



Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Report Backgrounder

Since 2001, Waterfront Toronto's mission has been to transform Toronto's waterfront from underutilized brownfields into a series of sustainable, mixed-use precincts integrated with parks and open spaces that greatly expand the city's capacity for urban living, employment and recreation, while reconnecting people with the waterfront.

Our approach right from the start has been strategic revitalization based on integrated principles that bring together sustainable development, excellence in urban design, and innovative infrastructure while delivering on important public policy objectives. Our vision is to revitalize Toronto's waterfront into a spectacular public destination with vibrant public and cultural spaces and beautifully designed sustainable mixed-use neighbourhoods inspired by their unique locations.

Since establishment, Waterfront Toronto has applied a triple bottom line approach to reporting the organization's performance, quantifying success not by economics alone, but also through measurable environmental and social improvements. By implementing key economic, environmental, and social benefits we are enhancing Toronto's ability to compete aggressively with other top tier global cities for investment, jobs, and people.

Waterfront Toronto has spent the last decade delivering on a commitment to revitalize Toronto's waterfront into a destination that sets a national and global model for sustainability. We are pleased to present our first Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Report (CSRSR) as a record of how we are living up to this commitment.

Offered as an online microsite - www.waterfrontoronto.ca/csrsr - the CSRSR details our progress, challenges, and achievements and demonstrates our dedication to transparency and open communication. It also provides stakeholders with a mechanism to understand and evaluate our work. This first report covers the period from the establishment of the corporation in 2001 to December 2012, and will form the basis of future reports.

The CSRSR was prepared using the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) reporting framework, an independent, widely-used and internationally accepted standard for reporting on sustainability performance. Waterfront Toronto used the G3.1 guidelines, which is the third generation of reporting guidelines. The G3 consists of principles and disclosure items. The principles help define the report content on items such as materiality, stakeholder inclusiveness, and boundaries. Disclosure items include issues management, governance approaches, and performance indicators.

The Construction and Real Estate Sector Supplement was also used to respond to the specific needs of our sector. It provides a tailored version of G3.1, including commentaries and performance indicators developed especially for construction and real estate, capturing the issues that matter most.

Waterfront Toronto's performance measures align with the principles used in the "triple bottom line" approach, which embraces an expanded set of standards for measuring success by reporting social and environmental performance, in addition to economic accomplishments.

- Our *Environment* pillar addresses priorities such as climate change, conservation, energy, habitat loss, and water conservation, supporting Waterfront Toronto's commitment to developing waterfront communities that will be amongst the greenest in the world, delivering a lasting legacy as a model for sustainability.
- Our *Social* theme addresses issues of diversity and equity. Our neighbourhoods will provide functional and efficient spaces that deliver a high quality of life designed for every walk and stage of life.
- Our *Economic* category speaks to advancing innovation, creating meaningful employment opportunities, and attracting tourism and knowledge-based industries, to give rise to Toronto as a centre of economic growth and creativity, providing lasting and sustainable benefits.

Highlights of the report include outlining how:

- The corporation has utilized its Minimum Green Building Requirements (MGBR) to facilitate the construction of high performance buildings on the waterfront. The implementation of the MGBR in development agreements has resulted in waterfront buildings being designed and constructed with sustainability features as a key consideration. At present, 2 buildings are certified LEED® Gold; 1 building is awaiting review for LEED® Gold; 10 buildings under construction are targeting LEED® Gold; and, 2 buildings under design are targeting LEED® Gold certification.
- The corporation is meeting its commitment to providing affordable housing with almost 500 units currently under construction.
- The corporation is leading innovation in smart, resilient and innovative infrastructure, including flood protection and stormwater management; high performance buildings, neighbourhoods; and energy consumption data management.
- The corporation is improving the state of aquatic ecosystems through the creation of more than 100,000 square metres of aquatic habitat.
- The corporation is exceeding its corporate waste diversion targets, with Waterfront Toronto projects diverting an average of 86% of construction and demolition debris from landfill through recycling and composting.

Waterfront Toronto's first Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Report meets the requirements for application level "C", reflecting the extent of GRI reporting coverage. This level provides a starting point for first-time reporters such as Waterfront Toronto, while continually striving for an elevated level of application in coming years. For information on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) reporting framework, visit <https://www.globalreporting.org/Pages/default.aspx>.