Training Course on The Role of the Board in Climate Governance

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	CEOs and Directors	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In an era defined by **climate urgency** and increasing **ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) imperative**, the role of the board of directors in shaping and overseeing an organization's climate strategy has become paramount. No longer a peripheral issue, **climate governance** is now a core component of fiduciary duty, demanding sophisticated understanding and proactive leadership. Boards must navigate complex **climate risks** – both physical and transition – while simultaneously identifying and capitalizing on emerging **green economy opportunities** and ensuring robust **climate-related financial disclosures** and **transparency**.

Training Course on The Role of the Board in Climate Governance is designed to equip board members and senior executives with the essential knowledge and practical tools to effectively embed **climate action** and **sustainability leadership** within their organizations. We will delve into the evolving regulatory landscape, stakeholder expectations, and best practices in **corporate climate strategy**, empowering participants to drive meaningful change, enhance **organizational resilience**, and secure long-term value in a rapidly decarbonizing world.

Programme Curriculum

Training Course on The Role of the Board in Climate Governance

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Course Objectives

1. To understand the **fiduciary duties** and legal implications of climate change for board members.
2. To analyze the **physical and transition risks** posed by climate change to business models and assets.
3. To identify and leverage **climate-related opportunities** for innovation, growth, and competitive advantage.
4. To grasp the intricacies of **climate-related financial disclosures** (e.g., TCFD, ISSB) and reporting requirements.
5. To develop robust **net-zero pathways** and science-based targets for organizational emissions reduction.
6. To integrate **climate strategy** seamlessly into overall business strategy and risk management frameworks.
7. To understand the importance of **supply chain decarbonization** and scope 3 emissions management.
8. To effectively engage with **stakeholders** (investors, regulators, employees, communities) on climate issues.
9. To foster a **climate-competent board** through strategic composition and continuous learning.
10. To explore the intersection of **climate change, biodiversity loss**, and nature-related financial disclosures (TNFD).
11. To navigate the complexities of **climate litigation** and its implications for corporate liability.
12. To understand the role of **green finance** and sustainable investment in funding climate transitions.
13. To implement effective **board oversight mechanisms** for climate performance and accountability, including linking executive pay to climate goals.

Organizational Benefits

- Demonstrating proactive climate leadership strengthens public trust and stakeholder confidence.
- Proactive identification and management of physical, transition, and litigation risks.
- Meeting investor demands for ESG performance and attracting sustainable finance.
- Unlocking new markets, products, and services in the green economy.
- Staying ahead of evolving climate reporting and policy requirements.
- Building adaptive capacity to withstand climate shocks and disruptions.
- Driving operational cost savings through energy efficiency and waste reduction.
- Appealing to employees seeking purpose-driven organizations.

Target Audience

1. Board Directors (Executive & Non-Executive)

2. C-Suite Executives (CEOs, CFOs, COOs, CSOs)
3. Company Secretaries & Governance Professionals
4. Risk Management Executives
5. Sustainability Leaders & Practitioners
6. Investor Relations Professionals
7. Legal Counsel specializing in Corporate Law/ESG
8. Senior Management responsible for Strategic Planning

Course Outline

Module 1: The Urgency of Climate Action & Board Fiduciary Duty

- Global climate science consensus and the 1.5°C target.
- Understanding the economic and societal impacts of climate change.
- Evolving legal and fiduciary duties of directors regarding climate.
- The escalating pressure from investors, regulators, and civil society.
- Defining **Climate Governance** and its distinction from broader ESG.
- **Case Study:** *ClientEarth vs. Shell Directors:* Analysis of the legal arguments and implications for directors' personal liability.

Module 2: Climate Risks: Identification, Assessment, and Integration

- **Physical Risks:** Acute (e.g., extreme weather) and Chronic (e.g., sea-level rise, resource scarcity).
- **Transition Risks:** Policy, Legal, Technology, Market, and Reputation risks.
- Quantitative and qualitative methodologies for climate risk assessment.
- Integrating climate risks into enterprise risk management (ERM) frameworks.
- Scenario analysis and climate stress testing for strategic planning.
- **Case Study:** *Utility Company in a Flood Zone:* Assessing financial and operational impacts of increased flood frequency and developing adaptation strategies.

Module 3: Climate Opportunities: Innovation, Growth, and Value Creation

- Identifying emerging markets and technologies in the **green economy**.
- Innovation in sustainable products, services, and business models.
- Resource efficiency, circular economy principles, and cost savings.
- Attracting green investment and enhancing brand value.
- The competitive advantage of proactive **climate leadership**.
- **Case Study:** *Danish Wind Turbine Manufacturer Vestas:* How focusing on renewable energy technology drove significant market share and profitability.

Module 4: Global Climate Policy & Regulatory Landscape

- Overview of international agreements: Paris Agreement, COPs, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Key regional and national climate policies (e.g., EU Green Deal, US IRA).
- Carbon pricing mechanisms: carbon taxes and emissions trading systems (ETS).
- The role of carbon budgets and sectoral decarbonization targets.
- Navigating policy uncertainty and regulatory shifts.
- **Case Study:** *Impact of EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):* How European companies are adapting to new import regulations and their implications for supply chains.

Module 5: Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD & ISSB)

- Understanding the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations.
- Deep dive into the four pillars: Governance, Strategy, Risk Management, Metrics & Targets.
- The emergence of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and its global impact.
- Practical steps for preparing and enhancing climate disclosures.
- Assurance and verification of climate-related data.
- **Case Study:** *A Publicly Listed Energy Company's TCFD Report:* Analyzing strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement in their climate disclosures.

