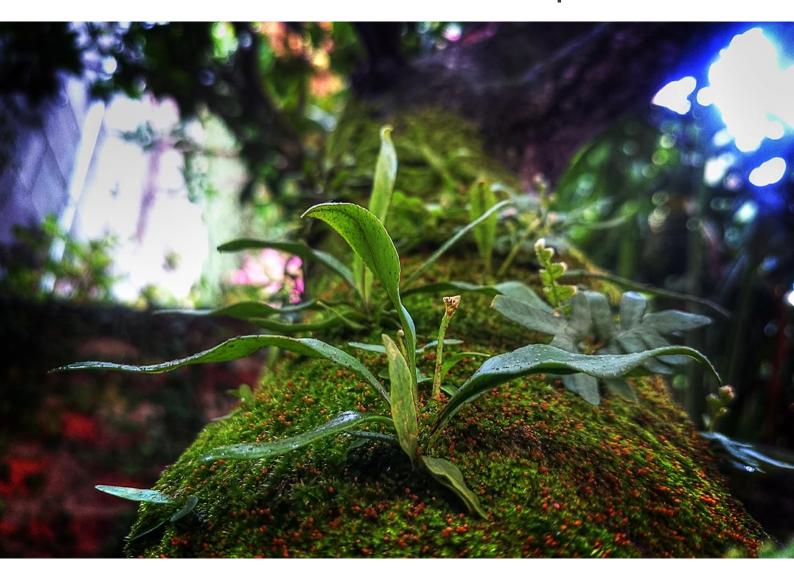


# Communication on Progress United Nations Global Compact



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DFGE – Institute for Energy, Ecology and Economy GmbH
Kreitstr. 5, 86926 Greifenberg, Germany
T. +49.08192/99733-20 / F. +49.8192/99733-29
info@dfge.de www.dfge.de



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# 1 Statement of continued support by the Chief Executive Officer

Dear stakeholders,

reflecting on the past year 2021, COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact all our lives and disrupted businesses. For most of the year, our employees have been working from home. For a small company like DFGE, it becomes challenging to keep the team together while not being able to see each other in person. But, despite all the challenges, we have done our best to keep the team together, e.g., by socializing online through our virtual fireside chats. Whenever possible, we met in person, for example for our summer workshop or a museum visit and with a joined dinner.

The pandemic situation continues to impact different aspects of sustainability. First, we see that our own Carbon Footprint is still significantly lower than it was before the pandemic. This is mostly due to our employees working from home and the reduction of travel to a minimum. Second, we do see a high increase in companies putting more focus on sustainability topics like carbon accounting and sustainability reporting, which leads to more customer inquiries, as companies are seeking support from sustainability experts like the DFGE. The increased importance of sustainability for companies is also shown in our own company, as we have grown significantly during the last year. The number of our customers has doubled, and our own team has grown by 32% in 2021. We were able to successfully finish more than 155 projects and achieve reduction commitments from our customers of >500 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

In the course of the positive developments of recent years, DFGE has further consolidated and successively expanded its service portfolio: Our services in the areas of accounting (e.g., calculations of carbon footprints and science-based targets (SBTs)) and reporting (e.g., for CDP, UNGC, GRI, EcoVadis) now come along with cloud-based solutions which allow our customers an easy-to-develop and -maintain route towards their sustainable future. To further drive our solutions & innovations division, Dr.-Ing. Thomas Dreier, one of the co-founders of DFGE in 1999, now re-joins the Executive Board as the second managing director alongside Dr.-Ing. Thomas Fleissner.

We have always aligned and partnered with internationally recognized organizations. For example, we are a partner of CDP and the SBTi, and are currently the only EcoVadis consulting partner in the German-speaking region. As a sustainability solutions provider, it is important for us to apply such principles ourselves and show our stakeholders that we are committed to them. We strongly believe in sustainability standards and frameworks. This document shows our commitment to the UNGC and we are happy to report our activities and improvement in this Communication on Progress. We hope that you will find valuable information in this report

Greifenberg/Munich, January 2022

Dr.-Ing. Thomas Fleissner, CEO



# 2 Human Rights

# 2.1 Principles, assessment and objectives

D	ri	n	ci	n	ما	1

Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

#### Principle 2

make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

#### Definition:

Human rights refer to "civil and political rights, such as the right to life, equality before the law and freedom of expression; economic, social and cultural rights, such as the rights to work, social security and education, or collective rights, such as the rights to development and self-determination, are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent". In the context of work, they can relate to having safe working conditions, being entitled to some rest and being compensated fairly. Other labor human rights are treated in the third chapter of this document.

