



US CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

Convened by
CLIMATE GROUP

**A vital moment to connect climate leaders
on key policy and climate issues.**

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Letter from Angela

Thank you for being a part of the 2023 **US Climate Action Summit**. Together, we convened more than 250 senior leaders to engage with the most pressing climate issue facing the US today: the implementation of historic US climate investments.

At the core of Climate Group's mission is to bring together leaders from across our networks in business and government, to pool together our insight and expertise, and take on the biggest challenges and barriers. Your support has allowed us to do just that, and as you will see over the coming pages, together we have created a powerful platform for climate action in the US.

This is only the beginning. The US Climate Action Summit was designed to facilitate big conversations while allowing members to drill into the details in curated and closed-door workshops and roundtables, creating a substantive day of action

and momentum that will carry on beyond the event. It's crucial that we continue to work together to keep this momentum going.

As we look ahead to our other headline event of the year, Climate Week NYC, as well as COP, the US Climate Action Summit can act as a powerful annual focal point to drive impact in the US. As you'll see in this report, we brought together the people with the power to make change happen. I look forward to working with you, to continue making this a reality.



Highlights from the day



Bringing together two hundred of the most influential people in climate under one roof, just steps away from the White House, and watching the momentum build! With 250+ leaders from across business, government, federal and state leadership in person, it was great to see them take up Climate Group's call to action- to roll up their sleeves and drive implementation of historic US climate investments together.

That so many of our Under2 Coalition representatives were in the room was another highlight. Representatives from Quebec and Brazil's Minas Gerais were in workshops, sharing their knowledge. On the mainstage, Maryland's Governor Wes Moore and former Governor of Colorado Bill Ritter spoke of the potential governors have in this moment to lead on climate.



Giving delegates the ability to talk without limitations was one of our intentions when building the closed-door roundtable agenda. The willingness of everyone in every room to keep the conversation going and work to keep action moving beyond the summit was evident. Hearing of upscaled ambition and plans for cooperation between delegates was inspirational.

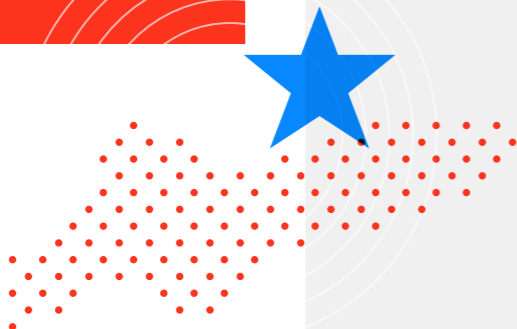


Lisa Jackson, Apple's Vice President of Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives, told Climate Group CEO Helen Clarkson about Apple's industry leading environmental reports and the importance of transparency. Jackson also shared what Apple is doing in global communities - from grant funding for climate groups in DC, to mangrove restoration in Colombia.

The formal agenda was rounded off with a fireside chat between Angela Barranco, John Podesta, Senior Adviser to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, and Karen Skelton, his deputy. All three called for the implementation of the IRA to be accelerated by public private partnerships, which hit at the heart of the key message of the day.



The day of action ended with an evening reception at the National Archives. In the heart of Washington DC, our network of members and partners came together surrounded by some of the nation's most historic documents - the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. It was impossible not to be swept away with the epic setting and reflect with delegates on a big day of climate action.



Spotlight Sessions

Leading national voices joined including the White House's John Podesta, Governor Wes Moore (MD), Amazon's VP for Worldwide Sustainability Kara Hurst, Lt Governor Eleni Kounalakis (CA), McKinsey Senior Partner Laura Corb among many others on stage for our Spotlight Sessions.

Four thematic sessions dove into key aspects of the implementation agenda through a mix of panels, fireside chats and interviews.

Laura Corb from the summit's Headline Partner, McKinsey Sustainability, spoke about the need for "absurd ambition," to reach net zero goals while Jahi Wise, Acting Director for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, talked about the inspiration he gets from connecting with frontline communities.



