

Commitment Announcement

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Session | Technology And Nature At The Forefront Of
Tomorrow's Cities

Commitment: Title

Urban Regeneration for People and Planetary Health

A building is nothing without the people in it. So rather than bore you with the vast technicalities of our Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action to build a Biophilic Living Project, I'm going to tell you about Keith.

Keith sits alone in his apartment, his wife passed away 18 months ago. Keith has no family, and his friendship group is steadily shrinking. His mobility has affected how far he can walk and has therefore limited his interaction with people. Swansea, the vibrant town he grew up in as a child, is now in decline. Keith gets lonely, he is also a quiet and reserved man who has always found it difficult to socialise.

However, since he arrived at the Biophilic Project, his life has improved immeasurably. He now uses his interest in growing plants to meet his neighbours, where he works as part of a community facility that sells food from the rooftop gardens and glasshouses.

He even gets involved in guided tours of the project, meeting all levels of society. His visits to the doctor have

reduced, he feels for the first time in 18 months that he's a part of something, his wellbeing has improved. He has also learnt about climate change, and how we can all lead better lives for us and our planet.

He tends to his vegetables in summer on the roof gardens, and in winter he will shelter in the glasshouse and grow a different variety of edible plant, by using a nutrient filled water system, a skill he never thought he could learn at his age.

He is often asked to tend to operational issues – his former profession as a heating engineer always comes in handy. His heating bills are low, and it pleases him that the energy is derived from a highly innovative low carbon energy system, and that he lives in one of the UK's most innovative projects; a part new build, part refurbishment.

Life without his wife of 50 years will always sadden him, but he knows that she would approve to see him living his life in a positive way.

Biophilic Living is more than a building! It's a community where through a sustainable, nature-based approach, the lives of both people and planet are improved.

We want to make this sort of living the new norm, acquiring buildings and using them to regenerate cities, creating a new way of living for societies, and we want to partner with the CGI community to do it.