

Gender Diversity in Corporate Leadership – An Underestimated Lever for Climate Neutral Businesses?

### Gender-Research in Ecological Economics Network

GENDER RESEARCH





# About GREEN

**Objective**: Exploring and emphasizing the positive impact of women in the ecological transformation

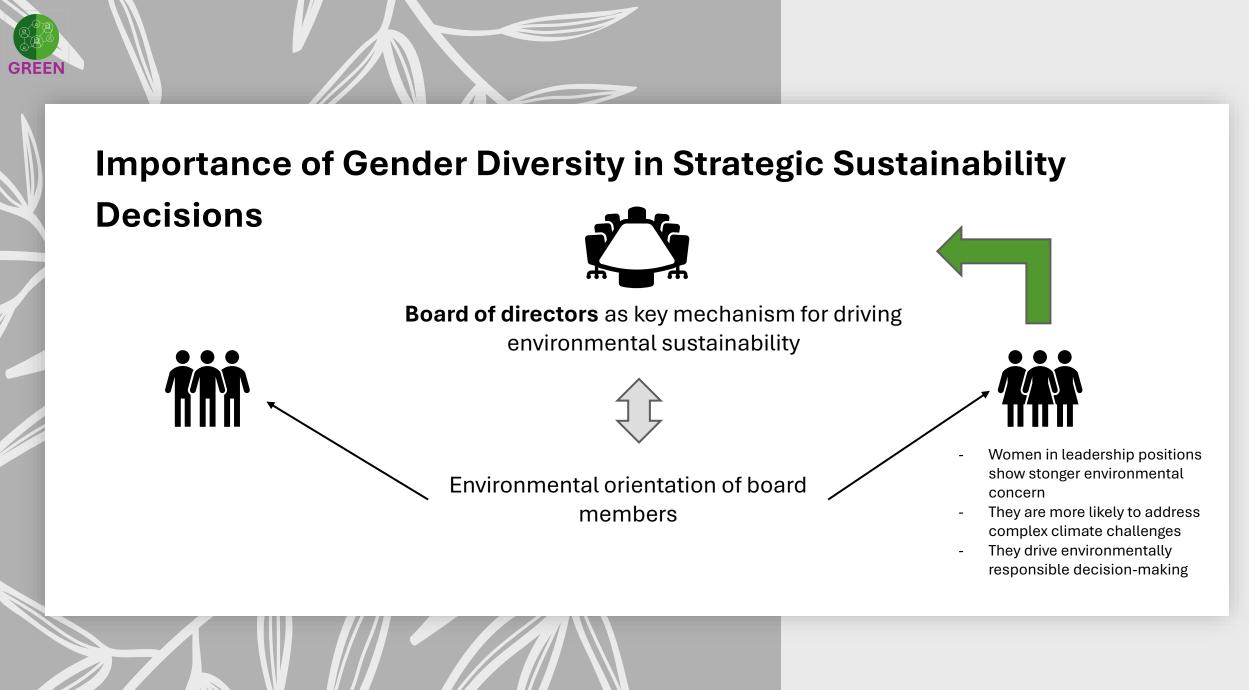
We review empirical studies, replicate datasets, and conduct interviews with women in leadership.

The Ecological Transformation requires inclusive Innovation

Ecological transformation is one of the most pressing societal challenges of our time.

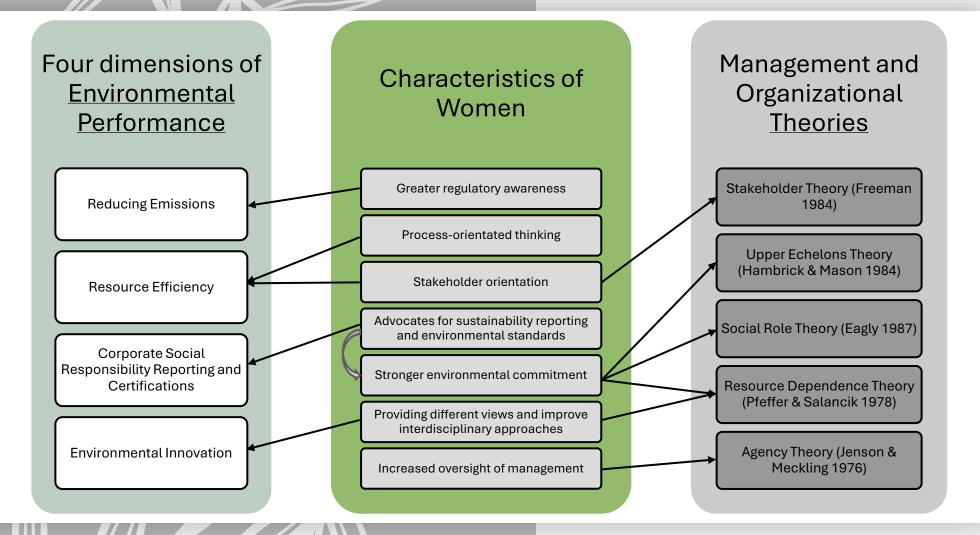
- It requires innovative solutions and the active inclusion of all social groups.