Speakers:

- **Ali Zaidi**, Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor, The White House
- **Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis (ret.)**, Lieutenant Governor of California
- **Basil Seggos**, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- **Brenda Mallory**, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality
- **Christine Harada**, Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
- **Deanne Criswell**, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- **David M. Turk**, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
- **Dr. Elizabeth Gray**, Chief Executive Officer, National Audubon Society
- **Governor Wes Moore**, State of Maryland
- **John M. Godfrey**, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Samsung Electronics America, Inc.
- **John Podesta**, Senior Adviser to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation, The White House
- **Michael Blake**, CEO, Atlas Strategy Group
- **Serge Abergel**, Chief Operating Officer, Hydro-Québec Energy Services



The mitigating actions we take today in the fight against climate change will impact generations to come, FEMA, and the entire Biden-Harris Administration, will continue to use every tool at our disposal to make sure communities can build with resilience so that our children and grandchildren have a safer future.

Deanne Criswell Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator.

Apple's Vice President of Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives Lisa Jackson shared how Apple is funding projects in disadvantaged communities across the world as part of their Impact Program. Ali Zaidi spurred delegates on with how ready and willing the Biden-Harris Administration is to work with the private sector to find solutions to the toughest decarbonizing questions.

John Podesta, Senior Adviser to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation was the summit's final speaker, wrapped up the Spotlights in discussion with Angela Barranco and his deputy, Karen Skelton. Unsurprisingly considering his experience, Podesta's closing remarks struck at the heart of the issues facing the US today and the opportunities embedded in implementing historic climate investments. Under the 10 years of security the IRA has provided, he said, the US can boost its supply chains, create jobs and center communities that have historically been forgotten.

