ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 23
EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

ZONTA SAYS NOW

To gender equality and climate action

Zonta Says NOW News - APRIL 2021



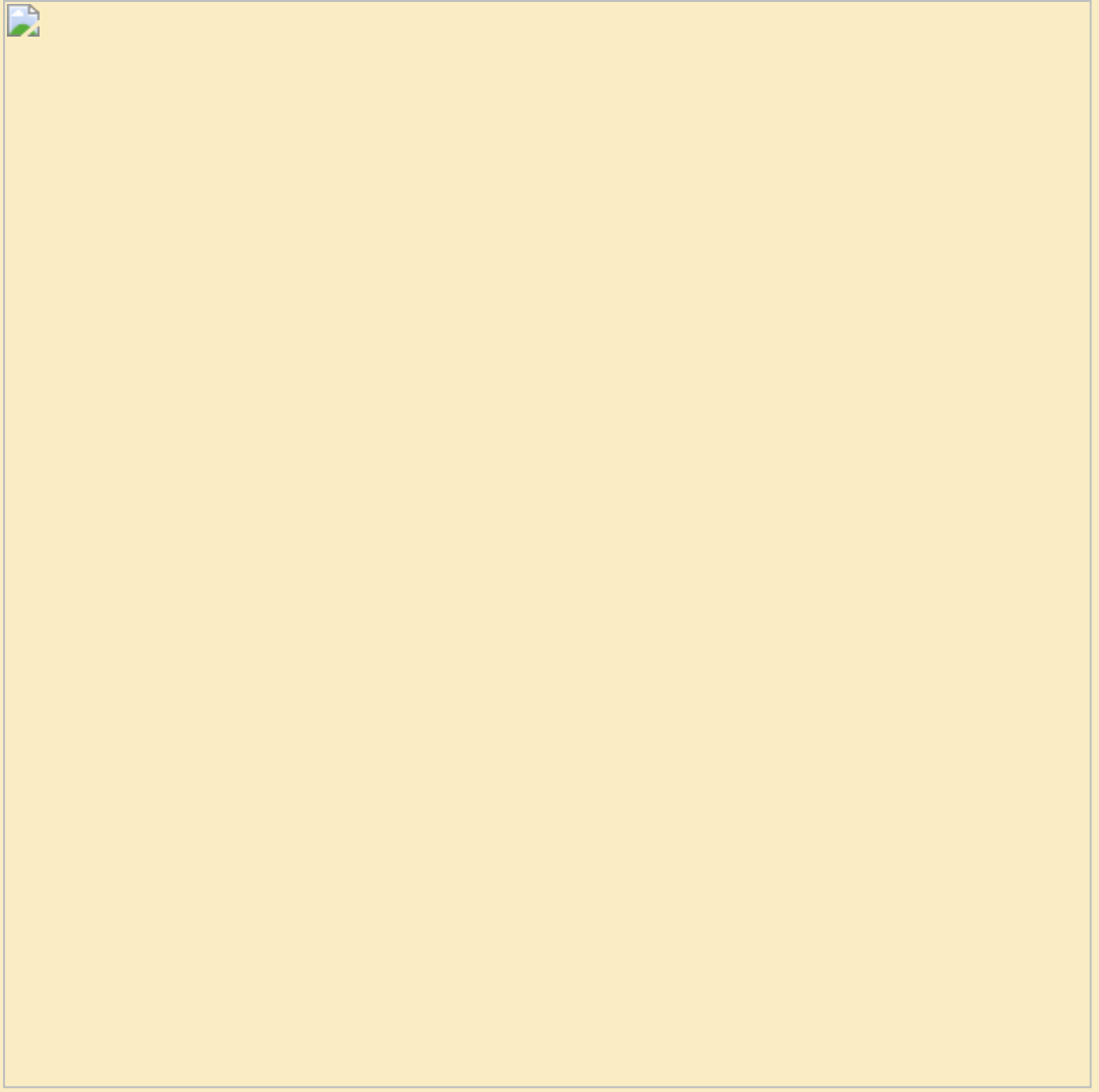
The Power of Working Together

Climate change is a huge issue and cannot be solved in isolation. If it takes a community of bees to make honey, it takes a collaboration of people to make lasting change. If we are to achieve the UNs two 2030 targets of halving carbon emissions and achieving gender equality, we need to collaborate.

In this month's newsletter, we shine a light on climate-related collaboration at international, local and individual levels. We applaud the countries that raised their climate ambitions at the recent Leaders Summit on Climate and acknowledge local councils that work together to influence climate action. On an individual level, we highlight the collaboration inspired by 1 Million Women's Build a New World campaign.

Let's collaborate!

Carole
Carole Theobald
District 23 Futurist/Leadership Coordinator



Earth Day Reflections

The Leader's Summit on Climate was held on International Earth Day, the 22nd of April. Forty world leaders participated in this virtual conference, and here are some highlights from the event.

Emission commitments

It was heartening to see the UK, EU, USA, and China ramp up their climate ambitions - and heart-breaking that the Australian Government could not follow suit. Over 100 countries have set emissions targets of net-zero by 2050, and gold stars go to these countries that have gone the extra mile to increase their targets:

- USA: 50-52% emissions reduction by 2030 (from 2005 levels)
- Japan: 46-50% by 2030 (from 2013 levels)
- European Union: 55% cut by 2030 (from 1990 levels)
- Canada: 40-45% by 2030 (from 2005 levels)
- United Kingdom: 78% by 2035 (from 1990 levels).

