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BUSINESS

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COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement
From: January 2023 To: December 2024

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent
To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that West London Business reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours.

We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Dakers
CEO, West London Business

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VAT registration number: 674069512

Part II. Description of Actions

Ten principles of the UN Global Compact

Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

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WLB has taken the following actions in support of the Global Compact.

Led the development of a Beneficial Loans Toolkit for employers (Principles 1 and 6)

As employers grapple with how best to help staff in the midst of a cost of living crisis, West London Business has continued to promote a Beneficial Loans Toolkit, giving employers much-needed practical guidance on how to issue small loans to employees as a manageable and safer alternative to high-interest payday lending.

Download from https://westlondon.com/beneficial-loans-toolkit/

Led the development of the West London Local Skills Improvement Plan (Principle 6)

We were commissioned by the UK Department for Education to produce the West London Local Skills Improvement Plan which sets out to produce a more effective and inclusive skills and training system for vocational/ technical education. This was approved by the Secretary of State for Education in August 2023.

See https://westlondon.com/launch-of-the-london-skills-improvement-plan-and-west-london-annex-sets-roadmap-to-tackle-west-londons-employment-skills-crisis/

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One of many projects arising include https://retailskillshub.london/ in which West London Business is an anchor partner.

Better Futures (Principle 9)
West London Business is a partner with Imperial College London, Sustainable Ventures and City Hall's Environment Team in Better Futures through which we have supported an ecosystem of 200+ Cleantech pioneers over the past eight years.

Read more at https://www.betterfutures.london/

Green Business Action (Principles 7, 8 and 9)
WLB is commissioned by the Mayor of London (first under Green New Deal funding and now under UKSPF funding) to deliver a comprehensive business support programme to help SMEs across the capital plan their transition to net zero. We have been supported with £1.3million of funding since the programmes' inception.

Outputs:
- 1000 Micro Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) supported across the capital by end of March '25
- Over 50 partner organisations engaged across the capital from local authorities to Business Improvement Districts

Read more at www.greenbusinessaction.com

Partnership working
In 2021 we were recognised as a UNFCC observer organisation. This allowed us to coordinate our first delegation of leaders to COP26 in Glasgow. During this UN Global Compact reporting period we led a delegation to COP28 in Dubai and had a virtual delegation participate in COP29 Baku. We form part of the BINGO group coordinated by the ICC.

In 2022 we were founder partners in Anthropy (https://anthropy.uk/) a new UK-focused "social Davos" at the Eden Project Cornwall. We went on to support Anthropy in 2023 and 2024.

WLB staff attend UN Global Compact UK webinars occasionally as a CPD activity.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes
Cost of living crisis
Businesses of all sizes continue to access and download the Beneficial Loans Toolkit. We also offer the loans mechanism as a benefit to our own staff at WLB.

Improving access to the labour market and improving inclusion
2024 progress report: https://westlondon.com/west-london-local-skills-improvement-plan-progress-report-launches-today/

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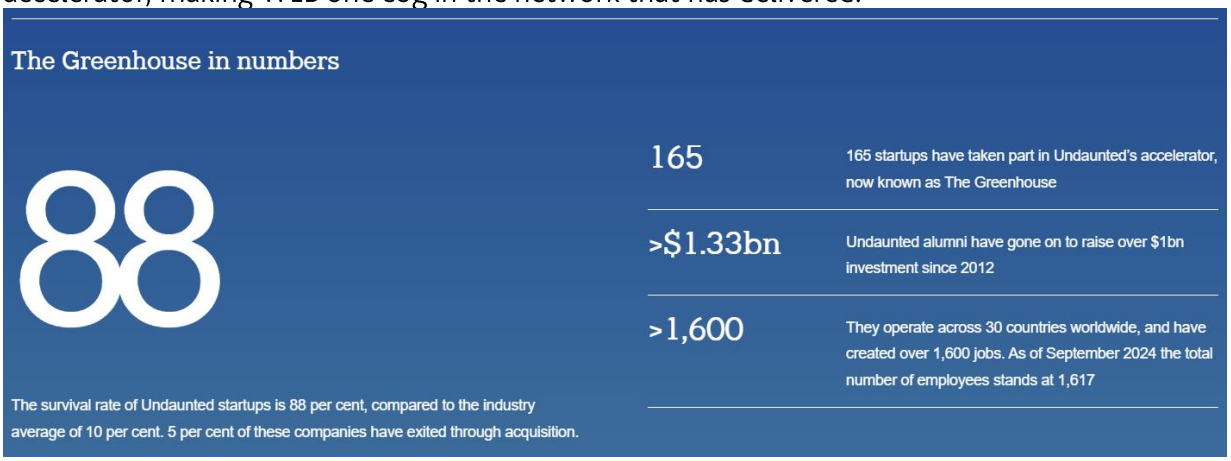
Better Futures - Cleantech growth

Many Better Futures companies have progressed onto the Undaunted's The Greenhouse accelerator, making WLB one cog in the network that has delivered:



Green Business Action

- Engaged businesses on the programme typically reduce their CO2e by 8% a year after carbon baselining with GBA.
- More detailed impact reporting on the 2023-24 period will be available on the GBA website at the end of March 2025: www.greenbusinessaction.com

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