



The UN Global Compact | Communication on Engagement UPDATE

March 2023

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD



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1. CEO Statement of Expression

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Bord Bia – Irish Food Board reaffirms its support to the ten principles of the **United Nations Global Compact**.

Bord Bia, the Irish government agency responsible for promoting the country's food, drink, and horticulture worldwide, is committed to fostering growth and sustainability among producers. Headquartered in Dublin, Bord Bia maintains a network of 15 overseas offices. Historically, Irish food and drink production has been rooted in the responsible management of the land, with farms passing down through generations. However, as the world's population continues to grow, the natural environment is increasingly being strained to meet the demand for food.

To address this challenge, Bord Bia launched Origin Green, a programme designed to drive and monitor positive change across Ireland's food and drink industry. The goal is to maintain and enhance the country's global reputation for food sustainability.

In this second publishing of Communication on Engagement, Bord Bia highlights its efforts to encourage Irish and international food and drink businesses to embrace the principles of the UN Global Compact and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, we promise to communicate this information to its stakeholders via its primary channels of communication. By doing so, businesses and producers alike can contribute to the global effort to promote sustainable development and create a better future for all.

Yours sincerely,



Jim O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer of Bord Bia



2. Description of Actions

Bord Bia encourages businesses and producers to participate in the UN Global Compact. Bord Bia recognises that the Irish food and drink industry faces numerous sustainability concerns on a global level. From an Irish perspective, climate change poses both a challenge and an opportunity for the industry to contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Bord Bia (The Irish Food Board) created Origin Green in 2012, a national sustainability programme that brings together the government, private sector, and the entire supply chain from farmers to food producers, foodservice, and retail sectors. Origin Green is the world's only national food and drink sustainability programme. It enables the Irish industry to set and achieve measurable sustainability targets that respect the environment and local communities.

Crucially, the programme provides the entire food industry with knowledge of pressing sustainability issues and the framework to help them address these issues continuously. Bord Bia oversees the programme, but an independent party verifies each participant's progress against their performance.

Today, Origin Green engages with over 55,000 farmers and over 300 participating companies, representing an opportunity to drive impact at scale. Undoubtedly, a step change is now required in both the scale and scope of our actions around sustainability. **Origin Green – Powered By Partnership** strategy outlines Bord Bia's continued determination to lead through the Origin Green programme while recognising that the challenges ahead require a collective approach. Driving increased collaboration domestically and internationally is the cornerstone of the next stage of the programme's development to accelerate change.

Bord Bia's action to encourage businesses and others to participate in the UN Global Compact demonstrates its commitment to promoting sustainable development and driving positive change within the Irish food and drink industry.

Origin Green is the world's only national food and drink sustainability programme. It enables the Irish industry to set and achieve measurable sustainability targets that respect the environment and local communities.



2. Description of Actions

2.1 UN SDG Alignment

On June 26th, 2018, Bord Bia initially became a member of the United Nations Global Compact. This move was aimed at further aligning the Origin Green programme with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a UNGC member, Bord Bia has utilised the wide range of international resources and exposure to stakeholders, allowing for the sharing of best practices, guidance, and innovative solutions to address global sustainability challenges.

By promoting the implementation of the UN SDGs within the Irish food and drink industry, the membership of the United Nations Global Compact reinforces Bord Bia's commitment to the ongoing development of Origin Green and its alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development.







2. Descriptions of Actions

2.1.1 Measurement of Outcomes

Bord Bia has demonstrated the alignment of the Origin Green **Manufacturing** Charter target areas, with fifteen of the seventeen SDGs.








SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	ORIGIN GREEN MANUFACTURING LEVEL ALIGNMENT	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	ORIGIN GREEN MANUFACTURING LEVEL ALIGNMENT
 SDG 2: Zero Hunger <i>End hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture.</i>	Origin Green members are seeking to develop sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices through responsible sourcing practices.	 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy <i>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.</i>	Origin Green members are reducing their energy consumption and switching to renewable energy sources.
 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being <i>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.</i>	Origin Green members are reformulating their products to reduce salt and sugar, developing “free-from” products for their consumers, and promoting a healthy lifestyle among their employees, customers and communities.	 SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth <i>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</i>	Origin Green members are creating job opportunities in their local communities and contributing to sustainable economic growth.
 SDG 4: Quality Education <i>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</i>	Origin Green members are involved in employment programmes and work experience placements of students to improve their skills for future employment.	 SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure <i>Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.</i>	Origin Green members are making capital investments to upgrade and retrofit site infrastructure to increase resource-use efficiency and adopt environmentally sound technologies.
 SDG 5: Gender Equality <i>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.</i>	Origin Green members are actively addressing the issue of gender equality within their diversity and inclusion strategies.	 SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities <i>Reduce inequality within and among countries.</i>	Origin Green members are working to empower and promote the inclusion policies and practices within their workforce, local community and further afield.
 SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation <i>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</i>	Origin Green members are reducing their water usage, developing and implementing wastewater treatment systems and finding unique ways to use naturally occurring rainwater in their production processes.	 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities <i>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.</i>	Origin Green members contribute to their local communities through involvement with sports teams, charities and schools.

