



## SS01

### **The SETAC-Sustainability Connection: The role of environmental science in developing sustainability strategies**

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The growing global population, shifting demographics, changing climate, and increasing pressure on natural resources have all brought the issue of sustainability to the top of political, social and business agendas, including within SETAC. Reporting on social and environmental issues has become more important than ever, as consumers, investors and other stakeholders demand greater transparency about all aspects of doing business today. Meeting the needs of the present generation in an environmentally sound manner while not compromising the ability of future generations to flourish presents both major challenges and tremendous opportunities for all sectors of society. Governments are beginning to integrate principles of sustainable development in policies and programs they administer. Responsible community design, encouraging the development of 'green' chemistry and engineering practices, and managing materials rather than regulating waste are all examples of a shift towards more environmentally sustainable policies and goals. Many companies are setting public goals to invest in eco-efficiency improvements in their manufacturing, working to develop sustainable practices across their supply chains, often creating environmental value in new ways. Stakeholders from all sectors are learning that everyone has a role in achieving a sustainable lifestyle from utilizing 'green' building practices, to recycling and reuse, to conserving natural resources whenever possible. Environmental scientists across sectors and disciplines play an integral role in the development and implementation of sustainability strategies. Sustainability strategies must be built on a foundation of sound scientific evaluation, such as life cycle assessment and environmental risk assessment, as well as innovations in material or product development, process engineering, building practices, and governance/management strategies. This session will take the form of a roundtable composed of representatives from SETAC global partners, the SETAC advisory group on sustainability, and other stakeholders from different sectors who will discuss their respective sustainability strategies and the role that the science of SETAC plays in these plans while exploring the vision for a comprehensive framework for sustainability assessments.