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Report overview

Organisation:

Our Sustainable Goulburn Mulwaree (OSGM) , New South Wales, Australia

Organisation purpose:

The purpose of Our Sustainable Goulburn Mulwaree is to bring the community together, locally and regionally, to secure a sustainable future for Goulburn-Mulwaree (and across SE NSW) based on ecological, economic and social health and resilience.

Description:

OSGM is a not-for-profit organisation, run by volunteers, working together with a wide range of community and sustainability groups and local authorities with the aim of supporting and developing:

- A healthy environment
- A sustainable community
- A sustainable economy

Reviewer:

Philippa Hoy

Sign-off and quality review:

Sue Riddlestone

Date of review:

March 2026

Leadership status:



Leader 2026



Bioregional and One Planet Living

Bioregional and One Planet Living

About Bioregional

Bioregional is a purpose-led sustainability consultancy. It has worked in over 20 countries on sustainable development, working with local communities, cities, and companies.

Bioregional devised the One Planet Living framework in 2003 with WWF, based on our experiences creating the multi-award-winning BedZED in South London, the UK's first large-scale sustainable community. One Planet Living has guided the development of real estate across the world, shaping exemplar communities that enable sustainable living.

About One Planet Living

One Planet Living is our vision of a world where everyone can live happily and healthily within the limits of our planet's resources while leaving space for nature to thrive.

We need to achieve this vision because if everyone lived like the average Australian citizen, we would need four and a half planets to support us. The measure of this is called 'ecological footprinting'. Meanwhile, many lack what they need for a good life, and wildlife is being pushed out to make room for our demands.

The One Planet Living framework consists of 10 principles which cover the activities that drive resource consumption, and the elements that form the basis of a good life for everyone. The principles are used to identify the needs in a local area, to relate these to the planetary bottom-line, and then to structure responses to those needs.



One Planet Living®

A framework by Bioregional

	Health and happiness
	Equity and local economy
	Culture and community
	Travel and transport
	Land and nature
	Local and sustainable food
	Sustainable water
	Materials and products
	Zero waste
	Zero carbon energy

What is a One Planet Living leadership review?

A review is an examination of an organisation's sustainability action plan by a suitable qualified expert from Bioregional (or one appointed by us). It will include:

- Reviewing the action plan as a whole and providing advice and suggestions on how it might be improved
- Evaluating it against several criteria including impact, systems change, ambition and delivery
- Assessing the action plan against the One Planet Living goals and guidance and local industry best practice.

A One Planet Living user can then discuss with us whether the action plan could be a candidate for leadership recognition, and to be endorsed as either a 'Leader' or a 'Global Leader'.



About this leadership review

About this leadership review

This leadership review considers the activities of Our Sustainable Goulburn Mulwaree.

The review has included:

- Researching the past, present and future One Planet Living actions detailed on the OSGM website
- A review of OSGM regional and project mind-map action plans on OnePlanet.com.
- An interview with the President of OSGM, Bob Philipson.



A sustainable garden – part of the Ducks Lane flood mitigation project in Goulburn Mulwaree, initiated and run by OSGM under its original name of Community Voice for Hume

Review summary and highlights

Review summary

Established in 2019, Our Sustainable Goulburn (OSGM) is a community-led initiative in Goulburn Mulwaree, NSW, Australia, focused on fostering sustainability, climate resilience and a circular economy through local projects and community engagement.

OSGM collaborates with local councils, farmer groups, research organisations, and Landcare groups to implement practical sustainability projects (Landcare is a community movement in Australia focused on sustainable land management, conservation, and environmental care).

OSGM's funding model involves a combination of community-led initiatives, commercial partnerships, and grant-based support. Two early significant projects set the scene for OSGM's direction:

- ❑ Flood mitigation rather than drainage on a residential property, that was at the start of a creek. The owners of the property, who took an active part and continued the work after OSGM finished, described it as transformative.
- ❑ The establishment of a Regenerative Agriculture Group, furthered the transition of farms to sustainable practices that build healthy carbon-rich soils and was extended by a successful conference and exhibition.

The organisation has fully adopted the One Planet Living ethos and structures all of its projects around the 10 One Planet Living principles. The action plans developed by OSGM address a wide array of sustainability impacts, including energy use, water management, waste minimisation, community wellbeing, and biodiversity. Local challenges such as drought risk and the need to support marginalised groups are thoughtfully considered, with initiatives tailored to the Goulburn Mulwaree context. The execution of the above will be effected in partnership with local businesses and will drive investment, supporting the development of a sustainable local economy.

As well as being very well connected to local and regional partners and projects, OSGM is also involved in sharing One Planet Living internationally. One outcome the reviewer is aware of is the connection with the Association of Farmer's Rights Defense in Georgia, who have indicated it will now be using One Planet Living for a mixed-use development project to ensure it has high sustainability standards.

