



EFCG

Environmental Financial
Consulting Group

2024 SUSTAINABILITY & ESG FORUM Preliminary Agenda

**December
4 – 5, 2024**

**The William Vale
111 N 12th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11249**

**Exclusively for the Architecture,
Engineering, and Consulting Industry**

WELCOME



EFCG
Environmental Financial
Consulting Group

SUSTAINABILITY & ESG FORUM

December 4-5, 2024

The William Vale in Brooklyn, NY

ABOUT EFCG

The Environmental Financial Consulting Group (EFCG) is the leading advisor to architecture, engineering, and consulting (AEC) firms. Its mission is to provide a data-driven and strategic edge to AEC firms to advance the innovation, sustainability, and success of the industry. We provide end-to-end, integrated solutions to support executive leaders with their most critical strategic and financial decisions.

In the last 35 years, EFCG has served as a retained advisor to 500+ firms, developed a proprietary industry database of financial and business metrics, held nearly 100 executive conferences, and advised on 200+ M&A transactions. The relationships we have formed with the executive teams at every major AEC firm make us the most trusted corporate finance, strategic, and M&A advisor.

 **EFCG is the leading advisor to AEC firms, providing expertise in:**

Management Consulting

500+
AEC Firms Advised

- Strategic Planning
- Corporate Financial Benchmarking
- Valuations
- Talent & Compensation
- Technology & Innovation
- Sustainability & ESG

Mergers & Acquisitions

200+
M&A Transactions Advised On

- Sell- & Buy-Side Assignments
- Capital Structure Analysis
- Corporate Divestitures & Tech Spinouts
- Strategic & Private Equity Partner Engagement
- Integration Planning
- Due Diligence & Market Studies

Leadership Conferences

100+
Conferences Hosted

- Analysis on AEC Trends from EFCG's Proprietary Industry Database
- Perspectives from Subject Matter Experts and Industry Executives
- Invaluable Peer-Networking Opportunities

Advanced Data Analytics & Insights

EFCG has the most comprehensive proprietary database in the industry

6
Annual Surveys

1M+
Data Points Every Year

500+
Database Contributing Firms

(All Times in Eastern Time)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:30 am – 9:00 am
 9:00 am – 10:30 am
 10:30 am – 11:00 am
 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
 2:00 pm – 2:15 pm
 2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm
 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm
 4:15 pm – 4:30 pm
 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Breakfast Meet-and-Greet
Session 1: 2024 EFCG AEC Industry Sustainability & ESG Overview
Morning Coffee Social
Session 2: Industry Leader Reactions: Sustainability & ESG Trends
Lunch
Session 3: Tech and ESG: The Artificial & Climate Intelligence Debate
Refresh Break
Session 4: Breakout Sessions
 4A: Demystifying Climate Transition Plans
 4B: Advancing Project Missions: The Envision Rating System
 4C: The Social Impact: Driving Meaningful Change in the AEC Industry
Refresh Break
Session 5: Leader’s Lessons Learned and Best Practices
Day’s Closing Remarks
Evening Networking Reception and Light Dinner

Thursday, December 5, 2024

8:30 am – 9:00 am
 9:00 am – 10:00 am
 10:00 am – 10:30 am
 10:30 am – 11:15 am
 11:15 am – 11:30 am
 11:30 am – 12:15 pm

 12:15 pm – 12:30 pm
 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

 1:15 pm – 1:30 pm
 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Breakfast Reconnect
Session 6: Navigating the Evolving Regulatory Landscape
Morning Coffee Break
Session 7: Sustainability Services
Refresh Break
Session 8: Breakout Sessions
 8A: Nature-based Solutions and Positive Frameworks
 8B: The Sustainability Assessment and Disclosure Framework: Breaking Down Your Approach
 8C: Effectively Measuring the Cost of Sustainability
Refresh Break
Session 9: Looking to the Future: Sustainability & ESG in the AEC Industry
Conference Closing Remarks
Closing Coffee Conversation & Lunch

(All Times in Eastern Time)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Breakfast Meet-and-Greet

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Session 1: 2024 EFCG AEC Industry Sustainability & ESG Overview

In this session, EFCG will present the findings of our 2024 Sustainability and ESG Survey, supported by 33 years of proprietary industry data and insights from over 300 firms. Together, we'll explore the latest sustainability and ESG trends, from expanding sustainability services for clients, measuring the ROI of sustainability initiatives, building internal programs to navigating new regulatory landscapes. Gain a comprehensive understanding of how these shifts are transforming the AEC industry and what they mean for your firm's future.

