Meet the speakers

DECEMBER 3 & 4, 2026 · SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



THURSDAY / MODERATOR

Lacey Raak

California Green Business Network (CAGBN)

Lacey Raak is Co-Executive Director of the California Green Business Network, supporting sustainable businesses and local economic development statewide. She previously led sustainability programs at UC Santa Cruz and CSU Monterey Bay and helped develop Monterey's first Climate Action Plan. A former Fulbright researcher in Indonesia, she holds a master's in International Environmental Policy and a Chief Sustainability Officer credential from MIT.



THURSDAY / SPEAKER

Sarah Hilmer

Community Impact and Strategic Alliances at Intuit

Sarah Hilmer is Senior Manager of Local Impact and Strategic Alliances at Intuit, where she develops partnerships and community-impact initiatives supporting small businesses. Previously, she led communications for a Bay Area startup and served as a public relations agency managing director. Sarah holds an MBA from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business, focused on environmental policy and social impact, and a BA in Communications from Purdue University.

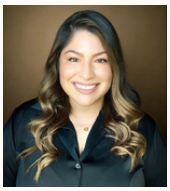


THURSDAY / SPEAKER

Stephanie Morales

Manager, Global Responsible Sourcing at Sony Pictures Entertainment

Stephanie Morales manages Global Responsible Sourcing at Sony Pictures Entertainment, leading Scope 3 decarbonization and sustainable procurement initiatives. She advances Sony Pictures' "Road to Zero" environmental plan in collaboration with suppliers and internal teams. Her procurement experience includes roles at Disney, Universal Studios Hollywood, and Chipotle. She represents Sony Pictures with the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council and holds an MBA, a business degree, and professional sourcing and project-management certifications.



THURSDAY / SPEAKER

Vanessa Pasillas

Head of Circularity, IKEA North America (Interim)

Vanessa Pasillas is Interim Head of Circularity for IKEA North America, supporting product-life extension, secondhand solutions, and circular innovation in the United States and Canada. Her IKEA career spans sustainability, social impact, marketing, and community partnerships, including support for IKEA Costa Mesa's California Green Business Innovator Level Certification. She also serves as an IKEA Foundation Ambassador and a People & Planet Positive Country Reviewer.



THURSDAY / PRESENTER

Jo Fleming

Environmental Innovations/CAGBN

Jo Fleming is Executive Director of the California Green Business Network. With more than 25 years in environmental work, she has experience in scientific research, remediation, industrial pollution prevention, environmental data, and community-based social marketing. She has helped establish numerous Green Business Programs and supported hundreds of businesses in adopting greener practices. Jo holds a BS in Environmental Science with a minor in Spanish and has worked internationally.



THURSDAY / PRESENTER

Courtney Faulkner

Environmental Innovations/CAGBN

Courtney Faulkner is Software Systems Oversight Manager at Environmental Innovations, overseeing platforms that support sustainability programs, including GreenBizTracker, Sustainable Start, HubSpot, and Google Workspace. She works with EI's technology team on software development, systems integration, and process improvements. Her expertise in CRM customization and technology procurement helps improve program operations and environmental-impact reporting for staff, clients, and green businesses.

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THURSDAY / MODERATOR

Cassie Carroll

Director, GBNN

Cassie Carroll is Director of GBNN, Assistant Director of the University of Illinois System's EnergySense Resilience Center, and Director of the Illinois Green Business Program. She develops sustainability and resilience initiatives that strengthen businesses, local economies, and partnerships. Cassie co-founded the Illinois Green Business Association in 2008 and has co-led GBNN with greenUP! since 2015. Her work centers on practical sustainability programs and community collaboration.



THURSDAY / SPEAKER

Eden Bruckman

Chief Sustainability Officer, County of San Diego Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice

Eden Bruckman is the County of San Diego's first Chief Sustainability Officer, leading its Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice. Her three-decade career spans architecture, environmental policy, government, and nonprofits. She coauthored the Living Building Challenge and supported the development of sustainability standards including LEED, Declare, and EcoDistricts. Her honors include the Women in Sustainability Leadership Award and recognition as a LEED Fellow and Living Building Hero.



