

## IcebreakerOne.org

Icebreaker One is a new global non-profit bridging the data gaps between science, policy and finance to help deliver a carbon net-zero future. Our ambition is to help influence \$trillions of investment within 10-years and deliver demonstrably net-zero outcomes by 2030.

Huge opportunities exist to deliver innovative financing for a resilient and carbon-zero future. However, while there is an ocean of available capital, the lack of data-flow is leading to the misallocation of resources, missed opportunities and is creating catastrophic risks on our global balance sheets. Better data availability, quality and interoperability will increase the effectiveness of mitigation, remediation and adaptation.

The wealth of data we have must be made usable to direct capital to address our climate and environmental crises: to radically improve our investments in, and planning and management of, our global infrastructure. Our **data infrastructure** is as important as our physical infrastructure in averting the climate crisis but it is being dangerously neglected.

While 'data' is described as an industry need, 'technology' is only a tiny part of the solution (we have most of the technologies we need today). We are exploring how the data-driven economy can be shaped to:

1. Enable climate-ready financial instruments
2. Enable climate-aware risk management
3. Enable climate-credible deployment of robust, long-term solutions

We are working with businesses, governments, investors, NGOs and universities to understand their needs and prioritise them into actions that we can then help lead. We are developing standards, principles and practice that will make it easier to share essential data that is currently stuck. We hope to enable global data marketplaces to emerge that will help investors address the climate and biodiversity crises. We are building on decades of experience in helping to unlock data interoperability—or access to **shared** data—across sectors, including financial services.

### Benefits & outcomes

- Address **business models**, **legal** and **policy** needs to unlock data sharing (e.g. licensing for use and re-use, rights, security, liability, regulation)
- Develop & share expertise in **knowledge**, **practice** and **culture**
- Improve the **provision**, **reliability** and **trust** of data publishing
- Develop policy for **climate-specific interventions** across the financial ecosystem
- Unlock the **data ecosystem** across global sensors, satellites, internet of things (IoT), geospatial, asset registries, risk reporting, trading schemes and financial instruments
- Enable **data discovery** (e.g. data search) at web-scale: lay the foundations for the web of environmental data

More: <http://icebreakerone.org>

**Collaborators** (selection):

Lloyds Register, AON, Brit Insurance, Arup, University of Cambridge, Bird&Bird, UN

## About Gavin Starks / [gavin@dgen.net](mailto:gavin@dgen.net) / +44 (0) 7931 387 769

Gavin has helped deliver data-driven change across sectors for 25 years.

At the request of HM Treasury, he co-chaired the development of the Open Banking Standard, bringing together 150 people from across industry, government and society to develop common principles and practice that would enable confidential data to be shared while addressing security, privacy, liability and rights. It mandates data **sharing** across the entire UK banking sector. A core learning was that the majority of work was not technical but cultural: we have the technologies we need already, but rarely the drive to make it useful.

The outcome is that Standard is regulated in the UK, with over 400 fintech companies engaged in a new data market. It is estimated that Open Banking has created over \$20B in market value in the UK within three years of launching. Further, as the standard itself was made open, over 20 countries have copied and adapted it for their own purposes.

The work is being extended to **Open Finance**. The UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is pushing similar approaches in insurance, pensions and investments. Simultaneously, the FCA has created a **Climate Financial Risk Forum** to explore how the wealth of data we have can be used to help address climate and environmental risks: to radically improve our investments in, and planning and management of, our global infrastructure. Gavin sits as an advisor in both groups, helping to lead on innovation that spans policy, finance and climate.

Previously he was founding CEO of the Open Data Institute (ODI), helping dozens of governments and businesses around the world develop their data strategies. It incubated over 40 startups, trained over 10,000 people and created over 30 franchises across 20 countries to help facilitate impact. The ODI created over \$150M in direct value within three years and demonstrated that the value of 'just' open data in the UK is 0.5% GDP.

Gavin has been involved in setting up and running dozens of data-driven businesses: from joining the founding team of Virgin Net in 1995 to raising \$12M venture funding to aggregate the world's greenhouse gas standards: AMEE made it easy to carbon footprint anything and created an environmental score for every company in the UK ('AMEE.com'). It was used by UK Government to enable over 2M people to calculate their climate impact.

Previously he chaired the development of the first Gold Standard carbon offset, was a member of the Smart London Advisory Board and Ministry of Justice Data, Evidence and Science Board, advising strategy and implementation.

In the media sector, he created one of the first streaming media companies in Europe, working with investment banks, oil companies and broadcasters. He also built one of the first digital distribution companies, aggregating the world's music and providing the b2b delivery infrastructure for 25% of the market.

He lives on-board a century-old Norwegian cargo ship (which he converted) and co-built a cooperative harbour on the Thames on which to moor it (500m from Tower Bridge). In his spare time, he is combining astrophysics and music to create a soniverse (a sonic interpretation of cosmology).