

Bird & Bird ATMD

Our Corporate Social Responsibility Report

March 2022



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Sustaining our environment

Committed to minimising the impact of our business on the environment.

Everyone's priority

Bird & Bird's international and diverse Sustainability Committee, comprising members of the Board and Executive Committee, was established to focus efforts on achieving our sustainability commitments. We have created a long-term culture of environmental awareness across the firm global wide; – our **Environmental Policy** promotes understanding of how each of us, as individuals, can make a difference, as well as developing firm wide strategic actions. Environmental management is also a priority of our Executive Committee, which receives monthly updates on our global performance.

As part of a global business, we recognise that we need to rise to the challenge of doing our part to create a sustainable environment. We acknowledge the importance of being conscious when sourcing our energy, procuring our services and handling our wastes.



Reducing our carbon footprint

Our approach to environmental management and performance is driven by and commensurate with the work we do as a firm. Although our main activities do not produce significant carbon emissions, we are mindful that as part of a global business, we should, as a business priority, measure, report on, and take action to improve our environmental footprint.

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint, the Singapore office has implemented sustainable practices and measures to support this initiative. We regularly monitor energy usage and encourage staff to reduce consumption, for example, by switching off lights and electrical equipment when not in use. We also procure and use energy saving LED bulbs in the office which use approximately 75% less energy than the standard incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulbs. To help reduce wastage and encourage recycling, we have designated strategic areas in the office for recycling paper and metal.

Outside of our office, we reduce unnecessary travel and investing in technologies that enable us to productively interact virtually. When it is necessary for us to travel, we

support reducing the distances travelled and increasing the use of more sustainable forms of transport and continue to increase the use of appropriate carbon compensation and offsetting tools. We also provide environmental sustainability guidance and support (including through investing in technologies) to our people when they are working remotely.



Partnering with organisations focused on environment sustainability through pro bono legal support and donations

We are providing legal counsel to several prominent industry associations and various registered charities in Singapore, whose work spans sustainable development, climate mitigation and other worthy causes on a Pro Bono basis. More information on these associations are listed below.

1. Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore (SEAS)

SEAS is a prominent non-government and non-profit business association that represents the interests and provides a common platform for companies in Sustainable Energy sector to collaborate and undertake viable projects together. SEAS has grown steadily and runs a suite of excellent training programs for the clean energy and energy management sectors. It provides thought leadership via white papers and has a key role to play in Singapore's reputation as a global Clean Energy hub. Joint Managing Partner, **Sandra Seah** sits on the Board of SEAS. Senior Associate, **Eef Gerard Van Emmerik** runs legal clinics and acts as the pro bono legal advisor to SEAS. We also sit on the energy management and start-up working committees.

Website here: <https://www.seas.org.sg/>

2. Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS)

We partner with the Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS), which is our national lead agency promoting Corporate Sustainability. GCNS is the local chapter of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) network.

As part of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) network, GCNS encourages and facilitates the progress of companies that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with UNGC's 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption at the country level. As the national society promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Singapore, Global Compact aims to encourage collaboration between CSR stakeholders in businesses, government and civil society to create long-lasting value for the community. Through various platforms for multi-stakeholder engagement and collective action, the national society aims to advance responsible business practices and CSR, supporting Singapore's goal of becoming a sustainable nation. Joint Managing Partner, **Sandra Seah** and Senior Associate, **Eef Gerard Van Emmerik** are the pro bono legal advisor to GCNS, currently involved in projects on carbon mitigation and sustainability for SMEs.

Website here: <https://unglobalcompact.sg/>

3. Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC)

The Singapore Green Building Council forges public-private partnerships to foster innovative industry solutions across the entire building and construction value chain. Through its green building product and green building services labelling programmes, SGBC sets high standards and benchmarks for green building solutions both locally and regionally to help build more sustainable cities for better living. As Singapore's representative on the World Green Building Council, SGBC actively contributes to the global green building movement by sharing expertise and knowledge during international conferences and events. We are the pro bono legal advisor to SGBC and have a sound reputation for our work in energy efficiency and energy conservation measures.

Website here: <https://www.sgbc.sg/>

4. Waste Management & Recycling Association of Singapore (WMRAS)

WMRAS was set up in 2001 to represent and promote the interests of its 150-odd members who include mainly General Waste Collectors and recycling companies. It also seeks to upgrade and professionalise the industry as well as work with the government and community to promote recycling in order to create a more sustainable living environment. Joint Managing Partner, **Sandra Seah** sits on the EXCO of WMRAS and Terrance Goh assists with the DigiSolutions Committee. Our firm is the pro bono legal advisor to WMRAS, currently working on an initiative to draw up standard terms and conditions which all GWCs are encouraged to adopt.

