

## Gail Karlsson



Gail Karlsson is an attorney specializing in international environmental law, energy policy, and sustainable development. Since 1997, she has worked on a number of projects as a consultant for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on topics relating to energy access, gender equality and sustainable development. She helped design an online course module on ‘Environment and Sustainable Development’ for UNDP Virtual Development Academy, and served as course instructor for UNDP staff.

In addition, Gail is a senior policy advisor to ENERGIA, an international network on gender and sustainable energy. Currently, she is representing the ENERGIA network on the Women’s Steering Committee coordinating preparations for the June 2012 UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+20). She previously coordinated engagement of ENERGIA network members in meetings on sustainable energy related to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She has also represented ENERGIA at conferences of the parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and meetings of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Global Alliance on Clean Cook Stoves, as well as the World Renewable Energy Congress.

At the 2004 WREC workshop in Denver, Colorado, Gail presented a paper on ‘Strategies for Gender and Energy Advocacy’ and moderated a panel discussion on ‘Gender and energy reports from Bangladesh, USA and New Zealand’. For the July 2008 WREC meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, Gail worked with Dr. Barbara Farhar and other coordinators to help organize a one-day workshop on ‘Energy and Gender Equitable Development’, making presentations on ‘Energy as Women’s Business’ and ENERGIA’s biofuels activities.

In 2010, Gail assisted with the planning and facilitation of another workshop on ‘Energy and Gender Equitable Development’ at the World Renewable Energy Congress in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Representing ENERGIA, she made a presentation on ‘Tapping Climate Funds to Expand Renewable Energy Access, Empower Women and Build More Resilient Communities.’ ENERGIA promotes investments in renewable energy options such as wind, solar and small hydro systems that can be used to provide electricity, motorized power for pumps and mills, and cleaner cooking alternatives to relieve women in developing countries from arduous and time-consuming chores, allow them to pursue income-generating activities, and support their economic and political empowerment.

Gail began her legal career in 1980 with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and later practiced environmental and corporate law with a New York firm. She received her law degree, cum laude, from the University of Wisconsin Law School, a Master’s Degree in political philosophy from the University of Massachusetts, and a BA in philosophy from Vassar College. She is also the New York coordinator for the U.S. Citizens Network for Sustainable Development and in that capacity has served as an NGO member of the US delegation to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as working to promote sustainable development policies and renewable energy in New York City.

Gail has authored, edited and/or produced a number of publications on expanding access to energy in developing countries, with a focus on the needs of women in rural areas, including:

Factsheet for the 2010 UNFCCC COP on '*Gender, Energy Technologies and Climate Change*' prepared by ENERGIA and the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)  
[http://www.energia.org/uploads/media/WEDO\\_ENERGIA.pdf](http://www.energia.org/uploads/media/WEDO_ENERGIA.pdf)

*Biofuels for Sustainable Rural Development and Empowerment of Women* (2009), a collection of case studies on sustainable, local production of biofuels to increase access to energy in rural areas of poor countries, [www.energia.org/biofuelscasestudies.html](http://www.energia.org/biofuelscasestudies.html)

*Where Energy is Women's Business* (2007), reports from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific on gender issues relating to access to energy for sustainable development, [www.energia.org/csd\\_book.html](http://www.energia.org/csd_book.html)

*Gender and Energy for Sustainable Development* (2004), a toolkit and resource guide, [www.undp.org/energy/genenergykit/gendere toolkit.pdf](http://www.undp.org/energy/genenergykit/gendere toolkit.pdf)

*Generating Opportunities: Case Studies on Energy and Women* (2001), produced by the UN Development Programme's Energy and Atmosphere Group, [www.undp.org/energy/publications/2001/2001a.htm](http://www.undp.org/energy/publications/2001/2001a.htm)

'Mitigating Climate Change through Sustainable Energy Solutions' in *Climate Change and Development*, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, co-author, 2000, <http://environment.yale.edu/documents/downloads/h-n/Johansson.pdf>

Her Presentation on: **Empowering Women in Developing Countries through Energy for Entrepreneurship: A Review Of Successful Projects And Business Models**