



Bioregional

Implementing One Planet Living

A manual

April 2018



ONE
PLANET
LIVING



An
initiative
by Bioregional

Implementing One Planet Living

A manual

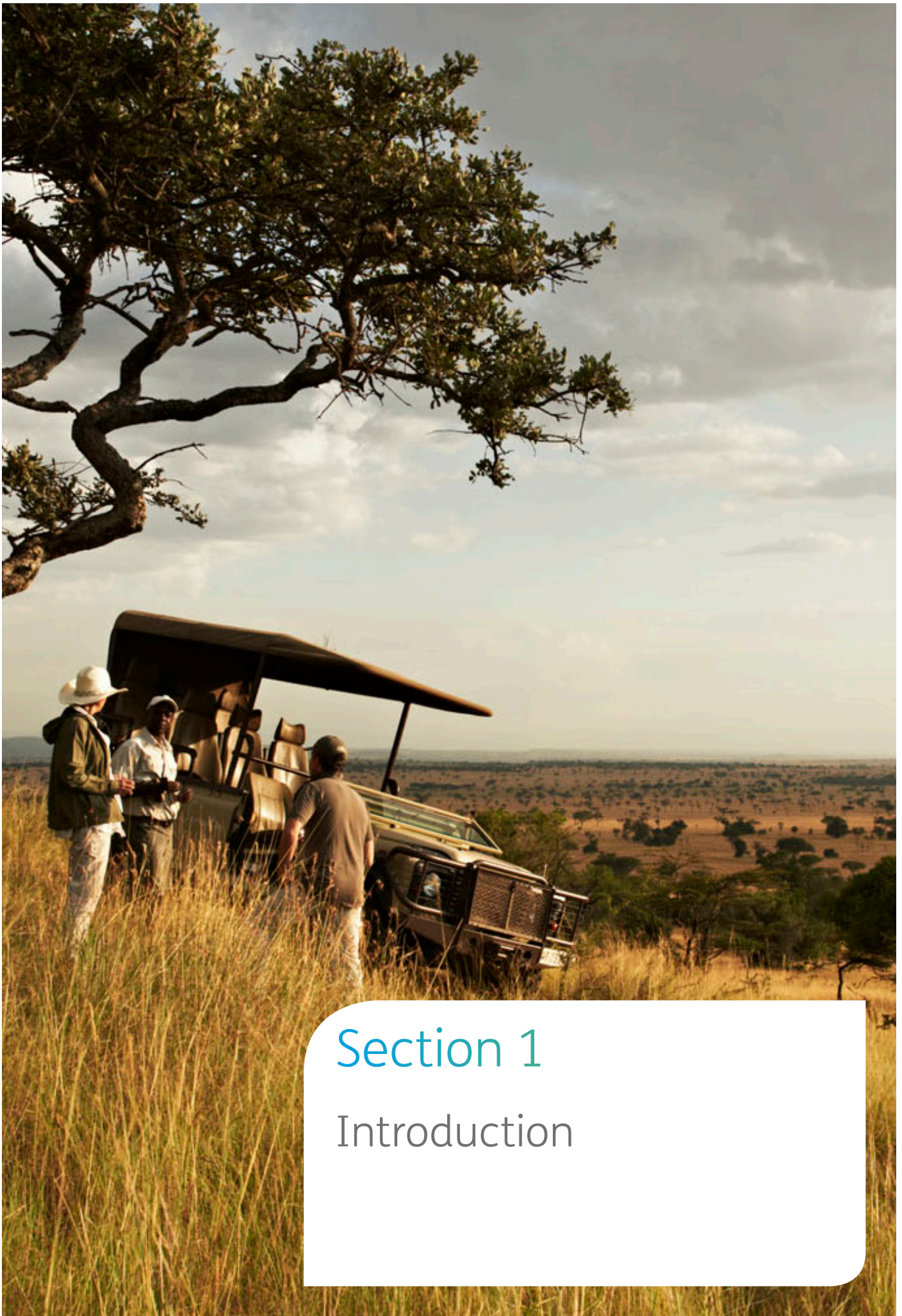
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Section 1

Introduction

About this manual

This manual provides guidance on creating, implementing, monitoring and reporting on the progress of a One Planet Action Plan for a project, an organisation, a city or a region. It covers both the creation and the implementation of a plan.

The manual provides background on the philosophy of One Planet Living® and the history behind it, and how to embed One Planet Living into a sustainability strategy. It also provides guidance on the process behind Bioregional-led 'peer reviews' of One Planet Action Plans and Bioregional's system for recognising leadership.

As well as familiarising yourself with this manual, it's also important to read and be familiar with Bioregional's Goals and Guidance for implementing One Planet Living. These provide advice to particular sectors and types of organisation on what goals, actions, indicators and targets to include in a One Planet Action Plan, and offer examples of good practice. Guidance is currently provided for communities, companies, cities and regions and schools at bit.ly/GoalsandGuidance.

