

Dave Knight Curriculum Vitae

Sustainability, innovation, business transformation



I believe there are huge opportunities for business and society to use environmental and social trends to drive innovation and guide strategic success. Driven by science and a passion to create shared value, I have over 18 years' international experience of sustainable business and corporate responsibility. A trust builder, I take pride in working with others to challenge current business models and develop new solutions. A thought leader and entrepreneur, I have a proven track record of writing, public speaking, team building, business development and management.

I am seeking challenging work in human rights, sustainability or innovative business development.

My career has enabled me to:

Interpret sustainability. As part of a network of practitioners, I work to codify the science of sustainability, enabling business to reduce risks and build opportunities. A systems thinker, I drive change through creating alternate visions, collaborating, training and writing, consulting and assuring

Provide expert guidance and advice. A member of several governance bodies and expert teams, I am involved in multi-stakeholder, cross industry initiatives and forums

Develop business acumen and entrepreneurship. Co-founded successful sustainability agency Sd3, grew it over 11 years, merged to form Two Tomorrows and grew for further 4 years before selling to large multinational organization. I have held leadership roles across all these organizations

Learn management, sales and financial skills. With high commercial awareness and demands, I have been responsible for company and business unit budgeting and forecasting, sales, P&L, management reporting, accreditation, team and ethical performance

Develop brands, utilise social media and communications. I've helped articulate and develop market position and services for multiple companies, business units and for clients. I guide and support marketing activities, conferences and events and write reports, articles, blogs and tweets

Deliver project impact. I've led and been actively involved in numerous projects for national and international clients. From research to strategic projects, target setting to technical verification, I have helped set paths, influence decisions, deliver and confirm performance improvements

Work in teams. I enjoy bringing people together around common values and using this to drive learning, accountability and effective management. Responsible for managing up to 25 people, I am active in the care and development of those I work with

Facilitate, chair and speak in public. I'm comfortable engaging with individuals and groups from street to factory, C-suite to conference platform. I have led surveys, focus groups, structured interviews, workshops, e-dialogues, breakout sessions and plenaries

Negotiate and influence. I've helped develop business cases and change models, led contract negotiations and dispute resolution processes

Learn and share. Through working with others, lecturing at Imperial College London, international training, coaching senior clients and mentoring employees, I've learnt a lot and helped build organisational capacity. I am excited by the power of collaboration

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My career

Founder and Director, One Planet Limited		Current
Director, USA & Canada Sustainability, Business Assurance Member of Country Management Team and Extended Regional Management Team		2013-2015
Director and Principal Consultant, UK Sustainability Practice		2012-2013
Owner, Board member, Managing Director and Director		2009-2012
Co-founder, Director		1998-2009
Practice support – Energy for Sustainable Development		1994-1995
Juggler and balancer	Independent	1990-1995

Example projects I've been involved in

	Child rights due diligence, risk assessment tool pilot with UNICEF, Lead 2015/6
	Sustainability report assurance. Lead Assuror 2013-2015. Facilitated materiality process 2014
	Multiple award winning partnership project accredited GHG emission reduction validation and verifications for university campus' Project Director 2014-2015
	Sustainable Sourcing code of conduct auditing internationally in Apple and supplier facilities. Accountable manager 2013-2015
	5by20 woman's economic empowerment project validation. Project Director 2012-2013, Lead validator Mexico 2014.
	Children's rights in Telco distribution chain risk assessment. Lead 2012 Report assurance. Lead Assuror & Project Director 2011-2013
	Lead trainer including on IRCA accredited training courses, delivered internationally to hundreds of delegates 2005-ongoing
	Corporate Responsibility Reporting. Team member 2000-2006 Producer Responsibility compliance projects. Project Director 2003-2006 Verifier of Product Ecologic labels. Project Director 2012-2013
	Strategy development, sustainable packaging manual, producer responsibility, reporting and other projects. Advisor 2010-2013
	Employee engagement, Green-team site behavioural change 2000-2005 Producer Responsibility compliance projects including WEEE, Batteries and packaging, waste, facility energy assessments Project Director 1998-2013
	Social investment including Bikes to Africa and Christmas Card Recycling. Take-back product innovation. Waste and compliance. Project Lead 1997 – 2005. Lead Assuror of sustainability reports 2008-2012

