The Climate Resilience Innovation Forum

December 2nd-3rd 2026 | New York City

Mitigation vs adaptation:

A strategy for climate competitiveness

For more information on attending, speaking, or sponsoring, please contact hannah.oborne@innovationforum.co.uk

Day 1 – Wednesday, December 2nd: *Balancing mitigation and adaptation*

8.45-9.15am **Reality check:** Are 2030 targets already out of reach?

With less than four years until 2030, businesses are confronting a challenging reality: despite some genuine progress, many climate targets are increasingly unlikely to be met. The conversation is no longer about whether goals will be achieved, but how business should respond and identify the actions that will deliver the greatest impact.

Should organizations persevere with their goals, review expectations, or completely rethink what success looks like? Is it more responsible to stand by ambitious targets, or to acknowledge shifting circumstances and prioritise the actions that will deliver the greatest impact?

Join us as our expert panel set the scene, taking an honest look at where organizations stand today, what progress has been made, where barriers remain, and how business can build credible and resilient strategies for 2030 and beyond.

- Terryn Lawrence, EVP & chief sustainability officer, **Rabobank**

Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, ***Innovation Forum***

9.15-9.40am **From supply chain risk to landscape resilience:** What does transformation look like at scale?

As climate risks intensify, businesses must look beyond individual suppliers and siloed interventions to better strengthen the resilience of the landscapes and communities on which their supply chains rely. Building resilience at scale requires collaboration across companies, governments, farmers, finance and non-profits. But translating shared ambition into coordinated action remains a barrier to scaling transformation.

Drawing on PepsiCo and IDH's experience of working together across agricultural sourcing landscapes, this session will explore what meaningful, scalable transformation looks like in practice. We'll discuss how landscape-level approaches can protect natural ecosystems, strengthen farmer livelihoods and improve long-term supply security. We'll assess what takes to move initiatives beyond isolated projects to successfully deliver impact at scale.

- Jim Andrew, chief sustainability officer, **PepsiCo**
- Daan Wensing, chief executive officer, **IDH**

9.40-10.20am **A strategy for climate competitiveness:** Reframing Scope 3 as a driver of risk mitigation, resilience and commercial advantage

Climate action is no longer simply a sustainability agenda. It is a critical business strategy for managing risk, strengthening supply chains, and protecting long-term value.

Whilst the moral imperative remains, organizations are increasingly recognising decarbonization as a commercial opportunity. From mitigating risk and improving supply security to enhancing business continuity and driving revenue generation, climate action is becoming a key driver of long-term competitive advantage. But what does this look like in practice?

In this session, our panel will discuss:

- How businesses can reframe Scope 3 internally as a strategic business opportunity rather than a compliance exercise
- How decarbonization can reduce volatility, improve supply chain resilience and deliver a tangible ROI
- The financial and operational benefits that can be unlocked by integrating climate action into wider business strategy

- Anna Pierce, director of sustainability, **Tate & Lyle**
- Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy, director, supply chain sustainability and regulatory**, Cisco**
- Kara Fulcher, director of sustainability strategy, **Michelin**

*Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum***

10.20-11.00am **Networking Break**

11.00am-12.30pm **From risk to resilience:** How are companies embedding climate adaptation into wider business strategy?

Businesses that fail to adapt to climate risks like extreme heat could lose up to 7% of annual earnings by 2035, whilst companies investing in climate adaptation are seeing up to $19 in avoided losses for every $1 invested (World Economic Forum, 2024).

As climate-related disruption becomes more frequent and severe, adaptation is essential for long-term business resilience. From extreme weather and resource scarcity to geopolitical instability and supply chain disruption, organizations need to understand where their greatest vulnerabilities lie, and how to respond.

In this session, we'll explore how leading companies are identifying climate risks, integrating adaptation into business strategy, and measuring resilience as a driver of long-term value.

