

2022



## **About this Report**

### **Reporting Scope and Boundary**

This report presents the material issues and impacts of our ESG activities during the year ending December 31, 2022. Reports from previous years are available online: www.fcr.ca/esg.

Throughout this report, "FCR" or the "company" refers to First Capital REIT. All currency is in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. All restatements and significant changes from the previous report are described in the performance data footnotes.

### **Reporting Frameworks**

FCR has used the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Standards since 2010. This report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards: Core option. In addition to GRI, we have incorporated the reporting principles of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Real Estate Standard and the Task Force for Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Recommendations.

### **External Assurance Reports**

FCR has obtained limited assurance on selected sustainability performance indicators since 2010. For details, see our Independent Practitioner's Assurance Report on page 54.

This symbol identifies figures for which EY provided a limited level of assurance.

#### How to Reach Us

The contact person for this report is Melissa Jacobs, Vice President, ESG: melissa.jacobs@fcr.ca.







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**Independent Practitioner's Assurance** 

Bayside Village, Toronto, ON

## Message to Our Stakeholders

### From Adam Paul

#### **Advancing Our ESG Culture and Priorities**

Throughout 2022, we continued to advance our ESG priorities, further embedding environmental, social and governance principles into our business and culture.

One of our key accomplishments was the formalization of our carbon reduction targets. In this regard, we are rooted in practical plans for today, but focused on the future. Last year we established our 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 46%, and this was approved by the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi). Our longer-term goal is to reach net zero by 2050.

To achieve these ambitious goals, FCR is actively working on asset level GHG reduction plans that include operational efficiencies, retrofit initiatives, tenant engagement and renewable energy generation, among other things. We know that getting to net zero cannot be done in isolation. We need collaboration and partnership with our national tenants and industry peers to achieve our common goal of net zero. To that end, in November 2022, we hosted an inaugural Collaboration for Climate Action Forum. The Forum brought together major national retail tenants and prominent retail property owners for a solutions-focused discussion and planning around decarbonization of retail buildings in Canada. We intend to continue to engage with Forum participants on this important, ongoing initiative.

FCR was named one of Canada's 2022 Greenest Employers by the Globe and Mail, recognizing our efforts to educate and engage employees in ESG through a variety of initiatives. This award complements our three consecutive year placement as one of Canada's Top Small & Medium Employers and one of Greater Toronto's Top Employers.

Public recognition of our work is one thing, and it is an appreciated validation of our efforts. However, we take more pride in the enormous amount of "behind the scenes" work that our team members focus on every day to make FCR more than

just a place to work, but rather a place where people feel valued, and where their innovative ideas are embraced.

#### Advancing our ED&I Journey

This brings me to our ED&I work. Our ED&I Council is an employee-led team focused on implementing our mission of creating an inclusive culture of belonging, where all employees have an equal opportunity to thrive, love what they do and grow their careers. First Capital continues to execute on its three-year ED&I Action Plan. In 2022, a standout event was our special week-long Signature Series that focused on Gender Identity & Gender Expression and Communicating as an Ally. These sessions provided lots of opportunity for discussion and interaction across our employee base, and they generated precisely the types of conversations and diversity of perspectives that continue to bring us together and make us better.



#### Helping our Neighbourhoods Thrive

As part of our corporate accountabilities last year, we encouraged our employees to volunteer at least one day towards a charity that matters to them. We set a target of 75% participation. Thanks to the passion of our team to support the communities where we operate, we exceeded that target with 82% participation.

And in addition to our volunteering efforts, the FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods Foundation team raised close to \$200,000 in support of Kids Help Phone. I would like to personally thank our employees, Board members and corporate friends who continue to support our Foundation.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished over this past year. It could not have been done without the tremendous efforts of the entire First Capital team. I look forward to updating you again next year as we continue to execute several significant initiatives outlined in our ESG Roadmap and ED&I Action Plan.

Adam Paul

President & CEO







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## 2022 Environmental, Social, & Governance Highlights

## **Environmental**



9% reduction in absolute GHG emissions since 2019



>300 electric vehicle charging stations



17.8M square feet BOMA BEST certified



4.4M square feet LEED certified



>1,100 bike racks across the portfolio



45% average waste diversion rate across the portfolio



85 average Walk Score of our portfolio, "very walkable"





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## Social



FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods
Foundation raised nearly
\$200,000 in support of Kids Help
Phone



Of management positions are held by females



86% employee engagement score in our 2021 employee survey



31 Public art installations across our portfolio



7.1M sf achieved the WELL Health-Saftey Rating



Named one of Canada's 2022 Greenest Employers by the Globe and Mail



Named one of Greater Toronto's Top 100 Employers by the Globe and Mail



Named one of Canada's 2022 Top Small & Medium Employers





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## 2022 Environmental, Social, & Governance Highlights

## Governance



First Canadian REIT to be a signatory in support of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures



Received validation from the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) for our 2030 GHG reduction target of 46%



'AAA' rating, in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) ESG Ratings assessment



Awarded Gold 2022 Green Lease Leader Recognition by the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) and the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Building Alliance



Achieved 4-Star Rating in the 2022 GRESB Real Estate Assessment with a score of 82



Awarded prime status for corporate ESG performance by Institutional Shareholder Servicesin 2022





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## **About First Capital**

#### **Our Business**

First Capital Real Estate Investment Trust, with \$9.6 billion\* in assets, owns, operates and develops grocery-anchored, open-air centres in neighbourhoods with the strongest demographics in Canada.

## **Our Purpose**

Through the expertise and collaboration of our team, we create thriving properties which generate value for businesses, investors and our neighbourhoods. Thriving properties...thriving neighbourhoods.

Our grocery-anchored, open-air centres are designed to be vibrant places that meet the needs of everyday life- bring together people, retail shops and services, public art, and access to public transportation.

## **Our Operations**



YYZ TORONTO HEADQUARTERS



FCR.UN
LISTED ON TSX



22.2M so, ft, of gla



>2,400 TENANTS



145
NEIGHBOURHOODS



371







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### **Creating Thriving Properties for Everyday Urban Life**

Currently, over 90% of our revenues come from retail tenants who provide the essential products and services consumers need everyday, including grocery stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, banks, restaurants, cafés, fitness centres, medical services, childcare facilities and other professional and personal services. In each of our properties, we strive to assemble the right mix of complementary uses to best serve the local community and contribute to thriving super urban and top-tier suburban neighbourhoods.

99%



Currently, over 99% of our properties are located within a 5-minute walk to public transit.



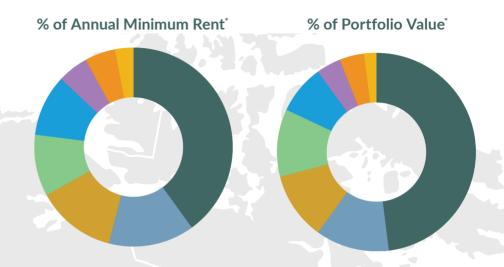
Our portfolio has a WalkScore of 85. It is considered "Very Walkable", which is the second highest level achievable, where most errands can be accomplished on foot.

300,000



Average population density within a five-kilometre radius of each of our properties, up 95,000 or 46% from December 2016 making us a leader amongst our North American peers on this metric.

#### **Urban Markets**



% of Annual Minimum Rent*	% of Portfolio Value*		
■ Greater Toronto Area	40%	48%	
Greater Montreal Area	14%	12%	
Greater Calgary Area	13%	11%	
Greater Vancouver Area	10%	12%	
Greater Edmonton Area	10%	7%	
Greater Ottawa Area	5%	4%	
Kitchener/Waterloo/Guelph Area	5%	4%	
Other	3%	2%	
Total	100%	100%	

<sup>\*</sup>As at December 31, 2022





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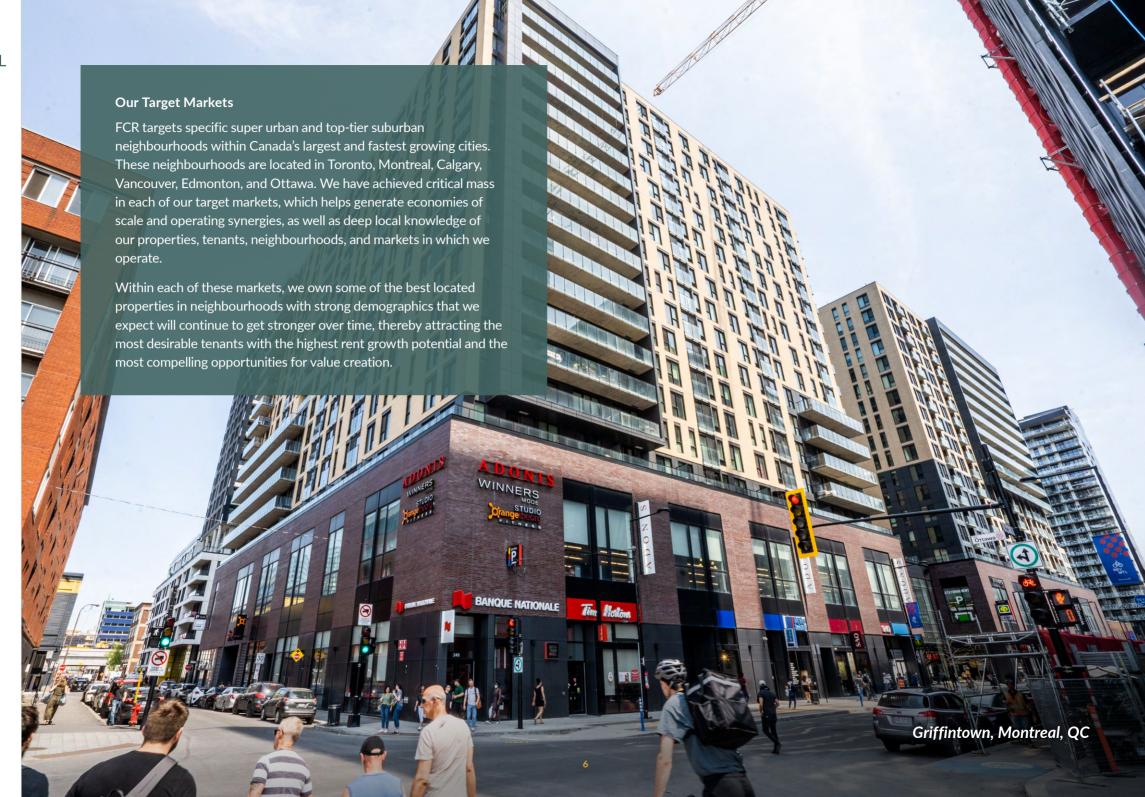
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## Our Approach