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Research and innovation projects I've contributed to



2013-ongoing: Co-developed risk assessment tool & CSR Advisory group member: UNICEF Children's Rights and Business Principles (Stream of Human Rights and Business Principles)



2013-2014: Barriers, challenges and opportunities 'Safe, Sustainable Futures'
2014-2015: Impact of global megatrends on 'Future of Management Systems'
2015: 'True value' capitals and values based valuation methods research



2000-2015: GRI guidelines development support
2014: SASB Transportation working group member
2014-2015: IIRC Assurance advisory group member



2009-2015: Technical Reviewer for corporate systems and performance rating
2007-2015: Actively involved in development of AA1000 series of standards, contributions to working groups and consultations. Co-developed concept and sponsored Wiki-based standards development process



2009-2011: Lead Convener of 'Digital Sustainability Group' collaboration looking at the sustainability impacts of the transition to digital media



2010: Designed and facilitated stakeholder engagement and toolkit development project to understand implications of distributed generation on electricity distribution network operators. Partnered with Forum for the Future.



2006-2007: Advisory group member of One Planet Business programme



2001-2003: Partner Manager. Helped develop innovative set of principles, management model and toolkit that are precursors to many of today's corporate sustainability standards and approaches

Techniques and tools I use

- Stakeholder engagement, collaboration around principles, values setting
- Theory of change; visioning, back-casting, connection mapping and scenario creation
- Driver modelling, indicator development, context and science based goal setting
- Visualisation, gamification, getting people involved
- Risk and materiality assessments, PESTLE analysis, baseline reviews, gap assessments
- Employee engagement, campaigns, events, communication, reporting, training
- Principles based assurance, data and claims verification

My qualifications and continuing professional development

2015: ThriveAbility Masterclass, London
2012-2015: Regular formal internal training on ethical codes and corporate requirements
2011: Lead Sustainability Assurance Practitioner, International Register of Certified Auditors
1997: MSc Environmental Technology (Distinction), Imperial College London
1997: Diploma of Imperial College London
1991: BA Geography 2:1, University College London
1997-ongoing: Attendance at courses, conferences, events, workshops, seminars, roundtables

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Technical codes, standards and guidelines I have worked with

There are numerous pieces of relevant legislation, codes of conduct, standards and guidelines which I have experience of working with and in a number of cases actively developing or contributing to. The following list provides an overview of some of these. * indicates where I have personally supported the standard development or revision process.

AA 1000 Accountability Principles Standard (APS)

The SIGMA guidelines * (I was one of two Partner Managers for two years during the project)

The Natural Step Principles

BS 8900 (Managing Sustainable Development) * (Sd3 was represented on expert working group)

UN Global Compact Principles

ISO 26000 (Social Responsibility)

AA 1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard * (Sponsored wiki-based development process and advisory group member)

ISO 9001 (Quality)

ISO 14001 (Environment)

ISO 14064-1,-2, -3/65/66 (project and organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals, verification of them, requirements of verifiers, competence)

Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Air Resources Board (ARB)

ISO 50000 (Energy)

OHSAS 18001 (Health and Safety)

Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code

ILO Conventions

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

UNICEF Children's Rights and Business Principles * (Developed risk assessment tools, including for ICT's)

SA 8000 (Social Accountability)

BSCI - Business Social Compliance Initiative Code of Conduct

SEDEX – SMETA (Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit Standard)

EICC - Electronics Industries Code of Conduct and auditing framework

CARES Sustainable Construction Steels (SCS) certification * (developed initial certification and helped revision process)

BS 8902 (Responsible Sourcing sector certification schemes)

BES 6001 (Construction sector Responsible Sourcing Standard) * (consultation group member)