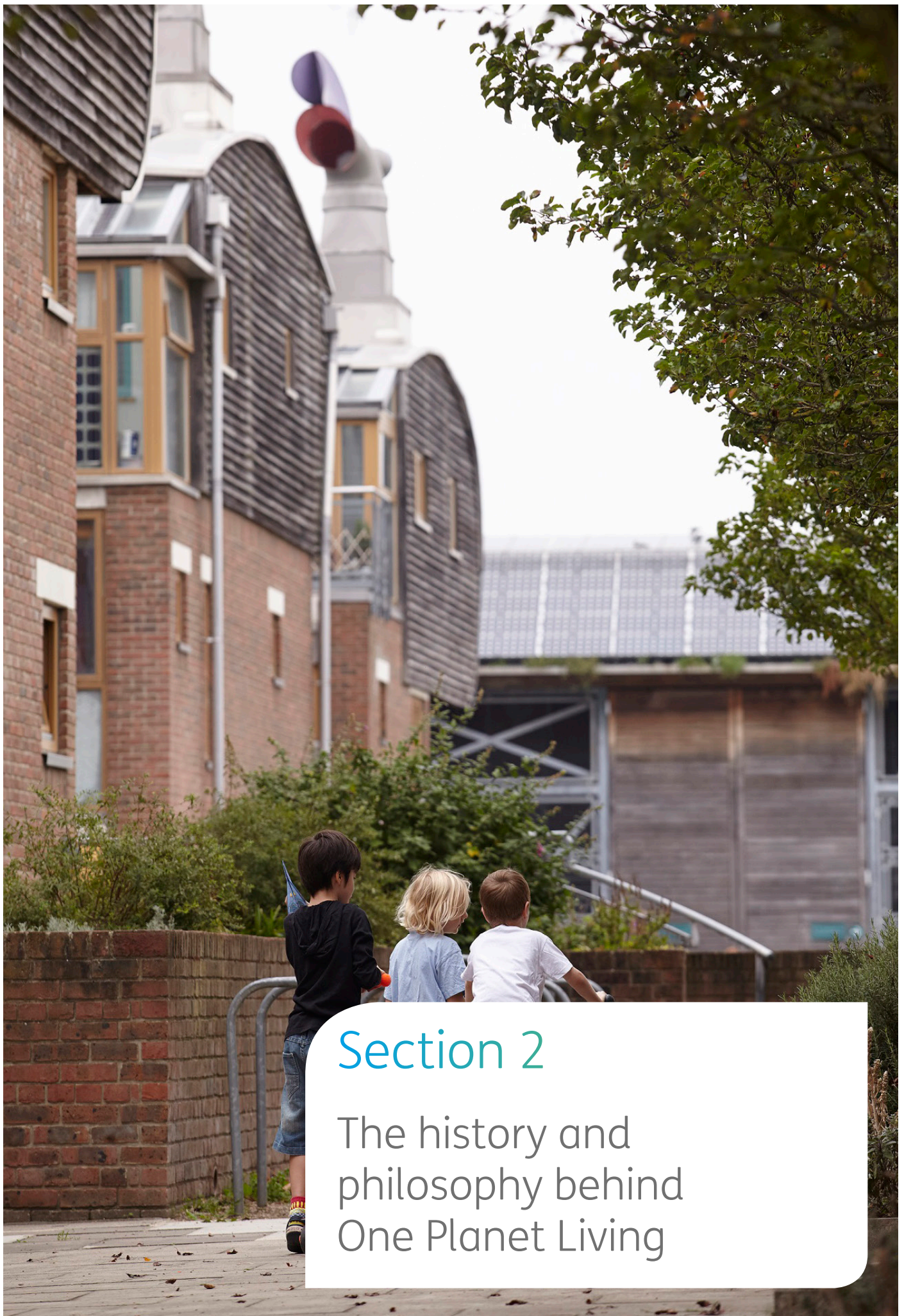
About Bioregional and our vision of One Planet Living

Globally, we consume around 50% more in natural resources than the planet can cope with, in terms of renewing these resources or absorbing the wastes and pollution we cause. To protect the Earth's limited resources we need to learn to live happy and healthy lives within the means of our one planet.

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 vision is of thriving regional economies where we meet more of our needs from local, renewable and waste resources, enabling 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.

We work with businesses in different ways, helping them to make their operations, products, services and supply chains more sustainable. We help to plan, build and manage communities around the world that have high ambitions for sustainability and for One Planet Living. And we work with partners to save energy and promote zero-carbon renewable energy sources, both in new buildings and in existing ones.



Section 2

The history and
philosophy behind
One Planet Living

The origins of One Planet Living

The One Planet Living framework was created by Bioregional following our involvement in the creation of the iconic BedZED eco-village in South London in 2002, which was designed to make sustainable living easy and informed by the concepts of ecological and carbon footprinting.

Using ecological and carbon footprinting to account for environmental impacts, One Planet Living recognises that finding a way to live happily and healthily within the means of our one planet and avoid catastrophic climate change requires us to go beyond incremental improvements. It will also mean regenerating many of the ecosystems which we have damaged to date. We need to transform how we all live, work and play so that we are in harmony with natural systems.

Since 2002, Bioregional has been working with partners around the world to make One Planet Living a reality. We have now distilled this learning into a programme to help you implement One Planet Living.

About ecological and carbon footprinting

Ecological footprinting measures the impact of a person or community on the planet, expressed as the amount of land required to sustain their use of natural resources. Find out more at www.footprintnetwork.org.

Carbon footprinting measures the total amount of greenhouse gases produced, directly and indirectly, by human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Bioregional's One Planet Living framework

Bioregional's One Planet Living framework comprises ten intuitive One Planet Living Principles that can be used by anyone – personally and professionally – to imagine, plan, do, and communicate about deep sustainability. It is based on what science is currently telling us about what is needed to live within the Earth's means.

									
Health and happiness		Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing							
Equity and local economy		Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade							
Culture and community		Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living							
Land and nature		Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife							
Sustainable water		Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought							
Local and sustainable food		Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein							
Travel and transport		Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport							
Materials and products		Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption.							
Zero waste		Reducing consumption, re-using and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution							
Zero carbon energy		Making buildings and manufacturing energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables							

Note: Anyone may reproduce the One Planet Living Principles as long as they are not changed in any way, are attributed to Bioregional, there is a link to Bioregional's website and that the organisation using them has published a One Planet Action Plan or reported on it within the last 12 months.