### **Our Sustainability Strategy**

Sustainability at FCR encompasses all aspects of our environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices. Sustainability has always been integral to the responsible management of every aspect of our business and the mitigation of various risks. FCR has a track record of pursuing ESG strategies and initiatives since 2006 and have been recognized through numerous ESG rankings as a leader in Canada for our comprehensive reporting.

We believe that progressive sustainability management results in improved risk management and leads to increased property values, better customer satisfaction, improved operational efficiencies and real cost savings. Evolving stakeholder expectations are driving the agenda to proactively assess and future-proof our portfolio. In alignment with our corporate strategy, we developed a 5-year ESG 2020-2024 Roadmap to advance and expand our ESG efforts and accountabilities across the organization. This report is aligned with the priority topics identified in the ESG Roadmap and details on our progress up to the end of 2022.

#### **Our Values**

FCR's core values and long-standing sustainability program guides our actions and supports our strategy of creating thriving properties to generate value for businesses, residents, communities, and our investors.

View our 5-Year ESG Roadmap at fcr.ca/esg-roadmap







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## **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. FCR is committed to contributing towards a better future for everyone and continues to focus on aligning our ESG strategy, initiatives, and commitments to meet the underlying actions and priorities of the SDGs. The following provides a summary of FCR commitments to support those SDGs that we have identified as fitting with our core business and targeted impacts. Further details of our progress and actions related to these SDGs are published throughout this report.



### **No Poverty**

#### End poverty in all its forms everywhere

#### **UNSDG Target**

**1.2** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

#### FCR Impact

Combating food insecurity and poverty in our neighbourhoods and surrounding communities is a key pillar of the FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods Foundation. More about our efforts can be found on page 28.



### **Zero Hunger**

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

#### **UNSDG Target**

**2.1** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.

#### FCR Impact

Combating food insecurity and poverty in our neighbourhoods and surrounding communities is a key pillar of the FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods Foundation. More about our efforts can be found on page 28.



## **Quality Education**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

#### **UNSDG Target**

**4.4** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.

#### **FCR Impact**

Initiatives to support youth education, literacy, and wellness in our neighbourhoods and surrounding communities is a pillar of the FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods Foundation. More about our efforts can be found on page 28.





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## **Gender Equality**

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

#### **UNSDG Target**

**5.5** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

#### **FCR Impact**

As a Canadian industry leader in gender diversity metrics, our Equity, Diversity & Inclusion program ensures equal opportunity, recognition, respect, and well-being for all employees. More about our efforts can be found on page 36.



## Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

#### **UNSDG Target**

**7.3** By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

#### **FCR Impact**

We continue to improve the energy efficiency across our portfolio and are committed to increasing our use of renewable energy over the next few years in both our existing assets and new developments. More about our efforts can be found on page 21.



## Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

#### **UNSDG Target**

**9.4** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

#### **FCR Impact**

Since 2006, FCR has constructed all new buildings to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. We currently have 126 LEED certified buildings (4.4 million sq. ft.). More about our efforts can be found on page 27.







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## **Reduced Inequalities**

Reduce inequality within and among countries

#### **UNSDG Target**

**10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic, or other status.

#### **FCR Impact**

Our Equity, Diversity & Inclusion program ensures equal opportunity, recognition, respect, and promotion of the well-being of all employees. More about our efforts can be found on page 36.





## Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

#### **UNSDG Target**

**11.2** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons.

**11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

#### **FCR Impact**

We are committed to ensuring that our properties are located within close proximity to public transit and that they promote the use of a range of healthy, low carbon transportation options. We are actively expanding our EV charging facilities, improving pedestrian connectivity, cycling amenities, and access to public transportation.

More about our efforts can be found on page 25.

We recognize the importance of green space, outdoor amenities, parks and playgrounds, and privately owned public spaces and incorporate these criteria in our planning and development projects. More about our efforts can be found on page 26.



## Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

#### **UNSDG Target**

**12.5** By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

#### **FCR Impact**

In 2020, we set a three-year target to achieve a 50% average waste diversion rate (2021-2023). We continue to improve waste reduction and recycling at our properties through a variety of programs including tenant engagement and customer education. More about our efforts can be found on page 24.







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#### **Climate Action**

# Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

#### **UNSDG Target**

- **13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- **13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

#### **FCR Impact**

We are taking action to assess and understand the risk that climate change poses to our assets and to develop a framework to continue to strengthen and build resilience. We have a science-based 2030 emissions reduction target and a long-term target of net zero carbon in our portfolio. More about our efforts can be found on page 15.



#### Life On Land

Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

#### **UNSDG Target**

**15.5** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

#### FCR Impact

We recognize the value that nature brings to our communities and are developing strategies to enhance biodiversity and protect surrounding ecosystems. More about our efforts can be found on page 26.







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## **Mechanisms for Stakeholder Engagement**

## **Stakeholders** Investors Industry **Employees**

#### **Mechanisms for Investor Engagement**

- Annual General Meeting
- Quarterly conference calls on financial results, including question-and-answer period
- Press releases announcing significant business developments
- Investor meetings
- Website
- Dedicated email account for investor relations
- ESG surveys
- One-on-one interviews

#### Mechanisms for Industry Engagement

- Participation in key industry association Boards of Directors and Committees (e.g. Canada Green Building Council, RealPAC, BOMA Canada)
- Attendance and speaking engagements at industry functions
- Sponsorship of industry events and research
- Participation in industry benchmarks and surveys (e.g., Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark and Carbon Disclosure Project)

#### **Mechanisms for Employee Engagement** • Training and education

- Annual performance reviews
- Senior Leadership 360° Feedback Program
- On-Boarding Certification: Code of Conduct and Ethics, Anti-Corruption, Compliance Policy, Ethics Reporting Policy, Disclosure and Insider Trading Policy, Privacy Policy, and Systems **Business Use Policy**
- Annual Certification: Code of Conduct and **Fthics**
- Social events
- Townhalls
- One-on-one interviews
- On-Boarding orientations
- Engagement Surveys
- Lunch and Learns
- ED&I employee panels

#### **Mechanisms for Tenant Engagement**

- Annual tenant and industry events
- Meetings with tenants
- Website
- TenantTalk newsletters
- One-on-One interviews
- 24-hour emergency call centre
- FCR's Collaboration for Climate Action

#### **Mechanisms for Community Engagement**

- Sponsorship and community engagement events
- Municipal urban planning forums
- Community boards
- Social media





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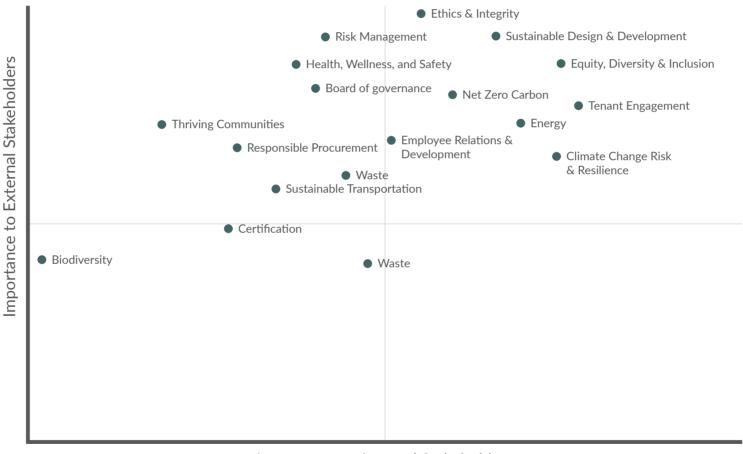
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#### 2021 FCR ESG Prioritization Matrix

In comparison to our last materiality assessment conducted in 2018, the results from our stakeholder feedback indicated a noticeable increase in the importance of all aspects of ESG. Our ESG strategy continues to advance and with the framework of our 5-year 2020-2024 ESG Roadmap we continue to reassess and realign our ESG commitments to focus on factors that are the most

material to our Company's strategy and to our stakeholders. In the recent survey results, governance continues to be at the forefront of priorities, yet there was also increased importance in Sustainable Design & Development, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Net Zero Carbon and Climate Change Risk & Resilience.



Importance to Internal Stakeholders





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## Environment

### **Climate Change**

We recognize that climate change is one of the most significant issues facing the planet and we are committed to best-in-class climate governance and risk management to ensure our long-term resilience to a changing climate.

