

Building a Framework for Gender-Balanced Energy Policies

ENERGIA has built relationships with government representatives and energy sector institutions through national and international advocacy activities. Network members have collaborated with a number of partners, and participated in groups such as the Global Clean Cookstoves Alliance, the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, and the Steering Committee of the Women's Major Group for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+20).

ENERGIA also provides guidance directly to energy ministries and institutions through training workshops, materials and briefings designed to promote a better understanding about the different energy requirements of men and women, and encourage a transition away from 'gender-blind' policies.

In some cases, gender audits of government policies and programmes have led to the adoption of plans and objectives that focus on women as well as men, and integrate gender awareness into policy frameworks, investments, economic incentives, training programmes and support services.

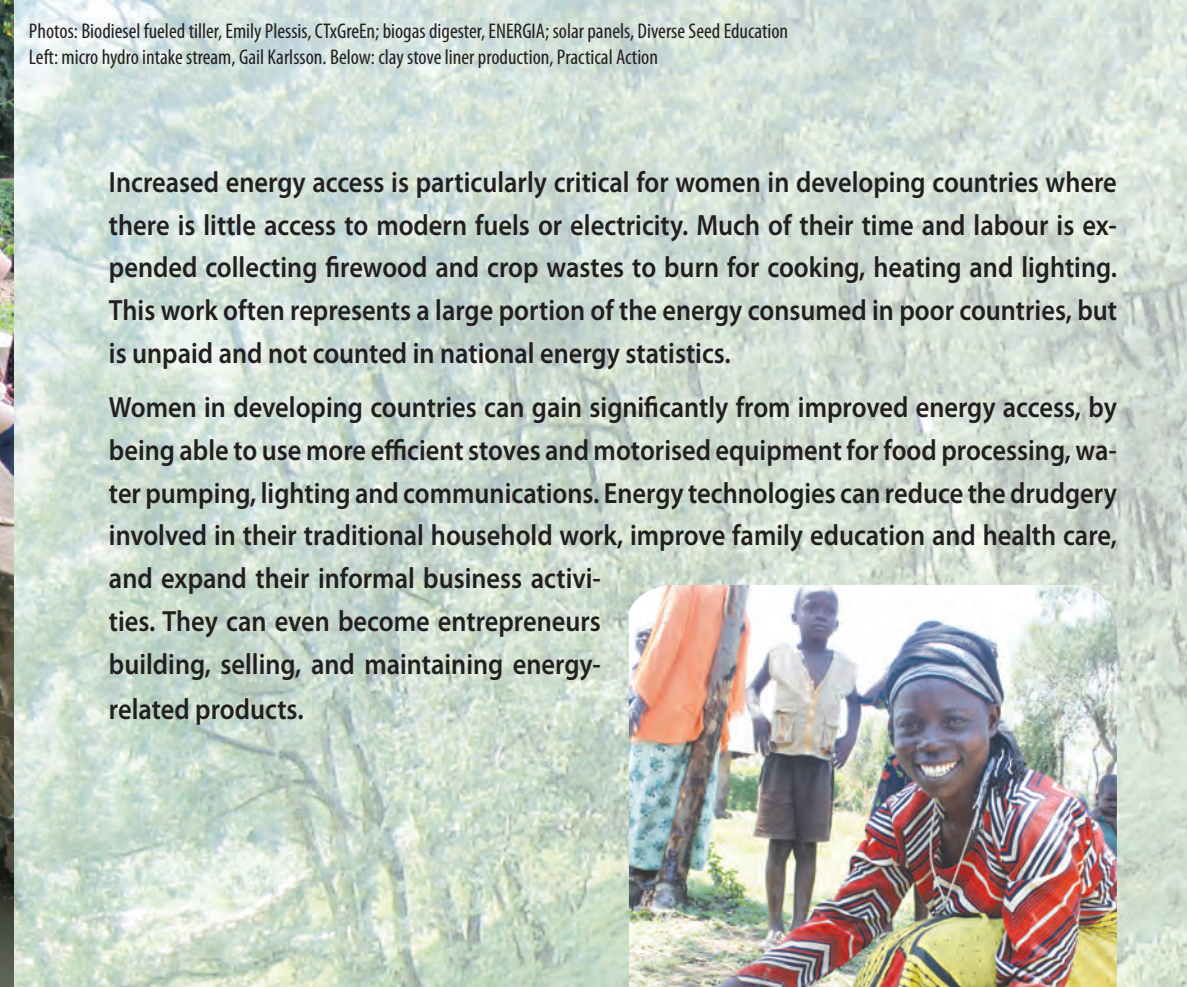
However, to engage more women in the energy sector, governments and institutions may need to offer women technical training and business management skills as well as relief from gender discrimination and stereotypes that limit women's roles in this area.

