



WOMEN IN CLEANTECH
& SUSTAINABILITY

The 9th Annual

WCS TALKS



SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

Plug and Play Tech Center
440 N Wolfe Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94085



WomenCleantech

#WCSTalks

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KnowBe4
Human error. Conquered.

Agenda

Saturday- January 20th

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

9:00 am

REGISTRATION

10:00 am

OPENING REMARKS

Lisa Ann Pinkerton  [lisapinkerton](#)

Founder, Women in Cleantech & Sustainability

Founder and CEO, Technica Communications

Co-Host, The Earthlings Podcast



10:05 am



SPEAKER

Wade Bitaraf

Founder, Energy and Sustainability, Plug and Play Tech Center

Plug and Play: The Ultimate Innovation Platform

10:20 am



SPEAKER

Olubamise Onabanjo

ESG Analyst, Morrison Foerster

Primer on Sustainability Performance Tracking and Reporting

10:35 am



SPEAKER

Kellie Macpherson

Executive VP, Compliance and Risk Management, Radian Generation

The World Needs You

10:50 am



SPEAKER

Ivy Chaudhuri

Student, VP - Energy and Sustainability Club,
Indian School of Business

Manufacturing maze: navigating workplace complexity

11:05 am

EVENTS AT WCS

Lael Giebel, Gabriela Fierro

Co-Chairs, Board Members, Women in Cleantech & Sustainability

Director of Sustainability, KnowBe4 | Business Development, McKinstry

- **San Francisco Chapter**
- **Los Angeles Chapter**
- **Career Development**
- **Entrepreneurship**

11:20 am

30 MINUTE BREAK: COFFEE & NETWORKING

11:45 am



WCS Future Vision

Sara Fuentes

Co-Founder and President, Smart Waste Inc

Lisa Ann

Founder and CEO, Technica Communications

12:00 pm



SPEAKER

Jodi Guthrie

President, SET Consulting, LLC

Sewer; an unexpected path to an amazing future

12:15 pm



SPEAKER

Niloofar Torabi

Director of Hardware Engineering, Nexttracker

Bridging distances: A journey of understanding

12:30 pm



SPEAKER

Andrea Johnson

Executive Director, Green Empowerment

Micro-Utilities For a More Equitable World

12:45 pm



SPEAKER

Esther Unti

Senior Manager, Controls Calibration, Lucid Motors

Fearless Innovation: Tricks to beat imposter syndrome and advance transportation

12:55 pm

MEMBERSHIP AT WCS

Cathy Zhang Robin

Membership Co-Chair, Women in Cleantech & Sustainability

1:00 pm

CLOSING REMARKS

Sara Fuentes

Chairwomen-elect, Women in Cleantech & Sustainability

Co-Founder and President, Smart Waste Inc

Co-Host, Trash Magic Podcast



1:00 pm

LUNCH + NETWORKING

2:00 pm

CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

Speaker Bios



Wade Bitarag

Founder, Plug and Play Ventures

Wade founded the Energy & Sustainability practice at Plug and Play, the largest corporate innovation center. He collaborates with entrepreneurs and investors on the energy industry value chain. Wade holds a master's degree in Chemical Engineering and has worked in the solar industry. His passion lies at the intersection of technology and business.



Olubamise Onabanjo

Corporate Sustainability and Social Impact, Morrison Foerster

Bamise is an ESG analyst at Morrison Foerster in San Francisco. She researches ESG regulations, develops compliance policies, and advises clients on environmental and social obligations. She holds an L.L.M. from Duke University and an undergraduate degree from Babcock University.



Kellie Macpherson

Executive VP- Compliance & Risk Management, Radian Generation

Kellie is the EVP of Compliance & Risk at Radian Generation. With 15+ years of experience in renewable assets, she oversees NERC compliance, having implemented 200+ programs and completed 40+ audits in all NERC regions. Kellie simplifies complexity for her team and clients.



Esther Unti

Senior Manager, Controls Calibration, Lucid Motors

Esther joined Lucid Motors in 2019, founded a vehicle controls calibration team, co-founded Women@Lucid, and spearheaded software development for the Lucid Air Sapphire. Her internships at Tesla and leadership in Formula SAE make her an integral part of the Lucid team and an inspiration to women.



Ivy Chaudhuri

Student, VP - Energy and Sustainability Club, Indian School of Business

Ivy is currently pursuing the prestigious Post Graduate Programme in Management at the Indian School of Business. As the Vice-President of the Energy and Sustainability Club here, she has been a passionate advocate of sustainable energy solutions propelling India's decarbonization journey, circular economy, and inclusive growth.