## Report on the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures

#### **Climate-Related Governance**

FCR has established an Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) governance structure that includes the Board of Trustees, members of the Executive Leadership Team, dedicated full-time employees, an ESG Task Force and a Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Working Group.

Governance of ESG, including climate-related issues, occurs at the Board level. The Chair of the Governance Committee is directly responsible for oversight of ESG matters. The Board receives updates and presentations on ESG matters as required from the FCR ESG team, annually at a minimum, and reviews environmental risks quarterly. We also engage external experts to provide climate-related education to the Board. Since 2020, the Board and Management team has received several educational opportunities with respect to ESG matters, including presentations from the Canadian Climate Law Initiative to improve climate knowledge, the Canada Green Building Council, EY Canada and from First Capital's Vice President, ESG.







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The Board reviews our FCR Risk Management Dashboard quarterly, which identifies climate change as a risk and includes risk mitigation activities. The Board monitors and oversees progress against goals and targets for addressing ESG initiatives, including climate-related initiatives, through annual progress updates on FCR's 5-year ESG Roadmap.

The Senior Vice President (SVP), General Counsel and Corporate Secretary is the highest-level management position responsible for operational level ESG management at FCR. The SVP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary is a member of the Executive Leadership Team and reports to the President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Since 2010, FCR has maintained a full-time senior leadership position responsible for the oversight of its ESG program. The Vice President, ESG reports to the SVP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. This leadership role is responsible for directing sustainability reporting initiatives and driving continuous ESG engagement and improvement at FCR. This role is supported by a Manager, Energy & Sustainability and an ESG Programs Coordinator.

Ongoing oversight of ESG and climate-related issues is carried out by the ESG Task Force, co-chaired by FCR's Chief Operating Officer and Vice President, ESG and attended by executive and senior leadership from all areas of the business. The Task Force meets quarterly and is the senior leadership forum for developing and implementing ESG strategy and commitments, assessing and managing climate-related risks and opportunities, reviewing performance and integrating ESG practices and initiatives across the organization.







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#### **Climate-Related Strategy**

In 2021, we performed a climate scenario analysis to assess the magnitude of the financial impacts associated with climate-related risks and opportunities over medium- and long-term time horizons, in 2035 and 2050, respectively. The horizons were defined to allow for significant time for climate-related risks and opportunities to manifest and to consider FCR's long-term growth strategy and building lifecycles.

Physical risks will likely impact our portfolio and business in the medium-term and increase in severity in the long-term regardless of whether aggressive climate action is collectively taken. Specifically, the severity of the impacts on our portfolio due to extreme precipitation and flooding, extreme wind, heat/freezing stress and wildfires could continue to increase in the future. Damages to assets and surrounding infrastructure, operational disruptions and impacts on tenants and occupancy could all result from changes in overall climate conditions and extreme events exacerbated by climate change. The impacts of these physical risks could result in increased costs, significant capital requirements and revenue losses.

If aggressive climate action accelerates, we could be exposed to risks resulting from the transition impacts to a low-carbon economy. Risks resulting from policy and regulatory changes could impact FCR's business and development strategy as emerging requirements and standards are mandated. Increases in development spend, resources required to comply with mandatory reporting and utilities and energy consumption are considered likely in a future where climate action is expedited. These projected business implications could result in increased costs and long-term capital needs. Additional risks that could arise from the transition to a low-carbon economy could include reputational risks if GHG emissions reduction targets are not met and risks from obsolescence of existing technologies.







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In 2022, we developed a Climate Action Plan with the objective to reduce the impact of physical and transitional climate-related risks to our business and assets, and to position us favourably to secure climate-related opportunities in the future. Climate-related initiatives were incorporated into the performance metrics for all employees in 2022 as well as the long-term incentive performance adjustment factor for members of the Executive Leadership Team that receive performance trust units (PTUs) as part of their compensation.

Plans for 2023 include the formation of an Asset GHG Reduction Implementation Committee whose mandate will be to take a strategic approach to ensuring capital and business plans allocate resources for decarbonization.

#### **Climate-Related Risk Management**

In 2021, FCR convened a TCFD Working Group made up of Executive and Senior Leadership Team members from across business functions, to undertake a facilitated process of conducting a scenario analysis to assess the potential impacts of climate-related risks and opportunities on our business and portfolio. The objectives were to build foundational knowledge as it relates to the interconnectedness of GHG emissions reductions, climate risk management and scenario analysis, to assess the magnitude of climate-related risks and opportunities in two possible climate futures, and to evaluate the risks and opportunities that could potentially impact FCR's business and financial performance.

Climate-related risks and opportunities relevant for FCR were identified from established climate literature and guidance, including the TCFD recommendations. Physical risks were validated using regionally specific climate projections published in Canada's Changing Climate Report (2019), whereas transition risks considered Canada's current climate policy commitments (i.e., carbon pricing policy plans, municipal building requirements), and relevant climate literature. The FCR TCFD Working Group selected two well-established climate scenarios (IEA Sustainable Development Scenario and IPCC RCP 8.5) representing divergent futures; one where







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aggressive climate action limits warming to  $2^{\circ}$ C, and the second based on a "business-as-usual" scenario where climate change is unabated and warming increases by over  $4^{\circ}$ C by the end of the century.

The Working Group rationalized their selections and envisioned what the future might look like for FCR and our portfolio in each scenario. For both scenarios, the Working Group assessed the consequence and likelihood of climate-related risks and opportunities in the medium- and long-term (2035 and 2050) and how these might impact their respective business functions including but not limited to financial impacts on revenue, costs, tenant operations, capital needs and asset valuation. The results of the workshop series included a matrix based on the two scenarios which provides a reference baseline for considering strategies to prepare the business for future climate scenarios to ensure our future-readiness.

In 2020, we completed an assessment of physical climate risks for our national portfolio, including new development projects, using a third-party science-driven risk analytics software. This allowed us to apply and model physical risk scenarios focused on extreme weather impacts for each of our assets. The analysis included detailed climate hazard projections to 2040 that measure the relative degree of change in extreme events such as intensity and frequency of rainfall, high temperatures, historical cyclone activity, coastal flooding, drought and water stress, and wildfire potential.

From the results of this analytics platform, flooding was identified as the climate hazard that posed the highest risk to many of our assets. As a first step, the Operations Teams completed a flood resilience survey for each asset identified as high risk, to audit and identify current physical building and equipment conditions and areas of potential focus to proactively improve our resilience (e.g. moving equipment above grade, onsite stormwater management, etc). In 2022, the Operations Team went on to complete a flood resilience action plan for each of the 'high risk" properties that will guide the implementation of resiliency measures over the next several years.

The FCR enterprise risk management dashboard identifies all material risks to the company (climate change is among them) and includes 1) a heat map

that plots the individual risks probability and impact rating and 2) a risk prioritization and mitigation report that prioritizes the risk rating from high to low depending on the rating value (Probability x Impact). The risk prioritization exercise occurs annually or when a significant event occurs that impacts multiple risks. On a quarterly basis, input is received from various levels of management to reassess and validate for risk trending, and potential increases or decreases of risk prioritization, based on events that may have occurred through the quarter. The CEO and CFO review the quarterly Risk Management Report prior to submission to the Governance Committee and the Board.







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#### **Climate-Related Metrics & Targets**

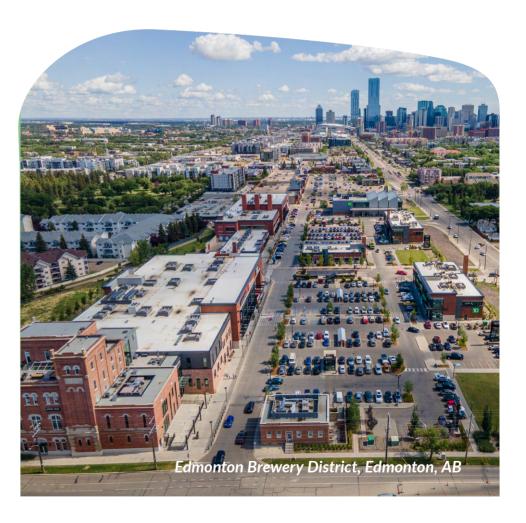
Our commitment to advance ESG initiatives and address climate-related issues is embedded across the business and is a key metric in our annual Corporate Objectives. The performance against these ESG accountabilities is linked to the remuneration and performance evaluation of all employees, including the Executive Leadership Team, aiming to incentivize progress against our ESG commitments.

In 2022, 35% of the Corporate Objectives portion of FCR's bonus metrics were aligned with specific ESG-related initiatives, including third-party validation of our science-based GHG reduction target and increasing employee awareness and understanding of ESG through in-house training. In addition to short-term incentive compensation linked to annual ESG metrics, since 2021, 12.5% of the performance adjustment factor for the REIT's long-term incentive program was linked directly to its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals over the three-year vesting period for performance trust units (PTUs) granted to the Executive Leadership Team.

Also in 2022, First Capital set a 2030 GHG reduction target that has been validated and approved by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi). First Capital's science-based emissions target is to achieve a reduction of 46% in Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030. As part of our GHG reduction plan, we have also committed to reduce our Scope 3 emissions by 28% by 2030, and we have set a long-term emissions reduction target of reaching net zero across all Scopes by 2050. First Capital's targets are consistent with the primary goal of the Paris Agreement – to limit the rise in global temperature this century to 1.5° Celsius.

First Capital's science-based emissions target is to achieve a reduction of 46% in Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030. As part of our GHG reduction plan, we have also committed to reduce our Scope 3 emissions by 28% by 2030, and we have set a long-term emissions reduction target of reaching net zero across all Scopes by 2050.