Key Recommendations:

- 1 ENGAGE WOMEN** in energy decision-making processes, in national ministries and international institutions as well as in households and communities, and take advantage of their expertise relating to fuels and natural resources.
- 2 ADDRESS WOMEN'S ENERGY ACCESS** explicitly in national energy and sustainable development plans, investments and policies.
- 3 USE GENDER MAINSTREAMING APPROACHES** to ensure that the different concerns of women and men are considered – e.g. through gender audits and needs assessments, gender disaggregated data collection, and gender-aware budget allocations.
- 4 OFFER TARGETED TRAINING AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING** options for women to assist them in becoming clean energy entrepreneurs – including climate-related funding expressly designated for women's enterprises.



Photos: Biodiesel fueled tiller, Emily Plessis, CTxGreEn; biogas digester, ENERGIA; solar panels, Diverse Seed Education
Left: micro hydro intake stream, Gail Karlsson. Below: clay stove liner production, Practical Action



Increased energy access is particularly critical for women in developing countries where there is little access to modern fuels or electricity. Much of their time and labour is expended collecting firewood and crop wastes to burn for cooking, heating and lighting. This work often represents a large portion of the energy consumed in poor countries, but is unpaid and not counted in national energy statistics.

Women in developing countries can gain significantly from improved energy access, by being able to use more efficient stoves and motorised equipment for food processing, water pumping, lighting and communications. Energy technologies can reduce the drudgery involved in their traditional household work, improve family education and health care, and expand their informal business activities. They can even become entrepreneurs building, selling, and maintaining energy-related products.



The **ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy** was launched in 1995 by committed individuals and organisations working on gender mainstreaming in energy policy and practice.

ENERGIA is hosted by the ETC Foundation and now connects over 8000 development practitioners across the world, with an active presence in 22 countries in Africa and Asia.

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ENERGIA

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR GENDER AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



Women transporting transmission wire for a village wind turbine in the Parbat District of Nepal.
PHOTO: PRACTICAL ACTION

Gender and Energy Access

ENERGIA promotes activities that can help meet energy access goals in a gender-equitable manner. This work is critical for the success of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative. ENERGIA's approach integrates an emphasis on social inclusion and gender equality with a very practical focus on delivery of energy services – an area that has been traditionally male dominated and gender-blind.

As part of its contribution to scaling up energy access, ENERGIA is:

- compiling evidence about how attention to gender contributes to effective energy access efforts,
- leading international and national advocacy initiatives,
- providing training and building capacity on gender issues within energy sector institutions, and
- offering specific guidance on integrating gender into energy projects.

ENERGIA Guidance on Integrating Gender in Energy Access Projects

Women's economic development is closely linked to expanded energy access. With improved energy resources, women can earn income, and then afford more energy services, thereby building demand and stimulating new energy enterprises, and also using their earnings to improve living conditions for their families and communities.

Since 2007, ENERGIA has been assisting a variety of energy projects in reviewing their specific gender issues, goals, and capacities, and in developing appropriate Gender Action Plans.

The aim has been to improve project effectiveness and promote participation and benefits for both women and men, by documenting and addressing key gender gaps and opportunities, building gender capacity of implementing organisations and their partners, and showcasing how energy access projects can be made more gender-balanced.

In response to requests from energy policy makers and project managers, ENERGIA has developed a methodology for projects to follow in introducing gender mainstreaming and preparing a Gender Action Plan.

The major steps are outlined in the diagram below.

STEPS IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING AN ENERGY PROJECT GENDER ACTION PLAN



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| <p>1 GETTING STARTED
Introducing the gender mainstreaming process.</p> <p>2 COUNTRY CONTEXT REVIEW
Mapping the gender and energy situation in the country.</p> <p>3 PROJECT DOCUMENT REVIEW
Understanding the project's starting point on gender issues.</p> <p>4 ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT
Assessing the capacity of the project to mainstream gender.</p> <p>5 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS
Understanding the gender and energy situation in the field.</p> | <p>6 DEVELOPING
a Gender Action Plan, including objectives, outcomes, activities, and a monitoring framework.</p> | <p>7 INSTITUTIONALISING
the gender mainstreaming process, ensuring that it will continue to be integrated into the organisation's work, beyond the project.</p> | <p>8 TRACKING
project performance and progress on gender mainstreaming.</p> |
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Women workers in the Nepal Biogas Programme. PHOTO: BSP NEPAL

Nepal

Gender Mainstreaming in Nepal

THE NEPAL BIOGAS SUPPORT PROGRAMME is engaged in developing private sector dissemination of biogas plants to reduce dependence on biomass fuels for cooking and lighting and improve health and sanitary conditions. Women save time and have more opportunities for income generation, including by being engaged in the biogas programme activities.

