

GF23
09.21.2023

WE Empower



WE Empower 2023 Awardees

Diana Mbogo

Founder and Managing Director, Millennium Engineers (Tanzania)

Diana Mbogo is the founder and managing director of Millennium Engineers, a women founded and led social enterprise that specializes in renewable energy. Their primary focus is identifying untapped energy poverty markets across various sectors. They excel in creating tailored and innovative business solutions by analyzing the requirements of specific industries, communities or business value chains. Currently, Millennium Engineers is implementing the “Sardine Fishing Industry” business project which aims to transition the low-income sardine fishing industry in Lake Victoria away from pressurized kerosene/LED lead acid powered batteries lamps and conventional methods of sardine drying towards more climate friendly adaptation and mitigation focused methods to ensure sustainable fishing practices in the region.

Susan Blanchet

CEO and Founder, Origen Air (Canada)

Susan Blanchet is a CEO, founder, lawyer and international speaker with a deep commitment to uplifting and empowering women. Blanchet founded Origen Air in 2019 to produce plant-based, IoT-connected commercial air purification systems. Her 14 years leading high-stakes negotiations and litigation teams, while running a real-estate company, positioned her for the role of CEO. As CEO she has raised over \$2.5 M, filed key patents, launched several pilots across BC and gained traction for sales across Canada. Origen Air is the recipient of the 2022 Chamber Innovation Award, the International Beyond Crisis High Level Forum Award, Rocketbuilders Emerging Cleantech Rocket, and they filmed Dragons’ Den in 2022.

Andrea ‘Andy’ Blair

Co-Founder and Director, Business and Innovation, Upflow (New Zealand)

Andy Blair is a co-Founder of Upflow, a geothermal, research and innovation company based in New Zealand. Upflow is dedicated to harnessing the vast potential of geothermal energy to provide intelligent solutions for some of the world’s most pressing problems. The nexus between science, business and community is where her expertise sits. She has a deep understanding of the drivers relating to the business of science and energy, and a proven ability to turn scientific ideas into economic gains. Blair is the co-founder of Women in Geothermal (WING), and Board Member for Global Women; a collaboration of New Zealand’s most influential women leaders promoting inclusion and diversity for improved societal and economic growth.

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Karin Sempf

CEO and Founder, Innova Nation (Panama)

Karin Sempf is the CEO and Founder of Innova Nation, an educational lab focused on motivating and empowering the upcoming generation of entrepreneurs, innovators, and sustainability advocates. They provide interactive learning opportunities for children and teenagers aged 8-18, helping them foster creativity, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving abilities while simultaneously encouraging them to explore their interests and ideas. By instilling a culture of innovation, sustainability and entrepreneurship in young minds, their programs provide their students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and confidence to turn their ideas into realities.

Menna Farouk

Co-Founder, Dosy (Egypt)

Menna Farouk is a journalist and an entrepreneur. Her work was published in the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the Wall Street Journal, the Guardian, the Sunday Times among others. She is also the co-founder of Dosy which is an Egyptian online platform teaching women how to ride scooters and bicycles.

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GF23 GLOBAL FUTURES

Amanda Ellis

Senior Director of Global Partnerships, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory

Former UN Ambassador (NZ) Amanda Ellis serves as Senior Director of the ASU Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory's Global Partnerships and Networks, Professor of Practice at the Thunderbird School of Global Management and Barrett, The Honors College. She is passionate about being a good ancestor, helping create just and regenerative global futures through transdisciplinary and multi stakeholder engagement. Ellis is a founding member of the Financial Alliance for Women and serves on the Board of Trustees for the World Academy of Art and Science, Blue Planet Alliance, East-West Center Association, Global Governance Forum, Institute for Climate and Peace, and UNICEF Aotearoa (NZ).



Melissa Fifield

Head, BMO Climate Institute

Melissa Fifield leads the BMO Climate Institute, a center of expertise accelerating climate solutions by bridging science, policy, finance and economics. She is a global sustainability leader with more than 20 years of experience leading US and international programs across social and environmental impact areas. She currently serves as Chair of the Apparel Impact Institute Board of Directors and is a founding member and former Board member of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition. Prior to BMO, Fifield led Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability for Bank of the West, where she was responsible for driving strategic partnerships, policies and programs that created and advanced positive impact.



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Moriah Linton

Director, BMO for Women, North American Director Commercial & Wealth Initiatives, BMO Bank of Montreal

Moriah Linton is the Head of BMO for Women and the Director of Commercial & Wealth Initiatives at the 8th largest bank in North America. Under her leadership, BMO is undertaking an ambitious agenda: to be the bank of choice for Women investors, Women entrepreneurs and Women professionals. This has meant the expansion of programs like the Celebrating Women Grant, the creation of the Advocate Strategy for Women business owners and a real focus on supporting sustainable practices. In her other role, Linton leads initiatives aimed at offering BMO's clients a more holistic and complete experience, one that addresses both their business and personal needs. Throughout her 23 years within the banking industry, which started as a teller, Linton has been a senior leader across a vast array of functions at BMO; including retail, commercial banking, wealth, digital innovation, project management and strategy. Equally as important to her, Linton continually gives back to the community, working with students, start-ups and women entrepreneurs through a variety of volunteer activities and through board memberships.

