



BIC'S GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN COMMITTEE WORK PLAN Revised December 2022

In line with BIC's Green Promise and Agenda

[BIC's Green Promise](#)

BIC is the book industry's supply chain organisation and it is in the supply chain that the most significant changes can be made to help organisations lower their carbon footprints and become greener. BIC is committed to championing the green agenda and providing leadership to provide organisations with the tools and resources to help them make their supply chains greener and more sustainable.



Book Industry Communication's Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan

Contents

Introduction	Page 2
Update on Completed Projects	Page 3
Context for the Work Plan	Page 3
The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	Page 4
UN SDGs and BIC Strategy 2023-24	Page 4
The Work Plan Summary – Types and Categories of Initiatives	Page 5
BIC's Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan	Page 6





Book Industry Communication's Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan (v.2.0)

8th December 2022

Introduction

Book Industry communication Ltd (BIC) is the UK book industry's dedicated supply chain organisation, and it is in the supply chain that the most significant changes can be made to help organisations lower their carbon footprints and become greener. BIC is committed to championing the green agenda and providing leadership to provide organisations with the tools and resources to help them make their supply chains greener and more sustainable.

In accordance with [BIC's Green Promise and agenda](#), BIC's [Green Supply Chain Committee](#) (GSCC) has now revised its Work Plan for the coming months and years. The plan was originally approved in September 2021. Since then, a number of the items on the plan have been worked upon. It was therefore decided that all the items, which had not been looked at should be reviewed to see if they were still relevant. A survey was set up for the GSCC members to review all these items, and pass comment on how relevant they felt each item was. The ratings were:

Very important

Very important needs amending

Fairly important

Fairly important needs amending

Not at all important

No opinion

No longer required

Once the survey had been completed it was reviewed and analysed, and this resulted in the new priorities list based on what the GSCC felt was most important to be worked on next.

What follows is the revised Work Plan agreed for BIC generally, the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee specifically and collaborative partners where appropriate or required. Some of the work has moved to the SIF Group, and these projects have been identified below. This is the Sustainable Industry



The UK Book Industry's Supply Chain Organisation

Form Group made up of the Association of Authors' Agents (AAA), Booksellers Association (BA), Book Industry Communication (BIC), Independent Publishers Guild (IPG), Publishers Association (PA) and The Society of Authors (SoA). This is a cross industry group working together to make sure that there is no duplication of projects and each book trade organisation will work together to deliver the project identified by the group. The group also aims to speak with one voice to the book industry. The work is being carried out by an environmental specialist consultant hired by BIC and [The Green Book Alliance](#) (GBA).

Update on Completed Projects

So far, the following items have been completed from the original plan:

Training

The BIC production training courses have been updated so that they have sustainability at the fore front of the course. This has been done by giving the course a greater focus on sustainability, which is reflected in the marketing and promotional material. This work has also been extended to the two courses on e-books.

Environmental Accreditation Badges Project

The main project that has been delivered is the Environmental Accreditation Badges Project. The project researched and then investigated all the environmental “badges”/accreditations/standards applicable to the book industry supply chain. It then incorporated their curation onto a map of the supply chain. Initially the project intended to only examine the environmental aspects of the badges, but as time allowed it was subsequently agreed to expand the scope and to cover social responsibility criteria. The project team initially discovered over one hundred badges, but after applying the assessment criteria this number was then reduced to 34 actual accreditations and standards. It was decided that there were a further 47 badges that were not accreditations or standards, but would be of valuable information to the user, as well as 14 regulations. These have all been included in the final map as extra information against which the user is able to do their own research. The final map will be displayed on the new BIC website in January 2023.

Designed for Recycling

The second project that has been completed is the Design for Recycling Project, Part 1 Life Cycle Assessment. The final report has been approved by the Green Supply Chain Committee, and is available to BIC members [upon request via this link](#). This project is now progressing onto delivering Parts 2 and 3. More information about these can be found below.



Context for the Work Plan

In agreement with the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) have been used as the basis, or framework, for the Work Plan.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

There are [17 SDGs](#) in total as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. No Poverty | 7. Affordable and Clean Energy | 13. Climate Action |
| 2. Zero Hunger | 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth | 14. Life Below Water |
| 3. Good Health and Well-Being | 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure | 15. Life on Land |
| 4. Quality Education | 10. Reduced Inequalities | 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 5. Gender Equality | 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities | 17. Partnerships for the Goals |
| 6. Clean Water and Sanitation | 12. Responsible Consumption and Production | |

UN SDGs and BIC Strategy 2023-24

In line with its revised 2023-24 strategy, the BIC Green Promise and with regards to greening the supply chain, BIC has provisionally identified 7 of the UN SDGs as currently appropriate for its membership, remit, and as applicable to the book industry supply chain as follows:

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 15: Life on Land
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

In selecting these 7 SDGs, BIC is not minimizing the importance of all the other goals, but rather selecting those it considers most appropriate given its remit and purpose. Each of the SDGs has its own set of Targets, and each Target has a set of Indicators to help monitor progress. BIC will be working towards those goals and indicators that it feels best represent the book industry supply chain and where differences can be achieved. The appropriate Targets and Indicators have been listed on the accompanying excel spreadsheet.



