Digital Realty – Cloud House Data Centre Winner of Green Data Centre of the Year Award

At Digital Realty, we are committed to sustainably managing our environmental impact and optimising our use of energy and natural resources. We focus on creating green, energy-efficient data centres that improve environmental performance.

Cloud House Data Centre

We use a pioneering dock and river cooling water system at our Cloud House data centre in our Docklands campus in London, to minimise our impact on the environment and provide customers with the most sustainable operations possible.

This system works by taking water from the local Millwall inner dock, which is used as process water in our data centre, helping to cool it down and meeting the necessary conditions for the IT load air-conditioning system. A combination of sensors and controls ensure that only the required volume of water is drawn, utilising our energy consumption, and minimising our waste.

The dock water is drawn into the building through a primary set of pipes, with the flow rates being dictated by inverter driven pumps that respond to the building's cooling demands. This

"The 'Dock water cooling' solution at Digital Realty meets commitments within our Ethics policy aiding our drive to net zero carbon emissions."
- Key customer in Cloud House

water is passed through a plate heat exchanger, which acts as the cooling medium for the building chiller water loop transported through Cloud House's air flow system, through the floor vents into the cold aisle containment, which in turn cools the racks.

Aiming for Excellence

This innovation provides our customers with a solution that is 20 times more energy-efficient than traditional cooling systems, enabling them to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of their data centre usage.

In 2020, Cloud House was awarded an 'Excellent' rating by BREAAM UK, the Code for a Sustainable Built Environment, for its performance in key areas such as energy, water and waste.

For Digital Realty, initiatives like these support our efforts as a business to reduce emissions and be climate neutral by 2030. Cloud House also helps deliver against our commitment to reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions (direct and indirect company emissions) by 68%, by 2030 – a commitment that aligns with the Science-Based Target Initiative (SBTi). We're proud that our efforts also align to the Climate Neutral Data Centre Pact's third pillar – Water – whereby data centres will conserve water and set ambitious water conservation targets.

Digital Realty's dock and river cooling water system has also been of interest to those outside of the data centre space. In February 2022, Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) visited Cloud House after he had heard of our sustainability credentials and wanted to gather a better understanding of the environmental impacts the system mitigates.

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About Digital Realty Digital Realty brings companies and data together by delivering the full spectrum of data center, colocation and interconnection solutions. PlatformDIGITAL®, the company's global data center platform, provides customers with a secure data meeting place and a proven Pervasive Datacenter Architecture (PDx®) solution methodology for powering innovation and efficiently managing Data Gravity challenges. Digital Realty gives its customers access to the connected data communities that matter to them with a global data center footprint of 300+ facilities in 50+ metros across 28 countries on six continents.

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