



ADDRESSING GLOBAL GENDER EQUITY AND CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS

[1.3 billion people live without access to electricity](#). Of the 1.3 billion people also in poverty worldwide, [70% are women](#). [Over 55% of the 45.3 million people](#) living in poverty in the United States are women and girls. Decentralized clean energy access is key to fighting energy poverty and is crucial to achieving universal energy access by 2030. Off-grid renewable energy technologies, such as solar, are already helping women become more resilient particularly where there is limited or no access to grid-based electricity. The Sierra Club is working to ensure that all women and families have access to reliable clean energy.

HOW LACK OF ACCESS TO ENERGY IMPACTS WOMEN

- Lack of electricity is one of the [leading causes](#) of maternal mortality. The lack of reliable electricity prevents women from receiving vital, life-saving medical care and 287,000 women worldwide die annually of complications from pregnancy and childbirth.
- [2.8 billion women lack access to modern cooking facilities](#). To cook, women frequently rely on fuels that cause indoor air pollution and take much time to collect. When out collecting fuel women are at risk for gender-based violence.
- Without electricity, women and girls must devote time during the day to chores, often keeping girls and young women out of school. By the time the sun goes down, they have no light in order to study or spend time on paid work.

EXAMPLES OF HOW ENABLING ENERGY ACCESS IMPACTS WOMEN

- In Nicaragua, access to reliable electricity increased the likelihood of rural women to work outside the home by about [23 percent](#) because of more efficient home production from lighting and modern kitchen appliances.
- In Zanzibar, electrified water-pumping led to women saving three hours per day.
- In rural areas, after given energy access female earnings rose by [30 percent](#), the equivalent of an additional three years of education.

EXPANDING GENDER EQUALITY IN CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS

When women are included in the sustainable development planning process not only do they bring in a unique perspective as the primary resource managers in their communities, but they also are more likely to take part in solutions. Engaging women is linked to more progressive and positive outcomes and to more [sustainability-focused decision-making across sectors](#). When more people are engaged in addressing climate disruption, solutions are more likely to be adopted in the long term. When women lead in addressing climate issues through clean energy advocacy, better solutions are achieved that positively impact families and communities.

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