To reach these ambitious goals, we are actively working on asset level GHG reduction action plans that include operational efficiency, retrofit initiatives, tenant engagement, enhancing construction standards, capital expenditures, and renewable energy generation. The goal is to complete GHG reduction plans for at least 80% of our portfolio in 2023. We will also convene an Asset GHG Reduction Implementation Committee whose mandate will be to use these plans to take a strategic approach to ensuring future capital and business plans allocate resources for decarbonization.







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### **Performance Excellence at Existing Properties**

We will strive for performance excellence at our existing properties targeting reductions in greenhouse gas, energy, water, and waste by investing in resource efficiency projects, tenant engagement and setting long-term targets for net zero emissions.

#### **Energy Conservation & GHG Emissions**

The buildings sector is a leading contributor of GHG emissions in Canada. In 2019, it accounted for 17% of the total GHG emissions in the country<sup>1</sup>. Most of these emissions relate to lighting, heating and cooling of premises and heating of water.

FCR recognizes the impact our properties have on the environment. We are committed to monitoring and minimizing this impact, while at the same time reducing operating costs, engaging tenants, and managing market and regulatory risks such as future utility cost increases and mandatory energy reporting.

Throughout 2022, our Energy Manager conducted national training with our Operations teams focused on energy efficiency and recommended actions targeted to identify opportunities for operational efficiencies. Reductions are achieved through operational best practices, energy efficiency assessments, and equipment retrofits & upgrades.

To ensure we continue reducing impacts across our portfolio, our science-based emissions target and performance is a bonus metric that is linked to the remuneration of all employees. In addition, the annual accountability objectives of each Property Management team include a metric to complete energy efficiency walk-throughs of at least 2 properties per year.

In 2022, we set a 2030 GHG reduction target that has been validated and approved by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi). First Capital's science-based emissions target is to achieve a reduction of 46% in Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030.

The SBTi categorizes FCR as a Small Medium Enterprise (SME). The SBTi SME pathway prescribes a base year of 2018, 2019, 2020. We established 2019 as our base year because it was the most recent year, without being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a more accurate reflection of energy use. As per the SBTi, the predefined target options represent a clean representation of the linear annual reduction rates used by the initiative to classify targets against temperature goals and are in line with keeping global temperature increase below 1.5°C.

To align with our science-based target, we report on absolute energy consumption and GHG emissions of our portfolio using both a year-over-year and baseline year comparison.

Highlights for this year are

- Compared to our 2019 baseline, FCR achieved a 7% decrease in energy consumption and 9% decrease in Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions (2019-2022).
- Our year-over-year results show an 5% increase in 2022 energy consumption, and 5% increase in 2022 Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions relative to 2021. This increase is largely attributed to a rebound to pre-pandemic operating conditions in 2022.
- We also experienced a year-over-year increase in energy costs of 9%, relative to 2021. This increase is due both to an increase in consumption, combine with an increase in natural gas rates in many jurisdictions.

Over the past couple of years our efforts have been focused on establishing baseline data and validating our science-based target. Looking forward to 2023, we will continue to focus our efforts on the planning stage with the development of GHG asset reduction plans and a strategic approach to enable adequate allocation of capital resources, setting us up to make significant progress towards decarbonization in future years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Environment and Climate Change Canada, "2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: Canada's Next Steps for Clear Air and a Strong Economy" at: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/erp/Canada-2030-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-eng.pdf





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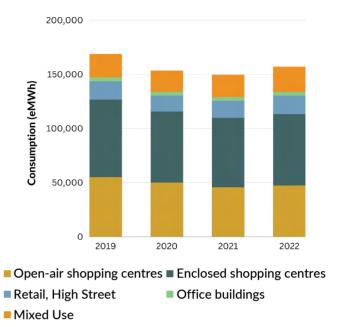
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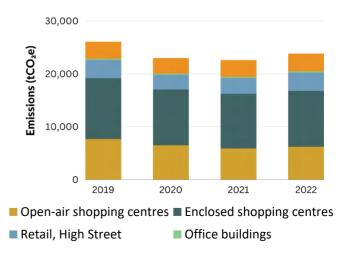
Because our portfolio is comprised primarily of open-air shopping centres, most of our energy consumption is attributed to powering exterior common areas and parking lot lighting. In most cases, tenants are separately metered for natural gas and electricity consumption and therefore, their energy use and associated GHG emissions are not included in this report.

Although access to Scope 3 data is currently limited, we have estimated that our Scope 3 emissions make up over 90% of our GHG footprint, with over 50% of that being attributed to emissions from tenant energy use. The SBTi SEM Pathway does not provide validation of Scope 3 targets. However, we strive to be a leader in climate action and have also set a 2030 Scope 3 target that is aligned with SBTi guidance for larger companies: our Scope 3 target is to achieve a 28% reduction in tenant emissions by 2030 (using a 2019 base year). The Scope 3 baseline was established largely using estimated data. Our focus over the next several years will be to gain better access to our Scope 3 tenant emissions so that we can more accurately track and report on those emissions, as well as engage with our tenants on energy conservation and GHG reduction measures.

### **Energy Consumption by Asset Class**



### **GHG Emissions by Asset Class**



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#### Water

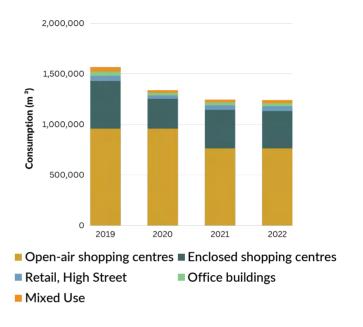
The availability of fresh water supplies is an increasing concern around the world. In Canada, water conservation efforts are becoming more important as climate change begins to impact regional supplies and the cost of water continues to rise in many municipalities.

Our properties primarily use water to supply drinking water, support maintenance and cleaning activities, supply landscape irrigation, and provide sewage conveyance. At many properties, there is one water meter installed by the utility and tenants are not separately metered. As a result, the water consumption and costs associated with many of our tenants' business operations are included in this report, meaning usage can be impacted and varied year over year by changes in property occupancy levels and tenant uses (e.g., fitness clubs and restaurants - both full and quick service use a lot more water than some other tenant types). In Quebec, which represents approximately 10% of our portfolio (based on IFRS Fair Values), water consumption is not metered by the municipalities or utility companies. Therefore, water consumption and costs for our Quebec properties are not included in this report. However, select municipalities in Quebec have initiated the process of installing water meters at commercial properties and we anticipate that we will be able to expand our water consumption data reporting in the upcoming years.

FCR continues to implement water conservation measures across our portfolio such as the installation and retrofit of efficient washroom fixtures and smart irrigation systems, as well as improving tenant awareness and engagement in the importance of their role in water conservation. In 2023, we saw our year-over-year water consumption increase by 5% as tenants resumed normal prepandemic operating conditions. However, our 5-year results show significant progress, with a 16% reduction in water use since 2019.

Moving forward, our focus will be on developing a submetering plan for common area water so that we can obtain the data of the water use that is within our control, enabling us to set targets and track our progress.

### **Water Consumption by Asset Class**



For additional data, view our supplementary Data Pack at fcr.ca/esg-2022data.





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#### Waste

Minimizing waste output across our portfolio is important to reduce our contribution to the reduction of global GHG emissions, pollution, and environmental degradation, while also saving on waste management costs.

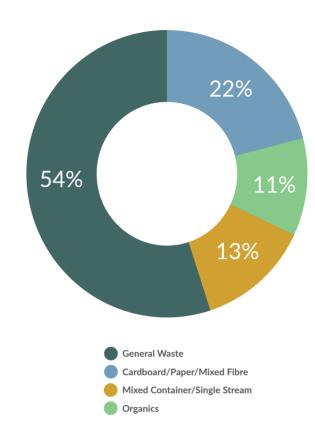
Our waste management program aims to improve the efficiency, increase waste diversion and reduce the costs related to the waste and recycling programs at our properties and provide consistency in our waste reporting and monitoring. To support our goals and target improvements across the portfolio, we have partnered with a third-party national waste consultant with a focus on increasing waste diversion, streamlining data collection and generating expense savings.

Our 2022 waste diversion reporting includes data for 77% of our portfolio, or 17.2 million square feet of GLA. Our 2022 waste diversion rate for properties that report on waste is 45%.

In 2020, we set a three-year target to achieve a 50% average waste diversion rate (2021-2022).

In 2020, we set a three-year target to achieve a 50% average waste diversion rate (2021-2023). Diversion targets have been set at the individual property level that will roll up to the national target, and plans are being implemented to achieve these targets that include waste audits, additional recycling streams and tenant engagement.

#### 2022 Waste Profile of Non-Hazardous Waste







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#### **Sustainable Transportation**

Canada's transportation sector is the second-largest contributor to overall GHG emissions. According to data from the 2021 National Inventory Report, emissions from transportation accounted for 25% of total emissions in Canada. At FCR, we are committed to providing the infrastructure to support healthy, low-carbon transportation options such as walking, cycling, electric vehicles (EV), carpooling and public transportation. By ensuring our tenants and their employees and customers have convenient access to sustainable transportation options at our properties, we can decrease dependence on vehicle use, thereby reducing traffic congestion, air pollution and GHG emissions.

As EV technology continues to evolve with improved charging capabilities and more electric vehicle options becoming available, the demand for better infrastructure will continue to increase. FCR supports the expansion of EV infrastructure in Canada and we continue to annually increase our network of EV charging stations at our properties. We currently have over 300 Level 2 EV stations installed across our portfolio, with a commitment to install an additional 140 EV stations in 2023-24. We are striving to install EV charging facilities available at all applicable properties by the end of 2024.