2. Description of Actions

2.1.1 Measurement of Outcomes *continued*




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	ORIGIN GREEN MANUFACTURING LEVEL ALIGNMENT
 SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production <i>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.</i>	Origin Green members are producing food and drink sustainably by sourcing raw materials from suppliers with recognised sustainability credentials, by sourcing locally and by taking part in Bord Bia's Sustainable Assurance Schemes.
 SDG 13: Climate Action <i>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.</i>	Origin Green members are tackling climate change through establishing emissions targets, energy reduction initiatives and making renewable energy investments.
 SDG 14: Life below Water <i>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.</i>	Origin Green members are working to protect and enhance maritime life by fishing responsibly and reducing marine waste.
 SDG 15: Life on Land <i>Protect restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.</i>	Origin Green members are implementing biodiversity measures on their sites, such as protecting wildlife habitats and developing pollinator habitats.
 SDG 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goals <i>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.</i>	Origin Green members are working collaboratively with other organisations and stakeholders with the common goal of sustainable food production.

2. Description of Actions

2.1.1 Measurement of Outcomes *continued*

Bord Bia has demonstrated the alignment of the **Origin Green Producers** actions, with thirteen of the seventeen SDGs.






SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	ORIGIN GREEN PRODUCER LEVEL ALIGNMENT	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL	ORIGIN GREEN PRODUCER LEVEL ALIGNMENT
 SDG 1: No Poverty <i>End poverty in all its forms everywhere.</i>	Origin Green producers support their communities by implementing measures that deliver economic benefits, such as sourcing local materials, labour and services, and ensuring equal access to economic resources.	 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy <i>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.</i>	Origin Green producers are putting in place energy saving strategies. The programme encourages producers to consider alternative energy and fuel sources.
 SDG 2: Zero Hunger <i>End hunger, achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture.</i>	Origin Green producers receive feedback through the programme on how to improve their sustainability performance and establish sustainable agriculture practices, which can contribute positively towards food security.	 SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth <i>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</i>	Origin Green producers play an important role in the economic development of local communities. They are also required to carry out farm safety risk assessments to ensure the safety of farm employees.
 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being <i>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.</i>	Origin Green producers are applying best practices in biosecurity, hygiene and animal health to prevent the spread of communicable diseases from animals to humans and ensuring correct utilisation of veterinary medicines to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance, which contributes to good health.	 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. <i>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.</i>	Origin Green producers are recommended to identify and support ways in which their farms and personnel contribute to the local communities.
 SDG 4: Quality Education <i>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.</i>	Origin Green producers are required to train their staff in areas related to farm production. The feedback reports received through the programme provide farmers with information on sustainable agricultural practices, which contribute to sustainable development.	 SDG 12: Responsible consumption and Production <i>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.</i>	Origin Green producers are following accredited schemes based on sustainability principles incorporating environmental, social and economic aspects in order to substantiate their sustainability credentials and to improve their production processes.
 SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation <i>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</i>	Origin Green producers are implementing procedures to monitor water quality, minimise water use, identifying potential sources of water loss and adopting conservation measures on site, such as rainwater harvesting and recycling.	 SDG 13: Climate Action <i>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.</i>	Origin Green producers are using farm carbon footprint reports and the Carbon Navigator tool to improve their performance regarding carbon emissions and address climate change issues.

