

Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewable (wPOWER)

The wPOWER hub, Wangari Maathai Institute, through this Request for Proposals (RFP), invites research concepts from applicants interested in receiving research support for their project/thesis for a Masters Degree at the University of Nairobi. From the submitted Concepts, at least three to five applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal, which, if accepted, will lead to award of research funds for the project. The research work will be expected to provide high quality evidence-based information on successful adoption, knowledge, attitudes and barriers towards clean energy technologies, and the role of women's entrepreneurship in advancing clean energy adoption.

The role of women in addressing energy access and affordability is undeniable. Women are a critical force in sustainably managing natural resources and increasing energy access, which ultimately helps to combat climate change as well as improve livelihoods and community health. Women also remain the primary users of small-scale efficient and clean technologies and perhaps determine the adoption rates of various related technological options. Given this situation, the prospect of increasing energy access and driving green growth through direct integration of women in the energy access value chain is strong. However, there are currently several barriers which hinder the full integration of women into the value chain. Some of these barriers may include low access and awareness, financial constraints, cultural barriers and poor marketing strategies. It could also be that the technologies that exist today or are emerging do not address the multiple needs of a cooking/fire place.