THURSDAY / PRESENTER

Colin Hannahan

Policy Analyst, Toxics Use Reduction Institute, Umass Lowell

Colin Hannahan is a Policy Analyst at the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, University of Massachusetts Lowell. He works with legislators, government agencies, businesses, and researchers to advance pollution prevention and safer alternatives. Previously, he worked with the United Nations Environment Programme's Chemicals and Health Branch, contributing to a global strategy to encourage green and sustainable chemistry innovation.



FRIDAY / PRESENTER

Aidan Lawton

Cities of Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan, CO

Aidan Lawton is Green Business Specialist for the Colorado cities of Englewood, Littleton, and Sheridan. He supports local businesses in adopting practical sustainability initiatives that benefit both operations and communities. His experience combines sustainability and business development, with an emphasis on aligning business goals and environmental outcomes. Aidan holds an MBA from Colorado State University with a specialization in Corporate Sustainability.

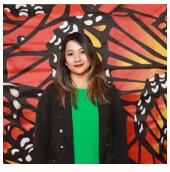


FRIDAY / PRESENTER

Jane Tovar

San Francisco Environment Department

Jane Tovar is a bilingual Associate with the San Francisco Green Business Program, supporting equitable access to green business certification. Raised in Gilroy, California, she brings experience with small family-operated businesses and community sustainability efforts. She studied Environmental Science and Society and Environment at UC Berkeley, where she participated in food recovery work. Before her current role, she worked in climate change and sustainability consulting at Ernst & Young.



FRIDAY / PRESENTER

Berenice El Gharamti

Monarca Group

Berenice El Gharamti is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Monarca Group, expanding access to sustainability programs through bilingual outreach. She also helps equity-priority buildings comply with Denver's building performance ordinance. Previously, she managed Longmont's Sustainable Business Program. With more than a decade in environmental engineering and climate action, she serves on the boards of Eco-Cycle and Community Foundation Boulder County and holds a master's in Environmental Science and Engineering.

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FRIDAY / PRESENTER

José Luis Ramos

Monarca Group

José Luis Ramos is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Monarca Group, where he supports sustainability through community engagement and more equitable access to environmental programs. His career includes 20 years in business consulting, seven years in high-tech management, and ten years in construction. He holds a BS in Computer Science and brings technical, business, and community experience to sustainability initiatives for underserved businesses and communities.



FRIDAY / PRESENTER

J Allen Heise

Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

J Allen Heise is a Sustainability Associate at the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, providing technical assistance to businesses seeking practical sustainability improvements. His background includes nonprofit administration, hospitality, and ecological sciences. Over the past two years, he has worked with Michigan businesses to develop approaches tailored to their operations, with particular experience in the food and hospitality sectors.



FRIDAY / PRESENTER

Zoharia Drizin

Illinois Green Business Association (IGBA)

Zoharia Drizin is a Sustainable Business Advisor with the Independent Green Business Alliance, providing technical assistance and training to help businesses adopt safer, more sustainable foodware. She focuses on purchasing initiatives that expand access to PFAS-free food-contact materials and encourage environmentally responsible practices. Her experience includes project management and green business consulting, along with interests in climate mental health and intergenerational climate communication.



FRIDAY / PRESENTER

Luke Truman

Senior Program Manager, New England Environmental Finance Center

Luke Truman is Senior Program Manager at the New England Environmental Finance Center, supporting more sustainable operations in the craft beverage industry. He has more than a decade of experience in large-scale brewing, including facility management, equipment upgrades, expansions, and operations across the supply chain. Most recently, he managed facilities at Maine's largest brewery. Luke also co-chairs Reuse Maine's Reusable Packaging Committee.