

SAVe 2026 Global Conference

“Lead the Change”

UCLA Covel Commons | October 13-14, 2026 | Los Angeles, California

Post-Conference Report

SAVe
Sustainability in AV

SAVe 2026 Global Conference Mission & Goals

Adopted in 2015 by all 193 U.N. member nations including the United States, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets to secure “peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.”

From climate change and environmental degradation to poverty and inequality, the challenges we face are profound, diverse, and getting worse. To cite just one aspect of the sustainability crisis, the rapid pace of technology development has meant that products are being replaced in increasingly shorter life cycles leading to serious environmental consequences. In 2024 alone, 62.5 million metric tons of e-waste were generated globally. This number has increased 21% in the past 5 years. By 2030 – our deadline for achieving the SDGs – the amount of e-waste generated annually is projected to reach to 82 million metric tons.

We must address the sustainability challenge as nations, as individuals and as businesses. In furtherance of our mission as the first U.S.-based global organization to bring industry stakeholders together to do our part to achieve the SDGs, SAVe held its third annual Global Conference on October 13-14, 2026, at Covel Commons event center on the campus of UCLA in Los Angeles.

As reflected in the event’s theme, “Lead the Change,” our goal for SAVe 2026 went far beyond spreading awareness of the sustainability crisis. We focused on enlarging the ranks of SAVe volunteers and leadership: Providing leadership in the form of educational forums, workshops and planning sessions to help industry members do their part to achieve sustainable development; and drawing attention to the rapid progress we have made in advancing sustainability as a priority for manufacturers.

SAVe 2026 also served as a bridge to establish partnerships with non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and other organizations who share our conviction that we must take urgent action to preserve the health of our planet, communities, and people.







What SAVe achieved at the 2026 Global Conference

By every measure, the SAVe 2026 Global Conference was a resounding success. Over two inspiring days at UCLA, AV industry leaders, manufacturers, integrators, educators, sustainability experts, and advocates came together to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and advance our industry's commitment to sustainability.

SAVe delivered substantive content to attendees.

Our third annual conference demonstrated both the urgency of the challenges we face and the tremendous opportunities we have to create meaningful change. Topics included:

Keynote Addresses

How Sustainability Drives Innovation in AV

Michael Blackman, Managing Director of ISE Events.

Widely recognized as perhaps the most influential person in AV, Michael Blackman has grown Integrated Systems Europe fortyfold during his tenure and continues to manage its explosive growth. Under his leadership, ISE has put a stake in the ground regarding sustainability, making it an official industry "Mega Trend" and devoting considerable resources to exemplifying and advocating for the principles of sustainability. His address centered on four principal topics: product and manufacturing innovation; lifecycle thinking and how it creates new business models; customer expectations and procurement standards; and ISE's efforts to advance sustainability through the ISE Foundation. His presentation concluded with a call to action for industry members to fully integrate sustainability into processes, business models and manufacturing.

From Recognition to Remedy: Research and Advocacy at the Intersection of Electronic Waste and Sustainable Development

Oladele "Dele" Ogunseitan, PhD., University of California Presidential Chair, UC Irvine, Distinguished Professor of Population Health and Disease Prevention.

Professor Ogunseitan's address presented an overview of more than two decades of research and advocacy dedicated to identifying and remedying the adverse health and environmental impacts of e-waste, and highlighted pathways toward solutions, drawing on collaborative work with industry partnerships. Attention was also given to end-of-life product stewardship as one of the most immediately actionable opportunities available.

Sustaining Earth's Materials – New Paradigms and Opportunities

Diran Apelian, Distinguished Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, University of California Irvine.

Professor Apelian's address focused on the importance of reexamining sustainability through the lens of design and manufacturing for recovery and recycling. The global AV industry runs on technology that depends on critical and near-critical elements whose supply chains are strained, geopolitically concentrated, and largely linear: extracted, used and discarded. Drawing on the work of the Institute for Sustainable Processes and Resource Convergence for Critical Materials (SPARC), he offered a roadmap for recovering critical elements from secondary vs. virgin sources, rethinking how materials are made and unmade, and forging partnerships among researchers, industry and policy makers.

Panel Discussions, Breakout Sessions & Additional Addresses

Panel Discussion: UCLA's SAVe Certification Experience

Joe Way, Moderator; Co-Founder, HETMA; Executive Director of Digital Spaces, UCLA.

Accompanied by a panel of students who participated in the SAVe Certification program, Joe Way reviewed the UCLA Digital Spaces' sustainability journey over the past year, sharing outcomes from the SAVe Certification program and highlighting the importance of developing sustainability plans that are actionable, measurable, and, in their own right, sustainable in a campus environment.

Workshop: SAVe Certification

Julie Legault, Facilitator; SAVe Ambassador to Canada; CEO of Techni+Contact.

Participants gained an understanding of the SDGs and brainstormed ideas on how their organizations can have a positive impact toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Individuals were broken out into teams and assigned 1-3 SDGs to address. At the conclusion of the workshop, team leaders reported on the ideas that their teams generated. The purpose of this section was to familiarize attendees with SAVe Certification so that they could initiate the process at their organizations and collaborate with SAVe to achieve Certification.