#### Level of risk:

According to the Maplecroft Human Rights Risk Index 2016<sup>2</sup>, the risks regarding human rights abuses were identified as low in Germany in 2016. We continue to consider this assessment to be accurate.

#### Statement:

"As a service provider company, our workforce is our greatest asset. We intend to provide a nice workplace where employees can thrive:

- DFGE promotes a healthy and safe workplace
- DFGE provides its employees with decent working conditions with proper working hours and compensation
- DFGE is committed to focusing on the development of its employee through career management
- DFGE acknowledges the right to social dialogue and collective bargaining. Social dialogue is considered as all types of negotiation, consultation or exchange of information between or among representatives of governments, employers and workers, on matters of common interest relating to economic and social concerns. (ISO 26 000)."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://europe.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Maplecroft Human Rights Risk Index 2016 – Q4



We comply with the German laws related to these topics and implement actions. The following actions were previously implemented to be continued in 2022:

#### 2.2.1 Health and safety

- Clear and communicated rules in case of accidents
- Employees trained in the use of fire extinguishers
- Employees able to provide first aid support
- Provision of ergonomic chairs
- Provision of low blue light screens and adjustable screens
- Continue to follow COVID-19 regulations as specified by the government. In addition, our employees are offered COVID-19 vaccination in January 2022

#### 2.2.2 Working conditions

- Work-life balance measures (home office, flexible working hours)
- Free coffee, tea and water supply provided by the company
- For every purchase in common online shops a small share (usually up to 5% of the price) is donated to the non-for-profit association Tierparkfreunde Hellabrunn e. V.
- Second office in Munich reduces commuting distances and offers more flexibility for employees
- Virtual 'Fireside Chat' continued in 2021 to socially interact
- Team workshop during the summer to collect employees' impressions and ideas and to restructure internal processes
- Team event at the end of October where we were able to socially interact in person

## 2.3 Measurement of outcomes

- 0 work accidents in 2021
- 0 harassment cases in 2021



# 3 Labor

# 3.1 Principles, assessment and objectives

Principle 3  Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;	Principle 4 the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor;
Principle 5 the effective abolition of child labor; and	Principle 6 the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

#### Definition:

In the UNGC the labor principles refer to the right to collective bargaining, as well as the prohibition of forced labor and child labor and the principle of non-discrimination.

#### Level of risk:

In 2021, as for the previous years, even if these risks are not likely to manifest for DFGE due to location, size and sector, DFGE commits to preventing any form of forced and child labor, recognizes the right to collective bargaining and strives to prevent any form of discrimination in hiring, promoting, training, paying or dismissing employees.

#### Statement:

As far as DFGE is concerned, the following principles apply:

- Discrimination, e.g. any distinction, exclusion or preference that has the effect of nullifying equality of treatment or opportunity based on illegitimate grounds (like gender, marital status etc.), is prohibited. DFGE promotes diversity and equal opportunities.
- Violation of fundamental human rights is prohibited.
- Any form of violence and harassment is forbidden. Workplace violence is defined by the ILO as bullying, mobbing, threats, assault and homicide on the job as forms of violence at work.



The following measures will continue to be implemented:

- Compliance with laws
- Collective bargaining: due to our small size, there is no collective bargaining in place. However, there are mechanisms of performance reviews on a semi-annual basis. In any case of conflict that cannot be resolved, we can resort to the company's legal consultant.
- Child and forced labor: only employees above 18 are hired, clear working contracts based on widely used templates are used to establish working conditions.
- Discrimination: regarding payroll, negotiated beforehand based on experience (same practice as last year), pay ratio is 17%
- Telephone job interviews to focus on expertise and objective criteria
- Providing trainee positions for university graduates
- IT security concept: central documentation of all IT-related aspects like system availability, software and data integrity and security guidelines regarding data manipulation, etc. The security concept secures GDPR<sup>3</sup> conformity and is available to all employees.
- The program 'Open Office Open Mind' continues to allow home office work as well as web-based meetings, helps to optimize the use of resources and ensures a healthy work-life balance.

#### New actions:

- The employees' handbook which includes all policies and processes was updated as well as the corporate manual on quality management
- Expansion of the management with new Co-CEO to further expand our areas innovations and solutions

# 3.3 Measurement of outcomes

We are happy to announce that our targets were reached:

No breach of labor rights is to be reported.

