Innovation Forum
events and insight for sustainability

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

Speakers:

1. Jim Andrew, chief sustainability officer, **PepsiCo**
2. Hervé Duteil, chief sustainability officer, Americas, **BNP Paribas**
3. Terryn Lawrence, EVP & chief sustainability officer, **Rabobank**
4. Sophie Beckham, chief sustainability officer, **International Paper**
5. Mitsuko Wong, sustainability lead, impact, **Ralph Lauren**
6. Emily Wasley, head of climate risk, resilience, and biodiversity, **Meta**
7. Nida Bockert, senior director, sustainability business integration lead, **Nestlé**
8. Katja Wodjereck, chief commercial officer, **Vioneo**
9. Alissa Marturano, senior director, healthy planet, **Mars**
10. Jose Ignacio Galindo, CEO, **Waterplan**
11. Rishi Shah, vice president, global sustainability and ESG, **Wyndham Hotels & Resorts**
12. Gauri Angrish, net zero carbon lead, global sustainability, **Colgate-Palmolive**
13. Laura Sennett, Sustainable Investing Group, **Goldman Sachs**
14. Alexander Mirescu, head, extreme weather, **Zurich North America**
15. Maggie Hume, global sustainability program manager, **Interface**
16. Daan Wensing, chief executive officer, **IDH**
17. Ty Colman, head of strategic accounts, **Green Project Technologies**
18. Kara Fulcher, director of sustainability strategy, North America, **Michelin**
19. Jack Cunningham, procurement director – raw materials North America, **Henkel**
20. Cindy Jia, managing director, **ING**
21. John O'Connell, director, **Plug and Play Tech Center**
22. Vance Merolla, adjunct professor, sustainability management program, **Columbia University**
23. Mik Breiterman-Loader, head of US sustainable finance & transition, **HSBC**
24. Anna Pierce, director of sustainability, **Tate & Lyle**
25. Eva María Rys, product manager for supply chain & product footprints, **Watershed**
26. Michel Santos, senior director, global sustainability, **Bunge**
27. Philip Harris, chief revenue officer, **Arva**
28. Jenny Pickett, head of sustainability, North America, **Lloyds Banking Group**
29. Jeff Gitterman, managing partner, **Gitterman Asset Management & Perigon Wealth Management**
30. Diana Farmer, head of North America & market insights, **Science Based Targets initiative**
31. Katie Anderson, associate vice president, net zero value chains, **Environmental Defense Fund**
32. Paula DiPerna, special advisor, **CDP**
33. Hannah Weatherford, ESG lead, **FedEx**
34. Marc Rotter, counsel, **Ropes & Gray LLP**
35. Alan Knight, chief sustainability officer, **WE Soda**
36. Jill Bunting, leader, sustainability insights, **Wells Fargo**
37. Saim Ghouse, head of client development, **Risilience**
38. Devin Carsdale, director, sustainable procurement, **Bristol Myers Squibb**
39. Allison Gratz, director value chain innovations, **American Forest Foundation**
40. Andres Rodriguez, enterprise sustainability value & energy transformation, **IBM**
41. Alicia Simmons, director of sustainability and communications, **Frontier Co-op**
42. Alexandra Lanphier, senior manager, conscious beauty, **Ulta Beauty**
43. Michael Crinion, chair, **USFRA**
44. Sarah Kircher, vice president of sustainability, **Novolex**
45. Alexander Frantzen, GHG Protocol Scope 3 manager, **World Resources Institute**
46. Nicky Arthur, energy management & sustainability specialist, **Lush**
47. Ryan Gaines, chief financial officer, **Apparel Impact Institute**
48. Marc Bloch, senior manager supplier and brand partnerships, **Cyclone Yarn**
49. Kirstin Skyrm, sustainability specialist, **Preferred by Nature**

Moderators:

50. Kelly Leighton, executive director, **The Center for Food Integrity**
51. Amy Skoczlas Cole, executive director, **NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business**
52. Gleeson Ryan, senior manager, stakeholder engagement, **Future 500**
53. David Antonioli, founder and CEO, **Transition Finance**
54. Karimah Hudda, founder and chief catalyst, **illumine.earth**
55. Clarence Edwards, executive director, **E3G**
56. Raz Godelnik, associate professor of strategic design and management, **Parsons School of Design**
57. Ramona Bajema, lecturer, **Columbia University**
58. Eric Ostern, **Independent**
59. Eric Gassaway, **Independent**

