



Water in Business

Turning regulatory uncertainty into strategic opportunity for corporate water stewardship

The Water in Business programme inspires and engages the private sector in addressing the world's most pressing water challenges. Through high-level discussions and showcasing practical case studies, the series explores how businesses can lead in water stewardship despite shifting regulatory and geopolitical landscapes.

This year's sessions cover regulatory changes, science-based target implementation, and innovation for resilience, offering actionable insights for business leaders, investors, policymakers and other stakeholders.



“Tackling the global water crisis requires urgent, united action across sectors. By aligning public and private finance, leveraging local expertise, and fostering partnerships between business, government, and investors, we can turn water risks into opportunities for sustainable growth.”

the Government of the Netherlands

Session 1: Corporate Water Stewardship in a Shifting Global Landscape

MONDAY 25 AUGUST
14:00-14:30 CEST

Political shifts, regulatory changes, and market uncertainty are reshaping the sustainability agenda. From U.S. regulatory rollbacks to evolving EU frameworks (CSRD, CSDDD), companies face a fragmented governance environment — yet investor and consumer expectations remain high.

This opening session will unpack what these shifts mean for corporate water stewardship and explore how leading companies are recalibrating strategies to protect both business value and water resources. It will also highlight opportunities for businesses to work with policymakers and investors to turn uncertainty into a catalyst for innovation and leadership.

Session 2: From Targets to Action – Beyond Compliance in Corporate Water Strategies

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST
14:00-14:30 CEST

Leading companies are setting and delivering ambitious, science-informed water targets to manage water risks and opportunities across their supply chains.

This session will explore how freshwater action can reinforce climate commitments, biodiversity goals, and corporate resilience, and how transparent reporting strengthens trust with investors and stakeholders. Through concrete case studies, we will examine what it takes to move beyond compliance — embedding water into strategic decision-making.

Session 3: From Innovation to Resilience – Future-proofing Business through Water-Smart Innovation

WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST
14:00-14:30 CEST

Innovation is critical for adapting to climate-driven water risks. This session will highlight transformative solutions — from AI-powered monitoring and advanced modelling tools, to nature-based infrastructure and innovative finance mechanisms — that are helping companies anticipate, manage, and reduce water risk. Speakers will explore how technological, financial, and nature-based innovations, combined with strong partnerships, can de-risk water investment, protect business continuity, and deliver benefits for both ecosystems and communities.