#### In addition:

- 40% of our leadership team is female.
- 17 employees were hired in 2021 59% of them are female. 6 full-time employees left the company.
- In 2021, we employed two trainees (one of them continued during the year as working student) and one other working student.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://eugdpr.org/



# 4 Environment

# 4.1 Principles, assessment and objectives

Principle	7
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Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

#### Principle 8

undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

#### Principle 9

encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

#### Definition:

According to the UNGC, environmental challenges refer to climate change, water, energy, biodiversity and agriculture. Corporate efforts should focus on meeting environmental responsibilities, valuing natural capital, and better understanding the linkages between resources.

#### Level of risk:

Being a service company, DFGE's environment-related risk can be considered moderate. Nevertheless, there is a certain impact and responsibility which DFGE will assume, e.g., in the areas of procurement, resource consumption or employee commuting.

#### Statement:

DFGE commits to lower its resource consumption, reduce the company-wide Carbon Footprint and forgo all practices which have a negative environmental impact through the release of harmful substances. Furthermore, DFGE commits to actively promote UNGC principles to its customers, and to explicitly procure products whose environmental impact is certified to be low.



The following procedures and actions were also applied in 2021:

- Waste sorting
- Compensation of emissions
- Reduction of commuting distance due to second office location
- COVID-19 situation increases home office time significantly which further reduces commuting
- Extension of multi-pole sockets in the headquarter which should be switched off during the night
- Process description for employees regarding the reduction of energy and resource consumption and environmentally friendly commuting/traveling
- Paperless office
- Remote controlled heating system for office rooms
- Use of water carbonators instead of plastic bottles in both offices
- Raising awareness and sharing general information about current sustainability topics through blog entries about UN World Days, like Environment Day<sup>4</sup> and Earth Day<sup>5</sup>.

#### New actions:

• Due to our new office location in Munich, which is subleased, we do not have full control over the emissions from e.g., electricity. Therefore, as climate neutrality was always important to us, we decided to compensate our yearly emissions through a climate protection project which was chosen by our employees. For 2021 we support the 'Kariba Forest Protection' in Zimbabwe<sup>6</sup>. As more than a third of Zimbabwe's forest has been lost due to farming and fuelwood, the project focuses on forming a giant biodiversity corridor that protects an expansive forest and numerous vulnerable and endangered species. As a community-based project it is tackling several issues and supports a variety of activities, including environmental protection, fostering of communities and healthcare provision.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://dfge.de/world-environment-day-2021/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://dfge.de/earth-day-2021/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.southpole.com/projects/community-development-protects-forests



#### 4.3 Measurement of outcomes

- No reported incidents of violation of any legal obligations in the environmental field
- DFGE's total Carbon Footprint is 20,4 t CO<sub>2</sub>e in the calendar year 2021 and increased by approx. 21% compared to 2020. This is mainly due to the additional consideration and inclusion of upstream emissions of fuel and energy sources.<sup>7</sup>
- 70% of the Carbon Footprint is covered by indirect upstream and downstream emissions (Scope 3). The Scope 3 emissions increased compared to the previous year. This was mainly due to the higher number of employees and the mentioned inclusion of more detailed upstream emissions. In addition, we added one company vehicle to the calculations. However, we could also see a further decrease in emissions for business travel and employee commuting, which is still due to the ongoing pandemic situation. Instead, emissions for Home Office increased.
- Approximately 30% of DFGE's total Carbon Footprint can be categorized as direct emissions (Scope 1). Scope 1 emissions increased only slightly.
- The rest of DFGE's Carbon Footprint is covered by indirect emissions from the use of energy. Those emissions can be considered insignificant as they amount to 0% (see Fig. 4-2). The emissions regarding this position remained mainly the same due to the regional energy supplier which provides 100% green electricity from renewable sources. Only the upstream and downstream emissions caused by construction, maintenance, and end-of-life of renewable energy sources (especially wind and hydro power) are considered in our Scope 3 calculation.

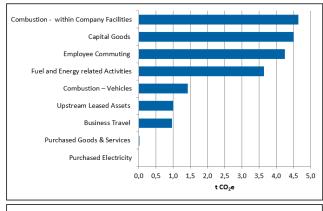


Fig 4-1: DFGE's CO₂e total emissions split up in categories

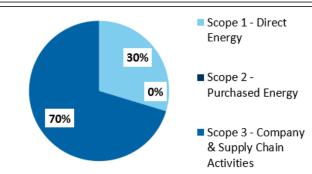


Fig 4-2: DFGE's CO₂e emissions categorized in Scopes according to the GHG protocol<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The calculation methodology was adjusted this year as part of our continuous improvement process.

