



**WOMEN'S GLOBAL
*Green Action Network***

a project of Earth Island Institute

"Empowering women grassroots environmental leaders around the globe"

**2006 NYC Young Women's Sustainability and Leadership Training:
*A preparation for the 2006 Commission on Sustainable Development***

Convened by Women's Global Green Action Network
In partnership with Lower East Side Ecology Center

Summary

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was established by the UN General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit.

The Commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels. The JPOI reaffirmed that the CSD is the high-level forum for sustainable development within the United Nations system.

The CSD meets annually in New York, in two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on clusters of specific thematic and cross-sectoral issues, outlined in its new multi-year program of work (2003-2017) (E/CN.17/2003/6).

At the United Nation's Commission on Sustainable Development 14th session (CSD-14) there were many grassroots participants who expressed frustration and confusion about the technical nature of the sessions and the intricacies of the processes taking place within this international forum. While the CSD has opened its sessions to broad participation from both governmental and non-governmental actors, we are working to ensure that grassroots women's participation at CSD15 is effective and that our voices are amplified. Furthermore, grassroots women participating in such processes are utilizing extraordinary percentages of their resource bases to attend these meetings and we aim to make sure their efforts inform the Commission's decision-making processes.

Additionally, as is found in every sector, there are key processes, vocabulary, background information, and contacts specific to sustainable development and environmental policy. Furthermore, because there are limited opportunities for exchange between sectors (i.e. scientists and policy makers and educators, etc), large-scale processes such as CSD often end

up being exclusive to “experts” in respective sectors. In order to overcome this dilemma, we must:

- 1) Increase the dialogue between sectors,
- 2) Work with experts within each sector to develop outreach materials and trainings for those who would like to participate in such dialogues, and
- 3) Work to increase the voice of grassroots organizations in both public meetings and closed, ‘power broker’ back-door sessions of policy development.

Furthermore, simply having familiarity with ‘how things are done’ can help an organization or individual navigate the policy dialogue. Specifically, it is crucial for grassroots women to come together as a strong lobbying body and force in the upcoming CSD-15. Unlike CSD-14, this year is the “policy session,” where delegates will work to create environmental policy that will undoubtedly impact women’s lives across the globe.

As a response to these needs, **Women’s Global Green Action Network (WGGAN)** and the **Lower East Side Ecology Center (LESEC)** are partnering to develop a Sustainability Training Initiative that will culminate in a 2-day Women’s Grassroots Academy training and preparatory session for international grassroots women. Participants in the Grassroots Academy will be comprised of grassroots women registered for, and who will be attending, the CSD-15, which is held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. Preparations for this session will begin with hands-on training of young women from New York City in key issues of sustainability and international environmental policy development.

Learning from, and working alongside, experts in the areas of Water and Sanitation, Energy, Climate and Environmental Policy, these women will then be responsible for research, data compilation, and outreach development of key materials, contacts, networks, and background information in the relevant sectors prior to CSD-15. These young women will develop local and international leadership skills, while obtaining the resources and background information needed to understand, promote and develop sustainable practices and policies. After their training program, these young women will be prepared to meet with international grassroots women participating in the two-day Women’s Grassroots Academy preceding CSD-15. Furthermore, these young women will not only be assisting and facilitating the preparatory process, but will also be registered as official WGGAN participants in CSD-15.

This meeting of multiple generations and offering of a variety of knowledge will increase the access of international grassroots participants to the substance of CSD-15 and increase the access of New York college women to the realities of environmental policy from “local to global”.

Program Description

Phase 1: NYC Young Women’s Sustainability Training

The goal of this project is to work with a diverse body of approximately 20 young women residing in the NYC, who are enrolled in area Universities or Colleges. Participants will be selected from submitted applications, with preference given to women with ties to developing countries (familial, professional, study, etc) and with a demonstrated interest in environmental, gender, and/or policy issues. Their contributions as women living in the local urban environment will be informed by their ideas/concerns/perspectives and their own cultural heritage. This will involve research, hands-on training, interviews, lectures, and fieldtrips. These women will be expected to attend all sessions that will include training in scientific and policy research, gender issues, applicable technologies related to sustainability and environmental policy development. Working to connect the local community with global issues

and impacts, it will be the responsibility of participants to both develop materials that are of international relevance, while keeping in mind related local issues.