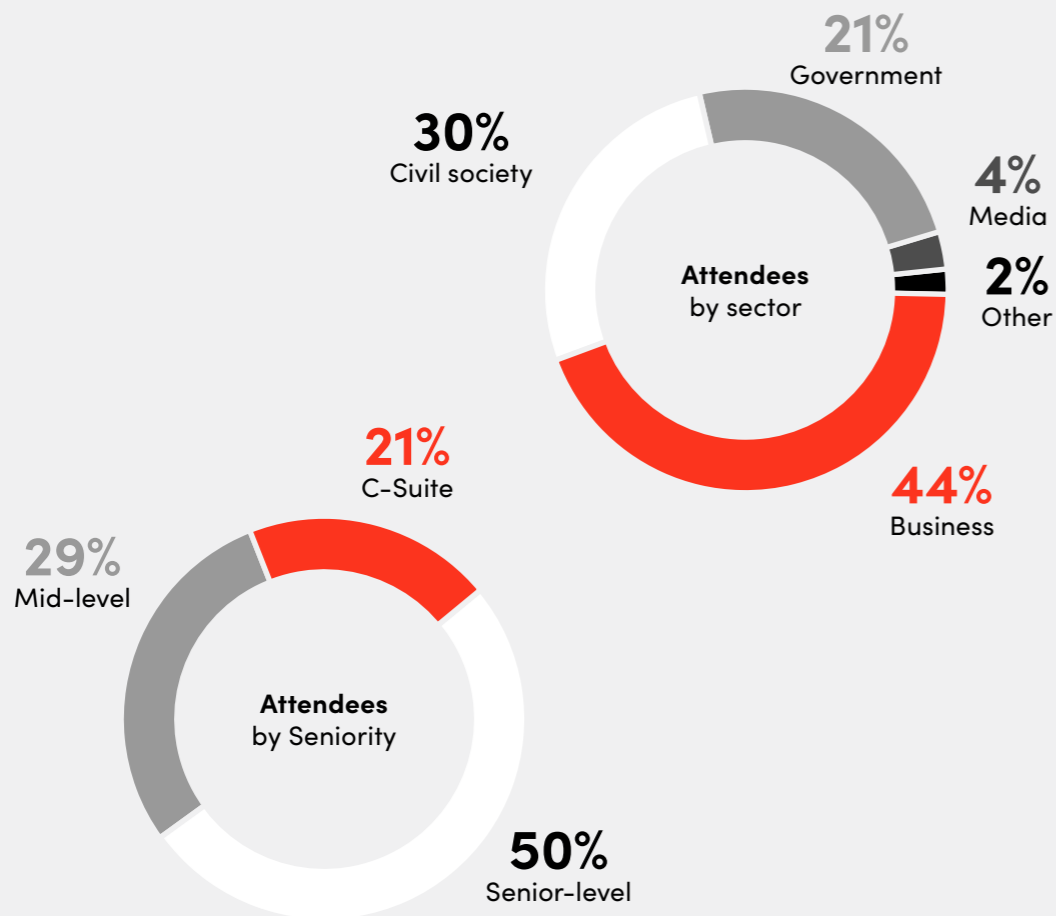


Attendee data

Total in-person audience

from **9** countries

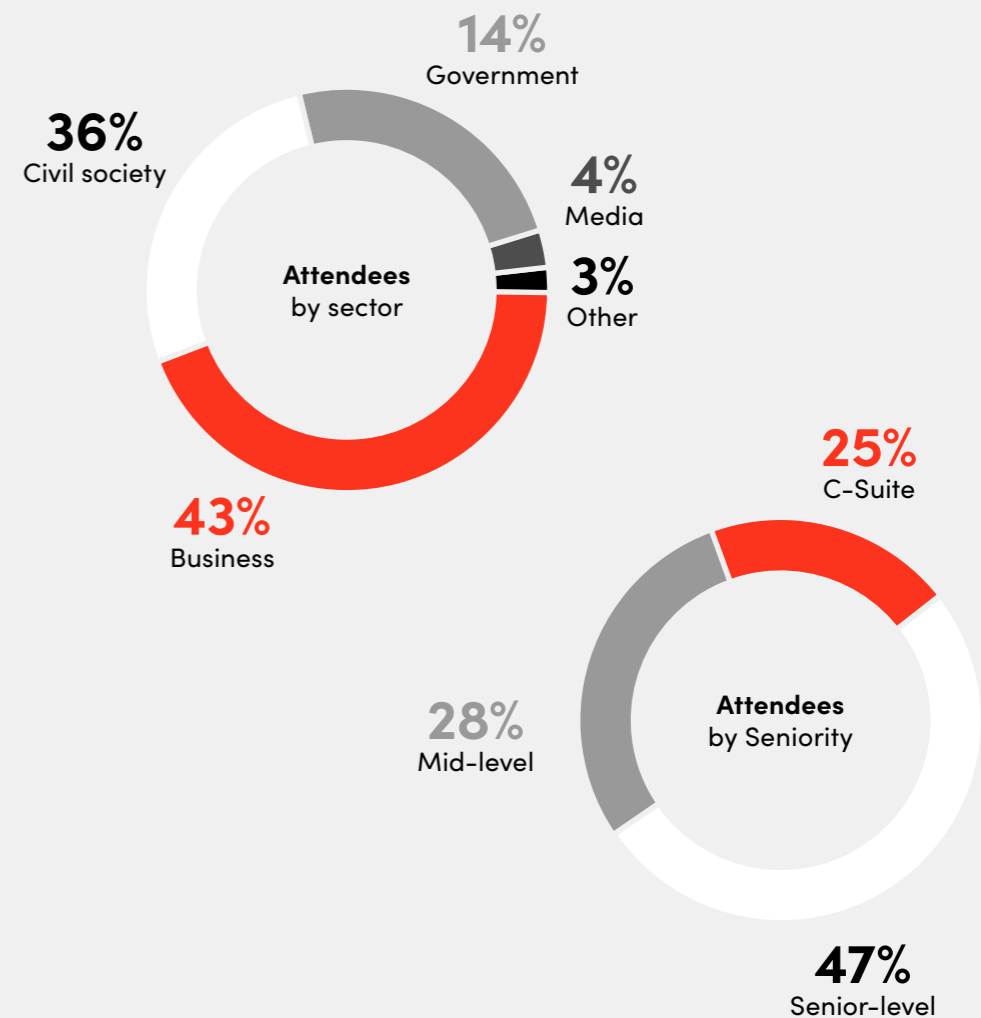
289
climate leaders



Drinks reception audience

from **4** countries

128
climate leaders



Virtual audience

from **23** countries

201
climate leaders

Breakout Agenda

Summary

Events alone will not change the world. But the people and conversations at them can. In the wake of the historic climate legislation passed in America, the **US Climate Action Summit** delivered on this belief.

