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

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Note: Berlin and Seoul are circled to highlight them as cities in Germany.
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