

ECO IMPACT 2024

RETROFITTING THE WORKFORCE

Empowering
Environmental
Innovation

FEBRUARY 8-9, 2024

Innovation and Future Trends: Gain invaluable insights into the latest breakthroughs and advancements in environmental technology, policy, and practice. From the adoption of clean energy sources to the integration of artificial intelligence and data analytics, we will delve into the transformative potential of emerging technologies and their impact on environmental sustainability.

Leading the Charge: Cleantech Innovation Transforming Canada's Future

Session | Innovation and Future Trends

Canada is at the cutting-edge of clean technologies that are revolutionizing various aspects of the environmental sector. From renewable energy systems and energy storage solutions to waste management technologies and water conservation innovations, we will dive into case studies showcasing the practical application and impact of these breakthrough technologies.

Future Trends: Pioneering the Evolution of Environmental Leadership

Session | Innovation and Future Trends

The role of technology in driving innovation, collaboration, and sustainability in the environmental sector is crucial. We will examine technological advancements and their potential to help organizations achieve their environmental leadership goals. We will discuss real-world examples of organizations that have successfully implemented technology-driven initiatives to achieve their environmental leadership objectives.

Emerging Horizons: Green Tech Innovations in Canada

Session | Innovation and Future Trends

From solar desalination to energy efficient coding explore the cutting-edge advancements that are driving sustainability and environmental consciousness in the tech industry. We will hear from leading experts in the field of green technology innovation, who will share their insights and predictions for the future of this rapidly evolving field.

Retrofitting Communities: The Future of Resilient Infrastructure

Session | Innovation and Future Trends

Retrofitting communities is becoming increasingly important as cities and towns face challenges such as climate change, rising energy costs, and an aging infrastructure. By making communities more sustainable and resilient, they can be better prepared to handle these challenges and thrive in the years ahead. This session will delve into the latest advancements, best practices, and strategies for creating a robust infrastructure within our Canadian communities and rural centres.

Reshaping the ECO-Revolution: AI's Power for Environmental Advancement

Session | Innovation and Future Trends

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is heralded as one of the transformative technologies of our age. Beyond its application in commerce and entertainment, AI has the potential to revolutionize environmental conservation, sustainability, and restoration efforts, especially in a country as vast and ecologically diverse as Canada. This session dives into the frontiers of AI-driven environmental innovations, showcasing Canada's role at the vanguard of this transformative juncture.

Natural Resources Renaissance: Transforming How we Think & How the Workforce will Adapt

Session | Innovation and Future Trends

The global narrative surrounding natural resources is undergoing a tectonic shift. As Canada grapples with climate change, dwindling resources, and the impacts of industrialization, there's an urgent need to redefine our relationship with our natural resources. This session aims to be the epicenter of this discourse, exploring the future of natural resources and how the global workforce will adapt, innovate, and flourish amidst these changes.

Planning for Climate Change: Navigating Challenges, Building Resilience, and Driving Sustainable Solutions

Session | Innovation and Future Trends

This session will unpack the unique set of challenges Canada faces and highlight forward-looking strategies, solutions, and resilience-building measures to address climate change. You will gain a comprehensive understanding of the current and projected impacts of climate change on Canada's diverse ecosystems, communities, and industries. We will explore the regional variations in climate impacts, identify priority areas for adaptation and mitigation efforts and examine the policy and governance frameworks at all government levels that guide climate change planning in Canada.

Sustainability in Governance and Policy: These sessions delve into the challenges, opportunities, and innovative solutions at the intersection of sustainability, governance, and policy.

Canadian Pathways: Policy and Transparency in Supply Chain Management

Session | Sustainability in Governance and Policy

Sustainable supply chain management has an impact on organizational success and the importance of transparency and traceability in supply chains is more important now more than ever. Explore innovative technologies and platforms that enable greater visibility into supply chain operations, foster accountability, and empower consumers to make informed choices.

Nature-Based Solutions: Harnessing the Power of Nature to Solve Future Challenges

Session | Sustainability in Governance and Policy

The policy and regulatory frameworks that facilitate the implementation of nature-based solutions in Canada can be challenging. We will discuss successful examples of policy instruments, funding mechanisms, and institutional frameworks that support the scaling up of nature-based solutions across sectors and discuss strategies for scaling up nature-based solutions and overcoming barriers to implementation. This session explores funding mechanisms, capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge-sharing platforms that can accelerate the adoption and replication of successful nature-based solutions.

CleanTech Vanguard: Accelerating Innovation and Seizing Economic Opportunities

Session | Sustainability in Governance and Policy

The adoption of clean technologies across key sectors, including energy, transportation, manufacturing, and agriculture are well under way. We will discuss case studies, pilot projects, and successful implementations that demonstrate the transformative impact of clean technologies in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resource efficiency, and driving sectoral sustainability. This session will identify future opportunities and challenges for Canada's clean technology sector as we discuss emerging trends, disruptive technologies, and evolving market dynamics that will shape the sector's growth.

