

ON A CLEAR DAY 2023



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NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

WHY JOIN THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI)? South Africa continues to face major challenges underpinned by the fact that we are one of the most unequal societies in the world, with more than half of our population living in poverty, accompanied by escalating unemployment levels. Additionally, climate change threatens to further exacerbate these pressing economic and social issues. The NBI's purpose is to effect change in South Africa in the areas of **Economic Inclusion, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability** and **Institutional Capacity**. We believe a thriving society, economy and environment are possible, through the collective action of business, government and civil society. Please contact: [Gillian Hutchings](#) - Head: Membership & Communications for further information about our work and how to become an NBI Member Company.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT AS WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR) 2024! The National Business Initiative (NBI) has partnered with the Global Compact Network South Africa (GCNSA), as a strategic collaborator, ensuring the seamless facilitation of the Private Sector VNR process within our local context. On 12 October 2023, NBI's CEO, Shameela Soobramoney, is set to participate in a roundtable discussion titled '**A Just Transition to Carbon Neutral**'. [Register today!](#)

THE 2023 P4G SUMMIT Our dynamic CEO, Shameela Soobramoney, joined an esteemed panel to discuss the critical need to nurture the climate start-up ecosystem at the P4G Summit on 22 September 2023. The Summit is a gathering of world-changers – government leaders, CEOs, investors, global organisation leaders, activists, academics, and more, all united by a single mission: to pave the way for a net-zero future while ensuring just transitions for all nations. P4G contributes to green and inclusive growth in low- and middle-income countries by helping early-stage businesses become investment ready and supporting country climate transitions in food, water and energy systems. Find out more [here](#).

SAB IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESG AFRICA EVENTS LAUNCHES THE BEYOND AWARDS The NBI is proud to announce our CEO, Shameela Soobramoney is joining the judging panel for the first ever Beyond Awards. These awards aim to provide clear insights into African sustainability initiatives, demonstrating broad-wide company commitments to addressing the issues that matter most, and fostering meaningful change on our continent. The awards ceremony further aims to anchor sustainability in South Africa as well as to provide a platform to share global best practices on various types of sustainability initiatives. The acceleration of the sustainability agenda is one that African countries are becoming passionate about hence why SAB believes this awards ceremony is crucial as it presents us with an opportunity to showcase leaders in the field. Winners will be announced at an official ceremony on the 3rd of October 2023. Find out more on the Beyond Awards [here](#). Register for the [ESG Africa Conference!](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

GLOBAL GENDER PARITY IN LESS THAN 131 YEARS? HERE'S WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN, SAY EXPERTS The World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Meetings (SDIM23) addressed how we make progress on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It will take 131 years to close the global gender gap and achieve SDG5: Gender Equality, according to the Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2023. Leaders at the SDIM23 session, Accelerating Progress on Gender Parity, discussed what needs to happen to close the gender gap quicker. [World Economic Forum, 27 September 2023.](#)

POLICY SUPPORT GAP HINDERING LOW-EMISSIONS HYDROGEN UPTAKE – IEA While there continues to be a high level of interest in new hydrogen projects, the current challenging economic climate means that a timely and well-structured rollout of policy support is needed for the successful realisation of these investments, says the International Energy Agency (IEA). [Engineering News, 26 September 2023.](#)

FUNDING INCREASES FOR SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY SOLUTIONS AS INVESTMENT CASE IMPROVES Different renewable energy, energy storage and/or generator solutions can partially address small businesses' energy-related challenges, and funding to install such solutions in small businesses is increasing as the investment benefits for all parties become better understood. [Engineering News, 22 September 2023.](#)

WATCH: UN SETS OUT BOLD SOLUTIONS TO RESCUE SDG FINANCE Taking urgent steps to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, world leaders launched a high-level dialogue on Financing for Development. The big objective of the major UN General Assembly meeting is to unlock innovative and practical solutions to close the widening divisions between rich and poor. The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs which drives the UN's effort on SDG financing, notes that although fiscal challenges are mounting, *"there is a window of opportunity if we act now."* [United Nations, 20 September 2023.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

PEPSICO BEVERAGE'S SACRAMENTO-BASED ELECTRIC FLEET IS DRIVING PROGRESS TOWARD PEPSICO'S NET ZERO EMISSIONS GOAL IN NACFE 'RUN ON LESS' TRUCKING EVENT PepsiCo Beverages North America's (PBNA) Sacramento-based Tesla Semi trucks are taking part in the North American Council for Freight Efficiency's (NACFE) national "Run on Less: Electric Depot" trucking event this September. In December 2022, PepsiCo took the first delivery of the all-electric Tesla Semi trucks and as of September 1, nearly 680,000 Zero Emissions (ZE) miles have been traveled. [PepsiCo, 27 September 2023.](#)