Our Implementation Agenda roundtables and Climate Masterclass workshops brought together high-level business executives, policymakers, investors, and advocacy leaders from across America. We asked them to focus their expertise on specific aspects of the green economic transition that we need to deliver, and how we do it with the tools at hand.

Sessions ranged from delivering on charging infrastructure and net zero concrete ambitions, to discussions around climate equity considerations, blended financing models and the challenging permitting landscape for major projects. In each closed-door session participants candidly expressed both their challenges and successes on delivering on the promise of the IRA. Participants went away emboldened, with the promise to leverage new connections and implement strategies that continue the drive towards ambitious climate action.



Highlights included

The red tape question roundtable convened several energy and utilities organisations alongside permitting policy leaders.

The lively discussion focused on challenges around delays, stalled projects and investment risks stemming from often convoluted and difficult to navigate permitting frameworks. All participants openly acknowledged the challenges while being receptive to solutions and committed to working closely together to streamline processes moving forward.

Buying clean: Getting concrete to net zero gathered federal and state level decision makers with senior private sector representatives from the construction, energy and industrial sectors. There was broad consensus that the concrete industry can be decarbonised faster than we think, with participants agreeing it can happen sooner than 2050. This will not be a straightforward process however and will depend on the right decisions being taken today to adequately prepare the market for tomorrow.

Investing in the future: Maximizing ROI and equity through innovative climate policy. An incredibly fruitful discussion, with participants actively engaging on the issues, exploring and identifying ways to maximize the equity provisions of the IRA to positively impact all sectors of the economy and all income classes.

What's at State: Why subnational ZEV sales mandates matter was an in-depth roundtable discussion between corporate fleet operators, state policymakers, and EV experts on the benefits of state ZEV mandates and their relationship with charging investments and federal regulations. Participants discussed in detail the way state policymakers can package sales mandates with incentives and investments, and the collaboration required across state agencies to maximize the benefits of rapid EV adoption.



127 senior executives took part



96 companies represented



US Climate Action Summit: Breakout Agenda

Climate Masterclass workshops

Splitting the Bill: How can we blend public and private sector investment to create maximum impact?

Heavy duty charging investments

Charge at work corporate kick-off

Implementation Agenda

Investing for America:
Communicating corporate climate success

What's at State: Why subnational vehicle mandates matter

How US companies can lead the green transition to create stronger supply chains

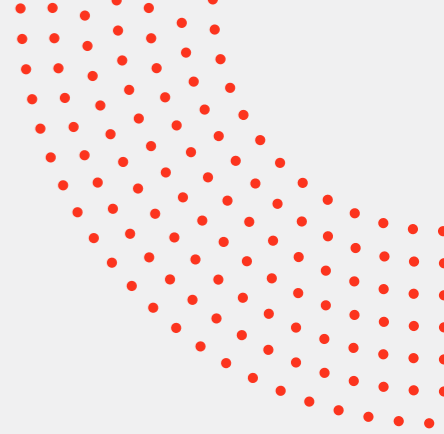
Investing in the future: Maximizing ROI and equity through innovative climate policy

Buying clean: Getting concrete to net zero

The red tape question: Navigating permitting and regulatory roadblocks

Green financing: subnational collaboration across North and Latin America for a sustainable future

Thank you for
your support



McKinsey Sustainability

Headline Partner



Systems Partner



Spotlight Partner



Spotlight Partner



Spotlight Partner



Spotlight Partner



Spotlight Partner



Program Partner



Supporter Partner

CLIMATE WEEK NYC

CLIMATE GROUP

We Can. We Will drive action, speed up progress, champion change that is already happening, and break down barriers in our path. We're gearing up to Climate Week NYC 2023, where business leaders, political decision takers, local change makers and civil society representatives of all backgrounds and from all over the world will discuss how to do more.

The next big moment in your climate calendar.

Join us for
Climate Week NYC,
September 17-24.

To get involved in Climate Week NYC, [contact us](#).



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