Sustainability and CSR

This section provides a summary of the Group’s strategy and achievements with regard to sustainability. Henderson Land’s sixth standalone Sustainability and CSR Report was published in April 2020 in accordance with Global Reporting Initiative (“GRI”) Standards: Core option with GRI’s sector guidance on the Construction and Real Estate Sector, and the Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide (“ESG Guide”) set out in Appendix 27 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. The Sustainability and CSR Report provides the details of the Group’s ESG commitments, highlights and performance through the year.

Together with our Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Policies, Henderson Land’s Sustainability Strategy affirms the Group’s commitment and direction, and focuses our attention on key aspects that are most important to our business and stakeholders.

From design to management, we have found ways to reduce the environmental impact of our buildings. These efforts have led to the award of several green building certifications and ratings. The Group cumulatively achieved 12 LEED, 19 BEAM, 37 BEAM Plus, 5 China Green Building Design Label, 1 China Healthy Building Design Label and 4 WELL project accreditations. In 2019, two of our development projects received international recognition for green building design and construction. Our Murray Road site in Central achieved WELL Platinum Pre-certification from International WELL Building Institute (IWBI) and LEED Platinum Pre-certification (Core & Shell), while Harbour East became the first Hong Kong project to achieve a China Healthy Building Design Label – 3-Star Rating. These accolades demonstrate the Group’s ability to provide office, retail and residential spaces that contribute to improving customers’ well-being and reducing negative environmental impacts.

Our property portfolio is managed with careful consideration of its environmental impacts. We support the Hong Kong Government’s Climate Action Plan 2030+, and have set our own target to reduce energy consumption in the common areas of 14 commercial properties by 10% by 2025, with 2015 as the baseline year. While our performance in 2019 against this target is satisfactory, we remain committed to reducing energy consumption so as to play our part in Hong Kong’s efforts against climate change.
The Group is dedicated to using technology to improve operational efficiency, optimising the use of materials and reducing waste generally. Throughout the development process, Building Information Modelling (BIM) is used to allow better communication and avoid wasting materials. In 2019, the Group has increasingly employed prefabricated materials, which are produced off-site in factories, to lessen wastage. Our Construction Department has also digitalised site inspections, so that all quality inspections can be standardised and accessed in real-time, allowing senior executives to access information immediately while significantly reducing paper use.

As one of Hong Kong’s leading property developers, we continue to use our strengths and resources to make Hong Kong a better place to live and work. In 2019, we initiated the single largest modular social housing scheme in Hong Kong by lending a 428,000-square-foot site in Kong Ha Wai, Kam Tin in the New Territories for the purpose of transitional housing over a seven-year period. The site can accommodate around 2,000 modular housing units, which will provide transitional housing for approximately 40,000 people, all of who are from 10,000 underprivileged families. Additionally, since 2017, we have provided nearly 230 of our temporarily vacant residential units and a redevelopment site to various community housing schemes. Beyond our participation in these schemes, the Group also supported and participated in more than 100 other community initiatives during the year, demonstrating our contribution to a sustainable future.

Our employees are the heart of our business and are integral to Henderson Land’s track record of developing, building, delivering and managing award-winning properties. Staff are offered competitive remuneration packages, as well as a range of opportunities to continuously develop their skills and are encouraged to maintain a healthy work-life balance. During the year, the Group’s employees undertook nearly 178,000 hours of training to further expand their competence and knowledge. Henderson Land was also one of only 16 Hong Kong companies ranked in Forbes’ World’s Best Employers 2019 – Top 500. Results are based on surveys and wide-ranging feedback from multiple sources including employees.

Regular engagement with stakeholders ensures that the Group’s approach to CSR remains relevant and consistent across its operations, and continues to meet stakeholder expectations. Each year, we engage with a range of stakeholder groups and individuals to capture feedback related to our sustainability performance and disclosure. To prepare for the 2019 Sustainability and CSR Report, we engaged with our senior executives, frontline staff, external consultant, journalist, NGO partner, professional body and supplier. These regular engagements help us better predict and respond to challenges and expectations.

The Group’s five volunteering teams continue to work hand in hand with the community to support people in need, with the aim of creating value for the communities and business. More than 4,500 of our volunteers organised over 410 activities in 2019, contributing over 147,000 volunteering hours.

For further details on Henderson Land’s sustainability and CSR performance and the Group’s relationship with customers, suppliers, employees, and other key stakeholders, please refer to the Sustainability and CSR Report 2019 on the Company’s website www.hld.com.