

## Eawag Seminar Invitation

# The Role of Leadership in Corporate Greening

Speaker **Prof. Judith Walls**  
*University of St. Gallen, Switzerland*

When **November 22, 11.00 – 12.00 a.m.**

Where **Forum Chriesbach, room C20, Eawag Dübendorf**

Abstract In this seminar, I provide an overview of my research on corporate governance and corporate sustainability strategies. The three areas of corporate governance, leaders and executives, boards of directors, and shareholders, all play a role in whether or not companies address environmental and social issues. And often, the relationship is affected by other factors in the company's external context or between the three facets of governance. My research shows that behavioural aspects of governance are particularly relevant, rooted in socio-psychological research that interacts with strategic level outcomes. First, this seminar will discuss the role of background, experience, and power among CEOs, as well as managerial cognition for sustainability. Second, I will discuss the role of boards and board member characteristics for companies that go above and beyond the minimal sustainability standards. Third, family and state ownership affect corporate sustainability outcomes. In addition, behavioural governance can explain why some companies engage in dialogue with shareholders on sustainability. I offer some future areas of research in this space.