These are backed up by detailed Goals and Guidance documents that provide advice and ideas on the goals, actions, targets and indicators you could set to enable you to achieve One Planet Living – in other words, a sustainable ecological and carbon footprint which is consistent with Earth systems science.

What's different about One Planet Living?

One Planet Living is not a certification or accreditation system. There is no test to pass or fail. Instead, it aims to help create a culture of innovation, exploration of opportunities and collaboration with like-minded individuals and organisations, to enable flexible systemic responses and rapid progress. This is what we believe will drive deep sustainability and enable ecosystems to be protected and to regenerate.

We believe the following aspects are key to achieving transformative change:

Inspiring change through a hearts and minds approach

Researchers have found that we tend to form opinions and make decisions based on our attitudes, values and personalities, however rational we consider ourselves to be. Then we look for ways to justify our views and decisions. So in seeking real and lasting change, it's vital to engage hearts as well as minds. We have made our guidance and tools as engaging and simple as possible, focusing on emotional as well as intellectual engagement. For example, in our training courses we ask participants to talk about sustainability at a personal level; our action planning tools include asking stakeholders how they feel about what they are doing. We also think it's important to use images and stories as well as quantitative targets to measure and communicate progress.

Making it easy to do the right thing

One Planet Living aims to make it easy to live sustainably – so that it is easier to do the 'right thing' than to live unsustainably. For example, this might include designing communities where it is easier to walk and cycle than to drive for short journeys, thereby improving health as well as reducing carbon emissions. Sustainability requires people to make big changes, but along the way we can use new thinking to nudge them and edit their choices in the right direction.

Goals and Guidance – not prescriptive standards

Our Goals and Guidance documents are not prescriptive. The One Planet Goals contained within them are our best attempt at setting long-term goals for sustainability, consistent with the latest in scientific thinking. They are goals that all projects and organisations need to achieve in order to enable One Planet Living at the global level. How you achieve them is up to you – your Action Plan should outline the strategies and actions you plan to implement to meet these One Planet Goals.

As our knowledge changes over time and new technologies are introduced, you can update your One Planet Action Plan to take account of this. So think about your Plan as a working document which you can continually adapt and update for a changing world.

Focus on actual performance

Developing a One Planet Action Plan is only the start of the journey. To achieve and communicate change it is important to monitor and report on progress in implementing it. We encourage you to publish regular (ideally annual) progress reports, both to demonstrate what you have achieved

and what lessons you have learned, so you can help others make swifter progress – and they can help you too.

Complementing other frameworks and certification systems

The One Planet Living framework is not intended to replace other sustainability frameworks and certification systems such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, LEED, BREEAM, GRI, FSC, BCorps and organic standards. It provides a high-level framework that can be used to identify gaps and enhance other systems and help them to join up. One Planet Living can also be used by community groups, schools and small companies which might not be able to afford the costs of certification.

That said, other frameworks and certification systems can provide important detail or ideas for writing a One Planet Action Plan. For example, adopting Forest Steward Council (FSC) certification, where it's available, can help ensure sustainable timber sourcing.

Systems thinking

Our world is complex, interconnected and in a constant state of flux. This means that responses to specific actions are rarely linear and can have unexpected consequences.

Global sustainability challenges such as climate change can be described as 'cloud problems' because they are always moving and changing shape. Prescriptive standards are often not flexible enough to deal with this complex world, and too slow to respond to changes.

To tackle these challenges we need to be flexible, to define the outcome we want but to be open to adapting our course to reach this objective. This approach is often defined as 'systems thinking' (bit.ly/2KMxed9) or 'systems science' (bit.ly/2IFgaKl).

Find out more about systems thinking

Here are some resources to get you started in systems thinking:

Why use a systems practice? A video by The Omidyar Group (bit.ly/5PK7UDQ)

Thinking in systems, a primer. Donella H. Meadows, 2017

Systems Practice – a course by Acumen (bit.ly/2GSVLAD)

The One Planet Living framework is a conscious response to the reality of living in a complex and dynamic world. It enables you to create a flexible, responsive yet robust One Plan Action Plan which is right for you and those you are working with, and your particular opportunities and challenges.

The need for heroism

At Bioregional we believe that the rapid transformation that is required to achieve One Planet Living – and so live within our planetary boundaries (bit.ly/2LqBqp0) – goes beyond what many people would call 'realistic' or 'achievable'. So we need leaders, who can demonstrate just how much is possible and inspire others to open themselves up to the possibility of transformation. That's why we have developed a system that recognises 'National/Sector Leaders' and 'Planetary Leaders', who are willing also to be heroes, inspiring others to follow their lead.

Read about how Bioregional recognises leadership in section 6.



Section 3

Your role as a
One Planet Integrator

At Bioregional we describe people charged with implementing One Planet Living in a project or organisation as ‘One Planet Integrators.’ This is the person who has the job of integrating One Planet Living into strategies, plans and processes, as well as into organisational culture.

You may be leading on sustainability in your organisation or a consultant working with a client on sustainability.

Whatever your position is, if you are the person charged with implementing One Planet Living in a project or organisation, you have a pivotal role from the start – and you will need to employ a range of different skills throughout the process.

Your role as a One Planet Integrator will vary from project to project depending on the skills and experience of the other members of your team. Your main role is to draw out the knowledge, experience and commitment of other team members to create a robust and achievable One Planet Action Plan and then, if required, oversee its implementation, monitoring and reporting.

You may also have a specific technical skill that you can bring to bear, such as in energy, waste, transport, marketing, communications, management, engineering or architecture. That’s great – just make sure you don’t let your specific expertise cloud your ability to see the big picture.

