## How Environmental Reporting can be Saved by Accounting Principles

Why Accounting Principles and Objectives should and must be applied on Corporate Environmental Reporting

By Miriam Aakre Borgersrud<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

Empirical studies show that environmental reporting within the annual report tends to lack reliability and comprehensiveness. This paper will argue that companies have a legal obligation to apply accounting principles when disclosing environmental information in their annual report. It also aims to explain why traditional principles of accounting must be applied to environmental information in the annual report in order to have an effect on decision-making in the company and on corporate behaviour.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Student Fellow at the Faculty of Law at the University of Oslo and as a member of the Sustainable Companies Project. This article is based on parts of the author's master's thesis, titled "Environmental Reporting" ("Miljørapportering"). Special thanks goes to the project leader and my supervisor, Professor Beate Sjåfjell, for all encouragement. Also thanks to Professor Hans Robert Schwencke, Professor Jukka Mähonen, Ph.D. student Jone Engh and Attorney at law Karin Ongre for constructive comments and discussions. I would also like to thank Professor Endre Stavang, Post Doctor Inger Marie Hagen and Post Doctor LLM. Cecilie Kielland for keeping their office doors open for my questions.