<sup>8</sup> https://ghgprotocol.org/



# 5 Anti-Corruption

# 5.1 Principles, assessment and objectives

#### Principle 10

Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

#### Definition:

Corruption is "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain". It can take many forms: money-laundering, fraud, conflict of interest, etc. It can also be linked to unfair competition.

#### Level of risk:

The risk of corruption is estimated to be quite low. According to the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, Germany scores 80, ranking 9 of 180 countries. <sup>10</sup> However, we recognize some risks arising from tenders and in connection to our Carbon Footprint activities.

- According to the European Commission, when dealing with German public procurement, companies can face "collusive biding, conflicts of interest in the evaluation of bids, the involvement of bidders in the design of specifications, unclear selection or evaluation criteria, and tailor-made specifications for particular companies"<sup>11</sup>. This can be extended to the private sector also.
- In the field of climate protection, or more precisely in the field of emission permits, incidents of tax fraud, as well as other irregularities, were reported. DFGE never was, nor is involved in the trade with emission permits, green electricity or similar products.

#### Statement:

DFGE commits to prohibit and prevent among others embezzlement, money-laundering, fraud, conflict of interest, bribery and extortion. DFGE commits to comply with the competition framework and complies with all applicable laws.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://www.transparency.org/en/what-is-corruption

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/index/deu

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://www.ganintegrity.com/portal/country-profiles/germany/



Under the umbrella term Sustainability Intelligence, we support companies in their CSR reporting efforts like UNGC, EcoVadis, GRI, CDP, SBT, Carbon Footprint calculations<sup>12</sup>, etc. For these activities, we only use true and reliable data provided by our customers. As part of our projects, we support our customers within the data collection phase with plausibility checks and general tips. Furthermore, we follow guidelines provided by several CSR initiatives (e.g., GHG protocol, UNGC guidelines and requirements) and use scientific approaches for our daily work. In this context, we intend to prevent 'Greenwashing' and 'Bluewashing' activities and to avoid any corruption-related issues.

Regular dedicated measures to prevent corruption:

- Compliance with laws
- Implementation of accountability principles following the German (tax) law via a tax attorney
- Update our science-based methodology that prevents false carbon certificates
- Extensive IT policies, with dedicated server control, company phones, designated access roles, to protect the data, especially reinforced in the context of the GDPR
- Update of IT policies on a regular basis
- Training on data protection
- Set up of more stringent processes
- Formalization of some core processes and sub-ordinated processes. This secures transparent, clear and stringent procedures which prevent our employees from becoming involved in any corruption-related issues
- Employees Handbook that also addresses anti-corruption aspects, e.g., disciplinary procedures,
   Code of Conduct references, rules related to expenses, etc.
- IT security concept to underline, support and intensify the above-mentioned IT policies in a centralized document

### 5.3 Measurement of outcomes

As a result, our methods and actions were compliant with the above-mentioned regulations and recommendations. We are happy to report that there were 0 breaches declared in 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> For further information regarding CSR reporting and our support: <a href="https://dfge.de/sustainability-intelligence/">https://dfge.de/sustainability-intelligence/</a>



# 6 Summary 2021 and Targets for 2022

# 6.1 Summary of reached targets 2021

	Target	Achievement	
	0 breaches	0 breaches	
Human Rights	0 accidents	0 accidents	
	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	
	0 breaches	0 breaches	
Labor	3 employee hires	17 employees hired	
	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	
Environment	0 breaches	0 breaches	
Environment	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	
Anti-corruption	0 breaches	0 breaches	
Anti-corruption	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	1 additional customer endorsing UNGC	
Overall	Reach Gold-status in EcoVadis assessment	Gold status remains at the 2019 level	
Overall	scheduled for 2021		

# 6.2 Targets for 2022

To show further support to the United Nations, we align our targets with the Sustainable Development Goals, i.e., the 2030 Sustainability Agenda of the United Nations.

