

## Bioregional Development Group UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement Statement

Statement by the Chief Executive and Co-Founder of Bioregional Development Group,  
Sue Riddlestone OBE

Bioregional is pleased to confirm its continued support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organisation like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using appropriate channels of communication.

In summary, our day to day work supports the wider environmental and to a certain extent all the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact. We are an accredited observer organisation to the UN where we have worked on the Sustainable Development Goals from 2010, through the Rio+20 process, to now.

We have also directly supported United Nations Global Compact initiatives, in particular, as steering group members to develop a practical resource for companies operating within the construction sector and real estate users entitled 'Advancing Responsible Business Practices in Land, Construction and Real Estate Use and Investment'. The resource was launched around the world during 2015-2016.

Sincerely,

Sue Riddlestone OBE  
Chief Executive and Co-Founder

## About Bioregional Development Group

Bioregional is a registered charity and award winning social enterprise based in the UK, with offices in London, Oxford and Brighton. Bioregional has sister organisations or representative offices in South Africa, Canada, USA, Mexico, Greece and Australia. The charity has, since it was founded in 1994, established a number of associated enterprises to develop or continue the charitable mission and in which the charity sometimes retains an interest.

Bioregional champions a better, more sustainable way to live. We work with partners to create better places for people to live, work and do business.

Our ambition is simple. We want our practical projects to inspire people to live happy healthy lives within the natural limits of the planet, leaving space for wildlife and wilderness. We call this One Planet Living.

In order to achieve our ambition of One Planet Living we focus on three areas:

1. Delivering One Planet Living: Bioregional creates, nurtures and expands active partnerships enabling communities and businesses to deliver One Planet Living in practice. Together with our partners we create examples of how environmental and social improvements can be made whilst supporting the bigger ambitions of creating profitable enterprises, finding solutions, products and services that are affordable, scalable and easy to implement.
2. Innovative solutions to sustainability challenges: We combine our entrepreneurial experience, expertise and creativity to develop innovative solutions where a fresh approach or business model is required.
3. Influencing policy: Our work is aimed at influencing policy change at a national and international level, creating a political system that allows happy and healthy lives around the world and in the future.

## Impact on the UN Global Compact Principles

Bioregional's areas of work complement the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles, most notably our use of One Planet Living as a framework to engage, develop and implement action plans and communicate progress. Our work most significantly contributes to Environmental goals however One Planet Living is a holistic framework that recognises the interconnected nature of sustainable development and the role of responsible business. Through our work with a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses and governments at local, regional and national level, we are able to further promote the principles of UN Global Compact.

## 1.0 One Planet Living

	Health and happiness
	Equity and local economy
	Culture and community
	Land and nature
	Sustainable water
	Local and sustainable food
	Travel and transport
	Materials and products
	Zero waste
	Zero carbon energy

In 2002 Bioregional developed the One Planet Living Framework as a result of our work on the award-winning BedZED Eco-Village. The Ten Principles of One Planet Living compliment the Ten Principles of UN Global Compact. Some recent examples of our work on One Planet Living include:

### One Planet Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove is the first One Planet City. It is using a stretching and ambitious sustainability action plan based on the ten One Planet Living principles. The aim: to maintain this top seaside resort as a thriving and attractive city while spreading opportunities to all of its citizens and living and working within a fair share of the earth's resources.

As well as greening the city council's own operations, it aims to enable 280,000 seaside citizens to live well within a fairer share of the earth's resources.

Working with Bioregional and other partners in the city, the overall goal is to boost the local economy, make Brighton & Hove more resistant to price hikes in energy, fuel and food, and foster a more equal and healthy city while protecting the environment and our one planet.

*Councillor Jason Kitcat, Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council says: "It's a huge achievement for Brighton & Hove to be accredited as the world's first One Planet City."*

### Measuring Outcomes:

Equity and local economy: Two-year target to sign up 100 businesses as Living Wage payers surpassed and now 132 have joined, raising 822 salaries across a wide range of businesses and public sector organisations including the council.

Land use and wildlife: The first completely new UNESCO Biosphere site in the UK for almost forty years and the first ever in south-east England was established in June 2014 covering 150 square miles of Brighton and Lewes Downs, the city itself, nearby towns and coastline.

### B&Q – One Planet Home

One of Bioregional's longest-running and most important partnerships is with B&Q, the first One Planet Company. We're entrusted with reviewing its progress on sustainability against ambitious plans and targets. We work on a wide range of projects, helping B&Q to reduce the environmental impacts of its operations, its products and the lifestyles of its millions of customers.

We've worked closely with B&Q since 2007, at the core of this partnership is B&Q's One Planet Home Action Plan, which we helped it to develop. Each year we review the company's progress against the challenging sustainability targets set out in this plan.

Sustainability is now embedded into many of B&Q's core functions ensuring that its energy use and transport, for example, continue to become more efficient. Ongoing engagement with buyers ensures that supply chain risks are minimised and innovative new products and services are continually sought.