Presenter:

Andreas Georgoulas, EFCG Director, Sustainability and ESG

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Morning Coffee Social

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Session 2: Industry Leader Reactions: Sustainability & ESG Trends

This engaging panel discussion will examine the strategic sustainability and ESG priorities driving firms and government agencies in 2024 and beyond, highlighting the challenges, opportunities, and emerging trends that shape their decision-making. Attendees will gain a clear view of how AEC firms should position themselves to meet both market demands and regulatory shifts, with a focus on creating long-term value and resilience through sustainable practices.

Panelists:

Po Chen, CEO, Anchor QEA

Tom Abdallah, Chief Environmental Engineer, MTA New York City Transit

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Session 3: Tech and ESG: The Artificial & Climate Intelligence Debate

This session will examine how AEC firms are harnessing technology to drive sustainability internally and at the project level. The discussion will explore the use of advanced data analytics and AI to enhance climate resilience and project sustainability outcomes and streamline regulatory compliance. As digital transformation intensifies, the panel will also address the sustainability challenges posed by technology itself. With the growing demand for generative AI and extensive data infrastructure, AEC firms are grappling with the environmental footprint of these innovations. Join us for insights as AEC firms navigate the intersection of digital transformation and sustainability priorities.

Panelists:

Pierre-Yves Massille, Chief Transformation, Digital & Sustainability Officer, EGIS

Dru Crawley, Director, Building Performance, Bentley Systems

Phanos Hadjikyriakou, Co-Founder & CEO, 2050 Materials

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Refresh Break

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

Session 4: Breakout Sessions

4A: Demystifying Climate Transition Plans

This breakout session will help AEC firms better understand and implement effective climate transition strategies. The discussion will start by breaking down the basics: what exactly is a climate transition plan, and why is it becoming a critical component in managing climate risk and achieving sustainability goals? We will delve into the steps firms can take to assess their climate-related exposures and proactively mitigate risk, not only for their own operations but also for their clients.

Moderator:

Andrew White, Corporate Sustainability Director, VHB

4B: Advancing Project Missions: The Envision Rating System

In this breakout session, we will dive deeper into the benefits of integrating sustainability assessment methodologies into project planning, design, and construction. We will use the Envision Rating System, a comprehensive framework for assessing sustainability at the project level across various sustainability dimensions, to highlight how this approach can guide project teams toward more sustainable outcomes, offering alternatives that align with long-term environmental goals while enhancing overall project value.

Moderator:

Anthony Kane, President and CEO, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure

4C: The Social Impact: Driving Meaningful Change in the AEC Industry

How can AEC firms measure social impact and implement actionable strategies to integrate social sustainability aspects in their workplace and projects? During this breakout session, the discussion will focus on how AEC firms can foster a more socially responsible AEC industry. Key points will include developing a more socially conscious AEC workforce, addressing social inequalities through design and engineering solutions, and creating lasting community benefits.

Moderator:

Michael Sutton, President and CEO, Infrastructure Engineering

(All Times in Eastern Time)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Refresh Break

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Session 5: Leader’s Lessons Learned and Best Practices

This session will explore how AEC firms can develop robust frameworks to accurately measure their sustainability and ESG performance. The session will dive into the strategies employed by leading firms with years of experience, providing valuable insights into best practices for effectively communicating sustainability progress. Both environmental and social dimensions will be addressed, offering a holistic view of how firms can integrate and report on sustainability efforts. Attendees will learn how to adopt and adapt successful strategies to elevate their own sustainability and ESG assessment and reporting.