- Jeff Gitterman, managing partner, **Gitterman Asset Management**
- Alissa Martuarno, senior director, healthy planet, **Mars**
- Gauri Angrish, net zero carbon lead, global sustainability, **Colgate-Palmolive**

*Moderator: Kelly Leighton, executive director, **CFI***

12.30-1.30pm **Lunch**

1.30-3.00pm **Breakout Sessions**

Supply chain decarbonization	**Climate risk and adaptation**	**Financing the energy transition**	**The Other Rooms***
Cost savings, efficiency gains, shared risk and the right incentives: Practical steps to better supply chain engagement Alan Knight, chief sustainability officer, **WE Soda** Jack Cunningham, procurement director - raw materials North America, **Henkel** *Moderator: Ramona Bajema, lecturer, **Columbia University***	**Climate risk modelling and scenario analysis:** How business can plan for climate impact and supply shocks Andrew Wood, senior manager, global sustainable agriculture, **PepsiCo** Alexander Mirescu, head of extreme weather, **Zurich Insurance** *Moderator: Karimah Hudda, founder and chief catalyst, **illumine.earth***	**Catalysing clean energy investment:** How to unlock finance and investment in the supply chain John O'Connell, director, **Plug and Play** Cindy Jia, managing director, **ING** *Moderator: Clarence Edwards, executive director, **E3G***	**The Climate Clinic: How can we use resilience to reframe the business case for decarbonization?** Bring your climate challenges to the room. Together, we'll diagnose the problem and break down the practical solutions. *Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum***
Scope 3 data transparency: How to ensure compliant, effective disclosure Alexander Frantzen, GHG Protocol Scope 3 manager, **WRI** Andres Rodrigues, senior programme manager, energy & climate, **IBM** *Moderator: Karimah Hudda, founder and chief catalyst, **illumine.earth***	**Mitigation vs adaptation:** How to align short- and long-term transition planning Alicia Simmons, director of sustainability and communications, **Frontier Co-op** Katie Anderson, associate vice president, net zero value chains, **Environmental Defense Fund** *Moderator: Eric Ostern, Independent*	**Power Purchase Agreements:** How effective partnerships are driving capacity, resilience and ROI	**The Climate Confessional** It's time to tackle the elephants in the room. Submit your anonymous climate confessions and challenges, and the room will problem solve them together. *Moderator: Eric Gassaway, Independent*

3.00-3.30pm **Networking Break**

3.30-4.15pm **Breakout Sessions**

Carbon removals in action: How brands can demonstrate credibility in insetting Allison Gratz, director value chain innovations, American Forest Foundation *Moderator: David Antonioli, Independent*	**From resilience to regeneration:** How can nature become our greatest tool for climate adaptation? Michel Santos, senior director, sustainability, **Bunge** *Moderator: Raz Godelnik, associate professor of strategic design and management,* ***Parsons School of Design***	**Energy security in net zero:** How to manage risk across the value chain	**The Climate Jury: Is AI a decarbonization tool or emissions accelerator?** One divisive question, two opposing sides. Hear the arguments, challenge the speakers, and cast your vote. *Moderator: Ashley Campbell, Independent*

4.15-5.00pm **Carbon accounting under pressure:** Can SBTi and GHG protocol keep up with net zero claims?

As companies move from setting climate targets to delivering tangible progress, the expectations placed on carbon accounting frameworks have never been greater. With major updates to both the GHG Protocol and SBTi underway, organizations are navigating an increasingly complex landscape of evolving standards, greater scrutiny and growing demands for transparency. Simultaneously, companies cannot afford to delay action whilst waiting for perfect methodologies or complete certainty.

In this session, we'll explore how the carbon accounting landscape is evolving and what this means for corporate ambition. We'll discuss:

- The latest developments across SBTi and the GHG Protocol, and what they look like in practice
- How businesses can balance corporate ambition with practical implementation
- Where organizations should prioritise their efforts as expectations continue to change
- How to maintain credibility whilst navigating an imperfect and changing landscape

Diana Farmer, North America regional lead**, SBTi**
Sophie Beckham, chief sustainability officer, **International Paper**

Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, ***Innovation Forum***

Day 2 – Thursday, December 3rd: *Finance, accountability, and ROI*

9.00-9.45am **Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act:** How mandatory disclosure is driving climate action from California to New York

As the federal climate policy landscape remains uncertain, state-level regulation is becoming an increasingly important driver of corporate climate action across the United States. As California starts to implement mandatory emissions and climate disclosure requirements, other states, including New York, are developing similar legislation.

