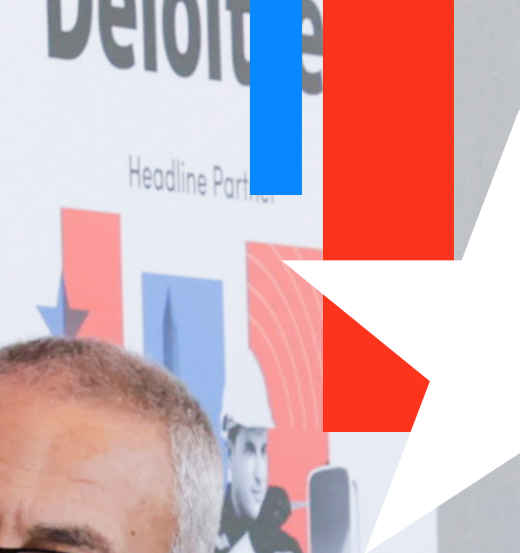




US CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

Convened by
CLIMATE GROUP

2024



US ACTION

Deloitte
Headline Partner

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Letter from Angela

Our theme this year was **“Making it Real”**, but it’s not just a theme, it’s a challenge. A challenge for all of us to come together and have tough conversations, commit to action and growth, especially at this time of historic US climate investment.

Thank you for taking that challenge. By being a part of this, you committed your time and challenged yourselves to engage with the most pressing climate issues facing the US today in sectors including food, industry and transportation.

With your support and participation, together we’ve created a powerful platform for climate action in the US.

We challenged ourselves to grow this year. Not only did we bring together the leaders at the forefront of climate action, the 2024 US Climate Action Summit also featured our first Spanish Language roundtable with Latino leaders and Spanish language media. We expanded the Summit to include events outside of the Leader’s Forum, collaborating with The US Naval Research Laboratory, The White House,

the Smithsonian, the National Academy of Medicine and Kaiser Permanente on events that showcased innovation, and the importance of communication and of climate and health.

This is only the beginning. The Inflation Reduction Act provides historic levels of opportunity and it’s crucial that we continue to work together and continue to innovate. As we look ahead to our other headline event of the year, Climate Week NYC, as well as COP, the US Climate Action Summit can act as a powerful annual focal point to drive impact in the US. I look forward to working with all you, to making this real.

Angela Barranco
Executive Director, Climate Group,
North America



Highlights from the week



White House event; Latino Economic Empowerment

The White House Council on Environmental Equality hosted a White House Roundtable on Latino Economic Empowerment through Climate Action. Attendees included representatives from the Biden-Harris Administration, content creators, business leaders and representatives from Latino NGOs. A connection was created among these groups to amplify information and opportunity surrounding the green economy to this critical community.



Colorado joins the Under2 Coalition

The State of Colorado officially joined the Under2 Coalition, the largest network of subnational governments committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier, reaffirming their commitment to ambitious climate action. Climate Group acts as secretariat.

Visibility on Capitol Hill

The Climate Action Campaign

hosted a visibility event on Capitol Hill as part of their suite of Earth Day activities. The advocacy organization gathered to highlight President Biden's transformative actions to cut climate pollution and turbocharge the clean energy economy, while calling for bolder pollution standards to be put in place.



US Naval Research Laboratory

The US Naval Research Laboratory hosted a special tour as part of the US Climate Action Summit, highlighting new sustainable technologies including turning seawater into jet fuel, hydrogen storage, advanced battery research and a variety of other energy technologies.



Smithsonian hosts full event program

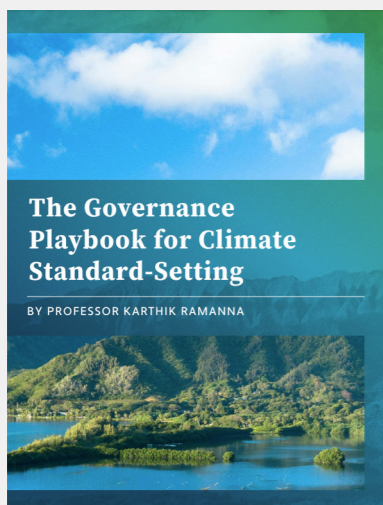
We collaborated with the Smithsonian to highlight over fourteen different programs and exhibitions where the public can engage and learn more about the planet, the threat of climate change, and the solutions available. Events included [Honor Earth: An Earth Day Celebration](#), Natural Science Careers Workshop for Undergraduates and [Glacier: A Climate Change Ballet](#).





