CLIMATE WEEK NYC

CLIMATE GROUP

The Hub Live Agenda

Monday & Tuesday September 21-22, 2026

The Hub Live

The Hub Live, Climate Week NYC's interactive program on Monday and Tuesday, brings together heads of government, business leaders, and experts to delve deeper into some of the world's most urgent climate obstacles, policies, and solutions. In three flagship plenary sessions and dozens of breakouts, side events, and roundtables, they will unpack issues that are captured in six streams:

American Innovation and Abundance

The US is entering a new era of decarbonization, adaptation and local, national, and global cooperation on climate. This first of its kind, day-long event will serve as a focal point to elevate and explore the next generation of US leadership in innovation, investment, and resilience.

Energy

Energy sits at the center of the transition; shaping security, competitiveness, and growth. As demand rises from electrification and AI, the challenge is no longer just generating clean power, but delivering it reliably, affordably, at scale and pace. From grid modernization and storage to market design and system flexibility, the focus must shift to building resilient, future-ready energy mix which reduces reliance, manages risk, and powers the economies of today, and tomorrow.

Food

Food security must be treated with the same urgency as energy security, but fragmented approaches risk leaving the system exposed. Climate shocks, shifting crop priorities, and rising import volatility are driving up both the cost and energy footprint of what we eat. From regenerative agriculture and deforestation to protein diversification and food waste, the focus is on scaling solutions that strengthen supply chains, cut emissions, and secure resilient food systems.

Leadership and Green Growth

Driving the transition at pace requires bold leadership, smart strategy, and collaborative action. From demonstrating the business case for climate action and scaling solutions to developing innovative finance models and partnerships, we must mobilise capital, unlock ROI, and create frameworks that accelerate the transition. The aim is to turn climate ambition into growth, competitiveness, and measurable impact, ensuring that leadership, strategy, and collaboration deliver results for both business and society.

Nature and Health

Nature and human health are deeply interconnected, underpinning resilient economies and societies. As climate impacts intensify, putting ecosystems, biodiversity, water systems, and public health under pressure, protecting and restoring nature is not just mitigation, it's about creating healthier, more resilient communities. The priority is scaling the solutions that deliver measurable benefits for both people and the planet.

Transport and Industry

Transport and heavy industry are at the heart of the global emissions challenge; but they're also part of the solution. From electrification and clean fuels to green construction and circular supply chains, we must reimagine how we move goods and people, build and manufacture at scale. The goal is clear; cut emissions at scale, unlock growth and turn low-carbon innovation into competitive advantage.

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The Hub Live Agenda
Monday & Tuesday September 21-22, 2026

American Innovation and Abundance | Energy | Food | Leadership and Green Growth | Nature and Health | Transport and Industry

Day 1 – Monday, September 21

Flagship One: 1:30 – 3:00pm

Blue Room

The challenge – navigating a world in flux

Across the world, leaders are navigating a rapidly shifting landscape. 2026 saw the worst energy crisis of our time, driving up the cost of living and placing real strain on households, businesses and public finances. At the same time, disrupted supply chains are pushing up costs and slowing down delivery, while climate impacts, from extreme heat to flooding, are exacerbating the pressure and exposing age-old vulnerabilities.

The challenges are interconnected, reinforcing one another and making progress harder to sustain. The challenge isn't setting ambition, but delivering in a world where economic, climate and geopolitical pressures are deeply intertwined. In this moment of crisis and opportunity, what do we need to do to implement change at pace and scale?

Networking Lunch & The Hub Live Registration

12:30 – 1:30pm

Welcome

1:30pm

Host:

- Ginger Zee**, Chief Meteorologist & Chief Climate Correspondent, ABC News**

Panel:

Strait talk, reality check: how do we keep the lights on in an uncertain world?

1:40pm

Energy security is back at the center of decision-making. Supply is tightening. Geopolitical tension is escalating. But there is hope. In some markets, renewables are meeting all new demand, though this progress remains uneven and far from system wide. At the same time, innovation is creating new flexibility within existing energy systems, unlocking capacity through smarter buildings, demand-side technologies and more efficient use of available energy. Together, these developments are reshaping how energy security can be achieved.

Leaders are now operating across two systems at once, a legacy fossil-based system that still carries the load, and a clean system that is scaling but not yet fully in place. Managing both is becoming harder. If we move too slowly to transition, risk deepens but if we move too fast, systems strain. For business and policymakers, this is now a question of execution: how do we turn clean energy momentum and system innovation into real energy security?

