

### Thriving in the rapidly evolving US sustainable finance landscape

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



Day one

**Tuesday 3 December** 

**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 regulation and/or 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 Europeanheadquartered managers?

Moderator: Dominic Webb, Senior Reporter, Responsible Investor

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?
- Expectations on financial institutions from CSRD and SEC climate rule
- 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 Daan Van Acker, Director, InfluenceMap

Megan Reilly Cayten, Head of Carbon Nature Fund, Climate Asset Management

#### 13:00 Lunch

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

- What does a credible transition plan look like?
- Are US companies embracing the concept of transition plans?
- What guidance do companies and investors need? Prescriptive vs high-level
- To what extent should climate lobbying activities be disclosed in transition plans?

Moderator: **Dominic Webb**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor** 

**Andreas Ross,** Head of New Product Research and Development, **ZAIS Group** 

**Joel Paque**, Head of Partnerships, US, **Climate Arc** 

**Jacob Hupart,** Co-Chair of ESG Practice, **Mintz Radhika Mehrotra**, Associate Director Capital Markets, **CDP** 

- What exactly are the rules around collaborative engagement in the US?
- All noise and no heat: do legal threats around antitrust carry any weight? If so, where are the lines which shouldn't be crossed?
- How much has the politicization of ESG stunted collective engagement in the US?
- How can investors defend themselves against accusations? What is best practice?

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

**Marcela Pinilla**, Director of Sustainable Investing, **Zevin** 

Claudia Martinez, Director of Research,
Access to Medicine Foundation
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

- Do companies have the data they need for mandatory climate reporting?
- Supporting scope 3 data requirements
- How is technology helping to meet the nature data challenge?
- What are the biggest gaps in supply chain data?

Moderator: **Manju Seal**, Former Head of Sustainable Finance and Capital Markets ESG Lead, **Bank of Montreal** 

# 14:35 - B2: Agriculture: Sustainability and food security

- How are US investors thinking about agriculture and sustainability?
- Is supporting food security compatible with financial institutions' net zero commitments?
- How is technology changing the agricultural sustainability landscape?
- Is regenerative agriculture a scalable solution?

Moderator: **Chris Janiec**, Americas Editor, **Agri Investor Sofia De La Parra**, Investor Outreach Manager, **FAIRR** 

**Samantha McCafferty**, Associate Director - Sustainable Investing, **Harvard Management Company** 

Paul Vozzella, Director, Americas, Asset Impact

**Greer Howard-Tabah**, Vice President, ESG, **Oaktree Capital Management** 

Lara Fornabaio, Senior Legal Researcher, Colombia Center on Sustainable Investment Matthew Corbett, Partner – Agriculture, Fiera Comox Björn Aarts, ESG Director, Rabo Investments

15:15 Short turnaround break

### 15:20 - A3: Water risk: An investors' guide

- Where are US companies most exposed to water risk?
- How should investors engage corporates on water?
- What tools and data are available to investors to assess water risk?
- How can the private sector help to address water shortages?

Moderator: **Chris Janiec**, Americas Editor, **Agri Investor** 

**Karen Sack**, Executive Director, **Ocean Risk** and **Resilience Action Alliance** 

**Saumya Mehrotra**, Product Management Team, **ISS STOXX** 

**Tom Ferguson**, Managing Partner, **Burnt Island Ventures** 

Matthew Diserio, Co-Founder & President, Water Asset Management (WAM)

# 15:20 – B3: Bond markets vs private credit: Financing the energy transition

- Are bond markets fit-for-purpose for financing the energy transition?
- SLBs and transition bonds: do they have a role in the US?
- Where can private credit fill the gaps in debt financing for the transition?
- How is the policy landscape impacting sustainability linked bond issuance in the US?

Moderator: **Dominic Webb**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor** 

**Jamison Friedland**, Senior Sustainability Analyst, **AXA IM** 

**Jamie Franco**, MD and Global Head of Sustainable Investment, **TCW Group** 

**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

- What role do securitized products play in supporting U.S. housing?
- How can issuers use the capital markets to allocate capital towards affordable housing?
- What disclosure considerations are at play?
- How do investors use these products to meet their clients' demands?

**Nick Sapirie,** Vice President, Single-Family Capital Markets, **Fannie Mae** 

Jamie Franco, MD and Global Head of Sustainable Investment, TCW Group

**Jim Egan**, Co-Head of Securitized Products Research, **Morgan Stanley** 

## Workshop B – Nature Investment

Megan Reilly Cayten, Head of Carbon Nature Fund, Climate Asset Management

George Kelly, CEO, Earth Recovery Partners (Hold)

# Workshop C - Investing in 2050

Investing has changed. Is changing. Will change. And the pace of change is accelerating exponentially.