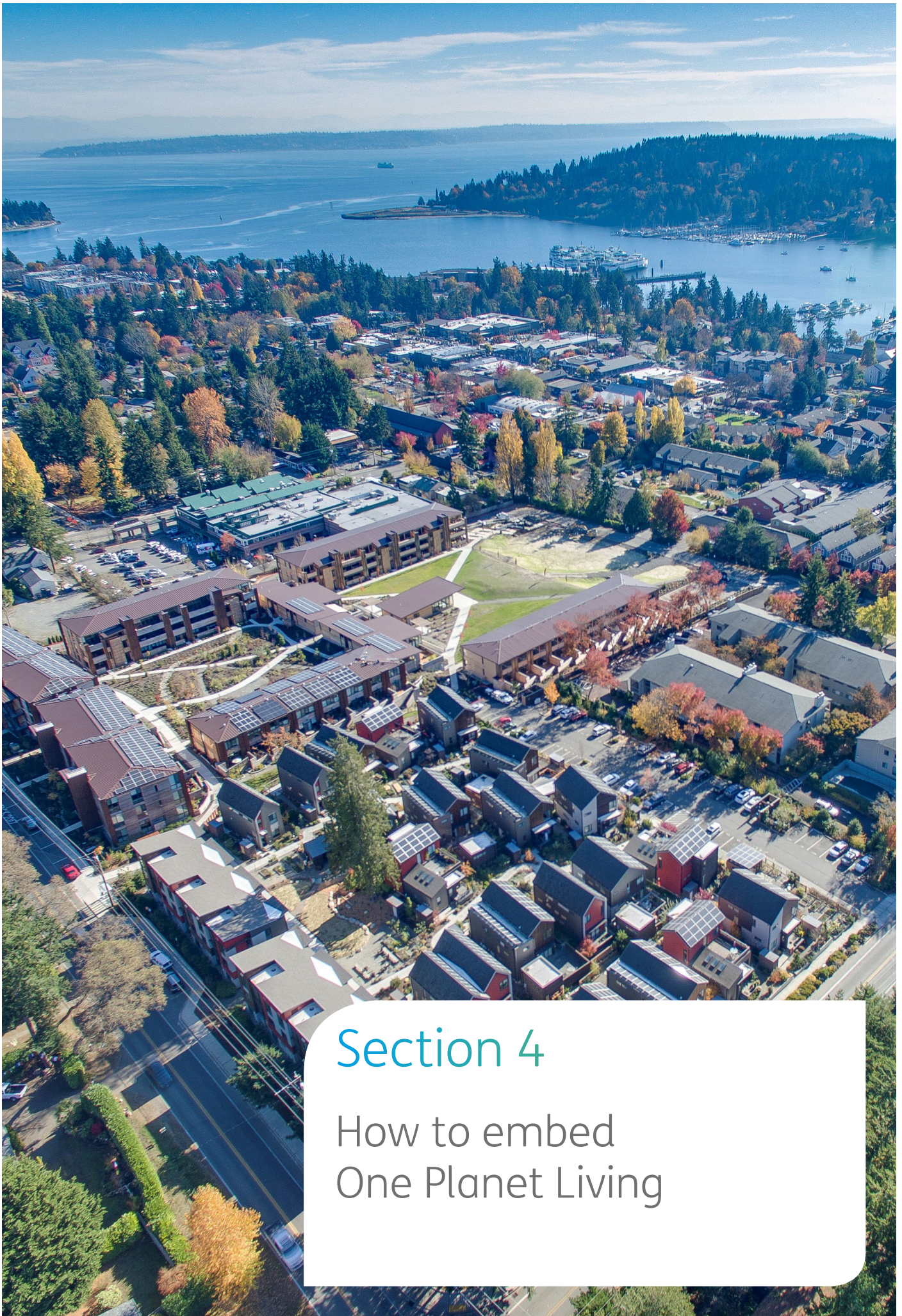
At Bioregional we think One Planet Integrators need to have all or most of the attributes below, or be willing to develop them:

- **Enthusiasm** about your role and willingness to learn
- **Credibility** within the organisation, with the authority to organise resources, meetings and training
- **Personal commitment** to sustainability and walking the talk in your professional and personal life
- **Good communications skills**, with the ability to facilitate communications between staff and senior management and provide constructive feedback
- **Coaching and facilitation skills** to bring out the best in people
- **Experience and wisdom** that you can bring to bear to create a great One Planet Action Plan
- **Perseverance** – being able to motivate staff, overcome barriers, resolve problems and continue with progress in order to achieve transformation

The principle of co-creation

The most effective Action Plans come from a collective process with everyone involved – whether that be staff, customers, local people, suppliers, future residents, designers, engineers and so on. This enables you to harness their knowledge and wisdom, enrol them as supporters, create a sense of ‘we’re in it together’ and win hearts and minds. This is what we call ‘co-creation’.

So we recommend that you use collaborative workshop processes to drive the development of your One Planet Action Plan, and that the document itself is developed in a collaborative way with different individuals or teams leading on certain principles and looking at how they all fit together.