US Climate Action Summit hosts first ever Climate and Health Day

The US Climate Action Summit collaborated with the National Academy of Medicine and Kaiser Permanente to create a **Climate and Health Day**. The event brought together over 100 leaders from across the US to discuss the health impacts of climate change, as well as a large online audience from around the world.



Setting higher standards

Professor Karthik Ramanna developed a **playbook** for climate standard-setting organizations and their stakeholders. This report offers practical guidance for enhancing the governance of climate standard-setting organizations. Drawing on insights from discussions with key stakeholders such as activists, funders, investors, and board members, the report presents a playbook of best practices aimed at improving strategic clarity and procedural legitimacy in climate standard-setting.



Deloitte launches sustainability report

Deloitte released their **2024 US Public Sector CXO Sustainability Report**, focusing on a pioneering survey of 435 government agency CxOs with the aim of assessing agencies' progress on sustainability goals while looking at future climate action in government.



Leaders' Forum Reception

Climate Group hosted a special reception at the conclusion on the **Leaders' Forum**, bringing together some of the key figures from business, government, and the nonprofit sector. The reception was hosted at the offices of Covington, our Event Partner.

An innovation pathway to decarbonization: circular economy solutions for policymakers and industry in the US

Innovation to Decarbonization

Oliver Wyman and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation launched their latest report, **An Innovation Pathway to Decarbonization: Circular Solutions for Policymakers and Industry in the US**. The report highlights the substantial environmental and economic opportunity for the United States in a transition to a more circular economy and explores how industry leaders can tap into these benefits by understanding the circular economy's industry-specific opportunities and barriers, implementing responsive policies, and investing in innovation.



Leaders' Forum

The Leaders' Forum was our keynote event of the week. We brought together more than 260 of the most influential people in climate from business, government, and the nonprofit sector. With critical experts related to US climate policy, implementation, strategy, and funding.

Our morning and afternoon Spotlight Sessions featured interviews, conversations and panels discussing the overarching themes of 'Public and Private Synergy' and 'Think Globally, Act Locally.' Across these conversations, we focused on how to unlock access to funding, create jobs, and innovate from historic climate legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act.

Our Implementation Agenda brought together a full day of 13 in-person roundtables, panels, and workshops, creating a space for knowledge-led collaboration. These sessions exclusively focused on accelerating progress on implementing historic climate action through partnerships and tangible solutions across state, federal, business and community leadership.



Our [on location interview series](#) brought together over 30 influential climate leaders to share their thoughts on how to make climate action real. We heard from thought leaders including Ricardo Torres, Undersecretary of Environment, Queretaro State and Maryland Secretary of Environment Serena McIlwain on how to accelerate progress and overcome roadblocks to implementation. Interviews covered a wide range of topics including building better public-private partnerships, the importance of coalition building across subnational governments, and how to capitalize on key climate legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act.

