

WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024
[IEEE Knowledge Café: Knowledge Sharing for Sustainable Development](#)

Wednesday, 29 May 2024, 12:00-13:30 CEST

This open and interactive dialogue discussed a future state where the Sustainability Commons is now a go-to-platform, a digital knowledge commons, for the collection of information on Climate and Sustainability Technology. Participants exchanged recommendations and ideas that can help initiate building and maintaining a sustainability commons initiative.

Discussed key benefits and advantages of this future platform included:

- A common, standardised, agreed-upon method to collect and access information to support a circular economy that is open to all stakeholders
- A collaborative source and trusted model that provides access to information that saves time and energy in individual's and community's efforts to implement a greener future, and that everyone can learn from
- An open resource for all stakeholders to have equal opportunities to access information for implementing sustainability in their lives

Discussed potential key challenges of maintaining such a model included:

- Uncertainty around the platform's governance process, accountability and financial liability, and the need for "checks and balances."
- The fact that a sustainability commons could be interpreted and approached differently by different communities/cultures/countries.
- How would such a Commons be supported (i.e., infrastructure) and by what bodies/organisations?

Discussants concurred that:

- In order for stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and sectors to collaborate, modern technology tools (such as AI) could be used to improve communication.
- The Commons would have to allow cross-fertilisation and inclusive recognizing the need for diverse solutions so they are relevant to different cultures and regions.
- Training and education would be needed so there is sustainable and ongoing stewardship of the Commons.
- Critical success factors and strategies for fostering community engagement and ownership of a Sustainability Commons over the long-term include education around the dynamics of individual/collective behaviour on sustainability, and the need for incentives (financial, knowledge, role models).