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR RMB'S AFRICA'S FEARLESS THINKER AWARD RMB is delighted to, for a second time, be a category sponsor for the Accenture Gender Mainstreaming Awards (GMAs). The awards were developed by Business Engage to acknowledge and celebrate instances where women are represented meaningfully in mainstream business across Africa. The RMB Africa's Fearless Thinker Award is a prestigious accolade that celebrates and honours individuals

across the African continent who have demonstrated exceptional creativity, innovation and courage in addressing pressing societal challenges. [RMB, 26 September 2023.](#)

PHILIP MORRIS INTERNATIONAL RECEIVES SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS INITIATIVE (SBTi) VALIDATION FOR ITS FOREST, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE (FLAG) EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS TARGETS Philip Morris International Inc. (PMI) (NYSE: PM) announced today that the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has verified its Forest, Land, and Agriculture (FLAG) emissions reductions targets. PMI is one of very few companies so far to achieve this recognition. Land use and agricultural sectors offer vast opportunities for GHG removals, including agroforestry, soil carbon sequestration, and forest restoration, for example. Adopting a science-based target for Forest, Land, and Agriculture will support PMI to further accelerate its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions arising from land use. [Philip Morris International, 21 September 2023](#)

STANDARD BANK ACTIVATES LOW INTEREST SOLAR LOANS FOR HOMES AND BUSINESS Standard Bank announced that it has finalised its participation in government's Energy Bounce Back Loan Guarantee Scheme, which offers affordable solar loans to both Personal and Business Clients. It is now accepting applications from personal and business clients as well as aspiring Standard Bank clients looking to take up the offering. The scheme, which is now active, forms part of the government's efforts to curb the impact of persistent energy constraints on economic growth, as well as assisting with the country's aim to reduce carbon emissions. [Standard Bank, 19 September 2023.](#)

LEADING FOR THE GREATER GOOD IN EDUCATION The Spur Foundation supports early childhood development with a focus on training of principals and teachers at under-resourced day care centres. We've partnered with the Early Care Foundation, (that is previously known as ASHA Trust), to develop and facilitate early childhood development training programmes, for under-skilled practitioners and owners of home-based creches. Early Care Foundation (ECF) training equips beneficiaries with the necessary skills to provide a stimulating educational environment and meet the nutritional needs of the children in their care. ECF assists creches to develop their facilities to comply with standards prescribed by the Department of Social Development and Department of Education to help them register their ECD Centres and access social development subsidies. [Spur Corporation, 18 September 2023.](#)

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FINANCES In our diverse roles as women – whether single, committed, career-driven powerhouses, nurturing caregivers, or super-moms – we consistently prove our remarkable capabilities. However, there's one aspect where we often fall short: our financial well-being. It's time we change that. [NinetyOne, 18 September 2023.](#)

SUN INTERNATIONAL HELPS SOWETO LEARNERS READ TO RISE Education is one of hospitality group Sun International's socio-economic development focus areas, and in September, they partnered with Read To Rise, an NPO which aims to improve youth literacy in South Africa, to do a literacy handover to Vukani Primary School in Soweto worth R37 500. The donation included four mini-libraries for four Grade three and four classes, a book and pencil for the 240 Grade 3 and 4 learners, and 65 books for the school. Read more [here.](#)

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

COP28 NATURE POSITIVE BASELINING SURVEY FOR ORGANIZATIONS Together with climate change, the degradation of nature is one of the biggest challenges currently facing the global community. Nature and climate are two sides of the same coin: while nature is one of the most effective levers against climate change, climate change is a principal threat to ecosystem health. We cannot meet the goals of the Paris Agreement without nature. One of the flagship outcomes around Nature at COP28 will be a call to action to mobilize business to advance Nature Positive for Climate Action call to action. The COP28 Presidency along with the Climate Champions Team urges you and all businesses to drive climate action by accelerating your journey to nature positive. This survey will help us understand how businesses are moving this agenda forward. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

IEA: CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENT MUST REACH \$4.5 TRILLION PER YEAR BY 2030 TO LIMIT WARMING TO 1.5°C IEA's Net Zero Roadmap says limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius is still possible, but investment in clean energy needs to reach \$4.5 trillion per year by 2030. The roadmap calls for large new infrastructure networks, low-emissions fuels, CO2 capture technologies and more nuclear power. The roadmap also includes an increase in policy-driven clean energy capacity to drive down fossil fuel demand by 25% by the end of the decade. [World Economic Forum, 28 September 2023.](#)

