



2026

ANNUAL FORUM

**The Courage to Transform:
Business Innovation for a
Climate Resilient Economy**

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



**Partners in
Project Green**

Brought to you by:

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Toronto Pearson

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

TIME	AGENDA
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION Breakfast & Networking
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stefania Sottile: Associate Director, Environment, Greater Toronto Airports Authority
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	COMMUNITY ACTIVATION: COURAGEOUS CONNECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela Stathakos: Director, Municipalities & Partnerships, GenWell• Ashleigh Bliss: Director, Workplace Programming, GenWell
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	PANEL #1: FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE How Innovation and Finance Drive Climate Preparedness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natasha Shute (Moderator): Director, Climate Advisory Solutions, Commercial Banking RBC• Christine Terng: Director, Sustainable Finance, Commercial Banking RBC• Umar Ashfaq: Senior Associate, MSCI Research & Development• Michael Kurz: Director, Environmental Compliance, Energy, and Sustainability, UHN
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	BUFFET LUNCH
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: AI, SUSTAINABILITY, AND THE LEADERSHIP DECISIONS THAT MATTER <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kulbir Colin Singh Dhillon: Managing Director, Center for Designing Change
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	PANEL #2: COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE ACTION The People Behind the Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heather Mak (Moderator): Co-Founder, Diversity in Sustainability• Katelyn Poyntz: Director, Project Engineering & Energy Engineering and Plant Services, UHT• Darryl Gray: Director, Education and Training, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority• Eli Browne: Head of Sustainability, CHEP Canada
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	CLOSING REMARKS AND DOOR PRIZE DRAW
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	NETWORKING



SPEAKER BIOS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Jennifer Taves

Senior Manager, Sustainable Communities, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Jennifer leads initiatives that integrate climate resilience, sustainability, and community well being. She oversees flagship programs including Climate Ready Homes, the Sustainable Neighborhood Action Program, and Partners in Project Green, advancing collaborative, place based solutions across housing, neighborhoods, and employment areas. Her work brings partners together to translate strategy into action, supporting healthy, inclusive, and thriving communities with measurable environmental and social impact.

OPENING REMARKS



Stefania Sottile

Associate Director, Environment, Greater Toronto Airports Authority

Stefania Sottile is the Associate Director of Environment at the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, where she leads environmental and sustainability strategy and compliance initiatives. With more than 25 years of experience across consulting, property management and development, and aviation, she is recognized for her leadership in EHS and sustainability.

An accredited Environmental Professional (EP), Stefania is passionate about advancing environmental stewardship, regulatory compliance, and integrating sustainability into business decision-making. She also serves as Co-Chair of the PPG Executive Management Committee, is an active member of the Canadian Airport Council Environment Committee, and contributes to the Toronto CREW Real Jobs Day committee.



COMMUNITY ACTIVATION FACILITATORS



Angela Stathakos

Director of Municipalities & Partnerships, GenWell

Angela works with municipalities, community organizations, libraries, health leaders, and civic partners to help make human connection a more intentional part of how communities are designed, led, and experienced.

With a background in operations, partnerships, and community-building, Angela brings a practical and people-centred approach to GenWell's work. She is passionate about turning big ideas into tangible action, helping leaders and organizations understand the role that social health and connection play in building stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities.

