



Grounding the Digital Economy

True Costs, Local Impact, and the New Math of Tech

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Why This Conversation, Why Now?

- Technology is scaling faster than the systems used to account for its impact.
- AI and digital infrastructure are creating new pressures on resources and communities.
- Climate strategy can no longer sit separately from technology strategy.

The next phase requires leaders to connect:



How do we build digital growth that creates lasting value without externalizing its costs?

The Digital Economy Is Physical

Technology Has a Footprint

The digital economy is increasingly shaped by physical infrastructure and resource demands.

AI and digital infrastructure depend on energy, water, land, materials, and communities.



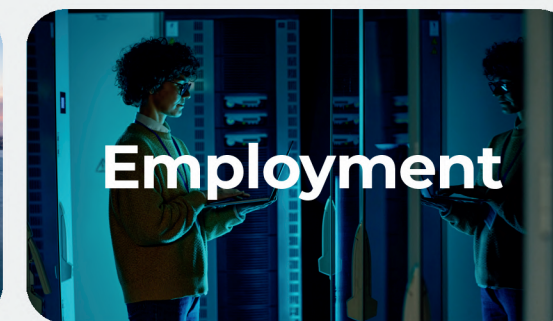
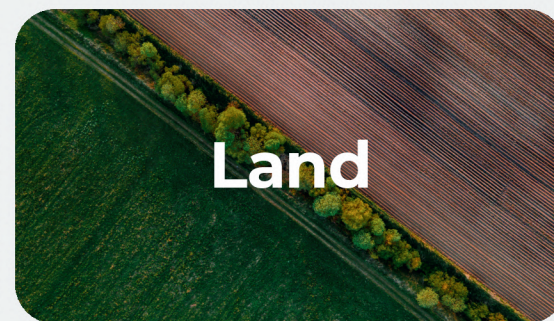
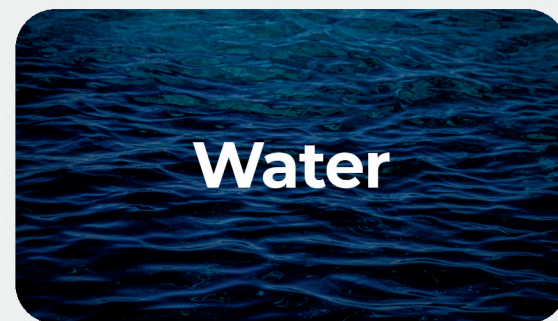
As digital infrastructure scales,
*how do we account for its true costs,
understand its local impacts, and ensure
the value it creates is shared more sustainably?*



From Global Systems to Local Impact

Digital Infrastructure Is Local Infrastructure

A data center may serve a global economy, but its demands are experienced locally.
Infrastructure development can affect:



The summit will examine **how the benefits and burdens of digital growth can be better understood and more equitably distributed.**



The New Math of Tech

What Happens When the Full Cost Enters the Equation?

Traditional financial models often overlook environmental and social externalities.



Emerging approaches offer new ways to measure value:



Sustainable Net Present Value

Environmental and social factors alongside financial returns.



Social Return on Investment

Value created for communities and stakeholders.



Impact-Weighted Accounting

Environmental and social impacts within enterprise performance.



Triple Bottom Line

People, planet, and profit.

The opportunity: move from measuring growth to measuring meaningful value.



Institutional Accountability

Who Is Accountable for the Full Cost of Digital Growth?

As digital infrastructure scales, accountability must extend across the systems that enable it.



Government

Policy, regulation, and public interest.



Industry

Infrastructure decisions and operational impact.



Investors

Capital allocation and long-term value.



Communities

Local interests, resources, and shared outcomes.

How do we build governance that connects responsibility with long-term value?



The Questions We Need to Ask

Rethinking the Economics
of Digital Growth

- What does digital infrastructure really cost?
- Who bears those costs, and who captures the value?
- What should be measured, and by whom?
- How can capital reward regenerative outcomes?
- What role should communities play?
- What governance creates meaningful accountability?



WHAT THE SUMMIT WILL EXPLORE

Seven Dimensions of the Conversation

01

Physical Footprint

Energy, water, land, and materials behind digital growth.

02

Local Impact

Communities, resources, public services, and economic value.

03

True Cost

Environmental and social externalities beyond conventional models.

04

New Models of Value

Emerging approaches to measuring broader returns.

05

Regenerative Finance

Financial structures that support responsible digital growth.

06

Governance & Accountability

The roles of government, industry, investors, and communities.

07

Lasting Value

Ensuring technology benefits the people and places that support it.





Beyond Climate Action

From Mitigation to Economic Design



The climate challenge is increasingly a question of how the economy itself is designed. For digital infrastructure, that means moving beyond reducing emissions toward rethinking how infrastructure is:

Financed • Measured • Governed • Built • Integrated into Communities

The goal:



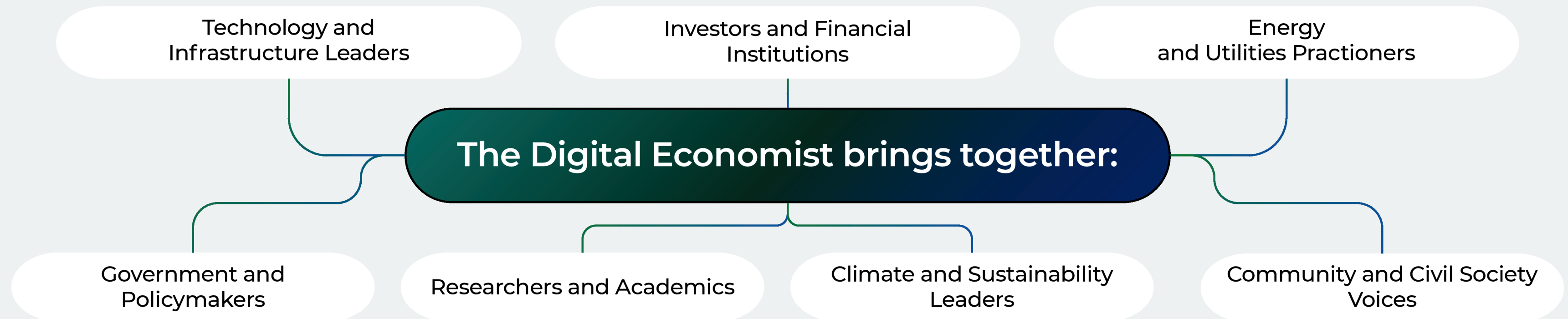
**A regenerative,
human-centered
digital economy.**



WHO NEEDS TO BE AT THE TABLE

Building a Shared View of Digital Growth

The questions surrounding digital infrastructure **cannot be answered by one sector alone.**



Different perspectives. One interconnected system.



THE DIGITAL ECONOMIST