

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.

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, the USA 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 partner with ambitious developers, retailers and local governments to create the right conditions for 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 four main impact areas:

- providing support, tools and training to use our One Planet Living® framework
- helping businesses plan and implement innovative and visionary sustainability strategies, products and services, so people can consume sustainably
- working with companies in the built environment and local governments to create homes and communities that make it easy to live a sustainable lifestyle
- influencing wider change by building alliances and spreading best practice

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 together with WWF as a result of our work on the award-winning BedZED Eco-Village. The ten Principles of One Planet Living complement the ten Principles of UN Global Compact. Some recent examples of our work on One Planet Living include:

Les Villages Nature® Paris

In 2004, CEO of French holiday Group Pierre & Vacances-Center Parcs Gérard Brémont visited us at our offices in BedZED. Brémont returned to France determined to create a major tourism destination that would embody the principles of One Planet Living, while immersing its guests in nature. After working with us to help make this vision a reality, in 2017 Les Villages Nature® Paris opened its doors. We continue to train and mentor resort staff in One Planet Living to make sure its principles are embedded across all operations.

Measuring Outcomes:

- Zero-carbon energy: Geothermal energy provides 100% of heat demand and 30% of neighbouring Disneyland Paris' heat demand
- Land and nature: New habitats created for wildlife on 250 hectares of former farmland – roughly the size of the London Olympic Park
- Zero waste: 100% of the soil used in construction was excavated onsite. That's 1 million m³ – enough to fill 400 Olympic swimming pools

"The resort is truly a potential game changer for sustainable tourism that hopefully many will learn from."

David Randle, Global Sustainable Tourism Council

B&Q – One Planet Home

One of Bioregional's longest-running and most important partnerships is with B&Q, the first One Planet Company. In 2007 we helped B&Q develop and launch its One Planet Action Plan, an ambitious strategy which marked the beginning of its sustainability programme – One Planet Home. This partnership has become one of Bioregional's longest-running and most important collaborations.

Each year we review B&Q's progress against its sustainability targets set out in this plan, and tell the story of its progress. 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.

In 2017 we celebrated 10 years of B&Q's One Planet Home programme with an anniversary publication detailing achievements including a 41% absolute reduction in its carbon footprint.

Measuring outcomes:

In 2017 B&Q's achievements included:

- Zero carbon energy: saving 135,000 tonnes of carbon emissions – equivalent to the energy use of 14,577 homes for a year
- Zero waste: diverting 99% of its waste from landfill
- Materials and products: sustainable home products made up 40% of sales

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 ten principles of One Planet Living to help guide sustainability planning for Zibi. A sustainability action plan based on the principles was endorsed in May 2015. The first residents are due to move in at the end of 2018.

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.

Zero waste: A target for 2% or less of the waste generated by the completed development to go to landfill.

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.

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:

- In 2018 UKSSD's report *Measuring up – How the UK is performing on the Sustainable Development Goals* was published. This involved contributions from 17 chapter authors, 100+ contributors and 8 financial supporters.
- UKSSD's network now includes more than 95 Partners and over 1000 network members.

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 was launched at the 2nd United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in May 2016, and continues to gather momentum and new funding.

We convened a multi-stakeholder expert group to uncover scalable solutions for sustainable smartphones. We now aim to spread best practice, helping accelerate progress towards SDG12.

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.

Promoting the SDGs within the built environment

As a member of the steering committee for Ecobuild, the UK's biggest annual green buildings conference and exhibition, we ensured that the SDGs were a silver thread running through this year's conference, to highlight the opportunities they provide for companies in the built environment. We also persuaded more than 100 people to pledge to take action to achieve the SDGs. To coincide with Ecobuild we launched a new freely accessible guide for companies in the built environment: Build a Better Future with the SDGs. We are now working with the team at Ecobuild 2019 to ensure that the SDGs will continue to be a prominent theme running through the event.