OPINION: SUPPORTING CLEANER FUELS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE In this article, South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA) executive director Avhaphani Tshifularo writes about the association's support for the Clean Fuels 2 initiative and the benefits of using clean fuels, as well as the association's support for introducing biofuels into the fuel pool. In keeping with the South African petroleum industry's continual commitment to limit its impact on climate change, the SAPIA is pleased to support the government-mandated Clean Fuels 2 initiative and its potential impact on reducing harmful tailpipe emissions. [Engineering News, 28 September 2023.](#)

6 STEPS TO SCALING UP RENEWABLE-ENERGY INVESTMENTS Renewable energy can help countries reduce costs, build resilience and mitigate climate change. Many countries are trapped in a vicious cycle of fossil-fuel dependency. The World Bank has outlined a five-step approach to help countries break free from fossil fuel dependency. Steps include government commitment, supportive policies, institutional strengthening, project preparation, transparent procurement and affordable power. [World Economic Forum, 27 September 2023.](#)

IEA UPDATES ROADMAP TO KEEP 1.5°C WITHIN REACH The International Energy Agency (IEA) has published a report that sets out a global pathway to keep the 1.5°C temperature goal alive. It argues that greater ambition, improved implementation, and stronger international cooperation are critical in helping countries achieve global climate goals. [SDG Knowledge Hub, 27 September 2023](#)

REPORT: TOWARDS RESILIENT ECONOMIES: A BUSINESS FRAMEWORK FOR OPERATIONALIZING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY This framework gives businesses practical guidance to promote equality of opportunity in systemic ways. It is designed with and for business leaders who are either in the initial stages of defining their stakeholder impact strategy or are more advanced and would like to understand potential blind spots and learn from others. This framework has been designed with industry experts, civil society and academia. [World Economic Forum, 21 September 2023.](#)

BUSINESS GUIDE: REMOVING CARBON RESPONSIBLY: A GUIDE FOR BUSINESS ON CARBON REMOVAL ADOPTION Urgent emissions reduction is a must. But achieving net zero by 2050 demands more – it requires additional carbon dioxide removal (CDR) from the atmosphere. Despite the advancements in carbon removals, many businesses are still unsure about the reasons to invest in CDR and are seeking direction on how traditional land-based and innovative technological approaches could fit into their climate action plans. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 20 September 2023.](#)

YOUNG PEOPLE EMPOWERED TO HAVE A SAY IN CLIMATE POLICY The Youth Climate Champions (YCC) programme saw 20 young people come together to engage with critical climate policy processes that will determine the future of the planet. In South Africa, young people are the most likely to be affected by accelerating climate change, which is why the youth want to have a say in the climate policies that will determine the planet's future. The Youth Climate Champions (YCC) programme has just concluded its second week-long bootcamp aimed at empowering young people to engage with critical climate policy processes that will determine the future of the planet. Read more [here](#)

NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Bringing you news and the latest research from our international partners

CDP in South Africa is a long-standing partnership between the London-based CDP and the NBI. They have built the most comprehensive collection of self-reported environmental information in the world. In 2023, 7,000 companies have been

requested to disclose on plastics for the first time through CDP's water security questionnaire. The new plastics module consists of five to nine unscored questions that cover plastics-related business risks, targets, value chain mapping, and raw material content, among other topics. Read their latest Press Release, entitled "**CDP and XBRL announce partnership to accelerate digital sustainability disclosure**" [here](#).

UNGC CEO WATER MANDATE NBI partners with the CEO Water Mandate to encourage water stewardship in South Africa. Established by the UN Global Compact in 2007, and rooted in the belief that cross-sectoral collaboration on shared water goals is the most effective path to more sustainable water management, the CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative that mobilises business leaders for water stewardship. Read their **March 2023 Newsletter**, [here](#).

WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION (WMB) NBI is the South African partner to WMB. WMB is a coalition of organizations working with thousands of the world's most influential businesses and investors to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. Read their "**Net Zero Transition – The Latest Signals Of Change: July 21, 2023**" [here](#).

