

GFSE Newsletter

Dear Friends of GFSE,

We are pleased to send you our November 2023 edition of the GFSE newsletter, containing updates, important events, and news from stakeholders working towards gender equality and value chains in energy sector.

Enjoy reading!

The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy

1. Vienna Energy and Climate Forum 2023 and Solution Event “High wellbeing with low energy demand towards modern net-zero cities”



The International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF) took place on **2nd and 3rd November 2023 in the Hofburg, Vienna**. The aim of IVECF was to present and discuss innovative solutions and practices to achieve SDGs and accelerate an inclusive energy transition.

Source: <https://www.ivecf.org/>

As part of the IVECF, GFSE, in collaboration with IIASA, organised a **solution session on “High well-being with low energy demand for modern net zero cities”**.

The building sector has a significant impact on climate and is one of the greatest emitters of greenhouse gases. The aim of the session was to identify pathways to a just net-zero society through solutions for urban transformation, decarbonization and reducing energy demand in the building sector. Austrian best practices were illustrated that could be widely adopted and lead to desired future prospects. In addition to technical and systematic solutions, the focus was also placed on social aspects by presenting non-profit housing projects in Vienna. The refurbishment programmes represent effective measures that can contribute to achieving energy efficiency and resilience, decarbonisation and sustainability goals. The renovation measures also have positive secondary effects, such as improving living standards and inclusion of social solutions.

For more information and recording of the session: <https://www.gfse.at/events/ivecf-solution-event-high-wellbeing-with-low-energy-demand-towards-modern-net-zero-cities>

2. Harnessing the power of gender data to transform the clean energy workforce

As part of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2023, the Government of Iceland, the Gender and Energy Compact - led by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy and the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)

- and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) organised a side event on "Harnessing gender data towards a clean energy workforce".

The objective of the event was to collect insights from different actors to identify specific challenges they have to face in overcoming the gender gap. There is a significant gender employment gap in the energy sector, which exceeds the inequalities in other sectors - 76% fewer women employed than men and a pay gap of 15%. Jobs in the energy sector are expected to increase more than 11 times by 2050, there is a risk that gender inequality will continue if the necessary measures will not be implemented.

The following five key insights emerged:

- Data collection should be institutionalized to enable effective policy formulation.
- Data is key, and the nature of data needed is not always quantitative
- Women have a critical role to play to be included in the sector, but need access to information, networks and opportunities.
- Modifying detrimental gender norms is essential to ensure that women are able to advance both technical and non-technical positions
- Amplification of successful practices is critical to accelerate the pace of turning energy workforces to be more equitable and productive

For more information see: <https://energia.org/harnessing-the-power-of-gender-data-to-transform-the-clean-energy-workforce-2/>

3. Enabling net-zero through a green workforce in Africa

According to the WEF report "Future of Jobs 2023", employers estimate that 44% of employees' current skills will be eliminated within the next five years. Therefore, it is important to re- and upskill the affected workforce in advance. The number of sustainability professionals is expected to increase by 33-34% globally, representing approximately 1 million jobs. Sustainability initiatives are very complex, and recognising new trends and innovations requires a corresponding sustainability knowledge.

The implementation of environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards will drive job growth and follow-on investment for the green transition. To fulfil governments' commitments to accelerate the decarbonisation of the energy sector, a green workforce is essential. At the same time, to meet the demand for green jobs, education and training of the workforce along the value chains must be provided.

It is crucial to raise workforce awareness of the significance of sustainability at local and global level, e.g. through training programmes that aim to engage, equip and empower the workforce to apply sustainable knowledge. Upskilling is about more than just access to training, it is also about providing the knowledge, skills and experience that will be most valuable for new and transformed roles in the future.

The transition to a green economy requires organisations to take a proactive and conscious as well as holistic and data-driven approach to create a green workforce.