In summary, OSGW shows strong alignment with the One Planet Living principles and demonstrates commendable leadership across key criteria. The organisation's community-driven approach, commitment to sustainability, and emphasis on inclusive engagement signal a positive trajectory.

Opportunities remain to deepen impact through further strategic partnerships, more transparent reporting, and ongoing innovation, ensuring continued recognition as a Leader in One Planet Living and sustainable community development.

Bioregional is pleased to recognise Our Sustainable Goulburn Mulwaree as a Leader in One Planet Living.



Comment from Bioregional



Our Sustainable Goulburn Mulwaree is a shining example of how community-led action can transform a region. Their wholehearted commitment to One Planet Living shows what's possible when people come together with purpose, passion and a shared vision for a better future.

OSGM's work is delivering real impact locally while also inspiring others across Australia and beyond.

We are proud to recognise their achievements and support their ongoing leadership on this journey toward truly sustainable, resilient communities.



Sue Riddlestone OBE
CEO & co-founder
Bioregional

Comment from Our Sustainable Goulburn Mulwaree

Bob Philipson
Founder & President
Our Sustainable Goulburn
Mulwaree



We're proud to embed Bioregional's One Planet Living framework at the very heart of our community operations. Using this action plan as a roadmap, we will be empowered to tailor our offering to address the environmental and social impact issues that affect our members, ensuring we drive continuous improvement throughout each of our services.

One Planet Living gives us a practical blueprint to shape our community, from building on our expertise in low-carbon retrofits to wellbeing-driven workspaces. With these tools, we can allow members to be at the forefront of designing a community that they are proud to represent.

Overall leadership qualities

Overall leadership qualities

Scope of the action plan

Does the action plan address all impacts and important considerations that relate to the organisation's activities?

The action plan demonstrates an understanding of the full breadth of what is needed for One Planet Living, bringing in all ten principles throughout project goals and activities.

Transformation potential

Is the team approaching things in a way that is likely to succeed in showcasing a positive sustainable future, ideally helping to transform accepted norms?

The group aims to set new benchmarks for sustainable development. Examples include the zero-waste pilot programme, the reduction of energy use and household bills, which will free up money to drive the growth of a sustainable economy, and community and farm composting schemes.

OSGM regularly inspires and engages others by hosting open forums, collaborating with schools, businesses, and government, and actively inviting constructive feedback. They are committed to sharing their learning journey—including failures as well as successes—via transparent reporting and community learning sessions, fostering a culture of continual improvement.

The organisation is aiming for transformation not just at the local level but also at the regional level, engaging with a very broad set of stakeholders. While actions are focused in south-east NSW, OSGM also advocates for increased sustainability action at state and national levels. OSGM is also very active on the LinkedIn forum that is generating international interest in Goulburn Mulwaree.

Ambition (Goals)

The outcomes laid out in the action plan are strongly aligned with One Planet Living goals, with targets for carbon neutrality, biodiversity enhancement, and sustainable transport.

Ambition is clear in goals such as achieving 100% renewable energy at community centres and exceeding local biodiversity targets, which surpass those of comparator groups.

Indicators such as air quality monitoring, waste volumes, and programme participation rates are carefully chosen and realistic to track, while targets are set to meet or exceed best practice for the location. The indicators are taken from independently collected and collated data that highlights the financial benefits of mitigating climate impacts.

Implementation (Actions)

OSGM demonstrates a high level of readiness and commitment to delivery. It is led by a team of volunteers with backgrounds in project management, ecology, and finance.

The culture is passionate and proactive, with all members inducted in One Planet Living principles and leadership actively championing sustainability.

Financial, human, and technical resources are allocated thoughtfully, undergoing regular review to ensure sufficiency and good governance. Volunteers serve as advocates both within the organisation and throughout the region, promoting One Planet Living through events, social media, and collaborative projects.

Opportunities for improvement

With successful projects completed and underway, and with ambitious plans, there are only two areas that Bioregional suggests could be improved, Indigenous involvement and communications. The following suggestions have been discussed with OSGM President, Bob Philipson and are areas OSGM is already addressing.

Indigenous involvement

Involving all sectors of society in OSGM's work, and incorporating traditional knowledge and practices, is something OSGM does very well. To enhance this further, it would be helpful to recruit a committee member with an Indigenous background to help inform OSGM's management and future plans. First Nations groups were invited to join OSGM and the offer will now be extended again.

