

# Todd Cort, MS, PhD, PE, DipWSET

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## SUMMARY

Accomplished academic leader with over 10+ years' experience in administration, teaching and researching within corporate sustainability and sustainable finance and 20+ years' experience in the private sector. Multiple administrative roles at Yale University overseeing centers, EMBA degree focus area and business school-wide strategic initiatives. Demonstrated ability and commitment to creating effective collaborations and spurring innovation with administration, faculty, alumni, donors, students, local community and global partners. Over 20 years' experience managing budgets, office operations and raising funds in academia and the private sector.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **2014-Present**

**Yale University, New Haven, CT USA**

- *Senior Lecturer in Sustainability, Yale School of Management*
- *Secondary Faculty Appointment, Yale School of the Environment*
- *Faculty Director, Executive MBA Degree Program in Sustainability*
- *Faculty Co-Director, Yale Center for Business and the Environment*
- *Faculty Co-Director and Founder, Yale Initiative on Sustainable Finance*
- *Affiliated Faculty, Yale Center on Climate Change and Health*
- *Director, Yale School of Management Committee for Online Curriculum Strategy*

### ***Duties and Responsibilities***

- Significantly boost the visibility of sustainability efforts at the Yale School of Management (SOM).
- Create and foster an ecosystem of collaboration for business, society and the environment at SOM, Yale School of the Environment (YSE) and Yale University broadly that includes students, alumni, leading practitioners, policymakers and leading private sector actors in sustainability.
- Develop curriculum and integrated learning opportunities for Yale students, the community of New Haven and global partners that embodies SOM's Mission: "To Educate Leaders in Business and Society".
- Develop and foster world-class research and convenings across SOM and YSE at the intersection of business, society and environment.
- Support SOM, the Yale Center for Business and Environment (CBEY) and Yale Initiative on Sustainable Finance (YISF) to raise funds, build the alumni donor network and create external partnerships.
- Create and teach graduate-level courses in corporate sustainability and sustainable finance for Yale students and students in the Global Network for Advanced Management (GNAM).

### ***Key Accomplishments***

- **Raised \$10M in new funding for SOM and CBEY:**  
Worked with the SOM and YSE Development Offices to bring in over \$10M in new funding from a range of sources including corporate sponsorships, foundation grants and alumni gifts. These include multi-year grants from Iberdrola and BNY Mellon to support clean energy finance, accelerator programs, an annual conference on clean energy, research on distributed solar, best practice in net zero target setting, and novel ESG and financial risk metrics.
- **Elevated Yale SOM as a leader in sustainable finance:**  
Founded YISF and led Yale's membership in the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment. I also led the creation of the annual Yale Sustainable Finance Symposium and Yale Impact Investing Conference.
- **Created learning resources in business and society for Yale students and beyond:**  
Written or supported the creation of 11 business case studies focused on business and society, developed 7 new courses in corporate sustainability and sustainable finance, created 3 online

courses for executive education and worked with dozens of faculty members at Yale and GNAM schools to create content for business students and communities around the world.

- **Created a globally ranked EMBA curriculum in sustainability:**  
Designed, sourced and implemented a full second-year curriculum in sustainability for EMBA students. Since then, I have integrated that curriculum with research centers across Yale University to create independent study and internship opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. I have also worked directly with career development, IT, business development and the SOM Dean's office to build on the success of the EMBA program and our alumni to drive global interest and recognition of the EMBA sustainability track.
- **Pioneered cross-disciplinary research in sustainability:**  
In addition to three edited books on Sustainable Finance, I have published peer-reviewed journal articles exploring the intersection of sustainable management, finance, law and governance as well as practitioner white papers with leading international organizations. I also direct two world-class centers at Yale working at the intersection of society, environment, business, economics, law and policy. The outputs and impact of these centers is vast and ranges from a suite of successful entrepreneurs to research that is influencing real-world investment decisions to the creation of global platforms of collaboration in clean energy finance and conservation finance.
- **Created networks of stakeholders in business and society for school and students:**  
Served as the point person for a number of partnerships including the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board, the Science-Based Target Initiative, Green Bonds Council, International Capital Market Association, Global Network for Advanced Management and the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment. These organizations, as well as the extensive Yale network, provide vast opportunities to bring the right people to the table for collaborative solutions, events, curriculum and research as well as more structured career opportunities for students.

