UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT
HEALTH CASE STUDY
ROCKWOOL

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COMPANY OVERVIEW

A Since its early founding in Denmark in 1937, ROCKWOOL Group has been producing and selling fire safe insulation for a variety of buildings and installations. Within its operations today, ROCKWOOL tackles environmental challenges pertaining to both energy efficiency and sustainable food production. The company uses a natural material, stone, to create products that have a positive impact on the environment and improve people’s lives.

ROCKWOOL’s products play an integral role in ensuring a sustainable future, which has led to the company’s commitment to 10 of the 2030 U.N. Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs).

In its reporting, ROCKWOOL focuses on the three core elements where it believes its products have the most positive impact. These include:
ROCKWOOL Group’s brands all contribute to various SDGs but have different focus areas due to the different applications of the stone wool materials. ROCKWOOL insulation is key in SDG 13 Climate Action; Rockfon acoustic applications enable SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being; Grodan growing substrate contributes to SDG 2 Zero Hunger; Lapinus’ water management solutions contributes to SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation; and, Rockpanel cladding plays a role in SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.

**Five brands with one common purpose**
To release the natural power of stone to enrich modern living.

**ROCKWOOL**
Fire safe insulation for all types of buildings and installations:
- Building insulation
- Technical insulation
- Core solutions

**ROCKFON**
Acoustic ceiling solutions

**Grodan**
Precision growing for the horticultural industry

**Lapinus**
Engineered stone wool for composite applications, noise and vibration control, and water management

**Rockpanel**
Exterior cladding for building facades

**CASE: NO.1**

**ROCKFON**

Human health depends on the environment that directly surrounds us every day. We are dependent on the air, the water, and the safety of our surroundings. One of the most important components of these determinants of health is the indoor environment. In the United States, Americans spend 86.9% of their time indoors. Therefore, the conditions of our indoor spaces have great impact on our health. ROCKWOOL Group understands the importance of healthy indoor environments and strives to create products that generate safe and healthy spaces. “A healthy state-of-being is significantly influenced by both our physical and social environment. Given the impact our surroundings have on our comfort and well-being, we are proud that our products positively contribute to a healthy indoor environment – from improving air quality, to the acoustic and aesthetic performance of all building types, from offices to medical buildings and learning environments, such as schools and universities.” says John Medio, Managing Director Rockfon North America. As part of this emphasis on healthy workplaces, Rockfon products reduce noise and the spread of fire, all while using sustainable materials.
Rockfon products include acoustic ceiling tiles, baffles and clouds, wall applications, and suspension grids. These products have four attributes that increase the health of indoor spaces, including: acoustic control, light reflectance, humidity resistance, and fire resistance. Rockfon ceiling tiles have a noise reduction coefficient of up to 1.00, which provides quieter spaces allowing employees and students to be more productive and less distracted. In line with WELL Building Standards, Rockfon ceiling tile range has a light reflectance level of at least 83 percent of light, allowing for a brighter and healthier indoor environment. This also allows buildings to use less energy for artificial lighting. The stone wool attributes of the Rockfon products allow them to be stable up to 100 percent humidity and therefore prevent mold growth.

Lastly, the stone wool-based products are non-combustible, protecting against the spread of flames and smoke. In order to support healthier indoor environments, Rockfon supports the implementation of the WELL Building Standard. The WELL Building Standard aims to “[lead] the global movement to transform our buildings and communities in ways that help people thrive.” The Standard is performance-based, involving measurement, certification, and monitoring. In the current draft for WELL version 2 (v2), the WELL Building Standard includes 112 features across the following 10 concepts:

- Air
- Water
- Materials
- Nourishment
- Movement
- Thermal comfort
- Sound
- Community
- Mind
- Light

“Room acoustics in offices are key for employee wellbeing, thereby a company’s bottom line. For example, a survey conducted by the Leesman Review concluded that 74.6% of office employees list noise as an important workplace feature, yet only 30.5% are satisfied with the noise levels in their office.”

- Parik Chopra, Managing Director, Rockfon Europe and Asia

Office buildings are scored based on the 110 features and receive silver, gold, or platinum certification based on their score. New or existing buildings can be scored on their cores, shells, and interiors. Focusing on those features allows buildings to not only be energy efficient, but also promote healthy interactive spaces. At Rockfon, the company strives to create products that contribute to achieve the WELL Building Standard. Rockfon believes that “sustainable office design is a balanced, holistic approach to creating spaces that are healthy, safe and resilient, not only for those working inside them, but also for the surrounding community, the planet, and the generations to come.” Rockfon ceiling tiles are ideal for achieving the three parts of the feature focused on sound absorption. These three parts focus on thresholds for reverberation time, and implementation of both sound reducing ceilings and vertical surfaces. The Standard demands a noise reduction coefficient of minimum 0.9 for 100% of open workspaces and minimum 0.8 for at least 50% for conference rooms.

In addition to having products that demonstrate the WELL features, Rockfon Sustainability and Public Affairs Manager, Georg Schöner, received the WELL AP (Accredited Professional) accreditation in order to help customers understand the benefits the WELL Standard and the Rockfon products that fit within the Standard. “For more than a decade, I have followed the evolution of green building schemes, which are primarily focused on environmental effects of the building. WELL extends the focus of a building’s life cycle by also considering the health impact that the building itself has on occupants. This is an exciting trend to be part of”, reports Georg. By creating products that elevate the health of working environments and advocating for greater implementation of the WELL Building Standard, Rockfon is raising awareness and solutions for healthier indoor environments. “Our customers are continually renovating or designing new kindergartens, schools, hospitals, offices, restaurants, etc. They are places where people truly live their lives, places that matter. It is our duty to make sure they perform in the best possible way”, concludes Georg.