responsible investor

# RI USA 2024

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*Please note, this is a draft document, session timings and descriptions are subject to occasional change.*


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PEI

Day one
**Tuesday 3 December**

**08:00 Registration Opens**

**08:55 Opening remarks**

**Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**

**09:00 Plenary 1: Transition finance in the US: Driving change through investment**

- How are US investors approaching high-emitting sectors and corporates?
- Will transition finance be the main source of alpha in the US energy transition?
- Do US investors want dedicated transition finance instruments?
- Is there a tension between financing the transition and meeting net zero targets?

Moderator: **Andrew Howell**, Senior Director, Sustainable Finance, **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**
**Curtis D Ravenel**, Senior Advisor to the Co-Chair & Vice Chair, **GFANZ**
**Candice Coppere**, Head of Climate and Nature Solutions, Product, **ISS STOXX**
**Tara Mei Smith,** ESG Integration Officer, **NYC Office of the Comptroller**
**Andrew Siwo**, Head of Sustainable Investments and Climate Solutions, **New York State Common Retirement Fund**
**Thomas Englerth,** Associate Director, Sustainable Finance, **S&P Global Ratings**

**09:50 Plenary 2: Manager selection in the US**

- How has the politicisation of ESG impacted manager selection?
- Is stewardship being priced into manager selection or neglected in search of lower fees?
- Is manager selection being utilised enough to drive asset owner priorities through managers?
- Are consultants doing enough to drive asset owner priorities through manager selection?
- Given the US context, will climate-focused/net zero investors drift to European-headquartered managers?

Moderator: **Sarah Bernstein**, Head of Sustainability, **Meketa Investment Group**
**Matthew Illian**, Director, **United Church Funds**
**Rajith Sebastian**, Head of ESG and Sustainable Investing, **New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF)**
**Sarika Goel**, Global Head Sustainable Investment Research, **Mercer**

10:40 Networking break

**11:10 Keynote - Eye of the storm: Former SEC policy director reflects on three years at US regulator**

**Heather Slavkin Corzo**, Principal, **Mindset**
Moderator: **Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**

**11:30 Plenary 3: ESG regulation: The US, EU and beyond**

- How are US investors navigating the SFDR and what do they want out of the regulatory reform?
- US anti-greenwashing efforts: What's next for SEC climate-related disclosures and name rules in the post-election environment?
- Will CSRD provide US investors with the sustainability data they need?
- Compliance vs action: How are investors balancing mandatory and voluntary disclosure needs with investment/stewardship activities?

Moderator: **Steven Rothstein**, Managing Director, Accelerator, **Ceres**
**Sandra Silea**, Director, ESG & Stewardship, **AustralianSuper**
**Elizabeth Seeger**, Board Member, ISSB, **IFRS Foundation**
**Sireen Hajj**, Director, Investor Outreach, **US SIF**

**12:15 Plenary 4: Nature investment in North America: Risks and opportunities**

- Nature as a systemic risk: how are investors approaching the challenge?
- Measuring biodiversity and nature risk across portfolios: methodologies, tools and barriers
- Public vs private markets: where are the nature investment opportunities?
- Are US corporates doing enough, and disclosing enough, on nature?

Moderator: **Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**
**Lauren Compere**, Managing Director, Head of Stewardship & Engagement, **Boston Common Asset Management**
**Felipe Carazo**, Head of Alliance Management, Tropical Forest Alliance, **World Economic Forum**
**Megan Reilly Cayten**, Head of Carbon Nature Fund, **Climate Asset Management**
**John Morton,** Managing Director & Head of Americas**, Pollination**

13:00 Lunch

| Stream A | Stream B |
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| **13:50 – A1: Corporate transition plans: Next steps** | **13:50 – B1: The future of collaborative engagement in the US** |