A key component of our super urban strategy is to create an amenity of a connected walkable neighbourhood. Our portfolio has an average Walk Score of 85 which is considered "Very Walkable", where most errands can be accomplished on foot. We are continually assessing our properties for opportunities to improve connectivity to make them more welcoming and safer as well as identifying expanded natural pedestrian access routes.

Accessibility to public transit is also inherently important to our strategy and during the acquisition and development process we evaluate potential sites for transit access and future planned transit expansion. Currently over 99% of our properties are within a 5-minute walk to public transit. We also work closely

with local governments to provide feedback and develop plans to improve public transit and create new transit hubs to support our urban development projects and the surrounding local communities.

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Cycling is a healthy, low carbon transportation option and we want to ensure that cyclists have the amenities they need when visiting our properties and our tenants. In 2021, we completed an audit of our properties to assess our current bike rack amenities and to identify opportunities and locations to expand these facilities. From the results of this audit, our operations team installed 264 additional new bike racks which brings the total number of bike rack facilities across our portfolio to over 1,100.







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#### **Biodiversity**

We create attractively landscaped areas that serve as valuable habitats for native species while improving walkability and infusing unique character into our vibrant, super urban neighbourhoods.

Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive: food, clean water, medicine, and shelter. Habitat loss created from deforestation, large-scale agriculture, urban sprawl, and industrial development is a significant threat to biodiversity in Canada. Wildlife and habitats that were once abundant are becoming threatened or have disappeared altogether because of larger ecosystem changes.

FCR recognizes that we can contribute to improving biodiversity in our urban neighbourhoods while reducing the impacts that we have on surrounding ecosystems. Focusing on biodiversity allows us to create places where nature can thrive while adding a vibrancy and unique character that can be enjoyed by the people who live, work, and shop in our neighbourhoods.

Natural pollinators such as bees promote healthy biodiversity and are crucial to human survival. FCR is committed to supporting the infrastructure environment to promote bee populations within our neighbourhoods. In 2022, we installed five additional beehives across our portfolio, bringing our total to 16 beehives. We also prioritize native plants and pollinator species for landscaping when developing landscape replacement projects as well as for new developments.

Another opportunity for FCR to have a positive impact on surrounding ecosystems is the implementation of urban farming initiatives at our properties. These initiatives contribute to the greening of spaces, creates local, ecological, and resilient food systems, helps support our local community, and encourages biodiversity in urban areas. In 2022, we successfully piloted our first urban farm at our head office in Toronto, harvesting over 103 pounds of vegetables, edible flowers and herbs which were donated to Second Harvest.

We will continue to report on our progress in this area, as we continue to explore unique opportunities to further enhance the biodiversity in our neighbourhoods in ways that also engage or give back to our communities and protect the environment.



From early spring to late fall 2022, we partnered with MircoHabitat to sustainably transform an outdoor patio space into a green urban farm. Taking place at our head office in Liberty Village, we set up several planting pots lining our top floor terrace, growing over 15 varieties of vegetables and herbs, including Oregano, Thyme, Mint, Rosemary, Cucumbers, Eggplants, Peppers, Beans, Tomatoes, Arugula, Swiss Chard and more. We're proud to share that our Urban Farm harvested over 500 edible plants and 103.64 lbs of vegetables, edible flowers, and herbs. All were donated to Second Harvest (Canada's largest food rescue organization) and redistributed to local food banks to help combat food insecurity in our neighbourhoods.





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#### Sustainable Design & Development

We will ensure that all our new developments are futurefit and designed to protect asset values over the longterm and ensure competitive tenant operating costs.

Across the country, urban development is occurring at a rapid pace and has a direct impact on the environment and surrounding community. Developers have a responsibility to consider how they can reduce their impact on the environment and create places that are livable, comfortable, safe, and productive.

Sustainable design and development aligns with FCR's strategy of creating thriving properties and neighbourhoods where the public can easily access daily necessities. Our development and redevelopment activities are focused primarily on well-located properties in dense urban neighbourhoods where land use intensification is a priority. We are actively expanding our super urban neighbourhood portfolio, with a balanced strategy of mixed-use density comprised of retail, office, and residential.

Urban development in pedestrian-based, high-density communities can have positive social, economic, and environmental impacts such as more engaged and connected communities, less economic burden on municipalities to deliver services such as utilities and public transit, and the avoidance of consuming prime agricultural or forested land. By remediating contaminated urban lands, the environment is improved, land values are increased, and the potential for abandoned neighbourhoods or districts is reduced.

With the evolution of our development activity towards urban, mixed-use communities, we recognized the need to formalize a more holistic approach to sustainable development beyond our commitment to LEED certification and in 2019 we established a Sustainable Development Working Group. This internal stakeholder group consists of members from construction, development, and sustainability.

The Working Group created a Sustainable Development Framework that uses a holistic approach to sustainable development and sets the FCR standard that would be incorporated in all future projects, regardless of whether a LEED certification is being pursued. The framework encompasses 12 key ESG impact areas that aligns with our 2020-2024 ESG Roadmap, including climate resilience, carbon, biodiversity, sustainable transportation, placemaking, health & wellness and diversity & inclusion. The FCR Sustainable Development Framework has been incorporated early in the development process to ensure that ESG considerations are embedded in each project from the outset.







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## **Thriving Communities**

We will act as community builders, which means leading by example, forming strong relationships with community members and giving back in ways that reflect and promote the vibrancy of each community.

As one of Canada's largest owners, developers and operators of grocery anchored open air centres we have a direct impact on the current and future prosperity of the neighbourhoods in which we operate, not only in economic terms, but social and environmental as well. We recognize this responsibility and have centred our Company's purpose statement around a goal of helping our neighbourhoods thrive.

#### FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods Foundation

FCR and its employees have a long history of volunteering and giving back to the local communities in which we live and work. In 2020, we proudly launched our own employee-led registered charitable foundation called the FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods Foundation. Aligned with our purpose and brand – with people and community at the centre of our business, the Foundation's mandate is to support charitable initiatives that are making an impact in the neighbourhoods where we operate. The Foundation is a natural complement to FCR's business – as we continue to make a long-term sustainable commitment to the communities we serve – to generate and enhance value for all stakeholders.







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The Foundation empowers FCR employees to work together as 'one team with one purpose', to engage in a common goal of helping neighbourhoods thrive.

The structure of the Foundation is comprised of two components:

- FCR Thriving Neighbourhood Foundation, where monetary donations are made to registered charities.
- FCR Initiatives, where employees support non-charity events and causes in Arts & Culture, Innovation and Sustainability.

The Foundation aligns with charitable organizations that focus on the well-being of the communities in which we operate and neighbouring communities, under the four guiding pillars: Social Justice, Mental Health, Youth Initiatives, and Food Insecurity & Poverty. In 2020-21, the Foundation focused their successful initiatives on Food Insecurity & Poverty. For 2022-23, from our employee survey results, the Foundation's initiatives are focused on the Foundation pillar of Mental Health.

Since launching, the Foundation has raised over \$600,000 in donations through employee-led charitable giving and volunteer programs focused on community support.

- In 2020/2021 raised over \$400,000 to fight food insecurity, including \$338,000 donated to Second Harvest and \$66,000 to food banks.
- In 2022 raised nearly\$200,000 for Kids Help Phone through multiple staff led initiatives and FCR Thriving Neighbourhoods Foundation's 2022 Commercial Real Estate Softball Classic baseball tournament.

In addition to company-run volunteer and fundraising initiatives all full-time FCR employees are entitled to receive one paid day off each year and are encouraged to volunteer for a charity of their choice. In 2022, 82% of FCR staff utilized their volunteer day to support local charities in our communities.

## 2022-23 Focus







Learn more about our Foundation at thrivingneighbourhoods.ca





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## **Tenant Engagement**

We will build strong, trusting and collaborative relationships with our tenants through engaging programming and superior customer service.

Engaging our tenants as our partners in sustainability is a critical partnership in our sustainability journey. The carbon footprint of FCR's property operations is just a fraction compared to what is generated through our own tenants' operations at each of our properties. Our goal through tenant engagement is to work closely with our tenants to promote collaboration and drive down carbon emissions in our portfolio and improve resource use.

Highlights from our tenant engagement initiatives include:

- Hosted our inaugural Collaboration for Climate Action Forum, bringing together major national retail tenants and prominent retail property owners for a solutions-focused discussion around the decarbonization of retail buildings in Canada.
- Awarded Gold 2022 Green Lease Leader Recognition by the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) and the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Building Alliance, recognizing our efforts to incorporate green leasing to drive high-performance, collaboration and healthy buildings.
- Published our Tenant Guide to Sustainable Operations, comprised of actions and quick easy to use suggestions that can help a tenant's day-to-day operation become more sustainable.
- Continue to publish our Tenant Green Talk e-newsletter to share sustainability related topics and events.
- Issued our first tenant satisfaction survey in November 2021; we received over 800 responses with an overall satisfaction rate of 77%.







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#### Collaboration for Climate Action: A Landlord and Tenant Engagement Forum

In November 2022, FCR, in partnership with Choice Properties REIT, hosted its inaugural Collaboration for Climate Action forum. The forum brought together major national retail tenants and prominent retail property owners for a solutions-focused discussion around the decarbonization of retail buildings in Canada. Recognizing that property owners and tenants must align their interests to meet the ambitious emissions reduction targets required to combat climate change, the forum provided an important platform to build partnerships, foster collaboration, pool resources and expedite property owners' and tenants' collective progress as we tackle some of the unique challenges of owning, leasing and operating retail buildings.

