

GRI Topic Climate Change Standard(s) project

Technical committee member biographies

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Technical committee

In accordance with due process, the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) has selected the following members to participate in the technical committee that will be responsible for reviewing the Climate Change disclosures in the GRI Standards. The members represent diverse, multi-stakeholder backgrounds and bring an excellent combination of relevant knowledge and experience in Climate Change.



Jesica Andrews

Investment Lead at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, Switzerland

Constituency: Civil Society/ Investment institution (Non-Governmental Organization)

Jes Andrews is Investment Lead at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, where she leads the Investment Leadership Programme and focuses on portfolio target-setting with investors in the UN-Convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance. She is also a member of the Expert Advisory Group for Science Based Targets Initiative and UNFCCC's Race to Zero Campaign. Prior to working with UNEP FI, she worked on climate change projects across with multiple UN agencies, governments and private firms across some 35 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. She's the author of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Paper: High Level Recommendations for Credible Net Zero Commitments and has several times been served as an invite reviewer of the UNEP Emission Gap Reports. Simply put, Jes supports financial institutions in understanding climate risk, developing science-based methodologies and aligning with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics and holds a Master of Finance from the University of Cambridge, Judge Business School.

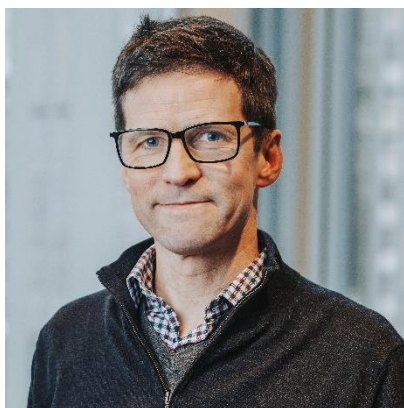


Pankaj Bhatia

Global Director of the GHG Protocol Initiative (GHGP) at the World Resources Institute, United States

Constituency: Mediation Institution

Pankaj Bhatia is the Global Director of GHG Protocol, convening its multi-stakeholders processes and leading its teams in the development and implementation of several key standards and tools in the last fifteen years. Pankaj is a leading expert on GHG Protocol's key standards including Corporate, Scope 3, Mitigation Action, and GPC (City Accounting). He launched and managed the three-year global process that involved more than 2,300 stakeholders to develop the GHG Protocol Scope 3 and Product Standards released in 2011. Further, he continued to lead GHG Protocol teams to develop new global standards including Scope 2, Mitigation Goals, Policies and Actions, GPC (Cities); supported global initiatives including CDP, SBTi, ISO, GRI to adopt GHGP standards; and led planning and implementation of national GHG programs in key major economies including China, India, and Brazil. Currently, he is a member of the GHGP team developing new global guidance for the Land Sector. From 1998 to 2000, he was Vice President of Tata Energy & Resources Institute, a not-for-profit research organization based in Arlington, Virginia. From 1993 to 1998 he was an Associate at TERI, New Delhi working on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in India. He holds a Master's in process engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and a Bachelor's in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Varanasi, India.



Dr. Matthew Brander

Senior Lecturer in Carbon Accounting at the University of Edinburgh's Business School, UK

Constituency: Mediating Institution (Academic)

Matthew is a Senior Lecturer in Carbon Accounting at the University of Edinburgh's Business School. His current research focuses on the development of methods for corporate, product (life cycle assessment), project and policy-level greenhouse gas accounting. He has particular interest in bioenergy, offsetting, electricity accounting, greenhouse gas removal, and the alignment of financial flows with the Paris Agreement. He has served as a member of several technical working groups for the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), and is on the peer review panel for BEIS/Defra's emission factors

publication for company reporting, and the Advisory Board for the Woodland Carbon Code. He also chairs the Climate Advisory Group for abrdn's Multi-Asset Climate Solutions Fund. Prior to his current position Matthew worked for over seven years in carbon management and greenhouse gas assessment at the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management, and at Ecometrica. For more information: <https://www.business-school.ed.ac.uk/staff/matthew-brander>



Svend Brun Hansen

Climate and Environmental Manager, Ørsted, Denmark

Constituency: Business Enterprise

Svend Hansen is a Climate and Environmental Manager in Ørsted. Since 2016, Svend has been advising the executive management on the direction of Ørsted's climate strategy, to support the company's transformation from a European-based fossil utility to a global renewable energy company. He has led Ørsted to be the first energy major to set a science-based target in 2017 and to become the first energy company with a science-based net-zero target in 2021. Svend is a lead advisor on climate strategy across all technologies in Ørsted's portfolio, including offshore wind, power-to-x, supply chain decarbonization, and nature-based solutions.