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| • What does a credible transition plan look like?<br>• Are US companies embracing the concept of transition plans?<br>• What guidance do companies and investors need? Prescriptive vs high-level<br>• To what extent should climate lobbying activities be disclosed in transition plans?<br><br>Moderator: **Matt Moscardi**, Head of Board Moneyball, **Free Float Analytics**<br>**Andreas Ross,** Head of New Product Research and Development, **ZAIS Group**<br>**Joel Paque**, Head of Partnerships, US, **Climate Arc**<br>**Jacob Hupart,** Co-Chair of ESG Practice, **Mintz**<br>**Radhika Mehrotra**, Associate Director Capital Markets, **CDP** | • Do legal threats around antitrust carry any weight? If so, where are the lines that should not be crossed?<br>• How can investors defend themselves against accusations? What does best practice look like?<br>• Where can collective engagement make sense in a US context?<br>• Can collective engagement in the US survive the ESG backlash and Republican election victories?<br><br>Moderator: **Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**<br>**Marcela Pinilla**, Director of Sustainable Investing**, Zevin**<br>**Claudia Martinez,** Director of Research, **Access to Medicine Foundation**<br>**Bethany Davis Noll**, Executive Director, **The State Energy & Environmental Impact Centre at NYU School of Law** |
| 14:30 Short turnaround break | |
| **14:35 – A2: ESG Data: The next frontier**<br><br>• Do companies have the data they need for mandatory climate reporting?<br>• Supporting scope 3 data requirements<br>• How is technology helping to meet the nature data challenge?<br>• What are the biggest gaps in supply chain data?<br><br>Moderator: **Manju Seal,** Former Head of Sustainable Finance and Capital Markets ESG Lead, **Bank of Montreal**<br><br>**Samantha McCafferty**, Associate Director - Sustainable Investing, **Harvard Management Company** | **14:35 – B2: Agriculture: Sustainability and food security**<br><br>• How are US investors thinking about agriculture and sustainability?<br>• Is supporting food security compatible with financial institutions' net zero commitments?<br>• How is technology changing the agricultural sustainability landscape?<br>• Is regenerative agriculture a scalable solution?<br><br>Moderator: **Chris Janiec**, Americas Editor, **Agri Investor**<br>**Sofia De La Parra**, Investor Outreach Manager, **FAIRR** |

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| **Paul Vozzella**, Director, Americas, **Asset Impact**<br><br>**Greer Howard-Tabah**, Vice President, ESG, **Oaktree Capital Management**<br><br>**Daan Van Acker**, Director, **InfluenceMap** | **Lara Fornabaio**, Senior Legal Researcher, **Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment**<br>**Matthew Corbett,** Partner – Agriculture, **Fiera Comox**<br>**Björn Aarts,** ESG Director, **Rabo Investments** |
| 15:15 Short turnaround break | |
| **15:20 – A3: Water risk: An investors' guide**<br><br>• Where are US companies most exposed to water risk?<br>• How should investors engage corporates on water?<br>• What tools and data are available to investors to assess water risk?<br>• How can the private sector help to address water shortages?<br><br>Moderator: **Chris Janiec**, Americas Editor, **Agri Investor**<br><br>**Karen Sack**, Executive Director, **Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance**<br><br>**Saumya Mehrotra**, Product Management Team, **ISS STOXX**<br><br>**Tom Ferguson**, Managing Partner, **Burnt Island Ventures**<br><br>**Matthew Diserio,** Co-Founder & President, **Water Asset Management (WAM)** | **15:20 – B3: Bond markets vs private credit: Financing the energy transition**<br><br>• Are bond markets fit-for-purpose for financing the energy transition?<br>• SLBs and transition bonds: do they have a role in the US?<br>• Where can private credit fill the gaps in debt financing for the transition?<br>• How is the policy landscape impacting sustainability-linked bond issuance in the US?<br><br>**Jamison Friedland**, Senior Sustainability Analyst, **AXA IM**<br><br>**Jamie Franco**, MD and Global Head of Sustainable Investment, **TCW Group**<br><br>**Peter Munro**, Head of Investor Relations & Sustainable Finance, **European Investment Bank (EIB)** |

