

CLG Europe

Business leadership for a
climate neutral economy

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) is a globally influential Institute developing leadership and solutions for a sustainable economy. We believe the economy can be 'rewired', through focused collaboration between business, government and finance institutions, to deliver positive outcomes for people and the environment. For over three decades we have built the leadership capacity and capabilities of individuals and organisations, and created industry-leading collaborations, to catalyse change and accelerate the path to a sustainable economy. Our interdisciplinary research engagement builds the evidence base for practical action.

Rewiring the Economy

Rewiring the Economy is our ten-year plan to lay the foundations for a sustainable economy. The plan is built on ten interdependent tasks, delivered by business, government, and finance leaders co-operatively over the next decade to create an economy that encourages sustainable business practices and delivers positive outcomes for people and societies.

CISL is particularly focused on supporting a just transition to a zero carbon economy. In that context, CISL is pleased to provide the secretariat for CLG Europe, the business leadership group on climate change, policy and innovation.

Welcome from the Director of CISL's Corporate Leaders Groups



For over a decade, CISL's Corporate Leaders Groups have made clear that effective climate action and a healthy economy are not in conflict but firmly and completely aligned. Our renewed Europe-focused group aims to be the leading cross-sectoral business voice convened across the EU in support of a climate neutral economy.

CLG Europe brings business experience and insight to policymakers in the EU and across the globe. We harness the energy and innovation of the business community to help rewire our economies to secure a stable, just and positive transition to a climate neutral, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C has given renewed focus and drive to the need to take resolute action to manage the risks of climate change and put the economy on a safe, secure footing for the future.

CLG Europe is at the forefront of efforts to deliver on this – being one of the first major pan-European business groups to champion the necessary net zero ambition for emissions and to argue for the right policy frameworks to unlock the innovation and energy of business.

The group draws on the support of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), which itself builds the strategic capacity for individuals and organisations to tackle critical global challenges. Bringing together a cross-sectoral group of European businesses, CLG Europe is committed to being at the forefront of the debate on climate action, leading by example in terms of the practice of its members, and driving innovation.

We welcome progressive businesses that demonstrate leadership and innovation. I hope this brochure helps you to discover more about how you can work with CLG Europe in driving forward the actions needed to secure a zero carbon, just economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eliot Whittington'.

**Eliot Whittington, Director,
CISL's Corporate Leaders Groups**

CLG Europe

CLG Europe¹ is a select group of leading European businesses, with a membership representative of Europe in both geography and sector. CLG Europe members have come together to work with policymakers and business peers to support stronger ambition and effective, accelerated action on climate change within the EU and globally. The group's work is aligned with the Paris Agreement and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CLG Europe is the sister group of UK-focused The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group, which has frequently defined the British business response to climate change.

The guiding mission of CLG Europe is to develop credible, ambitious positions amongst its membership and deploy effective strategic communications, thinking and action to engage with the highest levels of policy audiences and the wider business community. It acts to strengthen climate change policy and drive it into practice, both in Europe and, working with others, around the world.

A founding member of We Mean Business (WMB), CLG Europe does this through leading and co-ordinating WMB partners on European policy strategy and convening a network of groups acting on climate across Europe. CLG Europe also partners with the Green Growth Group of Environment Ministers and Members of the European Parliament to promote positive exchange between European governments, parliamentarians, business and other key opinion formers to support the development of a climate neutral Europe.

Priority workstreams:

- **increasing the EU's climate ambition** by raising the level of the 2030 target for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2020

- the most ambitious and effective practical implementation of the EU's 2030 climate and energy framework and how to review in line with latest evidence
- advocating for member states to endorse a net zero emissions by 2050 long-term strategy.

CLG Europe is delivering this by:

- providing the evidence to influence the policy debate by drawing on insights from business members and thought leadership from Cambridge University and other institutes and think-tanks in Brussels and across Europe to deliver publications containing key messages and leadership practices
- supporting the cross-pollination of best practice between members to ensure CLG Europe is recognised as a group of true leaders
- securing a high-profile and regular engagement with policymakers to influence the development of policy
- providing appropriate opportunities to bring CEOs and insights from progressive business into the debate at key moments for maximum impact
- working with our partners in Europe and globally to strengthen climate change policy and drive it into practice.

