

MANAGING SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS

Climate Leaders Roundtable -
Report

HOSTED BY:

Be Better Sustainability,
osapiens, The Disruption House

POWERED BY:

Reset Connect

Macro Risks and Opportunities

Hosted by Illana Adamson, Founder of [Be Better Sustainability](#)

The Be Better Sustainability table, hosted by [Illana Adamson](#), explored the interconnectivity of supply chains, highlighting macro risks and opportunities across industries. Discussions covered the regulatory landscape, sustainability strategies and how organisations can better adapt to emerging global challenges.



Implementing Circular Economy

One key challenge identified was the implementation of circular economy principles, particularly in industries such as construction. High costs, logistical barriers and complex project management structures often hinder the adoption of circular operations. Businesses must rethink their procurement strategies, materials sourcing and waste management practices to drive sustainability forward.

Supply chain decarbonisation was another major focus. Organisations need to explore ways to reduce emissions, improve logistics and engage suppliers in meeting sustainability goals. Aligning business practices with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can help companies establish clear sustainability objectives and integrate them into long-term corporate strategies.

Navigating Regulatory Differences

Regulatory challenges vary significantly across regions, affecting how businesses approach sustainability. Participants discussed how different countries, including those in Europe, the US, China and Asia, regulate sustainability practices and the impact of international trade policies and tariffs. These differences create complexities for global supply chains and require businesses to adopt flexible, region-specific compliance strategies.

Financial Considerations and Long-Term Strategies

Financial considerations remain a key factor in sustainability adoption. Businesses must conduct thorough cost-benefit analyses to demonstrate the financial viability of sustainability initiatives. Demonstrating financial returns can help drive greater investment in sustainable practices and secure board-level support.

Adapting to climate risks was also discussed, particularly in relation to extreme weather events and long-term resilience planning. Organisations must build adaptive strategies that ensure business continuity and mitigate climate-related disruptions.

The importance of long-term sustainability planning was another key takeaway. Businesses should extend their sustainability programmes beyond short-term goals and embed them into corporate planning. Employee and stakeholder engagement also plays a vital role in sustainability success. Encouraging employees to participate in sustainability initiatives and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility can drive meaningful change at all levels of an organisation.

Key Takeaways

Circular economy principles are essential for sustainability but often face cost and logistical challenges. Decarbonising supply chains requires strong supplier engagement and regulatory alignment, while regional regulatory variations demand flexible compliance strategies. Improving waste management can enhance both efficiency and sustainability, and demonstrating financial returns is key to securing board-level commitment. Businesses must also develop resilience strategies to mitigate climate risks and embed long-term sustainability planning into their corporate strategies.



Departments Overseeing Compliance

Hosted by Tim Lambert, Regional Lead at [osapiens](#)

The osapiens table, hosted by [Tim Lambert](#), focused on the complexities of supply chain compliance, identifying key regulatory gaps and the role of technology in improving compliance and transparency. Participants examined the challenges of adhering to international regulations, ensuring ethical sourcing and leveraging innovation to streamline compliance processes.



Regulatory Challenges

Regulatory compliance remains a significant challenge for businesses, particularly those operating in multiple regions. Adhering to frameworks such as CSRD, CSDDD and EUDR requires organisations to implement robust compliance mechanisms. Many companies struggle with supply chain transparency, making it difficult to ensure that all suppliers meet sustainability and ethical sourcing standards. Improved data visibility and supplier engagement are essential to address these gaps.

Participants also discussed the logistical difficulties of decarbonising supply chains. Managing suppliers and ensuring that sustainability targets are met requires a coordinated effort between procurement, risk management and sustainability teams. Government support and international collaboration play a crucial role in standardising compliance efforts and addressing disparities in regulatory enforcement across different markets.

The discussion also addressed the issue of fairness in global markets. Regulatory disparities create competitive advantages and disadvantages for different businesses, making it essential to develop fair and consistent compliance frameworks that support sustainability initiatives without placing undue burdens on specific regions or industries.

The Role of Education and Innovation

Education and awareness were identified as key components of effective supply chain compliance. Many organisations face challenges in ensuring that both internal teams and external stakeholders fully understand sustainability regulations and compliance expectations. Investing in training and awareness programmes can help bridge these gaps.

Innovation was another recurring theme. Businesses must leverage technology, data-sharing platforms and AI-driven tools to enhance compliance tracking and reporting. These tools can provide real-time insights into supply chain risks, helping organisations proactively address compliance challenges.

Key Takeaways

Supply chain compliance is complex and demands robust governance structures to ensure adherence. Transparency and supplier engagement are crucial for meeting regulatory requirements, while education and awareness initiatives help bridge compliance gaps. Leveraging technology and AI can enhance tracking and efficiency, but global regulatory disparities create competitive challenges, highlighting the need for a fair and consistent compliance framework.

Supply Chain Risk Reporting

Hosted by Dr. Leda Glyptis, Strategic Advisor at [The Disruption House](#)

The discussion at The Disruption House table, hosted by [Dr. Leda Glyptis](#), revolved around the challenges of embedding sustainability into risk management frameworks, ensuring board-level engagement and overcoming organisational barriers to change. Participants explored ways to align sustainability efforts with business strategies and improve compliance mechanisms to drive meaningful transformation.



Embedding Sustainability

Sustainability initiatives must be embedded within business strategies to ensure they are prioritised at the highest levels. Aligning sustainability with risk registers and governance structures ensures that organisations view these efforts as strategic imperatives rather than optional initiatives. Many businesses struggle with the challenge of moving beyond regulatory compliance to proactively managing and mitigating risks while simultaneously creating long-term value.

Overcoming Barriers

Collaboration emerged as a key theme, with participants stressing the importance of building alliances to drive sustainability initiatives forward. Examples included cross-industry partnerships and regeneration projects that leverage shared knowledge and resources to accelerate progress. However, organisations also face significant psychological and structural barriers to change. Many struggle with ingrained habits and short-term financial considerations, which hinder sustainability adoption. Demonstrating the long-term financial benefits of sustainable investments is crucial in overcoming these challenges.

Measuring Impact

Another pressing issue is the difficulty of measuring the impact of sustainability initiatives. Businesses require better frameworks and tools to track progress effectively and demonstrate return on investment. This is particularly important for securing board-level engagement, as decision-makers need clear evidence that sustainability aligns with business objectives. The discussion also highlighted the importance of transforming compliance from a checkbox exercise into a meaningful driver of positive change, integrating sustainability into core business functions.

Key Takeaways

Embedding sustainability into business strategies ensures it remains a core priority rather than a secondary initiative. Cross-industry collaboration and knowledge-sharing play a vital role in driving progress, while overcoming organisational resistance requires demonstrating long-term financial benefits. Additionally, effectively measuring sustainability impact is essential for securing board-level engagement and ensuring continuous improvement.

MARK YOUR DIARY FOR
THE MOST ANTICIPATED
SUSTAINABILITY EVENT
OF THE YEAR



24 - 25 June 2025 | ExCeL
London Climate Action Week

The award-winning sustainability and net-zero
event for business, investors and innovators

REGISTER TO ATTEND