

CIARA SHANNON (MSc)

ALL ABOUT NET ZERO

Experienced and passionate about galvanising policy and people to accelerate a transition to a net-zero economy. Recognised for my work via initiating the Climate Change Business Forum working with senior business leaders and academics on climate change. Beyond the business sector, I have worked across sectors and geographies managing multiple, collaborative climate change projects and teams. This includes initiating a successful and high-profile faith-based campaign and public affairs strategy around the Paris Agreement, work with impact investors on energy access and current advocacy work against West Cumbria Mining. I am a certified Change Management Practitioner, have a MSc in Development Studies and taught at various universities undergrad/postgrad on Corporate Sustainability and Climate Change.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **STRATEGY & DELIVERY:** Public affairs, climate policy/advocacy, campaigns, research and communications
- **STRATEGIC AND COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT:** Coalitions, partnerships and facilitation – Global, Asia and UK
- **ANALYSIS & KNOWLEDGE:** UK climate policy, Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainable Finance. Analysis on decarbonising technologies including for harder to abate sectors such as the steel sector.

ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 2014-2016: High-level policy and campaigning to align faiths on the Paris Agreement. (GreenFaith/OurVoices)
- 2016: Named a Hong Kong Female Eco-Champion, for cross-sector climate work, International Women's Day
- 2014: Developed a first-of-its-kind sustainability risk assessment calculus (Agile Properties)
- 2008: Awarded by HKSAR's Environment Secretary and Sir Crispin Tickell 'Outstanding Earth Champion' for leadership work in inspiring corporate climate action for the Climate Change Business Forum. Raised £1.5 million
- 2006: One of the first in Hong Kong to raise awareness on climate change via trip to Antarctica (IAE4)

CAREER HISTORY

AUG 2017 – PRESENT – Director, EdenWorks – Sustainability & Climate Change Advisory (www.eden-works.org)

- Working on advocacy project around the business case against the proposed coking coal mine in West Cumbria. Specifically, have been analysing the material financial risks of the project in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) risks. It also includes looking at decarbonisation technologies for the steel sector and outreach with investors and green financiers
- Project Management and Committee Member, Sustainable Finance Sculpture Project (June 2018- ongoing). A CDP project that aims to creatively depict the transformational power of finance to respond to social and environmental challenges and honours the legacy of the late Tessa Tennant, a true pioneer of green finance. As a key member of the team my role has been to set up the project, help develop the vision and strategy, project management, communications, fundraising, oversee the consultants, extensive stakeholder outreach and budget. (www.sustainablefinancesculpture.net)
- Various: Helped the Climate App during their start-up phase. This initiative is led by a group of young people who aim to build an app to cut emissions. Also was involved in Kendal's Climate Jury and provided voluntary climate support to Tim Farron, MP - considering Cumbria's climate context, the UK's Environment Bill and Agricultural Bill and payment systems and analysed what this means for landowners/ farmers in Cumbria, in-line with net zero carbon by 2050.
- Explored ways to pay for local climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, with a focus on peat restoration
- Climate change consultancy, research for CAFOD looking at climate change impacts, GHG emissions and deforestation in Catholic countries and analysed policy landscape. This job included extensive stakeholder engagement with global projects and practitioners
- Research consultancy for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) that analysed metrics and financing mechanisms for energy access (SDG 7) as an enabler for 'nexus' sectors: health, education, and agriculture
- Coordinator for IFC/FT Transformational Lifetime event for the late Tessa Tennant OBE. High-profile event and global sustainable finance leaders attended. (www.lifetimeachievement.uk)

JAN – AUG 2017 – CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR. SHINE: INVESTING IN ENERGY ACCESS FOR ALL (www.shineinvest.org)

- Was invited in an interim capacity to work closely with co-founders the Wallace Global Fund, IKEA Foundation, GreenFaith and Sustainable Energy for All to develop and operationalise Shine's campaign strategy to galvanise clean energy investments in 'last mile' energy access in the Global South (SDG 7). Also did detailed research and established cross-sector relationships with UN bodies, practitioners, philanthropists and developed a global stakeholder framework. Successfully ran a stakeholder training consultation in India, management to a small team, managed Shine's pre-launch activities, webinars and did public representation.

