

# **BREAKOUT SESSION: DRIVING DECARBONIZATION AND EMISSIONS ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH DATA TRANSPARENCY**

Businesses across the world are stepping-up their climate commitments: setting targets to reduce emissions and align with the 1.5°C target for a climate-safe world. However, with mounting pressures to accelerate decarbonization and create accountability for such commitments, understanding and exchanging product-level carbon emissions data is fast becoming a license to operate.

Imagine a future in which the carbon footprint of individual products is calculated (and communicated) based on primary data from the entire supply chain. Scope 3 emissions can be tackled exactly where needed or financial decisions are informed by reliable and verified emissions data. Today, such transparency poses a significant challenge – one which urgently needs to be addressed by any business with serious intentions to move towards net zero.

This session explored the root-causes of this challenge and discussed some of the promising opportunities access to product-level emissions data could unlock. In this context, the importance of collaboration and (technological) innovation was discussed, focusing in particular on the critical role businesses play in making emissions transparency – and hence decarbonization – a reality.

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- A robust and consistent data ecosystem for the exchange of product-level carbon data is a prerequisite to understanding and solving the decarbonization challenge.
- Carbon data transparency is rapidly becoming a license to operate for companies
- Challenges exist, but the benefits of increased carbon transparency across supply chains far outweigh the risks of inaction

- Main drivers of change to achieve carbon transparency revolve around methodological standardization and trust framework for data exchange
- Solutions will come from bringing together supply chain actors and key business functions (e.g., legal, IT, procurement). WBCSD's Carbon Transparency Partnership brings together the relevant actors to develop both the methodology and infrastructure for sharing carbon emissions data for all products and reaching across industries.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Launch of the Pathfinder Framework: Guidance for the Accounting and Exchange of Product Life Cycle Emissions at COP26
- Pilot test phase of the framework in Q1 2022
- Scale up of the WBCSD Carbon Transparency Partnership, including industry specific deep-dives

### **More information**

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