	Target	Action
		DFGE action:
	0 breaches	<ul> <li>Updated Training on Health and Safety</li> </ul>
Human Rights	0 accidents 3 additional customers endorsing UNGC	<ul> <li>Controls of safety procedures</li> </ul>
		To support the SDG <sup>13</sup> 3 "Good Health and Well-Being", Target 3.c:
		Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development,
		training and retention of the workforce

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>https://sdgs.un.org/goals



Labor	0 breaches 5 employee hires 3 additional customers endorsing UNGC	DFGE action:  Support companies in their UNGC and SDG efforts  Provide further team events and measures to increase the fun factor at work  To support SDG 17 "Partnerships for the goals", Target 17.16:  Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
Environment	0 breaches 3 additional customers endorsing UNGC	<ul> <li>DFGE action:         <ul> <li>Investigate and implement further options to reduce our Carbon Footprint</li> <li>Solutions for customers related to Artificial Intelligence and Science-based Targets</li> <li>Help our customers become carbon neutral</li> </ul> </li> <li>To support SDG 13 "Climate Actions", Target 13.1:     Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries     </li> </ul>
Anti- corruption	0 breaches 3 additional customers endorsing UNGC	<ul> <li>Updated training on data security according to new implemented         IT security concept</li> <li>To support SDG 16 "Peace, justice and strong institutions",         target 16.5:         Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms         And target 16.6:         Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</li> </ul>
	Implementation of a QM-Manager	DFGE action:  Ongoing detailing of the existing quality management following ISO 9001  DFGE action:  Regular reviews of our policies
Overall	Act sustainably whenever possible  Employee training program	<ul> <li>Internal training program to continuously develop our abilities and know-how</li> <li>DFGE action:</li> <li>Expansion and extension of the existing training program with external independent consultants</li> </ul>
	Reach Gold-status in EcoVadis assessment scheduled for 2022	DFGE action:  Renew EcoVadis assessment and retain gold status
	Sustainability@DFGE	Implement an internal program "sustainability@DFGE", driven by our employees to further improve sustainability within our company and to increase employee retention



# 7 The SDGs as guiding framework for DFGE

Our vision is to enable not only other companies to realize their green vision and improve sustainability but also ourselves. The concept of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is proven and one of the next steps into a better future. In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It comprises 17 goals for sustainable development - the SDGs. The 193 UN member states have thus committed to an action plan that aims to achieve nothing less than a sustainable transformation of our world. The SDGs are a powerful possibility to transition towards sustainable development.



Fig 7-1: Sustainable Development Goals SDGs

We have derived fields of action from the SDGs and made them the strategic framework for our daily work. Without any legal obligation, of course, solely out of our conviction. We want to be pioneers and inspire others. The following paragraphs show how we contribute to the respective SDG.

We are aware of the diverse and broad dimensions of the SDGs. While the impact of our internal operations is limited, we want to ensure a holistic commitment to the SDGs by supporting our customers to transform towards a sustainable future. The SDGs with the biggest field of action within DFGE are described below:



Ensuring good health and well-being of all our employees is essential for sustainable development. Especially during the current pandemic, and the resulting destabilization of the global economy, employers have been presented with major challenges. We are pleased that we can support our employees by offering remote work and the resulting

necessary health protection. Healthy and motivated employees are the foundation for a successful future.





The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a recession with high levels of deprivation and unemployment, creating an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. While facing the challenges of an uncertain economy and decline of investment, we were able to further grow our company during the past pandemic years. While these financial results are

undoubted of decisive importance for a company, these ratios do not describe everything that is important for the long-term success of DFGE. A forward-looking company must also consider aspects and pursue goals that sometimes do not directly contribute to growth or earnings. Thus, DFGE's success is also based on the values and culture of the company and the non-financial or intangible assets that result from them. A major contributor to DFGE's business success is our reputation as a reliable, trustworthy, and fair business partner. Good contacts and close networking with regional economic players are further success criteria to which we attach great importance.



Sustainable innovation and infrastructure can foster dynamic and competitive economic power that generate employment and income. The further development of digital tools to calculate the Carbon Footprint of our customers will play a key role in fostering the reduction of GHG emissions and enabling the efficient use of resources.

With the increasing demand for digital solutions from our customers, we will further invest in the development of holistic tools which help our customers in their sustainability journey. We are convinced, that these innovations are key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as increased resource and energy efficiency.



Ensuring equal opportunities for all employees - regardless of gender, age, religion, etc., - and avoiding discrimination of any kind are absolute prerequisites for an appreciative, pleasant, and productive atmosphere. Diversity and equal opportunities are characteristics of good governance and social responsibility. DFGE offers all employees

the same development and career opportunities - regardless of gender, age or origin. DFGE employs roughly the same number of women and men. Further, we are currently employing many young professionals and university graduates, offering them job opportunities as trainees, interns, junior specialists or working students. While we profit from their deep motivation to foster sustainable change, we provide them with a good career start and foster their personal development.