2. Description of Actions

2.1.1 Measurement of Outcomes *continued*



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL		ORIGIN GREEN PRODUCER LEVEL ALIGNMENT
	SDG 14: Life below Water <i>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.</i>	Origin Green verified seafood producers are using the BIM sustainability programmes to ensure necessary protection of marine life as well as to improve their sustainability performance.
	SDG 15: Life on Land <i>Protect restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.</i>	Origin Green producers are using a variety of sustainable land management practices and biodiversity measures in order to protect the ecosystems and pass the land and resources on to the next generation in a good or even better condition.
	SDG 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goals <i>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.</i>	Origin Green producers are working together with Bord Bia, industry actors and other organisations to support the wider sustainability efforts in the Irish Food and Drink production and achieve the shared goals.

2. Description of Actions

2.2 External Communication of the UN Global Compact and UN SDGs

Bord Bia has taken the initiative to educate our stakeholders, including our global customer base and domestic clients, on the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment reflects our dedication to promoting sustainable and responsible business practices.

Our efforts in educating our stakeholders aim to raise awareness about the importance of integrating these principles into business operations. By doing so, we aim to create a positive impact on society and the environment.

2.2.1 Measurement of Outcomes

Bord Bia aligns strongly to **Goal 17- Partnerships for the Goals**. Through strong collaborative relationships with like-minded organisations, we provide the leadership and the technical framework that ensures sustainability continues to drive positive change in the food and drink industry. This approach facilitates higher levels of ambition and greater progress on targets. It also enhances the industry's ability to reap the rewards from its actions and achievements. Bord Bia has established **partnerships** with groups such as Teagasc, National Biodiversity Data Centre, Repak and many others, to ensure that the practical business of sustainability is supported with data and best-in class training. Origin Green's new strategy, Powered by Partnership reinforces the partnership approach driving the programme and supporting more sustainable outcomes.



- **Leaders Sustainability Acceleration Programme**

In 2022, Bord Bia in partnership with UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, launched a new executive education course to elevate the issue of sustainability amongst senior leaders and board members to a guiding principle for businesses in our food, drink and horticulture industry. The UN SDGs are discussed in the first module.

- **Future Food Movement**

In 2022 to increase our network and enhance collaboration around the sustainability agenda, Bord Bia became a business ally for the **Future Food Movement** in 2022. This movement aims to accelerate climate action by facilitating a cultural shift through inspiration, upskilling and collaboration that moves the food industry from observation to meaningful participation.

2. Description of Actions

2.2 External Communication of the UN Global Compact and UN SDGs

2.2.1 Measurement of Outcomes *continued*

- **International Sustainability Forum Engagement**

The Origin Green team participates in a number of agriculture-related sustainability platforms internationally. The most significant of which are the SAI Platform Dairy Working Group and the European Roundtable for Beef Sustainability. The most recent meeting of the SAI Dairy Working Group was hosted by Nestle with Bord Bia and a number of Irish dairy processors attending.

- **IBEC Collaboration - EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices**

In 2022, Food Drink Ireland (FDI) and Bord Bia hosted a joint event, on the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices, one of the initiatives under the Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy. The focus was to showcase the similarities between the EU Code of Conduct and Bord Bia's Origin Green Programme. Templates were provided to companies to simplify the process and make it easy for them to use their Origin Green charter to sign up to the Code.

- **Supports for Origin Green Members**

Education is a fundamental part of the Origin Green programme as is supporting Irish food and drink manufacturers as they work to set and achieve ambitious sustainability targets.

A series of webinars and guidance documents were delivered over the last two years to help members stay on top of sustainability topics such as Science Based Targets, Emissions Reductions, ESG Integration, Biodiversity Improvement, Water Conservation, Resource Efficiency Measures and Sustainability Communication. These supports enable our clients to work towards meeting the latest global sustainability challenges and requirements, in line with the UN SDGs.



2. Description of Actions

2.2 External Communication of the UN Global Compact and UN SDGs

2.2.1 Measurement of Outcomes *continued*



• Origin Green and the UN SDGs at Bloom

Bord Bia, responsible for delivering **Bloom - Ireland's Family, Food & Gardening Festival** in Dublin's Phoenix Park, created a large display in June 2022 to raise awareness about the SDGs. The event attracted over 110,000 visitors over 5 days, and Bord Bia staff were present to answer any questions about the installation. With such a high attendance, many visitors learned about the Sustainable Development Goals and how they can contribute to achieving them.

• Creating Awareness of the UN SDGs and the UNGC Online

As part of broader communication efforts, the marketing team at Bord Bia develops social media posts and articles creating awareness around International Days that support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Origin Green also encourages programme members to share these posts across social media platforms. Bord Bia effectively reaches a wide audience to inspire individuals and organisations to take action towards creating a more sustainable future. More about Origin Green and the UN SDGs [here](#).