- What will it take to ensure clean power scales fast enough to strengthen energy security and where is this already happening?
- What kind of transformation is required to deliver energy security and decarbonization at speed, and are current strategies anywhere close?
- Where should leaders be willing to take the biggest hit right now; price, pace, political capital, or reliability, to move the transition forward?

Speakers:

- Damilola Ogunbiyi, **CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and Co-Chair of UN-Energy, Sustainable Energy for All**
- David Calabrese, **Executive Vice President, Daikin U.S. Corporation**

Moderated by Ed Crooks, **Vice Chair Americas and host of Energy Gang podcast, Wood Mackenzie**

In conversation:

Turning the tide on water bankruptcy: the risk we can't ignore

2:10pm

Water systems around the world are under pressure, with direct implications for business operations, supply chains, and long-term growth. The United Nations 'Global Water Bankruptcy' report clearly outlines this is no longer a short-term crisis, but a deeper, structural challenge.

So, what needs to change? From how we manage water, to how we value it; this moment calls for faster, more coordinated action. Where can progress happen now and how can businesses to outrun the risk?

Speakers:

- Prof. Kaveh Madani, **Director of the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health**
- Sherry Madera, **CEO, CDP**

Panel:

The heat is on – can business keep up?

2:20pm

In 2023, UN Secretary-General António Guterres declared the era of "global boiling" had arrived. Since then, extreme heat has disrupted businesses, strained infrastructure, and put growing pressure on workers, supply chains, and critical systems. The recent energy shock showed how quickly economies can be disrupted when essential systems come under strain. But the challenge ahead is likely to be broader, more physical and more persistent. Heat is no longer a future climate risk. It is a business reality.

Yet many organizations still treat extreme heat as a short-term operational issue rather than a strategic business challenge. As temperatures rise and heatwaves become more frequent, the gap between physical reality and business preparedness continues to grow.

In conversation:

From bodega to boardroom: how do we connect climate to community?

2:50pm

Climate has become increasingly polarized. Opposing sides of the debate aren't just contesting policy, but the science that defines our planetary boundaries. Progress risks being lost in division and fatigue.

There's a need to reset the narrative, recognizing policy decisions such as renewables expansion, EV mandates and community resilience are pathways to prosperity, security, and health.
How do we translate climate ambition into action that communities can see, feel and trust?

Networking break

3:00 – 3:30pm

Transport and Industry

Autonomous cities: building networks for mobility at scale

3:30 – 4:20pm

Orange Room

Autonomous vehicles are among the first forms of physical AI beginning to reach real-world scale, already reshaping how people move through cities.

Autonomous ride-hail is expanding into a true commercial transportation service, extending the reach of existing networks, and creating new possibilities for cleaner, more reliable, and accessible mobility. Reaching city scale, however, will require more than continued advances in vehicles, software, and AI.

Cities and industry must also deliver the land, power, permitting, and infrastructure networks needed to support fleets that run continuously and serve thousands of passengers every day. AV fleet hubs are central to building that infrastructure layer — the power, charging and operating capacity that let autonomous fleets run reliably at the scale cities will need.

Speakers:

- Frank Reig, **CEO, Voltera**

Energy

Harnessing collaborative action to accelerate energy efficiency

3:30 – 4:20pm

Red Room

Across sectors and geographies, companies are already investing in energy efficiency, electrification, cooling, flexibility and decarbonization, even as political uncertainty and competing economic priorities test the pace of climate action. Individual companies are taking action. The opportunity is how those individual actions can be harnessed into a collective force that gives governments, investors and markets the confidence to move faster.

Run in partnership with CLASP, RMI and Climate Group, this session will explore how collaborative action between business, civil society, philanthropy and policy leaders can be harnessed to accelerate climate and energy efficiency progress at scale. It will examine what's possible when private sector action moves from isolated commitments to coordinated market signals, and how non-government actors can help unlock the next wave of climate ambition.

Join us for a first look at emerging thinking from a new collaboration focused on strengthening energy efficiency through corporate commitments, policy ambition and market transformation.

Speakers:

- Clay Stranger, **VP of Programs, Sequoia**
- Lena Hansen, **Chief Program Officer, RMI**

Nature and Health

3:30 – 4:20pm

Green Room

Leadership and Green Growth

The age of permacrisis: how can governments keep up?

