

DECARBONIZATION AND BEYOND

The Brussels' expertise



NEW YORK
MAY 16, 2024
09:00am to 11:30 am

*ADDRESS: 31 Chambers St #609
New York, NY 10007*



DECARBONIZATION AND BEYOND

The cities of **Brussels** and **New York** want to be leaders encouraging the technological innovation needed to decarbonize. These cities have the courage to set ambitious climate targets and the policies to make it happen.

Innovative companies embrace this effort and work towards the same decarbonization goal. They aspire to have a positive impact on the environment and to drive economic growth and resilience while doing so.

Hub.brussels, the Economic Development Agency of the Brussels-Capital Region, brings a group of impacting start-ups to New York. The agenda for the meeting covers several important topics

- Introduction to current policies in New York and Brussels
- An environmental assessment comparing EU and US regulations,
- Discussions on green building initiatives in both cities
- Exploration of the circular economy and consumer trends
- Q&A session for further engagement

And we are honored to work with **Building Energy Exchange** as our partner. Building Energy Exchange (BE-Ex) is a center of excellence that accelerates the transition to healthy, comfortable, and energy efficient buildings by serving as a resource and trusted expert to the building industry. Through education, exhibits, and actionable research, BE-Ex plays a central role in the **climate action plans** of both New York City and State.



WHERE?



BE-Ex - Building Energy Exchange

31 Chambers Street, 6th floor
New York, NY 10007



WHEN?

May 16

9am - 11.30 am

Breakfast at 09.00 am followed by the presentations at 09.30am

MEET THE SPEAKERS

INTRODUCTION

Could you provide insights into the current situation, existing policies, and forthcoming initiatives in New York and Brussels?



Richard Yancey
Founding executive
Director

Richard C. Yancey, FAIA, LEED AP, is the founding Executive Director of the Building Energy Exchange (BE-Ex). Richard was recently elevated to the prestigious College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He has lectured and published widely, and served on numerous expert panels, including the New York City Mayor's Climate Action Plan Technical Working Group. Prior to BE-Ex, Richard practiced architecture in Seattle and New York, leading a diverse array of award-winning commercial, institutional, and residential projects; and received his Master of Architecture from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

Innoviris is the public organisation that funds and supports research and innovation in the Brussels-Capital Region. We do this in through funding, STEM advocacy, and regional representation. Our mission is to enhance the well-being and prosperity of Brussels citizens. Marie-Carmen will explain the commitment of Brussels to decarbonize, the various regional plans in order to tackle these challenges, especially in RDI actions and the implication of brussels within the EU mission cities.



Marie-Carmen Bex
Deputy General



MEET THE SPEAKERS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Several crucial regulations form part of the E.U. Green Deal with the objective to achieve net zero emissions in the region by 2050. Among these regulations are the CSRD and its foundational European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), which companies must remain cognizant of both presently and in the foreseeable future. In 2024, the initial category of companies is mandated to comply with the CSRD reporting requirements. Starting in 2028, global groups headquartered like US companies that fall under the CSRD scope will begin reporting. Non-EU companies whose securities are traded on regulated EU markets might also need to report earlier. To achieve the net zero emissions by 2050, the EU has initiated projects related to Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).

In the United States, there isn't a single comprehensive regulatory framework for ESG reporting. Instead, reporting requirements are governed by a mix of federal, state, and industry-specific regulations. Additionally, various organizations and industry groups in the USA have developed their own sustainability reporting frameworks and guidelines. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) provides guidelines for environmental disclosures in public filings, but there are ongoing efforts to standardize ESG reporting practices.

How do these regulations affect your work in Belgium and what would be the effect of the absence of such legislation like in the US?




D-CARBONIZE
Sam Sheckman
Business Development
Partner

D-Carbonize develops the carbon cockpit, a greenhouse gas emissions measurement tool that combines the precision of an audit tool with the user-friendliness of a modern web app. D-Carbonize is supporting large public and private investment firms to collect their Carbon Cockpit emissions data of investors and report carbon footprint at a portfolio level.

MEET THE SPEAKERS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Glimpact is the first digital platform for assessing the overall environmental impact of products and organizations. The ecological transition depends on it: without measuring this impact, how can we know which actions are good for the environment? The Glimpact solution has modeled this method to make it accessible to all. With just a few clicks, you can accurately assess the full environmental impact of a product, factory or company.



Christophe Girardier
CEO



Valerie Van den Keybus
Chief Strategy Officer

Pioneers in the fundamentals of greenhouse gas management, **Agendi** brings a team of multidisciplinary experts to develop and implement climate and sustainability programs. Our seasoned specialists have demonstrated experience delivering a range of tailored sustainability solutions based on the desired level of ambition and stakeholders' expectations. With climate action and ESG principles at the core of our operations, our experts leverage their knowledge to create and lead resilient strategies.

Sirona Technologies is Direct Air Capture company, it builds machines that remove CO2 directly from the atmosphere. They use existing, well-understood and proven technology to return CO2 to the ground, restoring nature's carbon cycle. Their pragmatic approach involves leveraging solar energy, modular design and industry-wide innovations. They support companies that reduce their emissions achieving net zero by providing a robust carbon removal solution.

**Pierre-Louis
Christiane**
COO



Thoralf Gutierrez
Co-founder & CEO



MEET THE SPEAKERS

GREEN BUILDING & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Brussels is leading by example with its aggressive sustainable construction. As of 2015, Belgium became the first region in the world to require the Passive House Standard for all new construction, adding over 3,000 new sustainable homes and buildings each year in the City of Brussels alone.

