



Sustainable Ventures

Corporate One Planet Living® leadership review
July 2025



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Report overview

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Company name:

Sustainable Ventures

Business sector:

Workspace Provision for Clean Technology and Venture Development

Description:

Sustainable Ventures supports the creation, growth, and scale-up of climate tech businesses by providing investment, expert support, and collaborative workspace. It brings together entrepreneurs, innovators, and investors to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy.

Sustainable Ventures employs around 40 staff and has an annual turnover of around £6.5 million.

Reporting period:

2024-25

Reviewer:

Nicole Lazarus

Sign-off and quality review:

Sue Riddlestone

Date of review:

July 2025



Leadership status:



**One
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Leader 2025

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 UK citizen, we would need two 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.



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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?

What is a One Planet Living leadership review?

A review is when you open your action plan to scrutiny from 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 business activities of Sustainable Ventures but focusses most particularly on the collaborative workspace they provide at County Hall, London.

This document reviews the One Planet Living action plan for Sustainable Ventures, along with supplementary documents including:

- 2022-23 Sustainable Ventures Emissions Report,
- Compare Your Footprint Greenhouse Gas Inventories for the past 3 years, most recent being 2024-25
- Sustainable Ventures One Planet Living Key Performance Indicators spreadsheet



Review summary and highlights

Review summary

Sustainable Ventures is a leading provider for the transition to a zero-carbon world through its unique model of supporting and scaling climate-positive businesses. By combining investment, workspace, and hands-on support under one roof, the company has created Europe's largest climate tech ecosystem. It empowers entrepreneurs tackling the climate crisis by nurturing a collaborative community, helping to accelerate innovation in clean energy, sustainable transport, circular economy, and more. Sustainable Ventures demonstrates that targeted support and partnership can drive systemic change and deliver real progress toward a zero-carbon future.

In its own operations, Sustainable Ventures “walks the talk” and practices sustainability in all its activities. The goals and targets in their One Planet Living action plan are ambitious and are aligned with One Planet Living. Carbon footprint reduction targets will align with science-based targets for their sector and will exceed SBTi requirements for SMEs.

As a tenant of a heritage building, Sustainable Ventures are realistic about what they can do or influence regarding reducing operational building emissions to zero. They will collaborate with other tenants to build the business case for good landlord decisions, and they will gather smart, fine-grained data on energy and water consumption, air quality and member feedback to identify hot spots and prioritise future actions.

At this early stage in the development of the action plan, baseline data is still being collected in some cases and being benchmarked against best practice. In the coming year, it will be possible for the Sustainable Ventures team to use their excellent data sets, draw on the skills of their team and their specialist member companies to draw up smart, trackable actions that will deliver against the ambitious goals and targets.

Meanwhile, Sustainable Ventures has a track record in creative, inspiring partnerships from waste contractors helping homeless people into work to local food suppliers with a story to tell and upcycling repair workshops led by a mission-driven social enterprises.

Bioregional is pleased to recognise Sustainable Ventures as a Leader in One Planet Living.



Comment from Bioregional

“We are so impressed with what Sustainable Ventures is doing that we moved the Bioregional head office to their London workspace in 2022. Their pioneering blend of investment, workspace, and hands-on support creates an ecosystem where innovation thrives, and sustainability is practised every day.

Key highlights are the innovative fit out of the workspaces, the culture of sustainability that has been created in these spaces, and the collaborative way SV have invited community members to be involved in developing SV's One Planet Living action plan.

We are delighted to recognise Sustainable Ventures workspaces as a Leader in One Planet Living.”



Sue Riddlestone OBE
CEO & co-founder
Bioregional

Comment from Sustainable Ventures

Wayne Shaw
Director of Workspaces
Sustainable Ventures



“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 company's activities?

Sustainable Ventures has provided a comprehensive approach addressing all 10 of the One Planet Living principles.

The company's carbon footprint assessment and SBTi goals cover scopes 1, 2, and 3, as do the emerging priorities and actions to meet the SBTi goals.

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?

Sustainable Ventures supports entrepreneurs who are shaping the transition to net zero in a way which brings positive change to global communities, through promoting sustainable economic growth and tackling climate-related inequalities.