For businesses operating across multiple states, the challenge is not only remaining compliant with evolving requirements, but ensuring disclosure delivers meaningful business value.
In this session, our expert panel will explore how organizations can navigate an increasingly fragmented reporting landscape whilst using climate data to strengthen decision-making, engage suppliers and build more resilient business strategies.

We'll discuss:

- What California's new requirements - and emerging legislation in states like New York – means for business in practice
- How state-level disclosure requirements compare with international reporting frameworks, and where they are converging or diverging
- How businesses can move beyond disclosure to use data as a strategic tool for supplier engagement, risk management and decision-making

- Rishi Shah, vice president, global sustainability and ESG, **Wyndham Hotels & Resorts**

*Moderator: Erik Wohlgemuth, CEO, **Future 500***

9.45-10.30am **Product carbon footprinting:** How business can turn data into commercial advantage

Product carbon footprints have rapidly evolved from a reporting exercise into a strategic business tool. By providing detailed insights into emissions at a product level, PCFs enable organizations to identify carbon hotspots, engage suppliers and build more resilient, efficient supply chains.

In this session, we'll explore how leading organizations are embedding PCFs into wider business strategy and translating the data into commercial value. We'll discuss how product carbon footprint data can strengthen supplier collaboration, improve procurement and sourcing decisions, accelerate decarbonization, and unlock commercial value beyond compliance.

Moderator: Eric Gassaway, Independent

10.30-11.00am **Networking Break**

11.00-11.30am **Unlikely allies:** How internal finance teams can drive real climate decisions, resources and investment

Climate action cannot be delivered by sustainability teams alone. Finance is increasingly becoming one of the most powerful accelerators of the transition, influencing where capital flows, how risk is valued, and which areas receive investment.

Financial decision-makers have a critical role to play in embedding decarbonization into core business strategy and ensuring climate considerations shape commercial decision-making. In this session, we'll explore how internal finance teams can help shift climate action from ambition to implementation, unlocking the investment, collaboration, and internal alignment needed to build long-term business resilience.

- Sarah Kircher, vice president of sustainability, **Novolex**

*Moderator: Clarence Edwards, executive director, **E3G***

11.30am-12.30pm **Financing adaptation and resilience:** The role of public-private finance and blended capital

As climate risks become increasingly linked to business performance, investing in resilience is no longer an option. Despite growing recognition of the need for adaptation, financing the transition remains one of the greatest barriers to implementation. Governments, financial institutions, investors and the private sector all have a critical role to play in unlocking the capital needed to accelerate and scale resilience.

In this session, our expert panel will explore how innovative financing models and partnerships can help bridge the adaptation funding gap. We'll discuss:

- The role of investors, insurers and financial institutions in strengthening climate resilience
- How blended finance can de-risk investment and accelerate private sector action
- How businesses can build investable adaptation strategies that demonstrate long-term value
- Examples of public-private partnerships that are already delivering successful outcomes

- Hervé Duteil, chief sustainability officer, **BNP Paribas**
- Jill Bunting, lead, sustainability insights, **Wells Fargo**
- Rodrigo Cesar Salvado, global head, strategic financing partnerships, **HSBC**
- Ryan Smith, director, agriculture impact and partnerships, **Danone**

*Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum***

12.30-1.30pm **Lunch**

1.30-3.00pm **Roundtable sessions**

These roundtable sessions are focused discussions that aim to drive innovation and collaborative problem-solving across a diverse mix of industries. We'll run 2 x 45-min rounds of each session on a first-come first-served basis.

a) Corporate communications
b) Cross-sector collaborations
c) SBTi Version 2.0 Q&A
    - Diana Farmer, North America regional lead, **SBTi**
d) Climate health
e) AI and data streamlining
f) Commitments to operationalization
    - Devin Carsdale, director sustainable procurement, **Bristol Myers Squibb**
    - Olga Faktorovic, director, sustainability enablement, **Bristol Myers Squibb**
g) Roadmapping resilience

3.00-3.15pm **Closing remarks**