

City Developments Ltd (CDL): “To conserve as we construct”

Mainly under the supervision of the late visionary chairman Mr. Kwek Hong Peng, [CDL](#) developed and built since 1963 a distinctive legacy of championing green buildings, fueled by their vision to *conserve as they construct*, setting new benchmarks in innovation and green sustainable developments.

The Challenge

Home buyers in Singapore are not yet prepared to pay a premium for green homes, although some are beginning to show a greater appreciation for energy and water saving features, solar energy, green design and eco-friendly disposal systems, etc. Green is not a priority for the average Singaporean yet.

In 1995, the company adopted a vision to consciously focus on the green aspects of their business. They firmly believe in the ‘green to gold’ concept.

The Process: CDL’s Business Case for Green

CDL were the first in Singapore to construct a large commercial development using recycled raw materials in its structural concrete. This was also the first Carbon Neutral development in the Asian Pacific. This initiative reduced their dependency on materials like sand and aggregates and won them the FIABCI Prix D’ excellence Award under the Sustainable Development category in 2012.

Solar power is used in all CDL’s new residential buildings. In old buildings they strive to reduce energy consumption by 35% by considering both the orientation of buildings as well as materials, double glazing, adhering to clean green procurement guidelines, etc. In order to optimize space, a patent is pending on an under floor storage innovation in their recent residential developments.

For CDL innovation is their green driver.

The Result

City Developments Ltd (CDL) is the first Singapore corporation to be listed on all three of the world’s top sustainability benchmarks.

CDL is the first private property developer in Singapore to receive the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System in Property Development and Project Management.

In 2008 CDL was awarded ISO 14001 in Corporate Management and Operations for all functions in their headquarters. In 2012 CDL attained the OHSAS 18001 in Property Management certification for

15 buildings as well as re-certified for ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 Quality Management System which were first awarded in 2007.

For CDL this is just the beginning. It believes that it has to make sustainability simpler and return to basics for wider adoption. NGOs and policy makers play a significant role. Collaboration with governments, businesses, NGOs, academics and the community has increased to shift from incremental changes to systemic transformation.