Improving communications

Improving engagement through an improved website

The OSGM website contains a large amount of useful information however it could be displayed in a more user-friendly way. The organisation wishes to engage more individuals, businesses and partners. Restructuring the website so that it communicates clearly the benefits and opportunities for each of these individual groups in joining OSGM's activities could help increase interest and involvement. OSGM has already acted on this suggestion and significant improvements have been made to the website, with more to come.

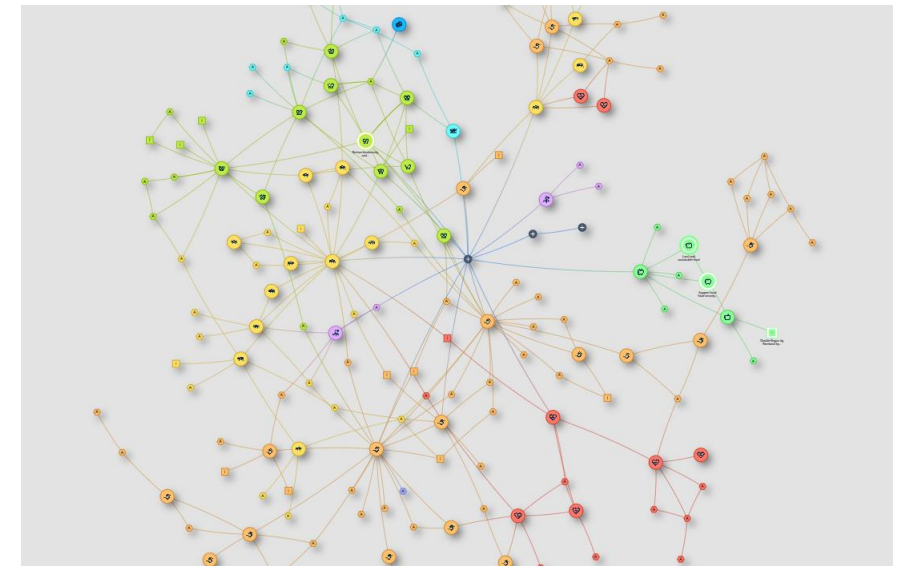
Clearer reporting on progress

OSGM makes good use of the system mapping software available on the OnePlanet platform that uses the One Planet Living framework. Plans have been created that link with the work of other partners with outcomes, indicators and actions detailed. The platform does have the capability of assigning owners to actions and in providing an update on progress. OSGM has only used these functions for a few actions but plans to address the remaining actions.

More comprehensive allocation of specific actions to individuals and reporting on progress would help all involved, and those who may be interested in getting involved, to better see what is planned and what is being achieved.

Annual reporting communication

Producing a simple, annual report of the organisation's plans, projects underway and the results achieved would also help to provide a clearer picture of the impact OSGM is having. OSGM does produce annual reports and will now put these on its website. If written in an engaging way, these reports could be a useful tool in efforts to recruit new individuals, businesses and partners to join OSGM's efforts to create sustainable communities locally and regionally.





Snapshot of the Goulburn Mulwaree Local Government Authority plan on OnePlanet.com.

Detailed review against the 10 One Planet Living principles

Detailed review

The table below presents a summary of how OSGM’s actions address each of the 10 OPL principles. It highlights any opportunities for further action and presents a colour-coded rating of 1-5 as shown to the right.

- 5 Well addressed
- 4 Well addressed but additional suggestions provided
- 3 Partly addressed but additional content needed
- 2 Not adequately addressed
- 1 Not addressed

Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
 <p>Health and happiness</p> <p>The organisation demonstrates a commitment to promoting wellbeing through community events and educational programmes. Examples include regular wellness walks, gardening workshops, and mindfulness sessions, which foster inclusive participation and support mental health initiatives.</p> <p>Projects such as the St Mary’s Mount Sustainability Pilot include actions to mitigate climate impacts that through insulation and more planting in gardens and “nature strips”.</p>	<p>To further enhance impact, a structured evaluation of wellbeing outcomes such as periodic feedback surveys could be implemented. This is planned as a key activity in the Marys Mount project plan.</p>	5
 <p>Equity and local economy</p> <p>Efforts to engage local businesses and encourage fair trade practices are evident. The group collaborates with diverse stakeholders, such as partnering with local farmers for produce markets and offering micro-grants to social enterprises.</p> <p>Initiatives like skill-sharing workshops for marginalised groups and support for women-led cooperatives illustrate expanding local economic opportunities. OSGM has a relationship with the Country Women’s Association, and further action is in hand for its expansion.</p> <p>OSGM has a history of respectful engagement with members of the First Nations People since its formation. The latest engagement has seen the offer of First Nations land for the growing of vegetables for the community self-sufficiency project. A First Nations representative is on the fresh food sustainability committee.</p>	<p>OSGM will again seek to recruit a committee member who has an Indigenous background to ensure traditional knowledge and practices are included in current and future projects and strategy.</p> <p>Engagement with more and regional businesses could be enhanced with improved communications as discussed on page 14 of this report.</p>	5

