

Esther An
Chief Sustainability Officer
City Developments Limited (CDL)

An active advocate for green building and sustainability for over two decades, Esther has been instrumental in establishing CDL's leadership in sustainability. It is ranked top real estate company on the 2021 and 2022 Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World. It became the first real estate conglomerate in Southeast Asia to sign the World Green Building Council's Net Zero Carbon Buildings in February 2021. Key ESG initiatives she has spearheaded include publishing the first sustainability report in Singapore in 2008; issuing the first green bond by a Singaporean company in 2017, and building an integrated sustainability reporting framework since 2015.

A forerunner in embracing the UN SDGs, Esther was conferred 2018 SDG Pioneer for Green Infrastructure and A Low Carbon Economy by the UN Global Compact. She is a signatory for the UNGC Caring for Climate network and an executive council member of the UN ESCAP Sustainable Business Network. She sits on the boards or advisory platforms of several organisations, including World Green Building Council, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), GRESB Foundation Board, and UN PRI Real Estate Advisory Committee. She's a vice-chair of World Green Building Council Corporate Advisory Board; chairperson of the Asia Pacific Real Estate Association's Sustainability and ESG Committee; co-chair of the Urban Land Institute Singapore's Sustainability Product Council and is the vice-chairperson of the Singapore Institute of Directors' ESG Committee.

Recognising that youth engagement and female empowerment is crucial for sustainable development, she founded the Women4Green network in 2017 and the Youth4Climate initiative in 2018.

More recently at COP26, Esther was the only speaker from the Asian real estate sector at the Built Environment Leaders Panel. She also initiated a partnership with Singapore Youth for Climate Action and launched the Keep Calm and Love Our Planet campaign with a view to promote positive thinking and collaborative climate action amongst youths in the global race to net zero.