

Pooran Desai



photo credit: Marcus Lyon

Pooran studied at Oxford and Cambridge Universities before co-founding BioRegional Development Group with Sue Riddlestone.

Initially he worked on sustainable woodland management and charcoal production, working to launch BioRegional Charcoal Company Ltd (BRCC) of which he remains Managing Director. He led on BioRegional's Lavender Project and in 1998, he drew together the partnership to construct BedZED.

During his time at BioRegional, Pooran has been a sustainability consultant to central government, local authorities and developers, in the UK and overseas and lectures widely. For three years he chaired the Homes and Environment group of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee on Consumer Products and the Environment (ACCPE).

In 1995, Pooran helped found property development company BioRegional Quintain Ltd (BQL). He stepped down as co-director of BioRegional Development Group to take up the role of Sustainability Director at BQL. Pooran now divides his time between BQL, working for BioRegional Development Group as a director of the "One Planet Living" initiative, and continuing as MD of BRCC.

In 2004, Pooran was honoured with an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) by the Queen for services to sustainable development.