This training will run from September 2006 until May 2006 and be divided into month-long sustainability trainings in each of the following subject matters:

1. **Water & Sanitation**
2. **Energy***
3. **Climate Change. Mitigation, and Adaptation***
4. **Policy/Advocacy and Getting Your Voice heard in the International Arena***

**These topics are official foci of the CSD-14/15*

The young women trainees will also have the opportunity to do outreach and education within their own communities through thematic group presentations at local high schools, which will serve as both local outreach and education and opportunities for the young women to test their leadership and presentation skills.

The NYC Young Women's Sustainability and Leadership Training will culminate with Phase 2 of the project, the Women's Grassroots Academy for women from around the world. Here, the young women of the Sustainability and Leadership Training will facilitate dialogues and preparatory info sessions with CSD-registered grassroots women.

Phase 2: 2007 CSD Women's Grassroots Academy

The goal of the 2-day Grassroots Academy is to encourage information exchange between women of varied expertise, backgrounds, experience bases, and ages while helping to clarify the role, mission and efficacy of grassroots women's participation in the CSD, as well as other international environmental policy conferences. The young women of the NYC Sustainability and Leadership Training will co-facilitate dialogues and preparatory info sessions with CSD-registered grassroots women. Young women will have opportunities to:

- Co-lead with sector experts technical and strategy workshops
- Facilitate mock policy development sessions, information exchange, and debates,
- Present Research and create outreach and concise background information on relevant sectors/issues for use in Phase 2: 2007 CSD Women's Grassroots Academy, including:
 - 1) Summary of key water, climate, sanitation, energy policy, initiatives, funding opportunities, who's who list, contacts and networking opportunities,
 - 2) Concise training modules for sustainable technology training, and
 - 3) Practice session activities and analysis/strategy facilitation.

WGGAN and LESEC, with the support of various partners, are working together to co-sponsor a 2-day Grassroots Academy for Women, which will encompass two main objectives in preparation for participation in CSD-15:

One-Day Sustainability/Capacity Training

- The training will provide women with broader education on background issues of environmental sustainability associated with CSD. Focus will be on helping grassroots women articulate their communities' environmental needs in a global context.

- Open dialogue and expertise/experience sharing between participants will be key to this segment of the training, as well as to follow-up activities.

One-Day Strategy Briefing and Policy Preparation Training

- Review the issues specific to CSD15, provide and review summary information of key policy issues, contacts and potential partnerships relevant to the conference;
- Invite and train grassroots women involved the CSD process and encouraging the exchange of strategies and goals for conference outcomes and influences;
- Inclusion of practice sessions serving to prepare women for CSD and other international meetings by familiarizing them with the conference protocols, rules of order, and strategies for high impact public speaking.

Contact Information

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Program Objectives

For Local Participants

- To sufficiently prepare the participants for their role assisting international conference attendees to associate their local environmental concerns with global environmental issues
- To train students not only how to access and implement applicable technologies for sustainable living, but also to speak publicly and coherently about these ideas as teachers.
- To allow the trainees to absorb background information and individually develop a more concise method of training applicable to the CSD's agenda.
- To allow New York City college students to take advantage of the diversity of their urban environments, be involved in international affairs that affect themselves and their families, and to learn about what their respective roles are in relevant issues.

For International Women

- To mobilize participants to the CSD to become more aware of how to negotiate the process/event through the efficient use of time and funding restrictions of grassroots women by coupling training modules with international conferences.
- To raise the profile of grassroots women's organizations in the CSD, while working towards fair representation and increased participation in global environmental policy processes.
- To recognize the value of grassroots women's knowledge and experience-base.
- To send participants home with increased knowledge and background concerning key environmental policy issues, contacts and organizations within the arena, strengthened networks with like-minded groups, negotiating skills and strategies for personalization within their communities, as applicable.

Participants

Phase 1

- LESEC is looking for approximately 20 college-aged women, located in NYC, to participate. We are looking for a diverse representation of women and preference will be given to women with ties to CSD member countries (see <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/members.htm> for a list of these countries).
- Ideally, training will be a for-credit internship in their respective universities. There will not be a stipend provided.
- Participants will be expected to commit to the program for a full school year in order to be sufficiently trained. However, once the program is complete, it is likely that they will use their training and knowledge in other arenas and continue to teach others about the importance of the sustainability of the environment within the community.

Phase 2

- LESEC and WGGAN, working alongside our partners, will recruit grassroots women who are registered participants in the CSD. As of now, participation will not be restricted further in that we are hoping to reach a broad contingency.
- It is assumed that those women already participating in the conference have made travel and lodging arrangements in order to participate in the CSD, therefore, it is our hope that participation in the Pre-CSD Grassroots Academy will not economically burden participants.