¹ CISL is not a member of CLG Europe but provides the secretariat to it. The decisions of CLG Europe do not represent the policies or positions of CISL or of the wider University of Cambridge.

CLG Europe membership

Full members



Affiliate members



INGKA™



Our principles

We respond in proportion to the challenge

We seek to be at the forefront of the debate on climate action within the business and policy communities, identifying and supporting solutions that reflect the scale and urgency of the challenge.

We lead by example

Members have individual clear and credible strategies to deliver emissions reduction in line with the Corporate Leaders Groups' goals, and are committed to using their voice publicly to clear the path for others to follow.

We support a diversity of solutions

We support ambitious deployment of a mix of low carbon mitigation solutions, such as energy efficiency, renewable power generation and other low carbon technologies, as well as adaptation and resilience actions around energy, water and land.

We intend to break new ground

The global emissions trajectory required to face up to the climate crisis demands deep economic change and the adoption of new business models. We seek to promote process, systems and technology innovation capable of unlocking new ways of working. We strive to tackle climate change and its wider impacts, such as health and environment, and also unlock related approaches such as the circular economy and new manufacturing solutions, in order to deliver growth, jobs and competitiveness. We seek to do this in a way that is socially inclusive and supports a just transition.

Our goal

Prompted by the Paris Agreement and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a faster pace, governments across the world are reviewing their initial ambitions, and looking at what is required to deliver the goal of ‘net zero’ emissions.

To be Paris compliant, and to have any hope of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, it is clear from the latest science that global emissions must now fall to net zero as early as possible in the second half of this century. For developed economies, such as those in the EU, whose leadership is essential on this, net zero emissions must therefore be achieved by 2050 at the latest.

As a group of business leaders who have placed climate action and sustainable business models at the heart of what they do, members of CLG Europe understand that bold actions shape our future.

CLG Europe members are committed to working towards business models that are compatible with this goal, and therefore keep to the global emissions trajectory required to keep cumulative emissions below one trillion tonnes of carbon from manmade CO₂.

CLG Europe members are also committed to playing a leadership role in securing a just, low carbon transition, both in terms of changing their own businesses and sectors, and through sharing experiences with policymakers and business to advocate for change in the wider economic and political context. The group's members call on governments to develop strong, credible and appropriate 2050 strategies and build an economy that supports and enables the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

How we work

CLG Europe seeks to deliver its goal through bringing European business leaders together to advocate for policy change in relation to the transition to a zero carbon economy. It does this by drawing on high-level convening, thought leadership, business innovation and new partnerships.

The group is composed of major companies including market leaders and household names with a presence across the majority of EU member states. It is deliberately composed to represent a broad cross section of business sectors, including from energy-intensive and non-energy-intensive sectors. Membership of the group is limited to allow a deep engagement and opportunities for meaningful discussions with political leaders and influencers.

The group operates at two levels: the leader level and the working group level. Crucial to the success of CLG Europe is the personal involvement and support of the senior leadership of the companies. Group discussions and negotiations over strategy, policy, statements and work planning take place at working group level.

The CLG Europe secretariat is provided by CISL.

Recent impacts



European policy

CLG Europe aims to send a clear signal to policymakers and other companies that progressive businesses that are serious about action on climate change are seeing net zero by 2050 as a priority and are looking to governments to legislate in this direction. In 2019, ahead of the Future of Europe Sibiu Summit, the Corporate Leaders Groups called on the EU to set net zero goals in line with the Paris Agreement, in an open letter to European Heads of State and Government signed by CEOs from more than 50 businesses, investors and business networks. CLG Europe's policy briefing, *A new agenda for Europe*, which outlines five business priorities for the newly elected EU institutions to deliver a prosperous, climate neutral economy, was launched as the EU enters a moment of democratic renewal. Other recent activities include net zero video messages, profiling non-state actor climate commitments through the Step Up Now communications platform and organising a series of events in Central and Eastern Europe as part of the programme of activities supported by the Green Growth Group.