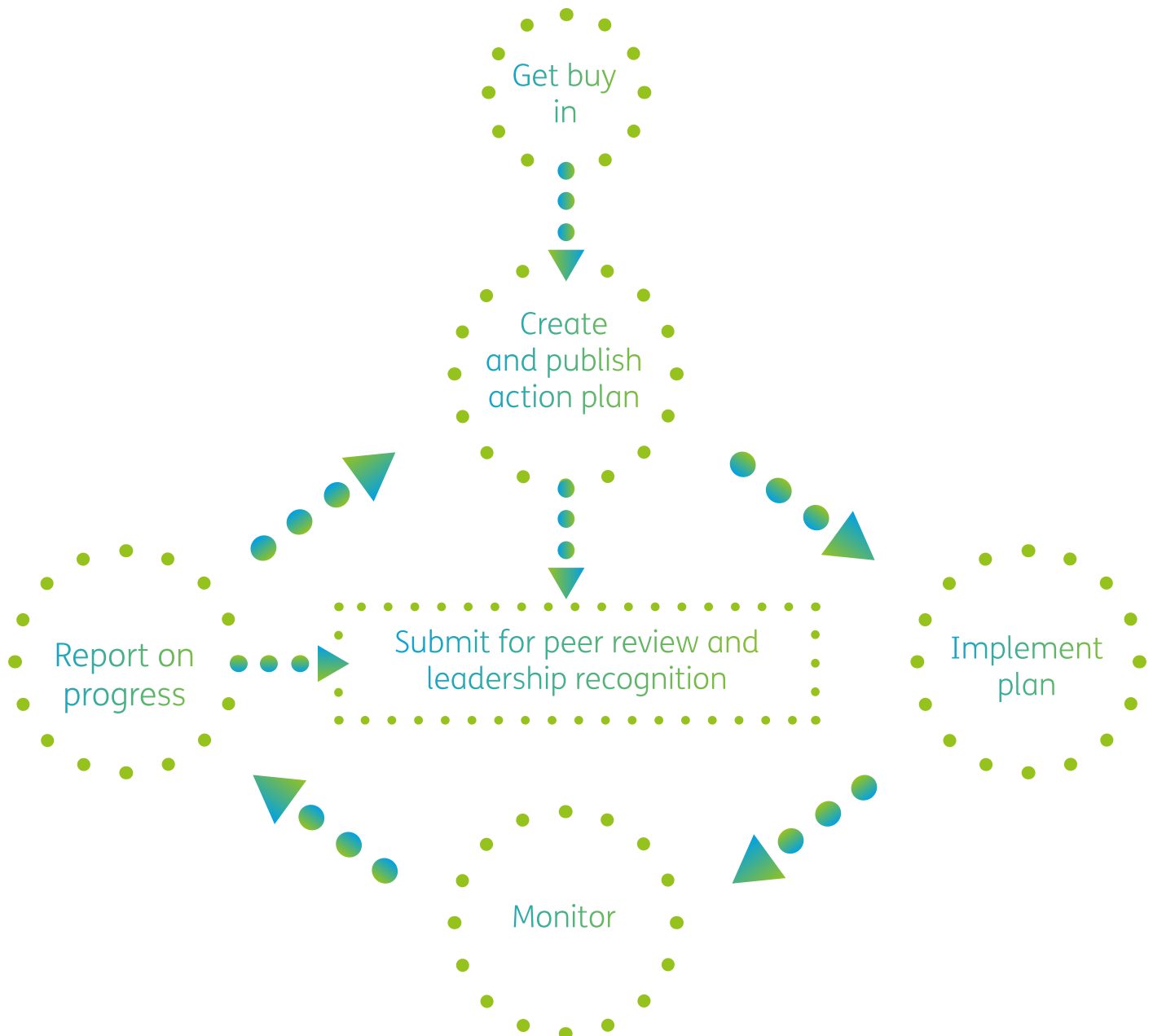


Section 4

How to embed One Planet Living

As we said earlier, One Planet Living is not a certification system. At Bioregional we see it as a journey, starting from imagining the future we want to get to, where we all live within the natural limits of the planet, and then developing an action plan to achieve it. That plan is then embedded into the culture and spirit of a project or organisation, with continual reflection, monitoring and refinement of the plan along the way.

Based on Bioregional's experience of working with companies, organisations and development projects around the world – large and small – we recommend a process for embedding One Planet Living that looks like this:



The key components of the process are:

- Stakeholder workshops to develop a One Planet vision and Action Plan
- Implementation of the Action Plan
- Monitoring and reviewing progress, then updating the Action Plan

Throughout this process you can have strategy and monitoring reports reviewed by industry experts.

You can also submit your Action Plan for review by a Bioregional Peer Reviewer in order to get an independent perspective on it. If you and the Peer Reviewer consider the plan sufficiently ambitious for inclusion in Bioregional's leadership recognition programme, you will need to publish the Action Plan and subsequent annual progress reviews (see section 4).

Action Plans that are particularly ambitious may then be recognised by Bioregional as demonstrating "National/Sector Leadership" or, if they are exceptional, "Planetary Leadership" (section 6).

The steps for creating and implementing a One Planet Action Plan are outlined below.

Step 1. Get buy in

Before doing anything, you need to get key decision-makers on board. These may be senior management or important stakeholders. They need to understand why you need a One Planet Action Plan and what makes One Planet Living different from other approaches and frameworks.

Writing a robust, flexible plan One Planet Action Plan will help an organisation to:

- **Increase efficiency** by aligning activities, saving money and resources and increasing financial, social and environmental returns
- **Future-proof products or services** so they are more sustainable and are designed to meet future needs and make your project or organisation more resilient
- **Reduce risk** by analysing and responding to important trends
- **Monitor progress** easily and report on social and environmental impact
- **Communicate** your ambitions to staff and stakeholders to attract the best new talent and inspire others to follow your lead

Importantly, it will also help you do the right thing –by ensuring that you are identifying and responding to key environmental, social and economic challenges.

Step 2. Create your One Planet Action Plan

Creating a One Planet Action Plan is the first major step in your One Planet journey. Although there is no fixed process for doing this, based on our experience we recommend the following stages.

Assessing context

No project or organisation operates in isolation, so it is important to look at the local and global context, as well as the context of your particular project with an organisation, or your organisation within its overall sector or market.

Your review of the external context – both local and global – may involve examining:

- What are the future trends which your project or organisation will face, and what opportunities and challenges do they bring?
- What is the local regulatory framework (e.g. land use planning)?
- What are the relevant local or global frameworks you are using or can use?
- What are local and global benchmarks and baselines?

