

## Climate Risk Summit: North America 2021

*Measuring, managing and mitigating the threat from climate change*

March 15th-18th 2021 • Virtual week

The Economist's **Climate Risk Summit: North America** will feature essential insights from business leaders on how to better measure, manage, mitigate and report climate-related risks.

Over four days, *The Economist* will explore how the public and private sectors are responding to the risk posed by climate change. How are investors and regulators demanding more transparent and comparable disclosure of climate-related risks? How can organisations best model their exposure? How do regulators understand the risks and exercise their authority to strengthen disclosures? How can firms translate reams of climate data into effective decision-making? The programme will explore the impact of climate risk on financial services, national and multinational corporations, civil society and federal, state and municipal governments, and examine how they are responding to policy and technological transitions.

### Day one

**Recording date: TBC**

**Broadcast date: Monday 15th March**

1.00 - 1.20pm EST	<b>Opening keynote: Climate risk—rising to the challenge</b>
1.20 - 2:00pm EST	<b>Responding to a new era of risk</b> How are business leaders, policymakers and regulators identifying and responding to the complex risk posed by climate change? How does the interaction between physical and transition risks affect firms? What can businesses do to identify, measure and mitigate core risks? What advances are being made in modelling and integrating risks?
2.00 - 2:15pm EST	<b>Interview: Focus on finance</b>
2.15 - 3:00pm EST	<b>Reshaping lending</b> As our understanding of climate risk grows, regulators, investors and shareholders are demanding accelerated action from financial-services firms. How are lenders developing skills to manage climate risk effectively? How are they incorporating climate data into lending

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	decisions? What changes do we see in regulatory pressures?
3.00 - 3:40pm EST	<b>In conversation with...The regulators</b> Understanding climate threat as a systemic risk, regulators are moving urgently and decisively to measure and address the impacts of climate change. How is the role of regulators evolving? What are their demands, and how can businesses best prepare for these? What problems are raised by the lack of consistent and reliable data? How can disclosures be improved for effective climate risk management?
3.40 - 4:00pm EST	<b>Interview: Insights into financial disclosures</b>
4.00 - 4:40pm EST	<b>Need to know: Reporting climate risk</b> How can companies create transparent and comparable reports of material climate-related financial risks? How can disclosures be optimised to enable informed decision-making? What role do the current reporting standards and frameworks play in driving strategic business transition?

**Day two****Recording date: TBC****Broadcast date: Tuesday 16th March**

1.00 - 1.20pm EST	<b>Keynote interview</b>
1.20 - 2:00pm EST	<b>Untangling transition risk</b> The transition to a low-carbon economy will be governed by decisions made by policymakers and regulators—decisions that will have a direct impact on the business operations of energy, utility, construction, transport and automotive and other industries. What are the most likely scenarios for policy change? How will new technologies be deployed to combat climate risk and how will this affect industries across North America?
2.00 - 2:15pm EST	<b>Interview: The transition economy and the future of energy</b>
2.15 - 2:25pm EST	<b>The risk forecast</b>

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	This session showcases the weather forecast for the year ahead and what it means for business returns. How can weather data support organisations in assessing exposure to climate hazards and help them prepare for rainy days?
2.25 - 3:00pm EST	<b>Mad about data</b> How can past, present and future climate information best be used? How can data be standardised to make disclosures comparable across sectors? What skills are still lacking within organisations to understand climate data, and what untapped potential so these data hold?
3.00 - 3:15pm EST	<b>Interview: Forecasting the next two years of risk</b>
3.15 - 4.00pm EST	<b>From data to decision-making</b> Businesses are looking for accessible, credible and relevant climate information to make better decisions. How should data and modelling be built into an organisation's decision architecture? How can businesses work with data experts for effective decision-making? What are the best practices—and how can we encourage businesses to develop and mainstream these?
4.00 - 4:20pm EST	<b>Case studies: From data to decision-making—business operations</b>
4.20 - 4:40pm EST	<b>Case studies: From data to decision-making—portfolio management</b>
4.40 - 5:20pm EST	<b>In conversation with...The investors</b> How are investment portfolios changing in light of better understanding of climate-related risk factors? How is risk measured within investment portfolios, and what data and models are being used? Are investee companies providing transparent data to enable investment decision-making, and what more can be done? Divestment vs engagement—which side wins?

**Day three****Recording date: TBC****Broadcast date: Wednesday 17th March**

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1.00 - 1.20pm EST	<b>Keynote interview</b>
1.20 - 2.00pm EST	<b>Future of public-sector action: Shifting tangents</b> The session will explore federal-, state- and municipal-level management of climate risks. Faced with large risks, how are states and municipalities changing their decision-making in light of climate change? With limited resources, what can states and municipalities do to mitigate climate events? What lessons can be applied from recent high-impact climate events?
2.00 - 2:45pm EST	<b>Litigation risks: From the courtrooms</b> Climate litigation is a growing risk for businesses. With lawsuits continuing to mount, how could legal risks around climate change unfold? How are such lawsuits being handled? Can mandatory disclosures reduce the legal risks?
2.45 - 3:15pm EST	<b>Energy and the low-carbon economy</b> The energy industry is at the front line of the transition to a low-carbon economy and will be impacted by regulatory and political decisions. What opportunities does the transition to a low-carbon economy present for energy companies—and what risk does it pose to their business operations?

**Day four****Recording date: TBC****Broadcast date: Thursday 18th March**

1.00 - 1.20pm EST	<b>Keynote interview</b>
1.20 - 2.05pm EST	<b>Brainstorm: Pricing climate risk</b> With an era of increased climate instability, insurers cannot depend on historic data to assess future exposure to risk. How can insurance companies design new models and products to predict climate events and limit losses? How are new data being used? What can insurers do to play a larger role in finding solutions while facing challenges in pricing, data and modelling?

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2.05 - 2.35pm EST	<b>Socioeconomic impacts of climate risk</b> Climate risk creates a ripple effect through interconnected socioeconomic systems, causing large risks to the people and assets at the centre of economies. What shifts in business-models are needed? Can a people-centric approach ensure equitable growth and a fair transition?
2.35 - 3.10pm EST	<b>In focus: The road ahead</b> How far are we on the "road to success" of incorporating climate risk into reporting and strategic decision-making? What improved systems are being created for future climate scenarios? How are data and analytical services, corporate strategists, policymakers and regulators seizing opportunities that will reap the biggest benefits? And what can we expect from the new road to COP26?
3.10 - 3.15pm EST	<b>Closing remarks</b>