

Message from the President & CEO



Delighted to join the World Environment Center! It has been a busy first two months in role – having made it through several firsts with the help and support of a tremendous and patient WEC team. The first GOLD MEDAL, first Board meeting, first budget cycle and first newsletter is now behind me.

My first 100-day goals are simple...

- Listen and learn
- Meet our members
- Renew WEC's Thought Leadership agenda

If you are interested in joining the conversation to renew the Thought Leadership agenda, please reach out and I will add you to the working group (lmichelin@wec.org).

The team is also refreshing the WEC website and strengthening our voice on social media. Connect with WEC – share and retweet WEC content!



Lori Michelin

Newsletter Contents

Thought Leadership

- Gold Medal Colloquium: Understanding Investor's Expectations
- European Roundtable on the Circular Economy

Industry Excellence

- Meet the 34th GOLD MEDAL Winner and Newest Member – EcoLab

Capacity Building

- La Red de Innovacion e Impacto/The Innovation & Impact Network
- Linking Education to Industry (new publication)

Partnerships

- Better World Leadership (Phase II)
- Interreg Mediterranean Green Growth

Thought Leadership

Gold Medal Colloquium: Understanding Investor's Expectations



Our keynote speaker, Cary Krosinsky, Lecturer, Yale School of Management, indicated that sustainable investing is moving from negative screening, standardized disclosure and review of past performance to a more forward-looking approach focused on value-creation. Companies that are linking their sustainability strategies to long-term economic, technologic and demographic trends in their sector will be most attractive to investors.

A panel of investors discussed proliferation, performance, material issues, culture, risk management, transparency and shareholder resolutions. Participating companies shared their assessments of disclosure frameworks, investor engagement and their partnership with investor relations. Full details and learnings are provided in the event summary: [Understanding Investor Expectations for Sustainability Performance.](#)

This event would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of Ingersoll-Rand.



Roundtable: Managing Resource Streams Sustainably

The WEC Executive Roundtable held in Augsburg, Germany on April 5-6, 2018 focused on business practices to manage resources sustainably, specifically packaging and electronic components. Speakers from BASF, CRONIMET Envirotech, Dow, KUKA Industries, Merck Group, Schneider Electric, Royal Dutch Shell, Volkswagen and the University of Augsburg together with event participants recognized that product design and sourcing decisions are critical in achieving circularity. Key takeaways from the event include:

- Ownership across the product's life cycle incentivizes design for repair and end of life recovery.
- Optimization of packaging structures for product protection, reduced environmental and/or health impact and cost savings is not new – this is expected in today's business environment.
- Lack of recycling infrastructure and the absence of regulations in many geographies is a significant barrier to circularity.
- Use of key substances in the production of batteries, solar panels, and magnets is expected to become increasingly scarce, organizations who require these materials are beginning to conduct sourcing vulnerability assessments.
- As the world moves towards a circular economy, business models will need to evolve, some will be disrupted.

You can learn more by accessing the event summary: [Managing Resource Streams Sustainably: Company Practices in Packaging and the Use of Electronic Components](#)

Industry Excellence

Meet the 34th GOLD MEDAL Winner and Newest Member – Ecolab



The WEC GOLD MEDAL for International Corporate Achievement in Sustainable Development was presented to Ecolab on May 17, 2018. Ecolab was selected based upon its commitment to water conservation through the integration of sustainability in its innovation processes and product development, and through the development of publicly available tools that focus on demonstrating the full value of water and revealing water-related risks that businesses can use to make better informed decisions. WEC and Ecolab were honored to have United States Senator Amy Klobuchar present the award. The work of our independent jury to select our 34th winner is also acknowledged.

If you were not able to join us at the event, you can learn more about Ecolab's commitment to water stewardship by viewing the video that was shown during the event, [A Water Awakening](#).

