



January 14, 2019

Dear BELC friends,

Happy New Year from all of us at C2ES! I wanted to take a moment to let you know how much we appreciated working with you and your companies in 2018. We have been delighted to learn from you, showcase your leadership and generally promote action on climate change. And we look forward to continuing those efforts in 2019.

At C2ES we firmly embrace the vital importance of business leadership. BELC membership provides an exclusive and unique opportunity to work within and across sectors in charting a sensible and centrist course through a difficult policy landscape. C2ES partners with BELC members to:

- broaden and deepen members' understanding of climate and energy issues,
- produce cutting-edge research that informs business strategy and public policy decision-making,
- facilitate engagement with policymakers and stakeholders at the international, federal, state and local levels, and
- promote collaboration and sharing of best practices.

We know that there are many ways businesses can participate, but we are proud to provide cross-sector collaboration and unique opportunities for growing engagement beyond the increasingly polarized debates. We strive to continue providing and improving value to you as an important part of your company's public face.

This year saw some amazing work and leadership while at the same time the challenges are ever more pressing. The IPCC's recent 1.5 report highlighted the need to act quickly to address climate change and preliminary numbers indicate that US emissions are on the rise again. Engagement by the private sector will be critical for identifying opportunities for increasing ambition and for ensuring that policy makers take steps that reduce emissions and provide policy certainty.

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Enhancing value and growing the BELC are key priorities for us, and we would love to hear where you think there might be opportunity for greater action, particularly as we enter this year with a new Congress. I am also pleased that in the past few months we've welcomed two new members to our BELC – Honda and Goldman Sachs.

I wanted to share some of my reflections on our collective successes of the past year and mention a few areas where we plan to focus our efforts in 2019.

Showcasing business action

- Over the course of the year, C2ES played an active role in several global events to showcase businesses who are leading on climate change. We held public at the [Global Climate Action Summit \(GCAS\)](#) in California, [ClimateWeek NYC](#), and [COP 24](#) in Katowice, where we highlighted how businesses are leveraging some of the opportunities associated with being a climate leader.
- Following COP 24, 17 companies signed a [statement](#) organized by C2ES welcoming the decisions reached at COP 24 on the Paris Rulebook, while also urging governments to quickly conclude remaining issues on the use of market mechanisms in Article 6.

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Research and working groups on top issues – designed to keep you ahead of the curve

- We continued to provide opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing by hosting workshops and webinars on topics on emerging and key issues BELC companies are facing. We hosted webinars and workshops focused on assisting companies reporting on climate-related financial risks and opportunities, including exploring [legal implications](#) of climate risk reporting and [best practices in using scenario analysis](#).
- C2ES also explored a concept that we see helping driving corporate climate ambition with flexibility – [carbon neutrality](#), in which companies set emissions targets in line with the Paris Agreement goal to reach net neutral emissions by mid-century. C2ES held a private roundtable discussion with the BELC and facilitated a public event at [GCAS](#) that included hearing from folks in the corporate community, higher education and local government. Our expectation is that more companies could benefit from working in this frame.
- With the involvement of many of you, C2ES successfully launched our [Climate Innovation 2050](#) initiative. This work is leveraging your business know-how to develop innovative pathways that lead toward long-term decarbonization of the US economy, to result in the development of policy suggestions that we can use to actively engage with leaders on the Hill. Previous work in this area has not had the kind of businesses involvement and ground-truthing we want in this project.
- Natural disasters continued to plague US communities in 2018, highlighting the importance of our work on [climate resilience](#). This past year, C2ES held workshops with state and local leaders to discuss how businesses can inform and support [resilience planning](#) as well as issued several fact sheets on resilience strategies for drought and wildfire.

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Thank you again for your support of the work we do at C2ES. We look forward to working with you on these and many other topics throughout the course of the coming year.

Best,



Bob Perciasepe
President