The forum was attended by over 25 senior representatives from 9 Canadian retail tenants and 4 real estate property owners – together making up a significant amount of Canadian retail space with joint annual Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions totaling over 2 million tons of carbon dioxide.

Participants left the forum energized, and having a consensus view that the event should form a starting point for continuing engagement and collaboration. Therefore, in 2023 we will be establishing Collaboration for Climate Action working groups focused on advancing key opportunities and implementing specific initiatives that were identified throughout the day.

To learn more about the Collaboration for Climate Action Forum, view our summary report here.







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## **Employee Relations & Development**

We are recognized as a great place to work that delivers a rewarding, stimulating, and fun experience for our employees.

At FCR, our people are our strength. Our corporate culture reflects our shared commitment to building community and excellence in everything we do. FCR is committed to investing in our people and providing them with the right tools and resources to succeed while contributing to healthy employee retention and productivity.

We believe that engaged employees are productive employees. We strive to deliver a rewarding, stimulating, and fun place to work, where individuals are treated with respect and dignity. FCR provides employees with competitive remuneration, generous benefits, training, educational opportunities, and career advancement. We provide a comprehensive benefits package to full time employees, including a wellness subsidy.

# We strive to deliver a rewarding, stimulating, and fun place to work.

FCR conducts a comprehensive employee engagement survey every two years. Our latest employee survey was conducted in 2021. We had a very strong response rate of 94%, exceeding our goal of 90%. Our overall engagement score was 86% (compared to 79% in our last survey), which is 13% above the Canadian average (as stated by our third-party partner). Managers are required to conduct annual formal performance reviews of their employees and ensure that expectations are understood, and performance is acknowledged and rewarded. All permanent, full-time employees participate in the Performance Review and Year-End Compensation review process which includes the creation of a Development Plan for the coming year.



Celebrating Our People: FCR's Best & Brightest Awards Program

In 2022 we introduced our Best & Brightest Awards Program (or "Besties" for short) that celebrates our employees who demonstrate and embody our five core values: Collaboration, Innovation, Excellence, Accountability, and Passion. Each of the five winners receive \$2,500 worth of FCR units, an official certificate, and 5 additional vacation days.

All employees were given the opportunity to nominate their colleagues and the winners were chosen by our carefully appointed selection committee. The five winners were announced at our Celebrating Our People Townhall that took place in late November.

The Besties came as an expansion of our longstanding Values Awards Program where we historically focused on one value for the year and awarded a single individual who showcased that value best. Here at FCR, we don't let hard work go unnoticed and the goal of this expansion is to improve upon and grow our efforts in recognizing our best and brightest people.





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In addition to mandatory annual training on equity, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) sexual harassment, discrimination, cyber-security, and health and safety, FCR offers training focused on building the skills and capabilities of employees. We offer several in-house training programs including annual mandatory training for all people managers and Microsoft Office skills training.

We continually look for opportunities to educate and engage employees in ESG by providing training, presentations and special events. In 2022, as part of our Corporate Objectives, all employees were required to complete an in-house ESG training module and quiz which introduced ESG and fostered understanding of how ESG relates to our business.

In 2023, we will add to this mandatory training with modules to build foundational knowledge of climate change, as well as details of FCR's climate commitments. This will be complemented by an engagement campaign through which employees can measure their own carbon footprint and be given practical knowledge on how to reduce it.



**Greater Toronto's Top Employers for the third** consecutive year



Named one of Canada's Top Small and Medium Employers for the third consecutive year



Named one of Canada's 2022 Greenest Employers by the Globe and Mail

86%

employee engagement score in 2021 employee survev

## What Our People Think\*

of our employees feel like their manager really cares about their well-being

of our employees are satisfied with FCR as a place of work

of our employees feel like they receive recognition regularly for their contributions

<sup>\*</sup>Employee pulse survey November 2022





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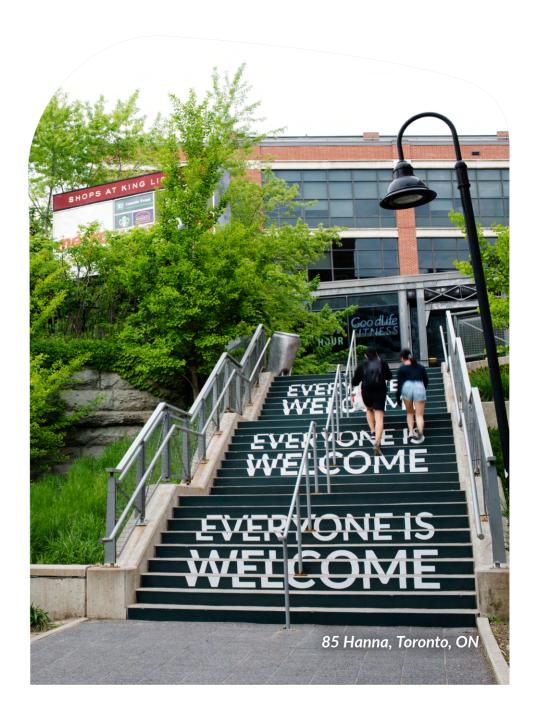
### **Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion**

We will encourage and embrace diverse populations both within our workforce and our communities.

At FCR, equity, diversity, and inclusion (ED&I) is at the core of our values. As a leader in the Canadian real estate industry, we have a responsibility to proactively address and eliminate acts of bigotry, discrimination, and prejudice to create a safe and trusted environment that will elevate opportunities, outcomes, and experiences for our employees and the communities where we live and work. We have zero tolerance for racism or discrimination against any group, in any form in our workplace or our broader communities. We acknowledge, support, and desire that everyone at FCR brings different lived experiences.

In 2020, we established an ED&I Council that is the engine that drives these matters forward. Part of the ED&I Council's mandate is to create meaningful actions that fosters awareness and advocacy for all employees. Our employee-led Council has identified the following four key pillars to guide our mission:

- **Foundation:** Strategically prioritize our ED&I initiatives and activities over a defined period to ensure progress and incorporate ED&I accountabilities and policies across the Company.
- **Education:** Focus and align our ED&I learning initiatives, leadership development, mentorship, and business practices to advance employee experiences across the organization.
- Awareness: Foster a vibrant and inclusive culture that demonstrates and ensures equal opportunity, recognition, respect and the promotion of the well-being for all employees where everyone feels included based solely on their merit and skills.
- **Community Outreach:** In our mission of creating thriving urban neighbourhoods, we will strive to contribute and engage our employees, tenants, vendors, and community stakeholders to influence the equity, diversity, and inclusiveness of the neighbourhoods in which we operate.







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These pillars are the foundation on which we continue to build on our ED&I initiatives to have an influential impact on our organization. In 2021, the ED&I Council developed and implemented the Building an FCR for Everyone - 2021–2023 ED&I Action Plan. This action plan is the framework for building a diverse and inclusive environment for everyone. Several initiatives have been implemented including mandatory Diversity in the Workplace training for all employees, inclusive leadership training for senior and executive leaders, completed an employee demographic survey, reviewed the company's policies, forms, and practices for unconscious bias, and promoting employee engagement with our employee spotlight series and ED&I speaker series. In 2022, a standout event was our special week-long Signature Series that focused on Gender Identity & Gender Expression and Communicating as an Ally, generating the types of conversations and diversity of perspectives across our employee base that continue to bring us together and make us better.

Honouree in the Globe and Mail's "Women Lead Here" list for 2021 and 2020

Strong gender diversity metrics achieved through all levels of the organization; over 56% of management positions are held by females

89% employee response rate to FCR Demographic Survey







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### **Health & Wellness**

We foster a culture of health & wellness for our employees and within our communities.

#### **Employee Health & Wellness**

Employees who are healthy – both mentally and physically – are more productive and engaged and are less likely to be absent due to illness. We have developed a robust wellness program that incorporates 100% employer paid group health benefits, a wellness subsidy, employee education sessions and ongoing engagement. We have established a Wellness Workdays program to support employees for each of the different pillars of wellness including physical, social, financial, but most specifically, mental wellness. With this program, we are reducing the stigma of mental health issues within the company culture and are driving the awareness that FCR provides a safe, supportive, and mentally healthy work culture.

In addition to FCR's wellness program, our hybrid work model and flexible hours are designed to provide flexibility for employees to manage work and personal time. FCR provides the following paid time off:

- **Three** personal days each year, that can be used for planned or unplanned time off
- Up to **five** bereavement leave days each year
- All full-time employees start with three weeks of vacation allowance moving to four weeks after just four years with the organization
- One paid day off to volunteer for a charity of their choice
- Up to **three** additional paid days off during the winter holidays (corporate offices are closed from Christmas Day through New Year's Day)
- **12-week** pregnancy and parental leave top-up benefit for all employees who are bringing a child into their care

#### **Health & Safety**

FCR is committed to promoting a safe and healthy workplace for all employees, tenants, contractors, and customers. In pursuit of our commitment, we develop, implement, and enforce such policies and procedures that promote and provide a healthier, safer work environment. FCR is ultimately responsible for worker health and safety and will take every reasonable precaution possible for the protection of our employees and act in compliance with all applicable workplace health and safety legislation.

Health and safety general awareness training and specific compliance training is mandatory for all employees. All new employees receive this training during their first week of employment as part of our onboarding program. FCR has established joint health and safety representatives and committees nationally. These representatives conduct monthly workplace inspections and meet on a quarterly basis.