16:00 Networking break

**16:10 Workshops**

*This session allows participants to learn from both experts and each other, providing interactive small group discussions guided by designated facilitators.*

| Workshop A - Attracting investor capital to U.S. housing | Workshop B – Nature Investment | Workshop C – Investing in 2050 |
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| • What role do securitized products play in supporting US housing?<br>• How can issuers use the capital markets to allocate capital towards affordable housing?<br>• What disclosure considerations are at play?<br>• How do investors use these products to meet clients demands?<br><br>Moderator: **Randy Plavajka,** Deputy Editor, **PERE Credit**<br><br>**Nick Sapirie,** Vice President, Single-Family Capital Markets, **Fannie Mae**<br><br>**Jamie Franco**, MD and Global Head of Sustainable Investment, **TCW Group**<br><br>**Jim Egan**, Co-Head of Securitized Products Research, **Morgan Stanley** | Moderator: **George Kelly**, CEO, **Earth Recovery Partners**<br><br>**Megan Reilly Cayten**, Head of Carbon Nature Fund, **Climate Asset Management**<br><br>**Nikki Gwilliam-Beeharee,** Investor Engagement Lead , **World Benchmarking Alliance**<br><br>**Matthew Rusk**, Head of GRI North America, **Global Reporting Initiative** | *What does the ideal investment landscape of 2050 look like? How do we navigate the rapid pace of change to make this vision a reality?*<br><br>*Through thought-provoking discussions and collaborative exercises, participants will explore how technological innovation, demographic shifts, and sustainability imperatives could reshape investing over the next 25 years.*<br>***In this session, you will:***<br>• ***Imagine the future****: Collaborate in groups to craft a compelling vision of the investment landscape in 2050.*<br>• ***Reverse engineer success****: Work backward from your 2050 vision to identify key milestones, challenges, and shifts needed to bring this future to life.*<br>• ***Plan for action today****: Develop concrete, actionable steps to integrate into your organization's strategy, spanning short-, medium-, and long-term horizons.*<br><br>Co-facilitator: **Doug Scott**, CEO & Co-founder, **Ethic**<br>Co-facilitator: **Georgia Stewart**, CEO, **Tumelo**<br>Co-facilitator: **Adam Kanzer,** Head of Stewardship, |

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| | | Americas, **BNP Paribas Asset Management** |

17:00 Networking drinks

18:00 End of day one

Day two
**Wednesday 4 December**

**8:00 Networking breakfast**

| Stream A | Stream B |
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| **9:00 – A4: Understanding supply chain sustainability risk: An investors' guide**<br>• How are investors engaging with corporates on supply chain risk?<br>• Where are the biggest gaps in corporate supply chain data?<br>• How is regulation affecting corporate supply chain reporting?<br>• Which supply chain issues are most material for investors?<br><br>Moderator: **Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**<br><br>**Patrick O'Connell**, Director of Responsible Investing Research, **AllianceBernstein**<br><br>**Adam Kanzer,** Head of Stewardship, Americas**, BNP Paribas**<br><br>**Serena Shi**, Vice President, **The Lightsmith Group** | **9:00 – B4: Greenwashing vs greenhushing**<br>• How are US corporates and investors navigating political and public scrutiny of sustainability?<br>• What are the implications of corporate greenhushing for investors?<br>• How have investors responded to the SEC's greenwashing crackdown?<br><br>Moderator: **George Kelly**, CEO, **Earth Recovery Partners**<br><br>**Ekaterina Grigoryeva**, Environment and Social Development Specialist (Global Lead, Financial Sector), **The World Bank**<br><br>**Ashley McNamee,** Managing Director, ESG, **Revelstoke Capital Partners**<br><br>**Andrew Lee,** Managing Director, Managing Director – Global Head of Sustainable and Impact Investing**, UBS Global Wealth Management**<br><br>**Lance Dial**, Partner, **K&L Gates** |

