

Stakeholder Panel 2012: Introduction

As part of sustainability reporting on the financial year 2012, Geberit initiated and consulted a panel of external stakeholders for the first time. The results of the external stakeholder panel's analysis are documented in the [panel statement](#). The external review and the recommendations contained therein are dealt with in detail in the [response from Geberit to the panel statement](#). The process fulfilled the specifications of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) for an external review procedure to achieve a [GRI A+ Level](#), which has been confirmed by GRI.

Panel's objective and role, limitations

The objective of the external stakeholder panel was to review Geberit's sustainability strategy and reporting. This included an analysis of whether the most important topics were included in the reporting and whether the issues of the stakeholders were taken into consideration. In particular, the panel reviewed the extent to which the principles of «inclusivity» (participation of stakeholders), «materiality» (relevance and significance to stakeholders) and «responsiveness» (response to stakeholder issues) are considered in the reporting.

The panel's review does not include an examination of the accuracy of the data and information presented by Geberit.

Panel composition and independence

The stakeholder panel comprises five [members](#) with no affiliation to Geberit and different areas of expertise with respect to Geberit's core business. To ensure the panel's independence in this process, the discussions were overseen and moderated by an external party.

The [panel statement](#) contains the review of all panel members. The panel is a consensus group. In cases where a consensus could not be reached, the diverging opinions were documented in the Statement. As a basic principle, the views expressed by the panel members are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of their respective organization or employer.

Process and results

The process comprised several steps and was conducted and documented in a systematic manner:

- All panel members received all documents on sustainability reporting for analysis, including the sustainability strategy.
- In October 2012, the panel met personally with CEO Albert M. Baehny and managers from various departments for a half-day workshop. During this meeting, the panel received further information on the status of the sustainability performance and on planned priorities and measures. The initial analysis of the panel was discussed, refined and documented during this meeting.
- In January 2013, the panel was consulted once again, the revised sustainability strategy presented and the [panel statement](#) finalized.
- In February 2013, the [response from Geberit to the panel statement](#) was developed on the basis of current reporting on the financial year 2012.

Implementation of GRI specifications

GRI has identified six key qualities for the external assurance of reports. External assurance:

- should be conducted by groups or individuals external to the reporting organization, who are demonstrably competent in the subject matter and assurance practices;
- should utilize groups or individuals who are not unduly limited by their relationship with the organization or its stakeholders to reach and publish an independent and impartial conclusion on the report;
- is implemented in a manner that is systematic, documented, evidence-based, and characterized by defined procedures;
- assesses whether the report provides a reasonable and balanced presentation of performance, taking into consideration the veracity of report data and the overall selection of content;
- assesses the extent to which the report preparer has applied the GRI Reporting Framework (including the Reporting Principles); and
- results in an opinion or set of conclusions that is publicly available in written form, and a statement from the assurance provider on their relationship to the report preparer.

These specifications were implemented in order to meet the requirements for a GRI A+ Level.