During 2022 there were no fatalities as a result of our Company activities. In 2022, there were 1 Workers' Compensation claims that resulted in lost time of 0 days.





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## Governance

## **Ethics & Integrity**

Ethical business is a part of our culture.

#### **Code of Conduct and Ethics**

FCR has clearly defined its expectations of employees, officers and trustees in its Code of Conduct and Ethics, Anti-Corruption Compliance Policy, Ethics Reporting Policy, and Disclosure and Insider Trading Policy. Employees, officers and trustees are required to acknowledge having read these documents and agree to comply with these policies upon joining the organization and annually thereafter.

We have adopted a Supplier Code of Conduct and Ethics (the "Supplier Code") which was designed to ensure that third-party suppliers have a clear understanding of how FCR expects to conduct our business with suppliers.

#### Whistleblower Mechanism

Every trustee, officer and employee has an ongoing responsibility to report any activity of which they may have knowledge relating to the integrity of our financial reporting or which might otherwise be sensitive in preserving the reputation of FCR. Our Ethics Reporting Policy defines these expectations. Any non-compliance incidents with FCR's policy documents are handled in accordance with the directives identified in the policies.

FCR also retains Clear View ConnectsTM, an independent provider of specialized ethics reporting services. It provides our employees and third-party suppliers with an independent and anonymous method for reporting any concerns regarding unethical behaviour or actual/perceived breaches with FCR's Code of Conduct or Supplier Code. The Audit Committee receives a report outlining any complaints on a quarterly basis.

Learn more at fcr.ca/governance







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## **Corporate Governance**

We strive to be a governance leader by making it a priority to continuously adopt new and improved governance practices, including ESG oversight and execution, and follow recommendations as governance standards evolve.

#### **Board Governance**

FCR and our Board of Trustees (the "Board") believe that sound corporate governance practices are the essential foundation to the well-being of FCR and the promotion and protection of our stakeholders' interests. FCR is led by the President and CEO and overseen by the Board. As at December 31, 2022, the Board was comprised of nine trustees, eight of whom, including the Chair, were "independent" as defined by the National Instrument 52-110.

The Board carries out its responsibilities directly through the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Corporate Governance Committee, the Investment Committee, and such other committees as it may establish from time to time. For more information on the Board Committees, you can view the Committee Charters at fcr.ca/governance.

#### **Board & Executive Diversity**

FCR strives to maintain a diverse Board and Management Team, as we believe it will result in enhanced decision-making abilities, lead to improved oversight, and promote better overall corporate governance by utilizing differences in skills, experience and background, gender, ethnicity, age, geographical and industry experience, length of service, and other distinguishing qualities.

We have established a Board Diversity Policy to ensure that diversity criteria are assessed during the trustee recruitment process. Although we do not have specific targets, we annually review the structure and diversity of the Board and set diversity aspirations including gender diversity relating to the Board's optimum composition as part of the recruitment process.

In 2022, FCR surveyed the Board and executive and senior management to determine the number and proportion of individuals that self-identified as belonging to one or more of designated minority groups. The results of this survey can be found in our 2022 Management Information Circular at <a href="fcr.ca/unitholders">fcr.ca/unitholders</a>. We annually review the structure and diversity of the Board and set diversity aspirations including gender diversity relating to the Board's optimum composition as part of the recruitment process.





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## Risk Management

We will proactively identify and effectively mitigate risk throughout all areas of our business.

FCR has a structured risk assessment process to identify and manage risks. We identify and prioritize risks based on the likelihood of an event happening and economic impacts resulting from this event. Risks are classified as strategic, financial, operational, or regulatory. A Risk Management Dashboard is used to compile the top risks of the organization.

FCR undertakes a review and re-prioritization of risks based on its annual assessment process. During the review and re-prioritization process, management will also identify any emerging risks that may need to be assessed. On a quarterly basis, we reassess risks for trends and receive updates on risk mitigation activities undertaken during the previous quarter. The Executive Leadership Team updates the Risk Dashboard and provides it to the Audit Committee and the Board quarterly.

# FCR undertakes a review and re-prioritization of risks based on its annual assessment process.

To discourage management from taking excessive or inappropriate risk, several measures within FCR's compensation structure have been implemented. For example, the risk oversight function involves the Board and its Committees, and a substantial portion of the senior Executive Officers' compensation is "at-risk" with variable vesting periods which serves to align their interests with those of shareholders as a substantial portion of their compensation is directly affected by FCR's performance over time.

Our ESG Roadmap identifies several areas of potential risk where we will be focusing significant effort over the next several years, including climate risk, data privacy, cyber security, and updates to pandemic planning policies.

#### **Risk Mitigation of Contaminated Lands**

FCR's philosophy of risk mitigation applies to the acquisition and management of land. Comprehensive environmental assessments are conducted to evaluate possible environmental contamination prior to acquiring a property. If contamination is identified, we liaise with the vendor to remediate the site prior to acquisition or to develop a remediation plan.

Further, we require comprehensive environmental liability insurance on all of our properties and new acquisitions. This approach minimizes potential financial liability if historical contamination is discovered on a property after acquisition (e.g., soil contamination underneath an existing building) or if offsite contamination migrates onto a property.

Our Senior Director, Environmental Programs and General Counsel tracks and reports on remediation activities quarterly to the Audit Committee.







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## **Responsible Procurement**

We will help transform the market by extending our influence and impact through our supply chain.

Integrity and a high standard of ethics are fundamental to our beliefs. FCR is committed to doing what is right and deterring wrongdoing and we expect our suppliers to operate in accordance with values comparable to ours and in a manner which is consistent with prudent business practices.

We have adopted a Supplier Code of Conduct and Ethics (the "Supplier Code") which was designed to ensure that third-party suppliers have a clear understanding of how FCR expects to conduct our business with suppliers.

The Supplier Code holds all suppliers and contractors accountable to maintaining a safe, healthy, and secure work environment. If there is an actual or suspected violation of the Supplier Code, suppliers are encouraged to report it to our confidential, third-party, FCR ethics hotline.

We ensure that health and safety compliance is maintained by all our contractors, trades, and suppliers. FCR standard third-party service agreements and contracts include standard terms to ensure that the provincially legislated roles and responsibilities of constructor, prime contractor, and principal contractor are clearly defined to minimize FCR's liability. In addition, FCR maintains a third-party contractor accreditation program, which is a mandatory FCR requirement, to annually verify contractors' compliance with health and safety legislation.

FCR maintains a third-party contractor accreditation program, which is a mandatory FCR requirement, to annually verify contractors' compliance with health and safety legislation.

We have mandated green procurement in our day-to-day operational policies such as interior and exterior cleaning, waste management, office purchases, and HVAC maintenance

In accordance with internationally recognized standards outlined in the <u>UN</u> <u>Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights</u>, FCR is committed to promoting human rights for its employees as well as positively influencing our vendors and business partners.

In 2021, we developed an ESG Contractor & Supplier communication framework to promote awareness of responsible procurement practices. We shared our ESG 2020-2024 Roadmap and FCR ED&I values to proactively encourage future alignment and partnership expectations. In 2022 we began developing ESG screening criteria for our contractors and suppliers to help us understand what programs and policies our contractors and suppliers have in place so that we can build a platform of mutual goals and alignment. The accumulation of contractor and supplier information is expected to be assessed through 2023-24, after which FCR will develop targeted goals and objectives.





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## **GRI Reporting Principles for Defining Report Content and Quality**

## **Defining Report Content**

Stakeholder Inclusiveness	The section entitled Our Approach describes our processes for stakeholder engagement.
Sustainability Context	For each material aspect identified, the context and approach are described.
Materiality	The subsection entitled Materiality Assessment describes the process used to identify material aspects of the Company's operations.
Completeness	The report covers products, services, and activities where First Capital REIT has operational control.

## **Defining Report Quality**

Accuracy	The Company aims to prepare an accurate report. The process involves systems to collect data, review data, and approve the final report. Refer to Appendix 1 - Data Assumptions and Methodologies in our supplementary Data Pack for information on how data was compiled.
Balance	The Company discloses negative and positive information in the report.
Clarity	The Company aims to deliver an easy-to-read, clear, concise report that can be accessed online. Its efforts include providing a list of definitions and acronyms, avoiding jargon, describing data assumptions and methodologies, and providing graphics that are clear and not misleading.
Comparability	The ESG report compares 2022 data to previous years' data.