• The Bord Bia Library Engagement

On November 2nd 2022, Bord Bia proudly had its first ever UN SDG story published on the International Federation of Library Association's (the IFLA's) Library Map of the World. Bord Bia's librarians help to fill Information Skills Gaps in the Agriculture and Food Sector and positively contribute to improvements across the UN SDGs.

Building on its success, Bord Bia's Knowledge & Market Intelligence Team librarians cultivate a community of valuable knowledge creators who can help enable the growth and sustainability of Irish producers.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Bord Bia Library helps its community meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by:

- 1. NO POVERTY: A bank of ideas on reducing food poverty
- 2. ZERO HUNGER: Resources to promote sustainable nutrition and agriculture
- 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: Actionable insights on trends in health, nutrition and wellbeing
- 4. QUALITY EDUCATION: Your destination for lifelong learning
- 5. GENDER EQUALITY: Case studies to inform effective gender equality strategies
- 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION: Authoritative sources on the sustainable management of water
- 7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY: Remote access to Library services and collections
- 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: Information that drives commercial growth and helps develop Ireland's rural economy
- 9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Proven approaches to insight led branding and innovation
- 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES: Best practice to help reduce inequalities and promote DEI
- 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: Collections that promote sustainable cities and communities
- 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: Access to responsible practices that reduce environmental impact and better serve local communities
- 13. CLIMATE ACTION: Best practice and case studies to help Irish marketers prioritise climate action
- 14. LIFE BELOW WATER: Resources on the global sustainable seafood industry and marine plastic waste
- 15. LIFE ON LAND: Information to help Irish marketers promote sustainable eco systems and biodiversity
- 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS: Making information discoverable and accessible to clients and colleagues
- 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS: Participation in professional Library organisations that support the SDGs e.g. (IFLA)

BORD BIA
Thinking House

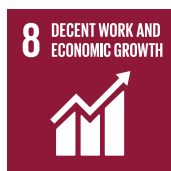
Contact a reference librarian at thethinkinghouse@bordbia.ie

2. Description of Actions

2.2 External Communication of the UN Global Compact and UN SDGs

2.2.1 Measurement of Outcomes

- AgDif



Bord Bia aligns strongly with **UN SDG Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth** and **Goal 5 - Gender Equality**, promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all through The Agri-Food Diversity & Inclusion Forum (AgDIF). It is a collaborative initiative with industry, led by Bord Bia and Aon in partnership with The 30% Club. Our vision is that the Irish food and drink industry is the industry of choice for the best talent. Bord Bia aim to advance the D&I agenda within the Irish Food and Drink industry, focusing on gender balance first.



In October 2021, Origin Green released a Diversity and Inclusion Guidance Document to support members in

increasing the number and ambition of their diversity and inclusion targets focusing on gender equality.

In March 2023, to mark International Women's Day, Bord Bia released a **document for client companies**, providing information to support workplace conversations about gender equity.



- **Advocating for the UN SDGs at University Discussions**

Bord Bia representatives actively spread awareness about the UN SDGs and the Origin Green programmes alignment among students at third-level institutes. During these presentations, they emphasise the importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility and **raise awareness about** the UN SDGs. Bord Bia's engagement with third-level institutes reflects a commitment to sustainability and the desire to promote sustainable practices among the next generation of leaders in the food and drink industry.



2. Description of Actions

2.3 Internal Communication of the UN Global Compact and UN SDGs

Bord Bia is actively engaging and communicating with its employees regarding the UNGC and the SDGs. We understand the significance of promoting awareness of these important sustainability issues among our workforce and are using a range of events and communication channels to achieve this objective. Bord Bia aims to instil a culture of sustainability within the organisation, foster employee involvement and commitment to sustainability efforts, and enhance organisational performance and outcomes towards achieving the UN SDGs.

2.2.1 Measurement of Outcomes

• Upskilling Bord Bia Staff on Sustainability

Throughout 2022, Bord Bia introduced a staff capability development programme focussed on helping them understand the impact of their roles and how they can support and champion sustainability internally and externally with the food, drink and horticulture industry, irrespective of their position or level.

The programme included mandatory completion of online training modules and in classroom training. The UN SDGs were discussed in these sessions. Staff were also encouraged to take additional LinkedIn Learning short courses on sustainability and the global goals.



