



responsible
investor

RI USA 2023

RI USA 2023 agenda

Thriving in the rapidly evolving US sustainable finance landscape

Convene at One Liberty Plaza, New York | 15-16 November 2023

Day one – Wednesday 15th November

8:00 Registration

8:45 Welcome remarks from Responsible Investor

Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, **Responsible Investor**

8:55 Opening remarks

Daniel Crowley, Partner, **K&L Gates LLP**

9:10 Plenary 1: Net zero: Interim targets and external challenges

- What challenges will financial institutions face in meeting the first round of net zero targets?
- Could net zero targets encourage divestment from higher-emitting sectors and jurisdictions?
- Is meeting short-term net zero targets compatible with financing the energy transition?
- How is the role of GFANZ in driving net zero evolving?

Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, **Responsible Investor**

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/

PEI

Speakers:

Curtis D. Ravenel, Senior Advisor to the Co-Chair & Vice Chair, **GFANZ**

Simon Glynn, Founder, **Zero Ideas**

10:00 Plenary 2: Setting the baseline: Disclosure standards and US corporates

- Will the ISSB standards meet investor expectations and requirements?
- What level of uptake of ISSB is expected in the US?
- How are corporates preparing for SEC and/or ISSB reporting?
- How can regulators and standard setters alleviate the reporting burdens on companies?

Moderator: Paul Verney, Features Writer, **Responsible Investor**

Speakers:

Kerstin Lopatta, Professor of Accounting, Auditing and Sustainability, **University of Hamburg**

Neil Stewart, Director of Corporate Outreach, **IFRS**

10:50 *Networking break*

11:20 Keynote 1

John Skjervem, CIO, **Utah Retirement Systems**

Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, **Responsible Investor**

11:40 Plenary 3: Fiduciary duty in the 21st century

- Has increased consideration of environmental, social and governance risks shifted understanding of fiduciary duty?
- Could investors have a legal case to answer in relation to fiduciary duty and ESG?
- The case against anti-ESG: studies on losses by limiting investment universes
- Can any values-based, ethical or responsible investing be compatible with fiduciary duty?

Moderator: Steven Rothstein, Managing Director, Accelerator, **Ceres**

For program information:

Joana Frade

joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:

Claire Porter

claire@pei.group

For registration queries:

Customer Services

customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/

PEI

Speakers:

Sara Murphy, Chief strategy officer, **The Shareholder Commons**

Tim Doyle, Senior Advisor, **Bipartisan Policy Center**

Pedro Guazo, Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of assets,
United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

12:30 Plenary 4: Engaging with nature: best practice for investors

- TNFD: what does it mean for corporates and investors?
- Tools and methodologies for assessing biodiversity risk to portfolios
- The importance of considering the nature-climate nexus
- Nature Action 100: can collective engagement move the needle on biodiversity?

Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, **Responsible Investor**

Speakers:

Mirtha Kastropeli, Sector Head for Consumer in Corporate Ratings, **ISS ESG**

Dinah Koehler, Director of ESG Research, **FactSet**

Naomi English, Managing Director, Head of Climate Strategy, **MSCI**

13:20 Lunch

Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
<p>14:20 – A1: Physical climate risk and resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do investors have the necessary data to understand and act on climate resilience? • What are the barriers to channelling private sector finance into climate resilience? • How can policy promote private finance flows into the sector? 	<p>14:20 – B1: Will antitrust kill collective engagement?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is big better or are smaller targeted engagements more effective? • Are investors being put off signing up by increased scrutiny from lawmakers? • Do antitrust and competition 	<p>14:20 – C1: The power of nature: Understanding biodiversity risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity as a systemic risk: how are central banks approaching the challenge? • Transition risk: how can investors prepare for biodiversity regulation? • Measuring biodiversity risk across portfolios:

