



Putting Gender at the Heart of India's Clean Energy Transition

5th March 2025, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm IST

TERI Seminar Hall (Ground Floor), Building 6C, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Women play a vital role in the energy sector as entrepreneurs, innovators, decision-makers, and advocates for a cleaner energy transition, but remain significantly underrepresented across the energy value chain in India. A [study](#) conducted by the International Energy Agency across 29 countries in 2019, found that on average, there are 76% fewer women than men working in the energy sector. The numbers showed a substantial difference from the average 8% gap seen in the total workforce, according to data from the previous year. In the Indian context, empowering women to participate in India's economy on an equal footing with men, will add USD \$2.9 trillion to the nation's economy by 2025 according to a [study](#) by McKinsey Global Institute. Yet, women represent a mere 11% of the workforce in India's renewable energy sector, significantly lower than the global average of 32%.

Women's participation in the Renewable Energy (RE) sector is also important to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 5 (gender equality). India is at a crucial juncture in its RE journey, faced with opportunities and challenges to meet its net zero goals. The country has risen to these demands, with strong policy and regulatory frameworks, and initiatives such as the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, National Bio Energy Programme, PM KUSUM, and the National Green Hydrogen Mission. However, the transition will be equitable and holistic, once India proactively unlocks the potential of women's engagement in the RE sector.

Women are playing a catalytic role in accelerating adoption of Distributed Renewable Energy and other climate friendly solutions such as bio energy and cool roofs across India's villages, showcasing climate entrepreneurship as leading agents of change. However, to scale such efforts, overcome socio-economic barriers, and address climate solutions more holistically, developing women-centric policies, accessible financial mechanisms, skilling and capacity building programs and implementation frameworks is essential. Addressing these has the potential to unleash a cascade of positive changes across the lives and livelihoods

of women and their communities – from better energy access to improved health and economic empowerment, reduced inequality, enhanced resource governance and community resilience.

This year, in the lead up to the International Women’s Day, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) with partners Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) and Association of Renewable Energy Agencies of States (AREAS), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is organizing a dialogue on ‘**Putting Gender at the Heart of India’s Clean Energy Transition**’. The event will bring women leaders and stakeholders from across government, grassroots organizations, community and civil society, to deliberate on key levers to unlock gender-balanced and climate proof economic development for India. The forum will also showcase success stories from the ground and find solutions to tap into the opportunities around inclusive clean energy transition in India.

Time	Agenda Item
11:30 am	Welcome Address
11:35 am	- <i>Ms. Dipa Singh Bagai, Country Head, NRDC India</i>
11:35 am	Keynote Address
11:40 am	- <i>Ms. Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India (TBC)</i>
11:40 am	Video & Framing Presentation on impact of climate-friendly interventions on the lives of rural women
11:50 am	- <i>Mr. Rana Pujari, Lead - Renewable Energy, NRDC India</i>
11:50 am	Report Launch: It takes a village: Assessing impact of climate-friendly solutions in rural India
11:55 am	- <i>Ms. Jyoti Macwan, General Secretary, Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA)</i> - <i>Ms. Dipa Singh Bagai, Country Head, NRDC India</i> - <i>Mr. Jeevan Kumar Jethani, Scientist F and Executive Director, AREAS, MNRE</i>
11:55 am	Stories from the ground: Beneficiary testimonials
12:00 pm	Panel Discussion: Integrated policy actions at the cross-section of gender and clean energy in India
12:45 pm	Moderated by - <i>Ms. Charu Lata, Director, Renewable Energy, NRDC India</i> Speakers: - <i>Dr. Sangita Kasture, Scientist G, MNRE</i> - <i>Mr. Arpit Sharma, CEO, Skill Council for Green Jobs</i> - <i>Ms. Jyoti Macwan, General Secretary, SEWA</i> - <i>Ms. Amanda Maxwell, Managing Director, Global, Natural Resources Defence Council</i>
12:45 pm	Question and Answer
12:55 pm	Concluding remarks by NRDC India
1:00 pm	

About the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship Track II initiative organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Instituted in 2001, the Summit series has a legacy of over two decades for making ‘sustainable development’ a globally shared goal. The only independently convened international Summit on sustainable development and environment, based in the Global South, WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of global communities by assembling the world’s most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The 24th edition of the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)—the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS)—will be held from 5-7 March 2025 in New Delhi. The Summit deliberations will focus on the umbrella theme: Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions.