

Karen L. Coyne, CPEA®, GCB.D

Karen Coyne has been working for 30 years at the intersection of where environmental, social and governance (ESG), enterprise risk management, and business priorities meet. She is both a business leader and a sustainability expert who has led and mentored global teams to successfully navigate the complexity of ESG issues in dynamic, multifaceted business and stakeholder environments. With a focus on strategy, operational excellence, and high performing teams, she has demonstrated meaningful, positive business impact and value creation, ultimately progressing 'measuring what matters' to 'moving what matters.'

Business Experience

Karen is the former Vice President and Global Head of Environment at Novartis where she led the environmental affairs and sustainability corporate function for Novartis Group. She pioneered what is now the Chief Sustainability Officer role, and accelerated Novartis' efforts as a corporate sustainability leader through first-of-their-kind research partnerships, collaborative industry alliances, and a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy with ambitious science-based targets. In prior roles at Novartis, Karen led Global Health, Safety, Environment (HSE) and Business Continuity function and operations for two divisions of the company.

Prior to Novartis, Karen served as a Strategic Advisor to New York University's private-public sector, post-9/11 collaboration on global risk and security, the International Center for Enterprise Preparedness. The forum focused on business preparedness and operational resilience, bringing together senior officials and leadership from the United Nations (UN), United States and European governments, and multinational firms. Prior to NYU, Karen was on the management team and board of CoVeris, a private company startup providing independent auditing and verification of corporate HSE and sustainability reports. Karen began her career with 15 years of increasing responsibilities at an international consulting and engineering services firm, AECOM Environment and its predecessor firms, working with Fortune 500 clients providing management consulting, regulatory compliance, and auditing services as they expanded globally across emerging markets.

Relevant Board and Advisory Experience

Karen served as Board Chair from 1997 to 2014 at BRIDGES to Sustainability, a nonprofit research institute focused on integration of sustainability through technology, with corporate and non-governmental organization partners including AT&T, Conoco, DuPont, Interface, Phillips Petroleum, UN Environment Programme, and World Resources Institute (WRI). Karen was an External Expert Advisor to the Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) on The Metrics Navigator™ Project and was elected twice by membership to serve on the Board of Directors of The Auditing Roundtable, a professional association for HSE and sustainability auditors.

Current Professional Affiliations

Karen is a member of and actively involved with several international, national, and local professional organizations, including the Competent Boards Alumni Group, WomenExecs on Boards, Extraordinary Women on Boards, Sustainable Brands, New England Women in Energy and the Environment, and The Boston Club.

Education

Karen has a Bachelor of Science degree (Marine Fisheries Biology) from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst), and a Master of Science degree in Natural and Environmental Resources, Resource Administration and Management from the University of New Hampshire. She was nominated by Novartis and participated in the Women on Boards corporate governance program at Harvard Business School in 2018, and in 2021 received the ESG Competent Boards Certificate and Global Competent Boards Designation (GCB.D). Karen is a Certified Professional Environmental Auditor (CPEA®). She has lived and worked internationally and resides outside Boston, Massachusetts, USA.