3:30 – 4:20pm

Blue Room

Governments are up against a myriad of compounding risks that have a deep impact on their communities. They're facing climate-driven shocks, geopolitical instability, supply chain disruptions, and infrastructure vulnerabilities that are shifting operating conditions for governments around the world. Yet for all the scientific urgency around climate and resilience, many institutions responsible for ensuring national security, energy security, food security, safe homes and healthy populations remain insufficiently equipped or prepared to act. This session brings together government and private sector leaders to explore how governments can build resilience in an age of permacrisis.

Speakers:

- Lt Gen. Richard Nugee**, CB CVO CBE, Former Chief of Defence People, Ministry of Defence, UK**
- Robyn Scott**, Co-Founder and CEO, Apolitical**
- Catherine McKenna**, Chair, UN High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities**

Moderated by Lisa Witter**, Executive Chair, Better Politics Foundation**

Transport and Industry

Unlocking Grid Capacity for Electrified Road Transport

4:30 – 5:20pm

Orange Room

Transport electrification is accelerating across global markets, driven by corporate commitments, industrial policy and growing demand for cleaner transport. Yet as fleets electrify at scale, the electricity system is becoming one of the defining challenges - and opportunities - of the transition.

The question is no longer whether we should electrify transport, but how we build an electricity system capable of supporting rapid growth in electric vehicles while maintaining affordability, reliability and resilience.

This Hub Live session will convene senior leaders from utilities, business, technology providers, government and think tanks to explore how smarter grid planning, demand flexibility, digitalization and stronger cross-sector collaboration can unlock the next phase of transport electrification.

Speakers:

- Christine Weydig, **Industry Principal, Schneider Electric**
- Katherine Dixon, **CEO, Regulatory Assistance Project**
- Kevin Matthews, **Head of Electrification, First Student**

Moderated by Ray Minjares, **Managing Director, International Council for Clean Transportation**

Energy

Powering AI: who wins when demand outpaces the grid?

4:30 – 5:20pm

Red Room

AI is accelerating electricity demand while reshaping who has access to power and on what terms. As data centres scale rapidly, they are competing with industry, transport, and cities for clean, affordable electricity. The challenge is no longer understanding the strain; it's managing the trade-offs between speed, cost, and sustainability in a constrained system.

This shift is redrawing the boundaries of the energy market. From private power deals and grid prioritisation to AI-enabled optimisation and 24/7 carbon-free electricity, new models are emerging fast. Power is becoming the dividing line; who secures it, how it is delivered, and who is left behind.

When demand outpaces the grid, who wins?

Speakers:

- Pritimukta Sarangi, **Group Director - Sustainability and Technology, Princeton Digital Group**
- Stephanie Diaz**, Technology & Innovation Senior Associate, Bloomberg New Energy Finance**
- Jeffrey A. Smidt, **Senior Vice President, TIC – Industrial, UL Solutions**
- Aaron Johnson, **Senior Vice President, Local Customer & Community Engagement and Chief Sustainability Officer, PG&E**

Moderated by Heather McGeory, **Vice President, Energy and Sustainability, CoreWeave**

Nature and Health

The super pollutant sprint: local action, global results

4:30 – 5:20pm

Green Room

We know super pollutants — methane, black carbon, and HFCs — are among the fastest levers to slow near-term warming, but the conversation has evolved. Awareness alone is not enough; it needs to lead to action.

Governments and investors are responding to super pollutants' tangible economic, health, and security benefits, from improved air quality and public health outcomes to reduced regulatory exposure and new investment opportunities. As national leadership fluctuates, this session will showcase how subnational governments are turning pledges into measurable outcomes, moving from ambition to delivery.

Jointly convened by Climate Group's Subnational Methane Action Coalition (SMAC) and the UNEP Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), this session brings together high-level leaders, national and subnational governments, philanthropic funders, and partners to explore what is already working, how delivery can be turned into public proof, and what it will take to connect local action to global momentum — culminating in a concrete call to action ahead of COP31.

Speakers:

- Minister Bernadette Arakwiye, **Minister of Environment, Government of Rwanda**
- Paola Bauche Petersen, **Secretary of Environment and Territorial Development, Government of Jalisco**
- Jebi Rahman, **Director of Global Implementation, Climate Group**
- Manjyot Ahluwalia, **Ph.D., Regional Lead Asia, The Global Methane Hub**
- Yana Garcia**, California Secretary for Environmental Protection**

Moderated by Martina Otto, **Head of Secretariat, Climate and Clean Air Coalition**

Leadership and Green Growth

Worker powered climate action: how can labor and environmental movements join forces?

