



CLIMATE GROUP Opportunity Summit

Highlights from the Opportunity Summit
at London Climate Action Week 2026



Contents

- 03 Letter from Helen Clarkson
- 04 Driving impact
- 05 Speakers
- 06 Opportunity Town Hall
- 07 The AI advantage
- 08 The net zero debate
- 09 The five forces reshaping energy
- 10 Our global network in action
- 11 Our audience
- 12 Thank you for your support
- 13 Upcoming events



Letter from Helen Clarkson

It's exciting and daunting in equal measure to launch a new event. You never truly know if it will catch on until you open the doors – especially during a packed London Climate Action Week and record-breaking heat.

So, thank you for joining us at Climate Group's inaugural Opportunity Summit and for making it such a success.

This Summit focused on simple questions: in a period defined by geopolitical uncertainty, rising energy demand and an inevitable energy transition, what are the opportunities for Europe and the UK? How can they strengthen their competitiveness between the powerhouses of Asia and the US?

Over the course of the afternoon, attendees from 166 organisations and 29 countries explored the forces shaping competitiveness: from AI and energy security to electrification and infrastructure. The clear takeaway was that organisations want practical ways to secure clean power, reduce costs, and stay competitive as the energy transition accelerates.

That practical focus was clear in our Implementation Rooms as well, a series of workshops and roundtables designed to help senior decision-makers tackle specific challenges and equip leaders with valuable insights for their own organisations:

- In the AI workshop, leaders explored how Europe can connect AI growth with grid upgrades, electrification and energy efficiency, rather than treating AI as a standalone issue.
- In the business value workshop, participants agreed that net zero needs to be reframed as a driver of growth and resilience, with clearer links to revenue, cost savings, risk and competitiveness. To make that value measurable, teams need to work more closely across sustainability, finance, operations and commercial functions.
- In the energy briefing, it was clear that the bottleneck in the energy transition has shifted: infrastructure and investment now need to keep up with growing electricity demand and an increasingly complex grid.

What's more, we launched Climate Group's 24/7 Carbon-Free Coalition, with eight leading businesses committed to exploring pathways to carbon-free electricity. Rianne Buter, Global Head of Sustainability at Unilever, reminded us that achieving round-the-clock renewable electricity will require significant changes across energy markets – which is why cross-sector collaboration, at gatherings like the Opportunity Summit, is essential to progress.



What stood out most was the quality of the discussions, and the willingness of leaders to engage with difficult questions and focus on solutions.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make this first Summit possible: our attendees and speakers, our partners Bloomberg Philanthropies, Trane Technologies, Siemens and SE Advisory Services, our venue host Wellcome Trust, and the Mayor of London for their ongoing support.

We look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead, and continuing the conversation in 2027.

Helen Clarkson OBE
CEO of Climate Group



This was our inaugural Opportunity Summit. The team behind Climate Week NYC for the first time convened senior leaders in business, government, and civil society at a flagship event for London Climate Action Week, in partnership with the Mayor of London. The focus: shaping Europe’s clean energy competitiveness.



Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor of London for Energy and Environment, joined us to speak to assembled leaders (many of them also Londoners) about new data showing a 40% drop in estimated annual premature deaths linked to toxic air in the city.



At the summit, we launched the 24/7 Carbon-Free Coalition. The Coalition of world-leading businesses will examine how 24/7 carbon-free electricity works in practice and what advantages it can provide – helping companies globally to strengthen their resilience, gain better insight into electricity use, and reduce exposure to fossil fuel price volatility.



SE Advisory Services co-hosted the closed-door workshop, ‘Net zero hasn’t failed. How we’ve framed it might have’, exploring how too many companies are leaving significant financial value from sustainability on the table. Assembled business leaders and civil society representatives in the Implementation Room emphasised the need to transform sustainability from a ‘tick box’ into a core component of business strategy, directly connected to a corporate’s bottom line.

We hosted outcome-focused participatory sessions on two topics dominating discussions in London and Europe: AI and the next phase of the continent’s energy transition. Participants expressed how future competitiveness in Europe depends on aligning the data centre roll-out with greater digitisation and electrification in society, and how coordinated policy and innovation must play a role to ensure both are achieved sustainably.



Speakers

Over 31 international speakers took to the stage to discuss how Europe can strengthen its competitiveness while navigating geopolitical uncertainty, energy security, investment challenges and shifting regulations.

Throughout the day, discussions focused on moving from climate ambition to implementation. From unlocking capital, accelerating deployment and building the infrastructure, to the partnerships and policies that are needed to deliver long-term economic growth.



