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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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**

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**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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**

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**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**

Aeisha Mastagni, Portfolio manager, **CalSTRS**

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

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can policy promote private finance flows into the sector?</li> <li>• Where is climate resilience financing most urgently needed in the US?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dave Jones, Director, Climate Risk Initiative, <b>UC Berkeley School of Law's Center for Law, Energy &amp; the Environment</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Laurie Schoeman, White House Senior Climate Resilience Advisor, Executive Office of the President, <b>Council for Environmental Quality</b> Cary Krosinsky, Co-Founder, <b>Sustainable Finance Institute</b></p>	<p>investigations pose a credible threat?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can and should the largest collaborative initiatives move forward in this environment?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jérôme Tagger, Chief Executive Officer, <b>Preventable Surprises</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Sarah Bernstein, Head of Sustainability, <b>Meketa Investment Group</b></p> <p>Denise Hearn, Senior Fellow, <b>Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment</b></p>	<p>methodologies, tools and barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping corporates understand the relevance of biodiversity loss to business models</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, <b>Responsible Investor</b></p>
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15:05 Networking break

<p><b>15:25 – A2: Methane: Data, risk and engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are investors doing enough to understand portfolio methane emissions?</li> <li>• What tools and methodologies can investors access to</li> </ul>	<p><b>15:25 – B2: Proxy voting: Evolution and advice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have E&amp;S shareholder proposals become more prescriptive?</li> <li>• How has the anti-ESG backlash impacted proxy voting and proxy advice?</li> </ul>	<p><b>15:25 – C2: ESG bonds: Building ambition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has the labelled bond market been impacted by the anti-ESG movement?</li> <li>• What sectors, labels and issuers provide the best</li> </ul>
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<p>understand methane emissions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How should investors be engaging with corporates on methane?</li> <li>• The policy and regulatory outlook on methane emissions</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Andrew Howell, Director of Investor Influence, <b>Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Sofía De La Parra, Senior ESG Analyst, <b>FAIRR Initiative</b> Lucas Schoeppner, Manager, Sustainable Investment Strategies, <b>Wespath</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asset owners are increasingly setting their own voting policies. How does that affect manager engagement with companies?</li> <li>• In the wake of the Exxon and Engine No 1 case, is ESG becoming a board vote issue?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Georgia Stewart, CEO, <b>Tumelo</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Heidi Welsh, Executive Director, <b>Sustainable Investments Institute (Si2)</b> Jessica Wirth Strine, Managing Partner &amp; CEO, <b>Sustainable Governance Partners</b> Jerry Theodorou, Director, <b>R Street</b></p>	<p>prospects for growth in 2024?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where do US muni bonds fit into the ESG-labelled market?</li> <li>• SLBs vs transition bonds: which is more effective in driving decarbonisation?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, <b>Responsible Investor</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Lisa Bozzelli, Senior Director, Multifamily Capital Markets, <b>Fannie Mae</b></p>
<p>16:10 Networking break</p>		

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<p><b>16:30 – A3: Climate lobbying: Behind closed doors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing corporates' governance of climate policy advocacy: what is best practice?</li> <li>Have investors been tough enough on climate lobbying?</li> <li>How and when should investors escalate on climate lobbying?</li> <li>What is misaligned with Paris when it comes to lobbying?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Paul Verney, Features Writer, <b>Responsible Investor</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Tracey Rembert, Shareholder Engagement Specialist, <b>ICCR</b> Kendra Haven, Director, <b>Influence map</b></p>	<p><b>16:30 – B3: Gender and investment: bridging the gap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are investors doing enough on gender?</li> <li>What metrics are most relevant for investors?</li> <li>How can investors effectively engage corporates on gender?</li> <li>How does gender fit into the broader DE&amp;I landscape?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Diana van Maasdijk, Co-Founder &amp; CEO, <b>Equileap</b></p>	<p><b>16:30 – C3: ESG data: The AI challenge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the use cases for AI in sustainable investing?</li> <li>Could AI help identify greenwashing?</li> <li>What are the risks associated with AI use in ESG?</li> <li>What guidelines or standards do investors need and who should be responsible for them?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, <b>Responsible Investor</b></p>
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**17:15 Networking drinks reception**