4:30 – 5:20pm

Blue Room

The 2020s has so far been a decade of contradiction with acts of grand climate ambition being followed by government backsliding. On a global scale, this backpedaling poses significant political and economic challenges to climate progress and impacts people at every level, including workers. Broken promises, however, don't spell the end of the movement. Join the BlueGreen Alliance as they share what they have learned from being the only national coalition of environmental and labor movements in the world. Joined by union and environmental leaders and policy makers, they will discuss how innovative coalitions and worker-centred policies can better deliver for working people and planet.

Speakers:

- Roxanne Brown, **International President, United Steelworkers**
- Senator Brian Schatz, **Hawaii, USA**
- Manish Bapna, **President, Natural Resources Defense Council**

Moderated by Valerie Volcovici, **Senior Correspondent, Reuters**

Hosted by Jason Walsh, **Executive Director, BlueGreen Alliance**

The Hub Live Evening Reception

5:30 – 6:30pm

Join us for drinks and canapés to continue networking in an informal environment.

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Day 2 – Tuesday, September 22

Flagship Two: 9:00 – 10:30am

Blue Room

The choice – committing to competitive pathways

The green transition has hit a new peak, powered by record investment in clean energy and a shift from imported molecules to homegrown electrons. A global EV boom is happening, and industrial planning is increasingly wedded to low-carbon innovation as a pillar of competitiveness and growth. You could be led to believe the direction of travel is set, but the reality is more complex.

The path is not pre-defined, and it isn't solely driven by economics. In reality political will, public pressure, and the security of people, place and planet, are all shaping the speed and direction of change. Today's choices determine which systems scale, and which are left behind. We must decide where to focus and how to channel our power. These decisions will determine the pace of change, and who captures its value.

The Hub Live Day 2 Registration and Networking

8:00 – 9:00am

Welcome

9:00am

Host:

- Helen Clarkson OBE, **CEO, Climate Group**

Keynote Speech

9:05am

Speaker:

- Dr. Fatih Birol, **Executive Director, IEA**

Leadership dialogue:

Where capital goes next: the choices shaping the transition economy

9:10am

Clean energy investment is scaling globally. But the pool of finance underpinning the transition economy is under growing pressure.

In many Global North markets, capital is tightening. Inflation, low growth, and rising cost of living are reshaping fiscal priorities and investor appetite. The result is a more constrained environment for deploying transition finance at the scale and speed required.

So, there are some stark choices to be made. What gets funded, by whom, and which projects take priority? How do we keep capital flowing to the front line of the transition while navigating competing demands on balance sheets and shifting expectations for private investment?

Speakers:

- Paschal Donohoe, **Chief Knowledge Officer, World Bank**

Moderated by Helen Clarkson OBE**, CEO, Climate Group**

Panel:

The (net) zero balancing act: delivering growth and the transition under pressure

9:20am

The transition and the race to build electrostates is accelerating, but not in a straight line. Yes, clean energy is cost-competitive and capital is flowing, but gaps in pace, scale, and distribution are slowing down progress.

The transition is defined by business choices: where are they doubling down, where are they holding back and how are they balancing growth, cost and transformation in real-time? This is where progress either is accelerated or diluted.

We'll explore how leaders make these choices, and how they're being prioritized.

- Where are we seeing the biggest overlap in how leaders are prioritizing growth, cost, and the transition?
- What's shaping investment decisions in the real economy right now?
- And what will define competitive advantage in the next phase of the transition?

Moderated by Helen Clarkson OBE, **CEO, Climate Group**

In conversation:

It’s now or never: can we kick our fossil fuel addiction?

9:50am

The recent fossil fuel rollercoaster has proven Oil and Gas are structurally unreliable. Political leaders, corporate decision makers, and the public at the petrol station now know that real energy security no longer comes in a barrel.

Moving from rhetoric to action is no small task, but as geopolitical and economic winds begin to shift, the willingness to step away from fossil fuels is gathering real momentum. The question is how we can turn this moment into a definite turning point, and what bold steps we need to take to kick the world’s fossil fuel habit.

Speaker:

- Dr. Maina Vakafua Talia, **Minister for Home Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment, Tuvalu**

Moderated by Tzephora Berman**, Chair, Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**

Panel:

Too hot to ignore, too costly to endure: is it time to put health first?

10:05am

We’re in a public health emergency. If left unchecked, the impact of climate change is projected to cost over US $20.8 trillion and lead to additional 250,000 deaths each year, according to the WHO.