Science impels us. The economy literally beckons us, there's a lot of money to be earned. Health and security dictates us... if the market internalises this transition, there's no stopping it.

Anthony Agotha, Special Representative for Climate and Environment, European Union

Our 2026 speakers

- **Anthony Agotha**, Special Representative for Climate and Environment, European Union
- **Sofia Alva**, Research Consultant, IESE Business School
- **Antonella Battaglini**, CEO, Renewables Grid Initiative
- **Rianne Buter**, Global Head of Sustainability, Unilever
- **Patricia Casterllarnau**, Head of Sustainability and Climate Office, European Investment Bank
- **Fabien Chêne**, Head of Sustainability Business Europe, **SE Advisory Services**
- **Helen Clarkson OBE**, CEO, Climate Group
- **Mete Coban**, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy, City of London
- **Emma Cox**, Trustee, Climate Group
- **Colin Crooks**, CEO, ACT Group
- **Toby Ferenczi**, CEO & Co-Founder, Granular Energy
- **Serish Gandikota**, Co-Founder, Frugal AI Hub, Cambridge Judge Business School
- **Peter Hulshof**, Partner, Systemiq
- **Indy Johar**, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Dark Matter Labs
- **Sam Kimmins**, Director of Energy, Climate Group
- **Chang-Ken Lee**, CEO, Cathay FHC
- **Frédéric Lefort**, EXCOM Member B2B | France | Romania | CertiNergy | 24/7 CFE, Engie
- **Stuart Lemmon**, Head of Global Practices, Sustainability, **SE Advisory Services**
- **Jeremy Oppenheim**, Managing Partner, Systemiq
- **Annika Ramsköld**, Vice President Corporate Sustainability, Vattenfall
- **Eva Riesenhuber**, Global Head of Sustainability, **Siemens**
- **Marina Romanello**, Executive Director, Lancet Countdown
- **Jan Rosenow**, Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, University of Oxford
- **Emily Shukburgh**, Professor, Cambridge Zero, University of Cambridge
- **Dominique Silva**, Marketing Leader EMEA, **Trane Technologies**
- **Preeti Srivastav**, Group Head of Sustainability, Asahi Group
- **Daniel Summerbell**, Co-Founder, Gigaton
- **Katherine Tjandra**, Energy Transition Director, AirTrunk
- **Dhara Vyas**, Chief Executive, Energy UK
- **Professor Charlotte Watts**, Executive Director, Solutions, **Wellcome Trust**
- **Mariam Zaidi**, Opportunity Summit host, journalist and broadcaster



Plenary

Bloomberg

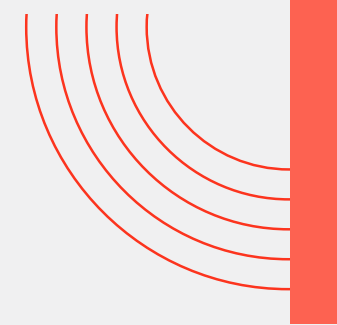
Bloomberg
Philanthropies

TRANE
TECHNOLOGIES

SIEMENS

W
wellcome

Opportunity Town Hall



Speakers in the Town Hall were united in their message that the transition to a clean economy is no longer being driven by climate ambition alone, it is increasingly being shaped by economics, competitiveness, energy security, health, and resilience. Across discussions on electrification, AI, sustainable business, and climate adaptation, panelists emphasised that the technologies and solutions already exist. The challenge now is to scale infrastructure, modernise grids, mobilise investment, and accelerate implementation.

Key insights included:

- Europe's advantage lies in electrification, energy efficiency, and the modernisation of its grid infrastructure.
- AI is emerging as a practical tool for reducing energy waste and improving system performance.
- Leading companies are embedding sustainability into core business functions rather than treating it as a standalone agenda.
- The cost of climate impacts is already being felt through poorer health outcomes, workforce disruption, and pressure on public infrastructure.
- The pace of implementation is now defining the challenge.

From Europe's ambition to become a leading "electrostate" to London's response to growing climate impacts, speakers highlighted that collaboration across business, government, finance, and communities will be essential to turn progress into a lasting economic and social benefit.



What we need is disruptors, people who can build alliances and bring the right people together in the room.

Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy



Workshop

The AI advantage – Europe's pathways to investible impact

The AI advantage

Senior leaders at the forefront of AI gathered for this solutions-focused workshop, co-hosted by Systemiq. The discussion took a pragmatic view of both the scale of the AI transformation, and Europe's role within it. Participants then explored the opportunities if Europe combines regulatory leadership and world-class talent to lead on energy-efficient AI. Some of the key insights were:

- Europe can create value and protect data sovereignty by focusing on specialised use-cases – especially in medical and engineering – rather than competing on generic models.
- There is a significant opportunity in aligning AI with the critical upgrades of electrical and grid infrastructure, which has had limited attention in recent decades.
- For AI to deliver in industry, strategic decisions should be seen through a lens of decades of economic transformation, rather than short-term cycles.



