

Sustainable Business Summit

BUFFALO, NY | NOVEMBER 17, 2026

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

ABOUT THE WNY SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

The Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable (SBR) is a business network that accelerates the integration of sustainability in business operations to drive resilience and prosperity across WNY. We bring together organizations from a wide range of industries to share knowledge, build relationships, and access tools that translate sustainability into tangible business success. A place-based organization, SBR envisions an environmentally and economically resilient WNY where businesses and communities thrive.

ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS SUMMIT

The Sustainable Business Summit is SBR's annual flagship event and the region's key platform for sustainable business leadership. Each year, the Summit brings together approximately 200 attendees, including sustainability professionals, business leaders, and community partners. Attendees represent top employers and private companies across diverse sectors, from energy and construction to health care, food systems, and finance. This event features keynote speakers, expert-led breakout sessions, and networking focused on how sustainability drives innovation and builds regional resilience. The Summit is an energizing and solutions-oriented space that helps attendees turn ideas into action.

2026 SUMMIT THEME

Clarity in a Changing World

This year's theme, *Clarity in a Changing World*, invites us to cut through the noise, confront uncertainty, and discover what sustainable business success can look like. Businesses today face more change, complexity, and competing demands than ever before, and clarity has become a business imperative and a necessary component of success. Is your business resilient to the changes that are coming?

Sustainability has long been a tool for building stronger, more resilient organizations. The 2026 Summit theme will spotlight businesses that embrace sustainability as a strategic framework that sharpens decisions, strengthens teams, and builds organizations ready for whatever comes next.

EXAMPLES OF RELEVANT TOPICS

- Case studies of businesses that have utilized sustainability as a strategic tool to manage risk
- Successfully managing changes and uncertainty in the regulatory environment
- Implementing data management practices that respond to external requests and enable responsible decision making
- Responsible and effective implementation of AI tools and training
- Staying true to company values during uncertain times
- Rolling out company-wide change that supports sustainability without sacrificing productivity or profit
- Engaging employees and leadership in sustainability programs
- Innovative sustainability projects or collaborations that build resilience and catalyze growth

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Submission Guidelines

- **Who Can Submit:** All are welcome to submit. All submissions must include clear takeaways, practical relevance, and connection to the WNY business context.
- **Format:** Sessions are 50 minutes in length and can be led by one or more individuals.
- **Submissions may include** one or multiple speakers. Selected presenters may be paired with others to form a session.
- **Audience Engagement:** Selection will prioritize audience interaction and engagement.
- **Content Level:** Content can be targeted at those beginning their sustainable business journey or those with advanced experience and knowledge.
- **Speaker Benefit:** Speakers will receive member ticket pricing for the 2026 Summit.
- **Submission Deadline:** Submissions are due by **August 7, 2026**.
- **Review Process:** Submissions will be reviewed after August 7, but some may be reviewed on a rolling basis. SBR may follow-up with questions before the deadline.
- **Notification Date:** Applicants will be notified of the selection decision during the week of August 24.

What to Include

Speaker Information

- Speaker name(s), title(s), email addresses
- Short bio (150 words max): brief history of relevant work and personal experience
- Where speakers will be traveling from
- Links to public bios or LinkedIn page

Session Basics

- Working title and key topic areas
- Target audience and suggested knowledge level (beginner, intermediate, advanced)
- Has this topic been presented before? If so, to whom?
- Do you require specific technology or tools to execute this session?

Abstract

- 350 words max
- What is the session objective? What do you hope to accomplish?
- What will audience members walk away with?
- What solutions are being presented?
- Will there be audience participation or interaction?

HOW TO SUBMIT:

Email your submission to wnysbr@gmail.com with the subject line "Summit Session Proposal." **Attach your abstract and supporting materials as a Word doc or PDF.**