Yet this crisis also brings a powerful opportunity. Re-thinking our relationship with our environment can bring enormous health benefits which ease pressure on health systems, while unlocking trillions in economic value. From cleaning the air in our cities to safeguarding our waterways, climate action is a chance to recentre health in every sense.

- What are the hidden health costs to inaction? What’s needed to connect the dots and re-align how we think about long-term health outcomes?
- How can we better integrate health metrics into policy and investment plans?
- Are there any quick wins leaders can secure and what should long term strategies look like?

Speaker:

- Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, **President and CEO, Trust for America’s Health**
- Professor Charlotte Watts**, Executive Director, Solutions, Wellcome Trust**

Moderated by Divya Sharma, **Executive Director, India Chair, Climate Group**

Networking break

10:30am

Transport and Industry

Clean Air, Healthy Returns: The Economic and Health Case for Fleet Electrification

11:00 – 11:50am

Orange Room

In partnership with Clean Air Fund and Smart Freight Centre, this Hub Live session will show how clean air can strengthen the business case for fleet electrification. It will bring together corporate, policy and technical

voices to explore why air quality matters, how companies can measure and manage air-polluting emissions, and what practical action is needed to accelerate implementation.

Drawing on Clean Air Fund's expertise on the health, societal and economic impacts of air pollution, and Smart Freight Centre's experience of freight decarbonisation and emissions measurement, the session will connect strategic ambition with practical corporate implementation.

Speakers:

- Chelsea Lamar, **VP Global Sustainability, AIT Worldwide Logistics**
- Dr. Christoph Wolff**, CEO, Smart Freight Centre**

Moderated by Dominic Phinn, **Head of Transport Systems, Climate Group**

Nature and Health

Tackling health care's emissions

11:00 – 11:50am

Blue Room

Climate change is reshaping human health at a scale our systems are not equipped to address. To rise to this challenge, organizations must continue to advance existing solutions to decarbonize health systems and also champion new innovations and approaches for the benefit of people and planet. This session will feature leaders working at the intersection of climate and health to share insights from the front lines.

In this session, speakers will share candid lessons from ambitious decarbonization initiatives, examine the barriers that stall progress, and explore ways to unlock scalable solutions that can move the narrative forward.

Speakers:

- Johanna Jobin, **Global Head of Environmental Sustainability & Compliance, Takeda**
- Mary Berlik Rice**, Director, Harvard C-CHANGE**

Energy

The AI Forum: Scaling sustainable infrastructure

11:00 – 12:50pm

Green Room

Demand for AI is outpacing infrastructure, energy supply and natural resources. Yet, AI may be the key to fast-tracking the renewable energy transition, generating sustainable investments, and galvanizing the climate action movement.

The AI Forum at Climate Week NYC will convene senior leaders from business and government to examine the problems a growing AI market creates, as well as the innovative opportunities that data centers can bring. This session will explore the disparities between energy supply and demand, present new models for AI infrastructure, confront AI's environmental challenges, and spotlight the investment opportunities that sustainable data center development can unlock.

Speakers:

- Samantha Grassle, **Senior Director of Partnerships and Policy, Elemental Impact**
- Jorge Moreira da Silva, **UN Undersecretary General**, **Executive Director, UNOPS**
- Kate Gallego, **Mayor, Phoenix, Arizona, USA**
- Alex Dewar**, Managing Director & Partner, BCG**
- Daan Walter**, Principal, Ember**

- Robert Bartrop**, AVP Social Impact & Community, AirTrunk**
- Laura Cozzi**, Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks, International Energy Agency**
- Steve Carlini**, Chief Advocate, Data Centers & AI, Schneider Electric**

Moderators:

- Mike Peirce, **Executive Director of Systems Change, Climate Group**
- Jacyln Whittal, **Founder & CEO, One Earth Communications**

American Innovation and Abundance

Moving US forward for climate

11:00 – 11:50am

Red Room

The United States is at an implementation inflection point. Across clean energy, infrastructure, and resilience, the question is no longer whether to act — it's whether we can deliver at the speed and scale the moment demands. This session brings together policymakers, investors, and practitioners to take stock of what's working, where the bottlenecks are, and what it will take to turn national climate ambition into visible, on-the-ground results. Drawing on insights from Climate Group's 2026 US Leaders' Forum, participants will examine how innovation and implementation must move together — and what that means for communities, companies, and the clean energy economy.

