

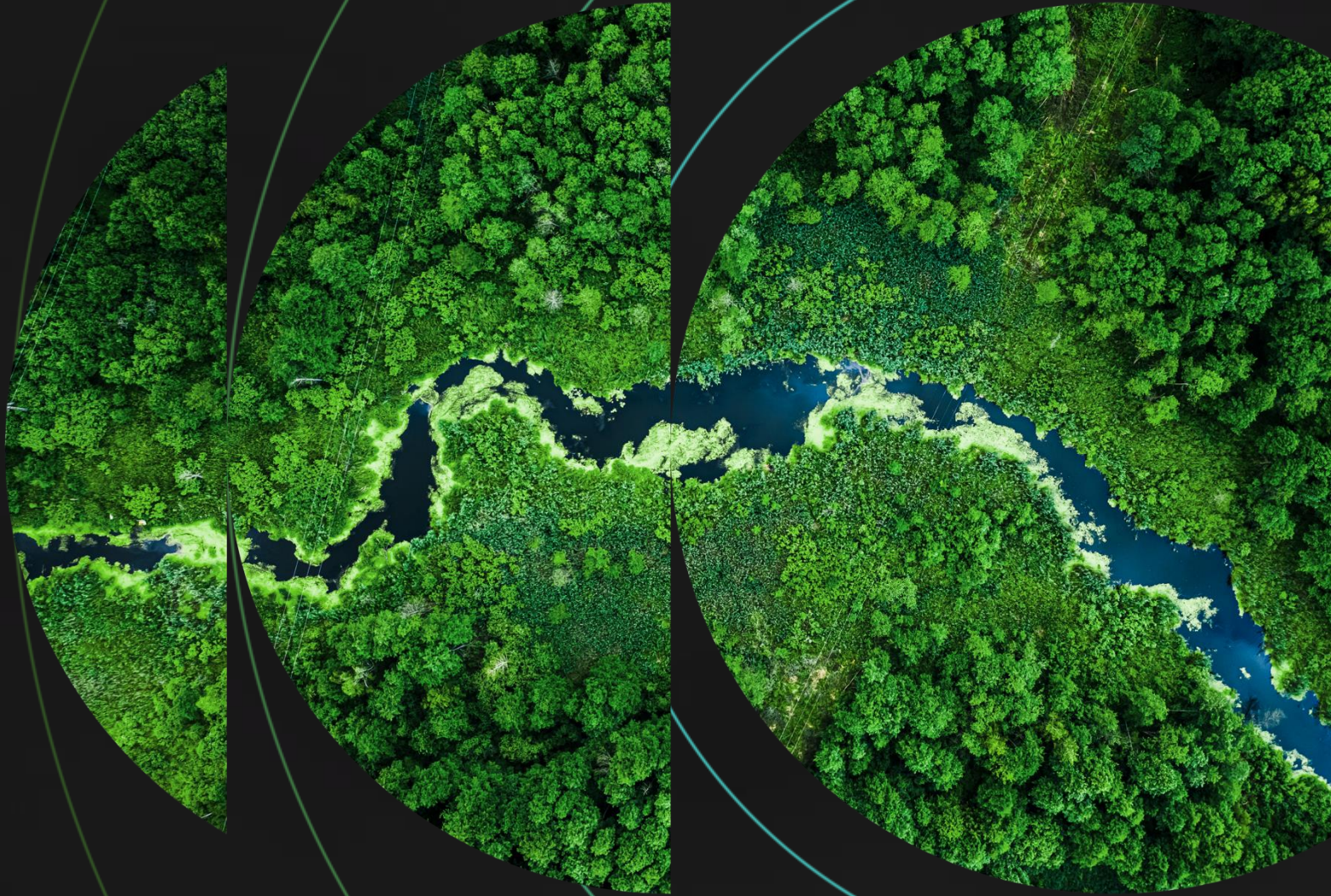


Together makes progress

HORIZONS

Climate Week 2025 NYC

Executive Summary



Key Takeaways

Over four days and 45 sessions, 1,631 thinkers, pioneers, and doers came together to reimagine sustainability at Deloitte HORIZONS 2025. Together, we looked beyond compliance, showcasing the ways sustainable investments and practices can drive tangible business value—top-line revenue growth, cost reduction, and risk mitigation.

Through mainstage debates, hands-on workshops, fireside chats, and more, 117 esteemed speakers facilitated conversations around the idea that nature and growth can coexist in the boardroom, citing actionable insights, practical examples, and bold new approaches to some of our most pressing challenges.