Svend brings extensive experience with corporate reporting on climate change. He has led the work to establish Ørsted's scope 3 reporting in collaboration with the Finance team, together with whom he continues to ensure alignment of the company's climate accounting with international best-practice standards. He leads the company's CDP climate reporting, including the efforts to make Ørsted a global climate leader with an A-score for four consecutive years.

Svend has 10+ years of professional experience within sustainability. Prior to joining Ørsted, Svend was a sustainability consultant in Deloitte. He holds a master's degree in environmental engineering and has studied at the Technical University of Denmark and Yale University.



Jimmy Jia

Senior advisor, research associate in Sustainable finance, University of Oxford, UK

Constituency: Mediation Institution (Academic)

Jimmy Jia is a research associate of Oxford Net Zero, a member of the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, and a non-stipendiary lecturer at Mansfield College, Oxford. His research focuses on improving the comparability of environmental accounting systems, such that investors can make capital deployment decisions between entities. This helps value climate exposure on asset value, integrates environmental, social and governance (ESG) indicators into the due diligence process, and aligns corporate strategy with ESG goals.

He sits on numerous boards, where he's held positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Chair of Strategy Committee and members on Finance and Executive Committees. He has sat on several CEO hiring committees, and regularly works with executives to adopt budgets and created long-term strategies to innovate in competitive markets.

Jimmy has published two books, holds five patents, and speaks internationally on topics of energy futurism. He received his BS and MS from MIT in Material Science and Engineering and MBA from the University of Oxford. He is currently a DPhil Candidate at the University of Oxford in Sustainable Finance.





Lindsey LaGessee

Senior Program Manager of Sustainability Standards, Microsoft, United States

Constituency: Business Enterprise

Lindsey LaGessee is an Environmental Sustainability professional with skills specifically linked to operational carbon reduction activities and GHG emissions inventory management. Lindsey specializes in corporate sustainability with experience working for technology, finance, and real estate focused companies.

Currently, she leads sustainability standards engagement and advocacy for Microsoft. Her work contributes to Microsoft's sustainability goals to be carbon negative by 2030 and remove all historical company emissions by 2050. In a large organization like Microsoft, Lindsey is keen on weaving sustainability throughout all aspects of the business to generate impactful change. She favors collaboration, pragmatism, and communication to drive climate improvement through internal support and external partnerships.

	<p>Lindsey holds a B.S. in International Business and Sustainable Business and an M.S. in Sustainable Management from University of Wisconsin programs.</p>
	<p>Timothy Letts Deputy Director, Corporate Climate Engagement WWF, United States Constituency: Civil Society</p> <p>As Deputy Director for Corporate Climate Engagement at WWF-US, Tim Letts collaborates with leading companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mobilize value chains, and accelerate progress toward net-zero. His work with the business community to drive climate action includes WWF's Climate Business Network, promoting corporate adoption of science-based targets through the Science Based Targets initiative, and tracking the corporate climate & energy landscape through WWF's Power Forward report series.</p> <p>Prior to WWF, Tim served in the United States Navy in a variety of leadership roles. He holds an MBA with specializations in strategy and change management from NYU, and a BS in ocean engineering from the United States Naval Academy. Tim was a 2013 EDF Climate Corps Fellow and is based in Washington, DC.</p>
	<p>Azahara Merino Martos <i>Technician, Secretariat for Strategic Transitions and Territorial Development, head of Ecological Transition Area Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras (CCOO), Spain</i> Constituency: Labor</p> <p>Azahara Merino is currently technician at the Secretariat for Strategic Transitions and Territorial Development, head of Ecological Transition Area in the Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras (CCOO). Previously, she was Environment Technician at the CCOO Confederal Secretariat for Environment and Mobility. As part of her work Azahara studies topics related to just transition, energy, climate change, circular economy and social economy. She is analyzing and preparing reports on the forementioned subjects; monitoring regulations and policies on issues related to these areas, at the national, European and international levels; conducting studies, reports, publications and articles; and prepare and delivery papers and presentations at national and European round tables, seminars and conferences.</p> <p>Azahara holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences in the University of Granada (Spain), with a Post-doctorate in Renewable Energies in the Laboratory of Low</p>

