

# 2017 ALBERTA CLIMATE SUMMIT

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 | CALGARY

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### KEYNOTES

#### Business in the Energy Transition

Once the domain of environmental NGOs and government, businesses executives around the globe are increasingly realizing that the energy transition will fundamentally change the way they do business. Those who seize the opportunity will succeed, while others will be innovated into oblivion. Our keynote business leader will examine why who thinks of themselves as clean economy stakeholders is changing, how their business is seizing the opportunity and why all businesses must strike while the iron is hot.

#### Mind the Gap

##### Talking with people who disagree with us

Many of us struggle to have conversations with people who we disagree with, or seemingly have little in common. Internationally recognized communications expert George Marshall has spent his career talking to people about climate change. In the Summit's final keynote he will share his passion for breaking out of the safe circles of the committed and reaching the unengaged and the skeptical. Using a laboratory format, George will challenge participants to explore what makes Albertans unique and how we might use this insight to build climate narratives that bring us towards a common purpose and stronger, united Alberta.

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

#### Finance in the Energy Transition

The energy transition will have substantial capital needs, and presents a business opportunity for different players in the finance space. This plenary panel will explore this opportunity with representatives from across the financial system – from traditional credit, banking and investment companies to innovative finance enterprises. Panel members will discuss what's already happening, the key role that finance can play in unlocking the transition, how this is different from "traditional finance" and how it will change to the finance sector broadly.

#### Energy Changemakers

Empowering youth to take a role in the future of the clean economy means providing them with access to thought leaders, influencers and stakeholders. In our future leaders

session we will give youth the chance to describe their projects and ideas for a low carbon future and facilitate the feedback from the experts, as well as build direct relationships through asks that accelerate their projects and ideas on the ground. To prepare the participating youth for this, we will have an application and training process to ensure they are comfortable and confident the day of the event.

#### Media in the Energy Transition

A discussion with journalists on the realities of reporting on science, climate and energy in Alberta. Join local and national journalists from a range of media outlets as they share their perspective on covering environment and energy issues in Alberta, and how reporters decide to tell the stories they way they do.

## A Conservative Case for Climate Action

Despite the support of some prominent Canadian conservatives, such as Preston Manning and Patrick Brown, climate policy has emerged as conservative politicians' "third rail": don't touch it; or if you must address it, oppose it. The recent Conservative Party of Canada leadership race had only one candidate who supported pricing carbon

and none of the four candidates vying for Alberta's United Conservative Party have put forth any specific climate policies, except to say they would all repeal the carbon levy. This panel will examine what a conservative case for climate action looks like, including different policy options, why there is a case to be made, and how the policy discussion can be moved forward.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Clean Technology

Products and services that deliver better environmental outcomes in existing and emerging industries is the economic opportunity of our generation. Alberta has the entrepreneurial mindset, the investment acumen and a wealth of established industries in energy, agriculture and forestry. Now it also has the regulatory framework for fostering low carbon innovation. Can it become a global launchpad for clean tech investment, venture development and scale-up? This panel will focus on understanding the case for and the barriers to Alberta leveraging national and global experience and insight.

### Energy Efficiency

Within a year, Alberta moved from being one of the few jurisdictions in North America without energy efficiency programming, to establishing the Energy Efficiency Alberta agency and delivering widely popular efficiency programs to the public. This session will provide an overview of current energy efficiency developments in Alberta as well as a discussion on the next steps needed to take advantage of Alberta's cheapest energy resource. We will dive into a critical discussion of the current programs, examine the conditions to integrate energy efficiency into the utility system and learn from other jurisdictions' approach to the integration.

### Renewable Energy

Alberta's electricity sector is undergoing an historic change. New elements are being added to its market, 4.5GW of coal power will be retired within the next six years, and significant renewable capacity will come aboard. This session will examine innovations in market design and in

the power and utility industry. Some of these innovations have already been triggered while others are expected to show up in the decisions being made in Alberta in the next year or two. We will also explore the implications of the design and business choices in terms of creating an affordable, resilient and sustainable electricity system.

### Just Transition: Labour and Indigenous Perspectives

The growth of the clean economy and the transition away from some industries can have a significant positive impact as well as pose some near-term challenges to communities. Both the labour sector and Indigenous communities will experience the impacts and challenges directly, and at the same time have an important role to play in leading the transition. This session will explore examples of labour and Indigenous leaders spearheading clean energy efforts, the lessons learned and the promising solutions that are emerging. Panelists will speak to the experience in Alberta as well as in countries that have been engaged in the just transition dialogue for several years.

### Methane Emissions Abatement

As a greenhouse gas, methane is 80 times stronger than carbon dioxide when it is initially emitted and responsible for 25% of current warming. Inexpensive and proven technologies exist to reduce methane emissions, but governments must enforce these to ensure reduction targets are met. This session will dive into technologies an innovative oil and gas sector is using in this effort and recent regulatory enhancements that together will help Canada meet its international commitment to stop allowing this valuable fuel to escape.