

SUPPLIERS PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

About the Summit

The SP Innovation Summit is an interactive forum designed to bring industry leaders together to examine critical barriers affecting sustainability performance across the automotive value chain and identify opportunities to accelerate practical, scalable solutions that drive innovation and business value.

Key Themes

- **Decarbonizing Operations & Supply Chains:** Exploring challenges and opportunities in advancing practical decarbonization strategies across manufacturing and the value chain, with a focus on opportunities for reducing operational risk, strengthening competitiveness, and driving measurable progress toward carbon neutrality goals.
- **Sustainable & Circular Materials:** Exploring challenges and opportunities in accelerating a circular materials economy through targeted deep dives into priority material categories, highlighting strategies with potential to reduce lifecycle cost and supply risk while unlocking new value and performance opportunities.
- **Nature & Water Stewardship:** Addressing emerging stakeholder expectations and nature-related risks by exploring pathways to strengthen resilience, safeguard critical dependencies, and generate business and environmental value through nature-based solutions and water stewardship leadership.
- **Sustainability Leadership Strategies & Emerging Issues:** Exploring how leaders can embed sustainability into core business strategy and enhance organizational agility, focusing on tools, insights, and emerging issues that may position companies to better manage risk, build capacity, and innovate through rapid change.

Schedule at a Glance

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Time	Program Overview
8:00 - 9:00	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	Opening plenary, business context, policy, and leadership strategy
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:00	Concurrent Breakouts, Block 1
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch and break
1:30 - 3:30	Plenary Block 2, partnerships, innovation, and emerging solutions
3:30 - 4:00	Break
4:00 - 5:00	Concurrent Breakouts, Block 2
5:00 - 6:30	Networking reception

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Time	Program Overview
8:00 - 9:00	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	Plenary Block 3, new technologies and emerging sustainability impacts
10:30 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:00	Concurrent Breakouts, Block 3
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:15 - 2:15	Concurrent Breakouts, Block 4
2:30 - 4:00	Plenary Block 4, collaboration, accountability, and closing remarks

[Register](#)

2026 SP Innovation Summit
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Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Breakfast | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Sponsored by Honda.

Plenary Block 1 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

This opening plenary block sets the stage for the Summit by framing the business context, external pressures, and leadership choices shaping the road ahead.

Plenary Block 1 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

9:00 | Welcome and Opening Remarks

Opening remarks from SP's Executive Director and the Summit's presenting sponsor, Magna, will welcome attendees and set the stage for the event. They will introduce the Summit's key themes and frame expectations for the two days ahead.

- Kellen Mahoney, Executive Director, Suppliers Partnership for the Environment
- Ahmed Elganzouri, Global Director, Sustainability and Energy, Magna, Chair of SP Board of Directors

9:15 | Rerouting our shared sustainability journey

This keynote will examine the long-term business value of sustainability in the automotive sector, including current tensions and where stronger partnership is needed to drive practical progress across the value chain.

- Cassandra Garber, Chief Sustainability Officer, General Motors

9:35 | Navigating Policy Change & Implications for Future

This keynote will offer an OEM perspective on how ongoing policy and regulatory change is affecting vehicle technology portfolios, business decisions, and long-term planning.

- Julia Rege, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Compliance, Toyota Motor North America

9:55 | Envisioning Environmental Sustainability Leadership for the Next Five Years

What will environmental sustainability leadership require from the automotive industry over the next five years? In this panel discussion, members of SP's Board of Directors will share senior-level perspectives on the key tensions, priorities, and strategic choices shaping the road ahead.

- Ahmed Elganzouri, Global Director, Sustainability and Energy, Magna International
- Cassie Mayrand-Burney, Global Director of the Environmental Quality Office, Ford Motor Company
- Karen Tarver, Business Operations Department Leader, Procurement and Supply Chain Planning Division, Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, LLC
- Jozef Chrzanowski, Vice President, Global Sustainability, Lear Corporation
- Moderator: Kevin Butt, Executive Advisor, Suppliers Partnership for the Environment

Break | 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

A networking and refreshment break will follow the plenary session before the first breakout block begins.

