Founding Partners

Arne Morteani:

Arne is a Founding Partner at Kiko Ventures. Arne spent his entire career of more than 20 years in climate tech, as a scientist, a consultant, and an investor. Before Kiko, he was a General Partner at cleantech pioneer ETF Partners for 14 years, where he invested in over 50 transactions across all stages, sectors, and regions. Prior to ETF, Arne was a consultant at The Boston Consulting Group. He originally started his career as a scientist, leading a research team at Cambridge University developing novel solar cells.

Arne holds a Diploma in physics with distinction from Munich University, a PhD in materials science from Cambridge where he was a Gates Scholar, and a Finance MBA from London Business School. He is a founder of the Cambridge Tech Ventures Conference and the European Venture Capital Network.

Robert Trezona:

Robert is a Founding Partner at Kiko Ventures.

Driven by his passion to help avert the climate crisis, Rob has spent his entire 20-year career in cleantech, and he is one of the Founding Partners of Kiko Ventures, IP Group's dedicated cleantech platform. Before Kiko, he was Head of Cleantech at IP Group, where he focussed on investing in transformative approaches to clean energy arising from scientific breakthroughs. Prior to IP Group, Rob was Head of R&D at the Carbon Trust, where he ran their Accelerator and R&D grant programmes. In the early 2000s he led the fuel cell technical team at Ceres Power, which created the world's first steel-ceria fuel cell, and later he led IP Group's turnaround investment in Ceres in 2012. He started his career as a scientist working on novel materials for hydrogen and fuel cells at Imperial College London and Johnson Matthey.

Rob has a Triple First in Materials Science from Cambridge and won the 1996 Goldsmiths Prize as the top graduate in his class. He stayed at Cambridge to complete a PhD in materials science. He is also a commissioner of the Energy Transitions Commission, a leading international think tank dedicated to providing objective techno-economic analysis on the transition to a zero-carbon world.

Jamie Vollbracht:

Jamie has devoted his career to working on the climate change crisis, starting in the solar industry in 2005. Today, Jamie is a Founding Partner at Kiko Ventures, IP Group's dedicated cleantech platform which launched in June 2022.

Jamie's two decades in cleantech has encompassed all kinds of clean technologies and a wide range of funding models. Jamie studied Engineering at Cambridge University and loves getting out in nature in his spare time.

Team

Paul Eisenberg:

Paul is an investor at Kiko Ventures, focused on discovering exciting startups, helping the Kiko portfolio thrive, and connecting dots in the ecosystem. Prior to joining Kiko, Paul founded Econos, a

sustainability investment platform, providing retail investors with access to alternative asset classes such as forests, renewable energy projects and climate VC funds. Previously Paul worked at McKinsey, where he was involved in industries ranging from consumer goods, to financials, and industrials. Paul started his career at the Capital Group, where he worked in various equity investment, private equity, quantitative, and macro-economic groups across offices in Los Angeles, London, and Mumbai. Paul holds a B.A. in Economics from Swarthmore College and an MBA from INSEAD.

Marius Evers:

Marius is an Investor at Kiko Ventures. Prior to joining Kiko Ventures, he worked in the CEO office of Trade Republic, and co-built up the ClimeTech and natural capital investment practices at Global Founders Capital. Before that, Marius was a strategy consultant with The Boston Consulting Group, where he primarily worked across the financial and insurance sectors. Marius' first job was hauling stones and mixing mortar on construction sites of the parental construction company. He is a German national and holds a Master's in Management and a Bachelor's in Engineering Science from the Technical University of Munich. Marius also spent time at Peking University in China.

Eva Kirkby Leary:

Eva is an Investment Director at Kiko Ventures – the dedicated cleantech platform at IP Group – and is based in London. She grew up in Switzerland and after 8 years in Materials Science – in which she has a PhD from EPFL (Switzerland) and an undergraduate MEng from Oxford – came to the UK to pursue her interests in innovation, commercialising technology, and venture capital. Over the last decade she has deepened her knowledge and expertise in investing in and working alongside early-stage engineering and software companies, spinning out new businesses and licensing technologies to enterprises.

Lewis Liu:

Lewis has invested in several deeptech companies including Bramble Energy, an innovative fuel cell company spun out from Imperial College London and University College London, and Helio Display Materials, a joint Oxbridge spinout developing next generation display materials based on perovskite. Lewis is one of the founders of IP Group Greater China, building up strategic relationships with top tier Chinese financial institutions and corporates.

Lewis' entrepreneurial journey started with CamGaN, a Cambridge spinout which he co-founded as CEO during his PhD and was acquired by a leading British semiconductor company.

Lewis holds a PhD in materials science from the University of Cambridge specialising in optoelectronics and electron microscopy, and a BEng from Tsinghua University, China.

Ben Murphy:

Ben Murphy is an Investment Director at Kiko Ventures and sits on the boards of C-Capture and Mixergy and on the investment committee of Kale United. He represents Kiko on the Energy Transitions Commission and Cleantech for Europe. Prior to joining Kiko Ventures, Ben worked in the Carbon Trust where he helped shape multi £bn innovation budgets, corporate R&D partnerships and development bank finance structures. He has also been a scientific researcher at the European Commission and started his career at Google, screening for renewable venture investments. Ben is a British national, based in Stockholm and has previously worked in Germany, Italy, and Spain. He has an undergraduate in Physics and a Masters in Environmental Technologies from Imperial College, where he was an NERC scholar.

Arielle Schacter:

Arielle Schacter is an Investor at Kiko Ventures. Prior to her role at Kiko, she held cleantech roles at Barclays and Apple. At Barclays, Arielle was instrumental in establishing its Sustainable & Impact Banking investment banking coverage team. She holds an AB from Brown University and a MA in Environmental Management from Yale. Arielle is from the U.S. and is based in the U.K.