



EFCG

Environmental Financial
Consulting Group

2024 SUSTAINABILITY & ESG FORUM Agenda

**December
4 – 5, 2024**

**The William Vale
111 N 12th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11249**

**Exclusively for the Architecture,
Engineering, and Consulting Industry**

2024 Sustainability & ESG Forum

(All Times in Eastern Time)

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Registration and Welcome
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast Meet-and-Greet
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Session 1: 2024 EFCG AEC Industry Sustainability & ESG Overview
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Morning Coffee Social
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Session 2: Industry Leader Reactions: Sustainability & ESG Trends
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Session 3: Tech and ESG: The Artificial & Climate Intelligence Debate
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Refresh Break
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	Session 4: Breakout Sessions
	4A: Demystifying Climate Transition Plans
	4B: Advancing Project Missions: The Envision Rating System
	4C: The Social Impact: Driving Meaningful Change in the AEC Industry
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Refresh Break
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Session 5: Leader's Lessons Learned and Best Practices
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Day's Closing Remarks
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Evening Networking Reception and Light Dinner

Thursday, December 5, 2024

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast Reconnect
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Session 6: Navigating the Evolving Regulatory Landscape
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Morning Coffee Break
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Session 7: Sustainability Services
11:15 am – 11:30 am	Refresh Break
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	Session 8: Breakout Sessions
	8A: Case in Point: The Hudson Tunnel Project
	8B: Harnessing AI to Advance Sustainability & ESG
	8C: How Would You Measure It?
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Refresh Break
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm	Session 9: Looking to the Future: Sustainability & ESG in the AEC Industry
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Conference Closing Remarks
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Closing Coffee Conversation & Lunch

8:00 am – 8:30 am
Vale Ballroom Foyer

Registration and Welcome

8:30 am – 9:00 am
Franklin Room

Breakfast Meet-and-Greet

9:00 am – 10:30 am
Vale Ballroom

Session 1: 2024 EFCG AEC Industry Sustainability & ESG Overview

In this session, EFCG will present the findings of our 2024 Sustainability and ESG Survey, supported by 33 years of proprietary industry data and insights from over 300 firms. Together, we'll explore the latest sustainability and ESG trends, from expanding sustainability services for clients, measuring the ROI of sustainability initiatives, building internal programs to navigating new regulatory landscapes. Gain a comprehensive understanding of how these shifts are transforming the AEC industry and what they mean for your firm's future.

Presenters:

Julie Hasiba, EFCG Managing Partner, Talent and Compensation

Andreas Georgoulas, EFCG Director, Sustainability and ESG

10:30 am – 11:00 am
Vale Ballroom Foyer

Morning Coffee Social

11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Vale Ballroom

Session 2: Industry Leader Reactions: Sustainability & ESG Trends

This engaging panel discussion will examine the strategic sustainability and ESG priorities driving firms and government agencies in 2024 and beyond, highlighting the challenges, opportunities, and emerging trends that shape their decision-making. Attendees will gain a clear view of how AEC firms should position themselves to meet both market demands and regulatory shifts, with a focus on creating long-term value and resilience through sustainable practices.

Panelists:

Bob Beinstein, Vice President, Global ESG Implementation Lead, AECOM

Po-Sun Chen, Chief Executive Officer, Anchor QEA

Jeslin Varghese, Senior Director, Sustainability, Gateway Development Commission

Thomas Abdallah, Vice President and Chief Environmental Engineer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Construction and Development New York

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Franklin Room

Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Vale Ballroom

Session 3: Tech and ESG: The Artificial & Climate Intelligence Debate

This session will examine how AEC firms are utilizing technology to drive sustainability internally, enhance climate resilience, and improve project sustainability outcomes. As digital transformation intensifies, the panel will also address the sustainability challenges posed by technology itself. With the growing demand for generative AI and extensive data infrastructure, AEC firms are grappling with the environmental footprint of these innovations. Join us for insights as AEC firms navigate the intersection of digital transformation and sustainability priorities.

Panelists:

Pierre-Yves Massille, Chief Transformation, Digital, & Sustainability Officer, Egis
Dru Crawley, Fellow and Director, Building Performance, Bentley Systems
Phanos Hadjikyriakou, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, 2050 Materials

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Refresh Break

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm

Graham Room

Session 4: Breakout Sessions

4A: Demystifying Climate Transition Plans

This breakout session will help AEC firms better understand and implement effective climate transition strategies. The discussion will start by breaking down the basics: what is a climate transition plan, and why is it becoming a critical component in achieving sustainability goals? We will delve into the steps firms can take to assess their climate-related exposures and proactively mitigate risk, not only for their own operations but also for their clients.

