

Call for Project Partners & Review Group Members: Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain (BNG/ENG)

This document outlines the objectives and methodology of the upcoming Biodiversity Net Gain and Environmental Net Gain project (BNG/ENG) and summarises how UKGBC member organisations can apply to become a Project Partner or become a member of the review group.

This opportunity is ideal for organisations with a background in biodiversity, the environment, or natural sciences and/or have experience in applying BNG/ENG principles during the design, construction or management process of developments.

Introduction to the Climate Resilience & Nature Partnership Model

UKGBC launched its [Resilience & Nature programme](#) in 2021 to help the built environment adapt to the impacts of climate change, maximise environmental net gains and promote biodiversity. The programme encompasses several projects and is primarily funded and guided by a small number of organisations within the UKGBC membership, the Programme Partners. We are now introducing opportunities for further UKGBC members to become partners at the individual project level, including the BNG/ENG project:

- We are seeking three to four “Project Partners” who will take part in the steering of the project alongside the existing Programme Partners.
- We will also be seeking organisations to join a larger Review Group who will examine the ongoing output through the drafting stages.

Details on requirements and benefits are outlined below.

Project Overview

This project aims to assist organisations in taking practical action on Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain in light of changes to UK legislation in place for November of 2023 which will mandate a 10% biodiversity net gain on all new development. Initial workshops with the Steering Group (Programme & Project Partners), will scope the key project content. This will be followed by a series of exploration sessions led by UKGBC with the Steering Group and Review Group. These sessions will help to create a foundational framework for the projects content, detailing the direction and thematic outline, as well as later review UKGBC drafted content. The aim of this project is not to rewrite existing industry guidance but to provide accessible, stakeholder specific information on these two key topics.

The objectives of the project are to:

- Explore key definitions and terminology in order to ‘demystify’ complex concepts.
- Provide the necessary resources and information to allow the industry to surpass the minimum government standards of Biodiversity Net Gain including exploring a variety existing case study examples at multiple scales.
- Convene organisations who wish to develop their understanding of BNG/ENG concepts and available organisational strategies.
- Highlight the diversity of resources available to facilitate BNG/ENG, outside of traditional understandings and frameworks.
- Ensure the BNG/ENG strategies used on site align with Government Policy changes as part of the Environment Bill and support long-term authentic net positive change.

Project Timeline

Table 1: Proposed Project Timeline

Call for applications open	Thursday September 15 th 2022	-
Steering Group 1: Project and Programme partners (in person, central London)	Wednesday October 19 th 2022	14:00-17:00
Review Group & Steering Group discussion 1 (online)	Wednesday 9 th November 2022	14:00-16:00
Content gathering and creation	Monday November 11 th 2022 – Monday December 5 th 2022	-
Review Group & Steering Group discussion 2 (online)	December 13 th 2022	14:00-16:00
Review Group & Steering Group discussion 3 (online)	Wednesday February 8 th 2023	14:00-16:00
Launch Events	April 2023	

Please note that provisional workshop dates may be subject to change in discussion with Steering and Review Group members. Should this be the case, the members will be informed as soon as possible.

Requirements of Review Group members and Project Partners

We are specifically looking for individuals and organisations with experience and understanding of biodiversity and environmental net gain, or a strong background in environmental sciences. We would like to invite representation from (but not limited to):

- Developers, contractors and asset owners
- Designers, architects and consultants (particularly nature-focused)
- NGO's (focused on biodiversity and environmental issues)
- Government organisations
- Scientific institutions with a focus on nature and/or conservation (public, private or academic)

Selection will be based on the suitability of both the individual applicants and the organisation they are representing. The individuals representing the partnering organisation should have a minimum 5 years of relevant experience or specific knowledge.

Expected responsibilities and commitments include:

- Contribute a minimum of **20 hours in total** between October and February, inclusive of workshop times (see project programme above for proposed dates).
- Project partners will be required to contribute an **additional 3 hours** in October during this process owing to one extra workshop.
- Depending on the final agreed project scope, to support the development of the material output throughout its development including attending project meetings and allowing time to feedback in-between.
- Provide specialist knowledge and expertise as needed to support development of the output.
- Support dissemination of the output through participation in or presentation at awareness raising and engagement events (for example on relevant social media platforms).

Project Partnership

Alongside the Programme Partners, Project specific partners help enable projects through providing funding and knowledge allowing us to continue responding to the evolving needs and demands of wide range of stakeholders. This allows the R&N programme to develop more varied outputs and provides smaller organisations with the opportunity to influence individual outputs.

Cost of Project Partnership

£4,000

Benefits of Project Partnership

- Credited as enabling project progression and in creating a positive impact in assisting the built environment to reach biodiversity and environmental net gain targets.
- Strategic position in steering and setting the scope of the project and outputs including content, detailed topical focus and the style of outputs.
- Organisational logo on the output material and any related collateral such as webpages and videos.
- Opportunities to provide quotes and speakers for related UKGBC media and events.
- Be given opportunities to present at project output launch and / or related events.
- Be able to collaborate with other industry leaders and build your organisation's network.

We believe these benefits will:

- **Develop your staff** - individuals will obtain unique experience and improve their knowledge through task group participation and speaking opportunities at UKGBC events.
- **Extend your network** - programmatic groups and events will enable you to build relationships with clients, suppliers, the public sector and policy makers. UKGBC membership has increased by over 150 organisations in the last year.
- **Raise your brand profile** - your logo will be featured on multiple outputs and collateral, and we will create speaking opportunities for your experts. UKGBC's media and industry reach continues to grow.

Review Group

Alongside the Project Partners, this work will be supported and delivered by an additional, larger review group. The aim of this review group is to ensure the output from the BNG/ENG project includes a diversity of knowledge types, and holistically represents the full scale of the industry.

Individuals/organisations part of the review group will not be responsible for drafting content but will be critical for the content direction and review process. Attending the series of focused online sessions with UKGBC staff and partners, the review group will help shape and fine tune material to support the final output.

Benefits of Review Group

- Credited as assisting project progression and in creating a positive impact in assisting the built environment to reach biodiversity and environmental net gain targets.
- Organisation named as a contributor on the output material and any related collateral such as webpages and videos.
- Be able to collaborate with other industry leaders and build your organisation's network.

Application Procedure

Applications to be a Project Partner are open from Thursday 15th of September until Monday 10th of October.

To apply using the template below or to discuss this opportunity, please email kerri.mccarton@ukgbc.org

Table 2: Application Template

Organisation name	
Are you applying for Project Partnership or to be a part of the Review Group?	
Individual 1: Full name, Job Title and Department, Organisation	
Individual 1: Relevant knowledge, experience, and skills for this project (<i>max 200 words</i>)	
Are there currently any workshop dates that you are unable to attend? (<i>Refer to Table 1, page 2</i>)	
Please confirm that you have put in a calendar placeholder for the London in person kick-off workshop: Wednesday the 19 th of October 14:00-17:00 (for Project Partners only)	
Please confirm that you have put in a calendar placeholder for the online discussion group: Wednesday 9 th November 14:00 – 16:00 (for Project Partners and Review Group)	

Applicants will be chosen based on their experience, whilst ensuring a diversity of individuals within both the Steering and Review Group. UKGBC is committed to actively targeting a diverse representation in the composition of all project groups. We want to be inclusive to everyone regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation or political beliefs. This includes targeting an even gender split in these groups.

For any enquiries or to join the general interest mailing list, please contact the team at resilience.nature@ukgbc.org

This project is possible due to the generous support of our Resilience & Nature Programme Partners:

