

# Green light for Svalbard residential buildings.

## **Statsbygg has received the go-ahead to start construction of residential buildings in Gruvedalen.**

Multiple avalanches have impacted Svalbard in recent years, which has led to a shortage of private housing. For Statsbygg's part, the avalanches have resulted in the loss of 15 residential units. Also, several government residential buildings are located in avalanche-prone zones.

Thus, Statsbygg has planned 60 new residential buildings in Gruvedalen in Longyearbyen. Statsbygg has now received the go-ahead to start the housing project.

"We're pleased to be able to start work on the housing project now," says Synnøve Lyssand Sandberg, Director of Construction at Statsbygg. This allows us to stay on schedule and will permit the first residents to move in by New Year 2019.

20 of the properties are being built for Longyearbyen Community Council. A total of 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new properties will be built. The module-based properties will comprise 3, 4 and 5-room apartments, distributed over six buildings.

Work on constructing the modules is scheduled to start as early as this summer. Following a construction period of three months, the modular buildings from Skanska Husfabrikken will be shipped from the quayside in Steinkjer and will arrive in Svalbard after a voyage of six weeks. Then work will commence on assembling the modules at the construction site.

"This will allow us to build quality housing in the shortest possible time," says Sandberg.