Management Approach

Engaging with Investors
Sustainable investing is the foundation of many of our client strategies. Our goal is to design strategies and execute on tactics that add value to our portfolios to generate stable, long term performance, all while reducing emissions to protect our environment. Bentall Kennedy implements sustainability initiatives to reduce costs, increase tenant satisfaction and retention, and generate higher operating performance. We put our clients’ interests first, and we view ourselves as their advocates and trusted stewards. We work with our clients to understand their needs, risk profiles, return expectations, communication requirements and to continually align interests, advance their ESG objectives effectively, and update strategies at both the portfolio and property levels.

We forge strong relationships with our clients through good governance, accountability and transparency – all of which are central to our fiduciary role and related responsibilities.

How we engage
- Regular and formal client reporting, meetings and presentations inform and update clients about portfolio performance, including ESG updates.
- Complete asset and portfolio performance benchmarking is against relevant peer, market and industry standards.
- Include sustainability initiatives in annual business plans for properties.
- Employ a dedicated secure website for clients who include access to secure data storage, sharing and report tracking systems.
- Provide client representation when needed for sustainable and responsible investing organizations such as the UNEP FI and UN PRI.
- Disclose sustainability performance and practices to GRI, Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB), and UN PRI to demonstrate our commitment to transparency.
- Share GRESB and UN PRI results with clients and inform priority sustainability issues. These results are evaluated yearly and benchmarked against those of other thought leaders. These results are valued by institutional investors.

[GRI 103-1, 103-2, 103-3]
Engaging with Tenants

We provide a high level of customer service, and a safe, healthy and productive work environment for our tenants and building occupants. We value our tenants and strive to establish long-term relationships to ensure they can operate their businesses effectively from the buildings we manage. We are determined to anticipate and respond to their needs more diligently than other landlords in North America.

We regularly communicate with our tenants so that they understand the sustainable attributes of the buildings and space they occupy and our goals for sustainable property operations. We work to provide our tenants with the tools and resources they need to make sustainable operational choices each day, such as fitness centres, bicycle storage areas, recycling programs and energy efficiency opportunities.

How we engage

- We regularly conduct tenant surveys. The ongoing feedback provided by tenants is invaluable to our property managers, providing a foundation for our teams to build strategies for continuous improvement and to measure success over time.

- Dedicated property management teams are always available to respond to tenant concerns and listen to ideas.

- The ForeverGreen Tenant Engagement Program is implemented in all asset types across North America, including a variation for multi-family properties called, ForeverGreen@Home. The goal of the program is to increase tenant loyalty and improve building performance associated with tenant utility consumption, waste, health and wellness, and occupant behaviour. Resources such as posters and newsletters are provided to equip both property managers and tenants with actionable content around monthly sustainability and health and wellness themes. Our quarterly newsletters provide property teams with implementation strategies and plans. Ongoing communications such as regular tenant bulletins, newsletters, topical fairs and events, appreciation gatherings and other tools help us communicate about sustainability, property events, and other landlord initiatives.

- We manage and respond to tenant concerns and maintenance issues in our Canadian property management business using ClikFIX, an in-house contact centre. In our third-party managed properties, our partners provide this type of service through various means and tools.

- We develop and use customized and proprietary tools such as green lease language, a Tenant Green Design Guide and LEED New Construction Toolkits. These tools are used to engage tenants directly in an effort to promote sustainable occupancy and build-out, thus enhancing overall asset operating performance and tenant well-being.

- We establish joint tenant-management sustainability committees to pursue opportunities to reduce a building’s environmental footprint at many of our buildings.

The 2017 survey of U.S. tenants revealed that 88% of office tenants rated Bentall Kennedy’s sustainable building commitment as good or excellent.
Engaging with Employees

Bentall Kennedy strives to recruit, develop and inspire an engaged and talented workforce. We promote a corporate culture designed to attract and retain the highest caliber people. We encourage opportunities for growth, development and promotion by providing our employees with the resources to work effectively and continually strive to perform better. We are committed to a safe and sustainable work environment. In 2017, as in prior years, we continued working to improve the quality of engagement with employees.

How we engage

• We engage our employees to foster a shared vision for the company and ensure that we’re meeting their expectations. We use many strategies and tactics to engage with employees, understand their needs and obtain feedback for improvement.

• Our company portal allows us to communicate with employees on company strategy, performance, process and policy.

• We hold all employee conference calls periodically to enable our employees to hear from company leadership about Bentall Kennedy’s achievements and objectives.

• We hold employer town hall meetings led by members of our senior management team, where employees from our property management teams in Canada are asked to share feedback on process improvement, innovation, national programs and other key themes, including the environment, social responsibility and learning and development.

• We use various internal newsletters to connect with employees.

• We solicit employee feedback on various topics related to professional development through committees, task forces and targeted meetings, and periodic employee surveys.

• Our recognition program includes acknowledging and rewarding employees and celebrating team successes in a variety of ways and forums.

Detailed HR data is available for download here.
Engaging with Communities

A shared goal of sustainability strengthens the cities and neighborhoods where we invest. Bentall Kennedy is an active and engaged member of the communities where we operate across North America. In today’s digital world, people increasingly seek authentic experiences where they live, work and play. Real estate plays a central role in the creation of vibrant communities, and the reverse is also true - the vitality and growth of a neighborhood is a determining factor in a building’s success. We engage by communicating with our neighbors and community stakeholders. Our employees are our connection to our communities through their efforts, their donations of time and through their compassion for their neighbors.