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Breakout Block 1 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Decarbonization Track

Addressing the Disconnect Between Automotive Sustainability Roadmaps and Actual Technology Adoption to Improve Scope 3 Outcomes

This session will explore how gaps between sustainability targets, market realities, and actual technology adoption can affect Scope 3 planning and supplier decision-making. Speakers will discuss how better alignment between roadmaps, demand signals, and implementation assumptions can support more credible and actionable supply chain decarbonization strategies.

- Todd Richardson, North American Team Leader for Strategy and Advisory, WSP - Ricardo Strategic Advisory
- Jack Prince, Business Development Manager, Power Systems Research
- Albert Zenié, Manager- Strategy & Advisory, WSP

Sustainable & Circular Materials Track

Low-Carbon & Circular Material Strategies

This session will explore approaches to advancing lower-carbon and more circular material systems, with attention to material selection, supplier engagement, innovation pathways, and tradeoffs across performance, cost, and emissions. Discussion will focus on how companies are evaluating and scaling material strategies that support both sustainability objectives and business needs.

- 11:00 | Alina Pataki, Global Manager Low Carbon Materials & Circularity Supply Chain Management, Autoliv
- 11:30 | Christopher Bradlee, Sustainability Manager - Performance Materials, BASF

Nature & Water Stewardship Track

Real-World Nature-Based Solution Design and Implementation Within the Automotive Value Chain

This session will explore how nature-based solutions are being designed and implemented in practice within the automotive value chain, with attention to project development, cross-sector collaboration, and implementation considerations. Discussion will focus on how these approaches can support resilience, address nature-related risks, and contribute to broader environmental objectives.

- Shaun Clark, Business & Biodiversity Senior Consultant, Tandem Global
- Alexandra Hofner, Senior Manager of Social Impact, Tandem Global
- Sarah Tea, Senior Circular Economy Engineer, General Motors

Sustainability Leadership & Emerging Issues Track

Building the Business Case for Sustainability: The Importance of Financial Viability

This session will examine why financial viability remains central to making the business case for sustainability. Discussion will explore how sustainability can support financial success, growth strategy, market advantage, investor interest, and broader business priorities, and how management systems can provide a practical foundation for this work.

- Vicky Keramida Ph.D., CEO & Chief Technical Officer, Keramida Inc.
- Jeet Radia, Senior Vice President, McWane, Inc.

Lunch and Break | 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Lunch and informal networking for Summit attendees.

SUPPLIERS PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Plenary Block 2 | 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

This plenary block highlights practical partnerships, applied innovation, and emerging solutions that can help accelerate sustainability progress across the automotive value chain.

Plenary Block 2 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Plenary Moderator: Mary Kate Francis, Director, Supply Chain Renewable Energy, Trio

1:35 | Drive Sustainability

An executive overview of Drive Sustainability's work, including its strategic priorities and OEM collaboration initiatives, such as the SAQ, that support sustainability expectations across the automotive value chain.

- Stefan Crets, Executive Director, CSR Europe

1:55 | Decarbonization Lab

Building on their long-standing partnership, Bridgestone and Penske created the Decarbonization Lab as a real-world testbed to evaluate practical solutions that can reduce both CO₂ emissions and cost per mile. This presentation will share early results related to tires, alternative fuels, and route optimization.

- Matt Holland, Director of Go to Market Sustainability Strategy, Bridgestone
- Bill Combs, Senior Vice President Sustainability Strategy, Penske

2:20 | Nature-Related Risks and Opportunities in Aluminum Sourcing

This presentation will highlight a partnership project addressing nature-related risks associated with upstream raw material sourcing, including implications for biodiversity and supply chain resilience.

- Duncan Pitchford, President, Hydro Aluminum Metals USA

2:40 | Innovation Showcase: Emerging Solutions for Automotive Sustainability

This showcase will feature a series of short, dynamic pitches highlighting innovative technologies, partnerships, and business models with potential to accelerate sustainability progress across the automotive sector. Attendees will hear fresh ideas, practical innovations, and emerging solutions, then vote for their favorite pitch at the end.

Partnerships Enabling Circular Automotive Mono-Material Floor Mats

This pitch will highlight a cross-company collaboration to develop mono-material polyester automotive carpets designed for easier disassembly and recycling, supporting more circular material flows and reduced waste.

