

Financing the Circular Economy

Transitioning to a zero-waste future will not happen without finance. While the benefits of circular systems are clear from resource efficiency to reduced emissions and job creation many businesses, cities, and innovators struggle to access the capital needed to move from pilots to scale. At the same time, investors and financial institutions are increasingly seeking credible pathways to align their portfolios with sustainability and climate goals.

This session will explore how finance can accelerate the transition to zero waste. It will bring together leaders from investment funds, development banks, and philanthropic organisations alongside innovators and policymakers to discuss how financial tools, blended models, and new metrics can unlock large-scale change.

This session will ask:

- What financing models are proving most effective in scaling zero-waste solutions?
- How can investors strike a balance between financial returns and social and environmental impact?
- What role should governments and development banks play in de-risking zero-waste investments?
- How can new data and metrics better capture the value of circular solutions and attract mainstream capital?
- What strategies are necessary to ensure that financing for zero-waste initiatives also promotes equity and inclusion in emerging economies?

17:45 - 19:00

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Moderator: Hakima El Haite (UN, EauGlobe)

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Destana Herring (Regeneration.VC)