Europe is at risk of being absolutely crushed. Let's not underestimate the reality of the situation... But if we find ways of combining the AI story with the electrification-of-our-economies story, we can really drive transformational shifts. That's the opportunity.

Jeremy Oppenheim, Founding Partner, Systemiq



Workshop

SE ADVISORY SERVICES

Net zero hasn't failed.
How we've framed it might have

The net zero debate

Co-hosted by SE Advisory Services, this workshop convened leaders from business to discuss how we stop the financial value of corporate sustainability being left on the table. Key insights included:

- Sustainability must be reframed as a business growth and resilience driver, with a clear link to revenue, cost savings, risk reduction, and competitiveness.
- Cross-functional collaboration is essential to identify and measure the commercial value of sustainability, from customer demand and product innovation to operational efficiencies and avoided risks.
- Evidence-based storytelling can shift boardroom perceptions, translating sustainability outcomes into tangible business benefits such as new revenue streams and reduced costs.
- Collective action can accelerate progress, with businesses working through industry coalitions to align around shared goals and advocate for sector-wide change.



Leadership briefing

The five forces reshaping energy in 2026

The five forces reshaping energy

Speakers were clear: it's no longer the question if the energy transition is happening, but whether infrastructure and investment can keep up with demand. Renewable energy and efficiency technologies are proving both commercially competitive and increasingly resilient. Yet soaring electricity demand, from electrification across the economy and the expansion of digital infrastructure such as data centres, is creating new pressures on power systems. The challenge has shifted from deploying clean technologies to securing sufficient clean power at scale.

Key insights were:

- Unlocking the next phase of transition will require innovation, major investment, and new partnerships across sectors to manage increasingly complex energy systems and expand access to clean power.
- The energy and digital transitions are becoming inseparable. This creates a more complex and distributed electricity system that will require innovation to balance rising demand and unlock growth.
- Expectations for climate leadership are rising. Companies are moving from ambitious targets and claims to operational accountability, and demonstrable business impact with evidence-based reporting.

“

For decades, electricity distribution was largely linear. Now the grid is becoming more complex: more demand, more distributed generation, more direct current. Innovation is essential to balance this new energy landscape and turn complexity into opportunity.

Fabien Chene, Head of Sustainability Business Europe, Schneider Electric



Our global network in action

Some of Climate Group's most prominent members took center stage during the Opportunity Summit.

As part of our 24/7 Carbon-Free Coalition launch, eight leading businesses were unveiled as the first members of the Coalition: AirTrunk, AstraZeneca, Cathay Financial Holdings, Cathay Life, Google, Princeton Digital Group, Shree Cement, and Unilever.

Multi-programme member, **Siemens**, stressed that Europe's competitive advantage lies in efficiency. **Eva Riesenhuber** argued that the priority is no longer simply generating more renewable energy, but modernising and digitalising grids to make better use of the energy already available. Smarter infrastructure and AI-enabled optimisation were highlighted as critical enablers of Europe's transition to a more resilient and electrified economy.

Longtime RE100 member **Asahi** took to the stage to highlight the benefits of being part of the largest demand-side network on corporate renewables.



Being a member of RE100 allowed us to talk to others in the market and do things without fear. When we can collaborate with coalitions like RE100, it feels like strength in numbers.

Preeti Srivastav, Group Sustainability Director, Asahi Group Holdings



Achieving 24/7 carbon-free electricity at scale depends on collaboration. It requires policymakers, grid operators and market specialists to enable the right market rules, infrastructure, and data systems. It requires energy suppliers and developers to respond with new offerings.

Rianne Buter, CTO and General Manager of Singapore and Malaysia, Princeton Digital Group