The Work Plan – Summary

What follows is a headline summary of the Work Plan for the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee specifically, BIC more broadly and collaborative partners as required. This is the result of much discussion, debate, review and finally agreement and sign off by the BIC Green Supply Chain Committee.

The different *types* of initiatives fall into the following 8 broad areas:

- 1. Training and events**
- 2. Marketing and promotion**
- 3. Standards**
- 4. Industry requirements**
- 5. Industry resources and hub/portal**
- 6. Accreditation**
- 7. Collaboration**
- 8. Projects/Reports**

And cover the following more specific 8 *categories*, all of which are expanded upon below:

1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Lifelong Learning
2. Sustainable Consumption and Production
3. Designed for Recycling Project
4. Accreditations/Schemes/Measurements analysis
5. IRI, Returns – Waste Prevention
6. Communications, Reporting and Standards
7. ESGs – Environmental, Social and Governance
8. Green Book Alliance – International Sustainability Hub for the book industry



BIC's Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan

Categories, Description of Work, Priorities, and Relevant UN SDG(s) Addressed

These items from the Work Plan are now being worked upon.

Priorities for 2023-24

Category	Item of work	SDG addressed	Status
1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	Continue to grow and develop the successful Green BIC Brunch series and other educational initiatives	4, 12, 13	Ongoing
1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	Build an industry-wide glossary of environmental terms - beginning with transportation - and develop further into all areas of the green supply chain	4, 12, 13	Ongoing
3. Design for Recycling Project 5. IRI, Returns - Waste prevention	Designed for recycling and Waste Management Prevention, Part 2 - Designing for Recycling from initial design to manufacturing	12 12	Waiting approval of proposal
3. Design for Recycling Project 5. IRI, Returns - Waste prevention	Designed for recycling and Waste Management Prevention, Part 3 - Designing for Recycling from manufacturing to end-of-life	12 12	Waiting approval of proposal
5. IRI, Returns - Waste prevention	Publishers Accelerator 2030 - BIC to manage a small trial investigating the potential for reducing rates of returns under certain conditions. The duration and other parameters of this project to be determined by those involved.	9, 12, 17	Set-up in Jan/Feb 2023
7. ESG - Environmental, Social and Governance	Enlist a smaller group from the BIC GSCC to explore the potential incorporation of Social Justice Goals into the Work Plan	8	Set-up in Jan/Feb 2023
8. Green Book Alliance (GBA) – Sustainability Hub	Manufacturing Partner Sustainability Checklist Project	17	Due to be completed Dec 2022



The following items in the Work Plan have been reviewed by the Green Supply Chain Committee and are now ordered in the priority that the committee would like to see them worked upon in 2023/24 and beyond.

New priorities from the results of the GSCC Work Plan survey

New priority	Category	Item of work	SDG addressed
1	4. Accreditations/Schemes/Measurements analysis	BIC to build upon its work from the Environmental Accreditation Badges (EAB) Project: i) Follow up on the gap analysis report and ii) ultimately propose potential solutions to environmental data reporting for the UK book industry supply chain as a result of: Mapping presence/availability of sustainability data across supply chain; establishing current metrics used, highlighting information gaps, differences in units of measure/parameters, and so on. Provide recommendations for standardisation where possible. Take recommendations to the SIF Group, agree, and drive forward on next steps.	4, 9, 12, 15
2	6. Communications, Reporting and Standards	Once the above work has been completed, BIC to lead on establishing with the SIF Group members to delivery of pre-agreed, standardised, and regular environmental reporting for their sectors across the industry. BIC as the book industry's supply chain organisation, to collate such data and provide regular progress updates to the industry.	12, 17
3	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	Collaboration with The PA with regards to GHG emissions and their reduction.	8, 9, 12, 13
4	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	Collaborate with The PA with regards to the promotion of the implementation of sustainable forestry management.	8, 9, 12, 13



