

GREEN NETWORK

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS REPORT 2021

COVERS THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2021-31.12.2021



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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 110 partner companies in 2022.



This sustainability report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2021. 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. We have chosen to use the same structure and method as in the past, to make comparison of data easy.

2021 was once again, a year which turned out to be a lot different, than we expected.

The corona pandemic overshadowed everything again in 2021 and were the reason we had to cancel more events and change the way we work and our everyday life. It have required a lot of flexibility to get everything to work together, also because we have said goodbye to not less than three of our advisors, of which one senior advisor. Luckily we have been able to recruit new capacities, so we can be calm about the future.

But with new challenges comes new solutions. It have been a major advantage for us in 2021, to widen the use of virtual meetings and webinars, both internally as well as with our customers and



our partners. It won't come as a surprise for us, if the willingness to participate in virtual meeting will exceed the physical ones even when the corona pandemic is over. One thing is for sure though, we have missed visiting our partners and we now know how much we should appreciate, when we have the opportunity to do so.



Green Network was a part of the jury at Project Edison innovation competition, hosted by Vejle Municipality.

CONTINUED FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIPS AND AN INCREASED USE OF WEBINARS

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 in 2021, where we have expanded our partnership. We also continue our partnership with CSR Europe, but we have also been working close with CSR Forum, where we are co-hosting some webinars in 2022, but we will also offer a series of masterclasses. We truly value these partnerships, as they allow us to be up-to-date on the development of sustainability, both in Denmark, but also in EU.

In 2021 we have also used a lot of time on acquiring knowledge about the EU-taxonomy, the upcoming CSRD and ESG-reporting. This will also be the themes of our events and partnership meeting in 2022, where we will be able to share our knowledge with our partners.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

We want to take part in helping the big amount of young and ambitious unemployed people and students, and therefore, in 2021 we had 3 interns, one of these got a permanent position at one of our partners. We aim to give them some of our knowledge, but we also try to give them the possibility to work with what ever they find interesting, within our limits of work. By doing this, they will be able to strengthen their resumé and hopefully be able to find their dream job. We will without a doubt continue to take in interns in 2022 and we hope we are able to help them as well.

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. Again in 2021 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.



2021 again 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 saw an increase compared to 2020. In the early and latter months of the year, we once again experienced lockdown situations, with no external visits on sites, but over the summer months we were able to visit our partners due to relief in national restrictions, and this is also why we see an increase in driven kilometres. We expect these numbers to go further 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.

20
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
2021	14.630	2,25

Electricity usage at our facilities:

2019	3853 kWh = 559 kg Co2
2020	2657 kWh = 324 kg Co2
2021	1995 kWh = 277 kg Co2

As we see there is a fall in emissions from our office facilities located in a shared building – in line with our overall goals. The results show that our facilities no-longer is the main source of emissions, just as we would expect.

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 year our consultants were partly able to visit our partner companies and attend in-person meetings. This of course means that our transportation emissions have seen a raise, but due to lockdown, our emissions were still lower than before the epidemic. We will continue our focus on bringing down emissions but expect a further rise in transport-related emissions, as there hopefully won't be any lockdowns in 2022.

CO-JUDGING AT PROJECT EDISON

In the early months of 2021, Vejle Municipality hosted a innovation competition for students. It was a great pleasure for us to be selected as co-judging part of the jury. It was fascinating to experience how the youth were able to innovate, their engagement and how they were able to make it business relevant. With the biggest certainty we can conclude, that if the competitors at Project Edison represent the average youth, our future won't be too bad.

WEB-BASED AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES GREW - AND GREEN NETWORK GREW WITH IT PART 2

In last year's report, we highlighted how digitalisation became a big and natural part of our everyday life and work. This did change a little bit in 2021, but we will keep on using digital solutions, as we have realised the great opportunities within it. We already know, that online-meetings, webinars and master-classes will be a big part of 2022, as it also gives our partners the opportunity to participate in more activities, as there is no transportation time, which will also have a great significance on the environment. For Green Network our use of webinars and online network meetings was once again essential to keep our business going, and we can easily conclude, that digitalisation of events has been successful. We saw increases in both the number of participants and attendance for many of our events.

We are therefore looking into a future, where online events and activities will have great influence on our success, but at the same time, we know how important it is, that our partners can meet with each other and exchange experiences and learn from one another.



OBJECTIVES FOR 2022:

Net inflow of 7 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.



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.