Speakers:

- Rob Bonta**, Attorney General, State of California**
- Jordan Diamond**, President, Environmental Law Institute**
- Amanda Lefton**, Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**
- Serena McIlwain**, Secretary, Maryland Department of Environment**
- Dr. Noel Hacegaba**, CEO, Port of Long Beach**
- Serge Abergel**, COO, Hydro-Quebec US**

Moderated by Hannah Safford, **Associate Director of Climate and Environment, Federation of American Scientists**

Transport and Industry

Emerging markets, electric futures: how do we unlock the best deal for the Global South?

12:00 – 12:50pm

Orange Room

The economics of EVs have shifted. In emerging markets, electric vehicles are approaching cost parity with petrol cars, giving the Global South a unique chance to leapfrog legacy infrastructure and scale electric mobility faster than established markets. This is more than a transition to cleaner transport, it’s a market and investment moment that could reshape global supply chains, influence energy systems, and unlock new economic opportunities. Will these markets seize the advantage, and how can global players position themselves to benefit?

Emerging markets are turning opportunity into action, building resilient supply chains, deploying scalable business models, and forming strategic partnerships that accelerate EV adoption and capture market growth. With real-world examples from Latin America, India, and beyond, we show where investment, innovation, and policy alignment are driving tangible results and where the next leapfrog advantage could be claimed.

Speakers:

- Alejandro Rodriguez**, Sustainability Portfolio Manager for the Americas Region, Siemens**

Moderated by Killian Dorier**, Senior Programme Manager, Transport, Climate Group**

Nature and Health

Scaling low-carbon growth – winning in a volatile world

12:00 – 12:50pm

Blue Room

From the conflict in the Gulf to shifting energy alliances worldwide, the fragility of traditional fossil fuel systems is accelerating the pivot to resilient, low-carbon solutions. In this uncertain environment, senior leaders face a critical question; which markets, technologies, and business models will deliver value at scale and secure their competitiveness? And how should capital be deployed to capture them?

How can we spot emerging low-carbon markets, exploit billion-dollar technologies, and scale new business models? We share insights on how investors and companies can prioritize resources, accelerate deployment, and mitigate risk, while navigating geopolitical and economic uncertainty.

American Innovation and Abundance

Climate, security, and America's place in a shifting world

12:00 – 12:50pm

Red Room

Energy security and national security have never been more intertwined — and the United States is navigating both from an increasingly uncertain position. As fossil fuel volatility rattles global markets and geopolitical power shifts accelerate, other nations are racing ahead on clean energy manufacturing, grid resilience, and strategic independence.

But this session is not about what has been lost — it is about what comes next. How do American leaders rethink U.S. climate engagement for a new era? What does a more competitive, more resilient, and more globally credible version of American climate policy look like — one built not just on leadership, but on the next generation of technologies, solutions, and implementation strategies that can deliver results at scale? From the design of next-generation tax incentives that can compete with China's industrial strategy, to deploying breakthrough clean energy technologies, to rebuilding international coalitions and multilateral climate architecture, to developing the next generation of leaders and innovators who will carry this work forward — this session asks the harder, more forward-looking question: how do we build Climate 2.0?

Speakers:

- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, **U.S. Senator and Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, U.S. Senate**
- Philip Duffy, **Chief Scientist, Spark Climate Solutions**
- Aimee Witteman**, Chief Impact Officer, Urban Land Institute**
- DJ Gerken**, President and Executive Director, Southern Environmental Law Center**
- Erin Sikorsky**, Director, Center for Climate & Security**
- Dr. Mercy Berman DeMenno**, Distinguished Scholar, NYU**
- Jason Grumet, CEO**, American Clean Power Association**
- Laurel Blatchford, **Director, Delivery Associates**

Moderated by Heather Clarke, **CEO, Housing Multiplier Project**

Networking lunch

1:00 – 2pm

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Day 2 – Tuesday, September 22

Flagship Three: 2:00 – 3:30pm

Blue Room

The opportunity – who leads, who wins

Clean energy is now the cheapest source of new power in many markets, electrification is reshaping transport and industry whilst driving down emissions, and AI and robotics are unlocking efficiency and productivity across economies. From ports and cities to manufacturing hubs, new systems of climate-aligned growth are emerging.

The next phase is about turning early momentum into durable advantage, scaling proven solutions, mobilizing capital, and embedding clean growth into the foundations of economic competitiveness. The question is: who moves fastest?

Welcome

2:00pm

Host:

- Stephanie Abrams**, Meteorologist, The Weather Channel**

In conversation:

Not one ‘why’ but many – why action works for all

2:05pm

Climate action was once anchored in a single “why”: to keep temperatures below 1.5C and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. It mobilized capital and drove a decade of global progress. Today, the case for action is broader, more immediate and deeply personal. Communities are experiencing first-hand the consequences of stressed energy systems, aging infrastructure, and increasingly disruptive weather events.

