



WIRE

WOMEN IN RENEWABLE
ENERGY NETWORK

BACKGROUND

In 2016, Chelsea Clinton and the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) — an initiative of the Clinton Foundation — launched the Women in Renewable Energy (WIRE) Network to empower the next generation of women to be leaders in energy for island states. The network, which has since grown to a membership of 570, has recently transitioned ownership to RMI (formerly Rocky Mountain institute). RMI will accelerate the progress of gender diversity within the energy sector by building on WIRE's momentum.

WIRE advocates for increased gender equality across the energy sector in governments agencies, utilities, regulators, and private sector entities to eventually increase women's representation in C-suites and boards, through ensuring a pipeline of motivated and experienced women.

RMI's Islands program, through over a decade of work in the Caribbean, has built a foundation of trust and credibility with island governments. The WIRE Network was the first and is the only of its kind in the Caribbean, setting the standard for how to empower women in the energy sector. This unique approach, combined with RMI's Energy Transition Academy, positions us to facilitate the continued empowerment of island women in energy, and allows us to expand the WIRE offerings and collaboration to other Global South regions.

RMI'S SOLUTION

RMI's Energy Transition Academy (ETA), a global leadership, capacity building, and workforce development platform for local energy practitioners, responds to capacity challenges to support a just transition.

THE WIRE APPROACH

1. Mentorship: The flagship WIRE Mentorship Program connects women in senior positions (mentors) with mid-career women (mentees).

Mentorship pairs meet every six weeks and sometimes more frequently for mentorship activities. After a year, mentors graduate out of the program while mentees are promoted to mentors of the incoming cohort of mentees. Program participants also develop Commitments to Action — new, specific, and measurable projects to benefit women and girls in their local communities. The program creates a close and diverse network of women in the energy sector and gives them the tools they need to advance beyond mid-level positions.

2. Technical skills development

The WIRE Network builds both the technical and soft skills of its participants. We collaborate with partners to develop content disseminated through webinars and in-person training sessions, with topics ranging from renewable energy technology to technical financial modeling.

3. Strategic partnerships

The WIRE Network fosters strategic partnerships with national and regional organizations that enhance and support our mission. For example, our partnerships with the Caribbean Electrical Utility Services Corporation and the United Nation's Sustainable Energy for All provide significant visibility for the work of WIRE: they highlight the achievements of women in the energy sector, enable us to forge formal relationships with energy utilities to advocate for greater diversity, and complement ongoing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches.

4. Advocacy for women's leadership

The WIRE Network advocates for women's leadership and for increased gender equality in the workplace with our private and public-sector partner organizations and electrical utilities in small island nations. We accomplish this by maintaining a speaker database of women who are experts on renewable energy topics for easy inclusion in conferences; spotlighting women in leadership positions through our articles and newsletters; and compiling and publishing data on women's participation in the renewable energy sector.

WIRE EXPANSION PLANS

- Expand the scope and the reach of the network through membership participation and effective regional and global networking and partnership opportunities
- Enhance the visibility of women in the energy sector through conference panel engagement and contributions to written publications
- Cultivate existing and new strategic partnerships to build programmatic sustainability and regional support
- Expand service offerings to support women in energy entrepreneurship and clean energy investment projects
- Leadership acceleration

ANTICIPATED IMPACT

With philanthropic and other relevant support, we can empower energy women of today and tomorrow. WIRE will accelerate critical work to support entry-, mid-, and senior-level women in the Global South in responding to the disruptions of the modern energy sector.

The current 570 members from over 60 countries, and the more than 80 alumnae of the WIRE mentorship program, clearly demonstrate the dire need for the network. Still there is much room for increased impact.

The network aims to increase membership within islands and expand its impact through partnership and collaboration in other Global South jurisdictions.

CONTACT

For more information or to make a gift, contact:

Charlin Bodley

Manager, Energy Transition Academy

cbodley@rmi.org

Audrey Im

Director of Development

aim@rmi.org

Raul Alfaro-Pelico

Senior Director, Energy Transition Academy

ralfaropelico@rmi.org

[RMI.org/wire](https://rmi.org/wire)

ABOUT RMI

RMI is an independent nonprofit founded in 1982 that transforms global energy systems through market-driven solutions to align with a 1.5°C future and secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all. We work in the world's most critical geographies and engage businesses, policymakers, communities, and NGOs to identify and scale energy system interventions that will cut greenhouse gas emissions at least 50 percent by 2030. With more than 550 staff, RMI has offices in Basalt and Boulder, Colorado; New York City; Oakland, California; Washington, D.C.; and Beijing.

