

Financial Actions: Nov. 11



Sara M. Alvarado (speaker)

Sara joined the Institute for Sustainable Finance (ISF) as Executive Director in April 2021. The ISF is part of the Smith School of Business, Queen's University. It brings together academia, the private sector and government to shape Canada's sustainable finance. She is former Head of Risk & CAMLO at the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) in Toronto. Prior to that, she worked at the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg, with a focus on catalyzing private sector investments into green infrastructure in policy priority sectors. Before moving to the EU, Sara spent 25 years in the investment industry in Canada, including 15 years in Private Placements and Infrastructure as Managing Director at Manulife Financial and Director and at Sun Life, plus 10 years at Scotia Capital in Equity Research and Finance Regulatory Reporting. Sara is current Co-Chair at the World Economic Forum's Infrastructure 4.0 Initiative and is Mentor at the InfraChallenge innovation competition, a G20 initiative. She is a Board Member of various organizations (Cambridge Memorial Hospital, the CFA Society Toronto & Cambridge Symphony Orchestra. She is a CFA charter holder with an MBA from the Edinburgh Business School, and has attended executive programs at Harvard Business School. She is fluent in English and Spanish and conversant in French.

Global Actions: Nov. 18



Diana Fox Carney (moderator)

Diana is a global climate policy expert working to accelerate the world's transition to net zero greenhouse gases. She sits of the Advisory Board of growth equity fund, *BeyondNetZero*, and Canadian ag-tech company, *Terramera*. She is a Strategic Advisor at Willis Towers Watson and a Senior Advisor on climate at Eurasia Group. She began her career with the UK Government in Zanzibar, then spent time as a Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute working especially on rural livelihoods and asset-based

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approaches to development. She has also held leadership positions at Canada 2020 and the Institute for Public Policy Research (UK) and was until recently the Executive Director at Pi Capital in London. A frequent webinar host and contributor to the work of Corporate Knights, she is the founder of the website net-negative.tech and a current or past board member of several not-for-profit organizations in the climate and development space.



Catherine Abreu (panelist)

Catherine is the Founder & Executive Director of *Destination Zero*, a new organization focused on climate action and the global energy transition. She was appointed as one of 14 Advisors to *Canada's Net-Zero Advisory Body* in early 2021, and sits on the advisory council for the *Canadian Institute for Climate Choices*. Catherine served as the Executive Director of *Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat (CAN-Rac) Canada* from 2016 to mid-2021. Canada's primary network of organizations working on climate change and energy issues, CAN-Rac is a coalition of more than 120 organizations operating from coast to coast to coast. She joined CAN-Rac Canada after five years

spearheading the energy and climate programs at the *Ecology Action Centre*, one of Atlantic Canada's largest and longest-running environmental advocacy organizations. In 2020 Catherine was awarded the Jack Layton Progress Prize for her international leadership on climate policy and action and her transformative work as Executive Director of CAN-Rac. She was named one of the 100 most influential people in international climate policy by *Apolitical* in 2019, and inducted into *Canada's Clean50* in 2018.

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Ralph Torrie (panelist)

Ralph is Director of Research for *Corporate Knights*, an investment research and publishing firm. He is an internationally recognized analyst and communicator in the field of energy and environmental systems. Ralph has been involved in international climate policy since 1988, when he organized the energy workshop at the *Conference on the Changing Atmosphere* and drafted the world's first GHG reduction target, the so-called "*Toronto Target*." In the 1990s, he developed

conventions for local government climate change response strategies and co-invented software for supporting local government climate action planning that was translated into several languages and adopted around the world. He has a longstanding interest in sustainable energy futures and carried out Canada's first low carbon scenario analysis, the first such analysis done anywhere. In addition to founding the research and software development firm *Torrie Smith Associates*, Ralph has served as Assistant Coordinator of the *Energy Research Group of the United Nations University* and the *International Development Research Centre*, as Vice President of *ICF International*, and as Managing Director of *Navigant*, both publicly traded management consulting firms. He has numerous publications, has served on the Boards of several non-profit organizations, was a candidate for the Green Party in two federal elections, and lives in Cobourg, Ontario.



