

There is increasing momentum around accelerating change in the decisive decade, but how do we actually make it happen in this turbulent moment, to drive improvement opportunities that these tides of change provide us? This session explored these questions with perspectives from the front lines of sustainability. A group of Anthesis executives brought their expertise in ESG, Circularity, Strategy, and Materiality and shared examples of successful practice, innovation & key considerations to accelerate sustainability progress.



[In client work on sustainability strategy] I've seen zero retrenchment or reduction of expectations. We're seeing expansion of scope, reinvention of process, and continuation of the imperative."

John Heckman
Executive Director, Anthesis

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The series identifies 5 critical success factors to activate change: collaboration, courage, urgency, innovation and responsibility.
- There is stakeholder pressure to re-evaluate business priorities with special attention to human capital, climate change, supply chains, and diversity & inclusion.
- Investors will assess the adaptability of business models and workforces to disruptions, looking for agility.

- COVID-19 has demonstrated that sustainability works best in building resiliency when embedded throughout an organization instead of being a programmatic response.
- While mainstream metrics such as carbon reductions are still an imperative, the call to change systems that perpetuate inequality are leading companies towards more challenging ESG topics including diversity, inclusivity and equity.
- The pandemic has exposed the vulnerability and volatility of our highly-optimized linear economy. This has given rise to creative alliances and collaboration needed to rebuild new circular models more fit for our new economy.
- Commitment to sustainability has come a long way in the last 10 years. During the pandemic, we've seen clients maintain if not expand their sustainability programs, distinguishing this moment from the crash of '07-'09 where sustainability budgets were slashed across the board.

We asked 224 registrants:

Their responses:

How are drivers for sustainability acting on your organization: to **increase**, **decrease**, or **maintain** sustainability commitments since disruption began in March?

58% increase

37% maintain

5% decrease

SPEAKERS

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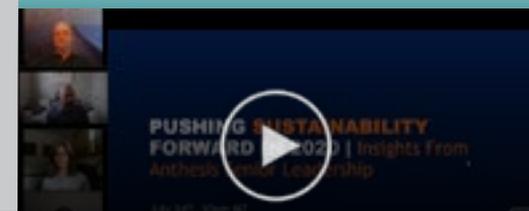
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