**18:45 End of Day One**

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## Day Two – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November

8:00 Registration and refreshments

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

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<p><b>10:00 – A5: Workers rights in the US and abroad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does the return of unionisation in the US mean for investors?</li> <li>• How are investors addressing workers' rights from an ESG perspective a) in the US, b) globally?</li> <li>• How can investors manage reputational and regulatory risks from labour issues in global supply chains?</li> <li>• Is workers' rights an issue that can cross the ESG political divide?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Alison Taylor, Clinical Professor, <b>NYU Stern School of Business</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Lauren Lutic-Muusse, Investor Engagement Lead, <b>World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)</b></p> <p>Chavi Keeney Nana, Professor from practice, <b>University of Michigan Law School</b></p>	<p><b>10:00 – B5: E&amp;S proposals: A blunt instrument?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the implications of the recent surge in numbers of E&amp;S proposals for investors and corporates?</li> <li>• Are E&amp;S proposals effective in driving change?</li> <li>• How do shareholder proposals fit into the investor engagement toolkit?</li> <li>• Will investors fight for the right to file proposals if Republicans seek to weaken shareholder rights?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Paul Verney, Features Writer, <b>Responsible Investor</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Danielle Fugere, President &amp; Chief Counsel, <b>As You Sow</b></p>	<p><b>10:00 – C5: Auditing and assurance and the ESG disclosure push</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are auditors gearing up for the expected surge in ESG reporting?</li> <li>• What are the key challenges in assuring sustainability information?</li> <li>• The growing role of materiality assessments in ESG reporting</li> <li>• How valuable is limited assurance to investors?</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Shivaram Rajgopal, Kester and Byrnes Professor of Accounting and Auditing, <b>Columbia Business School</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Willie Botha, Technical Director, <b>IAASB</b></p>
<p>10:45 Networking break</p>		

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<p><b>11:15 – A6: The evolving role of benchmarks in ESG investing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is 'standardisation and transparency' of ESG benchmarks important?</li> <li>• Should there be minimum ESG requirements for broad market benchmarks?</li> <li>• Should ESG funds use broad market benchmarks for construction and reporting?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Carolyn Eagle, Head of Americas, Sustainable Equity Index Product, <b>FTSE Russell</b></p>	<p><b>11:15 – B6: Corporate transition plans: credibility, consistency, scrutiny</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What constitutes a credible transition plan in 2023?</li> <li>• Are investors providing consistent messaging to companies with their voting?</li> <li>• Say on Climate: does opposition mean the mechanism is working?</li> <li>• Rebaselining: will it become a standard ask from investors?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Patricia Hudson, Executive Director, <b>GFANZ</b> Radhika Mehrotra, Associate Director of Capital Markets, <b>CDP</b> Andreas Ross, Head of New Product Research and Development, <b>ZAIS</b></p>	<p><b>11:15 – C6: ESG litigation: the next battlefield</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the risks of ESG litigation for investors and corporates</li> <li>• How can and should investors leverage litigation to achieve sustainability goals?</li> <li>• Lessons from key recent and upcoming cases</li> <li>• Litigation and the anti-ESG movement</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Lucy Fitzgeorge-Parker, Editor, <b>Responsible Investor</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Rob Ryan, Founder, CEO and Head of Impact, <b>Aristata Capital</b></p>
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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?

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- 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**

Andreas Hoepner, Professor of Operational Risk, Banking & Finance, **University College Dublin**

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:**

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Eli Lehrer, President, **R Street**

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

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

#### **16:05 Closing remarks**

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

#### **16:15 End of conference**

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