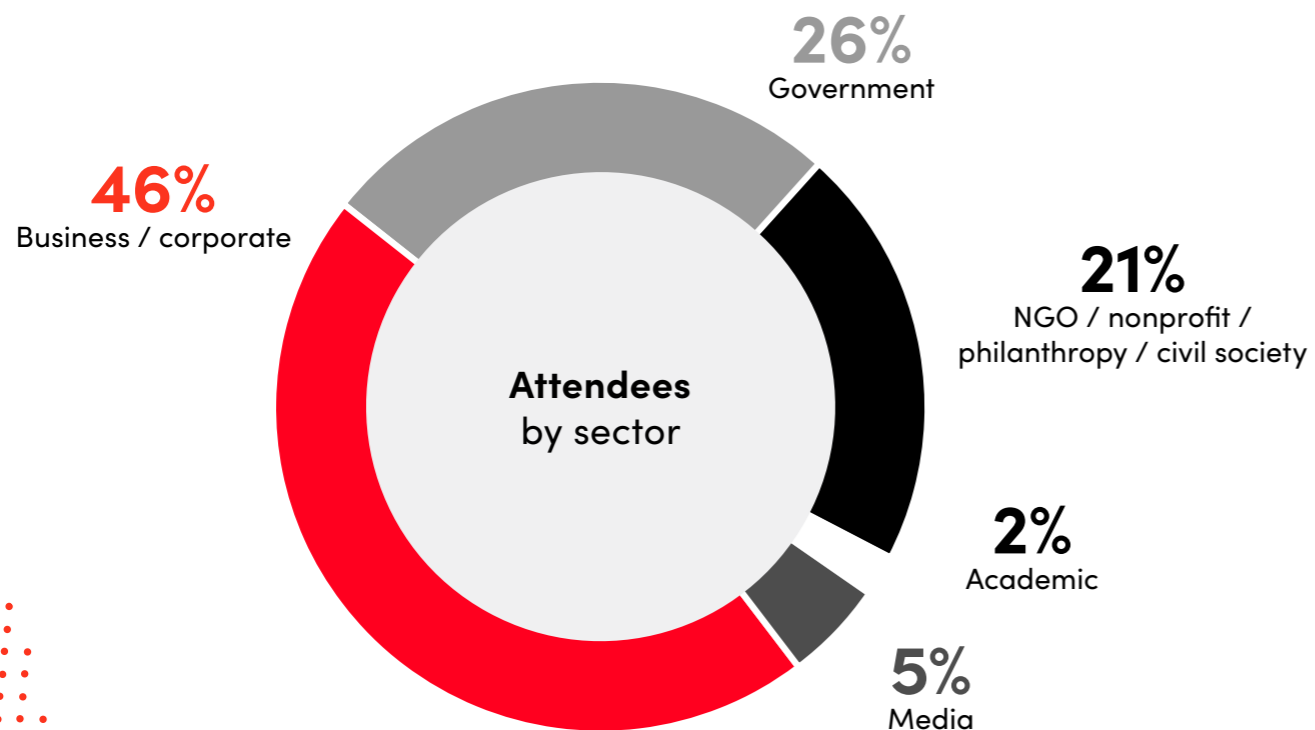


Attendee data

262
attendees

21
US states

167
businesses represented



Spotlight Sessions

John Podesta kicked off the day in conversation with Carol Browner, Senior of Counsel, Covington discussing the importance of private sector innovation and clean energy deployment.

The rest of the morning session focused on public-private synergy - how the corporate sector responds to and actively reshapes sustainable practices and investment influences from legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act. Then, we concluded the morning with Jigar Shah in conversation with Angela Barranco on government funding strategies and mechanisms to empower the green energy transition.



Speakers included

- **Ali Zaidi**, Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor
- **Dr. Elizabeth Gray**, Chief Executive Officer, National Audubon Society
- **Dr. Kathleen Hogan**, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Infrastructure
- **Jahi Wise**, Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Acting Director for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, Environmental Protection Agency
- **Jason Salzetti**, Principal, US Government & Public Services (GPS) Industry & Consulting Leader, Deloitte Consulting
- **Jigar Shah**, Director, Loan Program, Department of Energy
- **John Podesta**, Senior Advisor to the President for International Climate Policy
- **Karthik Ramanna**, Professor of Business and Public Policy, University of Oxford

- **Laurel Blatchford**, Chief Implementation Officer for the Inflation Reduction Act, US Department of Treasury
- **Mark Rayfield**, President & CEO, Saint-Gobain North America and CertainTeed, LLC
- **Matt Helgeson**, Head of Sustainability, Siemens USA
- **Saji Sam**, Senior Partner, Energy and Natural Resources, Oliver Wyman

Moderators included

- **Carol Browner**, Senior of Counsel, Covington
- **Christine Harada**, Senior Advisor, Office of Management and Budget Office of Federal Procurement Policy
- **Governor Bill Ritter**, President and Chair, Climate Group North America Board of Directors
- **Helen Clarkson**, Chief Executive, Climate Group
- **Jayni Hein**, Of Counsel, Covington



Deploy, Deploy, Deploy. We need to go fast. This is going to not only power the US economy and lead to strong growth but it's going to power the global economy going forward. If you are an innovator, innovate. If you are a developer, deploy.

John Podesta, while discussing the importance of everyone taking advantage of the funds available from the Inflation Reduction Act.



We started the afternoon session, 'Think Globally. Act Locally,' with Ali Zaidi in conversation with independent journalist Benjamin Zamora about new federal government initiatives like The American Climate Corps, Justice40 initiative and the EPA Solar for All program, and how each of these programs will shape the future of US climate action – upskilling labor markets for the energy transition and providing resources to historically disadvantaged communities.

This session called for leaders to share and learn from each other's experiences, bridging local efforts with global sustainability objectives. We explored how to unlock new funding avenues and confront urgent climate threats.

