

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 and Oxford. Bioregional has sister organisations or representative offices in South Africa 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® sustainability 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.

1.3 million people are now living in, visiting and working at organisations, communities and cities with a deep commitment to One Planet Living

Some recent examples of our work on One Planet Living include:

Highlights from our One Planet Living partners across the globe are:

WGV, Western Australia. In 2020-1 we completed our final annual review of this inspiring zero-carbon demonstration project led by land development agency DevelopmentWA. Now complete, WGV is a diverse, mixed-use community of 80 homes, with a people-friendly, rather than car-dominated, layout and plenty of green space. With an impressive range of housing types, WGV was zero carbon from day one and already has a strong sense of community, proving that we can create great places to live within the means of the planet.

Impact facts:

- 15 affordable dwellings built for younger people and local artists
- 100% of home have access to local food-growing space
- WGV is on track to achieve 90 - 100% renewable energy

Zibi, Canada. As this ground-breaking one planet community in Canada moves from construction to operation, we advised its developers how to build a culture of sustainability among its new residents, drawing on the experiences of other One Planet Living partners around the world. We were proud to see Zibi complete a number of new buildings and launch its new [zero-carbon district energy network](#). This is the largest of its kind in Canada so far, and it will ensure that all buildings will be zero carbon.

Impact facts:

- On track to remediate 100% of the land to benefit local wildlife
- 10% of parking spaces have electric vehicle charging points - later phases are aiming for 20%
- On track to achieve its zero carbon ambitions

Singita, Africa. As an ecotourism and conservation company, Singita's business suffered greatly from lockdown. Despite this, thanks to its incredible efforts it has managed to retain its full complement of staff. We have supported it by helping to

design and deliver a [new programme of staff training on One Planet Living](#), as well as conducting an annual review of its actions against its One Planet Action Plan.

- Ten local people have been trained in new skills at the Singita Community Culinary School.
- Plastic bottle waste has been reduced by 97% across the lodges, with reusable bottles and filtered water available for staff and guests.
- An upgrade to the solar panels at Singita Kruger National Park in March 2017 (including battery storage) has halved its carbon footprint and reduced fuel use by almost 60%.

We have also been working with **the City of Fremantle in Western Australia** since it became a One Planet Living global leader in 2015. This year we supported it to refresh its Action Plan and align it with its Strategic Community Plan. Fremantle became the first city in Australia to include sustainability in its procurement requirements, and has strengthened this so that now a member of the City Council's sustainability team must now be involved in decision-making for any procurement over \$150K. This is exactly the leadership we need to see from city councils.

One Planet Living in towns and cities

Over the past few years we have galvanised collaborative action by local councils, businesses, schools and community groups in towns and cities across Canada, Denmark, South Africa, Russia, Brazil and the UK, helping to make them better places to live.

Highlights this year include:

In **Durban**, our South Africa office has been working in the local community in an informal settlement within the municipality of Ithwanike to use One Planet Living to structure local green initiatives and support social entrepreneurs. Part of this plan involves creating a solar farm to provide local renewable electricity.

In **Saanich**, local delivery partner One Earth has continued its work to engage a wide range of stakeholders in sustainability action, also creating a support pack to help local schools use One Planet Living.

In **Tarusa**, One Planet Living has been adopted as the city's sustainability framework. With extensive stakeholder engagement via virtual and in-person meetings and phone calls, our local partners have created two One Planet Living Action Plans – one for the city administration, and one for Welna eco-spa hotel.

The **district of Vila Mariana in Sao Paulo**, Brazil, has also become the first Brazilian community to sign up to our One Planet Living in towns and cities programme. They'll be co-creating a shared vision and action plan for the region.

Impact facts

- 7.8 million people are now living in 25 towns, cities or city-regions using One Planet Living
- More than 100 One Planet Living action plans have been created so far
- Bioregional has trained hundreds of stakeholders in these towns and cities in how to use One Planet Living

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:

Catalyst 2030 – unleashing the power of social entrepreneurs

Launched in 2020 at the World Economic Forum, Catalyst 2030 is a global movement of 300 social entrepreneurs with a shared goal of sharing our know how and creating innovative, people-centric approaches to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Bioregional chairs the working group that focuses on influencing governments and multilateral institutions to support social entrepreneurs. As well as participating in a webinar series designed to showcase how social entrepreneurs can help drive system change, this year we participated in creating a guide for governments on how to unlock the potential of social entrepreneurs.

A key deliverable for our work is to foster practical action and partnerships between social entrepreneurs and governments. During the year we uncovered and supported 20 social entrepreneurs from within the Catalyst 2030 network to start new initiatives to work with governments on the SDGs.

UNEP Eco Innovation Manual – increasing the use of sustainable construction materials

Building materials carry a high environmental impact, with the amount of construction debris – including concrete, asphalt, bricks, metal, wood, ceramics and plastics – expected to reach around 2.2 billion tonnes annually by 2025.

Globally, SMEs account for 98% of the value chain. As smaller firms can be more

agile, they are potential agents of sustainable change, but they often lack the financial means and resources of larger firms to achieve this potential.

This year we have been working on a building materials supplement to the United Nations Environment Programme's Eco-innovation manual, an industry-agnostic, defined process for SMEs to assess sustainability obstacles and identify ways to overcome them.

The supplement will equip SMEs in the building materials industry with a toolkit and methodology to embed sustainability into their business strategies and better identify new products, services and practices that can yield both sustainability and economic benefits. Working with our partners, the National Cleaner Production Centre of Sri Lanka, the supplement will be piloted with 12 building materials companies in the coming year.

We have also trained the Sri Lankan Green Building Council, and people in 15 different Sri Lankan building materials sector SMEs, to help them understand the potential benefits of sustainability. Lessons learned will be valuable for the building materials sector globally.