Temperature Materials (LMBT) of the "Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP)/IFGW-Instituto de Fisica Gleb Wataghin. Campinas-Sao Paulo (Brazil). Azahara has a degree in environmental sciences from the University of Granada. She worked at the Water Institute of the University of Granada and participated in several research projects in her area of expertise and published several articles in scientific journals.



Zahra Omar

Environmental justice attorney, Centre for Environmental Rights, South Africa

Constituency: Civil Society

Zahra Omar joined the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) in 2017. Zahra completed her articles in the CER's Mining Programme and was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa in 2019. Since then, Zahra has been working as an environmental justice attorney in the CER's Corporate Accountability & Transparency Programme where she works to expose institutions of power and their decisions and policies in order to advance transparency and environmental & climate justice. On behalf of the CER, Zahra plays a key role as a member of the Fair Finance Coalition of Southern Africa, a civil society coalition working towards ensuring that public finance institutions invest in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

Zahra holds an LLB from the University of Cape Town and is currently reading for her LLM in Human Rights Law where her dissertation focuses on the constitutional obligations of financial institutions in light of the just transition. Zahra is particularly interested in the link between human rights and climate and environmental justice.



Guo Peiyuan

Chairman of SynTao Green Finance Co Ltd, China

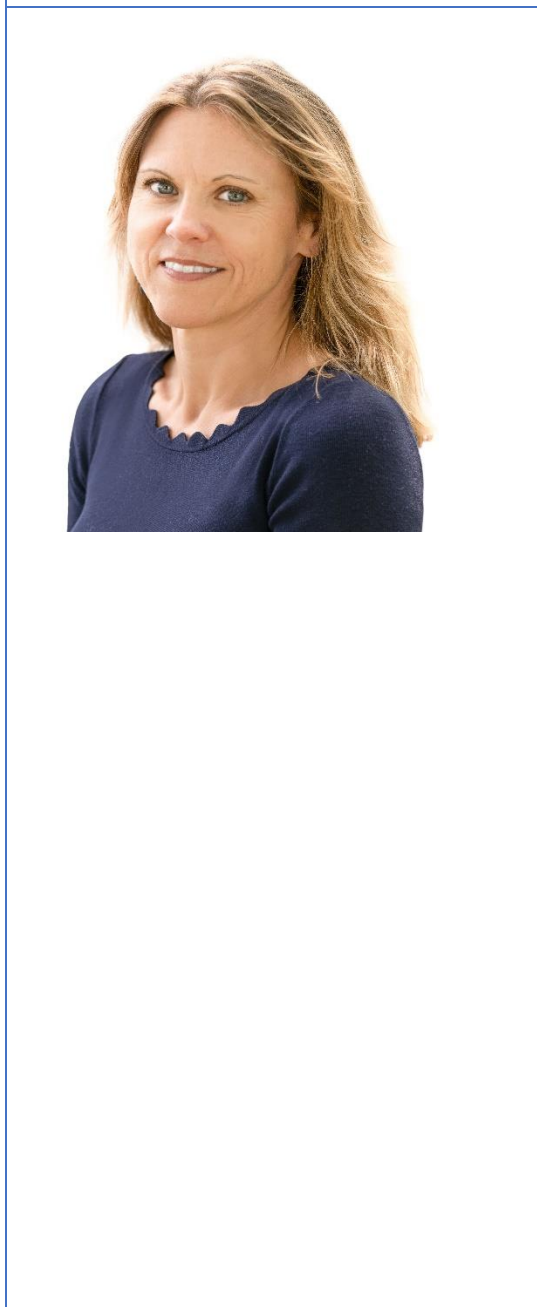
Constituency: Investment Institution

Dr. Guo Peiyuan is Chairman of SynTao Green Finance, a professional service provider of ESG rating, green bond verification and green finance advisory.