Website here: <https://www.wmras.org.sg/>

5. Energy Studies Institute (ESI)

The Energy Studies Institute (ESI) is an independent research organisation within the National University of Singapore, and it plays an important role in studying how these energy policies impact us on a national, regional, and global level. Their research promotes discussion and advances collective understanding on issues related to energy policy development.

Some notable projects of the ESI include a research on energy and climate change. Research conducted under this track has been focused on climate change mitigation efforts and implications for Singapore in response to developments in international climate negotiations. This includes analysis of the climate change negotiations that have taken place at each of the COP meetings since 2009, climate change finance, carbon pricing, emissions trading schemes, and emissions reduction and mitigation potential benchmarking.

Joint Managing Partner, **Sandra Seah** sits on the executive committee of ESI, and works alongside government, industry players and various institutes of higher learning.

Website here: <https://esi.nus.edu.sg/>

6. Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Association of Singapore (HFCAS)

The recently formed Association, the first hydrogen association in Singapore comprising government agencies, trade and industry players and hydrogen professionals, aims to promote the development, application, deployment and commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell systems and technologies in the Singapore context to help Singapore decarbonize and move towards a greener energy mix for power generation, mobility and industrial applications. HFCAS represent its members' shared interests in the hydrogen economy at the national and international level and provide ongoing opportunities to participate and benefit in the international arena. Joint Managing Partner, **Sandra Seah** and Associate, **Chelsea Chan** are the pro bono legal advisor to HFCAS, currently involved in training programmes to accelerate the growth of the hydrogen economy in Singapore.

Website here: <https://hfcas.squarespace.com/>

7. Children's Wishing Well (CWW)

Children's Wishing Well (CWW) is a non-profit organisation and registered charity which was founded in 2002. They provide a broad range of services for children and youths from low-income families in Singapore. CWW's services support these children's current educational and daily living needs, and equip them with skills for their future, so as to build a strong foundation for them to contribute as useful members of the society.

Joint Managing Partner, **Sandra Seah** is the board advisor to CWW and we are the pro bono legal advisor to CWW for more than a decade.

Website here: <https://www.wishingwell.org.sg/>

8. InKind Direct

Founded in 1997 by HRH The Prince of Wales, In Kind Direct distributes consumer goods donated by companies to UK charities working in the UK and overseas. It works with not-for-profit organisations and companies to help ensure that everyone has access to life's essentials and that no usable product goes to waste. InKind Direct formed a charity arm in Singapore in 2018 to continue its mission. Joint Managing Partner, **Sandra Seah**, also sits on the Board of InKind Direct SG and we are the pro bono legal advisor to InKind Direct SG.

Website here: <https://www.inkinddirect.org/>

9. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations. Established on 29 April 1961, WWF has grown up to be one of the largest environmental organisations in the world and currently is present in more than 100 countries to conserve and protect our natural environment. We have been the corporate counsel to WWF Singapore since 2013 and have assisted on a myriad of environmental issues and conservation efforts.

Website here: <http://www.wwf.sg/>

10. Singapore Environment Council (SEC)

The Singapore Environment Council (SEC) was established in 1995 as an independently managed, non-profit, non-governmental organisation. They are the only recognised member of the Global Ecolabelling Network, a non-profit association of leading eco labelling organisation worldwide, in Singapore. In 2018, SEC was granted United Nations Environment Programme accredited environmental NGO status. They play an important role in influencing the community to think further on sustainability issues; and coordinates environmental efforts in Singapore and the region.

Senior Associate, **Jonathan Kao** has been the corporate counsel to SEC Singapore since 2013 and have assisted on a myriad of environmental and governance issues.

Website here: <https://sec.org.sg/>

11. Clean & Green Singapore (CGS)

CGS aims to inspire Singaporeans to care for and protect our common spaces and environment by adopting a clean, green, and sustainable lifestyle. Bird 7 Birds supports CGS via firm donations and by volunteering for events to promote environmental awareness and conservation, beautifying our community spaces, and garnering support for ground-up environmental projects. We believe that no effort is too small if we are championing a sustainable way of life, especially in the safeguarding green and blue spaces and embracing smart technology and eco-friendly features in our office where possible.