CLIMATE GROUP
RE100

CLIMATE GROUP
EV100

CLIMATE GROUP
STEELZERO

CLIMATE GROUP
CONCRETE ZERO

UNDER 2°
Secretariat
CLIMATE GROUP

CLIMATE GROUP
24/7
CARBON-FREE
COALITION

CLIMATE GROUP
SMART
ENERGY
COALITION

Learn more

Our audience



Attendees:
195



Organisations that attended:
166



From total number of countries:
29

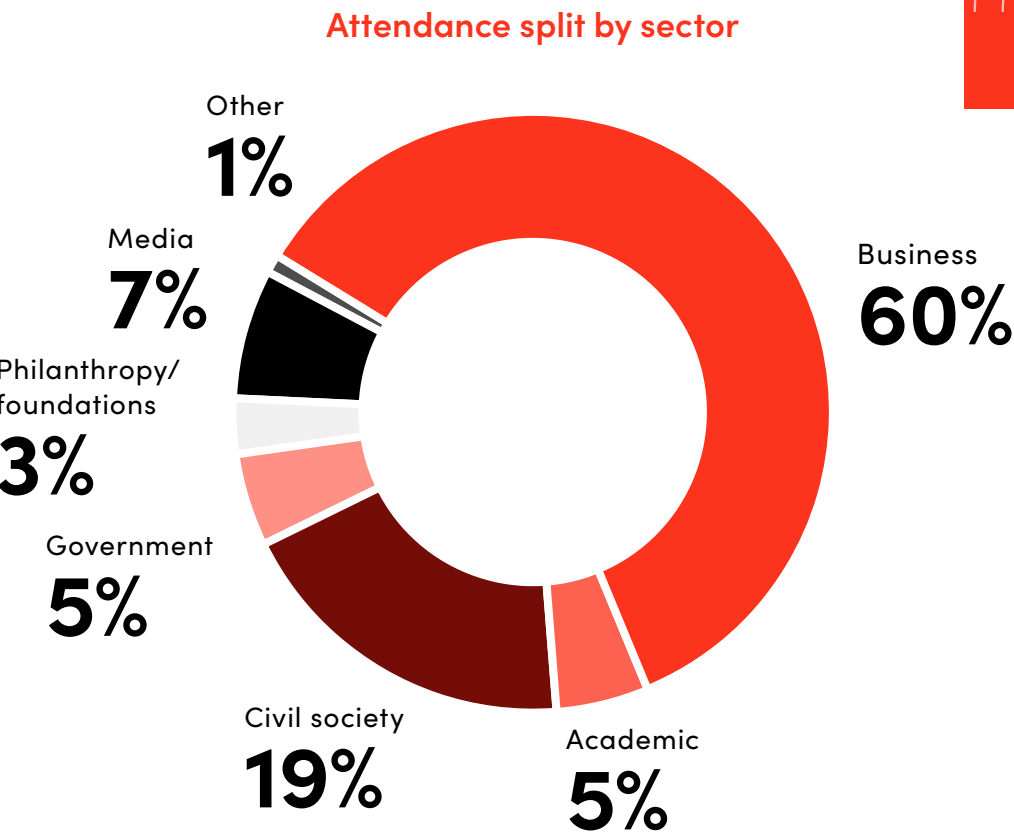


Attending members of Climate Group:
34

Media

The Opportunity Summit was mentioned live on broadcast programmes including [BBC News](#) and [Reuters' Finance Live](#). Coverage of the Summit was included in titles such as Sustainability Magazine, Eco Business, and Energy News Now.

Media outlets in attendance at the Opportunity Summit included Euronews, edie, Energy Voice, Sustainability Magazine, ReCharge News, Shaken not Burned podcast, Sustainability and Climate Podcast.



Thank you for your support

 **CLIMATE GROUP**

Event Host

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MAYOR OF LONDON

Strategic Partner

Bloomberg | **Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

Gold Partner

TRANE
TECHNOLOGIES™

Gold Partner

SIEMENS

Gold Partner

SE ADVISORY SERVICES

Supporter Partner



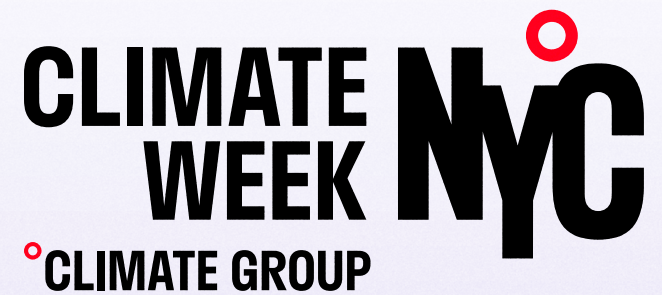
Venue Host



Impact Partner

Get in touch

to learn more about how you can partner with us



CLIMATE WEEK NYC 2026

Energy. Impact. Action.

September 20-27, 2026

[Find out more](#)



°CLIMATE GROUP Opportunity Summit

See you next year

The Opportunity Summit returns
to London in June 2027, at
London Climate Action Week.

Already know you want to partner with us?

Get in touch



Follow us: [!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(a86c7d1c9cb81c81614634a31267440d_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(ce158fc5e55633398941d0898ae45661_img.jpg\)](#)