

Private Capital Sustainability Conference 2026

21 April 2026

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Masterclass Sponsor

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Tuesday, 21 April 2026

08:30

Registration & Networking Breakfast

09:05

Welcome address

Host: Karim Palant, Director, External Affairs, UK Private Capital

09:15

Political Keynote & Fireside Keynote & Fireside

Interviewer: Karim Palant, Director, External Affairs, UK Private Capital
Further speaker to be confirmed shortly

09:45

Sentiments v reality – can ESG really die? Panel

ESG is under pressure, but is it really in decline? Hear from investors and sustainability leaders as they explore what's actually changing on the ground and what these shifts mean for capital allocation, compliance and the future of responsible investment in private capital.

Moderator: Harriet Assem, Head of Sustainability, UK Private Capital
Hannah Gilbert, Director Sustainability on Wider ESG Landscape, British Business Bank
Lucie Mills, Partner, NorthEdge Capital
Matthew Sumner, ESG and Sustainability Lead, Scottish Equity Partners
Patricia Volhard, Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton



Tuesday, 21 April 2026

10:25

Investing for tomorrow: Will Net Zero remain central?

Panel

Explore whether net zero still guides investor decisions, or if economic and political pressures are shifting priorities. Hear from GPs and LPs, and sustainability leaders on the trade-offs between short-term returns and the long-term costs of climate inaction.

Moderator: Sarah Adams, Director of Policy, UK Private Capital
Jeremy Brown, Head of Climate Strategies and Investment Principal, Anthemis
Bill Esterson MP, Sefton Central and Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee, Labour Party
Jonathan Pollock, Chief Executive, Elbow Beach
Rachael Reid, Senior Investment Manager - Deeptech, Director and Co-Investments - Clean Energy Sector, British Business Bank

11:05

Networking Break

11:30

Innovative finance mechanisms: Tools for unlocking capital for climate and nature – what is working?

Panel

Blended finance promises to mobilise private capital into impactful sectors. In this session, practitioners and policymakers will critically examine the effectiveness of innovative finance structures, and explore how policy, public finance tools and regulation can unlock scalable, investable structures.

Hear what's working, what's emerging, and what needs to change to better align public and private interests.

Moderator: Alex Shadbolt, Investment Associate, Future Planet Capital
Stefanie Fairholme, Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer, Capital Solutions, British International Investment
Beverley Gower-Jones OBE, Managing Partner, Clean Growth Fund
Sandy MacDonald, Executive Director of Impact, The Scottish National Investment Bank
Georgina Thomas, Head of Impact, Cibus Capital



Tuesday, 21 April 2026

12:00

Do GPs and LPs mean the same thing when they say 'Impact'... and does it matter?

Panel

"Impact" is used across private capital, but do GPs and LPs interpret it the same way? This panel will unpack how impact is defined, measured and applied in practice. We'll explore why clarity matters for capital deployment, reporting and long-term trust, and how shared language – or deliberate divergence – can shape the future of sustainable investing.

Moderator: Maggie Loo, Partner, Bridges Fund Management
Sofia Bartholdy, Responsible Investment Integration Director, Church Commissioners
Ravi Bhatt, Director and Head of Responsible Investment (ESG/ Impact), Apis Partners
Alex Shadbolt, Investment Associate, Future Planet Capital
Caroline Truong, Impact & ESG Manager, Lightrock

12:35

Networking Lunch

13:35

Welcome back

Host: Harriet Assem, Head of Sustainability, UK Private Capital

13:40

Keynote

Akshat Rathi, Senior Reporter, Bloomberg News



Tuesday, 21 April 2026

14.10

Pitching value creation in the Dragon's Den

Four firms will pitch their value creation story that's truly material to their business. Using participant questions to shape the discussion, the panel will explore how they think about value, the frameworks they use, what's material across portfolios, how value is measured and how this is communicated to their investors.

Michelle Lamprecht, Head of Corporate Affairs, Cambridge Innovation Capital

Alex Bexon, Director, ESG – Value Creation Partners, LDC

Emily Matthews, Responsible Investment & ESG Manager, Oxford Science Enterprises

Further speakers to be confirmed shortly

14:35 - 15:20

Masterclass 1 - Stream 1

Communicating sustainability performance and value creation

Sponsored by Novata

Sustainability only creates value when it's measurable. In this masterclass, led by Novata, attendees will learn a practical five-step framework to turn sustainability strategy and metrics into strategic outcomes and financial performance. Move beyond reporting and build a clear, defensible value creation narrative grounded in high-quality data.

Laura Callaghan, Head of Advisory, EMEA, Novata

Laurie Cameron, Head of Sustainability, PAI Partners

14:35 - 15:20

Masterclass 1 - Stream 2

14:35 - 15:20

Masterclass 1 - Stream 3

Tuesday, 21 April 2026

15:20

Networking Break

15:40 - 16:25

Masterclass 2 - Stream 1

The intersection of defence investing and responsible capital allocation

As UK national security priorities evolve, the defence sector is increasingly drawing the attention of private capital. Yet, this shift is raising critical questions for investors committed to responsible and sustainable capital deployment, in terms of how they can enable such investments in their current responsible investment frameworks. This master class will explore how investors can navigate the ethical, regulatory, and reputational dimensions of defence-related investments while supporting innovation in areas such as cybersecurity, dual-use technologies, and resilient supply chains.

Speakers to be confirmed shortly

15:40 - 16:25

Masterclass 2 - Stream 2

The rise of responsible AI and its implications for governance and risk

AI is transforming the investment landscape, bringing both with innovation and responsibility. This session will explore how responsible AI is reshaping governance and risk in private capital, offering practical insights into managing AI-related risks, while aligning with sustainability goals. It will explore how to integrate ethical AI into investment decisions and governance processes, ensuring that innovation and responsibility are balanced with sustainability and long-term value creation.

Speakers to be confirmed shortly

Tuesday, 21 April 2026

15:40 - 16:25

Masterclass 2 - Stream 3

16.25

Closing remarks

Host: Harriet Assem, Head of Sustainability, UK Private Capital

16:35

Networking Drinks Reception

17:35

Event Close

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Contact us

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