The programme has received gender mainstreaming guidance and coaching from ENERGIA. All aspects of the programme have specific women's issues to consider:

- Promotion activities:** agents and materials specifically targeting both male and female users.
- Training:** provided at times and locations appropriate to the needs and schedules of women, and in ways that build women's confidence to become biogas plant managers, masons and supervisors.
- Extension services:** women agents employed to reach women users and inform them about using bio-slurry as fertiliser for increased garden production, and possibilities for selling slurry for income.
- Finance:** alternative means of finance offered (e.g. through local institutions, self-help groups, use of group collateral) to enable women to access finance facilities easily.
- Research & development:** women involved in product development and field testing of new designs.



Using biogas for cooking prevents hazardous indoor smoke. PHOTO: PRACTICAL ACTION

EXAMPLES OF GENDER INDICATORS FOR A BIOGAS PROGRAMME

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	TARGETS
Reaching women through a biogas programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts with private sector construction companies to train women as well as men 50% of women reached in users' training 20% of biogas plant owners are women
Engaging women in supply side functions in a biogas programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private companies required to have women-friendly hiring and employment policies At least 10% of masons are women Women represent at least 50% of programme staff At least 50% of promoters are women At least 33% of energy committee members are women by year 2
Increasing women's incomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set number of women and men linked with other programmes that enhance their welfare, income, or benefits Set number of women and men receiving training in enterprise development

Gender Mainstreaming in Kenya



KENYA POWER An ENERGIA-sponsored national gender and energy audit focused the attention of Kenyan policy makers on the different needs and priorities of men and women. In 2010, ENERGIA was asked to work with the country's electricity utility – Kenya Power – on a gender mainstreaming policy. Only 4% of the people in the rural areas of Kenya have access to electricity, and women bear the brunt of this energy poverty.

The Gender Mainstreaming Policy adopted by Kenya Power (KP) includes the following elements:

- KP will endeavour to seek out and appoint women to senior management and executive positions so that the 30% target is reached for all senior-level management appointments by 2015.
- Women will be represented on all panels and groups with powers relating to governance and decision-making.
- The capacity of all staff engaged in implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy will be strengthened through training.
- KP will continue to seek ways to include households and small businesses, particularly those headed by women, in its connection plans.
- Contractors who provide services to KP will be encouraged to include women employees within their workforce in the execution of their contracts.
- KP will retain the services of an independent gender expert in order to support and maintain the gender mainstreaming momentum.

Powerlines passing over a village in Kenya PHOTO: PRACTICAL ACTION



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (SCODE)



Woman trainee selling stoves under SCODE brand name. PHOTO: SCODE

The goal of Sustainable Community Development Services is to build markets for clean energy products that can be used for productive activities, including solar systems, biogas plants, and efficient cookstoves.

The Clean Household Energy Dissemination and Enterprise Development project has adopted a gender mainstreaming approach to cookstove production and marketing, as the 'gender neutral' approach previously taken by SCODE projects resulted in limited participation and sharing of benefits by women. The clay stove liners for the cookstoves are made by small producers, both men and women. The finished stoves are sold to retailers and installers, who then sell them to end users.

With assistance from ENERGIA, project managers studied the divisions of labour between men and women and made suggestions for improved management and marketing strategies that would provide more equal opportunities for women. Initially, participation of women in project activities, decision-making and leadership was very limited, and no financing mechanisms were available for women who ventured into stove businesses. By looking at the needs of women and men separately, the venues, duration and timing of activities could be arranged to ensure greater equity.

Some specific targets for women's participation that were adopted and achieved under the gender-mainstreaming plan were:

- 50% of all stove entrepreneurs trained on business management and marketing were women;
- 30% of the leaders of the project's Common Enterprise Groups were women;
- The retention rate of women clay molders trained by the project was increased by 40%;
- 40% of the stove entrepreneurs who received funds from microfinance institutions were women.