



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**

# Opportunity Summit

**Tuesday, 23 June 2026**

## About the Opportunity Summit

In partnership with the Mayor of London, the Opportunity Summit convenes senior leaders across business, policy, and finance to focus on Europe's next phase of climate-aligned growth. Hosted by Climate Group, the Summit aligns decision-makers and accelerates progress on high-impact, investible opportunities that create lasting value for Europe's economy, people, and climate.

## The Opportunity Town Hall

Europe is at a defining moment as the global economic order is reshaped. The action we take this year will decide not just how fast Europe moves, but where it invests, scales, and competes. Across power systems, digital infrastructure and the built environment, the direction is emerging - but the playbook is not yet agreed.

This is no longer about ambition. It's about turning opportunity into measurable return. Electrification as a driver of competitiveness and security. Industrial AI as a catalyst for productivity and efficiency. Resilient infrastructure and liveable communities as investible assets delivering long-term value. These opportunities must be sharpened, prioritised, and turned into action.

During London Climate Action Week, the Opportunity Agenda convenes leaders in a global city connecting European ambition with capital, innovation, and subnational leadership, to test assumptions, build consensus, and unlock the next wave of competitiveness.

This is a forum to lean in, decide and act. What part will you play in driving Europe's next wave of climate-aligned growth?

Follow us:



**12:00 PM – 1:00 PM**

## **Registration**

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**1:00 PM – 1:05 PM**

## **Host Welcome**

**Speaker:**

- Mariam Zaidi, **Broadcaster and journalist**
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**1:05 PM – 1:10 PM**

## **Welcome Address**

**Speaker:**

- Helen Clarkson OBE, **CEO, Climate Group**
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**1:10 PM – 1:20 PM**

## **Leadership dialogue: The energy we make – powering communities, strengthening Europe**

The UK and Europe could turn clean energy into a local and regional advantage. Producing our own power and diversifying sources boosts security, cuts costs, and drives competitiveness. Renewables are key to fighting climate change. But can we plan, permit, and interconnect fast enough? Will the Grids Package and the Hamburg Declaration translate into industrial delivery? Can we persuade citizens to stay onside as the cost-of-living increases?

**That is the question and the opportunity.**

**Speakers:**

- Teresa Ribera, **Executive Vice-President, Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, European Commission** (Invited)
  - Helen Clarkson OBE, **CEO, Climate Group** (Confirmed)
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**1:20 PM – 1:55 PM**

## **Panel: Building Europe's electrostates – from domestic reliance to regional resilience**

The momentum is electric. EVs now outsell petrol cars in the EU. Heat pumps are rebounding. And over 50% of Europe's power already comes from wind, solar and hydro. So, how can Europe fire up the charge to become a clean energy superpower; driven to strengthen energy security, lower the cost of KWs boosting competitiveness, and reducing exposure to a volatile LNG market at the same time?

**That is the question and the opportunity.**

But momentum alone won't carry us across the chasm. Rapid electrification demands more than clean generation. As the Hamburg Declaration outlines, it demands interconnection. Faster permitting. Smart grids. Long-duration storage. System flexibility. Speed. How do we flip the switch, break barriers, align action and supercharge Europe's first electrostates, now?

**Speakers:**

- Dhara Vyas, Chief Executive, **Energy UK** (Confirmed)
- Eva Riesenhuber, Global Head of Sustainability, **Siemens** (Confirmed)
- Jan Rosenow, Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, **University of Oxford** (Confirmed)
- Annika Ramsköld, **Vice President of Sustainability, Vattenfall** (Confirmed)

Moderated by Mariam Zaidi, **broadcaster and journalist** (Confirmed)

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**1:55 PM – 2:00 PM**

## **Speech: From electrons to algorithms – where reliable power meets digital growth**

What if green power wasn't just abundant, but guaranteed exactly when and where your business needed it? As electrification and AI drive demand, the challenge is no longer simply buying renewables but securing carbon-free electricity in real time, unlocking opportunities for resilience, cost stability and growth.

This opportunity is bringing companies together in new ways, including through initiatives such as the 24/7 Carbon-Free Coalition, to explore how real-time carbon-free electricity can scale across sectors and markets while supporting emerging standards and expectations.