The HORIZONS experience explored sustainable value throughout the week, offering six key takeaways to help inform our action and broaden the reach of our collective work in the days, months and years to come.

“*The reality is sustainability is an element of creating value. It's a business imperative. It can, if done properly, enhance your brand and your shareholder value, futureproof your organization, and make you more resilient. And despite what people think, it actually can grow your top line.*”

Steve Goldbach, Deloitte US Sustainability Leader

TAKEAWAY 1

Technology is a force multiplier for impact.

While technology is not a panacea, digital innovations like AI, geospatial data, IoT, and more offer us powerful new levers to pull in accelerating progress. When implemented with care and vision, technology can bolster human ingenuity and help drive lasting positive results.

“We worked together with a pharmaceutical company... For this particular factory, eggshell waste was a cost center—a half million pounds a year. After using the data and AI to find new uses and buyers, they created a revenue stream of around 800,000 pounds a year for an investment of about 150K. It was a huge business case. But it wasn't available to them before because they didn't have this information. For them, it was waste. Through AI and technology, we broke down those walls and empowered them to make very different decisions.”

Christian Van Maaren, Founder Access Materials Exchange



NOTABLE SESSIONS

Progress isn't the Problem,
Aging Infrastructure Is

AI for Sustainability:
Friend or Foe?

Enabling Tech, Ecosystems
and Resilience to Mitigate
Infrastructure Risks

Growing the Circular
Economy Through Tech

TAKEAWAY 2

Finance has the power to fuel broad, sustained progress.

Bold, innovative financial models and investment mechanisms can help unlock sustainability solutions at scale, reinforcing the idea that transformation is possible, and it can be profitable. Creating trust and accountability in capital flows—and aligning them to sustainability objectives—are important for delivering tangible benefits.

“ We see capital markets as the most powerful force to drive accountability on sustainability objectives. Investors are demanding transparency around real performance, and in turn, their allocation decisions are sending a message about what matters most in the marketplace. That’s what’s ultimately going to drive progress. ”

Kristen Sullivan, Global Audit & Assurance Climate and Sustainability Services Leader, Deloitte & Touche LLP

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Financing The Energy Transition

The Investment Paradox

Deloitte.



NOTABLE SESSIONS

Creating Value Through Sustainability

Built for Impact: How Social Entrepreneurs Are Redefining What Climate Tech Can Do

Financing the Energy Transition

Purposeful Procurement, Bottom-line Impact

TAKEAWAY 3

System advantage and competitive advantage are not mutually exclusive.

Intentional, cross-sector collaboration including businesses, financiers, and communities is essential for accelerating sustainability and building resilience. Covered in sessions across the energy and circularity tracks, cooperative action offers a system advantage that benefits everyone, without limiting opportunities for businesses to build competitive advantage from a level playing field.

“We don't know how to measure circularity for our sport. We don't know how to measure it for our team. So what are we going to do in this space? We realized we're not having to see it as a competitive advantage—which is weird, I know, to say that in a Formula One team. But where are we all using the same suppliers? Where we're using the same parts? Can we tackle that first and be really systematic and data-guided about how we go about driving this change going forward?”

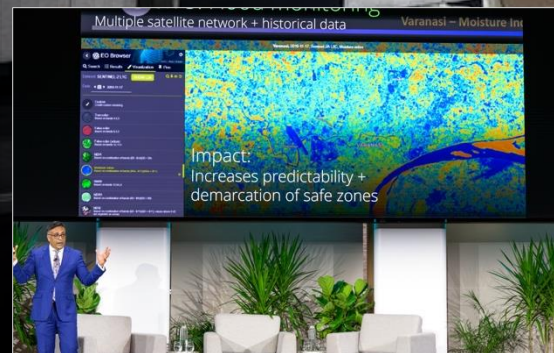
Kim Wilson, McLaren Racing Director of Sustainability

enablers which will accelerate effective operation through the intersections



HORIZON
Climate Week 2025
Powering
The Data Center

Deloitte



NOTABLE SESSIONS

Powering AI:
The Data Center Surge

Driving Performance Through
Circularity

Turning the Tide: Innovative
Water Solutions

Making Something from Nothing:
Innovations for 600 Million
People in the Ganges Plains

TAKEAWAY 4

Net positive is the new net zero.