This presents an opportunity to tell a new story. Climate action is no longer driven by a single global objective, but by communities demanding more reliable energy, greater resilience, healthier neighbourhoods, and stronger local economies. The reasons may differ, but the direction is the same.

Speakers:

- Eddie Melton**, Mayor of Gary, Indiana**

Panel:

Building the world's next electrostates – from energy dependence to electrified resilience

2:15pm

The next era of national power is being defined by electrification. Not fossil fuels.

Electrostates are emerging where electricity underpins competitiveness, security, and growth. This shift is being driven by nation states, but built in partnership with business. Energy systems, infrastructure, industry, and capital are now tightly interlinked.

For governments and companies alike, this is no longer an incremental transition. It is system-building at speed, and energy shocks and climate volatility are accelerating the change. But they are also opening a new opportunity: to redesign energy systems for resilience, productivity, and long-term value creation.

Speakers:

- Dan Li, **Secretary General, China Renewable Energy Industry Association**
- Prof. Francesco Corvaro, **Special Envoy for Climate Change, Italy**

Moderated by Stephanie Abrams**, On-Camera Meteorologist, Co-Host of AMHQ and Pattrn, The Weather Channel**

In conversation:

The silver lining: is a renewable world a safer one?

2:45pm

The global energy system is shifting fast, but it's always been about more than just supply.
It's about security, stability, and most of all: people.

Much of the world still depends on imported energy, exposing economies and communities to conflict, disruption, and price shocks. That dependence comes at a human cost. From displacement to economic instability, energy insecurity stretches far beyond the battlefield.

A renewable system changes that logic. Yes, the question is how fast we can decarbonize.
But also: what kind of world are we shaping, and who is more secure because of it?

Speakers:

- Mads Christensen, **Executive Director, Greenpeace International**

Moderated by Stephanie Abrams**, On-Camera Meteorologist, Co-Host of AMHQ and Pattrn, The Weather Channel**

Panel:

The smart scale: can AI grow without costing the earth?

3:00pm

AI is shifting from a software story to a systems challenge where compute, energy, and climate limits converge. What once looked like a question of data capability is fast becoming a question of constraint.

As AI moves deeper into the real economy, the expectation is clear: deliver growth, productivity, and climate alignment, all at once. The challenge is to prove it can all be done, at scale.

The real question is: who can turn ambition into delivery and set the pace for the rest?

Speakers:

- Sunya Normal**, SVP of Impact, Salesforce**
- Holly Paeper, **President, Commercial HVAC Americas, Trane Technologies**

Moderated by Governor Bill Ritter Jr., **President and Chair of the Board (North America), Climate Group**

Transition break

3:30pm

Transport and Industry

Future factories: How efficiency, electrification and AI will remake modern manufacturing

3:40 – 4:30pm

Orange Room

Smart factories are redefining modern manufacturing. As global supply chains face increasing volatility and electrification reshapes industrial demand, businesses that embrace intelligent operations will unlock efficiency, resilience, and competitiveness. Who will lead the next era of industry?

World-class innovators and policy leaders will explore how AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), digitalisation and demand-response strategies are transforming the factory floor. Through dynamic discussion and real-world case studies, we'll examine how businesses can deploy cutting-edge technology at scale and how governments can accelerate the shift through climate-aligned and responsible AI policy.

Speakers:

- Mike Umiker, **Managing Director, Energy Efficiency Movement**
- Nathan Allen, **Chief AI and Innovation Officer, Ellen MacArthur Foundation**

Moderated by Mike Peirce, **Executive Director of Systems Change, Climate Group**

Food

The Food Forum: building resilient food systems for planet and profit

3:40 – 5:30pm

Green Room

Food is one of the most powerful, yet often overlooked, levers for climate action. Food security must be treated with the same urgency as energy security, yet fragmented approaches leave the system exposed.

Climate shocks, shifting demand, and rising import volatility are already driving up the cost and energy footprint of what we eat.

The Food Forum at Climate Week NYC will convene senior leaders from business and government to put food at the heart of climate action. This session follows the food system from production through manufacturing and distribution to retail and consumers, highlighting where leaders can strengthen resilience, improve traceability, and reduce waste, while supporting affordability and long-term competitiveness. Expect a practical, high-level conversation prioritizing cross-sector collaboration and exploring what leaders can do now to move the needle for food systems by next Climate Week.

