

Fact Sheet: Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E)

Overview

The Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E) initiative reflects a shared commitment among Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) partner governments to advance women’s leadership in the clean energy field, where their perspectives and contributions are too often absent. The partners recognize that it is to each country’s economic and social benefit to harness all talent in driving the clean energy revolution forward. C3E has historically been a network of national-level actions, but moving forward, partners are looking for ways to collaborate internationally.

There are too few women working in clean energy for the sector to realize its full potential. Women are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, which are prominent pathways into energy careers. Women are underrepresented at energy industry conferences and on corporate boards; all-male speakers’ slates and all-male boardrooms are the rule, not the exception. C3E focuses on ways to shift the status quo, from naming accomplished, senior women as C3E Ambassadors to leverage their power as role models, to recognizing leadership and achievement by women at the mid-career level and building networks of dedicated women working in the clean energy field around the world. Governments can and should contribute by identifying their own C3E Ambassadors.

Key Activities

- In the United States, the fourth year of the U.S. C3E program is under way. New U.S. C3E Ambassadors are soon to be invited to join the program, the 2015 C3E Awards for mid-career leadership and achievement are open for nominations until June 1 (at www.C3Eawards.org), and a C3E Symposium focused on women’s leadership on clean energy will be held in November, hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Energy Initiative.
- The C3Enet.org online global community platform has more than 600 members, who are using the site’s discussion boards, event calendar, and group features to connect with one another online and in person.
- C3E is working with CEM governments to expand the International C3E Ambassador Corps, which was launched at CEM5 and has 46 members to date.

Progress and Accomplishments

- The International C3E Ambassador Corps met for the first time on January 20, 2015, hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the World Future Energy Summit, as part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week Women in Sustainability Forum.
- United States: The third annual C3E Symposium was held on Sept 16–17, 2014, at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with more than two dozen distinguished

speakers and more than 200 participants from a wide variety of clean energy sectors. Eight C3E Awards were given for mid-career leadership and achievement, and Susan F. Tierney, a C3E Ambassador and an expert on energy policy and economics, was honored with a lifetime achievement award. Graduate students from around the country competed in a poster competition on responses to climate change.

- Video highlights of the 2013 C3E Symposium are available [here](#).
- The 2015 C3E Symposium will be held on November 4–5, 2015, at MIT.
- At the fifth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM5) in 2014, China and Japan named leading women in clean energy as C3E Ambassadors, expanding the ranks of the [International C3E Ambassador Corps](#) beyond members from the United States, United Kingdom, UAE, Finland, and Mexico. New members of the Corps will join on a rolling basis, as they are named.

Other Recommendations

- Partner governments might consider implementing a domestic C3E program, using the blueprint developed by the U.S. C3E program to provide guidance in establishing a symposium, awards program, and national ambassadors program.
- Partner governments could support creation of an international C3E Ambassadors cohort by nominating women in their country who are senior, distinguished leaders in clean energy.
- Partner governments could consider hosting an international C3E Symposium to promote networking and to share experiences of professional women working across the clean energy spectrum, from technology development and entrepreneurship to finance, policy, and advocacy.
- Partner governments could commission research to define the current status of women in clean energy professions, against which progress can be measured and reported, with the ability to disaggregate down to the national level.

Current Participants and Partners

Member governments include China, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The MIT Energy Initiative is a non-governmental partner for the United States C3E program.