2019 Global Compact Network USA SDG Pioneer — Meg Parker Young

As a Director of Impact Strategy and Development at Thomson Reuters, Meg paved the way for the organization to lead on environmental issues as well as advancing peace, justice and strong institutions through alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Through her role, she has developed a working strategy for streamlined impact focus areas that closely aligned to core business strengths. She enabled the company to leverage its capacities in law, tax and journalism, its employee skill-sets and customer and community networks.

Her work has cumulatively resulted in the launch of three new corporate carbon targets. She dramatically improved corporate carbon targets in support of Goal 7, 12, and 13. In early 2019, she worked with the CEO and CFO to develop and approve targets for carbon neutrality for the whole of global operations in 2019. She helped them commit to 100 percent, renewable energy sourcing, and integration of the UN Global Compact supported Science Based Targets initiative by 2020. These initiatives were launched on Earth Day of this year, along with employee sustainability challenges across a workforce of 20,000.

As part of her strategy to align the company to Goal 16, her team has engaged, mobilized, inspired, and rallied colleagues at every level of the organization. In conjunction with this strategy, the CEO has incorporated sustainable development values into core statements to leaders and stakeholders. This work has also created a platform for the organization’s Chief Financial Officer to develop his voice around sustainability issues. Further, her strategy has supported promoting the work of the organization’s female journalists to the forefront of conversations on transparency and freedom of the press. As a result, her team has drawn the attention of over 5,000 employees to the organization’s sustainability conversations and resulted in over 70 unique ideas for furthering corporate sustainability from the working level on up.

In addition, she has created new collaborations in support of access to justice and transparency with TrustLaw, the Goal 16 Action Platform, the Reporter’s Committee for Freedom of the Press, the National Association for Media Literacy Educators, and more.

Thomas Reuters is planning an event this September to co-host with the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s TrustLaw Team and the Goal 16 Action Platform in support of the UN General Assembly working conversations on Goal 16 and implications for the legal field.