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

8.45-8.50 **Opening remarks** *(Verizon 121)*

- Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**
- Vance Merolla, adjunct professor, sustainability management program, **Columbia University**

8.50-9.15am **Reality check:** Are 2030 targets already out of reach? *(Verizon 121)*

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**
- Nida Bockert, senior director, sustainability business integration lead, **Nestlé**

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? *(Verizon 121)*

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**

Moderator: Amy Skoczlas Cole, executive director, ***NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business***

9.40-10.30am **A strategy for climate competitiveness:** Reframing Scope 3 as a driver of risk mitigation, resilience and commercial advantage *(Verizon 121)*

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**
- Kara Fulcher, director of sustainability strategy, North America, **Michelin**
- Katja Wodjereck, chief commercial officer, **Vioneo**

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

10.30-11.10am **Networking Break**

11.10am-12.30pm **From risk to resilience:** How are companies embedding climate adaptation into wider business strategy? *(Verizon 121)*

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.

Part 1: How leading companies are identifying climate risks and integrating adaptation
- Gauri Angrish, net zero carbon lead, global sustainability, **Colgate-Palmolive**
- Emily Wasley, head of climate risk, resilience and biodiversity, **Meta**
- Alissa Marturano, senior director, healthy planet, **Mars**
- Jose Ignacio Galindo, CEO, **Waterplan**

Part 2: The investor perspective on financing adaptation
- Jeff Gitterman, managing partner, **Gitterman Asset Management**
- Laura Sennett, Sustainable Investing Group, **Goldman Sachs**

Part 3: The collective perspective around how to measure success

- All speakers

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

12.30-1.30pm **Lunch**

1.30-3.00pm **Breakout Sessions**

*****Our Other Rooms track offers a series of highly interactive sessions, all designed to encourage honest discussion and practical collaboration. Leave your lanyard at the door as we tackle some of the industry's most challenging and controversial issues in climate.

Supply chain decarbonization *(Verizon 225)*	**Climate risk and adaptation** *(Verizon 215)*	**The Other Rooms*** *(Verizon 221)*
Cost savings, efficiency gains, shared risk and the right incentives: Practical steps to better supply chain engagement Jack Cunningham, procurement director - raw materials North America, **Henkel** Alexandra Lanphier, senior manager, conscious beauty, **Ulta Beauty** Ty Colman, head of strategic accounts, **Green Project Technologies** *Moderator: Ramona Bajema, lecturer,* ***Columbia University***	**Climate risk modelling and scenario analysis:** How business can plan for climate impact and supply shocks Hannah Weatherford, ESG lead, **FedEx** Alexander Mirescu, head of extreme weather, **Zurich North America** Saim Ghouse, head of client development, **Risilience** *Moderator: Karimah Hudda, founder and chief catalyst,* ***illumine.earth***	**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, **World Resources Institute** Andres Rodriguez, manager, enterprise sustainability value & energy transformation, **IBM** Maggie Hume, global sustainability program manager, **Interface** *Moderator: Gleeson Ryan, senior manager, stakeholder engagement,* ***Future 500***	**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** Marc Bloch, senior manager, supplier and brand partnerships, **Cyclone Yarn** *Moderator: Eric Ostern, Independent*	**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. Nida Bockert, senior director, sustainability business integration lead, **Nestlé** Eric Gassaway, Independent

3.00-3.30pm **Networking Break**

3.30-4.15pm **Breakout Sessions**

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** Michael Crinion, chair, **USFRA** *Moderator: Clarence Edwards, executive director, **E3G***	**From resilience to regeneration:** How can nature become our greatest tool for climate adaptation? Jenny Pickett, head of sustainability North America, **Lloyds Banking Group** Michel Santos, senior director, global sustainability, **Bunge** Philip Harris, chief revenue officer, **Arva** *Moderator: Raz Godelnik, associate professor of strategic design and management, **Parsons School of Design***	**The Climate Jury: Is AI a decarbonization tool or emissions accelerator?** One divisive question, two opposing sides. Debate, challenge, and cast your vote. *Moderator: Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum***

