

## News Release

5 February 2026

### **THE SECOND ‘MELTING ICE, SINKING CITIES’ CLIMATE EXHIBITION – THE ARCTIC IMPACT SPOTLIGHTS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

- Organised by CDL in partnership with the National Parks Board and Ocean Geographic, it is the fourth edition in the Climate Action Exhibition series
- World-renowned marine biologist Dr Sylvia Earle attended the launch and shared her insights from recent Arctic and Antarctic climate expeditions

City Developments Limited (CDL) has launched the fourth edition of the Climate Action Exhibition series, titled the Second ‘Melting Ice, Sinking Cities’ Climate Exhibition – The Arctic Impact, in partnership with the National Parks Board (NParks) and Ocean Geographic. Held at the CDL Green Gallery – Singapore’s first net-zero public gallery located within the Singapore Botanic Gardens – the free exhibition will run till July 2026 and is open to the public.

Building on the 2023 edition of the Antarctic Climate Expedition, this second instalment of the ‘Melting Ice, Sinking Cities’ series spotlights the High Arctic, one of the fastest-warming regions on Earth. Over the past four decades, arctic temperatures have risen nearly four times faster than the global average, and up to seven times faster in places like Svalbard, where approximately 1% of its glacier ice melted in a single summer in 2024. Since 2000, global glaciers have lost over 6.5 trillion tonnes of ice, raising global sea levels by nearly 2 cm.

The exhibition was officially launched by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Alvin Tan, Minister of State for National Development and Trade & Industry. He was joined by Dr Sylvia Earle, a world-renowned marine biologist who led the Bears, Ice, Glaciers, Arctic Climate Expedition (BIG ACE) in June 2025, which documented the accelerating impacts of Arctic warming. The BIG ACE programme exemplifies Public-Private-People (3P) partnership, uniting government agencies, corporate leaders, scientists, artists, educators, youth advocates and the wider community to turn climate awareness into collective action.

**Mr Sherman Kwek, CDL’s Group Chief Executive Officer**, said, “Climate change is no longer a distant threat. What is unfolding in the Arctic today has direct consequences for cities, communities and economies around the world, including here in Singapore. Through this exhibition, we aim to translate scientific urgency into public awareness. It reflects CDL’s longstanding commitment to ‘Conserving as We Construct’ and our belief that the built environment can play a meaningful role in driving climate awareness, education and collective action. Together with NParks and Ocean Geographic, we invite the public to be part of this shared journey, to build a more low-carbon, nature-positive and climate-resilient future.”

The World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report 2025 ranks critical changes to Earth’s systems, including sea-level rise, as among the top long-term global risks. Today, rising sea levels already affect around one billion people worldwide through coastal flooding, erosion and freshwater salinisation. These risks are particularly acute for Singapore, where about 30% of the land area is less than five metres above mean sea level. By connecting rapid changes in the Arctic to their real effects on cities and communities, the exhibition highlights the urgent need for action on climate mitigation and adaptation, reinforcing that what occurs in the polar regions has consequences far beyond the ice.

## **CDL's Longstanding Partnership with NParks on Public Education**

This edition of the Climate Action Exhibition series also marks the ongoing collaboration between NParks and CDL in championing environmental education at the CDL Green Gallery since 2013. In 2023, CDL pledged another 10 years of support for the Garden City Fund to enable the Gallery's refurbishment and a continuation of public engagement programmes at the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

As with previous exhibitions, the energy used is offset by on-site solar generation, in line with the gallery's net-zero commitment. Through the second 'Melting Ice, Sinking Cities' Climate Exhibition, CDL, NParks and Ocean Geographic reaffirm their shared commitment to climate action, nature-positive development and building a resilient, low-carbon future for cities and communities worldwide.

The exhibition is also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Public Utilities Board (PUB), Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the High Commission of Canada, as well as local NGOs.

For more information, please refer to:

- Annex A – The Second 'Melting Ice, Sinking Cities' Climate Exhibition – The Arctic Impact
- Annex B – The CDL Green Gallery

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## ANNEX A

### About the Second 'Melting Ice, Sinking Cities' Climate Exhibition – The Arctic Impact



This exhibition marks the fourth instalment of the Climate Action Exhibition series, focusing on the Arctic climate emergency and its global implications for communities, ecosystems and cities. It is also the second instalment of the Melting Ice, Sinking Cities series, built on the 2023 edition that highlighted the Antarctic Climate Expedition led by Ocean Geographic. The Arctic Impact shifts attention to the High Arctic, where warming has occurred nearly four times faster than the global average over the past four decades, with Svalbard now warming up to seven times faster than the global mean. In 2024, Svalbard endured an extreme record melt season in which about 1% of its glacier ice melted in just one summer, a staggering loss that highlights how extreme Arctic melt events are now becoming part of the norm as temperatures rise. This fast melting is part of a global trend: since 2000, glaciers worldwide have lost over 6.5 trillion tonnes of ice, contributing nearly 2 cm to global sea level rise through meltwater alone.