Proposed Timeline

July-early August 2006

Finish drafting proposal

- o Get feedback on project and its specifics
- o Clarify training topics
- o Complete list of contacts
- o Finding partners

Outreach to current contacts to obtain list of experts

Form a fundraising team

Solidify committed partners who are participating in project

Compile list of potential funders

Determine an application process for trainers

August 2006

Contact Universities and Colleges for applicants

Talk with professors to try and set up training sessions within particular courses or assignments for credit

Talk with experts to determine what policies and concepts should be taught to trainers

Develop a curriculum with some background on CD to hand out to experts who are teaching

Apply for and meet with funders

Solidify experts and participants with their roles, etc

(Late August) Review applications

September

Meet with chosen participants and have introduction/overview session

Continue with sponsors/funders

Solidify experts and participants with their roles, etc

Survey international women networks on their key concerns/questions concerning material to be covered

October 2006

Session 1 (15 hours): Water and Sanitation

Week 1 (3 hours): Water resource availability and background science and sanitation access

Week 2 (3 hours): Impacts of water quality and availability

Week 3 (3 hours): Policy Research: Understanding and condensing key local and international policy (e.g. water management, access, links between health and water and sanitation, etc)

Week 4 (6 hours): Intro to Appropriate Sustainable Technology: (i.e.)

November 2006

Session 2 (12 hours): Energy

Week 1 (3 hours): Intro to energy sector and background science

Week 2 (3 hours): Impacts of energy availability and renewability

Week 3 (3 hours): Policy Research: Understanding and condensing key local and international policy

Week 4 (3 hours): Intro to Appropriate Sustainable Technology

December 2006

Individual data compilation & research

Planning for spring

January 2007

Individual data compilation & research

Planning for spring

February 2007¹

Have representatives at preparatory meeting

Session 4 (12 hours): Climate Change, Adaptation and Mitigation

Week 1 (3 hours): Intro to climate science and climate change issues

Week 2 (3 hours): Impacts of climate change and technology's role

Week 3 (3 hours): Policy Research: Understanding and condensing key local and international policy

Week 4 (3 hours): Sustainable technology??

March 2007

Session 5 (12 hours): Policy Advocacy/ Getting Your Voice Heard

Week 1 (3 hours): Reviewing key players and delegates in environmental policy development locally and internationally

Week 2 (3 hours): Understanding the where and when of key conferences and agencies in these issues

Week 3 (3 hours): Understanding the CSD and preparation

Week 4 (3 hours): Public speaking/debate training

April 2007

Session 6 (12 hours) Review Session

Week 1 (2 hours): Finalizing outreach materials and specifics of CSD training of water

(1 hour): group presentation at high school

Week 2 (2 hours): Finalizing outreach materials and specifics of CSD training of energy

(1 hour): group presentation at high school

Week 3 (2 hours): Finalizing outreach materials and specifics of CSD training of sanitation

(1 hour): group presentation at high school

Week 4 (2 hours): Finalizing outreach materials and specifics of CSD training of climate

(1 hour): group presentation at high school

May 2007

Final preparation: end review of policy

CSD 15--2 full days of pre-CSD training for women who will attend summit

Follow-up and assessment of training and needs assessment

Think of developing monitoring tools

¹ CSD-15: Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (26 Feb - 2 Mar 2007)

There will be parallel interactive discussions on the themes of Energy for Sustainable Development; Industrial Development; Air pollution/ Atmosphere; and Climate Change.

Partners

Partners are being solicited and, if possible, are asked to provide any of the following:

- Funding for the program in order to support teaching resources.
- Expert trainers and lecturers in the fields of renewable energy, water science, appropriate sanitation methods, the consequences and preventions of climate change, policy analysis, and public speaking methods.
- Suggested International and Local Policy Documents that should be reviewed for each subject/training section
- Suggestions as to teaching methods, ways to find delegates for the program, policies to be taught and any others.
- Resources for training, such as fieldtrip opportunities.
- Networking opportunities that will help us find trainers, trainees, or anything else that will help the program.

Questions for potential partners:

1. Do you have any experience in one of the areas that you would like to contribute to the program by becoming a trainer?
2. Do you have any ideas you would like to contribute to the program as far as management, networking, training or fundraising?
3. Do you think it would be beneficial to launch the Phase II of the program at the 2007 WSF in Nairobi? If so, can you help to facilitate this?
4. Do you have any suggestion for training material or people to contact for training information?
5. Are you interested in being one of the young women participants or do you have contacts of women you'd recommend?
6. Other questions/comments or suggestions?
Please, contact Tara DePorte at tara@lesecologycenter.org

Thank you and we so look forward to working with you!