



**FACT SHEET:**  
**CLEAN ENERGY EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT WOMEN'S INITIATIVE**

The clean energy revolution will progress farther and faster if it draws on the brightest minds everywhere. Every young woman who is discouraged from studying science and engineering represents potential innovation lost. The world will be better off – men and women alike – if women who have succeeded in these fields share their own stories, and inspire women to follow in their footsteps.

At the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, ministers launched the **Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C-3E) Women's Initiative**, which aims to inspire women to pursue studies that will enable them to participate in the clean energy revolution. The core of the initiative will be university talks offered around the world by women leading in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The objective of the initiative is to encourage women to enter the clean energy field and lend their innovative power to create the technologies of the future. The initiative will leverage the power of participating women as role models to encourage other women's interest in pursuing the study of energy and technology.

By joining this initiative, senior officials in participating governments agree to lead one or a series of outreach events, reaching a total of 500 students or more each year. Participating governments also agree to look for ways to support women seeking advanced degrees in clean energy disciplines (e.g., with scholarship funds). They also agree to meet at the next Clean Energy Ministerial to discuss how this initiative might be expanded.

Resource requirements would not be substantial. Costs would include workshop expenses, travel, and perhaps the cost of funding a limited number of scholarships for especially promising students. Yet the impact would be great, as the university talks have the potential to shape the career paths of thousands of women.

\*\*\*

*Participants as of July 20, 2010*

The initiative will be led by U.S. Under Secretary of Energy Kristina M. Johnson, who was a distinguished engineer, scientist, and innovator before entering government service. A former dean of Duke University's engineering school, she also has over 125 U.S. and international patents to her name. Besides the United States, other participating governments include Australia, Denmark, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.