They are expanding across the UK, aiming to demonstrate how *“regional green economy initiatives can bolster local communities and businesses while delivering positive social and environmental outcomes, ensuring a just and fair transition.”*

Their approach to the fit out at County Hall and the collaborative culture they are nurturing for their members is exciting, creative and has the potential to be transformative for their member companies.

Ambition (Goals)

The goals and targets in the action plan align well with One Planet Living across all 10 principles.

Implementation (Actions)

At this early stage, SV are in the process of benchmarking their baselines in many cases. The next steps set out in the action plan often relate to more data gathering and prioritisation.

Actions set out in the plan are not yet sufficient to deliver against the ambitious goals and targets.

In a year's time, if all goes well, the situation will be very different and a more comprehensive set of SMART trackable actions may well be possible.

Detailed review

Action plan summary

The table below presents a summary of how the action plan addresses 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



Health and happiness

Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
<p>SV offers a programme of wellness-based events to support mental wellbeing, social interaction and creativity.</p> <p>An initial air quality monitoring study is underway, and findings will be reported to stakeholders by December 2025. More comprehensive, continuous air quality monitoring in all workspaces will be in place by March 2026 with the goal of meeting WHO guidelines at all times.</p> <p>SV plans to conduct its first annual community engagement survey by December 2025, to measure wellbeing and participation rates, targeting a 25% response rate.</p> <p>SV provide a much-valued quiet room which has been improved by adding optional heating for winter.</p>	<p>For the member survey, Bioregional recommends the use of standardised questions such as Gallup, so that it is easy to benchmark against other organisations.</p> <p>Comments from Bioregional colleagues suggest there is room for improvement in some County Hall rooms for better temperature control, ventilation and acoustics.</p>	4
<p>SV is exceptional at facilitating the growth of the low carbon economy having created Europe's largest climate tech ecosystem. They also select suppliers whose values align.</p> <p>SV collects diversity and inclusion data from members through an onboarding survey and uses that to monitor impact and also to tailor their business support offering, such as mentoring and specialist training.</p> <p>SV provides 10 local charities/not-for-profits with either workspace or event space each year pro-bono.</p> <p>SV are committed to carrying out an accessibility assessment of the workspace.</p>	<p>The action plan doesn't currently mention maternity, paternity or carers leave, menopause provisions, gender pay gap, pay gap ratios, or diversity of senior leadership.</p> <p>County Hall HQ has room for improvement on wheelchair access, with issues approaching and getting into the building. Then once in the SV circulation space, doors are not easily opened in both directions.</p>	4



Equity and local economy

Action plan summary

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Culture and community




Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
<p>One of SV's core business goals is to create a vibrant, collaborative community for its member businesses. A stroll around the County Hall HQ shows that this goal is already well in hand. The exciting environment that SV has created helps its member businesses to recruit and retain great staff, allows them to use space flexibly, and to interact with other like-minded businesses.</p> <p>Actions planned for 2025-26 include hosting 250+ hours of community events, including workshops and networking opportunities. They also plan to setup a 'community ask' forum to foster collaboration among members.</p>	<p>In order to ensure a culture of sustainability across all staff and members, SV could consider publishing the headline goals for each principle in the workplace and to their employees.</p> <p>They could also consider sustainability training where appropriate.</p>	4
<p>SV's HQ is excellently located for all forms of public transport. Facilities for cyclists are also excellent. So, all staff and members are easily able to use low-carbon travel modes.</p> <p>SV conducts onboarding travel surveys for all new members. They also offer free Transport For London cycle share scheme passes for members most in need of affordable travel solutions.</p> <p>SV will carry out carbon tracking of SV's business travel, employee and member commuting, targeting a 10% year-on-year reduction.</p>	<p>One of the member-suggested measures for further improvement is to set up a working group around travel choices for the office. This suggestion will be followed up.</p>	5



