



The Smart Thing to Do

**Unlocking Women's Potential to Build
a Sustainable, Green Future**

Overview

- **Brief Background**



- **Policy & Partnership**

Integration: *From victims*

To solutions

Women on the Frontlines of Climate Impacts

Majority of the world's poor are women and children

Women and girls in rural areas in developing countries bear the brunt of impacts from environmental disasters and climate change due to deeply entrenched social, economic, and political inequalities

Shocking example: women and girls are recorded as 90% of those killed by the 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh



Climate Change & Energy Access

- Globally, **1.3 billion** people lack access to electricity, and **at least 2.7 billion** people are without clean cooking facilities.

- ***While not the primary source of CO₂***, inefficient lighting and cooking contribute to climate change and degradation of natural resources and exacerbate poverty.



Women's Critical Role in Energy Access Solutions to Climate Change

- Women are often the primary users of small-scale clean technologies like solar lighting and clean cookstoves and are thus **critical to increasing technology adoption rates.**
- Women's networks and self-help groups have **deep relationships within their communities** and a **strong potential customer base.**
- **Directly integrating women into the energy access value chain** is not only critical to increasing energy access, but also to economic growth.

Moving into Action: New Partnerships

- **Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves**
- **wPOWER** - Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables



wPOWER: Launched by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in January 2013

- wPOWER is State Department's precedent-setting, flagship effort to take concrete action on women and climate change



wPOWER Basics

- aims to empower **more than 8,000** women clean energy entrepreneurs across East Africa, Nigeria and India who will deliver clean energy access to **more than 3.5 million people over the next three years**
- working to unlock the largely untapped potential of women and women's groups to **help fill the “last mile” gap** to reach areas lacking energy access.
- **Market-based approach:** scaling several types of business models (door to door Avon, VSLAs, women’s groups/empowerment training)
- **Bundles technologies** (based on WB recommendation) -- mainly solar lights and clean cookstoves
- Building **Public awareness**
- Building the **evidence base**
- Still growing!!

wPOWER Hub: Sustainability in E. Africa

- Located at the Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) at the University of Nairobi, founded by the late Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai



- Enhance wPOWER sustainability
- build the evidence base
- train the trainer workshops;
- African and Indian women entrepreneur exchanges
- build public awareness.

Looking Ahead

Ideas for Collaboration?

Questions?

Thank you!