

Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E)

Thematic Area CROSSCUTTING SUPPORT

Goals

C3E works to enable greater gender diversity in clean energy professions by attracting more women to important clean energy careers, supporting women's advancement into leadership positions, providing role models and advocates for women in clean energy, and connecting women in clean energy from around the globe to share ideas and information.

Potential Impact

Gender diversity can drive innovation, increase access to clean energy by opening new pathways for technology deployment, bring fresh perspectives in leading communities toward cleaner sources of power, attract and retain a diverse pool of talent, and boost the bottom line of clean energy endeavors.

Why?

Women are under-represented in the clean energy field; the C3E initiative asserts that the solutions to the world's great challenges, including the transition to a clean energy economy, will succeed only if we harness all possible talent.

Activities

- **C3E Ambassador Corps.** CEM partner governments identify senior executives, academics, and thought leaders to serve as ambassadors. The 47 current ambassadors hail from China, Finland, Japan, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- **National programs.** Three CEM members have domestic programs that support the C3E mission.
 - United States: The program includes four pillars: C3E Ambassadors, who represent C3E at public forums and recruit, retain, and advance highly qualified women in the energy field; the C3E Awards program, which recognizes women's mid-career leadership and raises the visibility of their accomplishments; the annual C3E Symposium on clean energy, which promotes networking across the clean energy spectrum; and C3Enet.org, an online community forum that enables women working on clean energy issues from around the world to share information, insight, and inspiration.
 - United Arab Emirates: UAE hosted the first meeting of the International C3E Ambassador Corps, and the ambassadors participated in the inaugural Women in Sustainability, Environment, and Renewables (WiSER) forum. UAE has continued to build the WiSER platform, with events organized around Climate Week in New York, COP21, and others.

- United Kingdom: The United Kingdom continues to build its POWERful Women program, showcasing female leadership potential in the UK energy sector.

Progress

C3E’s efforts are raising the profile of women at all levels in clean energy and inspiring young women to pursue the field as a vocation. C3Enet.org now links 794 members in more than 38 countries.

The 2015 Symposium, held in November 2015 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was a resounding success with 200 women in attendance and sessions webcast live to an international audience. Mexico’s C3E ambassador, SENER Deputy Secretary Lourdes Melgar, provided keynote remarks. Eight mid-career women received C3E Awards for outstanding leadership and achievement, from a pool of more than 100 nominees, bringing the total of C3E Award winners to 28. Mary Nichols, the head of California’s Air Resources Board, was honored for Lifetime Achievement.

In the United States, 2016 marks the fifth year of in the U.S. C3E program. Stanford University’s Precourt Institute for Energy joined the U.S. Department of Energy’s original university partner, the MIT Energy Initiative, to create a three-way collaboration on the U.S. C3E program. Stanford will host the fifth C3E Symposium on 31 May 2016, in connection with CEM7, which begins the following day in San Francisco.

Other C3E accomplishments since CEM6 include the following:

- Regional C3E meet-ups, organized independently by members of the C3E community, have brought together women in Boise, Idaho; New York City; and Washington, DC.
- Several public events have engaged C3E ambassadors and C3E awardees as featured speakers.
- C3E social media efforts have recently expanded to include over 5,700 LinkedIn connections, and the Twitter feed has more than 2,500 followers.

Next Steps

- Continue to support robust national programs; expand the international C3E Ambassador Corps.
- Develop a clear vision with long-term expected outcomes; identify the value of ministerial engagement and clarify the roles and responsibilities of ambassadors and national programs.

Lead CEM Government(s)	United States of America
Participating CEM Government(s)	Japan, Mexico, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom; in addition, China and Finland have named C3E Ambassadors
Other Partners	47 distinguished C3E ambassadors representing national governments, industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academia United Kingdom: The POWERful Women Program and its partners

United States: MIT, Stanford University, and more than 20 private
sector sponsor organizations