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, CEO-led organization of almost 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. The NBI is the global partner of the WBCSD in South Africa. Read their recently published **Insight Article**, entitled: "**Meat and dairy analogues of the future call for a focus on affordability, innovative business models and a just transition**" [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

No events to share

ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2023

TOPLINE FINDINGS FROM MARKET-BASED ACCOUNTING APPROACHES SURVEY | 03 October 2023 | Online | Between November 2022 and March 2023, Greenhouse Gas Protocol collected stakeholder input via four online surveys on the Corporate Standard, Scope 2 Guidance, Scope 3 Standard, and Market-Based Approaches. In this webinar, the GHG Protocol secretariat will review key themes that emerged in the recently concluded market-based accounting approaches survey. Participants will have a chance to submit questions for the speakers in advance as well as during the live session. This session will be recorded for those who are unable to join the live session. The initial findings shared in this session will help inform the scoping of updates in consultation with the GHG Protocol's technical and advisory groups (to be convened). | [Register](#)

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY | 4 October 2023 | Zoom | As municipalities continue to face increasing pressure and challenges in providing effective waste management services amid South Africa's growing waste generation, the business case for improved waste management strategies and services, as well as a successful circular economy is clear. Join Creamer Media for a webinar on Waste Management and the Circular Economy on October 4 at 14:00, where experts will discuss how to advance a more sustainable and smarter way of working to eliminate waste and reduce emissions. | [Further details](#).

CREATING AN EQUITABLE CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE: ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PROJECT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | 05 October 2023 | Online | Join WRI and Data for Progress for a discussion about the importance of community benefits agreements and community benefits plans in facilitating an equitable clean energy development. The webinar will feature a conversation with Betony Jones, Director of the Office of Energy Jobs at DOE, about the federal government's role in facilitating the process between stakeholders in the development of community benefits plans. That will be followed by a panel discussion with experts and practitioners to discuss the fundamentals, barriers and opportunities to expand the best practices of community benefits agreements and the role of different stakeholders in working together across clean energy projects. | [Register](#)

ESG AFRICA CONFERENCE | 4 – 5 October 2023 | Sandton, South Africa | ESG Africa Conference has partnered with the NBI to convene the most impactful and forward-thinking minds across Africa, as we empower leaders to drive a more sustainable future at the ESG Africa Conference. This highly anticipated event provides an unparalleled platform for industry pioneers and experts to come together and tackle the common challenges associated with embedding ESG practices within organisations. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to reshape the future and become a catalyst for change. | [Website & further details](#).

A PATH ACROSS THE RIFT: FROM RESEARCH TO DIALOGUE TO ACTION | 18 October 2023 | Online | Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are uniquely positioned in the journey to a clean energy system, with the fastest growing energy demand and lowest rates of access to reliable, clean energy. While the opportunity to enhance people's lives and national economies is substantial, there are flaws in the way we think and talk about energy in the region, and a lack of connection between stakeholders, which are blocking necessary change. A new Policy Brief from WRI and the Energy Transitions Commission (ETC), A Path Across the Rift, has identified the common misconceptions and gaps in research which need to be addressed for policy makers and investors to move forward with energy planning. Common myths of a uniform African continent and simplistic ideas of abundant natural resources should be replaced by country-specific energy plans, informed by place-specific evidence from the granular level right up to the supporting ecosystem of infrastructure, policy and finance. | [Register](#)

MORAL MONEY SUMMIT AMERICAS 2023 | 24 - 25 October 2023 | In-Person & Digital | Convene, 1 Liberty Plaza | New York | The environmental and social agenda is at a critical juncture with businesses and investors under increasing pressure to demonstrate progress on their goals. The demand for transparency and accountability is growing louder as many companies fail to fulfil their climate, governance and societal pledges, while concerns over greenwashing multiply. To make progress towards a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive economy, the implementation strategies and the oversight of how they are being executed must be bulletproof. | [Website & further details](#).

NET ZERO FESTIVAL 2023 | 31 October- 1 November 2023 | London, UK | Hosted by BusinessGreen, the UK's leading green business media brand and a source of news and analysis for the green business community that reaches over a million readers a year, the Net Zero Festival will bring together over 1,000 senior business executives, investors, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and campaigners over two days to explore how to navigate the defining economic, political, and technological trend of the age and work together to accelerate the net zero transition. This year's Festival will build on the success of last year's event, which brought together a host of leading experts in the net zero transition, including Chris Skidmore (who used the event to formally launch the Net Zero Review), head of the UN's High Level Expert Group on Net Zero Catherine McKenna, the CBI's Rain Newton-Smith, and the CCC's Chris Stark, among many others. | [Website & further details](#).

AFRICA'S GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT | 21-23 February 2023 | Cape Town, South Africa | Governments in Africa are developing national plans and laying strategies to adapt their growth models as climate change is accelerating the need for a green economy transition. This new era presents massive opportunities which will have a significant impact on environmental sustainability and economic growth. From entrepreneurial start-ups to national scale infrastructure projects, Africa's Green Economy Summit connects project owners with a network of global investors who fund opportunities that will accelerate Africa's journey to a just and inclusive green economy. The summit forms part of a week-long series of special events and entertainment to showcase sustainability, e-mobility and renewable energy solutions which is underpinned by the Cape Town E-Prix. | [Website & further details](#).

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