

# Climate Safe Lending Network

## Press & Media Toolkit

### About the Climate Safe lending Network

[The Climate Safe Lending Network](#) (CSLN) is an international multi-stakeholder collaborative dedicated to accelerating the decarbonization of the banking sector to secure a climate-safe world. The Network brings together senior leaders and changemakers within banks, investors, NGOs, regulators, businesses, policy experts, and academics, to collectively explore how they can play their optimum role in accelerating change.

Our goal is for banks to actively implement good transition plans based on climate-safe pathways by 2025. That means:

- The trajectory of banks' activities are fully aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement (consistent with keeping the increase in temperature to within 1.5°C degrees);
- Setting science-based targets for scopes 1-3, including client-scope 3 for the relevant high-carbon sectors;
- Reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions well before 2050;
- Incorporating strategies for a socially equitable and just transition and integrating broader sustainability factors such as nature, biodiversity, health, and wellbeing.

To accomplish this goal, CSLN mobilizes public, private, and civic sector leaders in the global banking system to collectively source and scale innovative, system-wide solutions for accelerating the decarbonization of the banking sector.

CSLN is a program of Green America's [Center for Sustainability Solutions](#). Founded in 1982, Green America is a nonprofit membership organization that focuses on economic strategies to address global climate, environmental, and social justice crises.

## Climate Safe Lending Network Initiatives

We strategically act upon key leverage points in the banking system to catalyze systems change. We are concentrating efforts to align bank lending with climate-safe scenarios through several collaborative initiatives:

The [Climate Safe Learning Lab](#) connects and supports banking professionals who are advancing the climate finance agenda within their institutions. The [Climate Safe Lending Fellowship Program](#), which launched in October 2021, provides structured support over six months for climate intrapreneurs working in banking to build their knowledge, confidence, and skills to transform their institutions from within, in service of people and planet. The Climate Safe Learning Lab equips the banking sector to transform its institutions and informs the strategies of those influencing climate action by sharing powerful insights from the banking community with the larger network.

The [Climate Safe Policy Initiative](#) injects thought provocation into the debate on financial regulation to reframe the design of the financial system consistent with societal and environmental objectives. This initiative influences financial policies to help meet CSLN's goal of aligning bank lending with the Paris Agreement on climate action. Our main policy intervention proposals are set out in [Financial Stability in a Planetary Emergency](#), published in April 2021, with validation by 50 experts from across the financial system.

The **Climate Safe Prosumers & Influencers Initiative** mobilizes commercial clients, shareholders, high-net-worth individuals, foundations, and retail customers to collectively 'nudge' the banking system on the path to climate-safe lending. In collaboration with bank stakeholders, including investors, shareholders, and commercial and retail clients, we are co-creating solutions for influencing banks to transition to climate-safe lending practices, such as Following the Money, Leading the Change. This sub-initiative involves working with major corporate leaders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through their company's banking practices.

## Leadership



James Vaccaro, Executive Director, provides strategic leadership to CSLN. James is a former Investment Director and Group Strategy Director at Triodos Bank where he previously worked for over 20 years. He currently serves as a member of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero Advisory Panel. Previously, James served as a Global Steering Committee Member of UNEP FI and was responsible for co-developing the UN Principles for Responsible Banking. He is also a Senior Associate of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainable Leadership.

## Major Accomplishments

- Published [Taking the Carbon Out of Credit](#) in July 2020, which outlines the key steps banks must take to align lending with the Paris Agreement. This report also sets out an iterative approach to climate-safe lending by mobilizing activities along a pathway from stopping flows to fossil fuels to decarbonizing balance sheets and financing innovative solutions to climate change.
- Surfaced collective intelligence about the internal dynamics of banks during a [Climate Safe Learning Lab](#) peer-learning workshop in October 2020. This session was attended by 50 banking professionals who held roles across diverse functions and management levels of lending institutions.
- Published [Financial Stability in a Planetary Emergency](#) in April 2021 as part of the Thought Leadership Series: [Aligning Finance for the Net-Zero Economy](#) organized by UNEP FI and EIT Climate KIC. A key finding of this report is the identification of a latent consensus among 50 climate finance leaders on climate-related financial regulation that is feasible and influential.
- Hosted two convenings in 2021 that enabled climate-finance leaders to begin to form collaborative relationships and advance the collective conversation from reflecting on the nature and adequacy of net zero targets and identifying critical shifts to accelerate the decarbonization of the banking sector to aligning around the key elements of a good transition plan and collectively articulating what such a plan looks like in practice.
- Published [The Good Transition Plan](#) in October 2021, which is a climate action strategy development guide for banks and lending institutions. This guide gathers the best thinking, emerging practices, and stakeholder expectations from over 100 climate-finance experts and professionals from around the world.

## Media Highlights

The Climate Safe Lending Network is regularly covered in the media. Some recent media highlights include:

- [Banks being 'let off hook by weak climate regulation'](#), Kayleena Makortoff, The Guardian, November 2, 2021
- [What makes a 'good transition plan'?](#) Louie Goodall, Climate Risk Review, October 28, 2021
- [Ensuring planetary stability: Banks as unlikely allies?](#) David Barmes and Marya Skotte, Green Money Journal, September 2021
- [It's time for a Taskforce on Finance-Related Climate Impacts](#), James Vaccaro, Responsible Investor, July 21, 2021
- [Interview with James Vaccaro on a 1250% capital rule for fossil fuels](#), Graham Caswell, Green Central Banking, July 6, 2021
- [Planetary Emergency, Central Banks And The Financial System](#), Frank Van Gansbeke, Forbes, April 17, 2021
- [Change bank capital rules to boost climate action – survey](#), Simon Jessup, Reuters, April 12, 2021
- [Financial Stability in a Planetary Emergency: The Role of Banking Regulators in a Burning World](#), James Vaccaro and David Barmes, Green Central Banking, April 4, 2021
- [The power of banks to shape climate change solutions](#), Ethical Systems Podcast, January 22, 2021

## Social Media

[Twitter](#): Please use @ClimateLending to tag CSLN on Twitter.

[LinkedIn](#): Please use @ClimateSafeLendingNetwork to tag CSLN on LinkedIn

[YouTube](#): Find recordings of CSLN events and webinars here.

## Contact Information

We invite journalists to contact us for interviews, news articles, and stories. Please direct all media inquiries to Lizzie Flower at: [connect@climatesafelending.org](mailto:connect@climatesafelending.org).