BES 6002 (Construction sector Ethical Labour Standard) * (consultation group member)

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G2,3,4, standards

International Integrated Reporting Framework (IIRC) * (Assurance Advisory group member)

Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) * (Transport/Logistics working group member)

AA 1000 Assurance Standard * (Two Tomorrows was advisory group member)

ISAE 3000 International Standard on Assurance Engagements other than financial

Verisustain (DNV GL proprietary report assurance standard)

Please ask me for collaborator, client, employer and employee references and further project examples

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Conference and event presentations I've given and my publications

2016 Panellist and facilitator at UNICEF ICT and Children's rights event, Guardian, London.
2015 Drafted assurance chapter and lead reviewer for 'Making Environmental Reporting Relevant to All Stakeholders - Raising the Bar' publication, UNEP, Paris ([link](#))
April 2015: <http://www.greenbiz.com/article/how-finally-take-science-based-goals-rhetoric-reality> article
March 2015: Led 4 hour pre-conference tutorial 'The science of science based goals' and facilitated 'the future of materiality' conference session at GreenBiz Forum, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA
Dec 2014: Facilitated IIRC North America assurance consultation, Bloomberg, San Francisco
Oct 2014: Context-Based Metrics Needed to Create Sustainability Value, Sustainable Brands Article
Oct 2014: 5 Misconceptions about Sustainability Reporting Assurance, Sustainable Brands Article
June 2014: Ran strategic sustainability session, Agrion Disrupt conference New York
March 2014: Facilitated materiality matters workshop, DNV GL and Agrion, San Francisco
Sept 2013: Panel member 'Tools for Children's Rights Risk Assessment' UNICEF, New York
Sept 2013: Presented and panel member 'Water-footprinting', UNIDO session at UN Global Compact Leadership Summit, New York
March 2013: Contributor, peer reviewer of 'Global Environmental Outlook, summary for business' UNEP
Jan 2013: G4 and Integrated Reporting – Is company reporting coming of age? Co-authored briefing paper
June 2012: Co-drafted 'The Business Case for the Green Economy', UNEP, Geneva. Based on meta research conducted and collated by Cornis Van Der Lugt. Launched at Rio+20 ([link](#))
March 2012: Chaired conference session on Sustainability Reporting, Led roundtable on benchmarking SD performance in Food and Bev sector. Base Communications, London
June and Dec 2010: Convened Digital Sustainability Group, Launched @Guardian Sustainable Business
2008: Delivered presentation on sustainable business models. Seoul, South Korea
2007: Presented business management model to Basque regional CSR conference in Bilbao, Spain
2006: Conference session for European Academy of Business in Society, SDA Bocconi School of Management Universita Milan, Italy
2006: Drafted chapter on Sigma Sustainability Guidelines in book 'Management Models for CSR', Editors Jonker and De Witte, Springer Verlag
2002: Partner manager and co-writer of Sigma Sustainability Guidelines and Toolkit
2002: Chapter 'Becoming Environmentally Sustainable' for CSR manual, SPIRO Press/Work Foundation
2000-2015: Blogged for 'Towards Sustainable Biz', 'GoingSustainable', co-created white papers, drafted articles and news pieces for Sd3, Two Tomorrows, DNV GL, company and green media websites

Partners I've worked with, my sector and international experience

NGO's, governments, supra-national institutions, corporations and their networks. My sector experience includes; Maritime; Utilities, Mail, FMCG, Retail, Technology, Mining, Apparel, Infrastructure, Public, Telecoms, Media, Games, Construction, Hospitality, Food and Beverage, Forestry, Forestry products.

I have delivered client projects, training and events in: Finland, Norway, Sweden, France, Spain, United Kingdom, South Korea, United States of America, Mexico, Italy, Turkey, Russia, South Africa, Germany, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Denmark.

I'm also interested in

Volunteering for my children's local clubs and societies and supporting school activities, trips and events, including being a school governor. I enjoy music, cycling, camping, juggling and balancing, relaxing with friends, good vegetarian food, wine and comedy.