



BIOSPHERE



Vancouver Island's Biosphere Commitment Program

What is the Biosphere System?

[Biosphere Sustainable](#) was created 25 years ago by the [Responsible Tourism Institute](#). It is a sustainability management system and internationally recognized certification for destinations and tourism businesses. Biosphere is aligned with the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), creating a common language and framework from which to advance sustainable development across the tourism industry. Presently, 44 global destinations are Biosphere certified, with 11 working towards certification.

Vancouver Island Biosphere Commitment Program

The Biosphere Commitment Program is a collaborative industry initiative that supports tourism businesses to adopt sustainable practices as an extension of Vancouver Island's Biosphere destination certification. Using the 17 SDGs as the guiding framework, this program aims to empower tourism stakeholders to take action across the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability.

Program Inclusions & Benefits

- **Free Access to Biosphere Sustainability Management Platform:** create dynamic sustainability action plans that are easy to navigate and manage online; engage team members along the journey.
- **Complimentary Value-Added Sustainability Programming:** Access to three (3) educational videos, three (3) hours of one-on-one coaching with a sustainability expert, eco-efficiency assessments for eligible businesses, and \$250 credit (per business) towards additional sustainability support programs.
- **Global Recognition (Biosphere):** Be listed and promoted as a "Biosphere Committed" or "Biosphere Certified" business to the global community on Biosphere Sustainable (www.biospheresustainable.com).
- **Promotions (4VI):** All Biosphere members will be spotlighted on 4VI's LinkedIn account and featured on 4VI's website (www.forvi.ca). Biosphere business page will be launched mid 2030.
- **Join a Movement:** Join a growing network of tourism businesses using tourism as a force for good.

Program Expectations

Tourism operators are expected to design and implement a sustainability action plan for their organization.

- The initial action plan must address **at least 3 of the SDGs** and be created within **3 months of joining**
- Action plan must be uploaded to the **Biosphere platform** for the business to achieve "Committed" status
- Operators are required to provide **evidence of project implementation** through the Biosphere platform
- Action plans are to be **updated annually** or with the termination of each project

How to Get Involved

Step 1: **BOOK** a 30 minute intro with Caleb McIntyre, Manager of Sustainable Development: caleb@forvi.ca

Step 2: **SIGN** the Biosphere membership agreement and fill out onboarding questionnaire

Step 3: **CREATE** a Biosphere account for your organization and link to Vancouver Island

Step 4: **LEARN** by participating in the coaching sessions and watching the educational videos

Step 5: **BUILD** your company's personalized Sustainability Action Plan, working towards commitment

Step 6: **COLLABORATE** to fulfil the actions and activities for each SDG, working towards certification