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KEYNOTE – DOW

Sustainability at Dow – Collaborating Across the Value Chain

Presentation: [Click here to download slides](#)

Moderator:

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Summary:

The new Dow tagline, “Seek Together,” embodies the desire to collaborate to solve the company’s and the planet’s most pressing challenges. In sustainability, this means collaborating with partners and customers to innovate; educating on material handling and safety; committing to transparency and global standards and enabling the increase in sustainability literacy and representation.

Key Takeaways:

- In developing their 2025 Sustainability Goals Dow has realized that if it is going to truly leverage science, expertise, and global reach to help shape a more sustainable world, it must stretch well beyond immediate business. Hence, through a focus on collaboration – by asking the right questions and seeking the right answers to the challenges of society, Dow can expand its impact.
- Collaboration areas include engaging communities, customers and employees, advancing a circular economy, valuing nature, and delivering breakthrough innovations.
- Dow has collaborated with the Nature Conservancy to figure out how to make valuing nature actionable and operational at the site level. They developed modeling tools (Ecosystem Services Identification and Inventory) to help make valuing nature practical and ultimately second “nature” for project managers and engineers. These are tools not just for Dow; they are available to other businesses and organizations to help in their decision processes.
- Dow has engaged both internal and external partners throughout value chain to eliminate plastic waste. Dow is a founding member of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, a newly formed organization to develop and scale solutions that manage plastic waste and promote post-use solutions of plastic. Also, through Dow’s #PullingOurWeight campaign over 5,600 employees, customers and industry peers participated in fifty-five waterway cleanups and collected over 51,000 pounds of trash in 2018 in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy and other local organizations.
- The company established Dow’s Product Stewardship Academy in emerging markets, such as the Middle East and Africa, which focuses on safe management of chemicals throughout the life-cycle, while improved quality of life and sustainable development.

- Dow signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in 2018 with China's State Key Laboratory of Environmental Criteria and Risk Assessment to collaborate in the fields of environmental criteria, standards, and ecological protection in terms of scientific research, policy counsel, technical service, and applications, in addition to training and coaching sessions.
- Dow is developing a transparency portal to help communicate the information needed for safer use of products across the value chain; this includes sharing information beyond safety on Data Sheets as well as how chemicals and products are evaluated from a health and environmental perspective.
- Dow has developed a series of free [online lectures](#) from sustainability academics.
- The Sustainability Academy is an employee development program that provides tools needed to bring sustainable business insights into their jobs.
- Dow established and Inclusion Office a year ago which includes all aspects of diversity. Inclusion enables innovation, sustainability, and global citizenship as mobilize employees to deliver on mission.
- Dow's commitment to Building the Workforce of Tomorrow is based on the belief that the economic and societal value of an employed, productive, and diverse workforce is fundamental to the health of each individual, community, and to the world.
- A trained workforce is essential for producing the talent necessary to solve major world challenges. Whether it's climate change, food shortages, or economic inequality, almost all the world's most pressing problems require STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) based solutions. And there is an important role of increasing the ranks of women and minorities in STEM fields. All of tomorrow's problem-solvers need excellent STEM teachers today to guide them.