*Measuring Outcomes:*

Health and happiness: 21,769 employees completed One Planet Home e-training in 2015/16 which is 76% of the workforce

Sustainable Transport: Haulage emissions reduced by 30% and 42% reduction in emissions from business travel carbon footprint compared to 2006

B&Q's Journey towards leadership in Diversity and Inclusion

In November 2015, Bioregional supported B&Q to meet parent company, Kingfishers target to: 'have in place an action plan to become a 'best practice' retailer in its market on equality and diversity'. Bioregional prepared a report that included the following components:

- Review of various assessment models that are currently available to evaluate Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) performance.
- Key elements that constitute the business case for D&I.
- A competitor and peer analysis of ten leading companies from the retail sector and from other sectors and territories to distil leading practice in D&I.
- Elements for a D&I Score Card for B&Q. This included key strategic aspects such as vision, strategy, materiality, accountability & leadership, and governance and management. It also covered more operational elements pertaining to recruitment, promotion, and training; monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and marketing, supplier diversity & collaboration.
- Recommendations for a D&I Action Plan for B&Q.

Zibi – One Planet Community

The latest One Planet Community will be a highly sustainable mixed-use development of some 2,500 homes, shops and office space in the heart of Canada's capital city. Zibi, which means 'river' in the Algonquin language, is a waterfront area located next to downtown Ottawa and its neighbouring city of Gatineau, overlooking both the Ottawa River and Chaudière Falls.

Redeveloped from industrial brownfield land once dominated by a paper mill, the 37-acre site will include commercial and retail properties, condominium developments, a hotel, waterfront parks and open spaces and a network of pedestrian and cycling paths.

Over three million square feet of development is planned on a site which covers two river islands between Ottawa and Gatineau and land in Gatineau.

Developers Windmill Development Group and Dream Unlimited Corp have used the 10 principles of the One Planet Living framework to help guide sustainability planning for Zibi. A sustainability action plan based on the principles was endorsed in May 2015.

*Measuring Outcomes:*

Culture and Community: Working together with the Algonquin-Anishinabe community in ways that generate lasting and tangible benefits to present and future generations; creating a new model for how private developers engage with First Nations in Canada.

Zero Carbon: A district-wide energy system, which aims to provide Zibi with zero carbon energy by 2020. It will use waste heat from a nearby paper mill.

## **2.0 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

Alongside our work to achieve One Planet Living through practical projects and partnerships, Bioregional uses its learning to influence policy and practice at national and international levels.

From 2009, Bioregional played an active role in inter-governmental negotiations at the United Nations about what sustainable development is and how it should be implemented across the planet.

In 2010 we got involved in the Rio+20 process where we attended every meeting and championed the Sustainable Development Goals, hosting the first side event at the UN in New York about the Goals in December 2011 with the Governments of Colombia and Peru.

Once the Goals were agreed in Rio, from 2012 we worked with international partners and governments to make sure the critical issue of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) was properly recognised in the SDGs. We were the NGO Global Focal Point for SCP for both Beyond 2015, a network of over 1000 civil society organisations, and for the UN 10 Year Framework of Programmes operated by UNEP.

We are now entering the next exciting phase of work on the SDGs – practical solutions for implementing these important and universal goals. Our work includes:

### UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD)

UKSSD is a multi-stakeholder network which aims to implement the SDGs in the UK. Bioregional co-chairs the Steering Group and supports the strategic development and delivery of the initiative. We sit alongside UN Global Compact UK on the Steering Group.

In April 2016 we launched UKSSD at a conference with 100 representatives from business, government and civil society in the UK.

UKSSD brings together multi-disciplinary organisations from all sectors in the UK to support the cooperation and partnerships needed to deliver the goals in the UK. It engages with government at all levels and localities to drive an ambitious sustainable development agenda and act as a focal point for sustainable development in the UK.

*Measuring Outcomes:*

- 100 organisations attended the inaugural conference in 2016
- 30 partner organisations signed-up to the initiative
- 250 organisations joined the mailing list

### Transform Together; the 2030 Initiative for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

Transform Together is a coalition of like-minded organisations working in 15-20 'high impact' countries around the world. These countries, some developed and some representing emerging economies, make the greatest demands on the planet's resources and climate stability.

The initiative seeks to catalyse and demonstrate the political, business and societal changes needed to address unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in middle and high-income countries. Bioregional co-founded the initiative with Leo Williams, former Director of the Beyond2015 campaign.

Transform Together is under development and was launched at the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in May 2016.

### Sustainable Buildings and Construction, 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP

Bioregional has been the NGO Global Focal Point for the UN's 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production for two years. This led to our involvement with the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee, allowing us to share our practical experience of the built environment with international governments and practitioners. We are working with UN Habitat, the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Energies2050, a sustainable energy NGO based in France, to develop a flagship project on sustainable social housing in Africa.

Alongside these initiatives which seek to implement the goals we continue to support policymakers through our work on interlinkages in the SDG targets.

### **3.0 United Nations Global Compact initiative - Advancing Responsible Business Practices in Land, Construction and Real Estate Use and Investment.**

During 2013-15 Bioregional were members of the steering group for this United Nations Global Compact and Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors initiative to develop a practical resource for companies operating within the construction sector and real estate users entitled 'Advancing Responsible Business Practices in Land, Construction and Real Estate Use and Investment'.

Bioregional attended working group meetings in New York and regular meetings to develop the resource which was launched around the world during 2015 to 2016.