**Speakers:**

- To be announced

Introduced by Mariam Zaidi, **broadcaster and journalist** (Confirmed)

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**2:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

## **Panel: Europe's powerful AI playbook – smarter, leaner, but how fast can we move?**

AI is accelerating. But Europe's race to lead looks different. Others compete on raw scale – more data centres, more compute, more energy. Europe's edge is industrial: factories, supply chains, and critical infrastructure where AI drives real gains in productivity, efficiency and climate-aligned growth. How can Europe turn its industrial base into a true platform for AI leadership and move fast enough to capture the advantage?

## That is the question and the opportunity.

Ambition alone won't get Europe from AI taker to AI maker. Building a homegrown edge will require coordinated R&D, smart regulation, targeted funding, and the talent to deploy solutions at scale. How do we unlock these levers to make industrial efficiency the engine of Europe's sustainable digital future?

### Speakers:

- Serish Gandikota, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Frugal AI Hub Visiting Fellow, **Cambridge Judge Business School** (Confirmed)
- Jose La Loggia, Group President, EMEA, **Trane Technologies** (Confirmed)
- Ditte Juul-Jørgensen, Director-General for Energy, **European Commission** (Tentative)

Moderated by Yusuf Khan, Sustainability Reporter, **Wall Street Journal** (Confirmed)

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**2:30 PM – 2:40 PM**

## In conversation: The changed world – how does business adapt to thrive?

The world order has shifted for good. Fragmentation is rising, power is re-balancing, and old playbooks no longer apply. Thriving in this new landscape requires a clear view of the trends, opportunities, and risks shaping Europe's climate-driven economy. In this conversation, we'll draw on cross-sector insights and emerging frameworks to determine how companies can better anticipate disruption, join forces and leverage collaboration to unlock resilience, competitiveness, and influence in an increasingly uncertain world.

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**2:40 PM – 2:50 PM**

## In conversation: Opportunity in action – business as a catalyst

Europe's industrial and energy landscape is being rewritten. Standing still is not an option, thriving means turning climate action into growth, influence, and competitive edge. In this conversation, a European business leader shares first-hand experience of unlocking opportunities across supply chains and markets to lead Europe's next phase of climate-aligned growth.

### Speakers:

- Preeti Srivastav, Group Head of Sustainability, **Asahi** (Confirmed)
  - Helen Clarkson, CEO, **Climate Group** (Confirmed)
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**2:50 PM – 3:20 PM**

## **Panel: From cost to return – can we develop liveable communities which pay us back?**

The debate about the costs of net-zero has been loud. The evidence is louder. Insulated homes lower bills. EVs improve air quality. Flood protection cuts insurance premiums. The returns from climate-aligned investment are real – but progress is often uneven and too fragmented. Europe’s challenge is how to industrialise these benefits and unlock them at scale.

**That is the question and the opportunity.**

Europe’s real opportunity isn’t just decarbonisation – it’s designing cities that generate measurable returns for people, business and the planet. But pledges alone won’t result in the visible benefits that communities can feel. Europe’s liveable cities, states and regions require coordinated infrastructure investment, private sector engagement, and broad public support. What will it take to catalyse a wave of smart, investible solutions that boost prosperity, resilience, and climate impact at the same time?

### **Speakers:**

- Marina Romanello, Executive Director, **Lancet Countdown** (Confirmed)
- Ambroise Fayolle, Vice President, **European Investment Bank** (Confirmed)
- Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy, **City of London** (Tentative)

Moderated by Mariam Zaidi, **broadcaster and journalist** (Confirmed)

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**3:20 PM – 3:25 PM**

## **Closing remarks**

### **Speakers:**

- John-Arne Røttingen, CEO, **Wellcome Trust** (Tentative)
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**3:25 PM – 3:45 PM**

## **Networking**

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# Implementation Rooms (Closed-Door Sessions)

We're launching highly interactive implementation rooms to convene leaders from business, finance, and policy to take part in solution-driven workshops, leadership roundtables, and report launches designed to unlock the levers to lasting change. In a global capital where policy, finance, and industry converge, these sessions go beyond discussion; they focus on actionable pathways to accelerate decarbonisation, capture new market opportunities, and drive the continent's economic advantage.

This is where leaders work through the 'messy middle', where business leaders, investors, and policymakers co-create strategies, test bold ideas, and identify partnerships that can unlock resilient supply chains, scalable climate solutions, and a competitive edge in the clean economy.

**11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

## Workshop: The AI advantage – Europe's pathways to investible impact

Industrial AI is already delivering measurable returns in factory productivity, energy efficiency, supply chain resilience, and infrastructure performance. But are European businesses deploying AI fast enough? And are they realising its full potential through structural change, rather than incremental improvements?