Website here: <https://www.cgs.sg/>



Industry-leading energy & utilities practice

Energy consumers continue to take greater control of their energy and consumption needs including a shift towards clean energy and sustainable resources. We have been at the forefront of legal advice in the renewable energy industry for over a decade. Our leading energy & utilities sector group brings together an international team of lawyers across all practice areas and advises the Singapore energy regulator, Singapore energy market company, retailers, independent power producers, generators, and funders. We routinely provide advice on national test-beds, pathfinder projects and are well regarded for our work in the energy efficiency and renewable power sectors.



Looking to the future

We are committed to continually improving our environmental performance, and we believe that our approach, which allows us to focus on what is core to our business, is the best way to ensure that we keep making meaningful change and impact as part of your supply chain.

Giving back to the community

Passionately providing access to justice for those who need it most

At Bird & Bird ATMD, we believe that everyone should have access to legal aid when they require it most, no matter their financial status, as helping the vulnerable and giving them a voice is what makes us human.

We have lawyers of all levels supporting this initiative by contributing their time and resources to do pro bono work under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS), run by the Singapore Law Society's Pro Bono Services. On average, our lawyers commit 10 to 15 hours per case.



Ensuring we are a force for good in the communities we operate in and the wider legal industry

Our people give their time generously to various registered charities (global and local), including:

1. Read for Books 2020

We took part in the National Library Board (NLB)'s charity book drive to help raise awareness of reading and to share the gift of reading with the less privileged. From 11 to 26 July 2020, for every 10 people who read for 15 minutes, one book will be donated to selected beneficiaries. Our staff sent in photos of themselves (even their families and pets!) in the act of reading to help raise awareness and to add to the tally of "people who read". We received a letter of appreciation from the Chief Executive of NLB on 31 October 2020 commending that our participation and contributions help to raise 1,000 books for this year's beneficiary, WondeRead. The books will be delivered in WondeRead@Home customised boxes to 838 children from 16 social service agencies.

[Letter here](#)

2. Cycling Without Age

Cycling Without Age (CWA) is a movement started in 2012 by Ole Kassow. Ole wanted to help the elderly get back on their bicycles, but he had to find a solution to their limited mobility. The answer was a trishaw and he started offering free bike rides to the local nursing home residents. Since then, CWA has spread to 42 countries around the world. In Singapore, CWA is a registered charity that not only uses the trishaws as an intervention tool for socio-emotional well-being, but also runs other programmes to engage and empower the seniors of Singapore. We are the pro bono legal advisor to CWA in Singapore.

Website here: <http://cyclingwithoutage.sg/>

3. SOS Children's Village International

SOS Children's Villages International comprises 118 national SOS Children's Villages associations. As members of the federation, each SOS Children's Villages association is committed to applying the federation's statutes, standards for quality childcare, and stringent financial and administrative practices.

We raised funds for SOS HCM & Phuket in 2016 and 2017 through various fun events and fund-raising initiatives. We also visited the SOS villages, bringing donated daily necessities and schoolroom essentials.

Our staff and families visited SOS Hanoi in 2018 bearing our own handmade gifts, sponsored items, and donations. It was a beautifully meaningful way to interact with the SOS beneficiaries and an enriching experience for our people.

Website here: <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/>

4. Club Rainbow

In Singapore, Club Rainbow established its first purpose-built facility – Rainbow Family Care Centre in January 2007. This serves as the focal point of our many services and activities. It has two other branches located in the KK Women's and Children's Hospital and in the National University Hospital. Today, Club Rainbow (Singapore) takes on a holistic approach to conduct numerous events and programmes for our beneficiaries; ensuring psychosocial, financial, educational, informational and social support.

In December 2017, we held a special charity bazaar hosted in the Singapore office, which lent a beautiful dimension to Christmas giving.

Website here: <https://www.clubrainbow.org/>

5. Singapore Academy of Law STAR Bursary

The **Singapore Academy of Law (SAL)** is a promotion and development agency for Singapore's legal industry.

One of the key programmes that SAL has created is the setting up of a co-managed fund with YRF, the YRF-SAL Skills Training Assistance to Restart (STAR) Bursary, which supports financially needy ex-offenders seeking vocational and skills training. This helps ex-offenders by training them for jobs so that they have a purpose in life, earn a living for themselves and their families, and regain their self-respect. Every year, SAL's CSR Sub-Committee will decide on fundraising activities to support the bursary and YRF in general.

In support of the programme, the Singapore office has contributed financially to it.

Website here: <https://www.sal.org.sg/About-Us/Corporate-Social-Responsibility/YRF-SAL-STAR-Bursary>

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