

INVESTING WITH PURPOSE TO CREATE POSITIVE AND IMPACTFUL CHANGE

Companies that integrate environmental, social sustainability and governance (ESG) principles into their business processes and practices also gain a competitive advantage and deliver long-term value and sustainable financial performance.

Recognising the importance of sustainable investing, Liberty Two Degrees (L2D) has placed ESG principles at the heart of its investment philosophy.

“We are guided by principles of humanity and people engagement because we understand that the sustainability and impact of our business, today and into the future, benefits all stakeholders,” affirms Chief Executive, Amelia Beattie.

L2D seeks to drive value for all stakeholders, while creating value—intrinsic value—aligned to stakeholder interests. Managing and reducing our portfolio’s negative environmental impact and enhancing the positive social impact the company has in the communities in which it operates, while upholding ethical and credible governance standards will be the driver to long-term value creation.

L2D expresses its commitment to this shared value creation through its IMPACT ESG initiative.

“IMPACT redefines the role our company plays in society and guides our business practices in our endeavour to achieve operational excellence,” continues Beattie.

L2D has integrated IMPACT into its strategic processes in various ways, including:

- Incorporating ESG into policies and risk management systems.
- Proving board oversight to ESG practices, with effective measurement tools and risk indicators.
- Integration into strategic planning.
- Pursuing initiatives and services that offer ESG impact.
- Ensuring suppliers meet strict ESG requirements.
- Leveraging internal and external ESG practices to ensure alignment and that L2D People live the company’s ESG practices.

L2D will continue delivering sustainable real estate and experiential offerings through a well-developed strategy that aims to use resources in a cost-effective and socially responsible manner.

Environment: L2D determined its NetZero 2030 targets in 2018.

Since then, the company has made substantial progress in implementing real change on the ground, including:

- Implementing a no-plastics policy to combat plastic waste.
- Becoming the first landlord to join the SA Plastics Pact, enabling a circular economy for plastics.
- Achieving Green Star certification across its entire retail property portfolio – a South African industry first – with Sandton achieving a world-leading 6-star rating.
- The completion of the Eastgate Shopping Centre solar project.
- Saving 216 million litres of potable water.



“We remain bold and on track to deliver our sustainability targets of net-zero waste by 2021, net-zero water by 2025 and net-zero energy by 2030,” adds Beattie.

Social sustainability: L2D actively builds thriving communities through meaningful and sustainable contributions and remains committed to positive transformation and economic development. To this end, L2D achieved the following milestones:

- Awarded COVID-19-compliant ratings for all malls by the SAFE Asset Group.
- Contributed R1.6 million towards initiatives that supported communities through the COVID crisis.
- Executed extensive communication campaigns to promote physical distancing, mask-wearing and hand sanitising and washing.
- Carried out a #FutureWork survey in the interest of remaining close to employees while gauging the needs and interests of employees during the transition to a work from home environment
- Holding quarterly forum meetings on the issues of Inclusivity, Diversity and Employment Equity to drive transformation throughout the organisation.
- L2D achieved a level 2 B-BBEE score card from level 4

Governance: L2D’s governance practices aim to build legitimacy through ethical leadership, reputation management, and an inclusive business approach. This is an approach that runs across the business including policies and processes.

“We are committed to growing a sustainable business that addresses environmental, societal and governance challenges while simultaneously creating value for our stakeholders. We will therefore continue to drive a purpose-led strategy and perform an analysis on our ESG elements to determine material matters, while benchmarking and reporting on ESG factors against quality standards and policies. This will enable us to continue to make an IMPACT by building tomorrow, together,” concludes Beattie.

