our business going, and we can proudly say that our transition has been a success. We saw increases in both the number of participants and attendance for many of our events.

At the same time, we were confirmed in our emphasis on the importance of meeting physically and conducting in-depth workshops face-to-face, meaning that we will take this up again as soon as possible. Supplemented of course with our new online presence.



OBJECTIVES FOR 2021:

Net inflow of 5 new companies to the network

Award 10 diplomas for Environmental or Health & Safety Management Systems

Facilitate 8 webinars in cooperation with CSR Forum with at least a total of 150 attendees

Sustainable Business Partner Certification

The Sustainable Business Partner Certification saw increased popularity and recognition in 2020. 14 companies are now Sustainable Business Partners (SBP) and have demonstrated their capacity to work strategically with corporate sustainability and responsibility.



Our training and certification concept 'The Sustainable Business Partner Certification (SBP)' was the most affected business area in Green Network, of the pandemic and lockdowns. Due to the emphasis on in-person training and intra-company dialogue that can only be guaranteed in a physical meeting setting, we had to cancel 1 of the 2 yearly courses, which in turn meant a lower number of participants. We were still able to conduct our two annual SBP-network meetings online.

The CSR training and SBP certification is one of the ways in which Green Network works with companies and partners to strengthen their capacity and practice in corporate sustainability and responsibility.

Through the training we can influence the companies and have an impact on their knowledge and integration of sustainability in the companies' core business and thereby also in integrating the Global Compact principles, both directly and indirectly.

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS: PANKAS IS PAVING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABILITY WITH CSR-TRAINING

What is CSR, why and how can you report on it? And what about your customers' expectations? The last round of CSR training in the autumn '20 addressed these questions and we asked two of the participants: Helle Jørgensen and Martine Timmermann, both from Pankas A/S, a company that manufactures asphalt materials and conducts paving projects throughout Europe. Read about them here:

2

**CERTIFIED
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNERS**



14

**COMPANIES ARE
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNER CERTIFIED
AT THE END OF 2020**

8

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNER TRAINING**

2

**MEETINGS IN THE
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNER NETWORK**



Why did you join the Sustainable Business Partner training?

Helle:

I am a part of our CSR-group and I think it is important that I, as a quality-environment and health and safety specialist, am able to make sure that what we communicate is correct and follows all rules and norms. I feel the SBP training has given me the necessary tools to do this.

Martine:

To me, Pankas is moving into new ground with CSR, and the 17 SDG's. I think it is important that we got in touch with experts in the sustainability field to get an overview and to listen to what it is all about. We joined to take new knowledge with us home and to work with tried and tested methods in order to succeed along with our management team.

What were your expectations and were they fulfilled?

Martine:

My expectations were to get more knowledge across the diverse field. You can read a lot but it has great value to be able to sit down and do the training with others. This is possible at Green Network, where we were different companies with the same starting point and need for constructive dialogues.

Helle:

To me the goal was a clear understanding on the legal requirements in order for us to build from there. It was a clear advantage to be two participants from the same company as it has definitely enhanced our

knowledge. We are part of a sustainability team of 4 so having 2 going through the complete training process will definitely bring quality into the work.

What were the biggest eye-openers of the course?

Martine:

I especially liked the idea of gathering all our sustainability data in one CSR-report so stakeholders can easily find the information they need.

Helle:

Getting an explanation of all the terms! This seems like a jungle! The NFRD we know but there are so many concept also specific to different industries. One investor has previously sent me 80 slides filled with abbreviations and it took me a long time to read and understand them. This course gave me a good overview and understanding of why for example ESG-data is relevant to many.

If you had to mention 3 main take-aways, what would they be?

Helle:

Inspiration, the practical models and exercises and top-level knowledge. In addition, the birds view perspective on the issues you get helps you pin-point why it is important and gives you great motivation.

What added value have you gained by participating in the training?

Martine:

The greatest value Helle and I have gained is the level of knowledge, we can use when presenting our findings and the next-steps at our company. The analysis-tools and inspiration will definitely help us in the future as well. Finally, it is great to know that Green Network's consultants are available to help.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2021:

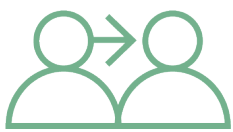
Educate 10 new Sustainable Business Professionals

3 New certified Sustainable Business Partners

15 attendees to SBP-network meetings

Green Network Advisory

Whenever our partners and other companies are challenged and need support for a specific task, Green Network offers customized and tailored solutions to address their challenges. In 2020 we have worked with 12 companies in a variety of advisory service projects. 7 of our projects involved production and implementation of CSR or CSR-related policies and we see an exciting development in the range of companies interested in structuring their sustainability efforts.