European commercial leaders must balance two distinct but interlinked priorities. First: accelerating industrial AI deployment to drive competitiveness. Second: building AI infrastructure in ways that achieve – rather than undermine – resilience, climate, and sovereignty objectives. Real tensions exist that require strategic thought at both the corporate and system level. This workshop provides space to work through them.

### Are we capturing the AI opportunity for European industry?

- Where is AI creating real competitive advantage for European industry today, and where is Europe lagging?
- What are the binding constraints on deployment at scale – capital, talent, data, or infrastructure?
- What would it take for Europe to lead, not just catch up, over the next 3–5 years?
- What does a distinct *European industrial AI* vision look like?

### What does AI mean for Europe's climate and resilience objectives?

- Can Europe meet AI's energy demand without breaking its climate commitments – and through what infrastructure design choices?
- Where does AI infrastructure expansion create genuine grid resilience tensions, and where are those overstated?

- What does meaningful European sovereignty over AI compute and data look like – and what's the cost of not having it?

A short keynote will frame the dual challenge, followed by a panel discussion spanning industry, energy, and hyperscalers. Participants will work in four stakeholder groups – industry, energy and infrastructure, investors, and policymakers – to identify concrete actions and realistic trade-offs.

#### **Key outcomes:**

- A frank assessment of Europe's position in industrial AI, the climate and resilience risks it faces, and opportunities to accelerate
- A set of shared priorities for European industry, energy players, and governments
- A view on next steps for coordinated action across AI deployment, infrastructure, policy and investment

#### **Speakers:**

- Peter Hulshof, Partner, Energy Transition, **Systemiq** (Confirmed)

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**3:45 PM – 5:30 PM**

## **Workshop: Net-zero hasn't failed. How we've framed it might have**

Eight in ten executives are reframing their net-zero strategies in operational, financial and strategic terms, embedding them in the investment decisions, cost structure and competitive positioning that determine what survives the next planning cycle. They are not retreating, they are reframing. But are they getting it right?

A new paper from SE Advisory Services and IESE Business School finds that across operating efficiency, supply-chain resilience, talent, customer access and capital, the returns to strategic sustainability integration are measurable, distributed and growing. They are also consistently undervalued, which is precisely why the gap between what integration delivers and what most companies capture remains so large.

Join us and help us unpack what separates the companies closing that gap from those still managing sustainability as a reporting obligation: governance that connects sustainability to capital allocation, incentives that reward delivery, and the digital infrastructure that makes performance visible in financial terms. Because behind the mechanics sits a bigger question: how much value is on the table, and what would it take to reclaim it?

#### **Key outcomes**

- A sharper business case for net-zero, grounded in recent evidence on valuation, cost of capital, and competitive positioning
- Case studies of companies that have reframed the conversation with their boards, investors, and policymakers
- Practical approaches to align sustainability strategy with business objectives under shifting regulation and political pressure
- A clearer view of where value is being left on the table, and what it takes to capture it

**Speakers:**

- Stuart Lemmon, Head of Global Practices, Sustainability, **SE Advisory Services**
  - John Powers, Vice President, Global Cleantech and Renewables
  - John Bamford, Head of Sustainability (UK&I)
  - Rachel Skinner, Director Global Sustainability Practice
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**3:45 PM – 5:30 PM**

## **Leadership briefing: The five forces reshaping energy in 2026**

Energy strategy is now business strategy. In 2026, leaders face rising energy-market volatility, growing energy security risks, rapid grid transformation, and shifting disclosure rules – making the cost and continuity of supply critical board-level issues.

This leadership briefing explores the key shifts reshaping corporate energy decisions, from grid modernisation and clean-flexibility markets to the rise of AI and new GHG Protocol expectations. Drawing on cross-industry expertise, experts will highlight emerging corporate leadership and equip decision-makers to act confidently in a fast-moving energy landscape.

**Speakers:**

- Sam Kimmins, Director of Energy, **Climate Group**
  - Professor Emily Shuckburgh, Cambridge Zero, **University of Cambridge**
  - Fabien Chêne, Head of Sustainability Business Europe, **Schneider Electric**
  - Katherine Tjandra, Energy Transition Director, **AirTrunk**
  - Colin Crooks, CEO, **ACT Group**
  - Frédéric Lefort, B2B ExCom Member and Head of 24/7 CFE, **ENGIE**
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