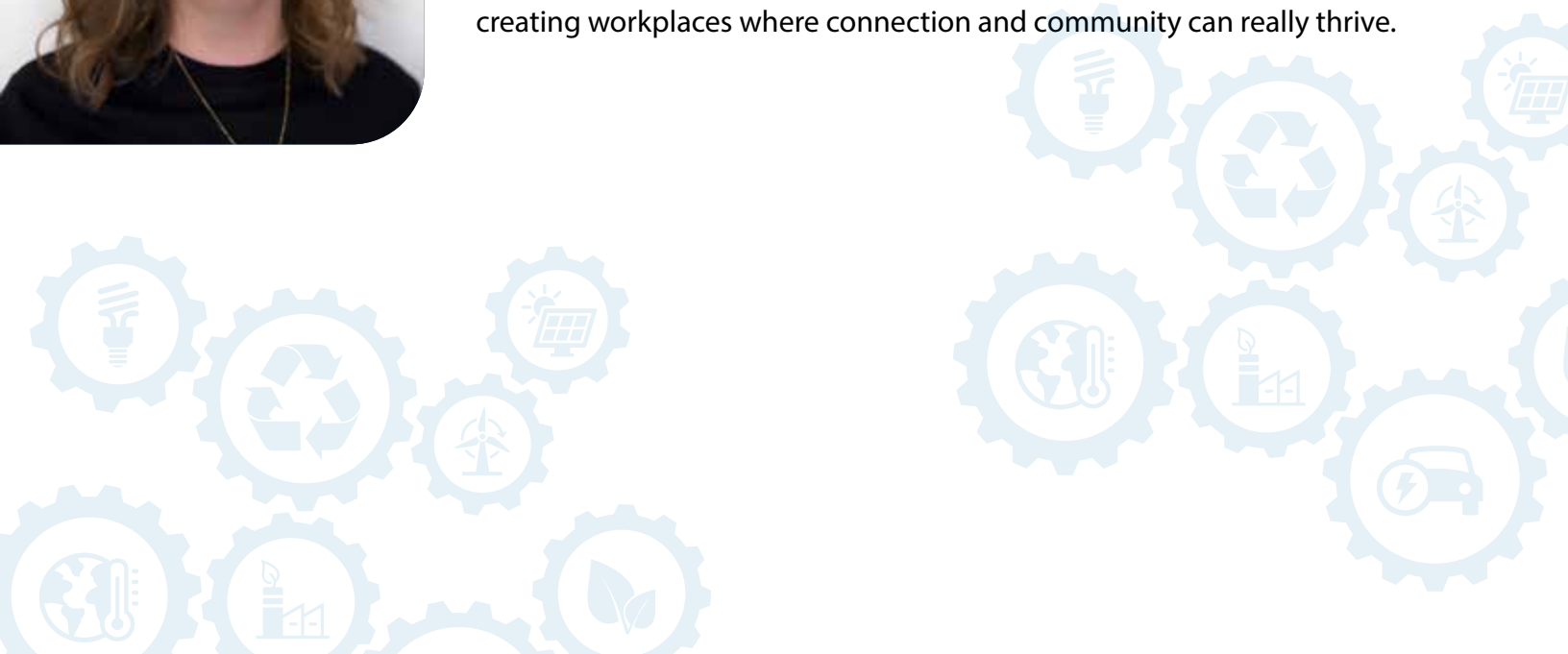
Angela is especially focused on creating spaces, programs, and partnerships that make it easier for people to connect in everyday life — at work, in neighbourhoods, and across communities.



Ashleigh Bliss

Director of Workplace Programming, GenWell

Ashleigh Bliss is a creative, driven professional who loves turning ideas into meaningful experiences that bring people together. In her role, she helps businesses and organizations learn about the importance of building genuine connections atwork. She's always curious, always learning, and brings a positive, people-first approach to everything she does, focused on creating workplaces where connection and community can really thrive.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Kulbir Colin Singh Dhillon

Managing Director, Center for Designing Change

Kulbir Colin Singh Dhillon is a futurist, innovation strategist, and bestselling author who helps organizations lead through transformation with courage and purpose. As Co-Founder of the Centre for Designing Change, he advises industry, government, and academia on building resilient, human-centred innovation ecosystems.

A leader behind Canada's first all-electric vehicle prototype, Colin's work today spans climate-aligned mobility, smart infrastructure, AI governance, digital manufacturing, and emerging humanoid robotics, including Canada's first open-source humanoid robot initiative.

He is the bestselling author of *The Three Houses* and *Soulful AI*, exploring the intersection of purposeful leadership, emotional intelligence, and technology. A recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and King Charles III Coronation Medal, Colin has delivered keynotes on four continents on resilience, innovation, and sustainability.