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## **GRI Reporting Principals for Defining Report Content and Quality**

## **Defining Report Quality**

Reliability	
	Total water consumption, as defined by Global Reporting Initiative ("GRI") Disclosure 303-5
	Total energy consumption, as defined by GRI Disclosure 302-1
	Gross direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions, as defined by GRI Disclosure 305-1
	Gross location-based energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions, as defined by GRI Disclosure 305-2
	Internally developed criteria aligned with SBTi
	Internally developed criteria aligned with SBTi
Timeliness	





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## **GRI Content Index In Accordance With Core Disclosure**

General Standard Disclosures		Main report	Data Pack	External Assurance	Notes - Clarifications/Omissions
General Disclosures					
102-1	Name of the organization		p. 1	No	
102-2	Activities, brands, products, and services		p. 1	No	
102-3	Location of Headquarters		p. 1	No	
102-4	Location of Operations		p. 1	No	
102-5	Ownership and legal form		p. 1	No	
102-6	Markets served		p. 1	No	
102-7	Scale of the organization		p. 1-2	No	
	Total number of employees		p. 4	No	
	Total number of operations		p. 1	No	
	Net sales or net revenues		p. 2	No	
	Total capitalization broken down into debt and equity		p. 2	No	
	Quantity of product and services provided		p. 2	No	





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General Standard Disclosures		Main report	Data Pack	External Assurance	Notes - Clarifications/Omissions
102-8	Information on employees and other workers		p. 4	No	
	Total number of employees by employment contract by gender		p. 4	No	
	Total number of employees by employment contract by region		p. 4	No	
	Total number of employees by employment type and gender		p. 4	No	
	Whether a significant portion of the organization's activities are performed by workers who are not employees		p. 4	No	
	Significant variations in employment numbers			No	There are no significant variations
102-9	Supply Chain			No	N/A
102-10	Significant changes to the organization, including size, structure, ownership, and supply chain			No	There are no significant changes to the organization
102-11	Application of precautionary principle	p. 42		No	
102-12	External initiatives	p. 27	p. 20	No	
102-13	Membership of associations	p. 13		No	





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Stakeholder Engagement

General Standard Disclosures		Main report	Data Pack	External Assurance	Notes - Clarifications/Omissions
102-14	Statement from the most senior decision maker	С		No	
102-15	Key impacts, risks, and opportunities	p. 1-43		No	Throughout the report, the Company describes key impacts, risks, and opportunities
Identified Material Asp	ects and Boundaries				
102-46	Defining report content and topic boundaries	p. 12, 14		No	
	Explain how the organization has implemented the reporting principles for defining report content	p. 12,44		No	
102-47	List of material topics	Table of Contents		No	Refer to Specific Standard Disclosures
103-1	Explanation of the material topic and its boundary	р. 14-43		No	
102-48	Report any restatements and effect on restatements			No	
102-49	Report significant changes in topics and boundaries			No	N/A





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General Standard Disclosures		Main report	Data Pack	External Assurance	Notes - Clarifications/Omissions
102-40	List of stakeholder groups	p. 13		No	
102-41	Percentage of employees covered by collective bargaining agreements			No	Zero percent of employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements
102-42	Identifying and selecting stakeholders	p. 13		No	
102-43	Approach to stakeholder engagement	p. 12-14		No	
102-44	Key topics and concerned raised by stakeholders			No	Topics concerning development and redevelopment activities raised during formal public consultations are available from municipalities where these activities were proposed or occurred
Report Profile					
102-50	Reporting period	Inside Cover		No	
102-51	Date of most recent previous report	Inside Cover		No	
102-52	Reporting Cycle	Inside Cover		No	
102-53	Contact Point	Inside Cover		No	





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General Standard Disclosures		Main report	Data Pack	External Assurance	Notes - Clarifications/Omissions
102-54	Claims of reporting in accordance with the GRI Standards	p. 44		No	
102-55	GRI Content Index	p. 44		No	
102-56	External Assurance	p. 54		No	
	External Assurance - Policy			No	The Company has obtained limited assurance over water consumption, energy consumption and Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions as included in the current and past ESG reports.
	Relationship between organization and assurance partners			No	Ernst & Young LLP, an independent professional services firm, provided limited assurance on select performance indicators as identified within this report.
	Role of senior executives in assurance			No	The Audit Committee Chair and EVP and CFO of the Company executed the assurance contract with Ernst & Young LLP





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Governance				
102-18	Governance structure of organization, including committees of the highest governance body. Committees responsible for decision-making on economic, environmental, and social impacts.	p. 41	No	
Ethics and Integrity				
102-16	Describe the organization's values, principles, standards, and norms of behaviour such as codes of conducts and ethics.	p. 40	No	





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Specific Standard Disclosures		Main report	Data Pack	External Assurance	Notes - Clarifications/Omissions
Society					
205	Anti-Corruption	p. 40		No	
Environmental					
302-1, 302-4	Energy	p. 21-22	p. 13, 14	Yes	Due to limitations in our energy management reporting system we are unable to isolate and report on energy saved as a direct result of efficiency and conservation measures
303-5	Water	p. 23	р. 15	Yes	
305-1, 305-2, 305-4, 305-5	Emissions	p. 21-22	p. 16-17	Yes	
306	Effluents & Waste	p. 24	p. 18-19	No	
307	Environmental Compliance	p. 42		No	
Labor Practices and De	cent Work				
401	Employment	p. 34-35	p. 8-12	No	
403	Occupational Health & Safety	p. 38		No	
404	Training and Education	р. 34-35		No	





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## **SASB Index**

SASB Disclosures		Main report	Data Pack	Notes – Clarification/Omissions
IF-RE-000.A	Number of assets	p. 4		Data not separated by subsector
IF-RE-000.B	Leasable floor area	p. 4		Data not separated by subsector
IF-RE-000.D	Average occupancy rate			Occupancy rate: 96%
IF-RE-130a.2	Total energy consumption		p. 13	
IF-RE-130a.5	Description of energy management	p. 21-22		
IF-RE-140a.2	Total water consumption		p. 15	
IF-RE-140a.4	Description of water management	p. 23		
IF-RE-410a.3	Description on managing tenant sustainability impacts	р. 32-33		
IF-RE-450a.2	Description of climate change risk exposure and mitigation	р. 15-20		





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## Independent Practitioner's Assurance Report

## To the Management of First Capital REIT

#### Scope

We have been engaged by First Capital REIT ("First Capital") to perform a 'limited assurance engagement', as defined by Canadian Standards on Assurance Engagements, hereafter referred to as the engagement, to report on select performance indicators detailed in the accompanying schedule (collectively, the "Subject Matter") for the year ended December 31, 2022, contained in First Capital's 2022 Environmental, Social & Governance Report Supplementary Data (the "Report").

Other than as described in the preceding paragraph, which sets out the scope of our engagement, we did not perform assurance procedures on the remaining information included in the Report, and accordingly, we do not express a conclusion on this information.

#### Criteria Applied by First Capital

In preparing the Subject Matter, First Capital applied relevant guidance contained within the Global Reporting Initiative ("GRI") Sustainability Reporting Standards and internally developed criteria as detailed in the accompanying schedule (collectively, the "Criteria"). The internally developed criteria were specifically designed for the Report. As a result, the Subject Matter may not be suitable for another purpose.

#### First Capital's Responsibilities

First Capital's management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the Subject Matter in accordance with that Criteria, in all material respects. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, maintaining adequate records and making estimates that are relevant

to the preparation of the Subject Matter, such that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### EY's Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the presentation of the Subject Matter based on the evidence we have obtained.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Canadian Standard for Assurance Engagements 3000, Attestation Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information ("CSAE 3000") and the Canadian Standard on Assurance Engagements 3410, Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements ("CSAE 3410"). These standards require that we plan and perform our engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether, in all material respects, the Subject Matter is presented in accordance with the Criteria, and to issue a report. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risk of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our limited assurance conclusion.

#### Our independence and Quality Control

We have complied with the relevant rules of professional conduct / code of ethics applicable to the practice of public accounting and related to assurance engagements, issued by various professional accounting bodies, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

EY applies Canadian Standard on Quality Control 1, Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance Engagements, and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding





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compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

#### **Description of Procedures Performed**

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent, than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. Our procedures were designed to obtain a limited level of assurance on which to base our conclusion and do not provide all the evidence that would be required to provide a reasonable level of assurance.

Although we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

A limited assurance engagement consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for preparing the Subject Matter and related information, and applying analytical and other appropriate procedures.

#### **Our Procedures Included:**

- Conducting interviews with relevant personnel to understand the business and internal processes for collecting, collating and reporting the Subject Matter;
- Undertaking analytical review procedures, reperforming select calculations and comparing, on a limited sample basis, to underlying source information to support the completeness and accuracy of the Subject Matter; and
- Reviewing presentation and disclosure of the Subject Matter in the Report.

We also performed such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

#### Inherent Limitations

Non-financial information, such as the Subject Matter, is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the more qualitative characteristics of the Subject Matter and the methods used for determining such information. The absence of a significant body of established practice on which to draw allows for the selection of different but acceptable evaluation techniques which can result in materially different evaluation and can impact comparability between entities and over time.

The greenhouse gas ("GHG") quantification process is subject to scientific uncertainty, which arises because of incomplete scientific knowledge about the measurement of GHGs. Additionally, GHG procedures are subject to estimation (or measurement) uncertainty resulting from the measurement and calculation processes used to quantify emissions within the bounds of existing scientific knowledge.

#### Conclusion

Based on our procedures and the evidence obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Subject Matter for the year ended December 31, 2022 is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Criteria.

Ernst & Young LLP
Chartered Accountants

Licensed Public Accountants

June 27, 2023 Toronto, Canada





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## Schedule 1

Our limited assurance engagement was performed on the following Subject Matter for the year ended December 31, 2022:

Performance Indicator	Criteria¹	ESG Supplementary Data Page number	Reported Value
Water consumed	GRI 303-5	2	1,280,787 m³
Energy consumed	GRI 302-1	2	157,041 eMWh
Direct (Scope 1) Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	GRI 305-1	2	10,729 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Energy indirect (Scope 2 location-based) GHG emissions	GRI 305-2	2	13,025 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Change in energy consumption from 2019	Internally Developed Criteria <sup>2</sup>	2	(11,733) eMWh
Change in total Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions from 2019	Internally Developed Criteria <sup>2</sup>	2	(2,235) eMWh

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Significant contextual information necessary to understand how the data has been complied has disclosed in the Report on pages 22 – 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The internally developed criteria are described in the Report on pages 24 - 25.