

THE NATURE CLIMATE NEXUS

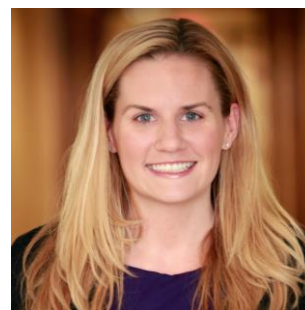
The alarming damage to ecosystems and biodiversity and climate change are interconnected crises, creating a systemic threat with far-reaching consequences. A vicious cycle ensues as degrading natural habitats diminish CO2 sequestration, while climate change reciprocally worsens the loss of these vital ecosystems.

"The Nature Climate Nexus" examines these interdependencies, offering powerful insights into both the risks and opportunities for investment in public and private markets.

We welcome **Robert Hall**, Director of Earth Systems Impact Investment at **Federated Hermes**, who will delve into the present weaknesses of voluntary carbon credit markets and the enhancements that can be made. He focuses on the need for science-based approaches and sets out the work that has been done to build a UK nature-based solution across land, coastal, river and marine nature-based solutions.

Sarah Bratton Hughes, SVP and Head of Sustainable Investments at **American Century Investments**, challenges conventional wisdom on net-zero and advocates for a shift from divestment to engagement. She also encourages a more holistic view of net zero and nature-based investment from a total portfolio perspective.

Our expert panellists are Leah Worrall of Isio, Becky LeAnstey of Environment Agency Pension Fund, and Hill Gaston of Mercer.



Sarah Bratton Hughes
Head of Sustainable
Investing
*American Century
Investments*



Robert Hall
Director, Earth Systems
Impact Investment
Federated Hermes





Sarah Bratton Hughes
Head of Sustainable
Investing



Sarah Bratton Hughes is a Senior Vice President and Head of Sustainable Investing at American Century Investments. Sarah is responsible for driving and executing the firm’s sustainable investing strategy and overseeing the firm’s dedicated Sustainable Research team.

Prior to joining American Century Investments, Sarah was global head of sustainability solutions for Schrodgers where she was responsible for delivering innovative, best-in-class sustainability solutions for clients globally.

In 2023, Sarah was recognised as one of Crain's New York Business's Notable Leaders in Sustainability. She was named to Crain’s list of Notable Women on Wall Street in 2022 and 2021 and won the Markets Media Women in Finance award for Excellence in Sustainability in 2021

Sarah earned bachelor’s degrees in economics and in business management from St. Francis College.

Robert Hall joined Federated Hermes in 2020 after spending 2019 at the firm on secondment.

He is responsible for the construction of innovative sustainable and impact investment strategies underpinned by the interdisciplinary integration of ecological, climatological, social, economic and financial models. Robert recently led the collaborative development of the firm’s Nature-based Solutions Climate Impact strategy and the build out of acquisition and valuation models at both portfolio and asset level across Nature-based Solutions asset classes. He is a Director on the strategy’s investment management team.



Robert Hall
*Director, Earth Systems
Impact Investment*



Leah Worrall
*Deputy Head
of ESG Insight
ISIO*



Becky LeAnstey
*Climate Investment Analyst
Environment Agency
Pension Fund*



Hill Gaston
*UK Head of Sustainable
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