MAR 2014 -FEB 2017 – ASIA DIRECTOR, GREEN FAITH/ OURVOICES. Global (www.greenfaith.org)

- Worked as a key part of OurVoices and GreenFaith's senior management team on their global climate change projects and campaigns to build capacity and climate knowledge to galvanise faith leaders around the Paris Agreement. I also did extensive stakeholder engagement in multiple Asian countries with faith, government and Asian NGOs. Also did detailed research for the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, and did substantial climate policy work, as well as helped train 60 young leaders.

Specific achievements -

- Part of the global leadership team - helped create and roll out numerous climate campaigns and shared our engagement strategy with faith groups and NGOs globally and was responsible for Asia's strategic work. Our initiatives generated global participation and helped raise awareness on the moral imperative to act on climate change - received significant coverage in the religious and secular press and on social media
- I oversaw the drafting and dissemination of three high-level Interfaith climate policy statements around the Paris Agreement in 2015 and 2016 and led the input of 60 Interfaith NGOs globally. Achievements - 588 top religious leaders signed the Statements, from 62 countries with support of 16,000 people of faith. Statements were presented to President Hollande, the UN Secretary-General, and the President of the UN General Assembly. Oversaw media - coverage in 300 press outlets, 2.5 million hits on social media. (www.interfaithstatement2016.org) and (www.gbccc.org). Our work was praised by Christiana Figueres (former UNFCCC Executive Director) and by Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama in 2015/16

2014 – CLIMATE DIRECTOR, THIRD INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CONFERENCE, URBAN ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN ASIAN CITIES - (www.iccc.hk)

- Successfully led a high-level international climate conference with the Hong Kong Climate Forum and the HKSAR Government. A first for Asia to invite Asian governments to understand how Asian governments were working on urban climate adaptation and resilience. I was responsible for overseeing the committee, the multi-layered agenda, liaising with IPCC scientists on content, writing all communications materials, project and budget management.

2009-2014 – SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE DIRECTOR, EDEN VENTURES, Hong Kong, Nepal

- Sustainability Team Leader, Agile Properties. A key achievement was managing a dynamic team to develop a first-of-its-kind sustainability risk calculus. Oversaw complex stakeholder engagement. Team management (team of three)
- Researcher, ADM Capital Foundation. Researched carbon markets (EU ETS/China), REDD+ and deforestation
- Director, Planet Eden. Own initiative to bring to Hong Kong the Eden Project. Strategy, vision scoping and fundraising

AUG 2006 -AUG 2009 -DIRECTOR, CLIMATE CHANGE BUSINESS FORUM, BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL, HK

- Initiated and managed from start-up to scale the Climate Change Business Forum (CCBF). My role included writing the original strategy, managing a team to drive the Forum forward in all areas – policy, communications, coalition building and working closely with senior business leaders, NGOs, Chambers of Commerce, and academics. Some of the 27 companies included HSBC, Standard Chartered, China Light & Power, John Swire & Sons, Jardine Matheson etc. Other aspects included overseeing the research and highlighting cross-sector low carbon technologies and road maps. Also oversaw the communications strategy and worked with Saatchi on a low carbon campaign. Wrote policy briefings, responded to government climate policy consultations, attended UN Conference of Parties (COPs), briefed business community and liaised with HKSAR government. Engaged with the media, wrote speeches and was CCBF's public representative. Raised £1.5 million from companies and did budget management.
- **Awarded by HKSAR's Environment Secretary and Sir Crispin Tickell 'Outstanding Earth Champion' for my leadership work in mobilising corporate action on climate change**
- As a Senior Manager, was responsible for CCBF's overall project management and provided regular reporting to the CEO and Board, management of a team and managed their performance. (www.climatechangebusinessforum.com)

