

Fact Sheet: Women, Climate & Finance

Women leaders often tend to focus on difficult issues that have a long-term impact on society and businesses, but they are still underrepresented at the highest levels of the private and public sectors.

- Women directors are inclined to engage effectively with the difficult, multi-faceted situations and social issues that increasingly confront companies today. ([Source](#), p.27)
- There is considerable evidence of women identifying new technologies, business models, products, and services that are critical to meeting consumer needs while also solving societal problems. Women may naturally identify product and service opportunities in different sectors that make life easier for women or can be delivered by women, especially in the finance sector – in the developing world and in developed countries. ([Source](#), p.27)
- However, women only make up about 5 percent of CEOs in S&P 500 companies and 6 percent of CEOs in Fortune 500 companies. ([Source](#), p.36)
- Women are also still underrepresented in governments around the world. (Source: [UN Women](#))

Women are disproportionately affected by issues related to climate change and urban development, especially in cities.

- Women, particularly in poorer countries, are more vulnerable to climate change disasters (Source: [GGCA Fact Sheet - Gender & Climate Change by Region](#))
- Women are the largest users of public transport, but are often have limited access or are concerned about their safety. (Source: [World Bank](#))

Women leaders have been shown to prioritize environmental issues across a variety of fields and industries, and they have already played a critical role in global efforts to tackle climate change.

- **Women in investment:** According to a 2017 study by Calvert Impact Capital’s Women Investing in Women Initiative, women are more likely than men to invest in something that has a sustainable impact. ([Source](#), p.31)
- **Women on boards:** companies with women on their boards are more likely to invest in renewable power generation, low-carbon products, and energy efficiency. ([Source](#), p.29)
- **Women in government:** Women in the United States House of Representatives consistently outvoted their male colleagues on environmental protection every year from 2006 to 2015. ([Source](#), p.31)

- **Women at large:** In surveys of around 1,000 women and men consumers and citizens in each of the 23 sample countries, GlobeScan found that women are more likely to perceive global issues – such as pollution, conflict, and inequality – as ‘very serious’, to care about how and where products are made, to be more concerned about environmental problems, and to be classified as sustainably minded consumers. ([Source](#), p.31)
- **Examples of women leaders taking climate action**
 - An exceptional group of women led by Christiana Figueres, Ségolène Royal and Laurence Tubiana, more than 190 nations signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015.
 - Since 2014, the number of C40 member cities with women mayors has skyrocketed from 4 to 16.
 - The total operating budget of cities represented by the C40 women mayors is over \$130 billion dollars, more than 50% of Apple’s annual revenue.
 - Cities run by C40’s women mayors have over 3,500 km of bike lanes, equivalent to 2/3 the distance from London to New York.