CONSERVE AS IT CONSTRUCTS

Bloomberg Helps CDL Communicate its Sustainability Commitment to Investors



Bloomberg

BLOOMBERG HELPS CDL

OVERVIEW

Country:

Singapore

Industry:

Real estate

CUSTOMER PROFILE

- Established in 1963, one of Singapore's largest listed companies by market cap
- An international real estate operating company with a presence in 26 countries
- First in Singapore to publish a GRI-checked Social and Environmental Report in 2008
- Ranked top real estate company in Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World 2016 index

BUSINESS SITUATION

City Developments Limited (CDL) prides itself on its achievements in global sustainability indexes and rankings. The company requires ongoing access to reliable, up-to-date ESG data to measure its performance relative to its regional and international peers.

BLOOMBERG SOLUTION

- Index replication tools enable CDL to monitor its progress against Global 100 index peers
- Bloomberg's ESG function helps benchmark performance relative to customizable local and international peer groups
- Objective, timely & accurate data gives CDL the knowledge to confidently engage with long term investors, index issuers and market agencies

Singapore-listed CDL is a global leader in sustainability. Since adopting its ethos of "Conserving as we Construct" in 1995, the property development and investment company has become an industry pioneer in green building innovation creating the first eco-mall and condominium in Singapore, and first CarbonNeutral® development in Asia Pacific.

A SUSTAINABLE ETHOS

In an industry that ranks as the third largest contributor to Singapore's carbon emissions, CDL's commitment towards sustainable development has helped to set best practices in the built industry and contributed towards the nation's goal of building a green, smart and liveable city.

For over two decades, the company has played a leading role in the city's corporate social responsibility (CSR) movement.

Beyond promoting sustainability within its value chain through engagement initiatives, it has also sought to inspire and drive advocacy within the business community.

In 2015, CDL became the first developer in Singapore to adopt the International Integrated Reporting Council's Integrated Reporting approach. In 2016, the company began aligning its ESG performance with nine relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It is also the first developer in Singapore to achieve the ISO 14064-1 verification for emissions management and reporting.

CDL has pledged to invest 2-5% of every new development's construction costs in green building design. Its developments prioritize energy efficiency, including the deployment of the largest solar panel in a Singapore condo, and the company has invested in innovations such as the Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) technology and R&D partnerships with local universities. The implementation of PPVC technology for its development, The Brownstone Executive Condominium, is expected to raise productivity by 40%, compared to conventional construction methods, in addition to enhancing worksite safety and reducing construction waste.

As one of Singapore's biggest landlords, CDL's sustainability efforts don't end at the construction phase. The company engages its tenants, homebuyers, youths and the community in the adoption of environmentally responsible practices. Its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy is driven from the top.

"Top leadership commitment to ESG integration is crucial. Since 2008, CDL has established a board-level CSR & Corporate Governance Committee and a company-wide CSR Committee, setting clear direction for all business units and all levels of operations to support the company's sustainability goals and strategy." says Esther An, CDL's Chief Sustainability Officer.

TANGIBLE BUSINESS BENEFITS

Along with environmental and societal benefits, CDL believes sustainability can deliver positive business impact and financial performance, enabling itself and its tenants to get ahead of curve on environmental legislation and build brand differentiation and product marketability as green consumerism and ESG grow in importance.

To tell its sustainability story and confidently engage with long-term investors, index issuers and market agencies, CDL relies heavily on data. The company is listed on 10 leading sustainability benchmarks, making it to the FTSE4Good Index Series since 2002, the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World list since 2010, and the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes since 2011. Most recently it was listed on the inaugural SGX Sustainability Indices.

"Having a platform to measure our ESG data relative to regional and international peers will help us continue to improve our ESG performance and enhance engagement with investors."

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- Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer, CDL

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In 2016, CDL emerged as the top real estate developer in the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World index and was ranked 10th overall. Managing its ESG performance and maintaining its place among its global peers has become a key part of CDL's corporate strategy.

DATA-DRIVEN STRATEGIES

Beyond monitoring ESG performance, the Bloomberg Professional service helps CDL keep abreast of what investors and indexes issuers are assessing for responsible investment, offering very useful guidance for CDL's ESG strategy and investor engagement program. Not only can the Global 100 index be viewed instantly on the Bloomberg Terminal, its issuer also uses Bloomberg data for its evaluation.

Bloomberg built an index replication tool for CDL, feeding data into a customized template within the Terminal's Equity Screening function (EQS) that replicates the Global 100 rating methodology. That gives CDL a convenient way to monitor its overall score versus its index peers, proactively address any areas of weakness, and improve its communications with the issuer.

"Information is power. With access to comprehensive ESG data, it has helped us analyze our strengths and identify gaps for continued improvement." says An.

The Bloomberg Terminal's ESG function gives CDL another powerful peer benchmarking tool, enabling them to measure their relative performance against a comprehensive range of local and global peers.

The ESG function helps CDL assess how it leads or lags in customizable peer groups using a range of self-disclosed company metrics that have been standardized in line with the Global Reporting Initiative's widely accepted Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. The company can also benchmark against its own historic performance to track its progress on priority KPIs.

TIMELY, ACCURATE INFORMATION

The world's leading provider of real-time and reference data to global financial markets, Bloomberg ensures CDL always has access to the most up-to-date and accurate information available.

Bloomberg carries ESG data on over 11,000 companies worldwide, collating and updating the information from company-sourced filing, including annual, corporate social responsibility, and corporate governance reports, DEF 14A and 10-K filings, and public disclosures on company websites.

Bloomberg ensures the accuracy of this information by conducting internal logic and quality checks, and crosschecking with companies where there is significant data gap. This process ensures CDL and its peers can confidently rely on Bloomberg's standardized ESG data for investor targeting and communication.

"With green financing and responsible investment on the rise, good ESG performance has become imperative to a company's business strategy. Bloomberg's extensive outreach to investors helps us connect and communicate our ESG-focused value-creation strategy to attract responsible investors." says An.

ABOUT BLOOMBERG

Bloomberg, a leader in global business and financial information and news, gives influential decision makers a critical edge by connecting them to a dynamic network of information, people and ideas. The company's strength—delivering data, news and analytics through innovative technology, quickly and accurately—is at the core of the Bloomberg Professional service, which provides real time financial information to more than 320,000 subscribers globally.

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BEIJING +86 10 6649 7500 FRANKFURT +49 69 9204 1210 **LONDON** +44 20 7330 7500

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SYDNEY +61 2 9777 8600

DUBAI +971 4 364 1000 HONG KONG +852 2977 6000

MUMBAI +91 22 6120 3600

SAN FRANCISCO +1 415 912 2960

SINGAPORE +65 6212 1000

TOKYO +81 3 3201 8900