

UK Resource Centre for Women in Science,
Engineering and Technology

3rd Annual Conference

CLIMATE *for* CHANGE

*Women in Science, Engineering and Technology –
Having an Environmental Impact*

Wednesday 14th March 2007

The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London
WC1B 3DG




uk resource
centre for women
in science, engineering
& technology

CLIMATE *for* CHANGE

Introduction 2

An overwhelming body of scientific evidence indicates that the Earth's climate is rapidly changing, predominantly as a result of increases in greenhouse gases caused by human activities'

(Stern, 2006, p3).

Climate change is widely acknowledged as the greatest threat we face. Stabilisation at any level of greenhouse gases will require eventual cuts of about 80% from today's levels. The pathway determines how much the climate will warm. The European target is to keep warming within 2°C above pre-industrial levels, often considered the danger threshold for climate change. This would require global emissions to peak in the next five years, with annual reductions from then on. Instead, global emissions are rising steeply.

At the Kyoto Summit in 1997, the UK agreed to a 12.5 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012. Further to this, they aimed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010. The UK is currently not on target.

A comprehensive response is needed to reach the emissions reduction we need. It will need to mobilise the power of science and innovation; use market mechanisms to incentivise change towards a low carbon global economy; and promote greater personal and social responsibility in our every day lives. It will need to be supported by sustained public and private

investment in immediately available low emission technologies, and the continued development of new technologies. It will need imaginative change in how we structure our societies, build our houses, manufacture the goods and services we want, and move around our world.

Environmental and social issues, or "Sustainability will be a key issue for businesses over the next decade. Legislation, government policy, and the concerns of customers and investors, are creating clear links between the issues and business performance. This can only increase. Having recognised the potential impact of sustainability on business, it is therefore imperative to be as efficient as possible in integrating it into core business processes."

(Advisory Committee on Business and The Environment, Annual Report, 2003)

Energy, planning, waste management and transport are some of the key issues for sustainability; so is the response of governments, business and individuals. The impact of global warming will affect everyone but who is providing the evidence, who is making the decisions and who is part of the solutions?

The science, engineering and technology (SET) sectors are pivotal to meeting the climate challenge in our immediate future, and making the transformation to a low carbon world. Yet women make up just 18.7% of the SET workforce, despite the fact that women make up over 50% of the UK workforce as a whole. There are currently more than 70,000 women with SET qualifications not working in the sectors – a colossal wastage of valuable talent.

Women however have much to offer and are clearly a major part of the solution.

'Nation states with higher proportion of women in Parliament are more prone to ratify environmental treaties than other nations'

(Norgaard and York, 2005)

Given that just 20% of the workforce will be white, male, able bodied and under 45 by 2011, it is evident that SET employers need to encourage more women into scientific, engineering and technological careers. Renewable energy is one of the fastest growing sectors worldwide bringing new jobs and new opportunities.

The 3rd annual conference of the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology will explore the contributions of women scientists and engineers to this global issue; identify policies, practices and the organisational changes of companies which are supporting women's participation; debate whether women are more environmentally conscious than men (Hunter, Hatch and Johnson, 2004) and explore the 'opportunities' for greater engagement of women in engineering, science and technologies addressing climate change and energy,

The conference is an opportunity to

- Hear the contributions women are making to climate science, energy and sustainability
- Discuss how you can attract the best workforce to deliver the change needed
- Hear how companies are creating sustainable workplaces capable of attracting and retaining women scientists and engineers
- Participate in the debate on how we make the transition to a low carbon future

Who should attend:

- CEO's from industry, Academies, Professional Institutes, Research Councils
- All SET organisations who are looking for solutions to engage more women
- Careers professionals
- Scientists and engineers and those wishing to return to SET

09.30 Coffee & Registration

10.00 **Welcome:**
Anna Ford, Chair, opens the conference
and introduces the keynote speaker

10.05 **Introduction and overview of the conference:**
Annette Williams, Director, UKRC

10.20 **Keynote Address:**
Malcolm Wicks Minister for Science and Innovation

10.45 **Morning Session:**
An opportunity to hear the crucial contribution women scientists and
engineers are making to climate science, energy and efficiency technologies.
What are their career motivators and key challenges and what are some
energy companies doing to attract and retain women?

