

## ESG Watch

How To Talk to Your Finance Team About Sustainability  
September 24, 2020



## ESG Center



Corporate  
Governance



Sustainability



Corporate Citizenship  
& Philanthropy



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[www.conference-board.org/COVID-19](http://www.conference-board.org/COVID-19)



<https://conference-board.org/mediaroom/ceo-forum>



# Panelists



**R. Scott Herren**  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Financial  
Officer  
**Autodesk**



**Michael Kobori**  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
**Starbucks Coffee  
Company**



**Katrina Rymill**  
Vice President,  
Investor Relations &  
Sustainability  
**Equinix**



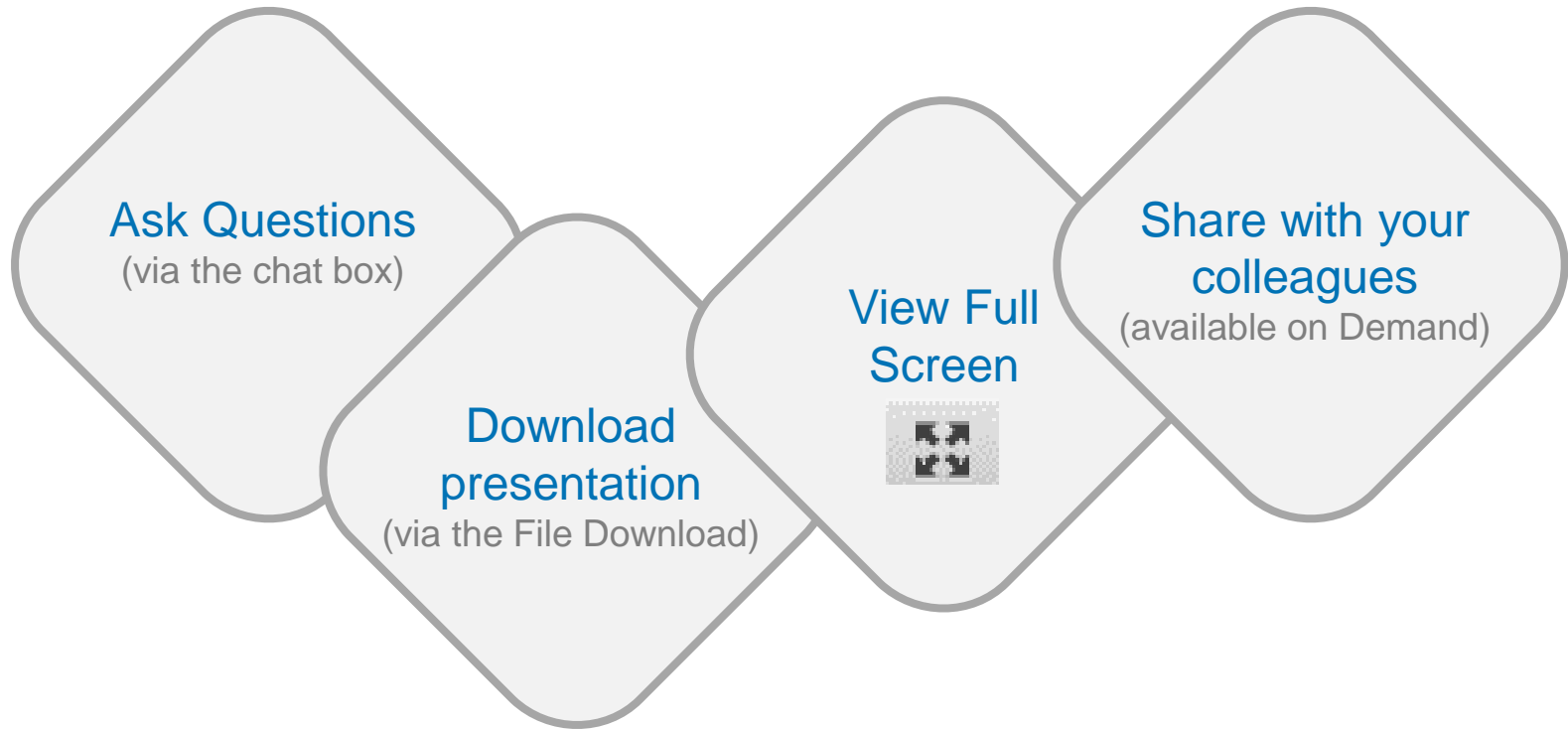
**Brad Sparks**  
Executive Director  
**A4S CFO Leadership  
Network**



**Paul Washington**  
**(Moderator)**  
Executive Director,  
ESG Center  
**The Conference  
Board**



# Making the most of the webcast



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Tell us about your experience to help us improve our future program

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# Sustainability Maturity Path – From Compliance to Leadership



Source: "Sustainability: Moving from Compliance to Leadership," PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2011.





## Upcoming Webcast Programming from The Conference Board

- [Optimizing Impact: Strengthening Corporate Philanthropy and Citizenship Programs Through Better Decision-Making](#) **(September 29 @ 11am ET)**
- [How COVID-19 Is Spurring an AI-Driven Digital Experience](#) **(September 30 @ 1pm ET)**
- [Global Horizons Virtual: Climate Change: From Commitment To Action](#) **(December 3 @ 10am ET)**

[View all of our upcoming webcast programs](#)





# Related Conference Board Resources

## **Refocusing Sustainability during COVID-19**

In June 2020, The Conference Board surveyed sustainability executives to gauge the implications of the COVID-19 crisis on the sustainability function, and how their companies are responding. This report summarizes the key findings from more than 40 sustainability executives who responded to the survey

## **Corporate Governance Challenges in the COVID-19 Crisis**

US public companies have needed to adjust their governance practices to respond to the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report discusses how they have responded and provides insights for what's ahead.

## **Five Ways a Sustainability Strategy Provides Clarity in a Time of Crisis**

This essay highlights how companies with robust sustainability programs are more likely to perform well during a downturn and discusses why a fully developed sustainability program—a defined corporate purpose, a clear view of what is material (and what is not), an awareness of broader societal challenges, a robust level of engagement and transparency with stakeholders, and a collaborative culture—should improve a company's ability to prosper in the long run.

## **Emergence of Integrated Reporting**

Over the last 30 years, intangible assets have moved from 20 percent to over 80 percent of the value of public companies, yet decision making within companies has failed to keep pace. Financial reporting has made even less progress in addressing these changes. As they take ESG impacts ever more seriously, US investors are urging management and the board to adopt a reporting method that accounts for both tangible and intangible assets. “Integrated reporting” is such a method: it provides a framework that highlights all the ways a company creates and will continue to create value.





## ESG News & Views

A podcast series brought to you by  
The Conference Board Environmental,  
Social and Governance Center

**The Conference Board ESG News & Views** podcast series provides compelling in-depth interviews with ESG thought leaders, and timely updates on hot button topics in corporate governance, sustainability, citizenship and philanthropy.

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