Sustainability in Action 2026

Key Findings for US Businesses

Sweep and Capgemini surveyed over 1,000 sustainability leaders across 5 major economies to understand how businesses are managing the low-carbon transition. This is what US businesses told us.

SWEEP × Capgemini

The backdrop

The picture is striking. Federal climate policy is in flux; but at the state level, the bar keeps rising. California's SB 253 and SB 261 now require large companies to report their emissions and climate-related financial risks. New York and Illinois are moving in the same direction. Investors are asking harder questions and customers are paying closer attention. Extreme weather is no longer an abstract concern: it's showing up in supply chains, insurance costs, and capital plans.

US businesses aren't waiting for Washington to catch up. They're acting now, on their own terms, for their own reasons. And the data shows it.

United States: Key Findings

01

American businesses see the low-carbon transition as a competitive opportunity

91%

86%

91% of US respondents agree their business must transform to compete in the low-carbon economy, above the global average of 85%.

86% see the transition as a growth opportunity, driven by competitive differentiation (35%), innovation and new business models (34%), stronger customer relationships (33%), and revenue growth (33%).

Why sustainability is perceived as a driver of growth:

35%
It drives competitive advantage

34%
It leads to innovation

33%
It strengthens customer relationships

33%
It drives revenue

US business leaders aren't treating sustainability as a compliance exercise. They're treating it as a competitive strategy. The commercial case is broad-based, spanning cost efficiency, market positioning, and long-term resilience.

02

Climate risk is already hitting the bottom line

93%

34%
exceeding +$1 million

above the global average of
30%

93% of US businesses have experienced climate-related supply chain disruption in the past 24 months.

34% report financial impacts exceeding $1 million, above the global average of 30%.

47% **globally report significant financial impacts above $1 million**

Supply chain disruption, extreme weather events, and resource volatility are landing on the P&L now.

For energy sector businesses, the exposure is even sharper: 47% globally report significant financial impacts above $1 million, the highest of any sector surveyed.

Proactive investment in resilience is no longer discretionary, but a risk management imperative.

03

Policy uncertainty is accelerating investment, not stalling it

US
GLOBAL
73% 86%

86% of US respondents say changes in US federal policy have increased their sustainability investment, the highest rate of any market surveyed, and well above the global average of 73%.

This is one of the most counterintuitive findings in the study. Rather than retreating in the face of regulatory uncertainty, American businesses are moving faster. Energy price volatility (78% globally), geopolitical tensions (76%), and US state-level policy changes (73%) are all driving increased sustainability spending.

Businesses aren't waiting for a single national standard. They're building the capabilities now to navigate a complex, shifting landscape and stay ahead of it.

Key drivers of increased sustainability spending

78%
Energy price volatility

78%
Geopolitical tensions

73%
US state-level policy changes

"This report shows what successful U.S. businesses already know - strong sustainability practices drive efficiency and innovation. Moving beyond compliance creates opportunities for building resilience, managing risk, and adapting quickly to a changing business environment."

Liane Randolph, Former Chair of California Air Resources Board (CARB) responsible for implementation of SB 253

Methodology

Sweep and Capgemini commissioned Censuswide to survey senior leaders in the US as part of a global study of 1,000 senior leaders across six markets. This report focuses on the US findings, with comparative data from DACH (Austria, Germany and Switzerland), the Nordics (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), the US and France.

Respondents included Sustainability Managers, Chief Sustainability Officers, Chief Executive Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Chief Technology Officers, Chief Data Officers, Chief AI Officers and Chief Procurement Officers. They represented five sectors: energy, life sciences, manufacturing, retail and transportation.

REGIONAL SAMPLE

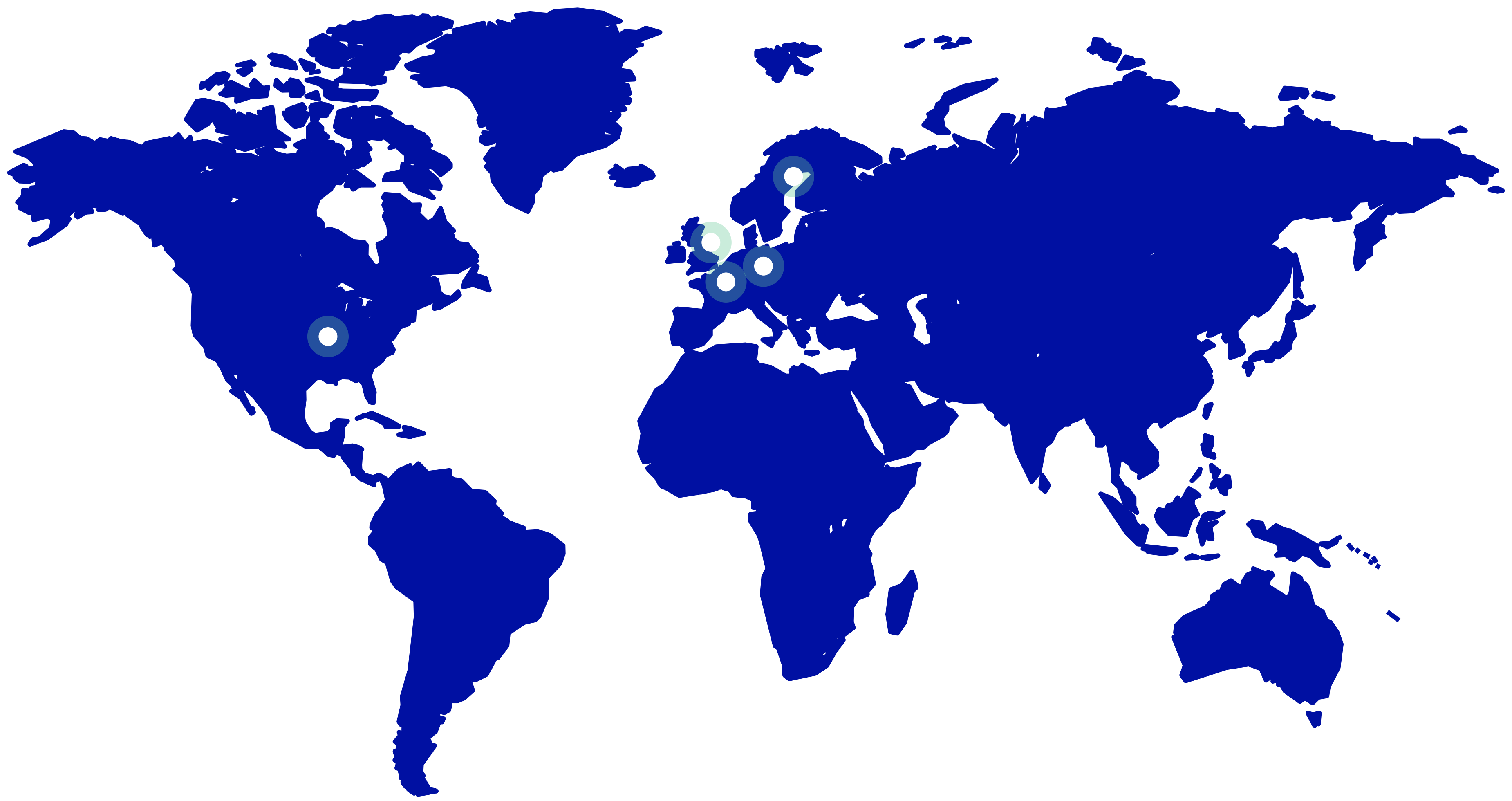
US
300

UK
200

France
200

DACH
200
Austria, Germany, Switzerland

Nordics
100
Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden



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Read the full report

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