Dr. Guo has around 17 years experiences on ESG and sustainability. He has served a number of clients covering financial institutions, corporations, governments as well as international organizations. He also serves as ESG committee members for China Association for Public Companies, Insurance Asset Management Association of China, and China Securities Association. He works closely with international organizations and serves as China Advisor to UNEP Financial Initiative and board member for AIGCC.

Dr. Guo has strong experiences on reporting and climate disclosure. As a GRI Stakeholder Council member (2010-2016), he is familiar with GRI Standards 2021. Dr. GUO supports several Chinese financial institutions to calculate carbon emission at operational level and asset level. He has strong understandings on relevant standards such as GHG Protocol, PCAF, TCFD, ISSB, etc.

Dr. Guo holds B.S. in environmental engineering and a Ph.D. in management from Tsinghua University. He teaches MBA course Business Performance and Sustainability in School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University.



Caroline Rees

President and Co-Founder of Shift, United States

Constituency: Civil Society

Caroline Rees is President and Co-Founder of Shift, a non-profit organization working to build a world in which business gets done with respect for people’s dignity. Caroline oversees the organization’s strategy and thought leadership work. In recent years, she has focused on corporate reporting as a catalyst for better human rights risk management, and on improving the data and methods used to evaluate companies’ social performance as part of ESG analysis. She has written and spoken extensively on the relevance of business respect for human rights to movements that seek to advance sustainability, equality, ESG investing, stakeholder capitalism, and human and social capital.

Caroline was a British diplomat from 1992 to 2006. While heading the UK’s human rights team at the United Nations, she chaired the negotiations that established the mandate of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on business and human rights. She became lead advisor to John Ruggie after he was appointed to that role, and was centrally involved in the drafting of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. From 2009 to 2011 she was also Director of the Governance and Accountability Program at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Corporate Responsibility Initiative. Caroline is a Commissioner on the [Business Commission to Tackle Inequality](#). Based on the organisation’s leading expertise in advancing business respect for human rights consistent with the UNGPs, Shift is increasingly asked to partner with various climate and environment focused organisations to integrate a people-lens to their work. These have included the Climate Disclosures Standards Board (prior to its integration into ISSB); the Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures and the Science-Based Target Network.



Christoph Töpfer

Senior Research and Policy Officer at the German Environment Agency's (UBA), Germany

Constituency: Mediation Institution (Inter-Governmental Agency)

Christoph Töpfer is the German Environment Agency's (UBA) corporate sustainability and environmental management expert. His work is currently focused on corporate sustainability reporting, climate change mitigation and risk management as well as environmental supply chain due diligence. He advises the German Government, European Commission and international organizations and has initiated and supervised various research projects in these fields. Christoph brings extensive experience in international standardization, where he chairs a working group to develop a series of environmental management standards. As part of EFRAG's Task Force for the development of Draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards, Christoph co-led the work on the climate reporting standards ESRS E1.

Christoph is a trained economist and holds master degrees in sustainable development and technical business management. Before his time at UBA, he was a sustainability and quality engineer in the German photovoltaics industry.



Michel Washer

Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer, Solvay, Belgium

Constituency: Business Enterprise

Michel has spent most of his career within Solvay in various functions, including engineering, HSE, marketing and sales, strategy. Since 2012 he is deputy chief sustainability officer, and in charge of Solvay's extra-financial reporting. He has implemented the GRI G4 Guidelines for Solvay's reporting, and more recently, the GRI Standards.

From 2019 till March 2023 he was member of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), the independent body with sole responsibility for developing and issuing the GRI Standards.

He organized the progressive evolution of Solvay's annual reporting to a combined report, then to an integrated report. Born in 1960, he graduated with a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Free University of Brussels.