In April 2019, New York City has followed a similar approach with the enactment of Local Law 97 in the mayor's New York Green New Deal. This pioneering legislation mandates that most buildings exceeding 25,000 square feet adhere to enhanced energy efficiency standards and greenhouse gas emission constraints starting in 2024, with even more stringent criteria set to take effect by 2030.

With New York City following the steps of Brussels, what can your experience tell us about the implementation of such legislation?

A2M is an international practice driven by an ardent belief in the possibilities of modern architecture and a keen curiosity about building physics, our interdisciplinary team shapes A2M's prospective vision of a sustainable future for our built environment. Because of our expertise in constructing zero-energy and carbon-neutral buildings, we became a lead policy consultant for the Brussels regional government. The firm largely contributed in making Brussels the first city in the world to implement Passive House standards into the city's Code.



Manon Meskens
Manager and Architect



ORG Permanent Modernity is a transformation company. Through spatial analytics, design and planning and process to implementation management ORG engages multidisciplinary teams to tackle complex projects and enact systemic change across scales. ORG has three divisions, each with their own expertise: Architecture, Urbanism and Systems. The departments take a transdisciplinary approach, interweaving multiple skillsets and services to develop transformative projects that integrate place, space, systems, strategy and policy.



ORG

Kobi Ruthenberg
Director NYC Office

RE&US serves as a connection for academics and professionals with diverse expertise, pooling their skills to address multifaceted real estate challenges. Operating as a hub for research, reflection, intervention, and education, RE&US is committed to advancing understanding in real estate and urban sciences across economic, social, technical, and environmental domains. Its core objectives encompass fostering collaboration among public and private stakeholders, leveraging the collective expertise of participants, facilitating knowledge dissemination, and actively participating in initiatives that align with its overarching mission.



Anders Böhle
Academic Director



MEET THE SPEAKERS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Government and other authorities are pushing laws, but we can also observe consumer and business demand for more circular and sustainable goods and services. 90% of Belgians feel that sustainability is important and believe businesses have a part to play. In contrast, 75% of US customers claim that living a sustainable lifestyle is essential to them.

**Have you observed this Belgian consumer trend in your industry?
Do you also believe that it might have a similar impact on the US market?**



Metin Zwart
CEO & Scientific
Director

Labconsort is the driving force behind a transformative sustainability movement that is revolutionizing the way universities, biotech companies, hospitals, pharmaceutical firms, and related industries operate. Our mission is straightforward: to redefine industry norms by putting our planet on par with scientific innovation. We accomplish this by leading the way in reusing, repairing, and recycling analytical and non-analytical equipment within a pioneering circular economy model.

Bel Albatros serves as the devoted ally to all who champion creativity. Rooted in Brussels, we're committed to local production, relentless innovation, and the transformative power of recycling. Our journey begins with turning plastic waste from Brussels into a revolutionary material, crafted entirely within our workshop. Each product not only bears the mark of sustainability but also embodies the potential for a brighter, more conscious future. We want to reshape the narrative of creation, where beauty, sustainability, and innovation converge to inspire meaningful change.



Moran Hadad
President & Founder

CashewNotes is a disruptive enterprise, proposing an innovative approach to resolving the three main hurdles met by the Cambodian Cashew sector while allowing a significant betterment of the livelihood of Cambodian farmers, and a sizable return on investment for its contributors. To achieve such an ambitious goal, CashewNotes proposes 2 distinct products. Cashewness; A fully traceable, responsible, and deforestation-free Cambodian premium cashew-nuts brand. And the Cashew Notes; Based on the profitable impact model developed by Floresta, the cashew note is a distributed digital commodity future issued to allow the public's participation in the venture.

MEET THE SPEAKERS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Shiperise is a fintech startup that integrates a B2B e-commerce platform. Shiperise provides innovative wholesale solutions by offering fast and reliable inventory financing services. The company's target clients are growing startups and SMEs that produce sustainable products on the EU market and which do not have easy access to bank credit nor wish to give up equity to access extra liquidity. By offering inventory financing solutions through sale and buy-back transactions, Shiperise ensures clients have their products available to face the growing demand for their sustainable products.



Nicolas Meerschaert
Co-Founder



Angelino Capretti
Founder

Urbeez is redefining urban logistics with a bold vision: delivering everything within a city through 100% electric vehicles, not just 33%. As the leader in eco-friendly urban delivery solutions, we are committed to eliminating carbon emissions and reducing congestion in city centers. Our comprehensive fleet, ranging from electric cargo bikes to vans, is designed to meet diverse delivery needs efficiently and sustainably. By leveraging advanced technology and operational excellence, Urbeez ensures seamless, eco-conscious delivery services that are not only good for the planet but also for our clients and their customers.

PROPOSED RUN OF SHOW

9.00am-9.30am	Breakfast	
9.30am-9.40am	Welcome Current situation, policies and future initiatives in New York Richard Yancey – BE-Ex	
9.40am-9.50am	Current situation, policies and future initiatives in Brussels Marie-Carmen Bex - Innoviris	
9.50am-10.10am	Sam Sheckman - D-Carbonize	Environmental Assessment
	Valerie Van den Keybus - Agendi	
	Christophe Girardier - Glimpact	
	Thoralf Gutierrez - Sirona technologies	
10.10am-10.25am	Manon Meskens - A2M	Green Building & Energy Efficiency
	Kobi Ruthenberg - ORG	
	Anders Böhlke - RE&US	
10.25am-10.50am	Metin Zwart - Labconsort	Circular Economy & Innovative Solutions
	Guillain Sevriere - Bel Albatros	
	Moran Hadad - Cashew Notes	
	Nicolas Meerschaert - Shiperise	
	Angelino Capretti - Urbeez	
10.50am-11.00am	Q&A	
11.00am-11.30am	Individual discussions	