

**Interview with Lynn Thurber, Head of LaSalle Sustainability Taskforce
ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING SUSTAINABILITY IN PROPERTY**

“LaSalle understands how environmental needs impact our business model, investment decisions and property assets. We have been and will continue to play a meaningful role in addressing global environmental challenges through direct actions and advice to our clients.”

How important is sustainability to the LaSalle business?

Thurber: Awareness of greenhouse gases is resulting in expanded monitoring of one’s carbon footprint. Few realized the impact of buildings on our environment. In the US, commercial buildings account for approximately 40 percent of annual CO₂ (carbon) emissions, 50 percent of electronic consumption and 33 percent of water consumption¹. At LaSalle we are passionate about real estate and we understand how environmental needs impact our business model, investment decisions and property assets, and we are committed to realizing better energy efficiency and reductions in waste, water usage and carbon emissions through cost effective improvement and operations.

As a global company, how is LaSalle addressing the issue of sustainability?

Thurber: LaSalle operates a ‘Sustainability Taskforce’, a global team whose role is to continue to develop a sophisticated understanding of not only how buildings impact the environment, but also to empower our teams on the ground to work in conjunction with national and local requirements. The Taskforce also collaborates with industry organizations that monitor changing regulations. Given the global team is comprised of staff who are working on the ground in these environments and have daily contact with regional property players, they are best placed to help advise and lead the Taskforce – also one very good example of how we realize teamwork synergies across our worldwide enterprise.

What tools has the Taskforce employed across LaSalle to reinforce the importance of best practices?

Thurber: We introduced a ‘Toolkit for Sustainable Property Operations’, which addresses ten key focus areas, many of them at low or no cost to ownership. They include energy reduction strategies, recycling program implementation, green cleaning, water usage reduction strategies, and other sustainable operational best practices. These are easily implemented across all our portfolios and enable our asset and property management teams to operate more energy efficient and market competitive properties, and property portfolios, on behalf of our clients. It’s surprising what we’ve been able to accomplish just by leveraging this set of best practices.

¹ www.usgbc.org

What specific challenges is LaSalle facing, or are property investors facing?

Thurber: Although much public focus is on the sustainability of new developments, this will only represent a small portion of the world's built environment over the next two decades. Challenges and opportunities exist predominantly when it comes to enhancing sustainability within our existing asset portfolio. We've addressed this by deploying tools across the global LaSalle business that our asset managers can easily use in assessing the sustainability features of property, and ensuring appropriate action in line with our internal benchmarks and national and local regulation.

Can you give examples or case studies of portfolios or buildings which have enacted better sustainability features or are leading examples of "sustainable properties"?

Thurber: For new developments, we are actively exploring the benefits of incorporating sustainability features. As an example, Anson Road – a Grade A commercial tower in Singapore – will be one of the first in the country to achieve Greenmark Gold Plus status, a rating from Singapore's Building and Construction Authority as part of an initiative to move Singapore's construction industry towards more environmental-friendly buildings. We are very pleased to be a part of this effort, particularly at a time when we are ramping up our sustainability efforts in a region where we have seen tremendous growth.