Ceres

Mobilizing Business Leadership for a Sustainable World

www.ceres.org/company

CERES COMPANY NETWORK

The race is on to build a sustainable global economy, and competition among companies to thrive in this new business paradigm is fierce. The scientific and economic realities facing corporations today are shifting—from operational and supply chain risks due to a changing climate and an increasingly resource-constrained world with a growing population, to the spotlight on working conditions in factories and fields. Finding solutions to shifting business challenges requires collaboration, innovation and transformation.

For companies, it is a pivotal moment with enormous opportunity and risk—a moment that demands excellence in corporate leadership, performance and innovation. Ceres works with over 65 companies—including Bloomberg, Ford, Gap, National Grid, Nike and PepsiCo—to realize competitive advantage through the integration of sustainability into core business strategies.

With more than 25 years of experience, Ceres has credibility and expertise in driving sustainability leadership into the economy. Sitting at the intersection of investors, business, and NGO advocates, Ceres brings these critical perspectives together in constructive stakeholder dialogues to identify smart business solutions to today's greatest economic challenges.

CERES COMPANY NETWORK MEMBER COMMITMENTS

Ceres member companies commit to ongoing and long-term engagement with stakeholders and shareholders to improve their sustainability performance. The Ceres engagement model is premised on two-way accountability and transparency. A core tenet of membership in the Ceres Company Network is a commitment to drive towards sustainability leadership, regardless of where the company is on its sustainability journey. Specific commitments include:

- Executive-level commitment to improve environmental and social performance, including reference to the company's publicly available sustainability values or principles.
- Public reporting on sustainability strategy, commitments and performance--or commitment to disclose within the first 18 months of membership. Ceres encourages companies to use the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines.
- Continuous improvement of both performance and disclosure on sustainability issues.
- Engagement with the Ceres Coalition of investors and sustainability experts, as well as other stakeholders, in dialogue regarding sustainability disclosure, strategy, commitments, and performance, and the integration and consideration of stakeholder feedback into performance and disclosure and priority setting.

There is an annual membership fee based on a company's revenue. Please inquire for details.

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BENEFITS FOR CERES COMPANY NETWORK MEMBERS

The Ceres stakeholder engagement model features diverse teams of credible, external stakeholders that provide ongoing input to companies on strategy, disclosure and bottom-line performance. In 2010, Ceres released The Ceres Roadmap for Sustainability, a vision and practical guide for companies looking to build a comprehensive sustainable business strategy. This framework and Ceres' engagement model help companies strengthen corporate governance and risk management, increase transparency, develop stronger relationships with stakeholders and shareholders, advance performance, and capture opportunities to innovate.

> "Before working with Ceres, Ford's relationships with external stakeholders were often adversarial. Ceres helped Ford to shift that perspective by bringing us together with investors, issue experts and environmental and social advocates for constructive dialogues."
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> — John Viera, Director of Sustainable Business Strategies, Ford Motor Company

Benefits for member companies include:

- A diverse and dedicated stakeholder team to support the company with its sustainability program including strategy, reporting, policy development, and issue-specific dialogues on topics such as supply chain sustainability, employee engagement, and water stewardship;
- Customized consultation and advice from a dedicated manager and issue experts;
- Access to a leading coalition of global investors, environmental and social organizations, and other expert stakeholders on issues of sustainability;
- Opportunities to engage in and influence industry dialogues;
- Access to the Investor Network on Climate Risk (INCR) and insight into rising investor interest on corporate sustainability issues;
- Incident response advice, including correspondence with Coalition members and other contacts;
- Reduced rates to attend the Ceres Conference and members-only access to pre-conference meetings and other Ceres events;
- Access and members-only previews of Ceres' leading reports on emerging sustainability issues, trends, and benchmarking.

> "We think of Ceres as a thought leader but also as an organization that really understands the complexities of what it is to run a business on a day-to-day basis. The solution sets and frameworks that Ceres puts on the table are pragmatic and business savvy."
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> — Hannah Jones, Chief Sustainability Officer and VP of the Innovation Accelerator, Nike Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in learning more about Ceres or the Ceres Company Network, please contact Kristen Lang, Senior Manager, Corporate Program 617-247-0700 ext. 128 lang@ceres.org

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