

The Future of Climate Action USA

28th-29th September 2021 | VIRTUAL

How to tackle GHGs in the supply chain



Day 1: Tuesday 28th September

All timings are in US Central Time and are subject to change

09.00-09.50 Climate policy and business transformation: How business can turn policy pressure into opportunity

The United States has committed to tackling the climate crisis, pledging to reduce emissions by 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. As a result, the policy and legislative landscape is evolving and pressures are mounting for serious corporate climate action. The business risks of delayed action in this new climate era are clear, but what are the opportunities? In this session we'll hear from leading companies on how they have turned climate policy pressures into opportunity and successfully engaged their boards on climate action.

Session objectives:

- Practical examples of how businesses have translated climate pressures into opportunities
- A set of principles for engaging your board to pivot investments and commitments to net-zero initiatives

10.00-10.50 The roadmap to net-zero: How leading companies have established ambitious but credible timebound targets on Scope 3

According to a new report by the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit and Oxford Net Zero, around one fifth of the world's largest companies have now made net-zero commitments. As net-zero gains momentum, Scope 3 emissions - often previously unaccounted for - are now center stage. The difficulty of identifying and measuring emissions across global and multi-tiered supply chains makes for a complex target setting process. In this session we'll hear from leading companies on how they approached and overcame these challenges to establish realistic and ambitious Scope 3 targets.

Session objectives:

- Tips on how to identify Scope 3 boundaries and GHG hotspots
- Practical examples of how to establish a target that is timebound, credible and science-based
- Best practice for setting interim targets and milestones

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11.00-12.50

Supplier engagement	Internal process and alignment
The road to net zero is a two-way street: How to select and engage suppliers in emission-reduction opportunities	Communicating internally: How to align corporate culture across departments with climate strategy
Best practices for supporting SMEs on the net-zero journey, from data collection to decarbonization	Best practice for collecting and verifying supplier data and measuring progress

13.00-13.50 **Speed networking break**

14.00-14.50 **Financing the transition: Who will bridge the investment gap?**

Biden has pledged \$2trn in public investment to deliver his green economy plan, but a large investment gap remains if the U.S. is to achieve net-zero by 2050. Blended finance has emerged as a promising solution to finance this gap and will play a key role in decarbonizing value chains. In this panel we'll break down the climate finance landscape and take a look at the financing options available, the key trends, and the actors shaping them.

Session objectives:

- Understand the key trends in climate finance and financing options available for Scope 3 action
- Insights into how a range of actors are shaping the climate finance landscape

15.00-15.50 **Mandatory climate disclosure: How to effectively engage investors in company climate performance**

Climate-related risks are of increasing importance to the investor community. A recent Procensus survey with institutional investors from across Europe, US, and Asia revealed that around 75% significantly incorporate net-zero considerations when making investment decisions. However, climate risk disclosure is currently voluntary and extremely difficult to assess.

The SEC is expected to take a huge step forward and establish mandatory climate disclosure requirements along TCFD guidelines for publicly traded companies. In this session we'll hear from experts on how investors are assessing climate risk and opportunities, how to effectively engage investors in company climate performance, as well as the reporting challenges associated with climate disclosure.

Session objectives:

- Practical examples from reporting challenges faced by companies
- Insight into how different types of investors factor climate risk into investment decisions and utilize TCFD recommendations

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Day 2: Wednesday 29th September

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09.00-09.50 **How genuine industry collaboration can enable business to influence policy roadmaps, frameworks and incentives**

Policy incentives and frameworks are crucial to ensure a level playing field and promote corporate climate action. Industry coalitions are a powerful way to amplify the voice of business and engage with government for more progressive and equitable policy roadmaps. However, pre-competitive collaboration does not come without its own challenges and can be slow to deliver results. Our expert speakers will debate what genuine industry collaboration looks like and how business coalitions can have greater influence over climate policy roadmaps, frameworks and incentives.

Session objectives:

- Practical examples of the collaboration challenges faced by climate coalitions and what genuine collaboration looks like
- Candid guidance on what climate coalitions can do better to have greater influence over climate policy and roadmaps

10.00-10.50 **Natural climate solutions: Who are they suited to, how can they be implemented and when are they effective?**

Natural climate solutions are heralded as key to reducing emissions. According to research by Griscom et al., they can provide up to 37% of emission reductions needed by 2030, alongside aggressive fossil fuel reductions. But what role do nature-based solutions play in tackling Scope 3 emissions? Do they serve as a relevant and credible solution across multiple sectors? How do you measure and understand the value of them? These are just a few of the questions we'll look to answer in this session on understanding the values and limitations of natural climate solutions.

Session objectives:

- Practical guidance on who natural climate solutions are suited for and who they are not
- Practical examples of nature-based solutions in action
- Insights into how to scale them to deliver on their potential climate impact

11.00-12.50

Low-carbon solutions	Nature-based solutions
Logistics innovation: What technologies are available to decarbonise your logistics?	Big bets on regenerative agriculture: Can it really bring the transformation we expect?
Packaging innovation: Is circularity the key for driving down carbon emissions from packaging?	The role of forest positive strategies in the net-zero roadmap

13.00-13.50 **Speed networking break**

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14.00-14.50 **How is the offset market evolving?**

Carbon offsetting is integral for achieving net-zero targets and demand for carbon credits has skyrocketed with the recent influx of net-zero commitments by businesses and governments. According to the Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets, the global carbon market must grow at least 15-fold by 2030 to support the transition to net-zero by 2050. However, such market growth will be obsolete unless the offsets traded are of high quality and verified to deliver on their claimed climate impact.

Our panel of experts will discuss how the offset market is evolving, what the options are, and how to identify a meaningful and verifiable offset.

Session objectives:

- Insights into how the offset market is evolving
- Tips on how to integrate offsetting into a credible net-zero strategy
- Practical examples of what credible offset programs look like in practice

15.00-15.50 **How to leverage climate commitments, resources, and finance to achieve wider SDG targets**

The transition to net-zero will require large-scale systemic physical, economic, and social changes. Climate action, Sustainable Development Goal 13, will have a significant impact on the other 16 deeply interlinked SDGs. Businesses play a key role in ensuring a just and equitable transition as they set out to deliver on their ambitious climate targets.

In this closing session, we'll discuss what other opportunities the net-zero journey offers for companies to achieve wider SDG targets, tackle systemic inequities, and build a better and more inclusive future.

Session objectives:

- Practical guidance on how to leverage climate commitments, resources and finance to contribute to other SDGs
- Practical examples of how leading companies have achieved wider SDG targets through climate action

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