

Our Challenge

We live in a consumer society where over-consumption is driving environmental degradation. If everyone in the world lived as we do in the UK we would need three planets to support us.

The BioRegional challenge is to find ways of living and working where we can reduce our consumption by two thirds to the one planet level.

BioRegional Solutions

BioRegional is an independent environmental organisation implementing real-life, commercially viable solutions for sustainable living - bringing local sustainability into the mainstream

One Planet Living event proves popular at Sustainable Communities Summit



Monday 31st January saw the BioRegional/WWF One Planet Living team host a One

Planet Living event at the Sustainable Communities Summit in Manchester.

One Planet Living (OPL) is a joint initiative between BioRegional and WWF which seeks to build sustainable communities around the world.

The event promoted One Planet Living as a tool to deliver sustainable communities internationally. More specifically to the UK, our Z-squared Manager, Jane Durney, gave a talk on the Z-squared OPL community planned for the Thames Gateway – one of the UK governments' key development areas.

The event proved very popular, with some attendees having to resort to floor space as all chairs were taken. Attendees ranged from Defra and the Environment Agency to property developers, NGOs, architects and water companies. Z-squared is funded by Shanks First Fund, ODPM and the Housing Corporation.

One Planet Living travels to South Africa

This January saw a trip to South Africa from BioRegional's Director, Pooran Desai, and One Planet Living South Africa co-coordinator, Sarah Alsen, to explore opportunities for a One Planet Living development.

The team spent time in both Johannesburg and Cape Town. In Johannesburg they followed up with local partner charity - EcoCity Trust, and inspected the further development of Ivory Park eco-village since the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. BioRegional worked on the eco-village with Bill Dunster Architects, Arup South Africa, EcoCity, and others, to build a community centre and terrace housing for the village. The buildings are performing well and being used for community activities.



The team also met with government representatives, interested property developers, architects and a construction company. We also looked at potential sites and identified local businesses / NGOs already involved with poverty alleviation and sustainable housing in the country. We plan to return in April to hold One Planet Living workshops and further excite South African interest in the initiative.

Additionally, One Planet Living representatives will be visiting China later this month in a search for a suitable location for a Chinese community, and to meet developers and government.

More info. on One Planet Living is available from:

<http://www.oneplanetliving.com>

Lavender group wins race to become London's top community space

The lavender-growing community group set up by BioRegional - Carshalton Lavender - has won 1st prize in the London region of the ODPM's 'A Picture of Change' competition.



The competition sought to find local groups who have made a momentous difference in making their neighbourhood cleaner, safer and greener.

Historically, BioRegional ran the local lavender project which brought 3 acres of disused land in Carshalton, south London, back into use for lavender production. A partnership was formed between the local council, volunteers and inmates from a local prison. A popular annual community harvest event has run for the past 5 years.

BioRegional passed control of the project over to Carshalton Lavender in 2004. The group has been taking the project from strength to strength and thoroughly deserve the £1,000 award which will be used to pay for equipment storage buildings.

For more info visit:

http://www.bioregional.com/programme_projects/ecohous_prog/local_lavender/lavender_hmpage.htm



BioRegional go to Buckingham Palace

BioRegional's Directors Sue Riddlestone and Pooran Desai

(pictured far right and far left) were invited to attend a memorable Christmas event last December – a reception at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen held the evening 'to recognise people who had made a significant recent contribution to national life'. Other guests included Author Bill Bryson, Artist Grayson Perry, Cricketer, Ian Botham, and the Climate Group.

Vacancy at BioRegional

– deadline to apply - 25th February 2005

There are still a few days to apply for the vacancy of Executive Director for the One Planet Products Buyers Group – a BioRegional/WWF initiative.

Deadline Friday 25th February.

The selected person will establish a buyers group for environmentally-sound building products and facilitate a knowledge exchange for housebuilders and the refurbishment industries. The buyers group will act on behalf of members to bulk buy greener construction and refurbishment products and services to help them meet the BRE EcoHomes targets, and to stimulate demand for new green products. This new project is being funded by the Environmental Action Fund.

For a full job and person subscription go to this link on our website:

<http://www.bioregional.com/jobs/OPP%20exec%20director.htm>

We'll be back with more news in the spring!