Women play an important role – especially in developing environmentally and socially responsible innovations.





Positive Impact of Board Gender Diversity on Environmental Performance





Barriers of the Impact of Board Gender Diversity on Environmental Performance



**Structural Barriers and Stereotypes** can contribute to low female representation



**Tokenism and Lack of Authority:** symbolic representation of women

**Sector-Specific Differences**: higher impact in environmentally sensitive industries



#### Institutional and Cultural Contexts:

effectiveness of gender-diverse boards depends on national environmental regulations, political stability and cultural attitudes

Gender-Diversity as strategic Lever for the Ecological Transformation and Climate-Neutral Businesses GENDER RESEARCH



## Thank you for your attention!





## References

- Al-Najjar B, Salama A (2022) Mind the gap: Are female directors and executives more sensitive to the environment in high-tech us frms? Technol Forecast Soc Change 184:122024. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2022.122024</u>
- Cordeiro JJ, Profumo G, Tutore I (2020) Board gender diversity and corporate environmental perfor- mance: the moderating role of family and dual-class majority ownership structures. Bus Strateg Environ 29:1127–1144. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2421">https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2421</a>
- Elmagrhi MH, Ntim CG, Elamer AA, Zhang Q (2019) A study of environmental policies and regula- tions, governance structures, and environmental performance: the role of female directors. Bus Strateg Environ 28:206–220. https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2250
- Mason C, Simmons J (2014) Embedding corporate social responsibility in corporate governance: a stake- holder systems approach. J Bus Ethics 119:77–86. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-012-1615-9
- Moussa T, Allam A, Elbanna S, Bani-Mustafa A (2020) Can board environmental orientation improve U.S. frms' carbon performance? The mediating role of carbon strategy. Bus Strateg Environ 29:72–86. https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2351
- Yukl G (2002) Leadership in Organizations, 8th edn. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, USA Zelezny LC, Chua PP, Aldrich C (2000) New Ways of Thinking about Environmentalism: Elaborating on Gender Diferences in Environmentalism. J Soc Issues 56:443–457. https://doi.org/10.1111/0022-4537.00177
- Zhang D, Zhang Z, Ji Q et al (2021) Board characteristics, external governance and the use of renewable energy: international evidence. J Int Financ Mark Inst Money 72:101317. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/J.</u> INTFIN.2021.101317
- Park SJ, Choi S, Kim EJ (2012) The relationships between socio-demographic variables and concerns about environmental sustainability. Corp Soc Responsib Environ Manag 19:343–354. https://doi. org/10.1002/csr.284
- Gangi F, Daniele LM, D'Angelo E et al (2023) The impact of board gender diversity on banks' environ- mental policy: the moderating role of gender inequality in national culture. Corp Soc Responsib Environ Manag 30:1273–1291. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/CSR.2418">https://doi.org/10.1002/CSR.2418</a>
- Nadeem M, Bahadar S, Gull AA, Iqbal U (2020) Are women eco-friendly? Board gender diversity and environmental innovation. Bus Strateg Environ 29:3146–3161. https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2563
- Issa A, Zaid MAA (2021) Boardroom gender diversity and corporate environmental performance: a multi-theoretical perspective in the MENA region. Int J Account Inf Manag 29:603–630. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJAIM-05-2021-0101/FULL/XML
- Shoham A, Almor T, Lee SM, Ahammad MF (2017) Encouraging environmental sustainability through gender: a micro-foundational approach using linguistic gender marking. J Organ Behav 38:1356–1379. https://doi.org/10.1002/job.2188
- Freeman RE (1984) Strategic management: a stakeholder approach. Pitman, Boston
- Hambrick DC, Mason PA (1984) Upper echelons: the organization as a refection of its top managers. Acad Manag Rev 9:193–206. https://doi.org/10.2307/258434
- Eagly AH (1987) Sex diferences in social behavior. Psychology Press, New York
- Jensen MC, Meckling WH (1976) Theory of the frm: Managerial behavior, agency costs and ownership structure. J Financ Econ 3:305–360. https://doi.org/10.1016/0304-405X(76)90026-X
- Pfefer J, Salancik GR (1978) The external control of organizations: a resource dependence perspective. Harper & Row, New York
- Fernández-Torres, Y., Gallego-Sosa, C. & Gutiérrez-Fernández, M. Do women board members contribute to companies' superior environmental performance? A literature review. *Rev Manag Sci* **19**, 1513–1565 (2025). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s11846-024-00800-x">https://doi.org/10.1007/s11846-024-00800-x</a>
- Ranaldo, S., Dicuonzo, G., & Donofrio, F. (2023). Gender diversity and financial and environmental performance in SMEs: A systematic literature review. Corporate Ownership & Control, 20(2), 21– 33. <u>https://doi.org/10.22495/cocv20i2art2</u>