Svalbard Global Seed Vault has been in operation for over eight years. Statsbygg is now carrying out some improvement measures in connection with the vault.

The Seed Vault will ensure the earth’s crop diversity and is a reserve stock of plant seeds from the entire globe. The seed vault is established by the Norwegian Government and after more than eight years of operation nearly 900,000 samples of seed duplicates from the world’s collections of seeds have been deposited there.

The seed collection is stored deep inside the mountain and is kept frozen by both the permafrost and via artificial freezing. Statsbygg is responsible for the technical plant and provides 24-hour surveillance to ensure safe conditions for the seeds.

**New barrier**

After eight years’ operation we have gained a greater understanding of the construction and the local environment. In an effort to further strengthen the security and efficiency of the Seed Vault, Statsbygg will carry out certain upgrades of the facility. An extra physical barrier will be built beneath ground level in the mountainside above the Seed Vault. This is to prevent seasonal accumulation of water in the access tunnel.

The parking area will be improved and the transformer substation will be moved out of the Seed Vault.

Moving the transformer substation will provide safer operation, easier maintenance and will remove unnecessary heat sources. A new waterproof barrier will protect the entranceway from water ingress during melt periods and ensure the facility is better equipped for future climate change.

The seeds have been safely stored from day one and Statsbygg assures that the seeds will not be affected by the work. The Seed Vault is a very secure facility for preserving back-up copies of the world’s crop seeds.

Neighbours are now being notified about the measures, which will be implemented through the autumn and winter.

More information about the Seed Vault: [www.seedvault.no](http://www.seedvault.no)

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**FACTS**

Statsbygg is the Norwegian government’s key advisor in construction and property affairs, building commissioner, property manager and property developer.

Statsbygg is a public sector administration company responsible to the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation (KMD). Statsbygg provides appropriate, functional premises to public sector enterprises, as well as realising prevailing sociopolitical objectives in relation to architecture, governmental planning interests, preservation of heritage sites and the environment.