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Grobrix at Work: Supporting State Street's BCA Green Mark Platinum Certification



grobrix
growing together

Paia
FROM CBRE

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State Street's path to BCA Platinum is rooted in a **fresh approach** to employee engagement & community with Grobrix

For global financial institutions, the modern workplace has moved beyond being a mere site for transactions; it has become the social fabric of the firm and a primary stage for corporate values. At State Street's office in Singapore, Ralph Davies, Vice President, Head of Real Estate (APAC ex. India), found a way to bridge the gap between technical sustainability requirements to obtain BCA Green Mark Platinum and the lived experience of his team.



MAKING SUSTAINABILITY TANGIBLE

In Singapore's real estate landscape, environmental impact is measured by the BCA Green Mark. This framework evaluates how resource-efficient a building's design and operations truly are, with the Platinum certification representing the highest tier of attainment.

Securing Platinum is notoriously difficult, requiring a holistic approach to sustainable office management. Working with CBRE Paia Consulting, who help companies assess environmental risks and implement sustainable solutions, State Street identified Grobrix as a way to make these environmental efforts both visible and tactile for their employees.



“I got talking to a peer in Corporate Real Estate whose organisation used Grobrix to score points toward their BCA Green Mark certification,” Ralph explains. “I wanted to strive for that same level of attainment, and it was about piecing those elements together to achieve our own Platinum status.”

Grobrix turns office walls into thriving vertical farms. These patented, modular hydroponic green walls make urban farming effortless, bringing fresh, edible greens directly into the heart of the workspace. By integrating edible greenery into the pantry area, it provides a vibrant aesthetic focal point that doubles as a measurable strategic asset, cultivating a sense of community in a way very few office initiatives can.

In a certification framework where every strategic point counts, the Grobrix system provided the necessary edge to clear the final hurdles for Platinum status.



“There are certain prerequisites for BCA Green Mark, and Grobrix was central for us to get over that hurdle by contributing the required points. Without it, we wouldn’t have been able to achieve Platinum. In fact, even though we scored points toward Platinum, we would have struggled to meet the pre-requisite criteria for Gold or above without the Grobrix activities.”

- Ralph Davies, State Street

Chang Chia Chyi, representing Paia at CBRE, reflected on this experience, saying:



“Paia from CBRE is delighted to have assisted State Street in aligning their sustainability efforts and achieving their first Green Mark Platinum award. We strongly believe that health and wellbeing is an integral part of Green Mark certification, and Grobrix played a significant role in this aspect. While Grobrix also contributed to point scoring, we were pleased to support State Street in improving their overall health and wellbeing program, based on their existing provisions and the comprehensive framework of the Green Mark”.



Regular Harvests: Cultivating a Sense of Belonging

One of the most persistent challenges for any large-scale organization is building a genuine sense of belonging. State Street operates with five distinct legal entities on a single floor, a structure that can naturally lead to departments working independently. The regular Grobrix harvests have become a social anchor, physically drawing people together and turning the pantry into a genuine common ground.



Ralph Davies, Vice President, Head of Real Estate, State Street quoted



“We have multiple business lines with some segregation across the floor, and sometimes staff won’t have met before. This has been a good opportunity for our employees to interact and start a conversation that may not have otherwise come. The younger employees and interns have engaged with it extremely well; they’re often here for the harvests and they post about it on LinkedIn.”

For workplace experience managers looking to drive office attendance, the "farm-to-table" experience offers an authentic reason to return to the office, turning a regular Wednesday afternoon into a peak occupancy event centered around community.

Engagement with a **Healthy Twist**

Beyond the wall itself, Grobrix serves as a platform for State Street's broader wellness strategy. These aren't static office plants; they are the center of interactive workshops that get the team involved in the practical side of healthy living.

A recent highlight was a smoothie-making workshop held as part of the State Street's anniversary, where employees blended drinks using

greens grown just steps away. That same energy carried into Family Day, when the office transformed into a space for shared learning. Children stepped into the role of urban farmers, germinating their very own seedlings to take home, fostering a deeper sense of connection between the firm, its people, and their families.



High Value, Minimal Footprint

For a Head of Real Estate, the ROI of any installation is measured in both cultural impact and operational efficiency. In a high-density office where space is at a premium, Grobrix proved that “green” doesn’t have to be complex or bulky.



“From a real estate and facilities perspective, it’s a high-value, low-impact solution. Clearly, it doesn’t take up a ton of space, but you get a lot of value out of very little square footage; combine that with the fact that it’s very low-touch operationally, and it really ticks an awful lot of boxes for us. If we were to expand I’d be very much looking to make this a part of the design for the new staff lounge and pantry space from the outset.”

- Ralph Davies, State Street

Connecting the Global Workplace

The success of the Singapore installation stands as a testament to the effectiveness of the Grobrix solution and is now serving as a proof of concept for State Street’s global operations. The Real Estate team in Boston is in discussions with Green City Growers to explore integrating Grobrix into their flagship 1 Congress Street headquarters. This potential expansion underscores how a locally developed innovation from Singapore can set new benchmarks and elevate workplace standards on a global scale.



From Sustainability Strategy to **Everyday Wellness**

Grobrix is an urban farming company that brings sustainability into the workplace through modular, vertical edible walls. By transforming underutilised office spaces into productive living systems, Grobrix enhances aesthetics, optimises space, and connects people with food and nature.

More than greenery, Grobrix farms deliver visible, measurable impact by supporting employee engagement, workplace programming and sustainable workplace infrastructure.



