

Our Corporate Social Responsibility

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What we believe about Corporate Social Responsibility

We believe Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is just that: our responsibility. As a large corporation, we cannot help but have an impact on the world around us. We intend for that impact to be positive in every possible way. It's simply the right thing to do.

This document defines the tenets and core activities that guide all companies within Höganäs Borgestad Group, including partly owned companies, toward Corporate Social Responsibility. By them, we chart our course for real and practical implementation, for which we all share responsibility.

The Fundamental Tenets of our Corporate Social Responsibility

We believe all people have rights

At the root of our Corporate Social Responsibility is the belief that each of us — every single person on earth — has unquestionable rights. In all our business endeavors, we strive to uphold these basic human rights, as affirmed in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We believe diversity is good

In our business, we cross borders — geographical and social — and we respect the value differences bring. We eschew all acts of prejudice or discrimination, whether on the basis of gender, religion, race, national or ethnic origin, cultural background, social group, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, age or political opinion.

We believe we must act now to preserve tomorrow

We know that what we do today, we live with tomorrow. And not just us, but those around us, too. We have a future focus in our daily decisions in order to develop a stable, profitable business that contributes to long-term economic development for our local and global communities, while also limiting, offsetting or eliminating adverse impact wherever we can. We seek ways to take an active part in our communities, working together with government and civil leaders.

We believe in open communication

Effective cooperation and collaboration hinges on communication. Therefore, we keep open channels of communication with relevant stakeholders as we work to adapt our business activities to benefit both our company and our communities. We always listen to input that is intended to improve our corporate social responsibility efforts.

We believe in doing the right thing, always

We take to heart the maxim that says, "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." Honesty and fairness rule our business affairs. Under no circumstances do we accept or engage in bribery or any other kind of corruption.

Making CSR part of our everyday business

All of us share in the responsibility and strive to work according to the essential tenets given here. With these guiding stars always in view, we ensure Corporate Social Responsibility is a natural part of our everyday business. Managers are charged with clearly communicating these tenets within their organization, and ensuring they are practiced always. These principles shall also be promoted in relation with other business relationships. To this end, we engage in four core activities to keep our CSR on track:

Educate — Perhaps the most powerful tool for good in the world is education. Effective CSR craves a true understanding of the societies in which we operate — their circumstances, needs, aspirations, etc. We seek knowledge whenever possible, either within our organization or from external sources such as consultants, authorities or other reputable organizations.

Anticipate — To stay one step ahead of opportunities and risks, we use our knowledge channels to anticipate critical social issues, as well as possible impact from changes within our own organization.

Evaluate — As we anticipate changes within our own operations, we evaluate possible social implications, taking into consideration the need to conduct a social impact assessment to ensure proper business decisions and management.

Invest — Through our education, anticipation and evaluation of social impact and needs, we make decisions on where, when and how to invest in social programs and activities — choosing wisely those that also uphold the basic tenets we believe in and that have a sincere commitment to effect healthy change for our communities and world.



Frode Martinussen

CEO, Höganäs Borgestad

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