

African **Power** **Girls** Rising: Brief for Teachers & Educators




Join a generation of teachers powering an equitable renewable revolution.

The African Power Girls Rising campaign aims to inspire girls and young women aged 14 to 24 years in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to explore careers in sustainable energy, by sharing exciting content that showcases opportunities within the sector.

The campaign is jointly led by the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET) and the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE), with financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of International Partnerships Austria.

This brief aims to provide teachers such as yourself with a broad understanding of opportunities in the sustainable energy sector, so that you can be better equipped to support students who are interested in this as a career path.

 *We understand that as an educator, you also have male students. Our intention with this brief and with this campaign is not to alienate them or withhold*

opportunities. Our main aim is to open up opportunities to everyone regardless of their background and address a gender gap that should not exist.

What is Sustainable Energy?

Sustainable energy is a broad term that includes renewable or clean energy generation sources such as solar, wind and hydro power, as well as energy efficient technologies and systems such as LED bulbs. Sustainable energy contributes to a healthier, sustainable and more liveable planet.



Why are We Promoting Sustainable Energy Careers to Girls and Young Women?

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) estimates that the renewable energy workforce will grow from 16.6 million jobs in 2024 to 30 million by 2030 and nearly 40 million by 2050. Data from IRENA also shows that women remain underrepresented in the sector, across different regions, roles, and levels of seniority.



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▣ Globally, women hold **32% of all jobs in the renewable energy workforce**. While this is higher than in the oil and gas and nuclear energy sectors, there is still room to grow.

Bringing more women into the sustainable energy sector is important because:

- It is a thriving and growing sector, that attracts a lot of private and public investment and generates many high-quality jobs. This investment, and these jobs, should benefit men and women equally.
- The transition to sustainable energy represents a major challenge, that requires the ideas and talents of everyone, both women and men. Diverse teams, companies and organisations get better results.
- Our old energy systems are strongly male dominated. The energy transition offers us the opportunity to create not only more sustainable, but also more inclusive and diverse energy systems.

Barriers and Opportunities for Young Girls in Sustainable Energy

Some of the reasons teenage girls show limited interest in energy careers include a lack of awareness and encouragement, gender stereotypes and biases, and concerns about the industry being male dominated.

While these concerns are valid, it is also important to convey to students the opportunities within the sustainable energy sector:



- **Opportunity and Variety:** diverse pathways for diverse talents
- **Impact and Purpose:** the chance to power your community and shape the future
- **Growth and Security:** a rapidly expanding sector offering future-proof career options
- **Innovation and Excitement:** a pioneering and fast-moving global industry
- **Belonging and Inclusion:** everyone's perspective is essential



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Career Pathways in Sustainable Energy

One of the largest misconceptions about the sustainable energy sector is that the jobs available are mainly engineering roles within large utility companies.

This is not true.

The sector offers a wide range of technical and non-technical positions, including in engineering, policy, communications, research, design, project management, IT, accounting, business development, environmental science, law, and community advocacy.

Work environments are also varied, and students might find themselves working at a large utility, tech start-up, or small community non-profit. Any student interested in the sector is sure to find a role that matches her passions and strengths.

Do you need inspiration? Here are [real stories from women leading Africa's energy transformation.](#)

How Can You Get Involved?

This brief is just the first part of the campaign.

Across 2026, we plan to roll out resources for teen girls and young women and highlight stories of incredible Southern African women working in sustainable energy on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [TikTok](#) channels. All these materials are age appropriate, and we encourage you to follow us and ask your students and their parents to also follow and interact with the campaign. 

Lastly, we aim to develop a more comprehensive toolkit for educators, which will include simple but interactive resources that you can use to begin these discussions with your students.

If you have ideas of what you would like to see in the toolkit and/or if you have feedback on this initial brief, kindly contact us at

 info@powergirlsrising.africa 



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