The COVID-19 pandemic offers organizations an opportunity to rethink their current strategies and to change their consumption and production patterns towards a more sustainable future. According to the UN, sustainable consumption and production are about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing

resource efficiency, and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Sustainability is part of our identity. It is therefore also systematically integrated into all our processes. We aim to live up to the high standards we set ourselves, particularly in our core operations. Depending on the specific goals and strategy of our customers, we offer services that will facilitate their way to sustainability. DFGE can assist in every step of their path to CSR management and reporting. Our services range from data collection, calculation, review to reporting – always with respect to ESG criteria. Under the heading of Sustainability Intelligence, we actively support companies on their way to sustainable management.





The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. As such, it is necessary to foster sustainable and inclusive growth towards a green economy that is fair and leaves no one behind. The

determination of a company's greenhouse gas emissions (Corporate Carbon Footprint) has become a central component of corporate sustainability. However, to achieve the global climate targets, i.e. to limit the temperature increase to below 2°C, and if possible even below 1.5°C, the determination of the status quo is only the first step: In addition, a concrete climate target specifying the necessary emission savings and an implementation plan containing concrete measures are required. We support our customers to develop a climate strategy, which helps them to avoid climate change risks and seize opportunities as they arise. The development and formulation of a science-based climate strategy is regarded as a central component of successful climate management, as this is where the ambitions of a company are made measurable and comparable. Accordingly, a climate strategy is based on a CO<sub>2</sub> balance sheet that brings together the relevant emission sources of the company. DFGE is the first science-based targets partner in the DACH region to support this process following international standards such as the ISO standard or the GHG protocol.



As proposed by the UN, we are convinced that the SDGs can only be realized by forming a network of strong partnerships and cooperations which is built upon a shared vision and shared goals. Worldwide, there are uncountable initiatives, many reporting institutions and numerous associations and standards in the field of sustainability. At

DFGE, we engage in such committees since 1999. Together with our partners, we provide the best assistance possible for companies' sustainable management.



# 8 With and for our partners



Given our core activity, we have the possibility to promote UNGC and move sustainability forward. This year we have increased the number of customers by about 100% compared to 2020. We are pleased to have the opportunity to push the sustainability agenda further, and we hope to push it even further in 2022.

#### **Promoting sustainability management**

Regarding sustainability management, we publish regular blog entries on CSR-relevant questions, which help companies to gain knowledge about various topics. In addition, we have kept the offer of free webinars addressing several topics in the field of sustainability. Previously, we provided webinars in cooperation with partners like CDP, EcoVadis and the WEC (World Environment Center). Furthermore, we offered free white papers and guidebooks as well as our CSR Handbook<sup>14</sup> that covers relevant CSR standards and topics in general. In this way, we offer a good and comprehensive overview to companies that want to establish or improve their sustainability management. Overall, for 2021 we can report more project completions, which shows us that the topic of sustainability is becoming more and more important.

#### **Supporting the Paris Agreement**

In 2021, we had the opportunity to support seven companies with regard to science-based targets. Science-based targets are a methodology enabling companies to set targets that are aligned with current scientific scenarios. These targets are in line with the Paris Agreement, which commits to keep global warming well below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial era. We hope that in the future, we will increasingly help companies develop such targets. In this context, the latest UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2021 signals again that it becomes paramount to work with solid data to create clear reduction pathways to net zero<sup>15</sup>.

#### Munich/Germany, January 2022

Founded in 1999 as a spin-off of the technical University of Munich, the DFGE – Institute for Energy, Ecology and Economy provides consulting services in the field of sustainability. Our offer Sustainability Intelligence featuring calculation management and reporting solutions aims at bundling the effort of taking part in several sustainability/CSR standards and rankings like CDP, UNGC, EcoVadis or GRI. Our services are structured according to our ACCoRD scheme: Analyze, Collect, Compose, Review, and Document, to foster continuous improvement and collect reliable data. Our clients range from international companies (DAX and fortune 500) to SMEs. Our partners are key players in the domain (such as CDP and EcoVadis), and we constantly monitor the current trends and existing norms, to support the organizations with dedicated solutions.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See our publications page: https://dfge.de/en/publications/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> See also our blog post: <a href="https://dfge.de/cop26-results-and-data-quality/">https://dfge.de/cop26-results-and-data-quality/</a>