The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

We activate leadership globally to transform economies for people, nature and climate
CISL overview
We are an impact-led institute within the University of Cambridge that **activates leadership globally for people, nature and climate.** Through our global network and hubs in Cambridge, Cape Town and Brussels, we work with leaders and innovators across business, finance and government to accelerate action for a sustainable future.

Trusted since 1988 for our rigour and pioneering commitment to learning and collaboration, **we create safe spaces to challenge and support those with the power to act.**
The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
Developing leadership and solutions for a sustainable economy

Foresight
Developing pioneering ideas, research and resources for better decision-making and system design

Education
Empowering individuals and organisations to lead change at scale

Convening
Building transformative alliances across business, finance, and policy

Innovation
Catalysing entrepreneurial leadership to accelerate solutions to global challenges

Network
Our global network of over 40,000 leaders and innovators takes individual, collaborative and collective action to accelerate transformation for sustainable societies and economies.

Accelerating a sustainable transition for people, nature and climate

The former HRH The Prince of Wales is Royal Founding Patron and inspired and supported many of our initiatives

Offices:
Cambridge, Cape Town and Brussels
We work globally to transform economic systems to build a sustainable and resilient future for people, nature and climate.

We work with hundreds of organisations and thousands of individual leaders every year to help them catalyse and lead change at pace and scale by using their influence and reach for impact.
Entopia Building

The **Entopia building** embodies CISL’s mission to activate leadership to transform economies for people, nature & climate.

A **collaborative workspace** for CISL staff, academics, companies & startups to innovate, exchange knowledge, and drive sustainability ambition and solutions.

Entopia is a **leading international exemplar retrofit** across multiple sustainability standards: BREEAM Outstanding, Well (Gold), Passivhaus Enerphit.

The Entopia Building houses **Canopy**: a community of entrepreneurs & innovators pioneering sustainable innovation.
CISL in the University
CISL in the University

We have embarked on a number of collaborations with Cambridge Judge Business School. These support major organisations to equip their leaders with the insight and capability to lead progress to address global challenges.

Our collaboration with the Whittle Laboratory – the Aviation Impact Accelerator – has contributed better policies and decisions in the UK, US and Europe. It aims to drive a more realistic and rigorous approach to the difficult subject of decarbonising aviation.

CISL has worked alongside the team at IfM to develop the Cambridge Sustainable Improvement Method (CSIM), a programme that engages factory people - from leadership to shop floor. It enables them to see where and how they can make simple changes to energy, materials, waste, water and rework that transform the sustainability performance of their workplace.
Our partners across the University

Cambridge Conservation Initiative
Bennett Institute for Public Policy
CSaP Centre for Science and Policy
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE Institute for Technology and Humanity

Centres focused on:
Science and Policy
Behavioural Economics
Circular Economy
Climate Repair
Technology
Democracy
Foresight

Developing pioneering ideas, research and resources for better decision-making and system design
We harness research and develop new evidence, narratives and resources to inform decision-making and leadership, including:

- Core content that underpins our strategy and decision-making
- Content required by delivery teams as well as by our network, marketing and communications teams
- Specialised research projects, e.g. CISL’s Global Research Fellows.

We look at questions arising from real-world sustainability problems, harness robust multidisciplinary academic perspectives to complex issues, and combine evidence and insight for action by business and policy-makers.

- Industry and research collaborations and consortia developed
- Industry funded research and analysis
- Tools and insight developed from work with network and clients
- Analysis and briefings on key topics
- Academic fellowships: The Prince of Wales’s Global Sustainability Fellows
- Blogs, podcasts, position statements
Our report with Innovate UK work under the TransFIRE project involved CISL convening an advisory board consisting of organisations from various sectors; to examine how UK markets can better drive decarbonisation in foundation industries such as steel, cement and glass.

CISL’s ClimateWise, in collaboration with MS Amlin and Howden, have developed pioneering nature-related financial opportunity use cases, aimed at galvanising further assessments of nature-related opportunities across the insurance industry.

Our practitioner research project, funded by DLA Piper, offers practical evidence-based insights and recommendations to support boards and the business they lead.
Education

Empowering individuals and organisations to lead change at scale
Helping individuals and organisations to:

- Understand risk, opportunity and imperative for action
- Align purpose, strategy and ambition
- Develop capability to influence and lead change
- Innovate in business model, product and process

Executive and Board level programmes and advisory services on sustainability strategy and the imperative for systemic change

International online programmes on sustainability, leadership and business operations; providing access to education at scale

Leadership development programmes and advisory and coaching services to build organisational capability

Masters programmes on sustainability leadership, sustainable business and built environment

Digital learning
- 8-week tutor-led courses (80 – 100 hours)
- Short self-paced courses (6 – 8 hours)
- Tailored digital engagement and courses (8+ hours)

Open programmes
- The Business & Sustainability Programme
- Sustainability Practitioners Programme
- Leadership Labs

Customised programmes
- For boards, senior executives and emerging leaders

Postgraduate Programmes
- Masters, Diploma and Certificate in Sustainability Leadership
- Masters and Certificate in Sustainability Leadership for the Built Environment
CISL new self-paced online courses

CISL is expanding our suite of 6—8 hour fully self-paced online courses. These courses offer an opportunity for you to upskill and embed sustainability learning across your organisation. The business courses utilise CISL’s robust frameworks and foresight to create short learning modules to support professional development for staff at all levels to access a common foundation of knowledge.

12 month license
Unlimited access during this period

6-8 hours total learning time
Self-paced online learning

UK CPD certified
Internationally recognised

Sustainable Business Foundations
This course is designed for organisations of all sizes looking to understand global sustainability trends and effective business responses and actions.