The training was highly affected by the pandemic in 2020, but in 2021 we saw a higher concentration of companies willing to send their employees out of their own site. This also means that we were able to complete two educational rounds, as we were hop-

ing for. In the future we will concentrate more on individual education, where we will focus on one company. This is relevant for companies who want to educate more than two employees or want more flexibility in the course.

MEET THE PARTICIPANTS:

EVIDA, A NATIONAL GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANY, HELPING DANES WITH GREENER GAS

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: Susanne and Marianne from Evida.

15

**CERTIFIED
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNERS**



15

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNER TRAINING**

30

**COMPANIES ARE
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNER CERTIFIED
AT THE END OF 2021**

2

**MEETINGS IN THE
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
PARTNER NETWORK**



Why did you join the Sustainable Business Partner training?

Susanne:

I really liked the idea of being two co-workers completing the same education. So when Marianne was looking for a course with focus on CSR, we found Green Network as a solution, as we get access to the network and the education as well.

Marianne:

I knew the education from my former workplace, where we had a great relationship with Green Network about work environment. At that time I also considered to take the course, but never had the time. When it became relevant, I looked in your direction.

What were your expectations and were they fulfilled?

Marianne:

My expectations was to be updated on the newest knowledge about CSR and sustainability as well as getting some tools to our future work with CSR. I will say that my expectation were met, and I got what i wanted.

Susanne:

I was expecting to get some concrete tools to our future work, where we need to make background analysis and the creation of a sustainability program. I think that I got exactly that.

What were the biggest eye-openers of the course?

Marianne:

I can see that a lot has happened within CSR and sustainability, since I last worked with it. There is a lot of new knowledge and other angles to the subject. It has also become a lot more extensive than I remember it being. It will only make the subject even more exciting, but also more difficult to work with. This demands that we are capable to make structure and have a better sense of perspective, so we can make good and right decisions and create good initiatives.

Susanne:

It was really good to get a wider perspective on CSR and sustainability. A lot have happened in the last years.

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

Susanne:

Structure, when selecting analysis components. Also insights in how we should handle the process of activating the right people at the right time. We have also gotten a better understanding on how we can use UN's SDG's as a tool to our strategi.

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

Susanne and Marianne:

Especially it have created a big value, that we were able to be two co-workers at the same course, as we have been able to start a sparring process. This will have great significance in our future work. We are better prepared with new and updated knowledge.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022:

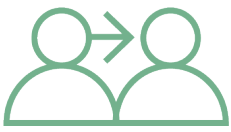
Educate 10 new Sustainable Business Professionals

5 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

Unfortunately we felt the after math of the pandemic in 2021. A lot of our potential advisory assignment fell to the floor, as the companies were too busy starting up with an almost normal work environment, but also because the finances were uncertain. We have experienced that a lot of customers want to make a stronger connection on how to report and what should be reported. Just as last year we experienced a rising demand in 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 can also conclude that there have been quite an expansion in our business area, as new advisory services within sustainability arises. This is of course the result of a bigger awareness and willingness from companies to work with sustainability, and that will always be positive.

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 consultants completed the Principle for Responsible Investments course

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**COMPANIES RECEIVED
ADVISORY SERVICES FROM
GREEN NETWORK**

2

**PROJECTS INVOLVED
CSR REPORTING**

7

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



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.



THE 'REVIEWED BY' INITIATIVE

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



ASNET

In the autumn of 2021 we were approached by the advisoryboard network "Asnet, Region Syd" in Kolding. Under the theme "ESG is the boards language for sustainability", one of our advisors presented how the boards can integrate sustainability and CSR through ESG, into accounting, business strategies and reporting. With this, sustainability can easier be a part of the directors and the boards business perspectives and decision processes.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022:

Conduct 10 workshops

2 major advisory services > 200k DKK

5 'Reviewed by Green Network'

Overview of Results 2021



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 2021:	RESULT:
A NETWORK OF PARTNERS	Gain 5 new companies in our network	120% Achieved
	10 diplomas for environmental or health & safety	70% Achieved
	Using public transport to lessen carbon emissions from transport when feasible	Achieved
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES PARTNER CERTIFICATION	3 new certified Sustainable Business Partners	133 % Achieved
	10 new Sustainable Business Partner Professionals	150% Achieved
	15 attendees to SBP-network meetings	53,33% Achieved
GREEN NETWORK ADVISORY	Conduct 10 workshops	100% Achieved
	6 companies receives advisory services	100% Achieved
	10 reports "Reviewed by Green Network"	66% Achieved



Green Network

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