Workshop: Sustainable Manufacturing

Mike Rogers, Facilitator; Co-Chair, SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council; Senior Sustainability Manager, Crestron.

The SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council seeks to be the leading global reference in sustainability for audiovisual equipment manufacturers, driving a more conscious, efficient and innovative sector that produces products with reduced environmental impact, greater energy efficiency, and integrated social responsibility. Attendees learned about how the Sustainable Manufacturer Council works and how they can advance its urgent objectives.

Breakout Session: Global Change Makers: The Impact of Our SAVe Ambassadors

Dan Ferrisi, Moderator; Group Editor of Content + Editorial, Industrial + Tech, Forge (Commercial Integrator) | Sarah Drysdale – Panelist; SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council; SAVe Ambassador to Australia; COO, CommBox | Yas Grigaliunas – Panelist; SAVe Ambassador to Australia; Chief Experience Officer, Videopro | Julie Legault – Panelist; SAVe Ambassador to Canada; CEO, Techni+Contact.

This breakout session focused on the global nature of SAVe's mission; the importance of tailoring SAVe's initiatives to each country and region where we seek to advance the SDGs; the significant achievements our Ambassadors have charted in a very short time; the ways our diverse membership makes SAVe a stronger, more credible and effective organization; and SAVe's goals for the Ambassador program.

Breakout Session: Partnerships for the Goals: The Impact of Our Partnerships with HETMA, AVIXA and ISE

Steph Beckett, Moderator; Executive Editor of rAVe [PUBS] | Michael Blackman, Panelist; Managing Director of ISE Events | Troy Powers, Panelist; AV Support Systems Lead, Northwestern University; HETMA Vice Chair | Stefan Lefebvre, Panelist; Senior Manager, Global Industry Engagement Programs, AVIXA.

This session focused on the critical role of partnerships in achieving the strength in numbers necessary to effect meaningful change; the basis of SAVe's strategic partnerships with HETMA, AVIXA, and ISE; key aspects of SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals, which highlights the importance of fostering collaboration and cooperation among governments, the private sector and civil society to achieve the other 16 SDGs; and SAVe's invitation to other organizations to partner with us in our movement for change.

Breakout Session: Sustainability in Manufacturing

Mike Rogers, Moderator; Co-Chair, SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council; Senior Sustainability Manager, Crestron | Wendy Feldstein, Co-Chair, SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council; Senior Vice President of Product Design, Crestron | Althea Ricketts, Panelist; SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council; Chief Transformation Officer, Shure | Sarah Drysdale, Panelist, SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council; SAVe Ambassador to Australia; COO, CommBox | Joyce Kwan, Panelist; SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council; Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, Sony Electronics.

This panel discussion covered topics including the role of manufacturers in the AV industry in taking concerted action to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; how manufacturers can become leaders in driving a more conscious, efficient and innovative sector that produces products with reduced environmental impact, greater energy efficiency, and integrated social responsibility; the role of manufacturers in advancing a circular economy in AV through reducing waste and increasing the use of equipment and materials and facilitating recycling and repair through sustainable design; and advancing education and cultural shift among manufacturers with a focus on developing sustainable practices and providing sustainability guidelines for distributors and integrators. Moderator Mike Rogers also announced the forthcoming publication of the *SAVe Guide to Sustainable Manufacturing*, written and produced by the SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council.

Breakout Session: Bringing SAVe's Mission to Universities

Joe Way, Co-Moderator; Co-Founder, HETMA; Executive Director of Digital Spaces, UCLA | Troy Powers, Panelist; AV Support Systems Lead, Northwestern University | Raj Singh, Panelist; Head of Learning Environments & Technologies, University of Southern California | Karla Pinzoin, Masters in Sustainability, Bard College.

This session featuring HETMA members who have completed SAVe Certification covered the power of the SAVe-HETMA partnership and provided essential information for attendees who would like to develop sustainability plans and initiatives for their higher ed institution.

Every event was well attended and generated a high level of audience and participant engagement. Conference attendees praised the quality of speakers and content, noting the robustness of the agenda.

SAVe achieved notable milestones

SAVe 2026 will be remembered as a milestone event at which important industry initiatives were launched. Highlights included:

Three outstanding keynote presentations. The content of the keynotes was notable not only for substance and scientific rigor, but for its direct applicability to the issues our industry faces as it transitions from sustainability laggard to sustainability leader. Building on the success of our first two conferences, SAVe 2026 provided attendees with critically important information in compelling and easy-to-understand presentations that offered clear guidance on how to "Lead the Change" in our industry. Attesting to the enthusiastic reception by attendees, SAVe received numerous requests for recordings of our three keynote addresses.

Engaging workshops and breakout sessions. Participants explored strategies for implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; extending the useful life of AV equipment; improving sustainable manufacturing practices and incorporating sustainability into AV system design and operations. Engagement level was high and feedback uniformly positive.