Sustainable Finance Foundations: Banking, Investment and Insurance
This course is designed for financial institutions looking to root their practices in long term, positive impact which understands the risks and opportunities of a sustainable transition.

Future topics include: renewable energy transitions, sustainable innovation and driving sustainable consumer behaviours.
Convening

Building transformative alliances across business, finance, and policy
Convening
Building transformative alliances across business, finance, and policy

**Our Corporate Leaders Groups:**
Cross-sectoral business voices, supporting policy action for a sustainable economy.

**Our Centre for Sustainable Finance:**
Fostering thought leadership and business practice collaborations to reshape the financial services sector.

**Our Aviation Impact Accelerator:**
Working together we have developed a global network of aviation experts to accelerate the journey to sustainable aviation.

**Multi-stakeholder alliances:**
We are part of multiple networks and alliances, enabling us to expand the reach and impact of our work, giving us valuable insight and influence into national and international debates.
CISL's Aviation Impact Accelerator works to accelerate the transition to climate neutral flight by developing evidence-based, multidisciplinary tools that allow decision makers to understand, build and embark on the pathways to sustainable flight.

Towards sustainable packaging materials

Our report convened businesses across the soft drink and natural water sector to provide recommendations to help address the issue of eliminating plastic waste and examine how to adopt a considered approach in their future packaging material decision making.

CISL is developing opportunities for convening across:

- leadership
- business transformation
- policy
- finance
- innovation

CISL's Aviation Impact Accelerator works to accelerate the transition to climate neutral flight by developing evidence-based, multidisciplinary tools that allow decision makers to understand, build and embark on the pathways to sustainable flight.
Innovation

Catalysing entrepreneurial leadership to accelerate solutions to global challenges
Innovation
Catalysing entrepreneurial leadership to accelerate solutions to global challenges

We host a leading global sustainable innovation community of founders, funders, corporates and academics – **focused on systems innovation for sustainability.**

- Accelerating entrepreneurs with big ideas to solve urgent sustainability challenges, through:
  - **Startup Accelerator programmes**
  - **The Canopy:** access knowledge, networks, support, workspace
  - **Connecting** startups and ambitious corporates

- Convening challenge-led **multi-stakeholder innovation platforms**

- **International innovation partnerships** building capacity of global innovation ecosystem for impact
The **CISL Accelerator programmes** support small businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs to push boundaries in sustainability, through a combination of online and face to face programmes, events, webinars, hackathons and innovation sprints.

Start up Accelerators include:
- Innovators for the built environment
- Manufacturing for good
- **Accelerator to net zero**

Our vision for the next stage of the Entopia building: the **Entopia Living Lab** will provide a test bed for innovation and communication of new solutions with the potential to drive higher sustainability ambition and impact throughout the built environment.
Global community for entrepreneurs, startups, innovators and small businesses pioneering sustainability innovation.

Canopy member benefits:

- Knowledge, networks, workspace
- Central Cambridge workspace at CISL’s ultra sustainable Entopia building
- Joining CISL’s global network of 40,000 sustainability leaders
- Regular events and networking within community of likeminded businesses, investors and academics
- Connecting with CISL’s 140 staff and 250 corporate partners working on sustainability projects
Our Network
CISL’s Network of 40,000 leaders and innovators activate leadership globally to transform economies for people, nature and climate.

- Our global community of 40,000 leaders take individual, **collaborative and collective action** to accelerate the movement towards sustainable societies and economies.
- Membership of the CISL Network opens a path to **connect with peers, share insights, collaborate** on meaningful projects and **develop knowledge and skills** to drive change within communities and organisations.
- Our **Network Ambassadors** act as key CISL representatives across the world, hosting regional events and helping to **build this vibrant global community**.
CISL in the media

H.E. Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President Designate, Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the IEA and H.E. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC introduced their views on how to implement the energy outcomes of the UAE Consensus and the priorities for COP29.
CISL Europe spoke at European Environmental Bureau’s 50th Anniversary Conference

CLG Europe’s Ursula Woodburn, Director, and Adeline Rochet, Programme Manager, spoke at the European Environmental Bureau’s Annual Conference and 50th Anniversary.

Ursula was on a panel with academic experts on the Just Transition in Belgium and Adeline Rochet was on a panel discussing climate adaptation and nature-based resilience.
Programme Manager, Elizabeth Clark, moderated the ESG New Statesman Sustainability Summit on the impact of Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) on investment.

Engagement was high on the agenda, and Centre for Sustainable Finance (CISL)'s recent Engagement Guide provides a practical framework for investment managers to integrate climate and nature risks into the conversations with their clients.
Over 100 CEOs signed an open letter coordinated by CISL's Corporate Leaders Group calling for the EU to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% by 2040. IKEA, Unilever, H&M and Coca-Cola are among the signatories making the case for an accelerated effort to cut emissions in the interest of economic opportunities and public health.
CISL highlights
CISL has launched the third cohort of Programa Desafía's cleantech innovators in Madrid with – who visited Entopia in May.
CISL’s 2nd 'CLG Africa' Event
Sustainability Leadership Week in Nairobi

Dr Nina Seega, Director of Sustainable Finance, participated in a discussion on climate, nature and finance, which was hosted by Prof Richard Calland, CISL’s Africa Programme Director.

Held at the Villa Rosa Kempinski and hosted by the British Chamber of Commerce Kenya, our Africa Programme convened a Sustainability Leadership Week in Nairobi, Kenya.
CISL / CSO Forum Summit 2024