**2013–2014** **TUV Rheinland North America, Inc, San Francisco, CA, USA**  
*Global Director, Sustainability Services*

**2005-2013** **DNV GL (formerly csr network Ltd), Bath, United Kingdom**  
*President, North American Advisory*  
*Principal Consultant*

#### ***Duties and Responsibilities***

- Develop and deliver sustainability advisory services for corporate clients around the world.
- Responsible for P/L, annual budget, quarterly financial reports and deliverables for up to \$30M revenue business lines.
- Direct line manager for advisory team.
- Report directly to CEO and serve on Executive Committee for North American business division.
- Coordinate sales offerings and activities in sustainability for a 1,200 member global sales team.

#### ***Key Accomplishments***

- **Built a \$30M advisory practice in sustainability:**  
At the peak of my private sector career, my team delivered over \$30M in advisory services within a \$3B global company.
- **Built a global consulting team from scratch:**  
Built the TUV advisory services from the ground up including a core team of ~30 highly skilled consultants seated in the EU and USA.
- **Participated in sustainability standards development:**  
Served as advisor in the development of key sustainability standards such as the Global Reporting Initiative Assurance Standard, AA1000 Assurance Standard and SASB Oil and Gas Standard.

**2001-2005** **Cameron-Cole, LLC, Alameda, CA, USA**  
*Manager West Coast Strategic Services*  
*Engineering Team Leader*

**2000-2005**

**Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA**

*Adjunct Assistant Research Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering and Science*

*Affiliated Faculty, Center for the Experimental Study of Subsurface Environmental Processes*

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

**2025-present**     **Avisk Inc.**

*Chief Strategist*

**2019-present**     **PRIME Coalition**

*Member, Academic Advisory Council*

*Member, Mission Alignment Committee*

**2017-present**     **Save the Sound**

*Chair, Board of Directors*

**2014-present**     **NPV Associates**

*Co-Founder and Principal*

**2014-present**     **ESG Compass**

*Executive Board Member*

**2020-2024**     **Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment**

*Member, Board of Directors, Chair Conferences Committee*

**2021-2024**     **Merck KGaA Sustainability Advisory Committee**

*Committee Member*

**2020–2023**     **Science-Based Target Initiative Financial Sector Project**

*Member Expert Advisory Group*

**2020-2023**     **Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment**

*Associate Editor*

**2017-2022**     **World Business Council for Sustainable Development**

*Liaison Delegate for Yale University*

**2016-2022**     **JUST Capital**

*Member, Scientific Advisory Group*

**2020-2021**     **ICMA Green Bonds Eligibility**

*Expert Working Group Member*

**2018-2020**     **African Impact Advisory and Foundation**

*Advisory Board Member*

**2018-2019**     **Journal of Organization and Environment**

*Guest Editor for Special Issue on State of ESG Standards*

**2017-2018**     **Journal of Environmental Investing**

*Guest Editor for Special Issue on State of ESG Data*

**2012-2017**     **Newfield Exploration Company**

*Chair, External Advisory Group*

**2015-2016**     **Conscious Capitalism, Connecticut Chapter**

*Member, Board of Directors*

**2014-2015**     **CommonFund Institute**

*Member, Sustainability Advisory Committee*

**2010-2015**     **Sustainability Accounting Standards Board**

*Member, Advisory Council*

*Member, Oil and Gas Working Group*

**2010–2011**     **Global Reporting Initiative**

*Member, Assurance Standards Working group*

#### **DEGREES AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

**Ph.D.**     University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2000

Dissertation: Effects of Surfactants on Pentachlorophenol Biodegradation by *Sphingomonas chlorophenolicum* sp. Strain RA2. Advisor: Angela R. Bielefeldt

**M.S.**     University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, Biochemistry, 1997

Research Project: Characterization of the Reaction Products of a Reductive Tetrachlorohydroquinone Dehalogenase. Advisor: Shelley Copley

**B.S.** University of California, San Diego, CA, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, 1993  
Honors Thesis: Correlation of Plasma Zinc Concentrations to Zinc-Binding Proteins in Snakes and other Vertebrates. Advisor: Paul Saltman.  
Cum Laude, Departmental Honors, Minor: Environmental Chemistry

***California Professional Engineer***

California Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, 2005, License # 68729

***SA8000 Auditor***

SAI

***DipWSET***

Wine and Spirits Education Trust

**SELECTED AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

2024 “Up and Coming Thinkers”, Thinkers50 Radar, <https://thinkers50.com/radar-2024/>

2018, 2020 Teaching Award, MBA for Executives, Yale School of Management

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Corporate Sustainability and Sustainable Finance**

***Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles, Books and Proceedings***

- Escoffier, M., Herbert, B., **Cort, T.** & Melin, L. (2025) Creating Shareholder Value by Improving Training and Health and Safety, *Journal of Impact & ESG Investing*, Spring.
- **Cort, T.** Nascimento, D. and Park, S. (2025) Disclosure of Corporate Risk from Socio-Economic Inequality, *Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment*, 1–19.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/20430795.2025.2452643>
- Moldovan, E., **Cort, T.**, Goldberg, M., Marlon, J., & Leiserowitz, A. (2024). The evolving climate change investing strategies of asset owners. *Npj Climate Action*, 3(1), 82.
- Moldovan, E., **Cort, T.**, Goldberg, M., Marlon, J. and Leiserowitz, A. (2023) Fiduciary Duty and Climate Change: Thinking Beyond Short-term Profit; *I by IMD*, December.
- Senay, E., Liu, I., Mickel, G., Bialowitz, J., **Cort, T.**, & Sherman, J. D. (2023). Proposed SEC Climate Rules: Implications for the US Health Care Sector. *NEJM Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery*, 4(6).
- Miller, T. and **Cort, T.** (2023) The Sustainable Corporation: A Legal and Business Centric Approach to (ESG), *American Bar Association*.
- **Cort, T.** (2023) The Pragmatist’s Guide to ESG, *Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development*, 65:4, 10-17
- Esty, D., & **Cort, T.** (2021). Toward Enhanced Corporate Sustainability Disclosure: Making ESG Reporting Serve Investor Needs. *Va. L. & Bus. Rev.*, 16, 423.
- Senay, E., **Cort, T.**, Perkison J.G., Laestadius, W.B., and Foster, J. (2021) What can hospitals learn from The Coca-Cola Company?, *New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery*, 3(3). <https://catalyst.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/CAT.21.0362>
- **Cort, T.** (2021) Yale School of Management Online Course: “Corporate Sustainability Management: Risk, Profit, and Purpose”, <https://www.getsmarter.com/products/yale-som-execed-corporate-sustainability-management-risk-profit-and-purpose-online-program>.
- Esty, D. and **Cort, T.** (2020) Values at Work: The State of ESG Investing, Palgrave MacMillan
- **Cort, T.**, Wijdoogen, C., Fucci, G., Lowe, E. and Tyack, S. (2020) “A Case for System Indicators to Drive Change Toward Sustainable Mobility”, *International Business Review*.
- **Cort, T.** (2019) A Better Planet: Forty Big Ideas for a Sustainable Future, *Making Companies Work for Society: Harnessing Global Financial Markets for Sustainability*, Daniel C. Esty Ed., Yale University Press
- **Cort, T.** and Esty, D.C. (2019) “ESG Standards: Looming Challenges and Pathways Forward”, *Organization & Environment*, 33(4), 491-510.

- **Cort, T.** (2018) “Incentivizing the Direction of Multi-Capital Toward Inclusive Capitalism”, *Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investing* (8)3 203-212.
- Krosinsky, C. and **Cort, T.** (2018) *Sustainable Innovation and Impact*, Routledge.
- Reed, P., Yonavjak, L. and **Cort, T.** (2018) “Data-Driven Green Bond Ratings: The Key to Climate Finance”, *The Journal of Investing*, 28(2), 66-76.
- Esty, D. and **Cort, T.** (2017) “Corporate sustainability metrics: what investors need but don’t get”, *Journal of Environmental Investing*, (8)1.
- Esty, D. and **Cort, T.** (2016) “The data challenges which remain”, *Sustainable Investing: Revolutions in Theory and Practice*, Editors: Cary Krosinsky and Sophie Purdom, Routledge Publishing.
- **Cort, T.** and Seminario, J.V. (2015) “On Socialism, Price and Sustainability”, *Journal of Environmental Investing*, 7(1), 2016.
- **Cort, T.** and Gudernatch, S. (2014) “Do enterprise risk management frameworks effectively capture sustainability risks in the oil and gas industry?” *Society for Petroleum Engineers March 2014 International HSE Conference Proceedings*
- Line, M., Woodhead, J., **Cort, T.** and Euler, A. (2007) *Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment, Best Practice Series, “Corporate Social Responsibility: A Guide to Good Practice”*, August, Vol. 9.
- **Cort, T.**, Sasala, C. and Sonnier, L. (2004) “A Customer Perspective – Railroad Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Strategies”, *Railroad Environmental Conference*, Champaign.

