

# UKSIF Spring Conference 2023 Agenda

Day 1: 10<sup>th</sup> May

08:30-09:30 Registration and breakfast

09:30-09:40 Opening remarks

*James Alexander, Chief Executive, UKSIF*

09:40-10:10 Fireside chat: **The call of the wild: What does the industry and the government need to do to protect nature and biodiversity?**

*Moderated by: James Alexander, Chief Executive, UKSIF*

*Maria Nazarova-Doyle, Head of Responsible Investments, Scottish Widows*

10:15-11:00 Panel: **Cost-of-living crisis**

- ❖ How will the cost-of-living crisis impact the sustainable finance industry and what steps should we take to prepare for the potential consequences?
- ❖ How will the cost-of-living crisis impact the UK's and world's net zero transition? How can we minimise impacts?
- ❖ How has the cost-of-living crisis changed public views and attitudes towards sustainability and environmental responsibility?
- ❖ As we look ahead to AGM Season, are there shareholder resolutions on fair pay in investor companies?

*Moderated by: Heidi Douglas-Osborn, Policy Manager UKSIF*

*Tenisha Elliott, Vice President, Responsible Investment, Columbia Threadneedle*

*Julian Parrott, Partner, Ethical Futures*

*Rosie Rawle, Senior Campaign Officer (Good Work), ShareAction*

11:00-11:30 Coffee

11:30-12:10 Panel: **Regulation: SDR – what's next?**

- ❖ Responses to consultation and FCA views
- ❖ Timeline for implementation
- ❖ International domiciled funds and institutional investors
- ❖ What's being done on the global regulatory stage? How does ISSB tie in?

*Moderated by: Oscar Warwick Thompson, Head of Policy and Communications, UKSIF*

*Miranda Beacham, Head of ESG for Equities and Multi Asset, Aegon Asset Management*

*Argi Sampedro, ESG Policy and Regulatory Strategist, Vice President, Neuberger Berman*

12:15-13:15 Panel: **Addressing difficult ESG questions**

- ❖ Have weapons become an acceptable ESG investment due to the invasion of Ukraine?
- ❖ Oil and gas is making record profits, shouldn't we invest and then run?
- ❖ How can we engage oil and gas when proven reserves are central to valuations?
- ❖ Which is the priority – reducing emissions or having a just transition?
- ❖ If government stops prioritising net zero, shouldn't we?
- ❖ How do we continue to sell ESG funds when they are making lower returns?
- ❖ Has greenwashing destroyed public trust in ESG?
- ❖ Is the US ESG backlash harming the UK ESG market?

*Moderated by: James Alexander, Chief Executive, UKSIF*

*Hilkka Komulainen, Head of Responsible Investment, Aegon UK*

*Stewart Langdon, Partner, LeapFrog Investments*

*Stephen Porter, Responsible Investment Lead, Scottish Widows*

13:15-14:15 Lunch

14:15-14:45 Fireside chat: **Transparency and Communication: What do financial advisors need from the industry?**

*Moderator: Madison Reamsbottom, Head of Membership, UKSIF*

*Craig Hendry, Managing Director, Johnston Carmichael Wealth*

14:45-15:30 Panel: **Net Zero Alignment – turning pledges into action**

- ❖ How can financial services assess their current portfolio and determine which decarbonisation strategy is best suited for them?
- ❖ What are some of the key factors that financial services should consider when evaluating potential investments into sustainable solutions?
- ❖ How will the trend towards net zero alignment impact the financial services industry and what steps should they take to ensure their investments align with the goals of the Paris Agreement?
- ❖ What are the barriers to further action?

*Moderated by: Elza Holmstedt Pell, Deputy Editor, Responsible Investor*

*Nick Gaskell, Sustainability Investment Analyst, abrdn*

*Sandy Trust, Head of Organisational Risk, M&G*

*Mathias Lomas, Engagement Manager – Investment, Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation*

15:15-15:55 Panel: **Incentivising the real economy**

- ❖ How can financial services incentivise the real economy to transition towards sustainability and low-carbon practices?
- ❖ What can the UK learn from IRA and the REPowerEU plan?
- ❖ What role can investment and financing play in driving innovation and supporting businesses that are working towards sustainability goals?
- ❖ What kind of financial products and services can be created to encourage and reward companies for their sustainability efforts?
- ❖ How will these incentives for the real economy impact the financial services industry and what should they do to prepare for the potential consequences?
- ❖ What role should financial services play and what role should regulation play?

*Moderated by: Oscar Warwick Thompson, Head of Policy and Communications, UKSIF*

*Matthew Clayton, Managing Director, Thrive Renewables*

*Gareth Evans, ESG Analyst, Baillie Gifford*

*Deepshikha Singh, Head of Stewardship and Deputy Head of Sustainable Investment Research, La Française*

16:00-18:00 Drinks

Day 2: 11<sup>th</sup> May

09:00-10:00 Registration and breakfast

10:00-10:10 Chair's remarks

10:10-10:30 Keynote: **The road ahead for sustainable finance regulation**

*Mark Manning, Technical Specialist, Sustainable Finance and Stewardship, Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)*

10:35-10:55 Fireside chat: **Green Mortgages: The future of lending?**

- ❖ What are the advantages for lenders in offering green mortgages?
- ❖ How can lenders assess the energy efficiency of properties and determine the eligibility of borrowers for a green mortgage?
- ❖ What are the risk management strategies for lenders in offering green mortgages, and how can they mitigate the risks involved?
- ❖ How can lenders promote the uptake of green mortgages and educate borrowers about the benefits of energy-efficient homes?

*Moderated by: Oscar Warwick Thompson, Head of Policy and Communications, UKSIF*

*Katherine Annand, Climate Lead, Retail Banking, NatWest Group*

11:00-11:40 Coffee

11:45-12:35 Panel: **Scotland's future beyond oil and gas**

- ❖ What does a net-zero future look like for Scotland? What are its implications and benefits?
- ❖ How can inter-governmental relations be leveraged to accelerate the transition away from Oil and Gas?
- ❖ How can renewable energy sources attract the funding required for their development?
- ❖ What measures need to be taken to develop the right skills in the workforce to facilitate the transition to renewable energy in Scotland?
- ❖ What planning and infrastructure development is necessary to ensure a smooth transition to net-zero in Scotland?
- ❖ How can investors play a role in promoting the technological advancement necessary for a sustainable future?

*Moderated by: James Alexander, Chief Executive, UKSIF*

*Dr. Theodor Cojoianu, Associate Professor in Sustainable Finance, The University of Edinburgh Business School*

*and Director of Research, Edinburgh Futures Institute*

*Ian Stannard, Sustainable Finance Business Development, ICE*

*Libby Watkinson, Director for Impact Assessment & Reporting, Scottish National Investment Bank*

12:40-13:00 Panel: **Going beyond incrementalism – 1.5° is not a strategy**

- ❖ We have 9 years left before we breach 1.5°C - how do we ramp up the pace and make transformational change?
- ❖ What does the financial service sphere need to do to accelerate this transition?

*Moderated by: Oscar Warwick Thompson, Head of Policy and Communications, UKSIF*

*Jack Chellman, Chief Project Officer, Global Returns Project*

*Anna Moss, Senior Sustainability Analyst, abrdn*

13:00 Closing remarks

13:00-14:30 Lunch & close

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