Your review of your project or organisation may involve examining:

- Where do your current or proposed consumption and/or production-based impacts arise, for any organisational operations, project, and/or products and services? What are the hotspots – the areas with greatest environmental and social impact?
- What are you currently doing in your organisation or what is included in the initial project proposals (if any); what are the strengths and weaknesses, are there any significant gaps?
- Where are the opportunities for sustainable consumption or production, eg resource efficiency, or renewable energy generation?
- What skills are in the team, or missing from the team?

Resources:

- Look at other One Planet Action Plans and Annual Reviews on Bioregional's website at bit.ly/OnePlanetActionPlans
- Ask Bioregional offices for specific guidance on local contexts – see contact information at the end of this document.

Section 5 and 6 provide additional information on what constitutes a good One Planet Action Plan.

Building your vision – One Planet Workshop

A good Action Plan is a co-creation process, involving all relevant stakeholders able to contribute. These may be colleagues within your project or organisation or stakeholders within the wider 'ecosystem', such as customers, community groups, suppliers, government officials and financial partners.

Resources:

Workshop template
(bit.ly/OnePlanetActionPlanning)

Action planning template
(bit.ly/OnePlanetActionPlanning)

Start with an open, participatory workshop for staff, along with clients, key partners, and other stakeholders. Think of it as a forum to set the context for the project, start visioning the future and brainstorming the outcomes you want to achieve and the actions required to meet them.

The aim of the workshop is to:

- Build support for and understanding of the aim to co-create a One Planet Action Plan
- Define the vision in more detail – what outcomes are you aiming to achieve?
- Start gathering ideas and developing strategies for achieving these outcomes – begin drawing

out options for the Action Plan

Prepare for the workshop by:

- Investigating the local and global context and specific organisational or project or service challenges and opportunities (above)
- Review potential stakeholders and ensure that the key ones are represented at the workshop
- Prepare a simple introductory presentation on One Planet Living and your One Planet Action Plan

By the end of the workshop, make sure at least one 'Principle Champion' is appointed per principle, who can spend time leading on the development of a specific section of the Action Plan.

Co-creating your One Planet Action Plan

Once the workshop is complete you can work with the Principle Champions to put further detail on your Plan's proposed outcomes and actions in order to complete it. You can use the online tools at www.oneplanet.digital

Outcomes:

- How can the plan's envisaged outcomes be measured or documented so you can learn from them and communicate them? Is there a suitable indicator or are stories and images more appropriate?
- Are there relevant benchmarks and case studies?

Once you have set up a monitoring plan for your One Planet Action Plan, you will easily be able to check your progress and use this information to constantly adapt and improve your Action Plan.

Actions

- Which of your team and/or wider stakeholders will be delivering the actions within your Action Plan?
- When should they be completed by – or are they actions that are on-going?

Once the Action Plan has been created and agreed with stakeholders, you can publish it however you wish in order to demonstrate your organisation's commitment. An Action Plan does not need to be complete to be published – you may wish to publish an incomplete Action Plan to invite comment. Remember that developing an Action Plan is an ongoing and continuous process. What you are publishing is a snapshot in time and you will be able to continually update the plan and publish further versions.

Step 3: Implement your Plan

How your Action Plan is delivered will depend on the type of project or organisation involved and what structures are already in place. Generally it is very important that you integrate your plan into existing decision-making processes and monitoring mechanisms, and only create new ones where necessary. Key aspects of implementation are likely to include:

- Putting in place a process for tracking progress – such as a monthly or quarterly meeting

- Training managers and delegating tasks and actions
- Engaging and training staff
- Integrating targets into Human Resources processes – performance targets and reviews
- Engaging with customers and supply chain

Step 4: Monitor and report on progress

Monitoring is important for two reasons:

1. For internal purposes, to learn what is and isn't working and to update the Action Plan based on learning
2. For external purposes, to communicate and report progress and the final outcomes for projects that have a discrete timeframe (such as a construction project) to stakeholders and the wider community

It is important to track both:

- **Performance** – how are you doing against any indicators or targets you may have set? Are people happier and/or healthier? Are you generating more or less renewable energy, consuming more or less water, how are people travelling, what is the sense of community?
- **Progress** – have you implemented your actions in a timely fashion, have you missed anything – why?

You can then use this information to update your Action Plan as required. Preparing a monitoring plan can be useful for finding the best ways of tracking performance and progress.

Publishing your Action Plan and reporting on progress

Resource: One Planet Action Plan template
(bit.ly/OnePlanetActionPlanning)

On completing your Action Plan you can publish it on www.oneplanet.digital and publicly announce that you are using the One Planet Living Principles.

While there is no obligation to publish progress reports, we encourage you to do so, to contribute to collective learning, help promote transparency and celebrate success! You will be contributing to a growing body of knowledge on how to enable sustainable living.

You may wish to publish progress reports on an annual basis – or more or less frequently, depending on the nature of your project or organisation. At Bioregional we recommend that you publish annual reviews as a minimum. But of course, you can share your progress, successes and lessons learnt at any time.

Bioregional has seen how this commitment to transparency and shared learning is helping organisations build trust with their stakeholders and create further opportunities to harvest potential solutions.

This transparency and learning can also be enhanced by having your plans and progress reports reviewed by an expert in the sector appointed by Bioregional – undergoing a “peer review” (see section 5).



Section 5

Peer review

What is a peer review?

A peer review is when you open your Action Plan or Annual Review to scrutiny by a suitable qualified expert from Bioregional, or one appointed by us. This will involve:

- **reviewing** the Action Plan as a whole and providing advice and suggestions on how it might be improved;
- **evaluating** it against a number of criteria including impact, systems change, ambition and delivery;
- **assessing** the Action Plan against the One Planet Goals and industry benchmarks.

