CED is pleased to highlight the far-reaching initiatives Unilever is leading to make a difference in communities around the world and the emphasis its leadership has placed on integrating sustainability into the company’s core business strategies.

Two billion times a day, somebody, somewhere uses a Unilever brand — products that make small but important differences to the quality of people’s everyday lives. Unilever has ambitious plans to grow its company, but recognizes that growth at any cost is not viable. The company continually develops new ways of doing business to reduce its environmental impact, while simultaneously increasing the social value of its brands.

In 2010, the company launched the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan which aims to achieve three significant outcomes by 2020: help more than one billion people take action to improve their health and well-being; halve the environmental impact of the making and use of its products; and source 100% of its agricultural raw materials sustainably. To achieve these goals, Unilever is committed to working in partnership with government, NGOs, suppliers and others.

Unilever’s leadership is focused on bringing the Sustainable Living Plan to life through its business and brands. CEO Paul Polman champions the role business can play in creating a sustainable future. He advocates that new business models are needed to meet current challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, and food insecurity. This deep commitment is shared by Unilever leaders around the world — including Kees Kruythoff, Head of Unilever North America — who are examples for other business leaders to follow.

CED applauds Unilever for its role as a global corporate citizen and is proud to present the company with our Global Leadership Award.