Australia nationally has no net-zero emission target but is on track to achieve its commitment to reduce emissions by 28%-30% by 2030 (from 2005 levels) – and, at this rate, will achieve net-zero emissions in 2167. Currently, the Government is choosing to invest in carbon capture technology and hydrogen research, which will allow ongoing investment into fossil fuels.

China has committed to achieving net-zero emissions before 2060. However, this ambition is offset by the many coal-fired power stations China has built in recent years.

The International Energy Agency's Global Energy Review 2021 estimates that CO2 emissions will increase by almost 5% this year – driven by a resurgence of coal use in the power sector. The IEA is urging Governments around the world to move rapidly to start cutting emissions.

To keep global temperature increases to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius, the UN says that

we must halve carbon emissions by 2030 – so we have a bit more collaboration to do here!

Good News - Hydrofluorocarbons

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are synthetic greenhouse gases primarily used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. In the 1980s, HFCs caused a hole in the ozone layer. Many countries ratified the Montreal Protocol and subsequent Kigali Amendment to phase out the use of HFCs – and the hole in the ozone layer reduced.

However, the USA and China had not ratified these agreements – so it was a pleasant surprise to see them agree to do so at the Climate Summit.

Signing the agreement is good news for both greenhouse gas emissions and the ozone layer, as the release of one tonne of HFC 23 is equivalent to releasing 14,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Good News - Clean Cooking

At the Leaders Summit, the US announced that it would resume and strengthen its commitment to the UN Foundation's Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA).

"Today, nearly half the world's population still depends on open fires and solid fuels to cook their meals. Millions of people—mostly women, who do the cooking, and their children—die every year because of the smoke and pollution from these fires. Their children, usually daughters, may spend hours each day gathering wood, keeping them out of school and putting them into dangerous situations as they go out alone and unprotected. Cutting trees for fuel leads to deforestation, causing landslides and erosion of fertile land that can run off into the ocean, damaging coral reefs and marine ecosystems. It is a negative feedback loop with huge consequences, and it costs the global economy trillions of dollars annually. The solution to this global crisis is simple but amazing: clean cooking." (Jose Andres, CCA Champion)

The CCA works with a global network of partners to make clean cooking accessible. CCA has a catalogue of stoves that work on solar and a variety of fuels including biogas, dung, and crop residues. CCA has a gender strategy as they recognise that women must be included when designing products and solutions as, without their opinions and input, products will not meet their needs and will not be used.

Action: Our access to the global negotiating table is through our members of Parliament. Let them know your thoughts on climate change and ask if they will be supporting the Climate Bill working its way through Parliament.



Local Council Collaboration

Local councils are the engine room of many climate initiatives. Councils provide us with two, three or even four bins to manage our waste – and many do so much more to kick

start sustainability in our communities and across the globe.

Many councils have environmental strategies, and some provide a wide range of sustainable offerings to their residents. For example, the Cockburn City Council in WA provides residents with 15 sustainability incentives. These include providing a free street tree, a bird-bath rebate, native plant subsidies, worm farm and compost bin rebates. The council also provides workshops, sustainability grants and even a free in-home audit to help reduce your energy, water and gas bill - and much more.

Do you know what incentives your council offers? When did you last check?

While checking for incentives, see if your council is part of the Climate Council's Cities Power Partnership. This is Australia's largest local government climate network, made up of over 140 councils from across the country, representing over half of the Australian population. Local councils who join the partnership make five action pledges to tackle climate change. Whether it's putting solar on the local library, switching to electric buses, or opening up old landfills for new solar farms, the possibilities are endless.

Two cities in Australia, Sydney and Melbourne, are part of the C40 Cities program. C40 brings together over 90 megacities worldwide to share their experience so that by collaborating, they can more rapidly achieve their climate goals. C40 recognises that it needs more women in leadership positions to bring their perspectives and experiences into the decision-making processes - and more gender expertise to better understand the differentiated gendered needs within cities.

C40 urges Mayors to invest in Women4Climate mentoring programs, collect gender-disaggregated data and conduct women's safety audits.

Action: Support your council's sustainability initiatives. If they don't have any, suggest some ideas.



1 Million Women are Building a New World

1 Million Women are empowering us all to repair climate damage and overcome inequalities. They have worked with Christiana Figueres, the Climate Council and many others to produce their latest campaign. They ask us to pledge to Build a New World:

1. powered by renewable energy, where we are energy efficient, have nationwide renewables programs, community energy projects and rooftop solar.

2. where we grow our own food (even if it's just a few herbs or a tomato plant), shop local to support our community, buy seasonal, learn to waste nothing and shift to a more plant-based diet.
3. where the Indigenous custodians of the land are listened to and uplifted.
4. where the love of Earth takes precedence over the buying of stuff, where we only buy what we need and choose to swap, repair, repurpose and rent as much as possible.
5. where we choose to support the banks and financial institutions that invest in projects that are good for the planet, not fossil fuels.
6. where we elect politicians who are committed to climate justice and creating jobs in climate-strong industries that lift up and value workers.
7. where we all have access to zero-emissions transport and can choose to walk, cycle, ride or drive.
8. where we influence those around us to build this world with us.

1 Million Women has developed resources to start us on our journey and template letters for politicians. Sounds like a plan!

Action: Go online and join the thousands of people who have taken the pledge.



A Present for the Future of the Earth

April 22nd was the 51st birthday of Earth Day. Is this something you would like to celebrate with a donation to the Zonta Foundation for Women's Endowment Fund?

Action: Consider donating to the Endowment Fund to celebrate Earth Day.

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