Travel and transport

Action plan summary

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	Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
 Land and nature	<p>SV's goal is to enhance biodiversity within the urban settings in which they operate and to promote nature-related volunteering initiatives to their staff and members.</p> <p>An indoor network of planters are being set up at their County Hall HQ.</p> <p>Metrics for nature-related engagement activities will be agreed during 2025-26</p>	-	5
 Local and sustainable food	<p>SV are aiming to source 100% of food sustainably by Q4 2025, certified through primary data from suppliers. They are committed to annual supplier audits.</p> <p>There is a lot of enthusiasm from staff and members for food-related events and knowledge sharing, creative supplier partnerships etc</p> <p>In the office, plant milk and fairtrade organic teas and coffee are provided</p> <p>SV have a goal to halve food waste from a 4.7t baseline.</p>	-	5
 Sustainable water	<p>SV used water efficient fittings during the fit out of County Hall, including Propelair toilets, which use just 1.5 litres per flush.</p> <p>SV have established a baseline for annual mains water consumption. Their next step is to benchmark against industry norms and to set a reduction target. The ambition is to meet a 30% improvement against an industry average.</p> <p>During times of water stress, SV aim to devise a strategy to reduce water consumption even further. They will implement more extensive water monitoring with regular reporting to members and begin identifying hotspots for reduction techniques.</p>	SV's ambitions are well-aligned with OPL. Actions to benchmark and improve water efficiency, member engagement options and also measures during water stress periods can be set out in the coming year but are currently in development.	3

Action plan summary

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Materials and products

Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
<p>The County Hall office retrofit delivered a 1,200 tonnes saving in embodied carbon compared to typical office fit-out. Retrofits and capital fit out processes for all other premises are following a similar circular economy approach with embodied carbon assessments to be carried out in every case.</p> <p>For operational procurement of materials, products and services, SV has baseline spend-based scope 3 emissions data and will be seeking primary data for its biggest suppliers during 2025-26 in order to improve the understanding of its baseline and produce a strategy for scope 3 reductions aligned with SBTi.</p> <p>All suppliers are asked to demonstrate how they align with SV's values.</p>	<p>Suggest an additional target for 100% of SV staff to be trained and familiar with the new sustainable procurement by a certain date.</p>	4
<p>The exemplary County Hall fit out works achieved a 98.52% waste recycling rate. SV aim to maintain this on future fit outs.</p> <p>Waste minimisation and recycling facilities in the office are excellent.</p> <p>In 2024-25, there was a clothes repair workshop for members led by social enterprise Kundakala. The action plan includes scope for many more creative engagement activities on this subject.</p>	<p>Suggest establishing a baseline operational recycling rate with regular waste reporting to members.</p>	4



Zero waste

Action plan summary

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Zero-carbon energy

Highlights	Opportunities	RAG rating
<p>SV's County Hall HQ is a leased space in a listed heritage building. The action plan acknowledges the challenges of achieving best practice in energy efficiency and renewable energy provision on site. SV is one tenant amongst many and does not have control over electricity procurement nor building fabric improvements. With an 8-year lease, there are limits to the business case payback period for any investment in internal fabric improvements.</p> <p>Despite these challenges, SV have a goal is to minimise energy use and to transition to 100% renewable energy sourcing across all premises by 2030. They have established a 2022-23 baseline for energy consumption and carbon footprint. By Q2 2026, SV aim to have an SBTi-aligned strategy across all three scopes, exceeding SME requirements (which only require scopes 1 and 2).</p> <p>Measures already in place at County Hall include energy efficient lighting throughout, with auto-turn off and centralised temperature control with auto-turn off in meeting rooms. Heating, cooling and hot water are all electric and are delivered efficiently compared with industry norms.</p> <p>SV are implementing comprehensive energy monitoring and using Verve, a machine learning algorithm tool which will allow detailed reporting, to help optimise performance and transition to a predictive maintenance strategy. SV plan monthly energy audits, quarterly carbon assessments and annual carbon footprint verification.</p> <p>Verve data will enable SV to identify hot spots of energy consumption. They can then trial some additional light touch fabric or energy saving measures in hot spot locations, combining with good ventilation solutions.</p> <p>County Hall electricity is not currently purchased from a zero-carbon source, but it has a much lower carbon intensity (less than half) than the average location-based factor. County Hall's electricity contract is due for renewal in March 2026. SV are committed to collaborating with other tenants in the building to build a case to persuade the building owners to switch to an even greener zero-carbon tariff.</p>	<p>SV's ambitions are well-aligned with OPL. Actions to benchmark and improve energy performance, and also to build the case for a green tariff can develop in the coming year but are currently in development.</p>	3

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