PANEL #1

– From Risk to Resilience: How Innovation and Finance Drive Climate Preparedness



Natasha Shute

Director, Climate Advisory Solutions, Commercial Banking RBC

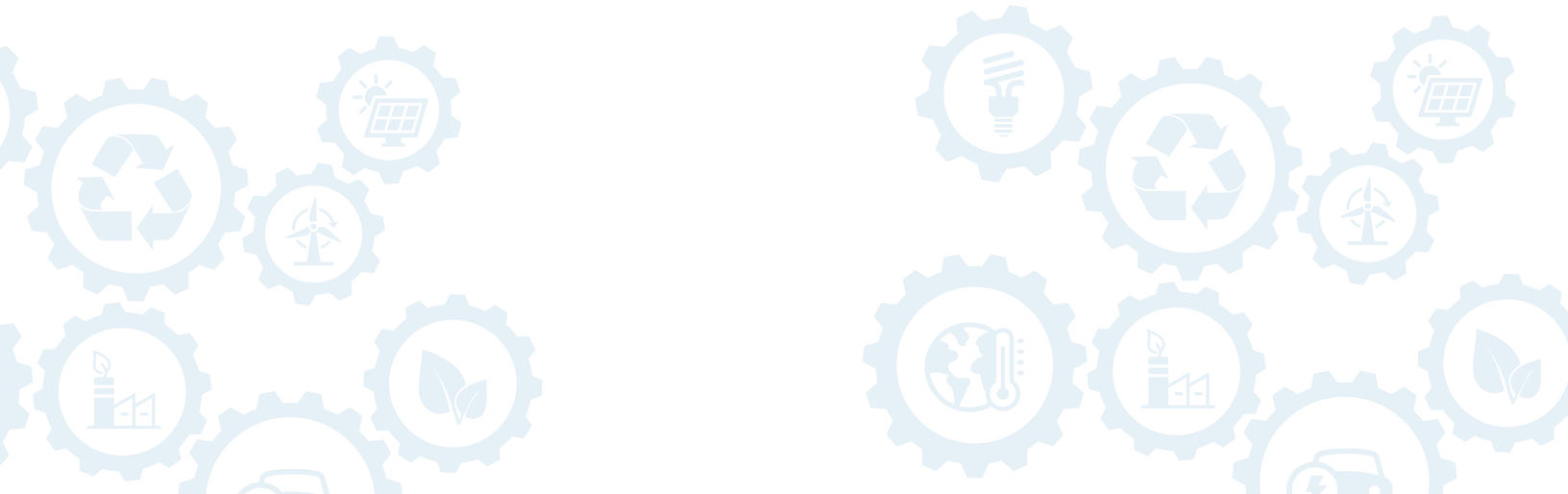
Natasha leads the Commercial Banking climate advisory strategy, dedicated to building a climate ready workforce and integrating climate considerations within business strategies. Natasha led client-facing sustainability advisory and sustainable finance engagements within Corporate Client Group. She partnered closely with the business to help clients identify material sustainability risks and opportunities, develop actionable sustainability strategies, and access financing solutions aligned with their sustainability objectives. Natasha holds a Sustainability Leadership and Corporate Responsibility certification from the London Business School.



Christine Terng

Director, Sustainable Finance, Commercial Banking RBC

Christine is a Director within RBC's Sustainable Finance Commercial Banking group, who supports the team in integrating ESG trends and themes into advisory practice and structuring sustainable finance transactions. Combining her experiences across sustainable finance policy, corporate banking and asset management, she is able to bridge gaps between the worlds of sustainability and finance to support clients in accelerating their sustainability ambitions. She joined RBC in 2023 from Hong Kong where she worked in public policy and sustainable finance at a financial industry association. Christine holds a Master in Global Political Economy from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and a Bachelor in Quantitative Finance from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



PANEL #1

- From Risk to Resilience: How Innovation and Finance Drive Climate Preparedness



Michael Kurz

Director, Environmental Compliance, Energy and Sustainability,
University Health Network

Mike leads UHN's Energy and Sustainability team, responsible for environmental compliance, energy, and sustainability. He has worked to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on public health throughout UHN and beyond and has led efforts to incorporate greenhouse gas mitigation into infrastructure planning, energy management, and at home.

Mike has led and participated in numerous energy projects at UHN, including: Retro-commissioning, LED lighting retrofits, building automation upgrades, chiller plant replacements, district energy systems, variable frequency drives, heat recovery, demand control ventilation, high performance computers, and more. Since 2010, UHN has achieved cumulative cost avoidance of over \$50 million, keeping utility costs stable over time despite increasing rates and expansions to the building footprint. These utility cost savings have correlated with a 15% reduction in CO2 emissions. Mike is a Professional Engineer and Certified Energy Manager



Umar Ashfaq

Senior Associate, MSCI Research & Development

Umar Ashfaq is part of the MSCI focusing on the North American utilities sector and aerospace and defense industry. His prior experience includes equity research and due diligence in emerging markets (Middle East and Pakistan). He holds a master's degree in environmental policy from Columbia University and a bachelor's in math from Lahore University of Management Sciences.