Progress in sustainable manufacturing. At SAVe 2025, SAVe announced plans to form the SAVe Sustainable Manufacturer Council. This year, Council members led a workshop and breakout session detailing the progress they have made in translating ideas into action. Notably, they announced the forthcoming publication of the landmark *SAVe Guide to Sustainable Manufacturing*, with contributions from every member of the Sustainable Manufacturer Council representing organizations including Crestron, Shure, Sony, and CommBox. The guide is intended to help manufacturers incorporate sustainability throughout the product lifecycle from sourcing of materials, produce design, manufacturing, transport, to end-of-life repurpose, reuse, recycling, and proper disposal.

Education and the next generation. Joe Way and UCLA students shared how SAVe Certification and sustainability initiatives are being incorporated into university AV operations and provided evidence of the measurable benefits they have charted, particularly around energy efficiency. UCLA's commitment to developing, implementing and continuously refining its sustainability plan provided a roadmap for other higher education institutions who wish to enact substantive, long-lasting sustainability strategies.

Collaboration across the global AV community. Discussions highlighted SAVe Ambassadors and the importance of partnerships among manufacturers, integrators, higher education, industry associations, and sustainability advocates. Sustainability can only be achieved by addressing all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are indivisible and universal. But Goal 17, which centers on the critical importance of strategic partners, warrants special emphasis because of its impact on all the Goals and targets. SAVe 2026 was notably successful in bringing this point home to attendees.

In the Words of SAVe Delegates: A World of Accomplishments

SAVe is all-volunteer, independent, non-profit organization. As such, the most powerful tool we have to carry out our mission are our volunteers and leaders committed to build our organization and lead the change. Every event we hold or participate in is preceded by meticulous planning and preparation that involves the setting of strategy and the marshaling of resources to make the most of the opportunities we are afforded. Following each event, we conduct in-depth debriefs to chart was gained, what was not gained, and what we need to go back and gain in the future.

The following is a digest of SAVe delegates' comments from our debrief sessions. Together they paint a multifaceted portrait of what we achieved at SAVe 2026, not only regarding the advancement of our initiatives but in refueling and honing the passion and commitment that each of our members brings to the organization.

"**Registrants were extremely engaged with the content.** Our very low no-show rate also testified to their level of interest in the Conference."

"The site of the conference, in the Covel Commons facility on the campus of UCLA, proved to be ideal. **The size, configurability and amenities met attendees' every need.**"

"The large number and **high quality of volunteers (we had 23 of them)** helped to enrich the attendee experience. Whenever someone had a question or need, volunteers were always at the ready to help."







"Even more than in the past, **there was a feeling that sustainability is getting built into our industry's thinking.** Having Michael Blackman, head of ISE, provide a global perspective, was a great reminder that we are achieving critical mass and need to accelerate our momentum."

"**'Lead the Change' was exactly the right theme for SAVe 2026** and was reinforced repeatedly. I think people left the conference with a strong desire to step up for our industry and our planet."

"**Attendees came ready to share ideas.** Manufacturers, in particular, had much to share about their sustainability initiatives."

Additional Highlights of SAVe 2026

Though the conference was just a day and a half in length, the combination of effective organization and enthusiastic participation from all quarters enabled us to provide attendees with a remarkable experience. Some of the additional highlights:

Fundraising dinner and raffle. Emceed by SAVe founder and president Christina De Bono and UCLA Executive Director of Digital Spaces Joe Way, the dinner and raffle provided a great opportunity for SAVe leadership to thank attendees, sponsors and partners (including our "Sipstainability" cocktail sponsor, ViewSonic!). The raffle was a smashing success with over 30 items donated by our sponsors and volunteers, and helped to raise much needed funds to cover the costs of the conference.

Valuable networking and informal educational opportunities. At many conferences, keynote speakers jet in for their speech and leave immediately afterward. Our speakers generously gave of their time before and after their headline events to engage with attendees and share their ideas and insights. Moreover, during the breaks between sessions and at social gatherings like our cocktail reception and silent auction viewing, the rooms didn't empty out – they remained abuzz with conversation and interaction: evidence of the high level of engagement sustained throughout the conference.

Enthusiastic sponsor participation. SAVe's sponsors didn't just provide financial support for our Global Conference. They sent delegations, provided panelists and speakers, and contributed their time and resources to enrich the attendee experience. SAVe is grateful for their passionate collaboration.

The opportunity to recognize those who made the event possible. SAVe 2026 concluded with a lunch and closing ceremony at which SAVe leadership had the opportunity to recognize and thank the delegates, sponsors and partners who worked so hard to ensure the success of the conference.

Let's Do this Again:

SAVe 2027 to take place October 13 – 14, 2027, at UCLA's Covel Commons.

Planning is already underway for next year's Global Conference. Our goal is to build on this year's successes and to chart new ground in providing the information and other resources industry members need to be a real force for change. The more people learn about what we need to achieve and how they can contribute to the sustainability solution, the more powerful the impact we will have. SAVe exists to channel that energy to ensure that our industry, communities and planet can meet the needs of the present while preserving the ability of future generations to survive and thrive.







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