



SIERRA CLUB GLOBAL POPULATION & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

The effects of climate disruption aren't gender neutral; and neither are the solutions. We must recognize the interconnectedness of gender equality, of reproductive health and rights, and the health of our environment. By supporting gender equality both at home and abroad, we can improve individual and community health, and foster sustainable development.

The Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program addresses these challenges. For more than 40 years, Sierra Club activists have worked to protect the environment and preserve natural resources for future generations by advancing reproductive health and sustainable development initiatives.

HOW WE ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS

Increased access to voluntary family planning—the ability to choose if, when, and how many children to have—is one of the most effective ways to promote gender equality and in turn increase resilience to climate disruption.

Women and men who choose the number and spacing of their children tend to have healthier families. This has a ripple effect that benefits communities socially, economically, and environmentally. According to the World Health Organization, an estimated 225 million women¹ in developing countries have expressed a desire to prevent or delay pregnancy, but are not currently using a modern method of family planning.

Advocate for women's and girls' basic rights, including healthcare, education, & economic opportunity. Women make up two-thirds of the world's poorest people² and are more likely than men to be poor, malnourished, and

illiterate. Women typically have less access to medical care, property ownership, and employment. Women are also disproportionately affected by climate disruption and changes to clean water access, fuel availability, and agricultural yields.³

Therefore, advancing sustainable development policies domestically and internationally and reducing global poverty must start with women's empowerment and a focus on education. We must empower women to make the reproductive health decisions that are right for them, starting by ensuring quality education for girls and women—including a comprehensive approach to sexual education.

Empower the next generation of young leaders who understand the connection between the health of people & the planet. Almost half of the global population is under the age of 25.⁴ The Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program offers fellowships, internships, and trainings for young people from across the country and around the world, giving participants a chance to gain information and skills to effectively link reproductive health, family planning, climate disruption and sustainable development. These young people then return to their

campuses and communities as empowered leaders and activists. After successful completion of our youth fellowship, fellows receive a stipend to implement their own campaigns to advance population, reproductive health, and environmental issues.⁵



Raising public awareness of wasteful resource

consumption. Although the U.S. comprises only five percent of the world's population, we use 25 percent of the world's energy. The ever-accelerating human consumption of natural resources lies at the root of many of our global environmental crises.

In a world that is increasingly affected by globalization, the consequences of consumption and waste-production in the U.S. and other developed countries are far-reaching, harming environmental and human health globally. As consumers in a nation full of choices, we have an opportunity to invest in a more sustainable future.

HOW WE DO OUR WORK

From classrooms to conferences, our program educates and activates diverse audiences nationwide. Each year, we connect with hundreds of people through presentations and events, and thousands more through social and electronic media. Many of these individuals continue to engage with their communities by

intersecting reproductive health, population dynamics and environmental themes.

Our work is dependent on the invaluable support and leadership of our volunteers and fellows around the country. Volunteers organize film screenings, participate in community fairs, write newsletters, and work with grassroots reproductive health and environmental groups. Our youth fellows have organized TEDx events, speaking tours, art shows, Twitter chats, water walks, and more to educate and mobilize their peers.

We also work with domestic and international partners to educate policymakers, inform international processes, and influence key leaders to connect family planning and population dynamics to climate and sustainable development initiatives. We encourage decision-makers to break down silos and promote integrated development solutions that help women, communities, and the planet.

JOIN US!

- **Tune in:** Sign up for our monthly PopNews e-newsletter for program updates, activist highlights, and to learn about upcoming events: sierraclub.org/population
- **Follow along:** Find us on Twitter: twitter.com/SCpopEnviro
- **Plug in:** Download program resources, add yourself to our activist map, and find more ways to get involved: sierraclub.org/population.
- **Speak up:** Send a letter to a decision-maker in your community or state. Tell them that as an environmentalist, you support family planning programs.
- **Spread the word:** Talk to your friends, family, and community, or write a letter to your local newspaper. Education is the first step toward long-term change for our families!

ENDNOTES

1. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs351/en/>
2. <http://www.globalcitizen.org/Content/Content.aspx?id=058f8fee-01f4-4508-a54d-464ff22a4716>
3. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/the-united-nations-conference-on-sustainable-development-rio-20/facts-and-figures/>
4. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/xx.html>
5. <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=52&ArticleID=52>

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