#### **Online Courses and Case Studies**

- **Cort, T.** (2022) Yale School of Management Online Course: “Corporate Climate Change Risk Management”, <https://som.yale.edu/executive-education/for-individuals/leadership/corporate-climate-change-risk-management>
- **Cort, T.** (2021) Yale School of Management Online Course: “Corporate Sustainability Management: Risk, Profit, and Purpose”, <https://www.getsmarter.com/products/yale-som-execed-corporate-sustainability-management-risk-profit-and-purpose-online-program>.
- **Cort, T.** (2021) Yale School of Management Online Course: “Corporate Sustainability Management: Risk, Profit, and Purpose”, <https://som.yale.edu/executive-education/for-individuals/leadership/corporate-sustainability-management-risk-profit-and-purpose>
- **Cort, T.** (2021) Yale School of Management Online Course: “Sustainable Finance and Investment”, <https://som.yale.edu/executive-education/for-individuals/finance/sustainable-finance-and-investment>
- Esty, D. **Cort, T.** Strauss, D. and Yeargain, T. (2020) “Toward Enhanced Sustainability Disclosure: Identifying Obstacles to Broader and More Actionable ESG Reporting”, <https://envirocenter.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/YISF%20ESG%20Reporting%20White%20Paper.pdf>
- **Cort, T.** (2016) “The electoral college is thwarting our ability to battle global warming”, *Washington Post Energy and Environment*, December 19, 2016. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/12/19/the-electoral-college-is-thwarting-our-ability-to-battle-global-warming/?utm\\_term=.38b758953dcb](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/12/19/the-electoral-college-is-thwarting-our-ability-to-battle-global-warming/?utm_term=.38b758953dcb)
- Forman, C., Elias, J., **Cort, T.** and Rosenthal, J. (2016) “Coffee 2016,” *Yale SOM Case 16-013*, April 1
- Elias, J., Rosenthal, J., **Cort, T.**, and Bach, D. (2015) “AXA: Creating the New CR Metrics,” *Yale SOM Case 101-15*, March 11
- Francheschini, L. Wang, J. and **Cort, T.** (2016) Rising leaders on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, <https://cbey.yale.edu/programs-research/rising-leaders-on-environmental-sustainability-and-climate-change>

#### **Science and Engineering**

#### **Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Conference Proceedings**

- **Cort, T.**, SK Park, C. Wozniak, and A.R. Bielefeldt. (2006) "Biotreatment of Surfactant Flush Wastewater from Wood Treatment Soil". *ASCE Journal of Environmental Engineering*, 132(1), 112-119.
- Bielefeldt, A.R. and **Cort, T.** (2005) "Dual Substrate Biodegradation of a Non-ionic Surfactant and Pentachlorophenol by *Sphingomonas chlorophenolica* RA2", *Biotechnology and Bioengineering*, 89 (6), 680-689.
- Hennessy, L., **Cort, T.** and Fiore, V. (2005) "Natural Attenuation of Chlorinated Solvents at a Chemical Spill Site in Wyoming: A Case Study", Batelle Bioremediation Symposium, Baltimore.
- Davis, C., **Cort, T.**, Dai, D., Illangasekare, T. and Munakata-Marr, M. (2003) "Effects of Heterogeneity and Experimental Scale on the Biodegradation of Diesel", *Biodegradation*, 14, 373-384.
- **Cort, T.**, Song, M-S. and Bielefeldt, A. (2002) "Mechanism of surfactant effects on pentachlorophenol biodegradation". *Water Research*, 36, 1253-1261
- **Cort, T.** and Bielefeldt, A. (2002) "A kinetic model for surfactant inhibition of pentachlorophenol biodegradation". *Bioremediation and Biotechnology*, 78(6), 606-616.
- **Cort, T.**, Davis, C.A., Dai, D., Illangasekare, T.H. and Munakata-Marr, J. (2001) "Intermediate-scale evaluation of bioremediation technologies in heterogeneous, LNAPL-contaminated soil", Proceedings of the Conference on Environmental Research, Hazardous Substance Research Center, Manhattan.
- **Cort, T.** and Bielefeldt, A.R. (2000) "Mechanism and kinetics of surfactant effects on pentachlorophenol biodegradation", Rocky Mountain Hazardous Waste Research Conference, Denver.
- Illangasekare, T.H., **Cort, T.**, Saba, T., Barranco, F. and Dai, D. (2000) "Pilot-scale laboratory evaluation of subsurface restoration technologies for a diesel contaminated site", Summit of the Geological Society of America, Reno.
- **Cort, T.** and Bielefeldt, A. (2000). "Effects of surfactants and temperature on pentachlorophenol biodegradation". *ASCE J. Env. Eng.*, 126, 635-643
- **Cort, T.**, Masuoka, J., Lance, V.A. and Saltman, P. (1995). "Plasma zinc concentrations in snakes and other vertebrates correlate with specific zinc-binding plasma proteins". *J. Zool. Lond.* 236:513-520.
- Lance, V.A., **Cort, T.**, Masuoka, J., Lawson, R. and Saltman, P. (1995). "Unusually high zinc concentrations in snake plasma, with observations on plasma zinc concentrations in lizards, turtles and alligators". *J. Zool. Lond.* 235:577-585.