FEB 2006– JULY 2006- TEAM LEADER, LEADERSHIP ON THE EDGE (IAE4), 2041, Antarctica A team leader on Robert Swan's 2041 environmental leadership - Inspire Antarctic Expedition (IAE4). On return, raised awareness on climate change, and lobbied for government and business action through media coverage and advocacy via Canadian and British Chamber of

Commerce

2003-2005 – SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS, UK GOVERNMENT, London

- Secondment, Home Office and the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC). For the SDC, helped developed a cross-government communications initiative on energy and waste reduction
- Helped re-write Defra's Sustainable Development Strategy: 'Foundations for Our Future' (2004)

2001-2002 - SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT MANAGEMENT, Hong Kong

- Advised family office board of Sir Ellis Kadoorie & Sons on corporate sustainability trends
- Led a team on multi-stakeholder sustainability project for Civic Exchange and liaised with Hong Kong Government. Provided oversight and managed the team performance.
- Worked closely with the Association for Sustainable & Responsible Investment in Asia (ASRIA)

UNIVERSITY LECTURER & COURSE WRITER

- 2014-2015 - BSc Lecturer (Visiting Scholar), ENVR 4000N, Corporate Sustainability: The Triple Bottom Line, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and MSc Lecturer, Environmental Management, ENVM8019. Corporate Sustainability, University of Hong Kong (HKU)
- 2010-2012 - MBA Tutor, Corporate Sustainability and Climate Change, the University of Northern Iowa and MBA Tutor, Corporate Sustainability and Climate Change, the University of South Australia

SOME CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

- 2019: For CAFOD: Where Next for Catholic Climate Action? Opportunities for Global Climate Action and Advocacy
- 2019: For IIED: Financing Energy Access (SDG7) for the Poorest
- 2017: For the Wallace Global Fund: Energy Access: Finance, Philanthropic and Faith-based Investments
- 2016: For Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts: Fossil Fuel Divesting and Investing in Low Carbon Solutions
- 2016: For the Global Catholic Movement: Eco-Parish Guide to Reducing GHG Emissions (toolkit)
- 2014: For the Hong Kong Climate Forum: Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Asian Cities
- 2013: For Agile Properties: An Independent Sustainability Review. A Net Positive or Net Negative Gain?
- 2010: For ADM Capital Foundation: Redd+ in Asia, State of Play of Illegal Logging and Deforestation
- 2009: For the Climate Change Business Forum. Every Building a Powerhouse. Innovative Energy Efficiency Solutions
- 2009: For the Climate Change Business Forum: Hong Kong Business Guide to Emission Reduction (toolkit) and The Carbon Markets and What It Means for Asia and Hong Kong

SOME CLIMATE CAMPAIGNS

- 2017 -2017: Shine: Investing in Energy Access for All – campaigns on universal energy access (SDG 7)
- 2014 -2016: People's Climate Pilgrimage, #FAITHS4PARISAGREEMENT in Asia and globally for COP21 and COP22
- 2014- 2015 - #DIVESTINVEST (global), #Light for Lima and #SeasonofCreation (global)

SOME PUBLISHED ARTICLES - more on www.eden-works.org

- 2020: For Peat's Sake (blog), EdenWorks. 2019: The Glare of the Glasgow Gavel (COP26), (blog) EdenWorks
- 2015: The Great Break Up. Larsen B. The Globe, Feature Article, Royal Geographical Society, HK
- 2014: Cities Must Adapt to Climate Change, Op-Ed, SCMP

EDUCATION

- 2019- 2020: Certificate - Change Maker (ongoing) and Diploma in Leadership and Management (ongoing). 2019: Diploma in Sustainable Energy. One Education (Distinction). 2019: Change Management Foundation and Practitioner Course (Distinction). APMG International Exam
- 2003: MSc, Development Studies, SOAS, University of London
- 1992: BA (HONS), Social Science (Politics and Sociology), the University of the West of England

SOME ASSOCIATIONS & BOARDS

- 2018 – (ongoing) Committee member, the Sustainable Finance Sculpture Project
- 2007-2015 – Secretary and Board Member, Royal Geographical Society, HK
- 2014- 2016 – Co-founder and Steering Committee member, Global Catholic Climate Change Movement (GCCM)