Panelists:

Hentie Dirker, Chief ESG & Integrity Officer, AtkinsRéalis

Carrie Sabin, SVP, Corporate Sustainability, Stantec

Amy Pastor, VP, Sustainability, EXP

Julie Jennings, SVP, People, GEI Consultants

4:15 pm – 4:25 pm

Day’s Closing Remarks

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Evening Networking Reception and Light Dinner

(All Times in Eastern Time)

Thursday, December 5, 2024

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Breakfast Reconnect

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Session 6: Navigating the Evolving Regulatory Landscape

This session will explore the evolving regulatory landscape surrounding ESG, sustainability, climate action, and energy transition. We will cover both current requirements and anticipated regulatory changes, with a focus on how shifts in government policy and funding priorities may impact AEC firms in the coming years. The discussion will provide insights on aligning resources to stay ahead of compliance needs and maximize impact, equipping AEC firms with the information needed to navigate regulatory demands strategically and efficiently.

Panelists:

Sarah DesLauriers, Director, Air Climate & Energy, California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Susanne DesRoches, VP, Clean and Resilient Buildings, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Jane Madden, Partner, Buro Happold

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Morning Coffee Break

10:30 am – 11:15 am

Session 7: Sustainability Services

What sustainability and ESG services do AEC firms currently offer to clients, and which are in highest demand? How do AEC firms navigate the balance between growing client interest in sustainability and the challenges posed by limited project budgets? What specific sustainability priorities are clients focusing on? This session will delve into the shifting landscape of client expectations for sustainability and ESG, examining how demand has evolved in recent years and the approaches AEC firms are taking to meet these needs effectively. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of both the drivers and constraints in providing impactful sustainability services.

Panelists:

Ryan Prime, Sustainability Practice Lead, VHB

11:15 am – 11:30 am

Refresh Break

11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Session 8: Breakout Sessions

8A: Nature-based Solutions and Positive Frameworks

How can AEC firms design and deliver projects that not only minimize environmental impact but actively restore and enhance biodiversity? This breakout session will address the biodiversity challenges outlined by the United Nations and explore what it means to implement nature-positive practices. The session will provide actionable insights into how firms can assess and measure the effectiveness of their nature-positive efforts and highlight best practices for advancing these strategies within the built environment.

8B: The Sustainability Assessment and Disclosure Framework: Breaking Down Your Approach

During this breakout session, the discussion will focus on the critical considerations AEC firms must keep in mind when reporting or planning to report on their sustainability and ESG performance. Panelists will break down the essential elements of an effective sustainability assessment and disclosure strategy, offering guidance on the key frameworks firms should adopt to ensure transparency and consistency in their reporting. The session will discuss how firms can select the right assessment and disclosure framework based on their specific goals, operations, and stakeholder expectations. The panel will also focus on the most important Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that AEC firms should track to measure and communicate their sustainability performance effectively.

8C: Effectively Measuring the Cost of Sustainability

This breakout session will explore the true financial cost and value creation from sustainable solutions and projects within the AEC industry. The panel will address a key question: Is sustainability more expensive, or can it actually be cost-effective in the long run? Panelists will discuss various approaches to measuring the cost of sustainability and strategies for engaging clients who may not fully understand or appreciate the financial benefits of sustainable solutions. Attendees will gain practical insights on how AEC firms can effectively communicate the long-term value and ROI of sustainable practices.

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm

Refresh Break

(All Times in Eastern Time)

Thursday, December 5, 2024

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

Session 9: Looking to the Future: Sustainability & ESG in the AEC Industry

The concluding panel of the forum will focus on the key challenges and opportunities that both small and large AEC firms face in advancing sustainability and ESG initiatives. Panelists will reflect on the evolving landscape of sustainability in the industry, offering insights into what firms need to prioritize in the coming years to stay competitive and meet emerging regulatory and market demands.

The session will guide sustainability leaders on the essential questions they should be asking when they return to their firms, such as: How can we future-proof our sustainability strategy? What are the next big trends in ESG that we should be prepared for? How do we navigate evolving client expectations and regulatory frameworks? Panelists will also discuss how firms can prepare for future scenarios, including potential disruptions, technological advancements, and shifts in environmental and social priorities. The panel will provide actionable takeaways for sustainability leaders to ensure their firms are well-positioned for the future of the AEC industry.

Panelists:

Michael Sutton, CEO, Infrastructure Engineering

Anthony Kane, President and CEO, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Conference Closing Remarks

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Closing Coffee Conversation & Lunch