At this point you will be in a position to discuss with your peer reviewer whether your Action Plan could be a candidate for leadership recognition.

Why have your Action Plan peer reviewed?

A Peer Review can help you to:

- Sense-check how well you are doing and what you could improve on
- Demonstrate to stakeholders or statutory authorities the quality of your Action Plan – e.g. as part of a planning proposal for a new development
- Have an external professional endorse your performance to external stakeholders
- Find out if you are doing well enough to be put forward for recognition as a National/Sector Leader or Planetary Leader.

The peer reviewer's role is not just to assess your project or organisation, but to also act as a mentor or coach to help you think about your Action Plan and make recommendations on how you might improve it. As well as a full report, you will be provided with a short summary of the peer review which you can publish alongside the One Planet Action Plan. A peer review is 'date stamped' so we recommend it is undertaken annually as part of your monitoring and reporting process.

Documents to assemble

For the peer review you will need to provide:

- A completed One Planet Action Plan or Annual Review
- A summary statement: Your statement of where you think your Action Plan is strongest and where, for whatever reason, it is not aligned to the One Planet Goals
- A statement on which leadership level, if any, you are hoping to apply for and why (see section 6)
- References: from two people who know your organisation and/or the project

The peer reviewer will visit you and discuss your Action Plan, then formally review the One Planet Action Plan document and any supporting documentation. They will then provide:

- A statement summarising their opinion of the Action Plan and its response to the One Planet Goals based on the criteria below. This statement is published alongside your One Planet Action Plan.
- Feedback and recommendations for the project team.
- A statement for Bioregional supporting the application for Leadership Recognition, if any.

The peer review process

The process a peer review follows is:

1. You engage a peer reviewer by paying the fees
2. You submit all the necessary documentation to the peer reviewer
3. Your peer reviewer feeds back to you on the completeness of submission
4. You have an opportunity to submit any further documentation
5. Your peer reviewer visits you to see your project or organisation and completes an interim report and feedback
6. You have an opportunity to comment on the peer review, provide any clarifications and make minor changes and updates to your One Planet Action Plan or Annual Review
7. Your peer reviewer finalises their peer review and a summary statement
8. You can publish the peer review and/or summary statement.

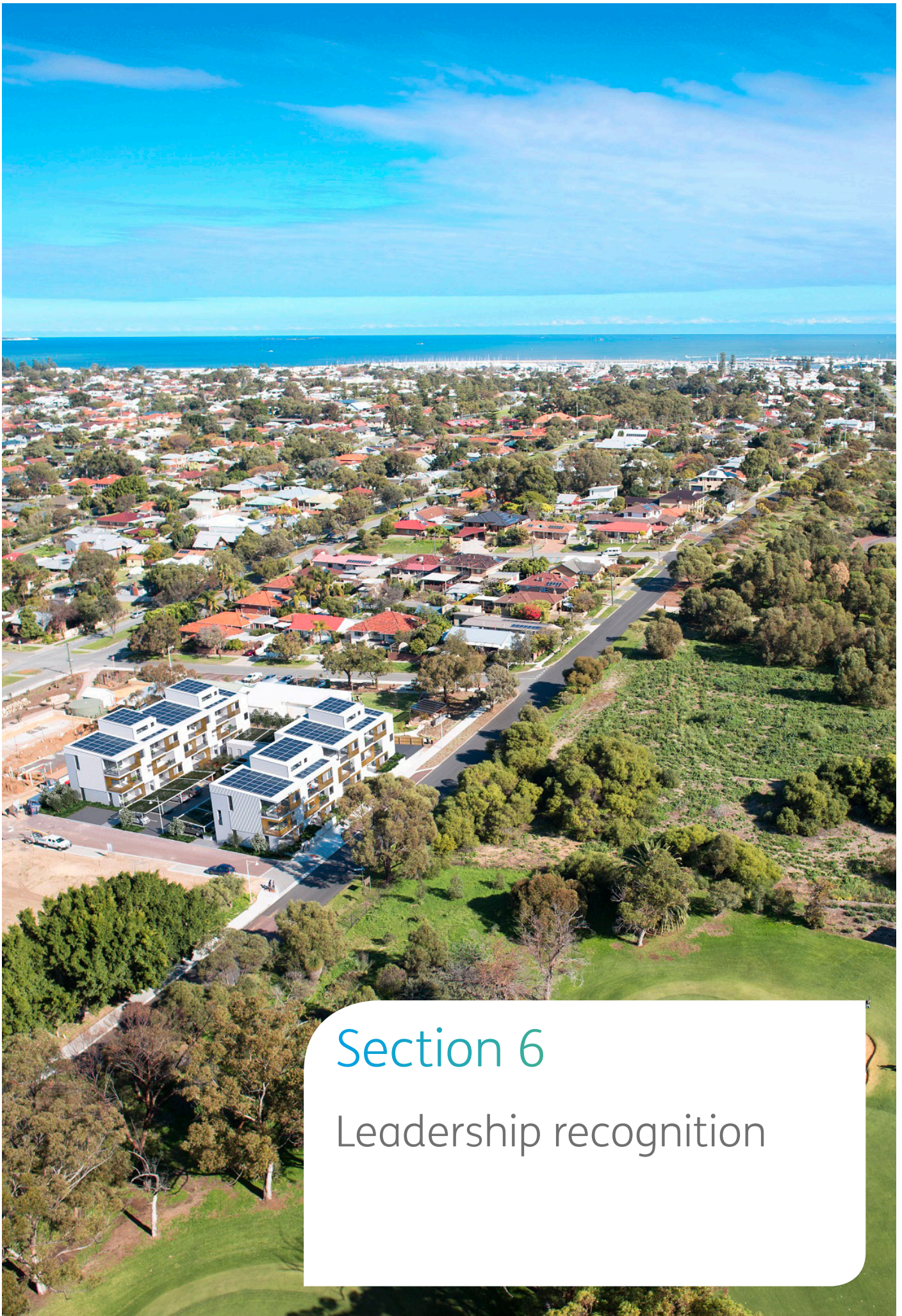
As noted, you can decide not to have a peer review published. If this is the case you will still be able to say you are using the One Planet Living Principles. However, you will not be able to say that your Action Plan has been recognised or endorsed in any way by Bioregional.

