

Frances Beinecke, changing the world. BMSP4003.

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Course number: BMSP4003.

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Introduction.

Frances Beinecke is a significant and influential figure in the U.S. environmental movement, as former president of the Natural Resources Defence Council, a leading non-profit environmental group, Beinecke worked to preserve wild landscapes, clean air and water, the oceans and to tackle pollution.

Frances' career with the NRDC, lasted more than 40 years and under her leadership, the NRDC gained double the members. Client Earth. (n.d.). As president of the NRDC, Beinecke focused on finding solutions for some of the biggest environmental challenges. Using law, science and the support of NRDC members and online activists. Sustainable Development solutions. (n.d.).

Prior to her role as president, Beinecke also served as the organisations executive director for eight years. NRDC. (n.d.).

In addition to her career at NRDC, Frances has had a leadership role in many other environmental organisations, including serving on the boards of the world resource institute, the international centre for environmental leadership in business, energy future coalition and conservation, climate central and a trustee of client earth, environmental lawyers. Beinecke has also been a member on the boards of the wilderness society, the New York league of conservation and the China-US-centre for sustainable development. Alliance to save energy. (n.d.).

Beinecke attended Yale, she was part of the first graduating class, that included women. When Frances started at Yale, she intended to study urban renewal, but was compelled by a new-

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found interest in the environment and choose a new route. After graduation in 1971, she went on to get her master's degree from the Yale school of forestry. World biography. (n.d.).

Changing the planet and making a difference.

Frances has been described, by her former class and room-mate, Sigourney Weaver, as always “having a clear vision of what's important, and she doesn't allow herself to be thrown off course by the frenzy and noise of the debate”. Weaver, S. (2014). Sigourney also noted in her four decades of environmental advocacy, Beinecke has been the real thing and an unrelenting voice for action.

Beinecke has worked tirelessly to combat climate change, make a difference to the planet and to be a positive voice and role model in sustainability.

Frances was appointed by president Obama in 2010, to the national commission on the bp deep-water horizon oil spill and off-shore drilling. Pieratt, C. (2017).

Frances also co-authored the book, the world we create: a message of hope for a planet in peril, and an American call to action on global climate change. In which Frances penned a modern version of Thomas Paine's pamphlet, common sense, a revolutionary classic, which calls on us as a nation, to rise to the challenge of global climate change and act whilst there is time. Redford, R. (2009).

Frances joined the peoples march, which was the biggest rally for climate action, ever. More than 310,000 people attended the march to raise their voices and demand action on climate from world leaders. The march not only reflected the need for environmental change, but also humanitarian, health, economic and justice issues, and sending a clear message, we need to act now. Beinecke, F. (2014).

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Frances Beinecke attends protests and interviews and writes numerous articles to raise awareness of climate change, inspire change in the people and demand action from world leaders to reduce the impact on the planet.

In an academic conference, hosted by the MIT energy initiative in oct, 2009. Beinecke stated “we know enough so we have to act. Were in a fix and we have to fix it”, a message that was blunt and urgent. Frances also warned that the signs of global warming are unmistakable, and that climate change, world-wide, is happening faster than studies expected. Cooke, R. (2009). MIT president Susan Hachfield introduced Beinecke to the conference as one of the most articulate advocates for the environment, becoming the nations environmental conscience and has a remarkable legacy of achievement and the progress already made, did not happen by accident. Cooke, R. (2009).

In an article, how to unleash climate action, Beinecke explains that, the issue of climate change is both personal and global at the same time, defusing its threats would be a huge under-taking. The change to clean, efficient energy systems, must come from changes in our cities, states, countries, companies and every one of us. Changes may be technological or behavioural, but all require enormous commitment to action. The challenge will be overcoming the fossil fuel industry, climate deniers, intransigence from some people and complacency from others. We need to be more educated on what inspires people to act on climate change and we need to be more strategic in how we communicate. Beinecke, F. (2014).

Frances Beinecke is one of the best, clearest talking and thinking leaders to emerge from the environmental community. She has a passionate and reasoned voice and her persuasive abilities have hugely contributed to many important environmental successes. Krupp, F. (2013).

Inspiration.

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Beinecke has a long list of people she considers have inspired her, by dedicating themselves, selflessly for their causes, such as Rosamond Carr, founder of the Imbabazi orphanage and Mardy Murie and Celia Hunter, members of the wilderness society, Beinecke claims she has learned a lot from their strength, determination and character. World Biography. (n.d.).

Awards, Honours and Recognition.

Frances' immense contributions have been recognised through various awards and honours. In honour of her long and successful career as an environmental advocate, Beinecke was awarded the prestigious Audubon medal on March 1st, 2017, the medal was the second award that Frances has been awarded from the National Audubon Society, in 2007, she was awarded the Rachel Carson award, which honours female leaders, who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and environmental movements. National Audubon Society. (2017).

Beinecke has been presented by the Harvard Law School Environmental Law Society, the annual Horizon Award, four times, for her outstanding contributions to the environmental, national resources and energy law. Environmental Law Harvard. (2015).

Beinecke has also received the Yale medal from the Yale University, an honorary degree from Lehman College, doctor of humane letters and an honorary degree from Vermont Law School, doctor of the laws, as well as numerous other awards and honours. NRDC. (n.d.).

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