Niloofar Torabi

Director of Hardware Engineering, Nextracker

Niloofar is an electrical engineer with expertise in power systems. Her work focuses on improving the efficiency of power grid systems. She has developed methods to detect and eliminate DC injection, and has worked on reactance-injecting modules that balance currents in electric power transmission. Her patents and work demonstrate a commitment to advancing technology in power electronics and electric power transmission.



Andrea Johnson

Executive Director, Green Empowerment

Since 2016, Andrea has combined her background in Oregon's clean energy sector, international experience in conservation and community development, and academic studies to advance Green Empowerment's mission and impact.

As a working executive with two young children, she is committed to creating an organization where people can grow professionally, have a positive impact in the world and establish a healthy work-life integration. In 2023, Andrea was awarded Executive of the Year in Social Impact from the Portland Business Journal. In 2022, Andrea delivered a TEDx Talk Shifting Power For a More Equitable World in Fiesole, Italy. She is also a co-founder of GlobalPDX, and is the voice of their Speaking Change podcast showcasing Oregon's global changemakers.



Jodi Guthrie

President, SET Consulting, LLC

Jodi is the President of SET Consulting, LLC. She gained experience in launching new concepts, manufacturing, cross-border trade, and business ownership at Leading Technologies.

In 1999, Jodi moved to British Columbia, Canada, and became a single mother of three. In 2021, she managed sales for a US company expanding into Western Canada and eventually became the manager of sales and key accounts for all of Canada.

Jodi joined SHARC Energy, a small manufacturer of sewer heat recovery technology, and became the Global Director of Sales. She established SET Consulting, LLC to support WET District Energy Public/Private partnerships. The company is currently reviewing initial programs in Washington State, Canada, Poland, and Australia.

Jodi works independently to create sewer heat recovery programs and pilot sites through public/private partnerships.



Lunch Menu

Hors D'oeuvres

Roasted Butternut Squash and Goat Cheese
Crostiti with Arugula & Balsamic Reduction

Buffet Lunch

Vegetarian Moroccan Tajine

Butternut Squash Ravioli with Brown Butter Sauce with
Fried Sage

Roasted Rosemary Yukon Gold Potatoes

Grilled Vegetables Tossed with Olive Oil

Mixed Greens with Cherry Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella,
Chopped Basil and a Balsamic Vinaigrette

T O A S T
catering and event management

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\$1,000 shopping spree at Stella Carakasi

Stella Carakasi is a pioneer in sustainable and eco-friendly fashion. Her timeless designs support women of all ages and body types.



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Become a WCS member!

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As a member you will receive:

- Access to WCS events calendar
- Virtual Happy Hours (free)
- Webinars (free)
- Access to secure virtual networking members list
- Advanced access to new job listings
- Profile on our membership database
- Annual member appreciation event
- Video library with early access to all WCS event recordings
- 50% discount on WCS Talks
- 50% discount on in-person events
- 30% student membership discount
- Exclusive Slack Space for Networking and Collaboration
- Eligible to apply to WCS Mentorship Program

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH US?

Volunteering is the best way to grow your network! Reach out to us about volunteer opportunities.

[Learn More](#)



Meet the Board

Volunteering and giving back is at the heart of WCS. Thank you to all of our dedicated board members for building this thriving community!



Lisa Ann Pinkerton

Chairwoman

Founder and CEO,
Technica Communications



Sara Eve Fuentes

Vice Chairwoman

Founder and President,
SmartWaste



Janet Ge

Treasurer

Head of Security, GRAIL



Julie Busch

Board Secretary

President, Product Rehab



Cathy Zhang

Membership Co-Chair

Senior Research Engineer/
Team Leader at Saint-Gobain



Marine Dajunts

Membership Co-chair

Manager, Business
Control, Fortum



Tracy Huynh

Marketing Co-Chair

Senior Associate,
Carbon-Free Buildings



Joanna Rogers

Marketing Co-Chair

Vice President, Marketing,
Terrasmart



Kirpa Grewal

Volunteer Co-Lead

Business Development,
Sustainable Brands



Oakley Jennings-Fast

Volunteer Co-Lead

Director of Circular Economy,
Smart Waste



Pam Sammarco

Career Development Co-Chair

CEO & Founder, Green Training
Associates



Leslie Bane Petry

Career Development Co-Chair

Head of Marketing, Meta



Lael Giebel

Events Co-Chair

Director of Global
Sustainability, KnowBe4



Gabriela Fierro

Events Committee

Capital Projects
McKinstry



Jennifer Johnson

LA Chapter Committee

Global Strategic Planning
and Operations Leader



Arila Barnes

Entrepreneurship

Managing Director,
AXM Software LLC



Anna Yee

Entrepreneurship

Contractor to US
Department of Energy

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