Moderator: Andrew White, Corporate Sustainability Director, VHB

Franklin Room East

4B: Advancing Project Missions: The Envision Rating System

In this breakout session, we will dive deeper into the benefits of integrating sustainability assessment methodologies into project planning, design, and construction. We will use the Envision Rating System, a comprehensive framework for assessing sustainability at the project level across various sustainability dimensions, to highlight how this approach can guide project teams toward more sustainable outcomes.

Moderator: Anthony Kane, President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure

Franklin Room West

4C: The Social Impact: Driving Meaningful Change in the AEC Industry

How can AEC firms measure social impact and implement actionable strategies to integrate social sustainability aspects in their workplace and projects? During this breakout session, the discussion will focus on how AEC firms can foster a more socially responsible AEC industry. Key points will include developing a more socially conscious AEC workforce, addressing social inequalities through design and engineering solutions, and creating lasting community benefits.

Moderator: Michael Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Infrastructure Engineering

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Refresh Break

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Session 5: Leader's Lessons Learned and Best Practices

Vale Ballroom

This session will explore how AEC firms can develop robust frameworks to accurately measure their sustainability and ESG performance. The session will dive into the strategies employed by leading firms with years of experience, providing valuable insights into best practices for effectively communicating sustainability progress. Both environmental and social dimensions will be addressed, offering a holistic view of how firms can integrate and report on sustainability efforts. Attendees will learn how to adopt and adapt successful strategies to elevate their own sustainability and ESG assessment and reporting.

Panelists:

Hentie Dirker, Chief ESG & Integrity Officer, AtkinsRéalis

Carrie Sabin, Senior Vice President, Corporate Sustainability, Stantec

Amy Pastor, Vice President, Sustainability, EXP

Julie Jennings, Senior Vice President, People, GEI

4:15 pm – 4:25 pm

Day's Closing Remarks

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Evening Networking Reception and Light Dinner

Vale Ballroom Foyer

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Franklin Room

Breakfast Reconnect

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Vale Ballroom

Session 6: Navigating the Evolving Regulatory Landscape

This session will explore the evolving regulatory landscape surrounding ESG, sustainability, climate action, and energy transition. We will cover both current requirements and anticipated regulatory changes, with a focus on how shifts in government policy and funding priorities may impact AEC firms in the coming years. The discussion will provide insights on aligning resources to stay ahead of compliance needs and maximize impact, equipping AEC firms with the information needed to navigate regulatory demands strategically and efficiently.

Panelists:

Mohit Chandra, Partner, Corporate Sustainability & Climate Change, ERM

Sarah Deslauriers, Director, Air, Climate, & Energy, California Association of Sanitation Agencies

Susanne DesRoches, Vice President, Clean and Resilient Buildings, New York State Energy Research & Development Authority

Jane Madden, Lead ESG Partner, Buro Happold

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Vale Ballroom Foyer

Morning Coffee Break

10:30 am – 11:15 am

Vale Ballroom

Session 7: Sustainability Services

What sustainability and ESG services do AEC firms currently offer to clients, and which are in highest demand? How do AEC firms navigate the balance between growing client interest in sustainability and the challenges posed by limited project budgets? What specific sustainability priorities are clients focusing on? This session will delve into the shifting landscape of client expectations for sustainability and ESG, examining how demand has evolved in recent years and the approaches AEC firms are taking to meet these needs effectively. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of both the drivers and constraints in providing impactful sustainability services.

Panelists:

Ilana Judah, Americas Adaptation and Resilience Leader, Arup

Alan Kao, Principal and Global Director, ESG Services, Ramboll

Ryan Prime, Sustainability Practice Lead, VHB

11:15 am – 11:30 am

Refresh Break

11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Franklin Room East

Session 8: Breakout Sessions

8A: Case in Point: The Hudson Tunnel Project

The \$16 billion Hudson Tunnel Project aims to enhance rail connectivity and resilience by constructing a new tunnel under the Hudson River and associated railroad infrastructure to support passenger rail services while rehabilitating the existing tunnel. Once completed, the project will expand capacity to four tracks, facilitating the seamless movement of Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT trains between New Jersey and New York.

The Gateway Development Commission's sustainability team is using the Envision Rating System as a guiding framework to prioritize sustainability and resilience throughout the project's lifecycle. Attendees will gain insights into the unique sustainability challenges and opportunities of complex infrastructure projects and the critical role of collaboration in achieving project sustainability goals effectively and efficiently.