We wrapped with an announcement from UNHCR on the launch of the UNHCR Climate Resilience Fund, which will provide critical support for the protection of refugees and displaced communities most threatened by climate change.



Implementation Agenda

At the Leaders' Forum, we designed an agenda that put participation at the center of the program and created an open space for off-the-record conversations, carefully curated small-group discussions, and a series of closed-door implementation sessions that delivered on real outcomes.

We targeted these sessions at sectors with the most potential to scale up climate action. Participants discussed the real-world impacts of large climate infrastructure and clean energy projects, innovation of industrial decarbonization, interregional food security, the implications of new regulations on electric vehicles, engagement with Latino communities, effective climate communication and more.



Highlights included:

Empowering Latino Communities through a Green Economy (Held in Spanish)

This innovative roundtable with Spanish language media focused on the crucial role of green jobs in supporting Latino communities throughout the United States. A panel of business leaders, adept in bilingual communication led the discussion in Spanish, highlighting opportunities and celebrating the diversity and leadership spearheading this movement.

Private and Public Partnerships: Forging a Greener Future in Concrete and Steel

This session convened experts from SteelZero, ConcreteZero, industry leaders, and governmental representatives to discuss decarbonization strategies in the concrete and steel sectors. Participants updated progress on agency-wide decarbonization assessments across both industries and forging partnerships to better transition to a more sustainable supply chain.

Unlocking Bilateral Transmission in the Northeast – hosted by Hydro-Québec

The transition to 100% clean electricity in the Northeast hinges on enhanced transmission capabilities to integrate renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. Participants from regional energy regulatory bodies, the private sector and academia offered insights into the challenges faced for the interregional energy transmission and offered substantive solutions to increase cooperation and find common ground.

Workforce and the Energy Transition – hosted by Deloitte

This roundtable explored the workforce's integral role in transitioning towards a sustainable energy future,



focusing on enabling workers to adapt and lead in this change. Participants examined existing gaps and roadblocks in the workforce transition and how to overcome them. They discussed and actioned strategies for creating good quality green jobs with longevity particularly for disadvantaged communities.

Cross-Sector Collaborations for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture across the Americas

A session dedicated to strengthening food security and sustainable agriculture through cross-sector partnerships, with a focus on the Americas. Participants from international bodies like the United Nations and subnational governments from Latin America convened to discuss strategies on prioritizing climate action at the forefront of food security and policy and interregional cooperation.

Building Futures: Green Jobs and Upskilling for an Equitable Built Environment

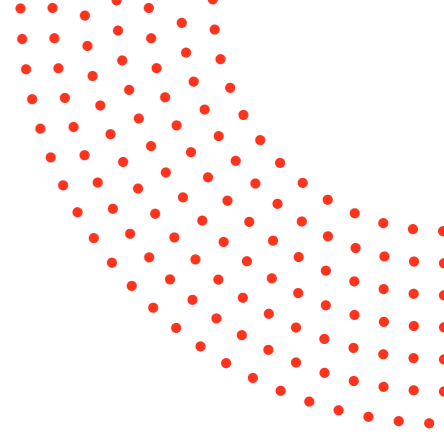
An examination of the need for skilled labor in the green economy, focusing on upskilling programs and the role of state and corporate sectors in workforce development. We connected corporate representatives with government officials at the US Department of Energy and identified funding opportunities, gaps, and strategized on how businesses and governments can best support each other in the green jobs transition.



Transforming Transportation for a Sustainable Future

This collaborative session on electrifying America's transportation infrastructure highlighted state-level strategies, challenges, and collaborative opportunities to decarbonize charging and freight infrastructure in the wake of new state and federal rules and regulations. Leading transport officials discussed how these new rules impact our ability to scale up progress and how to navigate funding opportunities in the industry.

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CLIMATE WEEK NYC

CLIMATE GROUP

It's Time to speed up climate action, ignite progress and go fast. It's Time to make a call on fossil fuels – we need to 'phase out', instead of 'transition away'. It's Time to chisel climate into the heart of our national policies and international agreements and hold our elected officials to account. It's Time to invest in scalable innovation, in energy storage, grid infrastructure, steel and concrete decarbonization, and finance. It's Time to level the playing field for the Global South and fund a just transition.

It's Time

Climate Week NYC
September 22-29, 2024

[Contact us](#) to get involved.



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