More information in the following article: <https://www.pwc.co.za/en/publications/enabling-net-zero-through-a-green-workforce-in-africa.html>

4. 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 28)



The UN Climate Change Conference 2023 will take place from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

COP28 aims to focus on the actors most affected by climate change by targeting investments and policies for communities facing climate-related humanitarian and security challenges. It will address the measures needed to accelerate the transition to a new low-carbon, high-growth and sustainable economic model. The focus will be on four paradigm shifts:

- Fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030;
- Transforming climate finance, by delivering on old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance
- Putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action;
- Mobilizing for the most inclusive COP ever

The focus of “Putting nature, people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action” will be on preserving ecosystems, developing of climate-proof food systems as well as protecting and empowering the most vulnerable communities by practical solutions.

Support initiatives of biodiversity protection and natural carbon reduction will also include women and indigenous people, which are on the frontlines of conservation and adaptation efforts. Elaboration of a "COP to COP" will be based on the Kunming and Montreal global targets to protect and preserve 30% of land and marine areas by 2030 while encouraging all Parties to achieve these targets and to align their environmental and climate action.

Source: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/COP28_Letter_July_2023_1.pdf

5. Mainstreaming Gender in National Energy Policy and Plans



Women are the main users of energy worldwide, but they are still underrepresented in decision-making processes and policies in the energy sector.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy for enforcing gender equality. It involves integrating a gender perspective into the legislation, policies and programmes at all levels. It aims to promote equality between women and men and combating discrimination. Gender Mainstreaming represents a key strategy for accelerating implementation progress on gender equality.

In 2019, the Kenyan Ministry of Energy presented its “Gender Policy in Energy”. This was an important milestone on the way to gender mainstreaming, which began in the mid-2000s and was accompanied by ENERGIA International, Practical Action, and other partners. Kenya’s Gender Mainstreaming experiences may be beneficial and by providing valuable lesson to other countries. Key recommendations of the “Gender Policy” in Kenya:

- identify political gaps, needs, priorities and existing strengths based on evidence data
- build multi-stakeholder collaboration between civil society, private sector and government and international movements
- Identification and support of pioneers
- Raising awareness among decision-makers and emphasising the value of gender mainstreaming

Source: <https://energia.org/assets/2023/03/Gender-and-Energy-Policy-Brief-INTERACTIVE.pdf>

6. Will a Green Skills Gap of 7 Million Workers Put Climate Goals at Risk?

According to a BCG study, there is a significant shortage of workforce in the green energy sector, which could hinder the implementation of global decarbonisation ambitions. Based on the calculations, it is expected that the skills gap in the green economy will increase to 7 million by 2030. This mainly affects the key pillars of the energy transition such as solar, wind and biofuel technologies. If this gap is not bridged, it could lead to a delay in the availability of renewable green energy plants, resulting in a 0.1% increase in the global temperature. The challenge lies in the mismatch between geography, skills and timing. The study also provides some recommendations for governments as well as for organizations.

Recommendations for governments:

- Fund and scale training programs to reskill and upskill in required green skills (e.g. current oil and gas workers)
- Building partnerships between countries with mutual benefits. For example, investing in vocational training for workers in their home country and facilitating the working visa process.
- An integrated migration and visa strategy is of great importance to cover the temporary needs of companies. However, such circular programmes often do not exist in green economy sector or are too small to have a greater impact.

Recommendations for organizations:

- Creating a more global labor market, e.g. through digital cross-border talent and training platforms for green jobs. Companies should also increase the level of attractiveness of green jobs.
- Top management involvement is required.

Source: <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2023/will-a-green-skills-gap-put-climate-goals-at-risk>

We hope you enjoyed reading our news updates and look forward to staying in touch with you within the GFSE community. We highly welcome reactions and suggestions!

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The Global Forum on Sustainable Energy is a neutral multi-stakeholder platform facilitating international dialogue on energy for sustainable development by considering the special interests and challenges of developing countries. GFSE aims to establish a sustainable world energy system from a social, economic, and environmental perspective.

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