At every step of our sustainability journey, we endeavor to positively contribute to the social well-being of the communities where we invest. We strive to create positive impact through social initiatives that benefit investor, tenant and community interests. This approach aligns with established international best practices such as the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

We are a part of many major North American communities and are committed to being a good neighbor through communications, outreach programs and education. Our aim is to improve those communities by helping to make them sustainable through the management of our clients’ investments, our ongoing property operations and our decision-making.

How we engage

We develop and deepen partnerships with community members and groups by holding outreach events, fundraising for local community organizations and by providing space for community events. We develop relationships at the organizational level and the asset level. We work hand-in-hand with local municipalities during a new development or major redevelopment. During the development site plan approval process we work together to address sustainability initiatives raised by both business and residents.

Listening to our communities

- Development issues addressed with local governments have included LEED certification, watershed protection, storm water management, permeable paving, transportation planning, and other elements that are captured in an area master plan.

[102-40, 102-42, 102-43]

to direct growth, we engage through industry associations to support municipalities in achieving the intent of their objectives.

Contributing to our communities

There are many ways we contribute to our communities. Our employees volunteer time. We make monetary donations as well as in-kind gifts, such as providing space for community events. We also leverage our reach to tenants and others, to support fundraising efforts and other initiatives such as food drives. We focus on:

- Charities that provide support for the most vulnerable members of our communities by providing food and shelter;
- Charities that support environmental/sustainability awareness and education in our communities;
- Supporting reputable charitable organizations chosen by our employees, through our Charity Matching Program.

In 2017 our investments in our communities helped to fund a wide number of worthy causes.

521 volunteer hours invested by our employees to give back to the communities in which they live and work.

CAD $479,758 USD $381,457 total corporate donations

Through our Charity Matching Program, we match employees’ charitable donations to a maximum of $500 per employee annually. In 2017, we matched over $100,000 in employee charitable donations.

We embrace the volunteer efforts of our people by supporting group and individual participation in charities throughout the year during regular work hours. Events across Canada and the U.S. are promoted and celebrated through our employee intranet portal. Organizations we supported included Habitat for Humanity, The United Way, Queen Anne Foodbank, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, and many others.
Engaging with Industry

We are involved with industry associations in North America and globally to share sustainable investing best practices, successes, challenges and lessons learned with our peers. We seek to demonstrate continuing industry leadership by participating in the creation and establishment of industry benchmarks, and working with our peers committed to sustainable investing to advance the environmental and social performance of commercial real estate. We continue to support our industry associations in their advocacy and outreach efforts in areas that affect our business; we do not engage directly in lobbying. Through industry associations we regularly participate in research efforts that may inform policymakers or advance the commercial real estate industry.

How we engage

• Our employees are members and leaders of industry associations including the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), Urban Land Institute (ULI), Institute for Real Estate Management (IREM), Real Estate Institute of Canada (REIC), US Green Building Council (USGBC), Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC), the Real Property Association of Canada (REALPAC), the Commercial Real Estate Development Association (NAIOP), National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries (NCREIF), Pension Real Estate Association (PREA) and the National Association of Real Estate Investment Managers (NAREIM). In addition, our employees are involved in many other local and regional initiatives.

• We are a signatory to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment (UN PRI) and provide detailed annual public disclosure.

• Our VP of Sustainability is the Co-Chair of the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) Property Working Group and a member of the Investment Committee, with a global mandate to drive adoption of sustainability in real estate investment and property management.

• We report to the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) annually. GRESB is the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark. GRESB conducts its annual Real Estate Assessment measuring the environmental, social and governance (ESG)

[GRI 103-1, 103-2, 103-3]
Engaging with Suppliers & Contractors

We work with an array of service providers including security, janitorial and third-party property managers, technical consultants and suppliers of both consumable and durable products through every phase of the real estate life cycle.

We strategically engage third-party property management and other suppliers and contractors who are aligned on workplace safety and insurance, and environmental and sustainable long-term objectives. We seek partners who share our commitment to sustainability and have expertise in sustainable operations and maintenance.

With select suppliers, consultants and contractors, we develop and implement strategies that deliver on our sustainability commitments and work to stay informed about their sustainability initiatives. All contractors, subcontractors, building consultants and suppliers are required to comply with our Environmental Policy and Occupational Health and Safety Policy.

How we engage

- Regular meetings are held with major suppliers to discuss our key performance objectives.

- We use ComplyWorks, a third-party vendor management system, to pre-screen vendors that provide services to our property management business in Canada. Vendors are required to go through a pre-qualification process that includes questions about their environmental and social responsibility.

- Suppliers/contractors are required to abide by our Responsible Contracting Policy across North America.

- With third-party managed properties, Bentall Kennedy asset managers perform regular property site visits, and hold frequent property team meetings to provide a forum for ongoing communication and engagement, asset performance review, and the implementation of sustainable best practices.

- Our standard agreement for third-party property management services include language addressing Bentall Kennedy’s sustainability goals, expectations and related responsibilities.

- Third-party property management providers are encouraged to pursue ongoing sustainability education, training and professional accreditation, as provided by Bentall Kennedy, through the USGBC or CaGBC, or through industry groups such as BOMA.

[GRI 102-42, 102-43]