Globally, these changes pose significant threats, with the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2025 highlighting sea-level rise from melting ice sheets and glaciers, among the top long-term threats facing humanity. Rising seas are already affecting around 1 billion people worldwide through increased coastal flooding, erosion, and loss of freshwater quality. In May 2025, the collapse of the Birch Glacier in Switzerland triggered a devastating landslide that engulfed the village of Blatten, burying about 90% of it under ice, rock and mud.

Public education is crucial, especially in vulnerable regions like Singapore, where around 30% of the city-state lies less than five metres above mean sea level. Coastal cities such as Bangkok and Jakarta are also increasingly exposed to chronic flooding and storm surge hazards as sea levels rise. The rapid warming and melting of polar ice are powerful drivers of global sea-level rise, with far-reaching effects on coastal flooding, infrastructure risk and freshwater availability, underscoring the urgent need for climate mitigation and adaptation at all scales.

The exhibition features five immersive zones:

Description	Photographs
<p><b>1. Walking on Thin Ice: The Arctic</b> – Captures the silent warnings from glaciers, wildlife and vulnerable communities, serving as a stark reminder of the global consequences of inaction.</p>	
<p><b>2. The Tip of the Iceberg: Shared Responsibility for the Polar Regions</b> – Highlights the governance of the Arctic region, which aims to safeguard its fragile ecosystems, whilst local efforts in Singapore translate these commitments into strategies to protect Singapore's natural habitats.</p>	
<p><b>3. A Snowball Effect: Action &amp; Collaboration for Preserving Our Home</b> – Emphasises the importance of local collaboration and organisations working hand in hand to strengthen resilience and advance the nation's climate strategies.</p>	

<p><b>4. Building a Green Future: A Low-Carbon, Nature-Positive Community</b> – With the built environment playing a pivotal role in carbon emissions, CDL's pioneering sustainability efforts and track record in the race towards Net Zero Carbon advance sustainable growth and a nature-positive community.</p>	
<p><b>5. Voices for the Voiceless: Our Action to Save Humanity</b> – A mixed media showcase from BIG ACE 2025 members, Ocean Geographic and partners, highlighting the beauty of the Arctic while emphasising its fragility.</p>	

Together, these zones illustrate the interconnectedness between the Arctic, the tropics and urban centres, demonstrating how rising seas, shifting weather patterns and biodiversity loss impact all nations. Collective action across borders, sectors and generations is essential to safeguard our shared planet. The exhibition can also be viewed virtually on the CDL Sustainability website: <https://cdlsustainability.com/nature-positive-social-impact/cdl-green-gallery/melting-ice-sinking-cities-climate-exhibition-2/>

## ANNEX B

### About the CDL Green Gallery



Located at the Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) Heritage Museum, the CDL Green Gallery is the first zero-energy gallery in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific dedicated to climate education, engagement, and advocacy. Developed and donated by CDL in 2013 to commemorate the company's 50th anniversary, the 314-square-metre (sqm) gallery is an eco-friendly building hosting biodiversity, climate and sustainability-related exhibits that are free to the public.

Designed with sustainability at its core, the gallery was constructed from Hempcrete, a bio-composite material that is resistant to pests, fire, mould and mildew, while offering high thermal efficiency to keep indoor temperatures cool. The gallery was built using a prefabricated modular system, reducing on-site construction time to under 24 hours. With 105 solar panels installed on its roof, the CDL Green Gallery generated 23,000 kWh in 2025, successfully meeting its energy consumption.

Other innovative eco-friendly features include:

- Vertical green walls along its east and west facades are clad with fauna-attracting plant species, such as those that attract butterflies. The walls are irrigated using non-potable water from the nearby Swan Lake.
- Green roof planted drought-resistant plant species that help to lower the Urban Heat Island effect around the building.
- LED lights that consume 57% less energy than conventional lighting, and energy-efficient air-conditioning systems.
- Modular building blocks designed for potential modification and reuse in the future.

For its innovative eco-friendly features, the gallery was accorded the BCA Green Mark Platinum status – the highest tier of green buildings in Singapore.

Since its opening in November 2013, it has hosted 23 exhibitions and welcomes an average of close to 34,000 visitors annually\*. In 2023, CDL renewed its partnership with the National Parks Board to operate the gallery for another decade, through to 2032.

\* As of December 2025