Detailed review

- 5** Well addressed
- 4** Well addressed but additional suggestions provided
- 3** Partly addressed but additional content needed
- 2** Not adequately addressed
- 1** Not addressed



Culture and community

	Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
	OSGM actively celebrates local heritage and organises cultural events such as annual multicultural festivals and Indigenous storytelling evenings. Collaboration on a bush foods garden and cultural education workshops demonstrates inclusion of Indigenous perspectives.	<p>Continue to embed traditional ecological knowledge into sustainability projects and the growing of native foods.</p> <p>A First Nations representative is to be invited to sit on the Community Sustainability Hub committee and First Nations people to have leading roles in Hub projects. Subject to agreement, such projects will include fee paying guided tours of First Nations land.</p>	5
	Efforts to encourage sustainable travel are evident in bicycle advocacy campaigns, carpooling networks, and public transport promotions. The group’s plans include improving cycling infrastructure and supports more local shopping centres.		5



Travel and transport

Detailed review

- 5 Well addressed
- 4 Well addressed but additional suggestions provided
- 3 Partly addressed but additional content needed
- 2 Not adequately addressed
- 1 Not addressed



Land and nature



Local and sustainable food

Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
<p>Actions to restore and protect local ecosystems are at the heart of OSGM’s mission. Actions include creek clean-up days, native tree planting events, and biodiversity surveys. The group collaborates with land management agencies and Indigenous elders to promote stewardship of natural habitats. Key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a regenerative agriculture group which has conducted soil rehabilitation projects and hosted sustainable farming conferences to promote environmentally responsible farming practices. • OSGM has developed sustainable gardens and native planting initiatives, such as at Marys Mount which includes the planting of native grasses and shrubs and engages volunteers in habitat restoration. Ongoing care has been a very large commitment. • Mycorrhizal Fungi Patches: practical applications aimed at improving soil health across the Goulburn Mulwaree area, this project supports biodiversity and sustainable land management. 		5
<p>The organisation supports local food initiatives including community gardens, permaculture training, and seasonal produce markets.</p>	<p>Future projects could involve local farmers and chefs highlighting sustainable food production and consumption, with cooking classes focused on using locally sourced ingredients.</p>	5

Detailed review

- 5 Well addressed
- 4 Well addressed but additional suggestions provided
- 3 Partly addressed but additional content needed
- 2 Not adequately addressed
- 1 Not addressed



Sustainable water

Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
<p>Water conservation is promoted through workshops on rainwater harvesting, drought-resilient gardening, and monitoring local water quality.</p> <p>Educational materials on responsible consumption and practical demonstrations at community gardens further this principle.</p>		5



Materials and products

<p>Developing a sustainable economy is a very significant part of OSGM's work and is embodied in the Marys Mount project plan. Staff have experience of, and have had training in, circular economy concepts.</p> <p>OSGM supports the Bega Circular Valley 2030 (BCV 2030) programme, an important regional development circular economy initiative. BCV 2030 is a comprehensive programme that links regenerative economic, environmental development and social equity across the region, underpinned with efficient water and energy utilisation. The delivery will be driven by a community owned co-operative enterprise that will facilitate the delivery of circular projects, invest in critical infrastructure and community initiatives and become a global leader in a range of product areas.</p>	<p>Supporting sustainable procurement within partner organisations could reinforce progress and this is being incorporated in the Marys Mount project.</p>	5
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Detailed review

- 5 Well addressed
- 4 Well addressed but additional suggestions provided
- 3 Partly addressed but additional content needed
- 2 Not adequately addressed
- 1 Not addressed



Zero waste



Zero-carbon energy

Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
<p>Community-wide composting schemes, recycling education, and litter reduction campaigns help drive progress towards zero waste. OSGM undertakes successful pilots and participates in local waste management forums.</p>		5
<p>OSGM has adopted the emission reduction targets set by the Climate Council of Australia: 75% reduction by 2030 on 2005 levels and reach net zero by 2035.</p> <p>OSGM promotes emissions reductions and sets targets and priorities through its partner ZeroSE's Emission Snapshot. This is, however, a very broad-brush approach. A house-by-house approach is adopted for the Marys Mount project to create a clear picture of emissions reductions due to technology implementation and behaviour change.</p> <p>For local projects, the ambition to achieve carbon neutrality is pursued through energy audits, renewable energy partnerships, and bulk-buy solar schemes. The organisation supports energy efficiency retrofits for household and community buildings and shares outcomes and lessons learned through local forums.</p>		5

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