



International Water and Climate Mitigation Symposium

Imagination Challenge: Water's Role in the Race to Zero

September 14, 2021
10:00am–2:00pm EDT

Please see your registration confirmation or Calendar invite for log-in details.

Meeting Objectives

- Introduce key international water partners and ongoing climate mitigation efforts.
- Establish a baseline understanding of opportunities for GHG reduction in water.
- Learn why *and* how utilities and countries are setting GHG targets and pursuing strategies.
- Spark inspiration and momentum for the US water sector to “level up” on climate action.

Pre-readings

In advance of the Symposium, participants may find the following resources helpful grounding for the discussions: **Climate Mitigation 101 PDF** (5 pages) and [Nine Lessons for Water and Climate](#) (3 pages).

Additional information can be found on the [Imagination Challenge](#) and [Race to Zero](#) websites.

Agenda

All times listed are in Eastern Daylight Time.

10:00am **Welcome and Setting the Stage**
Al Cho, Senior Vice President, Chief Strategy and Digital Officer, Xylem
Katy Lackey, Senior Program Manager, US Water Alliance

The US Water Alliance launched the Imagination Challenge in 2021 to unite around a vision and pathway for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions in the US water sector. This session will set the stage for water's role in climate mitigation and opportunities to learn from our international partners.

10:20am

Call for Climate Action

Michael McAfee, President and Chief Executive Officer, PolicyLink
Mami Hara, General Manager, Chief Executive Officer, Seattle Public Utilities

Water is at the forefront of climate impacts but can also be on the forefront of climate solutions. Key leadership will provide brief remarks on the climate crisis and a call to action for the US water sector.

10:30am

State of the Science: Water and Climate Mitigation

Art Umble, Global Wastewater Practice Leader, Stantec (moderator)
Josh Weinberg, Programme Manager, Stockholm International Water Institute
Nureen Faiza Anisha, Water Resources Engineer, Oregon State University

Experts will provide preliminary results from ongoing international research on water's role in achieving climate mitigation targets set out in the Paris Agreement. Presentations will discuss existing emissions data and key questions on water resources, utility services, and water-related activities. A moderated Q&A with the audience will follow.

11:20am

Coffee and Stretch Break

11:30am

Global Water Dialogues: Racing to Zero

Katy Lackey, Senior Program Manager, US Water Alliance (moderator)
Torgny Holmgren, Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute
James Dalton, Director, Global Water Program, International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Cate Lamb, Global Director of Water Security, Carbon Disclosure Project

Representatives from the international water community will offer insights from key water and climate dialogues over the past year, including World Water Week: Building Resilience Faster and the Race to Zero Dialogues. Leaders of the Race to Zero Campaign will share recent highlights and trends of water and wastewater commitments leading up to the COP-26 negotiations in Glasgow this November.

12:10pm

Breakfast/Lunch Break

12:30pm

The Art of the Possible: Utilities Pursuing Net Zero Water

Al Cho, Senior Vice President, Chief Strategy and Digital Officer, Xylem (moderator)
Samuel Larsen, Director of Programmes and Planning, Water UK
Dan Green, Head of Sustainability and Innovation, Wessex Water
Morten Siem Lyngre, Consul General, Head of Water and Environment Team, Consulate General of Denmark in Houston
Ole Fritz Adeler, Senior Vice President of Water and Wastewater, HOFOR Greater Copenhagen Utility
Christobel Ferguson, Chief Innovation Officer, The Water Research Foundation

Utilities around the world are leading the way on climate mitigation. This session will explore stories from three countries—Australia, Denmark, and the UK—including their net zero commitments, governance drivers and frameworks, and local perspectives on implementing GHG reduction strategies.

1:45pm

Reflection and Closing Thoughts

Cindy Wallis-Lage, Executive Director, President, Water Business, Black & Veatch

2:00pm

Adjourn

Thank you to our partners and supporters!