Remember – your One Planet Action Plan can be published at any time, but will only be shown as having been peer reviewed once the peer review statement is published. You are welcome to publish a peer-reviewed Action Plan or Action Plan Review, while awaiting the decision of Bioregional on any leadership recognition.

Criteria for peer review

The peer reviewer will assess your project's or organisation's One Planet Action Plan using the following criteria and evidence:

Workshop Context	<p>Impact (materiality): Have you identified the areas of greatest impact and stated how your actions and targets will address these?</p> <p>Systems change (your wider ecosystem): What efforts are you making to inspire and engage others within your sphere of influence, so you can work together to create a ‘sustainable ecosystem’ to support your project or organisation in the long term, and to create systemic change?</p>
Workshop Vision	<p>Ambition: To what extent does your plan have ambitious outcomes in line with One Planet Goals?</p>
Plan	<p>Comprehensiveness: Is your Action Plan is comprehensive and does it include Actions that address all of the ten One Planet Living Principles, to the depth required for your project or organisation given its nature, scale and stage of development?</p> <p>Clarity: Are your Actions SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) where they need to be, well thought-through and aligned with the One Planet Goals?</p> <p>Coherence: Are your Actions joined-up? Do they recognise the interconnectedness of the One Planet Living Principles and support a holistic outcome across them?</p>
Monitor	<p>Delivery: Targets and timescales to achieve your outcomes under each One Planet Principle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compared to your sector or local/national standards? • compared to the One Planet Goals (with particular emphasis on carbon targets)? <p>Implementation: If relevant, is good progress being made on implementation?</p>
Organisational appraisal	<p>Readiness: How ready is your organisation to implement its Action Plan? This covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment. To what extent are you and everyone involved exceptionally keen and committed to One Planet Living? For example is the CEO committed and are all staff being inducted in One Planet Principles? • Resources. Have you allocated enough human and other resources to implement your Action Plan? • Track record or evidence of delivery. Can you demonstrate a track record of delivery? If this is a repeat or annual peer review has there been significant progress in implementing your Action Plan since your last peer review?
Overview statement	<p>Overall sense: Does the peer reviewer generally agree with your statement of where you think your Action Plan is strongest in relation to the One Planet Goals and where, for whatever reason, it falls short?</p>
References:	<p>Supporting evidence: Have you provided short references from people who know you and/or the project? Are they suitable and good references?</p>



Section 6

Leadership recognition

This section sets out the system Bioregional uses for recognising leadership at either of two levels: National/Sector Leader or Planetary Leader. The starting point is a peer review of your One Planet Action Plan or your own review of it.

Being recognised as a leader

If you and your peer reviewer consider your Action Plan demonstrates leadership, then you can jointly recommend your Action Plan to be recognised as a National/Sector Leader or a Planetary Leader. You will need to explain why you think you are a Leader and which level of Leadership you believe you have achieved.

Criteria for determining National/Sector Leadership

This is awarded when you, your peer reviewer and Bioregional considers your One Planet Action Plan to be an ambitious response to the challenge of achieving One Planet Living. It demonstrates that the targets you have set, and your performance against those targets, are clearly well ahead of performance within your country or sector across all Principles, and you are in line with the One Planet Goals in at least seven of the One Planet Living Principles. This includes having a plan to achieve zero carbon energy in the near future.

Criteria for determining Planetary Leadership

This is awarded when you, your peer reviewer and Bioregional considers your One Planet Action Plan to be an exceptional, world-leading response to the challenge of achieving One Planet Living. You have demonstrated that the targets you have set, and your performance against those targets, will enable you to achieve the One Planet Goals on all, or almost all, of the One Planet Living Principles. The most important of these is to have a plan to achieve zero carbon energy in the near future, given the urgency needed to tackle climate change. You are not just working within the system – you are seeking to change the system. This level of recognition is not awarded lightly.

The process for determining leadership recognition

If you consider that your Action Plan or performance, as demonstrated in any public progress reviews, demonstrates that you are a leader in your field, you should provide a statement justifying this to your peer reviewer with your other documentation when applying for a peer review. This involves a short statement outlining why you believe the Action Plan is demonstrating leadership, and which level of leadership you believe that it is achieving.

If your peer reviewer agrees with your assessment, they will provide a similar statement of support and submit the project to be assessed by Bioregional for leadership recognition.

The process is as follows:

1. You submit the One Planet Action Plan and peer review to Bioregional to request leadership recognition.
2. Bioregional completes a high-level assessment of your One Planet Action Plan and peer review.
3. You and your peer reviewer will be invited to present a summary of your One Planet Action Plan to Bioregional. This may be in person or via video conference.

4. Bioregional will then make a final decision to endorse or reject the application to grant the project Leadership Recognition status.
5. Bioregional will publish a leadership recognition statement for that specific date and year.
6. You will be able to use the leadership recognition statement and the accompanying logo.

Small or community-based projects or companies and schools can apply for leadership recognition through an annual competition, so they don't have to pay for a peer review.

Maintaining leadership recognition

Like a peer review, leadership recognition is date-stamped for the month and year in which you received leadership recognition. To maintain it, you will need to publish an Annual Review and submit this annually. If you and Bioregional agree that sufficient progress has been made, the leadership recognition will be maintained.

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