Moderators:

Dana Coyle, Associate Director, Sustainability, Gateway Development Commission

Carly Gazze, Sustainability Manager & Environmental Scientist, STV

Garima Kaushal, Senior Sustainability Consultant, AECOM

Jeslin Varghese, Senior Director, Sustainability, Gateway Development Commission

Graham Room

8B: Harnessing AI to Advance Sustainability & ESG

As the AEC industry navigates an era of rapid technological evolution, AI is emerging as a transformative force in advancing sustainability and ESG initiatives. From optimizing resource utilization and enhancing climate resilience to automating ESG data collection and reporting, AI is enabling firms to tackle some of the industry's most pressing challenges with unprecedented efficiency. Using data from EFCG's annual Technology and CEO surveys, this session will explore how firms are leveraging AI to drive meaningful progress in sustainability and ESG. Attendees will then have the opportunity to share their firm's experiences, best practices, and lessons learned with the group.

Moderator: Ethan McCue, EFCG Analyst, Advisory

11:30 am – 12:15 pm

Franklin Room West

8C: How Would You Measure It?

Those five words are at the heart of a likely new policy aimed at modifying regulations associated with ESG reporting and all things sustainable. We saw similar moves during Trump 1, guiding federal funding and private investments. The phrase 'Value for Money' emerged. You can bet it will be back, catalyzed by billions of dollars in aid for just the two recent hurricanes alone. How will your practices respond to demands to avoid wasteful spending?

Moderators:

John Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Autocase

Eric Bill, President, Autocase

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm

Refresh Break With Lunch Available

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

Vale Ballroom

Session 9: Looking to the Future: Sustainability & ESG in the AEC Industry

The concluding panel of the forum will focus on the key challenges and opportunities that both small and large AEC firms face in advancing sustainability and ESG initiatives. Panelists will reflect on the evolving landscape of sustainability in the industry, offering insights into what firms need to prioritize in the coming years to stay competitive and meet emerging regulatory and market demands.

The session will guide sustainability leaders on the essential questions they should be asking when they return to their firms, such as: How can we future-proof our sustainability strategy? What are the next big trends in ESG that we should be prepared for? How do we navigate evolving client expectations and regulatory frameworks? Panelists will also discuss how firms can prepare for future scenarios, including potential disruptions, technological advancements, and shifts in environmental and social priorities. The panel will provide actionable takeaways for sustainability leaders to ensure their firms are well-positioned for the future of the AEC industry.

Panelists:

Michael Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, Infrastructure Engineering

Monica Thilges, Senior Director, Corporate ESG and Sustainability, APTIM

Lori Cathcart, Director, Corporate Sustainability, Terracon

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

Conference Closing Remarks

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

**Vale Ballroom Foyer
& Franklin Room**

Closing Coffee Conversation & Lunch



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The William Vale in Brooklyn, NY

ABOUT EFCG

The Environmental Financial Consulting Group (EFCG) is the leading advisor to architecture, engineering, and consulting (AEC) firms. Its mission is to provide a data-driven and strategic edge to AEC firms to advance the innovation, sustainability, and success of the industry. We provide end-to-end, integrated solutions to support executive leaders with their most critical strategic and financial decisions.

In the last 35 years, EFCG has served as a retained advisor to 500+ firms, developed a proprietary industry database of financial and business metrics, held nearly 100 executive conferences, and advised on 200+ M&A transactions. The relationships we have formed with the executive teams at every major AEC firm make us the most trusted corporate finance, strategic, and M&A advisor.

 **EFCG is the leading advisor to AEC firms, providing expertise in:**

Management Consulting

500+
AEC Firms Advised

- Strategic Planning
- Corporate Financial Benchmarking
- Valuations
- Talent & Compensation
- Technology & Innovation
- Sustainability & ESG

Mergers & Acquisitions

200+
M&A Transactions Advised On

- Sell- & Buy-Side Assignments
- Capital Structure Analysis
- Corporate Divestitures & Tech Spinouts
- Strategic & Private Equity Partner Engagement
- Integration Planning
- Due Diligence & Market Studies

Leadership Conferences

100+
Conferences Hosted

- Analysis on AEC Trends from EFCG's Proprietary Industry Database
- Perspectives from Subject Matter Experts and Industry Executives
- Invaluable Peer-Networking Opportunities

Advanced Data Analytics & Insights

EFCG has the most comprehensive
proprietary database in the industry

6
Annual
Surveys

1M+
Data Points
Every Year

500+
Database
Contributing Firms