Yung Wu (panelist)

Yung is Chief Executive Officer of MaRS Discovery District, one of the world's largest innovation hubs, raising \$8.2B and generating \$5.6 B since 2008 while employing over 20,400 people in health, cleantech, fintech and other sectors. A serial entrepreneur and investor, Yung has built breakthrough scale-stage companies in enterprise software, mobile analytics and big data, media and entertainment, technology services and pharma drug development. He is co-founder of two not-for-

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profit organizations, the *Coalition of Innovation Leaders Against Racism*, and *DifferentIsCool*. Yung serves on several boards and like Catherine is a member of Canada's Net-Zero Advisory Body. Yung has been recognized as one of Canada's 'Top 40 under 40' and for leading one of the "50 Best Managed Private Companies" in the nation. Yung has a B.Sc. Computer Science, Economics and Mathematics from the University of Toronto and is a graduate of the Entrepreneurial Master's Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Young Presidents Organization, and the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Local Actions: November 25



Denny Manchee (moderator)

Denny Manchee brings 40 years of craft to her work as a journalist. Her career began in the cramped offices of *NOW* magazine in 1981, and she went on to CBC Radio in the Maritimes as a host/producer and then into magazines and the non-profit sector, holding senior staff positions at *Cottage Life*, *Today's Parent* and *Evergreen*. From 2012 to 2017, she was honoured to work for *Watershed* Magazine, first as a feature writer, then as editor. An award-winning writer, she is known for incisive questions, clear thinking and an ability to synthesize complex subjects into readable, engaging prose. Denny moved to a small farm in the Northumberland Hills in 2011, and in 2018 relocated to Cobourg. She is actively involved in the community, on the board of both the Cobourg Ecology Garden and the Oriana Singers, as well as a core volunteer with Blue Dot Northumberland.

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Steve Lapp (panelist)

Steve has designed, built, researched and taught renewable energy systems, technology and policy since 1982. A graduate engineer, his career has ranged from Stelco blast furnaces, transit vehicles for Urban Transportation Development Corporation, fuel cells and batteries for electric vehicles with Alcan and eventually a global consultant designing renewable energy systems on and off-grid. He pioneered teaching Sustainable Energy Systems Engineering and Technology at St Lawrence College after teaching part time at Queen's University. He retired in 2018. He also walks the talk, living in house with 9kW of grid connected photovoltaics with a solar-thermal assisted heat pump and water heating system. He had a 2012 Nissan Leaf EV and now has a Chevy 2019 Bolt DV.



Craig Ballard (panelist)

Craig is the CEO of Elexicon Group - a company devoted to helping private and public organizations across Canada significantly improve sustainability and reduce energy consumption in their facilities. Elexicon Group is also a leading provider of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Canada. He has commercialized new technologies and innovations across multiple industries and since 2010 and has been focused on the energy and utilities sector where he pioneered the use of energy storage systems for off grid applications and helped accelerate the transition to electric vehicles and equipment. He had one of the first Tesla's in Canada and has driven an electric car exclusively since 2015. He is a UBC graduate.

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Judy Smith (panelist)

Judy has spent her career in environmental work and is well known throughout Northumberland County. She is a Board member of Sustainable Cobourg and active in Blue dot and the Northumberland Electric Vehicle Society. She was the first Environmental Officer for Northumberland County where she was tasked with developing and helping to implement Climate Action plans in consultation with municipalities, including the town of Cobourg. Prior to this, she worked as an environmental consultant with Torrie Smith Associates specializing in energy, climate change and environmental assessment. She was a member of the Joint Environmental Advisory Committee for Environment Canada & Statistics Canada that produced the first State of the Environment Report for Canada. She is a graduate of the University of Waterloo in Environmental Studies with graduate studies in Natural Resource Management.