

Window on the World

This issue of Window on the World lists some intergovernmental organizations, environmental and campaigning organizations, as well as research centres on climate, energy and environmental issues.

Avaaz.org

<http://www.avaaz.org>

Avaaz – meaning ‘voice’ in several European, Middle Eastern and Asian languages – was launched in 2007 with a simple democratic mission: organize citizens of all nations to close the gap between the world we have and the world most people everywhere want. Avaaz empowers millions of people from all walks of life to take action on pressing global, regional and national issues, from corruption and poverty to conflict and climate change. Its model of internet organizing allows thousands of individual efforts, however small, to be rapidly combined into a powerful collective force.

Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO)

<http://www.cicero.uio.no>

The Norwegian government established CICERO – Oslo in 1990. CICERO is an independent research centre associated with the University of Oslo.

CICERO’s mission is to conduct research and provide reports, information and expert advice about issues related to global climate change and international climate policy with the aim of acquiring knowledge that can help mitigate the climate problem and enhance international climate cooperation.

Conservation International (CI)

<http://www.conservation.org>

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity and for the well-being of humanity. It imagines a healthy, prosperous world in which societies are forever committed to caring for and valuing nature for the long-term benefit of people and all life on Earth. Armed with a new mission and strategy and inspired by the values that guide it, CI aims to influence the course of global development, demonstrating to governments, institutions and corporations alike that a path that values nature is essential for human well-being – and the well-being of all life on our planet.

Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC)

<http://www.undeerc.org>

The EERC is one of the world's leading developers of cleaner, more efficient energy and environmental technologies to protect and clean our air, water and soil.

The EERC is a high-tech, nonprofit branch of the University of North Dakota. The EERC provides practical, cost-effective solutions to today's most critical energy and environmental issues and challenges. The EERC's research portfolio consists of a wide array of strategic energy and environmental solutions, including clean coal technologies, CO₂ sequestration, energy and water sustainability, hydrogen technologies, air toxics and fine particulate, mercury measurement and control, alternative fuels, wind energy, biomass, water management, flood prevention, global climate change, waste utilization, energy-efficient technologies, and contaminant cleanup.

Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability (Feasta)

<http://www.feasta.org>

Feasta was launched in Dublin in October 1998 to explore the economic, cultural and environmental characteristics of a truly sustainable society, and to disseminate the results of this research to the widest possible audience.

Feasta's mission is to examine the reasons for growth compulsion to see if an economic system can be devised without it. Feasta has also looked at money systems, agricultural systems, carbon systems, energy systems, taxation systems, rationing systems, land tenure systems and democratic systems.

Friends of the Earth International (FOEI)

<http://www.foei.org>

FOEI is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 76 national member groups and some 5,000 local activist groups on every continent. With over 2 million members and supporters around the world, the organization campaigns on today's most urgent environmental

and social issues. It challenges the current model of economic and corporate globalization, and promotes solutions that will help create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Feminist Task Force (FTF)

<http://feministtaskforce.org>

The FTF was launched in March 2005 when leaders of international women's rights groups gathered in New York City for the annual meetings of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women. The global launch marked the start of a new alliance aimed at ending poverty among women and putting gender equality at the core of poverty eradication. Established under the umbrella of the GCAP, the FTF focuses on the importance of framing poverty as a women's issue and calling for 'Gender Equality to End Poverty'.

Green Economics Institute

<http://www.greeconomics.org.uk>

Green Economics is one of the fastest growing global movements for change that has been taken up by many governments and NGOs and is having a huge influence on the background in which businesses have to operate. It seeks to reform the very concept of economics itself and to incorporate the completely new factors into business and decision making. These include, in particular, the new awareness that we are living in devastating and rapid climate change never seen before. It works on the premises that there is a huge global environmental change of processes and earth systems, possibly even an increase in seismic activity and a huge glacial melt and sea level rise.

Greenpeace

<http://www.greenpeace.org>

Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organization that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. Its areas of work are climate change, defending our oceans, protecting forests and the animals, plants and people that

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depend on them and campaigning for sustainable agriculture by protecting biodiversity and encouraging socially responsible farming.

Greenpeace is present in 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

<http://www.iied.org>

The IIED is a global leader in sustainable development. Its mission is to build a fairer, more sustainable world using evidence, action and influence in partnership with others.

As an independent international research organization, it specializes in linking local to global. In Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, the Middle East and the Pacific it works with some of the world's most vulnerable people to ensure they have a say in the policy arenas that most closely affect them – from village councils to international conventions.

Through close collaboration with partners at the grassroots, IIED makes its research and advocacy relevant to their needs and alive to their realities.

United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa>

At the UN, the UNDESA provides the substantive support to intergovernmental processes on development issues in the General Assembly and in the Economic and Social Council, its functional commissions and expert bodies.

DESA engages with a variety of stakeholders around the world, including non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, research and academic organizations and intergovernmental organizations, as well as partner organizations in the UN system.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

<http://www.unep.org>

The core objective of the UNEP is to serve as an authoritative advocate for the global environment,

to help governments set the global environmental agenda and to promote the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the UN system.

UNEP's mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

<http://www.unrisd.org>

UNRISD was established in 1963 as an autonomous space within the UN system for the conduct of policy-relevant, cutting-edge research on social development that is pertinent to the work of the UN Secretariat; regional commissions and specialized agencies; and national institutions. The UNRISD mission is to generate knowledge and articulate policy alternatives on contemporary development issues, thereby contributing to the broader goals of the UN system of reducing poverty and inequality, advancing well-being and rights, and creating more democratic and just societies.

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

<http://www.wedo.org>

As a global women's advocacy organization, WEDO envisions a just world that promotes and protects human rights, gender equality and the integrity of the environment.

To contribute towards its vision for the world, WEDO's mission is to ensure that women's rights; social, economic and environmental justice; and sustainable development principles – as well as the linkages between them – are at the heart of global and national policies, programmes and practices.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

<http://www.wwf.org>

The WWF Network is the world's leading environmental organization founded in 1961 and

now active in over 100 countries. Using a unique combination of practical experience, knowledge and credibility, its staff works with governments, businesses and communities around the world so that people and nature thrive within their fair share of the planet's natural resources. WWF addresses global threats to people and nature such as climate change, the peril to endangered species and

habitats, and the unsustainable consumption of the world's natural resources. It does this by influencing how governments, businesses and people think, learn and act in relation to the world around us, and by working with local communities to improve their livelihoods and the environment upon which we all depend.

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