The business voice

Since 2017, the Corporate Leaders Groups have published a series of 'business conversation' reports with a goal to stimulate policy debate and lead positive change in specific policy areas among politicians, policymakers and businesses. The aim of these reports is to provide them with the information and confidence to accelerate action, and to inform a broad range of businesses on the latest trends and the scale of opportunities available to them. Policy areas covered so far by this series include **energy**: *The Energy transition in Central and Eastern Europe: The business case for higher ambition*; *21st century energy: Business reflections on renewables in Europe*; **industrial strategy**: *European industry in the 21st century: New models for resource productivity*; **transport**: *Electric avenue: The future of road transport in Europe*; and **low carbon buildings**: *Renovation roadmap: Making Europe's homes fit for the 21st century*.



International negotiations

In 2019, the Corporate Leaders Groups supported the 1.5 Campaign jointly developed by the We Mean Business coalition (of which CLG Europe is a founding member), UN Global Compact and the Science Based Targets initiative, calling on all companies to commit to set an ambitious science-based emission reduction target that is aligned with what science says is necessary to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

Find out more about the key milestones achieved by the Corporate Leaders Groups over the years at www.corporateleadersgroup.com/about/history

Overview of CISL

The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership builds the strategic leadership capacity for individuals and organisations to tackle critical global challenges.

For over 25 years CISL has worked with business, government and finance leaders worldwide to shape their leadership journey. We have helped them to see and understand the wider context, and to locate their ambitions and successes, and those of their organisations, within a sustainable future for humanity.

Our executive and graduate programmes enhance the ability of leaders to develop strategic responses to sustainability challenges and build their capacity to translate new knowledge and awareness into practice. Our customised programmes and advisory services help business leaders to understand the critical sustainability trends and the material implications for their company now and in the future – and help them to frame a response.

Our Business and Policy Leaders Groups, such as CLG Europe, supported by the breadth and depth of the University's research and by influential practitioners and policymakers, help to catalyse innovative, collaborative action.

Our work has led to the creation of a leadership network made up of nearly 8,000 senior leaders and leading practitioners who represent business, the public sector and civil society in every industry and on every continent.

Underlying all our work is the constant enquiry as to what kind of leadership is needed – and how we can foster it – to transform the way we run our economies and societies within the limits of the natural world.



CISL education programmes

We build leadership capacity through our executive education and graduate programmes. Our programmes enhance the ability of leaders to develop strategic responses to sustainability challenges and build their capacity to translate new knowledge and awareness into practice.

Our executive education courses enable executives at all levels to engage with leading experts drawn from our extensive global network of academics, practitioners and educators. Our graduate study courses, regarded as some of the best in the world, equip individuals with the ability to lead and influence change, whilst also gaining an academic award from the University of Cambridge.

Our executive education portfolio includes:

The Prince of Wales's Business & Sustainability Programme

Our series of three-day residential seminars, held around the world, have been delivered by CISL on behalf of The Prince of Wales since 1994, and have become a global benchmark for sustainability leadership education.

CISL online courses

Our part-time online courses empower individuals and organisations to take the lead in tackling critical global challenges.

Customised Programmes for Senior Leaders

Through our customised workshops and seminars, we work with leaders to enable individual organisations, sectors or value chains to understand the specific challenges they face now and in the future – and then to frame a response.

Sustainability Leadership Laboratories

Our two-day immersive workshops focus on pressing issues and emerging opportunities with real application to your organisation, and support your continued professional development.

We offer the following part-time, Master's-level courses for business professionals and managers:

Master of Studies in Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment (IDBE)

Offered in association with the Departments of Architecture and Engineering, this part-time Master's course is designed for those involved in the commissioning, design, construction and management of projects in the built environment. The IDBE is also offered as a post-graduate certificate.

Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Business

A flexible and modular programme where topical and emergent leadership responses to sustainability in a business context are explored.

Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Business

This nine-month, part-time course is offered in two streams, enabling students to focus on integrating sustainability thinking into business action, or developing their skills to establish sustainable value chains.

Summary of member benefits

- Access to high-level member state and EU decision-makers
- Being part of a small cross-sectoral group of leading European companies
- Opportunities to work in partnership with the EU Green Growth Group of EU climate and environment ministers and supportive Members of the European Parliament, the We Mean Business coalition and a network of sister groups across the EU
- Access to CISL's broader business, policy and academic networks including thought leadership from the University of Cambridge
- Exchange of ideas and best practice between members to drive credible sustainable business models

To join

For more information on how to join **CLG Europe** please contact us at:



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