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Gender, Cities and Climate Change

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Sustainable Energy & Climate Policy

GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice

Are social issues neglected in German cities? ARCADIS Sustainable Cities Index

Overall		People	Planet	Profit	
1	Frankfurt	11	Sydney	21	Houston
2	London	12	Toronto		
3	Copenhagen	13	Brussels		
4	Amsterdam	14	Manchester		
5	Rotterdam	15	Boston		
6	Berlin	16	Paris		
7	Seoul	17	Melbourne		
8	Hong Kong	18	Birmingham		
9	Madrid	19	Chicago		
10	Singapore	20	New York		

Overall	People	Planet	Profit		
1	Frankfurt	11	Paris	21	Boston
2	Berlin	12	London		
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6	Amsterdam	16	São Paulo		
7	Singapore	17	Rio de Janeiro		
8	Rome	18	Sydney		
9	Toronto	19	Hong Kong		
10	Birmingham	20	New York		

Overall	People	Planet	Profit		
1	Rotterdam	11	Brussels	21	Toronto
2	Seoul	12	Manchester	22	Singapore
3	London	13	Boston	23	Kyoto
4	Sydney	14	Madrid	24	Paris
5	Copenhagen	15	Toronto	25	Amsterdam
6	Hong Kong	16	Singapore	26	Dublin
7	Amsterdam	17	Birmingham	27	Houston
8	Melbourne	18	Chicago	28	Sydney
9	Frankfurt	18	Beijing	29	London
10	Berlin	20	Paris	30	Dublin

Gender equality and climate change mitigation

Higher income -> growing consumption -> increasing GHG emissions

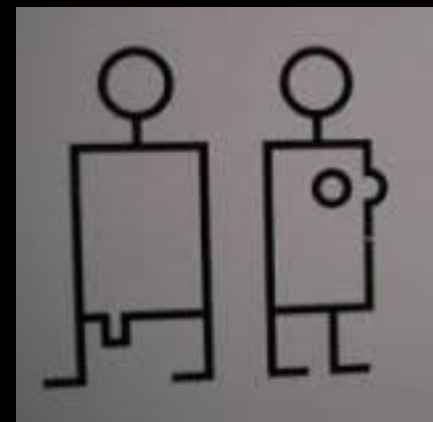
Traditional gender equality policy: overcome economic disadvantages of women -> higher income -> ...

Is there a conflict of objectives between equal opportunity and climate change policies?

Yet: women have smaller carbon footprints, even with the same income level

-> Should the female be the norm, rather than the male?

Sex and Gender



Social and gender aspects of climate change

- ▶ **Responsibility:**
Carbon footprint depending on income, gender, age, consumption patterns
- ▶ **Impacts:**
Vulnerability depending on exposure, sensitivity, coping capacity



Factor 1: Power structures & participation in decision-making

Power structures are male dominated, women are underrepresented in decision-making

- ▶ Heavy underrepresentation of women in climate policy, in the energy and transport sector, in particular in energy companies
- ▶ For all levels, including local authorities
- ▶ Even less women in RES industry and RE cooperatives!
- ▶ Intra-household dynamics:
Who decides about what?



Factor 2: Assets and pay gap

All over the world, women earn less, do more unpaid work, have less wealth

- ▶ **Lower consumption & smaller carbon footprints**
- ▶ **Lack of access to energy and mobility services**
- ▶ **Female headed households more prone to energy poverty**
- ▶ **Choice of transport mode**
- ▶ **Certain policies might have adverse effects and aggravate inequalities**
- ▶ **Vulnerability: higher exposure, weaker coping capacity**

Factor 3: Care economy & care work – gender distribution of labour

Little recognition of and data on reproductive sector, neither of added value, nor of energy consumption attributable to care

- ▶ Special characteristics of care sector
- ▶ Specific needs in terms of energy and mobility services, time
- ▶ Specific capacities to respond to climate change
- ▶ Vulnerability: higher sensitivity, lack of coping capacity



Factor 4: Gender roles in given cultural settings

- ▶ Concerns, attitudes and preferences
- ▶ Consumption and mobility patterns
- ▶ Different needs, e.g. safety, energy consumption & advice, communication
- ▶ Affinity to technologies, underrepresentation of women in science & technology
- ▶ Acceptance of risky technologies such as nuclear, CCS, geo-engineering
- ▶ Lifestyle changes



Gender on the agenda

... in the UNFCCC process:

Gender Decision, Lima Work Programme on Gender

Some provisions on gender balance and on gender-sensitive policies, i.a. in the GCF

... in urban climate policy:

Gender even more relevant at city level, due to specific responsibilities of cities

Lack of integration of all 3 issues – gender, climate change, cities, even though linkages are acknowledged

See, e.g.:

KLIP Vienna, Berlin Gender Budgeting

UN Habitat CCCI, ACCRN

Integration of the gender dimension in urban cc policy - opportunities

- ▶ In particular if ambitions are high, addressing social and gender dimensions is inevitable
- ▶ Policies more acceptable, viable and effective e.g. Swedish case: better performance
- ▶ More effective allocation of resources
- ▶ More equitable distribution of co-benefits
- ▶ Avoid inequalities to be aggravated by climate change and responses



Integration of the gender dimension in urban cc policy - gaps

- ▶ Strong evidence on gender differentials, but little analysis of root causes and how to address them
- ▶ No analysis of intersection between gender and other social categories
- ▶ Gender stereotypes and simplified definition of gender (e.g. gender = poor women)
- ▶ Focus on gender & adaptation, mainly in rural areas
- ▶ Almost no guidance from city networks and governments



Integration of gender into urban cc policy – how to do it

- ▶ **Both cc and gender are cross-cutting ->
Cross-Mainstreaming**
- ▶ **Requires adequate governance and institutional settings**
- ▶ **Social and gender impact assessments must get a natural routine like cost-benefit analysis**

- ▶ **Gender balance
in planning, decision-making, community level processes**
- ▶ **Modified approaches and methodologies
e.g. hi-res vulnerability assessments, gender impact
assessments (GIA)**
- ▶ **Potential modification of priorities, and of individual
policies and measures**

Examples for questions to be asked for gender responsive urban climate policy

- ▶ How to open the blackbox household: Who uses energy for what purposes, who is in charge of care work, who is involved in purchasing decisions?
- ▶ How to take care work etc. into consideration, without reinforcing gender stereotypes?
- ▶ Effects of EE, RES? – Additional work burden, job creation
- ▶ Who benefits from promotion / support (e.g. only house owners)?



Integration of gender into the recommended policy-cycles

- ▶ **Step 1: Commitment**
Towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient, equitable, gender-just and inclusive city
- ▶ **Step 2: Problem analysis**
Gender disaggregated information on vulnerability, GHG emissions and core sectors (indicators)
- ▶ **Step 3: Strategy development, priority setting**
Priority on combinations of low-carbon development and enhancing resilience, involvement of gender equality departments and women's groups
- ▶ **Step 4: Policy formulation, adoption of action plan**
Gender quick scan and Gender impact assessment, if necessary
- ▶ **Step 5: Monitoring**
incl. side effects, e.g. on gender equality, Gender Budgeting

Recommendations

- ▶ **Multidimensional approach in urban climate policy, rather than a one-dimensional focusing only on GHG emissions**
- ▶ **Build upon existing knowledge and tools, e.g. in gender sensitive urban planning, gender marketing etc.**
- ▶ **Involve gender departments and gender expertise**
- ▶ **Include gender considerations in funding programmes, also with a view to international climate finance!**

GenderCC-Women for Climate Justice

www.gendercc.net

Global learning platform
on gender and climate change

comm.gendercc.net

