The Importance of High Quality Information

Paul Dickinson, CEO, Carbon Disclosure Project
High Quality Information

• Climate change is the most challenging crisis ever faced by humanity

• In order to solve it, both governments and the private sector require high quality information which is measurable, reportable and verifiable

• Market signals must be based on information which is both accurate and material
What gets measured gets managed

• “The fact is that in modern society there is no other leadership group but managers.”

• Measurement and management is particularly important when we are faced with an economic externality such as greenhouse gas emissions.

• More information is needed if we are to influence market decisions and shift to a low-carbon economy.
The work of the Carbon Disclosure Project

• CDP leverages the authority of 475 institutional investors with assets of $55 trillion, and 50 large purchasers including multinational corporations and government departments

• 82% of the world’s largest 500 corporations report climate change information to CDP

• This data is fed into the marketplace and influences investment and purchasing decisions
Corporate reporting and regulation

- Government regulation of climate change reporting is increasing, and this is a good thing.

- However there is a risk of fragmentation resulting in information of sub-optimal quality.

- Linkage, standardisation and harmonisation are needed.
Moving towards high-quality information on climate change

- We are at a transitional point but cannot stay here for long

- We need a global clearing house for comparable private sector climate change information – CDP can help!

- We need increased standardisation and integration into mainstream reporting, e.g. through the work of the Climate Disclosure Standards Board