Investing in a Time of ESG Skepticism: Navigating Factors for Sustainable Returns

Session | Sustainability in Governance and Policy

As funds focused on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues become ubiquitous, attracting large inflows, more investors are becoming skeptical that issuers can meet sustainability targets and offer strong returns. We will discuss the skepticism surrounding ESG investing and explore the underlying concerns and examine criticisms, misconceptions, and challenges related to ESG data quality, measurement methodologies, greenwashing, and the fiduciary duty of investors. We will also discuss how ESG analysis can enhance risk assessment, identify potential value drivers, and inform investment decision-making.

Indigenous Communities & ESG: Exploring the Implications of the West's Climate Strategy on Indigenous Land Stewardship

Workshop | Sustainability in Governance and Policy

The emergence of ESG frameworks and their increasing prominence in the West's climate strategy has influenced Indigenous land stewardship. We will analyze the potential benefits and risks associated with ESG adoption, particularly in the context of Indigenous land and resource rights. We will examine the potential risks of Western climate strategies, such as conservation initiatives, carbon offset projects, and renewable energy development, on Indigenous sovereignty, cultural integrity, and land rights.

Innovating and Executing the Audit: Enhancing Sustainability, Compliance, and Accountability

Session | Sustainability in Governance and Policy

Innovative approaches and technologies enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental audits. We will discuss the use of data analytics, artificial intelligence and more in collecting and analyzing environmental data, improving audit accuracy, and identifying potential risks and opportunities. Learn best practices for audit planning and risk assessment in the environmental sector. Discuss methods for identifying environmental risks, setting audit objectives, scoping audits, and prioritizing areas of focus based on potential environmental impacts and regulatory requirements.

***Human Resources, People Analytics:** We will explore the transformative power of people analytics in driving sustainable workforce strategies. With a focus on leveraging data-driven insights, these sessions aim to equip HR professionals and sustainability leaders with the tools and knowledge to optimize their human capital practices.*

Talent Magnet: How to Attract Talent and Stand out in the Market

Session | Human Resources, People Analytics

Navigate the downturn with approaches such as building talent pipelines, partnering with educational institutions, and leveraging professional networks. We will explore the role of technology in talent acquisition in the environmental sector and discuss the use of applicant tracking systems, artificial intelligence in resume screening, virtual interviewing tools, and online assessments.

Accelerating Green Skills: Building a Skilled Workforce with Competency Profiling

Session | Human Resources, People Analytics

The development and implementation of competency profiling and skills frameworks has accelerated. We will discuss the benefits of standardized frameworks for defining, assessing, and recognizing skills and competencies. We will highlight the significance of academia-industry partnerships in accelerating internships, co-op programs, applied research programs, and industry led curriculum design that bridges the gap between education and industry needs.

Workforce Solutions: Empowering the Environmental Workforce in Canada

Session | Human Resources, People Analytics

Managing workforce transitions in the environmental sector can be difficult. We will discuss approaches for supporting employees through industry shifts, technological advancements, and policy changes, including reskilling programs, career transition support, and proactive workforce planning.

Upskilling and Reskilling the Workforce: Fostering Organizational Agility for Future Success

Session | Human Resources, People Analytics

Learning how to assess current skills gaps and anticipate future work trends is crucial. We will explore methods for conducting skills assessments, analyzing industry trends, and aligning workforce development strategies with business objectives. We will explore approaches such as competency-based training, blended learning, micro learning and immersive experiences.

Great Leadership is a Network not a Hierarchy: Embracing Change in a Boundaryless World

Session | Human Resources, People Analytics

Globalization, digitalization and remote work are erasing traditional boundaries and shaping new approaches to leadership and decision making. Join us as we examine the role of leaders in building resilience and agility with their teams and organizations. We will discuss strategies for anticipating and responding to disruptions, fostering adaptability, and empowering individuals to navigate uncertainty and change.

How Fearless Women Lead: Breaking Barriers and Driving Change in Canada

Session | Human Resources, People Analytics

Inspiring and empowering the next generation of women leaders in the environmental sector will be of great importance. We will identify key factors in advancing women in the sector including creating a supportive ecosystem, promoting women's representation in leadership and advocating for inclusive policies and practices. We will discuss ways in which to amplify women's voices and ensure their perspectives are represented in decision making processes, including STEM education, mentorship and leadership programs that cultivate a pipeline of fearless women.

Harmony and Belonging (DEI): Navigating Pushback and Developing a Strategic Framework

Workshop | Human Resources, People Analytics

We will address the challenges and pushback that may arise when implementing DEI initiatives. We will learn strategies to effectively navigate resistance, foster buy-in, and communicate the value and benefits of DEI for organizations and their missions. The role of leadership in setting the tone, promoting safety and establishing policies and practices that support DEI are more important and we will give insight into developing a strategic framework that embeds DEI principles.

Embracing Diversity: Navigating Cultural Differences and Employment Challenges for Newcomers

Canada is known for its diverse and inclusive society, attracting newcomers from around the world for a better future. However, many newcomers find the journey to finding suitable employment daunting. This session aims to shed light on the specific obstacles faced by newcomers and explore the impact cultural differences may have. We will gain practical knowledge and learn about valuable resources that help newcomers overcome their employment hurdles.