



Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable

Creating an environmentally and economically resilient Buffalo-Niagara

www.WNY SustainableBusiness.org

For Immediate Release

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The Virtual Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (SBR) 2021 [Summit](#) Brings Together Local, Regional and National Thought-leaders in an Interactive Virtual Platform

May 5 & 6 2021 – The Virtual 2021 Summit will introduce the framework of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); what they are, why you should care and how the SDGs create value when they are used as a strategic north star in guiding direction and sustainability work. National, regional & local business leaders will provide their thought-leadership on the best sustainable business practices, and creative ways to leverage the SDGs. A keynote interview and three Summit keynote panels will be intertwined with networking opportunities and topic discussions. On Day one, the main theme is “Why & How Can the SDGs Drive the Business Plan?” and Day two is called “How SDGs create value for people & prosperity”. The WNY community is welcome to share their experiences and lessons in a new virtual conference platform built for interaction.

The esteemed speakers include: Dr. Aniket Shah (Head of Sustainability and ESG Research-Americas, **UBS**) who will be participating in an interview and discussion moderated by Ryan McPherson (Chief Sustainability Officer, **University at Buffalo**). Dr. Shah Aniket has a doctorate from Oxford University in Economic Geography and has served as the Program Leader of the Financing for Sustainable Development Initiative at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). This interview will be providing a big picture overview of what the SDGs are and how they can enhance your business case.

Paul Hilton (Portfolio Manager & Research Analyst, **Trillium Asset Management**), Steve Bell (Managing Partner, **Steve Bell Communications**), Sheila Davis (Executive Director, **Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition**) will shed light on how a new generation of consumers (Millennials and Gen Z) are demanding purpose in their products, how investors are moving to reduce risk and why the SDGs present a clear pathway for businesses to not only adapt but thrive in this new environment. Moderator: Alexandra McPherson (Principal, **Niagara Share**).

Dave Rapaport (Global Social Mission Officer, **Ben & Jerry's**), Glenn Jackson (Chief Diversity Officer, **M&T Bank**) and John Somers (President & CEO, **Harmac Medical Products**) will discuss the business imperative for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and how developing an inclusive culture and engaging employees in impact work increases employee efficiency, retention and greatly advances the recruitment of sought-after new talent. Moderator: Nira Johri (Sustainability Director, **Rich Products**).

Jon Powers (Co Founder, **CleanCapital**), Hadar Borden (Director, **Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars**) and Paul Tyno (AVP Sustainability Technologies, **NOCO Energy**) will focus on how challenges can create opportunities, and what companies are already integrating the Global Goals into their approach to capture greater market share and increase quality job growth. Moderator: Denielle Harrison (Manager, **Business for Social Responsibility**).

About the WNY Sustainable Business Roundtable

The Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable, wnysustainablebusiness.org, is a collaborative group of public and private sector organizations in WNY that work together to help businesses take a lead in integrating sustainability into their operations to benefit staff, the environment, and their bottom line.

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