Empowering Women in Sustainability

Patrick Realiza (Moderator)
Chair, UNA-NCA Sustainable Development Committee

Patrick Realiza is the current Chair of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) Sustainable Development Committee. In this role he leads and facilitates in the development and creation of programs and initiatives on behalf of the committee. In addition, he actively fosters and maintains key internal and external relationships within the various working and standing committees of the organization at the local and national chapter levels. Outside of his work with UNA-NCA, he serves as the Social Media Specialist for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH), an agency under the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) within the Government of the District of Columbia, where he actively manages, updates and monitors the agency's official digital presence.

Pari Kasotia
Deputy Director, The Solar Foundation

Pari Kasotia is the Deputy Director at The Solar Foundation and is responsible for providing operational oversight for all core functions at the organization. In addition to her business acumen, she has strong expertise in clean energy markets, energy efficiency, and biofuels.

She is the Founder and CEO of Unfolding Energy and was named Midwest Energy News’s 2015 40 under 40 Emerging Clean Energy Leaders. Prior to her role at The Solar Foundation, Pari led the Iowa Energy Office at the State of Iowa and managed all the undertakings of the Office, which included multi-million federal and state energy projects to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy in Iowa communities. Her past experience also includes working at a public policy consulting firm and a nonprofit organization.

Katherine Arnold
Senior Program Associate, Humanitarian
Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, United Nations Foundation

Katherine Arnold is the Senior Program Associate, Humanitarian at the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. Her work focuses on improving safe access to cooking fuel and energy for humanitarian populations.

Prior to the Alliance, Katherine worked as a researcher with Columbia University and Rebuild Hope for Africa (RHA), to measure human rights violations in Democratic Republic of Congo, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to conduct rapid assessments of water and sanitation access in Nakivale and Ocuchinga refugee camps in Uganda, and with Mount Sinai Global Health Center to analyze survey data from Syrian refugees.