As advisors Green Network's consultants engage with a wide range of different companies in projects from small scale mapping exercises to large-scale strategy development. This gives a unique insight into the different perspectives of SME's and large corporations, as well as knowledge of their different challenges. Knowledge that is shared throughout our network, and highly beneficial to different partner companies.

POLICY AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Many of our advisory projects in 2020 were focused on either policy or strategy development. We experienced a rising demand in many medium-sized companies for a more systemic approach to sustainability that could also be documented to their clients, partners and customers. It seems clear that the days where companies could communicate about their efforts without substantial backing and documentation are running out. We also helped companies bring sustainability closer to the core business, by developing strategies that will guide business development in order to create advantages over competitors. As one client noted "it's no longer a question of having just a license to operate – we also need to use sustainability to create added economic benefits for ourselves and customers further down the value chain".

STRENGTHENED COMPETENCIES

As part of our ongoing internal development, we also ensure to enhance our own competencies as

advisors. Even though our business model is dependent

on having a strong network of experts, whose competencies we can call upon for different projects our own consultants are key to delivering the strategic advisory services that we offer. As we have seen the heightened demand for data to document and drive change in organizations our senior consultant completed the Principle for Responsible Investments course Foundations in Responsible Investment.

12

**COMPANIES RECEIVED
ADVISORY SERVICES FROM
GREEN NETWORK**

2

**PROJECTS INVOLVED
CSR REPORTING**

7

**PROJECTS INVOLVED
PRODUCTION OF POLICIES OR
SDG STRATEGIES**



NEW 'REVIEWED BY' INITIATIVE

To help our partner companies document their sustainability work and ensure that communication products such as reports, or marketing materials

live up to demands from all stakeholders, we introduced Green Network's 'Reviewed by' initiative. Here we offer to read through documents for partner companies in our network and comment, give suggestions for improvements and provide them with the 'Reviewed by' logo that can be used on the document if it lives up to our demands. This initiative has been very well received by our partner companies and it is seen as a strong way to ensure compliance and quality in materials and that companies live up to demands in reporting practices.



HOW WE DO IT CASE: NORTEC - PROMOTING CIRCULARITY & SUSTAINABILITY THROUGHOUT THEIR INDUSTRY

In spring 2020 we were approached by Nortec, a provider of common laundromat solutions for housing associations, hospitals, cleaning companies etc. They wanted to create an overview of their own sustainability status, as well as their industry as a whole in order to head an industry-wide marketing campaign about the benefits of their solutions compared to individual laundry machines in every apartment. Green Network helped map the company and identify sustainable practices as well as where initial improvements would be needed. Furthermore we did the calculations underlining the arguments to ensure compliance with best practice.

At the time of writing we are conducting stage 2 with developing a strategy for sustainability and training key-employees to lead Nortec's sustainability journey in the future.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2021:

Conduct 10 workshops

6 companies receives advisory services

10 'Reviewed by Green Network'

Overview of Results 2020



In our Communication on Progress 2019 we set up objectives for 2020 related to the Global Compact principles in our own business. Here we present a brief overview of the results. This way we measure and evaluate how well we ourselves have worked with the principles and topics in relation to our services for our partners.

	OBJECTIVES 2020:	RESULT:
A NETWORK OF PARTNERS	Gain 40 new members in our network	27,5% Achieved
	10 events with the SDG's as a substantial part	100% Achieved
	Using public transport to lessen carbon emissions from transport when feasible	Achieved
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES PARTNER CERTIFICATION	8 new certified Sustainable Business Partners	25 % Achieved
	16 new Sustainable Business Partner Professionals	25% Achieved
	Roll out the SDG Skyline tool to all new certified partners incl. introduction to all participants in training	100% Achieved
GREEN NETWORK ADVISORY	Implement the collaboration with CSR-Advisors Denmark	100% Achieved
	Move users from Meassure platform to CEMAsys	100% Achieved
	3 new companies assisted in CSR reporting	66% Achieved



Green Network

CSR Advisory and Competencies Center
Roms Hule 8,3. sal,
DK 7100 Vejle
Direct: (+45) 70 25 40 70
www.greennetwork.dk