- Anders Ludvigsen, Market Development Manager- Engineered Solutions Automotive Segment, Eastman
- Dr. Hendrik Mainka, Principal Program Lead & Head of Volkswagen Group Innovation Hub, VW
- Pierre Daniere, Director of Innovations, Visscher-Caravelle VB

CO₂ Reduction, Diesel Conversions to Electric

This pitch will examine a practical approach to reducing emissions by converting diesel-powered assets to electric alternatives in relevant operational applications.

- Nic Brown, Senior Project Manager, Toyota Tsusho America

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Firebox: Full Electric Vehicle Recovery

This pitch will highlight a practical approach to safely recovering damaged or defective electric vehicles from the field for assessment and remediation.

- Jeff Haltrecht, President, Energy Security Agency, Inc.

Driving Circular Mobility Through Rare Earth Recycling

This pitch will explore how recycling rare earth elements from end-of-life motors and other products can support more circular supply chains and stronger resilience for future mobility technologies.

- Karl Meira, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Cyclic Materials

Break | 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Refreshment break before the next breakout session block.

Breakout Block 2 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Decarbonization Track

Manufacturing Process Emissions, Paint Shop & Heat Treatment

This session will examine two energy-intensive manufacturing processes, paint shop operations and heat treatment, highlighting practical pathways to reduce emissions through process innovation, lower-temperature technologies, electrification, and other operational improvements. Discussion will focus on where these processes sit in the broader decarbonization challenge for automotive manufacturing and supply chains.

- 4:00 | Peter Votruba-Drzal, Vice President, Global Sustainability, PPG
- 4:30 | Myles McCarthy, Vice President Group Sustainability, Bodycote

This session will examine practical considerations in managing end-of-life electronics and EV batteries across dealerships, service centers, and automotive scrap yards. Discussion will include practical challenges, management practices, and opportunities to advance training and education across the industry.

- Kari Bliss, Principal Sustainability, PADNOS
- Vickie Lewis, President/CEO, VMX International
- Eleni Pitses, Battery Life Cycle Engineer, General Motors
- David Berdish, Director of Ram Re-X, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Moderator: Dawn New, SVP, Cellblock FCS

This session will examine the role of supplier engagement in advancing OEM nature-related priorities and improving visibility into key challenges across the value chain. Speakers will discuss how stronger alignment, clearer expectations, and practical feedback from suppliers can help inform more effective nature strategies and implementation approaches.

- Cheryl Baldwin, Vice President of Sustainability Consulting, Pure Strategies
- Becky Martin, Sustainability Manager, Toyota Motor North America

SUPPLIERS PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Sustainability Leadership & Emerging Issues Track

Harmonizing Human-AI Project Workflows for a Greener Bottom Line

This session will explore how organizations are integrating human expertise and AI-enabled tools into project workflows to improve efficiency, decision-making, and sustainability-related outcomes. Discussion will focus on where these approaches can support practical business value while also raising new considerations for implementation and oversight.

- William Crane, CEO, OrbAid
- Kaleigh Sharpe, Transportation Segment Lead, Schneider Electric
- Angela Cook, Sr. EHS – Environmental Program Manager, Tenneco (tentative)

Networking Reception | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Join fellow Summit attendees for an evening networking reception following the final breakout session of the day.

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Breakfast | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Breakfast and informal networking for Summit attendees.

Plenary Block 3 | 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

This plenary block explores how new technologies are reshaping automotive operations, product strategy, and end-of-life considerations across the industry.

Plenary Block 3 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Plenary Moderator: David O’Ryan, Development Manager / Sr. Strategic Business, Ecoclean, Inc.

9:00 | Welcome Back and Opening Remarks

Brief remarks from SP’s Executive Director and Summit co-chairs will welcome attendees back for day two and frame the day’s discussions.

- Kellen Mahoney, Executive Director, Suppliers Partnership for the Environment
- Vickie Lewis, President/CEO, VMX International
- Bob Crawford, Business Development, P2 Packaging

9:15 | AI Trends and Automation Innovations in Automotive Operations

This presentation will explore emerging trends in AI and industrial automation and how they are reshaping automotive operations. The presentation will highlight opportunities to improve efficiency, resilience, and sustainability performance as these technologies continue to evolve.