Chair introduces session and individual speakers

10.45 **Professor Julia Slingo**
Director of Climate Research, National Centre for Atmospheric Science;
Founding Director, Walker Institute for Climate System Research,
University of Reading

11.05 **Professor Jane Francis**
Professor of Paleontology, Leeds University

11.20 **Lynda Armstrong**
Vice President Technical of Shell International Exploration and Production

11.35 **Dr Nina Skorupska**
Director, Technology Services RWE npower

12.50 **Panel Discussion**

12.15 **Launch of UKRC Quality Mark for SET employers**

12.30 **Chair summarises session and introduces
afternoon workshops**

12.30 to
13.30 **Networking Lunch**

continued...

**13.45 to
14.45**

Workshops:

Workshop 1 Women in leadership and decision making

– using influence to create environmental change. Why are women in decision making so vital to creating change for women in science, engineering and technology and what positive influences are they having on climate change and the environmental research?

- **Professor Lynne Frostick**
– Director of the Environmental Technology Centre for Industrial collaboration, University of Hull and Chair of the Implementation Group for Women in SET

Workshop 2 Engaging women in SET careers – If women really are more environmentally conscious, are climate change, energy and energy efficiency technologies the hooks to engage more women in SET careers?

- **Dr Ruth Graham** – EnVision 2010 Director Imperial College

Workshop 3 Sustainable working practices

What are SET companies doing to attract, retain and progress women scientists and engineers? It is now widely accepted that cultural change is necessary to create working environments in which women will want to work. This includes addressing gender stereotyped attitudes and behaviours as well as implementing workplace practices which enable employees to balance work and domestic responsibilities without disadvantaging their career. Leadership endorsement is key to culture change.

- **UKRC's CEO Charter** and its aims.
- **Rachel Morfill**, Data and Analysis Manager, National Grid
- **Good Practice Guide** on Job Sharing, Part Time Working and Champions for Flexibility Scheme

Workshop 4 Energy efficiency technologies, sustainable communities and regeneration

- “Creating sustainable communities”
- “Creating sustainable buildings” – **Barbara Jones**, Amazon Nails, Straw Bale Futures
- “Sustainable development and the Olympics”

15.00

Panel Discussion: What will make the transition to a low carbon future and what part does diversity and inclusion play in this?

16.00

Conference Close

**16.00 to
17.00**

Drinks Reception & Networking Opportunity



Payments

- Full rate £175 + VAT
- Reduced rate for non profit £100 + VAT
- Two men for the price of one £175 + VAT
- Register before 30th January 2007 1/2 price discount £87.50 + VAT

FREE (limited number) for UKRC partners and returners to SET

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Agnieszka Gajek
UKRC Climate for Change Conference
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For online booking please visit our website: **www.setwomenresource.org.uk**

Sponsoring the UKRC Annual Conference brings numerous benefits and opportunities for your organisation, including:

- High profile presence as a key supporter throughout the day
- Increased brand awareness and public image amongst your peers and competitors
- Recognition as an organisation actively supporting gender equality and good practice at a national level
- An opportunity for your organisation to work closely with the UKRC and its partners
- An opportunity for you to communicate your key messages and achievement with other delegates

This year, the UKRC has created a menu of activities for potential sponsors to choose from. Organisations can take advantage of all or a selection of the following opportunities:

- Free delegate tickets
- Advertising in the conference brochure
- Insert into the conference delegate pack
- On stage / screen promotion at conference
- A podium speaker from your organisation
- Accreditation in all public relations activity
- Exhibition stand in the East Foyer (where registration, welcome coffee, networking lunch and drinks reception will be taking place)
- Branding on dedicated website broadcasting all presentations and speeches post event

Sponsorship packages range from £1,000 to £10,000 with the exact details being negotiated and agreed between yourselves and the UKRC.

If you would like to take up this time-limited opportunity, please contact Sima Alavi, UK Resource Centre for Women in SET,

Tel: 01274 438884 or email s.alavi@bilk.ac.uk

sponsorship ∞
opportunities