Module 6: Setting Ambitious Net-Zero Targets and Pathways

- Defining **net-zero**, carbon neutrality, and climate positive.
- The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and its methodologies.
- Developing credible interim and long-term decarbonization targets.
- Creating a detailed **net-zero roadmap** for the organization.
- The role of offsets and carbon removals in achieving net-zero.
- **Case Study:** *Microsoft's Carbon Negative Pledge:* Exploring their ambitious targets, strategies, and challenges in achieving beyond net-zero.

Module 7: Integrating Climate into Corporate Strategy

- Embedding climate considerations into the core business model.
- Aligning climate goals with overall corporate strategy and purpose.
- Strategic capital allocation for climate transition.
- Portfolio analysis for climate risk and opportunity.
- Transforming governance structures to support climate integration.
- **Case Study:** *Ørsted's Transformation from Fossil Fuels to Renewables:* A strategic shift driven by climate vision and significant capital reallocation.

Module 8: Supply Chain Decarbonization and Scope 3 Emissions

- Understanding Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions and their significance.
- Challenges and opportunities in measuring and managing Scope 3 emissions.
- Engaging suppliers and customers in decarbonization efforts.
- Circular economy principles and waste reduction across the value chain.
- Leveraging technology for supply chain transparency and impact tracking.
- **Case Study:** *Patagonia's Supply Chain Sustainability:* How a brand leverages its supply chain to drive environmental responsibility and accountability.

Module 9: Board Composition, Expertise, and Oversight

- Assessing and enhancing the board's **climate competency**.
- Recruiting directors with relevant climate and sustainability expertise.
- Structuring board committees for effective climate oversight.
- Designing effective climate-related KPIs and executive compensation links.
- Facilitating robust boardroom discussions on climate change.
- **Case Study:** *Unilever's Board Evolution for Sustainability:* How the board adapted its structure and sought expertise to drive its sustainability agenda.

Module 10: Stakeholder Engagement & Communication

- Identifying key climate stakeholders: investors, employees, customers, communities, NGOs.
- Effective communication strategies for climate commitments and progress.

- Responding to shareholder resolutions and activist campaigns.
- Building trust and managing reputational risks.
- The importance of authentic communication and avoiding **greenwashing**.
- **Case Study:** *Danone's B Corp Certification and Stakeholder Engagement:* How a company legally committed to social and environmental performance to engage stakeholders.

Module 11: Climate Litigation and Legal Accountability

- Trends in climate change litigation against corporations and governments.
- Types of climate litigation: liability, disclosure, greenwashing claims.
- Legal risks associated with inadequate climate action or disclosure.
- Directors' personal liability for climate-related negligence.
- Proactive measures to minimize litigation risks.
- **Case Study:** *Milieudefensie v. Shell:* Examining the landmark ruling and its implications for corporate climate responsibility.

Module 12: Sustainable Finance & Investment

- Overview of **green finance** instruments: green bonds, sustainability-linked loans.
- The role of institutional investors and asset managers in driving climate action.
- ESG integration in investment decisions and portfolio construction.
- Impact investing and financing climate solutions.
- Navigating the landscape of sustainable finance taxonomies and regulations.
- **Case Study:** *BlackRock's Stance on Climate Risk:* Analyzing Larry Fink's annual letters and their influence on corporate climate strategies.

Module 13: Climate, Biodiversity & Nature-Related Disclosures (TNFD)

- The interconnectedness of climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Understanding **nature-related risks and opportunities**.
- Introduction to the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).
- Integrating nature considerations into corporate strategy and reporting.
- Valuing natural capital and ecosystem services.
- **Case Study:** *Companies Engaged in Reforestation/Restoration Projects:* Highlighting initiatives that address both climate and biodiversity.

Module 14: Just Transition & Social Equity

- Defining the "just transition" in the context of climate action.
- Addressing social impacts of decarbonization on workers and communities.
- Ensuring equitable benefits from the **green energy transition**.
- The role of boards in promoting social justice alongside environmental goals.
- Stakeholder dialogue and collaboration for a fair transition.
- **Case Study:** *Coal Mining Region Transitioning to Renewables:* Examining the social and economic challenges and successful community engagement strategies.

Module 15: Future Trends & Leadership in Climate Governance

- Emerging technologies for climate mitigation and adaptation.
- The evolving role of AI and data analytics in climate decision-making.
- Cross-sector collaboration and public-private partnerships.
- Leadership traits for navigating the climate crisis.
- Building a culture of **sustainability** and climate responsibility throughout the organization.

- **Case Study:** *Innovations in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS):* Discussing the potential and challenges of new technologies in decarbonization.

Training Methodology

This training course will employ a dynamic and interactive methodology to ensure maximum engagement and practical application:

- **Expert-Led Presentations:** Concise and insightful modules delivered by experienced climate governance professionals.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Group exercises, breakout sessions, and collaborative problem-solving.
- **Real-World Case Studies:** In-depth analysis of diverse corporate responses to climate challenges and opportunities.
- **Peer Learning & Networking:** Opportunities for participants to share experiences and best practices.
- **Q&A Sessions:** Direct interaction with instructors and guest speakers.
- **Practical Tools & Frameworks:** Provision of templates, checklists, and guides for immediate application.
- **Discussion Forums:** Facilitated debates on controversial topics and emerging trends.
- **Pre-reading Materials:**

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

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