4.15-5.00pm **SBTi and the GHG Protocol:** How can evolving standards support credible climate action? *(Verizon 121)*

As companies move from setting climate targets to delivering tangible progress, businesses and standard setters face a shared challenge: demonstrating the business case, maintaining credibility, and accelerating action despite significant systemic barriers. As the GHG Protocol and SBTi evolve, organizations are navigating changing expectations, 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 standards landscape is evolving and how companies and standard setters can work together to support credible, practical action. We'll discuss:

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

- Diana Farmer, head of North America & market insights, **SBTi**
- Sophie Beckham, chief sustainability officer, **International Paper**
- Vance Merolla, adjunct professor, sustainability management program, **Columbia University**

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

5.00-6.00pm **Networking Drinks**

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

8.55-9.00 **Opening remarks** *(Verizon 121)*

- Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**
- Vance Merolla, adjunct professor, sustainability management program, **Columbia University**

9.00-9.45am **Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act:** How mandatory disclosure is driving climate action from California to New York *(Verizon 121)*

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**
- Paula DiPerna, special advisor, **CDP**
- Marc Rotter, counsel, **Ropes & Gray LLP**

Moderator: Ramona Bajema, lecturer, ***Columbia University***

9.45-10.30am **Supplier collaboration as a competitive advantage:** How can business turn shared insights into commercial value? *(Verizon 121)*

Supplier collaboration can unlock opportunities to reduce costs, improve sourcing decisions, and strengthen supply security. Recognizing this value requires companies to combine suppliers' practical insights with the data required to identify shared priorities, target investment, and deliver improvements.

In this session, we'll explore how procurement and sustainability teams can work with suppliers to turn shared insights into commercial advantage. We'll examine where product carbon footprinting can help identify hotspots and guide joint action, and how businesses can quantify the returns from collaboration beyond emissions reductions. We'll discuss:

- Where supplier insights can uncover opportunities for cost savings, innovation, and more resilient sourcing

- How to agree shared priorities, responsibilities and incentives so that data translates into joint action across the supply chain
- Which measures can demonstrate commercial returns for buyers and suppliers, alongside emissions reductions

- Alan Knight, chief sustainability officer, **WE Soda**
- Mitsuko Wong, sustainability lead, impact, **Ralph Lauren**
- Eva María Rys, product manager for supply chain & product footprints, **Watershed**

Moderator: Eric Gassaway, Independent

10.30-11.00am **Networking Break**

11.00-11.40am **Unlikely allies:** How internal finance teams can drive real climate decisions, resources and investment *(Verizon 121)*

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**
- Ryan Gaines, chief financial officer, **Apparel Impact Institute**

Moderator: David Antonioli, founder and CEO, ***Transition Finance***

11.40am-12.30pm **Financing adaptation and resilience:** The role of public-private finance and blended capital *(Verizon 121)*

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 and financial institutions in strengthening climate resilience
- How blended finance can de-risk investment and accelerate private sector action
- How to 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, leader, sustainability insights, **Wells Fargo**
- Mik Breiterman-Loader, head of US sustainable finance & transition, **HSBC**

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

12.30-1.30pm **Lunch**

1.30-3.00pm **Roundtable sessions** *(Verizon 121)*

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 climate communications:** How can companies communicate progress and setbacks with credibility?
    - Kelly Leighton, executive director, **The Center for Food Integrity**
b) **SBTi Version 2.0 Q&A:** What does it mean for corporate targets and implementation?
    - Diana Farmer, head of North America & market insights, **SBTi**
c) **From commitments to operationalization:** How can companies embed climate action into procurement and business decisions?
    - Devin Carsdale, director sustainable procurement, **Bristol Myers Squibb**
d) **Carbon removals in action:** How can brands demonstrate credibility in insetting?
    - Allison Gratz, director value chain innovations, **American Forest Foundation**
e) **Energy security in net zero:** How can we manage risk across the value chain?
    - Nicky Arthur, energy management & sustainability specialist, **Lush**
f) **Regeneration in practice:** How can companies build resilience through responsible sourcing?
    - Kirstin Skyrm, sustainability specialist, **Preferred by Nature**

3.00-3.15pm **Closing remarks**

- Ian Welsh, co-founder and chair, **Innovation Forum**
- Vance Merolla, adjunct professor, sustainability management program, **Columbia University**