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where is climate resilience financing most urgently needed in the US? <p>Moderator: Dave Jones, Director, Climate Risk Initiative, UC Berkeley School of Law's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment</p> <p>Speakers: Laurie Schoeman, White House Senior Climate Resilience Advisor, Executive Office of the President, Council for Environmental Quality Cary Krosinsky, Co-Founder, Sustainable Finance Institute</p>	<p>investigations pose a credible threat?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can and should the largest collaborative initiatives move forward in this environment? <p>Speakers: Sarah Bernstein, Head of Sustainability, Meketa Investment Group</p>	<p>methodologies, tools and barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping corporates understand the relevance of biodiversity loss to business models <p>Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, Responsible Investor</p>
<p>15:05 Networking break</p>		
<p>15:25 – A2: Methane: Data, risk and engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are investors doing enough to understand portfolio methane emissions? What tools and methodologies can investors access to understand methane emissions? 	<p>15:25 – B2: Proxy voting: Evolution and advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have E&S shareholder proposals become more prescriptive? How has the anti-ESG backlash impacted proxy voting and proxy advice? Asset owners are increasingly setting their own voting 	<p>15:25 – C2: ESG bonds: Building ambition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the labelled bond market been impacted by the anti-ESG movement? What sectors, labels and issuers provide the best prospects for growth in 2024?

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should investors be engaging with corporates on methane? • The policy and regulatory outlook on methane emissions <p>Moderator: Andrew Howell, Director of Investor Influence, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)</p> <p>Speakers: Sofía De La Parra, Senior ESG Analyst, FAIRR Initiative Lucas Schoeppner, Manager, Sustainable Investment Strategies, Wespath</p>	<p>policies. How does that affect manager engagement with companies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the wake of the Exxon and Engine No 1 case, is ESG becoming a board vote issue? <p>Moderator: Georgia Stewart, CEO, Tumelo</p> <p>Speakers: Heidi Welsh, Executive Director, Sustainable Investments Institute (Si2) Jessica Wirth Strine, Managing Partner & CEO, Sustainable Governance Partners Jerry Theodorou, Director, R Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do US muni bonds fit into the ESG-labelled market? • SLBs vs transition bonds: which is more effective in driving decarbonisation? <p>Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, Responsible Investor</p> <p>Speakers: Lisa Bozzelli, Senior Director, Multifamily Capital Markets, Fannie Mae</p>
--	--	---

16:10 Networking break

<p>16:30 – A3: M&A and ESG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the evaluation of ESG considerations in M&A transactions evolving? • ESG in M&A agreements: will "Weinstein clauses" be used to address other ESG issues? • Due diligence and valuation: are there examples of target valuations impacted by ESG credentials? • The flip side: does the ESG backlash make high emitters and companies 	<p>16:30 – B3: Climate lobbying: Behind closed doors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing corporates' governance of climate policy advocacy: what is best practice? • Have investors been tough enough on climate lobbying? • How and when should investors escalate on climate lobbying? • What is misaligned with Paris when it comes to lobbying? 	<p>16:30 – C3: ESG data: The AI challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the use cases for AI in sustainable investing? • Could AI help identify greenwashing? • What are the risks associated with AI use in ESG? • What guidelines or standards do investors need and who should be responsible for them?
---	---	---

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/



<p>with poor ESG credentials attractive targets?</p>	<p>Moderator: Paul Verney, Features Writer, Responsible Investor</p> <p>Speakers: Tracey Rembert, Shareholder Engagement Specialist, ICCR</p>	<p>Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, Responsible Investor</p>
--	---	--

17:15 Networking drinks reception

18:45 End of Day One

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/



Day Two – Thursday 16th November

8:00 Registration and refreshments

Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
<p>9:00 – A4: Racial equity and engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is best practice in engaging on racial justice evolving? • What role do racial justice audits play in the stewardship toolkit? • What lessons have been learned from the first generation of racial justice audits? • Has the anti-ESG movement affected investor appetite for engagement on racial issues? 	<p>9:00 – B4: Deep dive workshop: SEC climate disclosure rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges do the SEC's climate disclosure rules present for corporates? • How do the SEC's rules fit with other standards, ISSB and ESRS? • Have the SEC's rules been blunted by the threat of legal action and ESG backlash? • Are the climate rules a precursor to standards on other environmental and/or social issues? • Will the SEC's proposed ESG fund naming rule prevent greenwashing? <p>Speakers: Dan Byrd, ESG & Climate Industry Practice Lead, Moody's</p>	<p>9:00 – C4: US banks and the energy transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are the opportunities for banks in financing the US energy transition? • Has the anti-ESG movement impacted banks' ability to provide green finance? • What are the implications of net zero for investment banking? • How should investors engage banks on transition financing? <p>Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, Responsible Investor</p>
<p>9:45 Networking break</p>		
<p>10:00 – A5: Workers rights in the US and abroad</p>	<p>10:00 – B5: E&S proposals: A blunt instrument?</p>	<p>10:00 – C5: Auditing and assurance and the ESG disclosure push</p>

