



Book Industry  
Communication

# BIC's Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan

in line with BIC's Green Promise and Agenda

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## 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 refreshes and publishes its Green Work Plan annually. Each revised Work Plan is a schedule of work agreed for BIC generally, the [BIC Green Supply Chain Committee](#) (GSCC) specifically and collaborative partners where appropriate or required. We also share the information about the work we're doing with Sustainability Industry Forum (SIF). This forum is made up of the Association of Authors' Agents (AAA), Booksellers Association (BA), Book Industry Communication (BIC), Independent Publishers Guild (IPG), Publishers Association (PA), Publishing Scotland (PS) and The Society of Authors (SoA). This is a cross-industry group that meets regularly to raise awareness of what each organisation is doing in the green space, and to ensure that there are no duplicate projects.

The work is being carried out by an environmental specialist consultant hired by BIC.).

## BIC's Green Work Plan for 2026-27

BIC's GSCC has now revised its Work Plan for the year ahead. The plan was originally approved in September 2021 and since then it has been kept regularly updated. It is regularly reviewed to ensure that what is listed is still relevant, important and of value to both BIC members and the wider book industry. Please refer to the accompanying spreadsheet [Green Supply Chain Work Plan tracker 2026-2027](#) for detail on the sustainability work areas that have been prioritised and approved by BIC's GSCC for this year.

## 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                  | 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth          | 13. Climate Action                          |
| 2. Zero Hunger                 | 9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure | 14. Life Below Water                        |
| 3. Good Health and Well-Being  | 10. Reduced Inequalities                    | 15. Life on Land                            |
| 4. Quality Education           | 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities      | 16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions |
| 5. Gender Equality             | 12. Responsible Consumption and Production  | 17. Partnerships for the Goals              |
| 6. Clean Water and Sanitation  |   |   |
| 7. Affordable and Clean Energy |   |   |

## UN SDGs and BIC Strategy 2026-27

In line with its revised 2026-27 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.

Since its first publication, numerous items on the Work Plan have been worked upon and delivered.

What follows is an update on those completed projects.

## 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 first 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. Since the completion of the project another badge has been added to the map, and information about other badges has been updated. The final map can be found in the [BIC Green Hub – Environmental Accreditation and Standards Map](#).

### Designed for Recycling

This is a three-part project with Part 1 Life Cycle Assessment and Part 2 Initial Design to Manufactured Book have been completed. The final reports have been approved by the Green Supply Chain Committee, and can be download from the [BIC Green Hub – Reports and Guidance](#). The final part of this project Part 3 Manufactured Book to End-of-Life is currently in progress can be followed in the [Green Supply Chain Work Plan tracker 2026-2027](#).

## Manufacturing Partner Sustainability Checklist Project

This is a project that was conducted as part of the Green Book Alliance (GBA) with the Book Industry Study Group (BISG), USA and BookNet Canada. The idea behind this project was to produce a checklist for publishers and printers to use so that they all requested the same information from each other when it came to sustainability reporting. The checklist can be found on the [GBA Website](#).

## Sustainability and Environmental Data Reporting

Part One: Current Practices in the Industry has been published and can be download from the [BIC Green Hub – Reports and Guidance](#). Part 2 is currently in progress and progress can be followed in the [Green Supply Chain Work Plan tracker 2026-2027](#).

## Principles of Offsetting

This was a stand-alone project to provide information, key principles, and resources to foster a better understanding of the role of global carbon offsetting in combatting climate change and achieving net zero goals within the book industry and supply chains. The published report can be downloaded from the [BIC Green Hub – Reports and Guidance](#) section.

## Sustainability 101 Guides

This is a series of 101 sustainability guides for the book industry that have been written as an introduction to the various topics cover. So far, the following guides have been published on the [BIC Green Hub – Sustainability 101 Guides](#):

- Guide 1 - The What and Why of Sustainability
- Guide 2 - How to Start Your Sustainability Journey
- Guide 3 - Scopes 1, 2 and 3
- Guide 4 - Carbon Calculators
- Guide 5 - Sustainable Procurement

Further guides will be added to the list as and when new topics are suggested.

## EUDR Practicalities: A BIC Fast-Track Project

The Task and Finishing Working Group (T&FWG) involved 40 people from numerous organisations covering the whole book industry supply chain. The project initially ran for two months during June and July 2025. The whole project team would meet on a weekly basis to discuss everyone's overall understanding of EUDR and to hear feedback from the smaller project groups. There was one group looking at POD and the other on general supply of books. In August 2025 BIC published its [project report, helpful information guide and a series of data flow maps](#).

As there were so many unanswered questions surrounding EUDR the full project team kept on meeting once a month from September onwards. During the latter part of the year the EU Commission, Parliament, and Council all proposed different postponements and simplifications to the regulation. These resulted in EUDR being delayed for a further year until 30 December 2026. At the same time products falling under commodity code 49 – printed matter (books and journals etc.), were removed from the regulation. The EU Commission has also been tasked with coming up with simplifications to the reporting requirements of EUDR based upon the volume of data that would need to be passed down the supply chain. The report is due by 30 April 2026.

BIC will continue with its EUDR project into 2026. Initially a small number of people from the T&FWG will review the current documentation to see if these need amending at all considering the decision taken at the end of 2025. The project will reconvene again in May after the EU Commission has published its report to understand the ramifications of the proposed EU changes.