5	1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	Research, curate and promote a directory of sustainability resources for the UK book industry, including BIC courses & webinar recordings. Measure and report on engagement	4, 12, 13
6	1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	Ensure BIC committees, project groups and Board encourage diversity and inclusivity from within the membership.	4, 12, 13
7	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	Agree other areas for consideration that address sustainable consumption and production in collaboration with The PA and The BA.	8, 9, 12, 13
8	1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	BIC Training courses, webinars, events: Monitor for inclusivity, promote and improve.	4, 12, 13
9	1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	Agree and develop the role of the new BIC Board members with regards promotion of BIC training courses, industry initiatives, and standards.	4, 12, 13
10	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	BIC, The BA, and The PA to collaborate to agree remits with regards to number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that are meeting their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.	8, 9, 12, 13
11	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	BIC to produce a report on the impact that changes to decrease the environmental impact of the product has on both the finished product, and the consumer.	8, 9, 12, 13
12	6. Communications, Reporting and Standards	Principles of Offsetting and Best Practice and Guidelines documentation. Such documentation to include researched recommended programmes in a checklist.	12, 17



13	1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	Consider free or subsidised training for those out of work/disadvantaged in partnership with other organisations such as the Book Trade Charity, BookCareers etc.	4, 12, 13
14	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	Utilising the results from DIMPACT research, and with their permission, report on eBook versus print book in terms of carbon footprint and end user experience.	8, 9, 12, 13
15	3. Design for Recycling Project	BIC to provide more visibility with regards to book donation programmes e.g., National Literacy Trust, Book Aid etc. Provide information regarding this as resource on BIC Green Hub.	12
16	1. Events, Training, Information Resources & Life Long Learning	Create a programme of promotional activity that reaches beyond the BIC membership and promotes new and continued learning amongst book industry professionals.	4, 12, 13
17	6. Communications, Reporting and Standards	Data centres as suppliers: Carbon footprint, energy consumption, marine, land, waste disposals etc., Confirm the book industry's requirements of these organisations. These organisations form substantial part of the Emissions Scope 2 and 3.	12, 17
18	4. Accreditations/Schemes/Measurements analysis	Expand BIC's SCEA (rather than create another accreditation scheme) to incorporate sustainability elements, that can be measured in a meaningful way. Consider: Renewable energy sources; Hazardous waste disposal; End of life of product/ designed for recycling; New/current supplier checklist and reporting - (should include sourcing of goods); Number of organisations publishing sustainability reports; Sustainable forestry management	4, 9, 12, 15



19	6. Communications, Reporting and Standards	Values, principles, standards, and norms of behaviour: Code of conduct for supply chain partners that are not publishers (We understand that The PA will be looking at publishers).	12, 17
20	2. Sustainable Consumption and Production	BIC to create a 101 guide to the renewable energy sources that are available to book industry supply chain.	8, 9, 12, 13

New items

Two new items have been added to the **Priorities for 2023-24** section of the Work Plan:

- 1) The first is the Publishers Accelerator 2030: a project to investigate the potential for reducing returns under set criteria. The project team will be made up of a small group of volunteer organisations from across the book industry supply chain.
- 2) The second is for a small team from the BIC GSCC to explore the potential inclusion of Social Justice Goals in the Work Plan.

Changed priorities

Now on hold

One item on the Work Plan was about creating training courses on sustainability – *Research and develop the creation of book industry sustainability training modules with industry certification. To include or start with shipping/transportation awareness generally, i.e., pollution and myth and jargon busting.* The committee decided that as there is too much variation at the moment on the way sustainability is measured and reported, as well as the fact a number of the larger publishers are conducting their own training that this item should be put on hold for the time being. BIC will revisit this at a later date.

Now moved

The item concerning carbon calculators – *Collaboration with The PA and The BA with regards contributing towards and using carbon footprint calculator to identify opportunities to improve industry’s sustainability profile* – has moved to discussions with the SIF Group, and is also covered by the Priority 1 item listed above. Additionally, BIC is having conversations with the British Printing Industries Federation about their carbon calculator. These two sets of talks are ongoing. Both The PA and The BA released carbon calculators in 2022.

The item *Work with The PA and The BA on a Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan* has been moved into the SIF Group.



The Green Book Alliance

The following work with the GBA is ongoing:

Category	Item of work	SDG addressed
8. Green Book Alliance (GBA) – Sustainability Hub	BIC, as one of the 3 founders, to continue its collaboration and work with The GBA.	17
8. Green Book Alliance (GBA) – Sustainability Hub	The GBA to expand and secure funding for global, multi-stakeholder projects and research.	17
8. Green Book Alliance (GBA) – Sustainability Hub	BIC to work with Book Industry Study Group (BISG) and BookNet Canada (BNC) to develop The GBA website as an international industry portal/hub for all environmental matters, articles, papers, initiatives, events, and national groups by country.	17
8. Green Book Alliance (GBA) – Sustainability Hub	Use The GBA as a mechanism for mobilising and sharing knowledge, expertise, and technology to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries.	17
8. Green Book Alliance (GBA) – Sustainability Hub	Expand appropriate resources in the BIC Green Hub internationally, i.e., to appropriate areas of The GBA website.	17

Karina Urquhart,
Executive Director, BIC
8th December 2022



The UK Book Industry's Supply Chain Organisation