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/

PEI

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the return of unionisation in the US mean for investors? • How are investors addressing workers' rights from an ESG perspective a) in the US, b) globally? • How can investors manage reputational and regulatory risks from labour issues in global supply chains? • Is workers' rights an issue that can cross the ESG political divide? <p>Moderator: Alison Taylor, Clinical Professor, NYU Stern School of Business</p> <p>Speakers: Lauren Lutic-Muusse, Investor Engagement Lead, World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the implications of the recent surge in numbers of E&S proposals for investors and corporates? • Are E&S proposals effective in driving change? • How do shareholder proposals fit into the investor engagement toolkit? • Will investors fight for the right to file proposals if Republicans seek to weaken shareholder rights? <p>Moderator: Paul Verney, Features Writer, Responsible Investor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are auditors gearing up for the expected surge in ESG reporting? • What are the key challenges in assuring sustainability information? • The growing role of materiality assessments in ESG reporting • How valuable is limited assurance to investors? <p>Speakers: Willie Botha, Technical Director, IAASB</p>
---	--	---

10:45 Networking break

<p>11:15 – A6: The evolving role of benchmarks in ESG investing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is 'standardisation and transparency' of ESG benchmarks important? • Should there be minimum ESG requirements for 	<p>11:15 – B6: Corporate transition plans: credibility, consistency, scrutiny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What constitutes a credible transition plan in 2023? • Are investors providing consistent messaging to companies with their voting? 	<p>11:15 – C6: ESG litigation: the next battlefield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the risks of ESG litigation for investors and corporates • How can and should investors leverage
---	---	--

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/



<p>broad market benchmarks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should ESG funds use broad market benchmarks for construction and reporting? <p>Speakers: Carolyn Eagle, Head of Americas, Sustainable Equity Index Product, FTSE Russell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say on Climate: does opposition mean the mechanism is working? Rebaselining: will it become a standard ask from investors? <p>Speakers: Patricia Hudson, Executive Director, GFANZ Radhika Mehrotra, Associate Director of Capital Markets, CDP Andreas Ross, Head of New Product Research and Development, ZAIS</p>	<p>litigation to achieve sustainability goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons from key recent and upcoming cases Litigation and the anti-ESG movement <p>Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, Responsible Investor</p>
---	---	--

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Keynote 2

Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, **Responsible Investor**

13:20 Plenary 5: The long arm of the EU: How will European regulation affect US investors?

- Taking stock of EU regulation: has SFDR improved sustainability disclosures for US asset managers with funds covered by the rules?
- What challenges will investors and corporates face in navigating the EU approach alongside incoming SEC rules?
- Are US companies prepared for the EU's corporate sustainability reporting directive (CSRD)?
- Are proposed EU due diligence disclosure rules (CSDDD) fit for purpose? Will they provide the data US investors need?

Moderator: Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, **Responsible Investor**

Speakers:

Annette Capretta, Chief Counsel, **ICI Global**

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/



14:05 *Networking break*

14:20 Plenary 6: Shifting the green centre of gravity: the IRA, the US and Europe

- Has the US taken the top spot globally for climate investments by focusing on real economy policies over disclosures?
- The IRA and investor allocation strategies: the outlook for public and private markets
- How effective have previous US policy initiatives been in boosting climate investment?
- Can the IRA help to bridge the political divide on sustainability?

Moderator: Sonja Gibbs, Head of Sustainable Finance, **Institute of International Finance**

15:05 Plenary 7: Navigating the ESG backlash: the challenges for investors

- How are asset owners responding to the anti-ESG movement?
- Who is paying the price for blacklisting: financial firms or public sector funds?
- Will asset managers be able to avoid taking sides on ESG?
- ESG communications: from greenwashing to green hushing

Moderator: Robert Eccles, Professor, Saïd Business School, **University of Oxford**

Speakers:

Colleen Davis, Delaware State Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer, **Government of Delaware**

Eli Lehrer, President, **R Street**

Ryan McQueeney, Manager, Investments Marketing and Communications, **Wespath**

Timothy Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, **ICCR**

15:50 Closing remarks

Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, **Responsible Investor**

16:00 End of conference

For program information:
Joana Frade
joana.f@pei.group

For sponsorship opportunities:
Claire Porter
claire@pei.group

For registration queries:
Customer Services
customerservices@peimedia.com

responsible-investor.com/ri-usa/

PEI