- Amar Dhaliwal, General Manager, Automation Systems Group (ASG), FANUC America

9:40 | Building Sustainability into the Business Strategy

This presentation will offer perspective on how companies can holistically embed sustainability into company culture, product strategy, and business operations to drive business value.

- Olga Aulet-Leon, Director – ESG & Sustainability, Lucid Motors

10:00 | Collaborative Recycling of New Technology Vehicles: OEM–Recycler Partnership in Action

This presentation will highlight how OEM and recycler collaboration can support efficient dismantling and material recovery for fuel cell and electric vehicles. Drawing on real-world examples, speakers will examine how emerging vehicle technologies are creating new end-of-life challenges and opportunities for circularity.

- Palani Palaniappan, Executive Program Manager, Toyota Motor North America
- Steve Heiskell, Chief of Enterprise Development/President of Auto Recycling and Services, Radius Recycling Inc.

Break | 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Refreshment break before the next breakout sessions.

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Breakout Block 3 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Decarbonization Track

Leveraging Business Data for Carbon Impact & Value Creation

This session will consider how business and operational data can be used to strengthen carbon decision-making, improve visibility into performance, and support more informed action across facilities and supply chains. Discussion will also examine how organizations are connecting sustainability data with broader business priorities, including efficiency, risk management, and value creation.

- 11:00 | Dexter Galvin, SVP & Climate Ambassador, EcoVadis
- 11:30 | Blake Edwards, Energy Analytics Consultant, NextEra Analytics & Brian Torborg, Solutions Engineering Manager, NextEra Analytics

Sustainable & Circular Materials Track

How Digital Product Passports Enable Sustainable Behavior by Making a Product's Full Lifecycle Transparent, Traceable, and Actionable

This session will examine how Digital Product Passports can improve product transparency across the lifecycle by making key information more accessible, traceable, and usable. Speakers will discuss the role of DPPs in supporting circularity, compliance, decision-making, and more consistent data exchange across the value chain.

- Yue Jin Tay, Vice President of Global Sales, Circular

Nature & Water Stewardship Track

Water Innovation for Automotive Resilience

This session will highlight emerging water solutions relevant to automotive suppliers, with a focus on approaches that can support water stewardship, operational efficiency, and ecosystem protection. Discussion will examine how innovation in water management can contribute to stronger resilience in the face of growing operational and environmental pressures.

- Soula Chronopoulos, President, AquaAction
- Brittany Vanderbeek, Director of Development, AquaAction
- Ryan Iacovacci, Co-Founder/Director, Myconaut
- Juergen Koller, CEO/Founder, Sequestro
- Jonathan Weyrauch, Founder, Capture Tech

Sustainability Leadership & Emerging Issues Track

Equipping Leaders with Actionable Storytelling Techniques to Embed Sustainability into Core Business Strategy

This session will explore how leaders can use more effective storytelling to strengthen internal alignment, clarify priorities, and connect sustainability efforts to broader business strategy. Discussion will focus on practical approaches for communicating sustainability in ways that support decision-making and organizational action.

- Alec Jacobson, ESG Consultant & PM, Tetra Tech
- Ayse Trail, Sustainability Manager for the Aerospace, Defense, and Marine Business Unit, TE Connectivity

Lunch | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch and informal networking for Summit attendees.

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Breakout Block 4 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Decarbonization Track

Emerging Issues in Product Carbon Footprint & Data Quality

This session will explore emerging challenges related to product carbon footprint reporting, with attention to data quality, consistency, methodology, and evolving customer and regulatory expectations. Speakers will highlight how current initiatives and tools are being used to improve confidence in product-level carbon data across the automotive value chain.