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| **Gwen Le Berre**, Head of Responsible Investment, **Parametric Portfolio Associates** | |
| 09:40 Short turnaround break | |
| **09:45 – A5: Governance risk: Board competence and capabilities**<br><br>• How are investors approaching governance risk?<br>• How do governance failures impact investor confidence and company valuation?<br>• What are the emerging standards for governance transparency and reporting?<br>• How can companies improve their disclosure practices to build trust with investors?<br>• AI board competence<br><br>Moderator: **Matt Moscardi**, Head of Board Moneyball, **Free Float Analytics**<br><br>**Marcel Bucsescu**, Vice President, Strategic Engagement, **NACD**<br><br>**Adelaide Chiu**, Head of Responsible Investments, **NEI Investments**<br><br>**Kay Makishi,** Vice President, **Lupoff/Stevens Family Office** | **09:45 – B5: Real estate and climate risk**<br><br>• Decarbonising real estate – a missed low-hanging fruit opportunity for investors?<br>• Real estate climate engagement<br>• Uninsurable assets: what does this mean for real estate investors?<br>• How are US real estate developers approaching the net zero challenge?<br><br>Moderator: **Randy Plavajka,** Deputy Editor, **PERE Credit**<br><br>**Marina Severinovsky,** Head of Sustainability North America, **Schroders**<br><br>**Brenden McEneaney,** Senior Vice President, **JLL**<br><br>**Tom Idzal,** Head of Americas, **GRESB**<br><br>**Daren Moss,** Principal, ESG - Real Estate Lead**, Ares Management** |

10:25 Networking break

**10:55 Plenary 5: Investing for sustainable outcomes in 2025**

- Defining a 'sustainable outcome' or proving real-world sustainability impact: What methods and frameworks are investors using?

- Net-zero commitments and interim climate investing goals: Are investors on track to meet them?
- Is the Inflation Reduction Act translating into opportunities for sustainability-focused investors in public markets?
- Could the changing political environment affect the calculus for sustainable investment in the US?

Moderator: **Steven Rothstein**, Managing Director, Accelerator, **Ceres**
**Sarah Bernstein**, Head of Sustainability, **Meketa Investment Group**
**Wendy Cromwell,** Head of Sustainable Investment, **Wellington Management**
**Lila Preston**, Head of Growth Equity, **Generation Investment Management**
**Maggie Stafford,** Director, ESG Solutions, **Morningstar**

**11:35 Plenary 6: The state of corporate reporting in the US**

- How are US corporates currently approaching sustainability reporting?
- Does corporate reporting in the US meet the needs of investors?
- Will ISSB become the de facto standard for corporate sustainability reporting in the US?
- What assurance are investors asking for on non-financial corporate disclosures?

Moderator: **Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**
**Neil Stewart**, Director of Corporate Outreach, **ISSB/IFRS Foundation**
**Meagen Stack**, Manager, ESG Reporting, **Chevron**
**Aeisha Magstani**, Senior Portfolio Manager, Sustainable Investment & Stewardship Strategies, **CALSTRS**
**Caitlin McSherry**, Head of Investment Stewardship, **Neuberger Berman**

12:15 Lunch

**13:05 Keynote - Stewardship: Aligning Strategies, Collaborating Productively**

**Aeisha Mastagni**, Senior Portfolio Manager, Sustainable Investment & Stewardship Strategies, **CALSTRS**
Moderator: **Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**

**13:25 Plenary 7: After Exxon: The future of shareholder proposals**

- What are the implications for shareholder rights in the US of the Exxon lawsuit?
- What will Trump 2.0 mean for shareholder proposals?
- Will the file-first mentality of shareholders shift towards a more engagement/dialogue-focused approach?
- How can shareholder proposals be used most effectively in a sustainability context?

Moderator: **Gina Gambetta**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor**
**Cynthia Simon,** Policy Director, **Shareholder Rights Group**
**Danielle Fugere**, President & Chief Counsel, **As You Sow**
**Heidi Welsh**, Executive Director, **Sustainable Investments Institute (Si2)**

**14:10 Plenary 8: Fiduciary duty: Operating effectively within a polarized environment**

- Beyond politics: What does fiduciary duty look like in 2024, and what will it look like in 2028?
- To what extent can sustainability preferences and outcomes be factored into fiduciary duty?
- Which issues are necessary for a fiduciary to consider? Are systemic risks such as AMR being overlooked?
- How can a universal owner mitigate systemic risks to portfolios?

Moderator: **Fran Seegull,** President, **US Impact Investing Alliance**
**Colin Melvin**, Founder & Managing Director, **Arkadiko Partners**
**Deborah Ng,** Head of ESG and Sustainability, **GMO**

14:45 End of conference