- How are fundamental assumptions around investing, including methodology, metrics, technology, regulation, and community formation, changing?
- How is the pace of change in investing accelerating?
- How can we discuss the future of investing through thoughtexperiments and examine the issues shaping the next 25 years?
- What are the implications of technology, new investing theories, demographic shifts, space exploration, and increased longevity for investing?

Co-facilitator: **Doug Scott**, CEO & Co-founder, **Ethic** Co-facilitator: **Georgia Stewart**, CEO, **Tumelo** 

Co-facilitator: Adam Kanzer,

Head of Stewardship, Americas, **BNP Paribas** 

17:00 Networking drinks

18:00 End of day one

Day two

Wednesday 4 December

### 8:00 Networking breakfast

Stream A	Stream B
<ul> <li>9:00 - A4: Understanding supply chain sustainability risk: An investors' guide</li> <li>How are investors engaging with corporates on supply chain risk?</li> <li>Where are the biggest gaps in corporate supply chain data?</li> <li>How is regulation affecting corporate supply chain reporting?</li> <li>Which supply chain issues are most material for investors?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>9:00 - B4: Greenwashing vs greenhushing</li> <li>How are US corporates and investors navigating political and public scrutiny of sustainability?</li> <li>What are the implications of corporate greenhushing for investors?</li> <li>How have investors responded to the SEC's greenwashing crackdown?</li> <li>Moderator: Dominic Webb, Senior Reporter, Responsible Investor</li> </ul>
Moderator: <b>Gina Gambetta,</b> Senior Reporter, <b>Responsible Investor Patrick O'Connell,</b> Director of Responsible	Ekaterina Grigoryeva, Environment and Social Development Specialist (Global Lead, Financial Sector), The World Bank  Ashley McNamee, Managing Director, ESG,
Investing Research, AllianceBernstein  Adam Kanzer, Head of Stewardship, Americas, BNP Paribas	Andrew Lee, Managing Director, Managing Director – Global Head of Sustainable and Impact Investing, UBS Global Wealth
Serena Shi, Vice President, The Lightsmith Group	Management  Lance Dial, Partner, K&L Gates
Gwen Le Berre, Head of Responsible Investment, Parametric Porfolio Associates	
09:40 Short turnaround break	
09:45 – A5: Governance risk: Board competence and capabilities	09:45 – B5: Real estate and climate risk

# responsible investor

### **RI USA 2024**

- How are investors approaching governance risk?
- How do governance failures impact investor confidence and company valuation?
- What are the emerging standards for governance transparency and reporting?
- How can companies improve their disclosure practices to build trust with investors?
- Al board competence

Moderator: **Matt Moscardi**, Head of Board Moneyball, **Free Float Analytics** 

**Marcel Bucsescu**, Vice President, Strategic Engagement, **NACD** 

- Decarbonising real estate a missed low-hanging fruit opportunity for investors?
- Real estate climate engagement
- Uninsurable assets: what does this mean for real estate investors?
- How are US real estate developers approaching the net zero challenge?

**Marina Severinovsky**, Head of Sustainability North America, **Schroders** 

**Brenden McEneaney,** Senior Vice President, **JLL** 

Tom Idzal, Head of Americas, GRESB

**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 in 2024: what methods and frameworks are investors using?
- Net-zero commitments and interim climate investing goals: are investors on track to meet them?
- The US renewable energy market is continuing to boom the IRA has been referred to as the US green taxonomy: to what extent is this translating to opportunities for sustainability focussed investors in public markets?

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

### 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?



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

**Aeisha Magstani**, Senior Portfolio Manager, Sustainable Investment & Stewardship Strategies, **CALSTRS** 

Moderator: **Dominic Webb**, 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?
- Will the file-first mentality of shareholders shift towards a more engagement/dialoguefocused approach?
- Will other companies follow Exxon's lead?
- How can shareholder proposals be used most effectively in a sustainability context?

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

Sanford Lewis, 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 in 2024: Operating effectively within a polarized environment

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

Moderator: **Dominic Webb**, Senior Reporter, **Responsible Investor Fran Seegull**, President, **U.S. Impact Investing Alliance Colin Melvin**, Founder & Managing Director, **Arkadiko Partners Deborah Ng**, Head of ESG and Sustainability, **GMO (Hold)** 

15:00 End of conference