Beyond the Installation: Workplace Impact

At Grobrix, our impact comes to life through four value pillars that shape how people experience work, workplace, and sustainability.

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Nurturing People & Building Culture

Grobrix solves the RTO challenge by transforming offices into social destinations that strengthen belonging and employee retention.



Cultivating Experience & Workplace Wellness

Grobrix drives engagement through turnkey, farm-to-table programming that keeps the workplace social without adding operational burden.



Activating Spaces & Maximising Value

Turn underutilised areas into high-performing assets, providing a cost-effective pathway to globally recognised ESG and wellness certifications through urban farming.



Living Sustainability & Everyday Impact

Grobrix translates corporate sustainability commitments into a “lived experience,” ensuring ESG impact is seen, felt, and shared by every employee.

From Workplace Value to Proven Results

When sustainability becomes part of the daily workplace experience, the impact is clear. Feedback from 400+ employees highlights how Grobrix shapes stronger communities, healthier habits, and greener mindsets.

93% agree that Grobrix helps cultivate workplace community and stronger social relationships.

97% confirm it sparks a sustainability mindset, encouraging eco-conscious practices everyday.

98% highlight the shift toward healthier eating habits, with fresh produce woven into workplace culture

96% recognise a direct uplift in mental well-being, reporting greener spaces as calming and restorative.



Turning the Farm into an Experience

Grobrix brings farm-to-table experiences into the workplace through a diverse programme of hands-on events and workshops that go beyond passive engagement. From herbal tea sessions, green smoothie bars and pesto-making to nutrition talks and mini farmers' markets, these interactive moments invite employees to connect with fresh produce grown right in their office. Together, these experiences turn the workplace farm into a catalyst for connection, wellbeing, and everyday engagement.



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Growing the Next Generation of Certified Workplaces

As organisations move beyond occupancy-led workplace metrics, Grobrix helps transform underutilised office spaces into productive, living environments aligned with certification requirements. Through edible green walls, **Grobrix supports key criteria commonly assessed across ESG and wellness frameworks such as LEED, WELL, and BCA Green Mark including indoor environmental quality, biophilic design, access to fresh food, employee wellbeing & engagement.** This provides a cost-effective, design-led pathway to future-ready, certified workplaces that deliver both operational and reputational value.

Discover how urban farming can support LEED, BCA Green Mark and WELL certification goals.

[LEARN MORE](#) 

Measurable Outcomes, Proven Results

Grobrix's urban farms reduce food miles and carbon emissions by bringing food production into the workplace. By transforming underutilised spaces into productive farms, Grobrix optimises land use, strengthens food resilience, and reconnects people with the food they grow.



grow up to **370kg** of produce on site



reduce **food miles** and carbon footprint

save up to **42,000 litres** of water



zero chemical pesticides usage



save up to **3700** plastic wrappers



prevent up to **185kg** of food waste

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Real Stories from Real Workplaces



Employees love it!
They love seeing the different items growing, and they know they can't get any fresher salad than from the salad bar every Tuesday.

Natalie Hall, International Workplace Program Manager at LinkedIn

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The Grobrix installation has become a highlight on our office tours. It often sparks conversations about sustainability and encourages both staff and visitors to reflect on where their food comes from.

James Hollis, Head, Sustainability & Senior Vice President, Production Services at Mediacorp

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Grobrix creates an engaging environment by encouraging employees to connect over something tangible—growing fresh produce together. It sparks conversations, fosters teamwork, and adds a refreshing natural element to the office

Rob Edwards, Head of Workplace Operations at Ericsson

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A Fully Managed Workplace Farming Solution

Design

Install

Maintain

Harvest

Grobrix manages the entire farm lifecycle, overseeing installation, daily care, and harvests to keep each wall healthy and visually striking. Organisations enjoy fresh, in-office produce year-round, while Grobrix handles all performance and upkeep.

In addition to year-round access to fresh, in-office produce, employees participate in fortnightly harvest sessions that create hands-on, engaging moments strengthening connection, learning, and workplace culture.

How Grobrix Works: A Guide

Ease Of Maintenance

Right from design to maintenance, all stages are managed and supported by the Grobrix team

Our urban farmers handles the watering, nutrients, lighting, pruning, as well as the harvest schedule, ensuring a farm fresh produce everytime

Employees can indulge in the fresh harvests and workshops with ease.

Space & Setup

Minimum wall space : 2.6m × 0.5m × 1.95m (W × D × H)

Water : Closed-loop irrigation – no mains water needed

Power : 2 × 13A outlets

Energy per stack : 100W lighting (12h/day), 30W irrigation (15min every 2h)

Hydroponic systems grow plants in nutrient-rich water (no soil). Just water and nutrients for fresh, healthy results.

Automated watering and gentle LED lighting make it easy keep plants thriving all year around.

An energy-efficient system uses minimal power while creating the ideal indoor growing environment.

Growing Together: The Future Ahead

“At Grobrix, we see a future where urban communities have a closer relationship with the source of their food,” says Mathew, Grobrix’s founder.

This vision comes to life in workplaces where sustainability is not just a strategy, but a shared part of everyday work. By bringing food production, wellness, and community into the heart of the office, Grobrix helps organisations create environments that reflect their values and deliver measurable impact.

Discover how in-office farming can strengthen workplace community, drive employee engagement, and bring sustainability to life. Learn more with Grobrix.

[Learn more with Grobrix](#)



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