- Moderator: Terri Sharp, Manager, Sustainability Scope 3 Decarbonization, Magna
- Heather Beatham, Program Manager – AutoCarbon / IATF 16949, International Automotive Oversight Bureau (IAOB)
- Cherie Reiche, Managing Director – Carbon, IATF 16949, HR & Red Supplier Reduction, International Automotive Oversight Bureau (IAOB)
- Michael Faltenbacher, Consulting Director, Sphera
- Michael Wurzman, President, RSJ Technical Consulting, representing AIAG

Sustainable & Circular Materials Track

Tire Recycling and End Use Markets for Recycled Rubber

This session will explore the current landscape for tire recycling and the development of end use markets for recycled rubber, including opportunities and constraints affecting scale, quality, demand, and long-term viability. Discussion will focus on how market development, processing pathways, and downstream applications influence the role of recycled rubber in a more circular materials economy.

- Stephanie Mull, Executive Director, Tire Recycling Foundation
- Bill Hall, Associate Senior Consultant, Resource Recycling Systems (RRS)

Nature & Water Stewardship Track

Identifying Water Reuse Priorities in the Automotive Sector

This interactive workshop will introduce the role of water reuse as an emerging opportunity for automotive manufacturing and supply chains, then engage participants in small-group peer discussion to identify priority needs, practical barriers, and potential areas for action. The session is intended to surface shared challenges, examples, and ideas that can help inform future industry collaboration, resources, and next steps related to water reuse in the automotive sector.

- Jennifer Heckmann, Sr. Manager, NA Sustainability Promotion, DENSO International America, Inc.
- Timothy Buisch, Global Water Lead, Ford Motor Company

Sustainability Leadership & Emerging Issues Track

AI Use Cases & Implications for Sustainability

This panel will explore emerging applications of AI in sustainability work, along with the broader implications for strategy, operations, data, and organizational capability. Discussion will focus on where AI is creating new opportunities, where caution is needed, and what sustainability leaders should be watching as adoption evolves.

- Facilitator: William Crane, CEO, OrbAid
- Kaleigh Sharpe, Transportation Segment Lead, Schneider Electric
- George Mitri, Co-Founder, CEO, 2DaLoop
- Emmanuel Straschnov, Co-CEO, bubble.io (pending)
- Brad Harris, Director Corporate Sustainability, INOAC (pending)

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FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2026 SP Innovation Summit
Draft Agenda – Subject to Change

Plenary Block 4 | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

This plenary block focuses on the systems, partnerships, and accountability needed to strengthen industry progress and long-term resilience.

Plenary Block 4 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

2:30 | Operational Resilience for a Changing Risk Landscape

This keynote will explore how companies are embedding operational resilience into sustainability strategy to better manage climate volatility, facility risk, and supply chain disruption across the automotive value chain.

- Sheldon Yellen, CEO, BELFOR Holdings, Inc.

3:00 | Building a More Aligned Supplier Sustainability Ecosystem

This panel will examine how OEMs, suppliers, and service partners are working to strengthen collaboration in supplier sustainability assessments and capacity building. Discussion will also highlight a new partnership within SP intended to support greater alignment, efficiency, and shared progress across the value chain.

- Brad Adams, Global Supply Chain Sustainability and Compliance Manager, John Deere
- Camille Messer, Global Head of Sector Initiatives, EcoVadis
- Julie Lai, Responsible Sourcing Manager, General Motors
- Moderator: Kellen Mahoney, Executive Director, Suppliers Partnership for the Environment

3:25 | Strengthening Carbon Accountability

This panel will explore emerging needs related to carbon accountability, with attention to data confidence, audit readiness, and more effective data sharing across the automotive value chain. Speakers will reflect on joint experiences to date and collaborative opportunities to improve data quality and build stronger trust in carbon reporting.

- Dr. Benedikt Steiner, Lead for Carbon Accounting and Catena-X Product Carbon Footprint, BMW Group
- Susanne Trescher, Director, Deloitte
- Martha Amram, CEO, GLYNT.AI

3:45 | Closing Remarks

SP leadership will close the Summit with brief reflections on key themes, insights, and takeaways from the event.

4:00 | Adjourn

Post-Summit Charity Golf Outing: Following the Summit, the July 30th Charity Golf Outing provides an exceptional opportunity to connect and collaborate with fellow attendees while playing a round of golf. Net proceeds from the golf event will be donated to Mend on the Move. [Learn More.](#)