• Project Us Digital Café Conversation

Bord Bia partnered with Project Us - an Irish Aid funded programme, facilitated by Concern Worldwide in tandem with the Global Goals Business Conversations on April 22nd 2021. All Bord Bia staff were invited to join this workshop which created awareness of UN SDGs, in an accessible and engaging way. An overview of all 17 UN SDGs was introduced and the workshop offered a space for people to discuss ways we might work towards achieving the goals by 2030. The Home Garden Programme in Gambella, Ethiopia was the focus of the Digital Café. The home garden programme gives people the skills and tools to grow vegetables right outside their homes. The issues of Hunger, Nutrition and Gender Inequality were explored by staff through the Digital Café.

• Display of the UN SDGs within the Global Hub



Bord Bia displays the UN SDGs on the 3rd Floor and Library of their Global Hub. This display serves as a visual reminder to staff and visitors to the building about the importance of the SDGs and the role that each of us can play in achieving them.

The display also provides information about the goals and their associated targets, helping people understand the scope and complexity of the challenges that need to be addressed.

Our decision to display the SDGs within the Global Hub sends a message about the organisation's commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices.

2. Description of Actions

2.4 Promotion at Intergovernmental Level

Bord Bia has taken a proactive role in promoting sustainable development goals (SDGs) not just within its own organisation and industry but also at a governmental level. As a responsible and forward-thinking organisation, Bord Bia understands that achieving the SDGs requires a collective effort from all stakeholders, including governments, private sector entities, civil society organisations, and individuals.

To this end, Bord Bia has collaborated with senior officials in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to show how the SDGs play an integral part of our food, drink and horticulture industry's sustainability agenda.

2.4.1 Measurement of Outcomes

• UNFAO Visit

In June 2022, The Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Qu Dongyu, accompanied by his senior officials and representatives from the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, visited the Bord Bia Global Hub in Dublin to learn more about how the Irish food, drink, and horticulture sector is driving the sustainability agenda enabled by the Origin Green programme.

The discussion between the Irish industry group and the Director-General and his delegation had a strong focus on Ireland's Food Vision 2030 a landmark strategy for the Irish agri-food sector that aims to transform Ireland's agriculture, food, forestry, and marine sectors in the period to 2030.

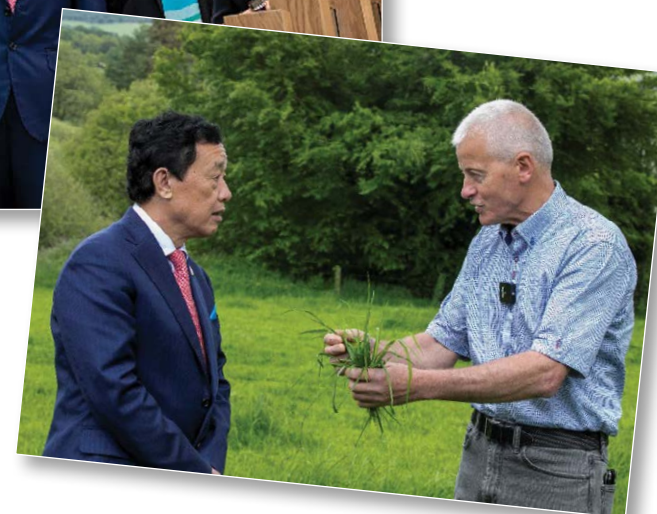
The FAO delegation also travelled to an Origin Green dairy farm, where farmer Joe Hayden described his family's farming legacy and its commitment to continuous sustainable food production, while explaining Ireland's unique grass-based dairy production system.

Qu Dongyu was impressed to learn about sustainability practices at farm level and how Irish farmers are taking action to meet the latest global sustainability challenges and requirements, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Visit of Qu Dongyu to the Bord Bia Global Hub in Dublin

With farmer Joe Hayden



3. Conclusion

Bord Bia has made significant progress in promoting the UN Global Compact and working towards the SDGs. However, the organisation recognizes the importance of continuous efforts to leverage its unique position in Ireland and promote the objectives of the UN Global Compact.

Developed over time, Origin Green has become a dynamic, evolving programme of measurement and improvement and a best-in-class framework designed for suppliers in partnership with customers to meet the latest global sustainability challenges and requirements in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Origin Green is uniquely placed to play a pivotal role in helping the Irish food and drink industry deliver meaningful contributions to advancing the SDGs and their associated targets. Origin Green has incorporated the SDGs in its objectives, using them as a guide in the ongoing development of the programme, and will continue to do so.