PANEL #2

– Courageous Leadership in Climate Action: The People Behind the Progress



Heather Mak

Co-Founder, Diversity in Sustainability

Born and raised in Toronto, Heather Mak is the Principal Advisor of Heather Mak Consulting and the co-founder of the member network, Diversity in Sustainability. She has almost 20 years of experience in the private and non-profit sectors on food, retail and consumer goods sustainability issues in North America and Europe. Heather is a known connector, convenor and facilitator, and committed to building accessibility and amplifying underrepresented voices in the field of sustainability. Heather previously held sustainability roles at Deloitte, Tim Hortons, Retail Council of Canada, SustainAbility (now ERM), and Canadian Business for Social Responsibility, and holds a B.Com from McGill University and an MBA in Sustainability from Schulich School of Business. She has been featured in the Globe and Mail, Corporate Knights, Yahoo! News, GreenBiz and YES! Magazine.



Katelyn Poyntz

Director, Project Engineering & Energy Engineering and Plant Services,
Unity Health Toronto

Katelyn started the energy team at Unity Health Toronto in 2019 – winning the 2021 (Save on Energy) Energy Manager of the Year Award. She is currently leading and evolving the organization's Sustainability Strategy and has set an interim GHG emissions reduction target of 20% for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030. Katelyn loves to both learn and teach and finds her work both challenging and rewarding and hopes to inspire others. Katelyn has an undergrad in Systems Design Engineering with an option in Cognitive Science.



PANEL #2

– Courageous Leadership in Climate Action: The People Behind the Progress



Darryl Gray

Director, Education and Training, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Darryl is Director of Education and Training at TRCA, where he leads a multidisciplinary team advancing education, cultural heritage, and sustainability across the Greater Toronto Area. With over 25 years of experience, Darryl drives transformative partnerships that expand access to nature-based learning, support professional training in urban sustainability, and revitalize The Village at Black Creek. He also supports senior committees at TRCA and holds a BA from McMaster University and a Diploma in Municipal Administration.

Darryl is an active community volunteer, including as a not-for-profit Board Member, and holds a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University and a Diploma in Municipal Administration.



Eli Browne

Head of Sustainability, CHEP Canada

Eli Browne is Head of Sustainability for CHEP Canada, where she works at the intersection of sustainability ambition, business reality, and people led change. A member of the Canada leadership team, Eli focuses on embedding sustainability into core strategy, customer value, and everyday decision making—especially when outcomes are long term and trade offs are real.

With deep experience driving sustainability in complex organizations, including previously at Empire Company Limited (Sobeys and Safeway), Eli believes courageous climate leadership is driven by navigating uncertainty, managing resistance, and sustaining momentum over time. She has been recognized as a Canadian Grocer Star Woman and a Generation Next Award recipient, and holds graduate and undergraduate degrees in science and environmental management.



EXHIBITORS



Beacon Environmental
Sector: Landscaping



City of Toronto
Sector: Municipality



Credit Valley Conservation
Sector: Conservation



EcoBright Energy Inc
Sector: Service Provider – Lighting & Energy



Enviro-Stewards
Sector: Consulting



Lightenco
Sector: Service Provider – Lighting & Energy



University of Toronto – Master of Science in
Sustainability Management
Sector: Academia

Thank you

to all the organizations that supported this event!

PLATINUM SPONSOR



LUNCH SPONSOR



BREAK SPONSOR



COFFEE STATION SPONSOR



STUDENT TABLE SPONSOR



DOOR PROZE DONORS

△ R C ▷ D I △
E △ R T H

HUNTER
A M E N I T I E S

LUSH FRESH
HANDMADE
COSMETICS

 toronto **zoo**


THE
**URBAN
ARBORIST** 

PLANET
IN FOCUS
INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
FILM FESTIVAL

PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS

ASI ACADEMY for
SUSTAINABLE
INNOVATION

 BRAMPTON
BOARD OF TRADE

 CENTENNIAL
COLLEGE

 **TORONTO**

**Environmental
& Science
& Engineering**
MAGAZINE

 **MARKHAM**

 TORONTO
PORT AUTHORITY

 **vaughan**
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT