



LEADING THE CHANGE:

Women Shaping a Sustainable Future

THEME OVERVIEW

For 2026, the National Women's History Alliance (NWHA) proudly presents the theme:

“Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future”

This theme honors the women who have and are reimagining and rebuilding systems to ensure long-term sustainability - environmental, economic, educational, and societal. It recognizes the powerful leadership of women in creating a future that is rooted in equity, justice, and opportunity for all.

From environmental advocacy to financial reform, from community organizing to policy innovation, women are at the forefront of driving holistic change.

Their leadership is not only addressing today's most urgent challenges - it is laying the foundation for a more resilient and inclusive tomorrow.

HOW TO CELEBRATE

Spotlight Local Leaders: Host events or exhibits highlighting how women are creating sustainable impact—whether in environmental work, entrepreneurship, education, public policy, or social services.

Engage Youth: Partner with schools and youth organizations to explore sustainability themes and honor emerging young leaders.

Promote Intersections: Facilitate conversations on how economic justice, climate resilience, and social equity are interconnected—and how women are advancing all three.

Share Stories: Use newsletters, webinars, and social media to feature the voices of women change-makers in diverse fields.

Take Action: Launch or support initiatives that promote sustainability in your community, such as clean energy, cooperative economics, or environmental education.

Use NWHA Resources: Download our 2026 Women's History Month Toolkit, complete with sample programming, honoree profiles, and customizable promotional materials.

IMPORTANCE & RELEVANCE

In this pivotal moment of history, we are called to confront a range of overlapping global challenges: climate change, economic insecurity, healthcare disparities, and threats to democratic participation. These issues are deeply intertwined - and women, particularly from marginalized communities, often experience their impacts most acutely.

Yet women have also led the charge toward lasting solutions.

“Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future” expands our understanding of sustainability beyond just environmental concerns. It encompasses financial sustainability, community resilience, leadership succession, and intergenerational equity. Whether developing green technologies, advancing economic justice, strengthening education systems, or building civic power - women are designing blueprints for sustainable transformation.

This theme affirms that shaping a sustainable future means fostering systems that support both people and the planet.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Honor: Celebrate the diverse contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational, and social justice movements.

Educate: Raise awareness about the important historical and contemporary roles of women in shaping sustainable change.

Inspire: Empower individuals and institutions on how to take action toward sustainability, equity, and justice in their own spheres of influence.

Connect: Build bridges across generations, geographies, and disciplines to foster collaboration, mentorship, and shared learning.

Envision: Encourage a long-term vision for our future where women's leadership is central to thriving communities and a healthy planet.