Sustainability trailblazers are making the shift toward net positive, regenerative practices and updating organizational sustainability goals accordingly. Genuine sustainability leadership supports transparent goals and clear accountability to support both ecosystems and communities—giving everyone a stake in a thriving future.

“In 2006, I was interviewing an indigenous leader in the Brazilian Amazon. And I asked the question... ‘How do you live in balance with your environment?’ And he said, ‘Well, when I cut a tree to build a canoe, I plant one so that my grandson’s grandson can have a strong tree. And when I go hunting, I only hunt the animals I need to feed my family.’ And in that moment, I realized there is no other way to live except sustainably.”

Céline Cousteau, Filmmaker, Explorer, Environmental Leader, and Life-Fulfillment Strategist



NOTABLE SESSIONS

Powering AI:
The Data Center Surge

Building the Future:
What if We Get it Right?

Financed Emissions:
From Reporting to ROI

Reimagine What's Possible

TAKEAWAY 5

Measurable action drives meaningful change.

Sustainability initiatives are increasingly judged by measurable outcomes, not intentions. Agile leadership, creative problem-solving, frequent stakeholder engagement, and data-driven insights should work in tandem to deliver quantifiable, lasting value—whether through energy resilience, economic gains, or enhanced community well-being.

“We are absolutely convinced that there is only one way to define value creation, because to some extent...sustainability without performance has no impact, but performance without sustainability has no future.”

Cécile Béliot, CEO Bell Group



NOTABLE SESSIONS

AI for Sustainability:
Friend or Foe?

From Data to Value:
Trust That Scales

Nature Meets Finance:
Turning Data into Value

Scaling for Streamlined
Global Reporting

TAKEAWAY 6

Imagination bridges possibility and progress.

The significance of creative thinking, agile leadership, and a willingness to experiment cannot be understated. Approaching challenges with imagination and a sense of possibility is helping organizations and communities turn risk into opportunity, and cultivating a creative mindset is increasingly linked to sustainable long-term value.

“It’s not just about what’s technically feasible today, it’s about what we can envision and then move toward as a system. That’s where the big breakthroughs happen.”

John Mennel, Climate Tech Practice Lead,
Deloitte Consulting LLP

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Beyond Storytelling Turning Sustainable Narratives into Action

Deloitte.



NOTABLE SESSIONS

Building the Future:
What if We Get It Right?

The C-Suite Dynamic:
Spend, Scale or Stall?

Beyond Storytelling:
Turning Sustainable
Narratives into Action

Reimagine What's Possible

Keynote Speakers



Kamal Ahmed
Co-Founder,
The News Movement,
Columnist and
Senior Interviewer,
The Telegraph



Sanmit Ahuja
Director,
Climate and Energy
Transition Finance
Initiative



Kim Blair
Vice President of
Business Development,
Re:Build Manufacturing



Diane Brady
Executive Director,
Live Media, FORTUNE;
Editorial Director,
Fortune CEO Initiative



Cécile Béliot
CEO,
Bel Group



Jesper Brodin
CEO Ingka Group,
IKEA



Céline Cousteau
Esteemed Documentarian,
Activist, and
International
Adventurer



Lisa Dyson
CEO,
Air Protein



Will Graylin
CEO,
IndiGOtech



Jen Huffstetler
Chief Sustainability Officer
and Senior Vice President of
Global Product Compliance
and Sustainable Impact, HP



Dr. Sarah Myers West
Co-Executive Director of
the AI Now Institute



Rick Needham
Chief Commercial
Officer,
Commonwealth Fusion



Paul Polman
Business Leader,
Investor,
Philanthropist



Catesby Perrin
Head of Business,
Mill



Brandon Spencer
President of the Motion
Business Area, ABB Ltd.
Member of the Group
Executive Committee



Lucia Tian
Head of Advanced
Energy Technologies,
Google



David Wallace Wells
Deputy Editor
& Author,
The Uninhabitable
Earth



Rainn Wilson
Award-winning Actor,
Best-selling Author,
and Renowned
Humanitarian

Thank You

To dig deeper into the thinking behind these takeaways, explore HORIZONS video content, or discover more insights from Deloitte Sustainability, [visit us online](#) ›

For more information, please contact us [here](#) ›

“It's really important for all of us working in...sustainability that we keep hope alive, we foster joy and keep a positive message underpinning what it is we're doing. These stories that we're trying to create need to spark action. And you can do that with joy and with hope and with a feeling of, hey, we're all in this together. And so that's so important.”

Rainn Wilson, Storyteller and Environmental Champion

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