Speakers:

- Patty Fong**, Director, Food & Agriculture Program, ClimateWorks Foundation**
- Chris Ninnes, **CEO, Aquaculture Stewardship Council**
- Bernhard Kowatsch**, Director Global Accelerator and Ventures, United Nations World Food Programme**
- Felipe Arango, **Chief Executive Officer, Fair Trade USA**
- Roy Steiner**, Senior Vice President, Food, The Rockefeller Foundation**
- Purnima Menon**, Director for Strategy & Partnerships, International Food Policy Research Institute**
- Paul Lightfoot**, General Manager, Patagonia Provisions**

Moderators:

- Dr Prabhu Pingali, **Professor, Cornell University**
- Fiona Bennie, **Partner, Impact & Innovation - Consumer Goods & Retail, Newton**
- Helen Clarkson OBE, **CEO, Climate Group**

Leadership and Green Growth

3:40 – 4:30pm

Blue Room

American Innovation and Abundance

From “Listen to the Science” to the “Science of Listening”? How better storytelling has made climate great again

3:40 – 4:30pm

Red Room

Behind the headlines, the US has seen some extraordinary impact and investment growth across the country. With States such as Texas and Florida leading the way on deployment, and American companies expanding their significance as global leaders in the renewables space, this session will examine how the language, narratives, and policy framing in these regions and sectors has helped accelerate US leadership.

Speakers:

- Emma Stewart, **CSO, Climate Spring**
- Hannah Safford**, Associate Director of Climate and Environment, Federation of American Scientists**

Moderated by Adam Lake, **Head of Communications, North America, Climate Group**

Transport and Industry

Hiding in plain sight: the conventional materials that will scale the clean economy

4:40 – 5:30pm

Orange Room

The energy transition needs more materials, not more emissions. While headlines about the energy transition chase lithium and cobalt, it's steel and concrete that underpin the infrastructure shift and pose the greatest carbon risk – and opportunity.

These materials are now needed to power the clean economy, from EVs and wind turbines to sustainable data centers and coastal protection infrastructure. The question is no longer 'why decarbonize', but 'how to secure low-carbon steel and concrete at scale while ensuring supply chain resilience'?

This session explores practical strategies to scale supply, build market confidence, and accelerate the adoption of low-carbon materials. We highlight insights into pre-competitive partnerships, procurement models, and standards alignment; all tools to reduce carbon risk, strengthen supply chains, and to ensure strategic infrastructure can meet the growing demands of the clean economy.

Speakers:

- Shivakumar Kuppuswamy, **Director of Development and Innovation, ResponsibleSteel**
- Mariane Jang, **Senior Policy Advisor, Division of Resiliency & Sustainability, New York State Office of General Services**
- Sofie Runius Cederberg, **Director Group Sustainability, AB SKF**
- Wouter Vink, **Director, Systemiq**

Moderated by Betty Cremmins, **Senior Green Public Procurement Specialist, Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative**

Leadership and Green Growth

Climate as growth: how to communicate opportunity, not cost

4:40 – 5:30pm

Blue Room

Climate action is often framed as a cost, but the reality tells a different story. The global energy trilemma is disappearing, electrification is driving growth, and clean technology is emerging as a major economic opportunity. Companies that act are not just mitigating risk, they are unlocking new markets, efficiencies, and long-term profitability.

But how can we communicate these opportunities effectively? We will explore strategies to translate complex climate data into credible, actionable narratives, mobilize stakeholders, and demonstrate measurable ROI. While misinformation and polarization remain challenges, the emphasis will be on building trust, scaling effective messaging, and connecting net-zero action to business and societal impact. Attendees will leave with practical insights to align communications, investment, and policy, turning the perceived cost of net zero into tangible growth and competitive advantage.

Speakers:

- Marek Pruszewicz**, CEO, Dialogue Earth**

American Innovation and Abundance

How to change the world: with special guest

4:40 – 5:30pm

Red Room

As part of a special edition of 50 Shades of Green, we will be hosting an intimate fireside with a prominent global voice who has changed the way the world has viewed the biggest challenges of our time. This in-depth interview will explore what motivates someone to get into the campaigning space, the roadblocks they encountered on their journey, examples of where they feel they had the most impact, and what the future holds in store for the next generation of campaigners. The interview will be followed by a short panel looking at how this campaigning message can be applied to business and government leaders on the ground.

End of The Hub Live

5:30pm