Please also welcome Emilio Tenuta (etneuta@ecolab.com), Ecolab's Vice-President of Corporate Sustainability to our network of sustainability leaders.

This event would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of Ecolab and the global WEC membership.

Capacity Building

La Red de Innovación e Impacto/The Innovation and Impact Network



People and economies thrive when micro, small and medium-sized enterprises are empowered to reach their full potential. These enterprises create 75% of all jobs in Latin America, but many need better connections to markets, information, and supportive policies. They need support and incentives to access new markets, adopt sustainable practices, and strengthen workers' rights.

The U.S. Department of State funded the WEC and its partners, Le Groupe-conseil baastel Itée, Context Partners, and EarthShift Global, to select organizations who are accelerating business development and promoting sustainable economic growth in Latin

America. Because of this work, more than 300 micro, small and medium enterprises in have benefited from technical assistance, 1,800 people have found new or better employment, and more than 4,400 farmers have improved their operations.

The micro, small and medium enterprises in the La Red network focus on a variety of activities including: wastewater treatment, women entrepreneurs, sustainable agriculture, access to finance, business services and sustainable tourism.

Should these activities fit with your geographic brand, business or foundation sustainable development priorities, Gwen Davidow (GDavidow@wec.org) and Ernesto Samayoa (Esamayoa@wec.org) would be delighted to explore how to connect your organization to the network.

A launch ceremony for Phase II of La Red will be held October 29-30th, 2018 in Antigua, Guatemala. WEC members are welcome to join the event to learn more about La Red and/or explore partnership opportunities that support sustainable development in the region.

WEC is proud that Phase I of La Red was considered relevant and highly satisfactory overall when evaluated in accordance with OECD evaluation criteria. The recently approved program assessment report can be accessed at: [The Pathways to Prosperity Innovation Challenge/La Red.](#)



Linking Education to Industry (new publication)

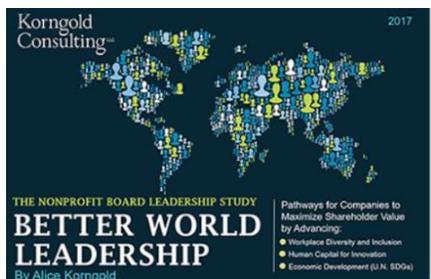


WEC is delighted to share that a journal article, [Linking Education to Industry: Water and Energy Sustainability in Latin America](#), was published in the Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences on June 29, 2018.

The journal article summarizes the impact on small and medium enterprises of the academic-industry model that was introduced by the Pathways to Cleaner Production in Americas Project. The article cites the model as a high-quality but low-cost solution that has helped small and medium enterprises reduce water usage and energy consumption and related emissions. It also noted that the program helped to improve environmental performance and compliance with national regulations.

Partnerships

Better World Leadership (Phase II)



WEC was the exclusive NGO partner for the 2017 Better World Leadership Study on how companies can advance diversity and inclusion, develop human capital for innovation, and foster economic development and achieve the U.N. SDGs by engaging their employees on nonprofit boards. Recognizing the importance of this work, WEC has re-joined as a Phase II NGO Sponsor.

If you have not had a chance to review the 2017 World Leadership Study, it can be downloaded from the Better World Leadership website: <http://www.betterworldleadership.com/>

Interreg Mediterranean Green Growth (New)



WEC Europe joined the European Union's "Interreg Mediterranean Green Growth" program as a network partner. The program supports scientific research in Southern European countries that leads to innovative, green business practices including Circular Economy models and Sustainable Cities.

WEC and its members can benefit from:

- learning about innovative solutions relevant in Mediterranean markets,
- expanding their networks into the countries of that region, and
- accessing opportunities to participate in new project initiatives.

Frank Werner, Director of WEC Europe, will follow the Interreg Mediterranean Green Growth's activities and reach out to individual WEC members if opportunities emerge. You can learn more about the organization by visiting their website: <https://www.interreg-med.eu/>.