



ClimateWise Business Network Holds First Session of its New Forum 'ClimateWise Conversation'

On Tuesday, May 28, 2024, ClimateWise Business Network successfully held an impactful first session of its ClimateWise Conversation, a forum designed for strategic, private discussions among peers from various industries about decarbonization and pivotal sustainability issues relevant to the current responsibilities within their organizations.



The inaugural session of the forum, which took place at the Riverside Natural Foods facility brought together experts from various sectors who contributed great insights to conversations. Discussions centred around pivotal sustainability issues such as fleet decarbonization strategies and transparency in greenhouse gas reporting.



ClimateWise Conversation participants answering questions for discussion.

We delved deep into the challenges of sustainable transportation and the complexities of carbon accounting, fostering a rich dialogue among peers.



Participants touring the Riverside Natural Foods operations, observing the production line where granola bars are meticulously crafted from raw ingredients to packaged products.



Pictured from left to right: Arman Khorshidi (Regional Municipality of York), Todd Boyd (Regional Municipality of York), Tiara Mullick (Compugen Finance), Taylor Stanley (Riverside Natural Foods), Alysha Ahlin (Green Economy Canada), Andrea Tickner (Combined Metal Industries), Dana Stamu (Combined Metal Industries), Catherine Pelletier

(Combined Metal Industries), Yasmine Hawz (Windfall Centre's ClimateWise Business Network), Emma Murphy (Green Economy Canada).

Fleet Decarbonization: A Path to Sustainable Transport

Key Discussions:

Transportation remains a significant emission source, making fleet decarbonization essential yet challenging. Here's a summary of our recent discussions and insights.

1. Challenges and Insights:
 - a. Incremental Steps: Starting small can build momentum and lead to substantial changes over time.
 - b. Holistic Approach: Balancing costs and benefits, considering human factors, and avoiding shortsighted solutions are crucial.
 - c. [for example] Jacqueline: Facing decisions on purchasing buses and seeking the best options.
 - d. Emma: Emphasized the importance of connections in the sector.
2. Sector-Specific Strategies:
 - a. Behavior Change: Long-term cultural shifts are needed for sustainable transport.
 - b. Technology and Infrastructure: Addressing legacy challenges and exploring alternative vendors.
 - c. Equity and Social Justice: Understanding the impact of material sourcing and human rights issues.
3. Collaborative Efforts:

Achieving Transparency in GHG Reporting

Key Discussions:

Mandatory GHG reporting requirements bring complexity and challenges. Here's a snapshot of our key discussions...

1. Challenges
 - a. Data Collection:
 - b. Scope 3 Emissions: Difficulties in collecting and certifying data, highlighting the need for transparency.
 - c. Capacity and Resources: Ensuring sufficient resources and capacity for accurate reporting.
2. Implications
 - a. Accuracy: Getting data right is crucial for credibility and avoiding political or reputational risks.
 - b. Collaboration: Over-focusing on Scope 1 and 2 can limit collaborative efforts.
 - c. Education and Support: Internal resources and tax dollars should support GHG reporting initiatives.
3. Lessons Learnt
 - a. Industry Insights: Learning from peers and industry leaders about successful strategies.
 - b. Power of Community: The strength of the CW network in sharing knowledge and resources.
 - c. Incremental Change: Embracing gradual progress to build a sustainable future.

Reflections and Next Steps

Feedback from Participants:

1. **Expectations Met:** Many found the discussions insightful and validated their efforts.
2. **Need for Longer Sessions:** Participants expressed a desire for extended sessions to delve deeper into topics.
3. **Value of Community:** The power of community and shared goals was a recurring theme.

Purpose of CW Conversations: Our goal is to foster discussions that lead to actionable insights and support our collective journey towards sustainability and climate action.

As we plan future sessions of the ClimateWise Conversation to engage more organizations and experts, we would like to thank Riverside Natural Foods for hosting the ClimateWise Business Network team and our participants from esteemed organizations who contributed to the meaningful discussions at the forum.

A big thank you to all the participants who joined us from various sectors, bringing their expertise and insights to the table.