Women of Carbon: The Climate Story We've Bee Waiting For

The New Documentary Exploring Women Leading the Carbon Revolution

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Artwork: *Woman with Camera* by Carolyn Mary Scott (featuring the artists photograph of th Paris archive and vintage photo of woman with camera - the rest is magic).

The New Architecture of Hope: Why the new film "Women Carbon" is the Story We Need

We were very fortunate to screen our film *SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL* at the Colorado Environmental Film Festival around this time last year. It is one of the most prestigious environmental film festivals in the country — known for stories that celebrate and examine our relationship with the Earth—from wildlife conservation and to the pressing complexities of climate change. It's a place where the beauty of planet meets the "how-to" of protecting it. So, when I saw the selection for this yea premiere, I felt a familiar jolt of electricity.

Buckminster Fuller once famously said:

> **"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."**

As a filmmaker and climate educator, I've watched too many vital conversations sta because they are too busy fighting the "existing reality" without offering a blueprin for the new one. Conversations often split into two unproductive extremes: the dry, technical jargon that locks the public out, or the paralyzed "doom-loop" of abstract alarm.

Women of Carbon threads the needle by building that new model. Directed by Basia and Leonard Myszynski, this documentary is a masterclass in grounded optimism. I focuses on the titans of the construction and materials industries—sectors responsi for a staggering 40% of global emissions. These women aren't debating hypothetica they are the "design scientists" Buckminister dreamed of, scaling solutions that ma the fossil fuel economy obsolete.

Beyond the Concrete Jungle

The film succeeds because it grounds climate action in the physical world we touch every day. Buildings are not theoretical; they are intimate. They are where we sleep,

learn, heal, and gather. When we change how we build, we aren't just "reducing emissions"—we are reimagining human health and economic justice.

In the film, we meet the architects and engineers who see a building not as a carbo liability, but as a potential carbon sink. They are reimagining concrete, steel, and timber, proving that carbon-intensive construction isn't a law of nature—it's just a design. From low-carbon cement to "living" biological solutions, these aren't scienc fair projects. They are viable, shovel-ready technologies. As Fuller noted, "**A design is an emerging synthesis of artist, inventor, mechanic, objective economist, and evolutionary strategist.**" The women in this film are exactly that.

Reframing the "Villain"

One of the most sophisticated moves the film makes is its treatment of carbon itsel In the common climate narrative, carbon is the monster under the bed. *Women of Carbon* reframes it as a material and a cycle—something to be managed, stored, and designed with intention.

Real progress doesn't come from "good-versus-bad" hero tropes. It comes from understanding complex systems deeply enough to redesign them. The women featu here embody this systems-thinking. They recognize that decarbonization and economic opportunity are not competing interests; they are gears in the same machine.

Leadership Without the Ego

The focus on women in this film is strategic, not just symbolic. These leaders opera as collaborators and bridge-builders in industries that haven't always left a seat at t table for them. They speak candidly about barriers, but they never let those obstacl define the mission.

From an educational standpoint, this representation is oxygen. Students need to see that the "future-makers" don't all look the same. Diverse leadership isn't a "nice-to-have" feature of the green transition; it is the primary engine of its success.

Earned Hope

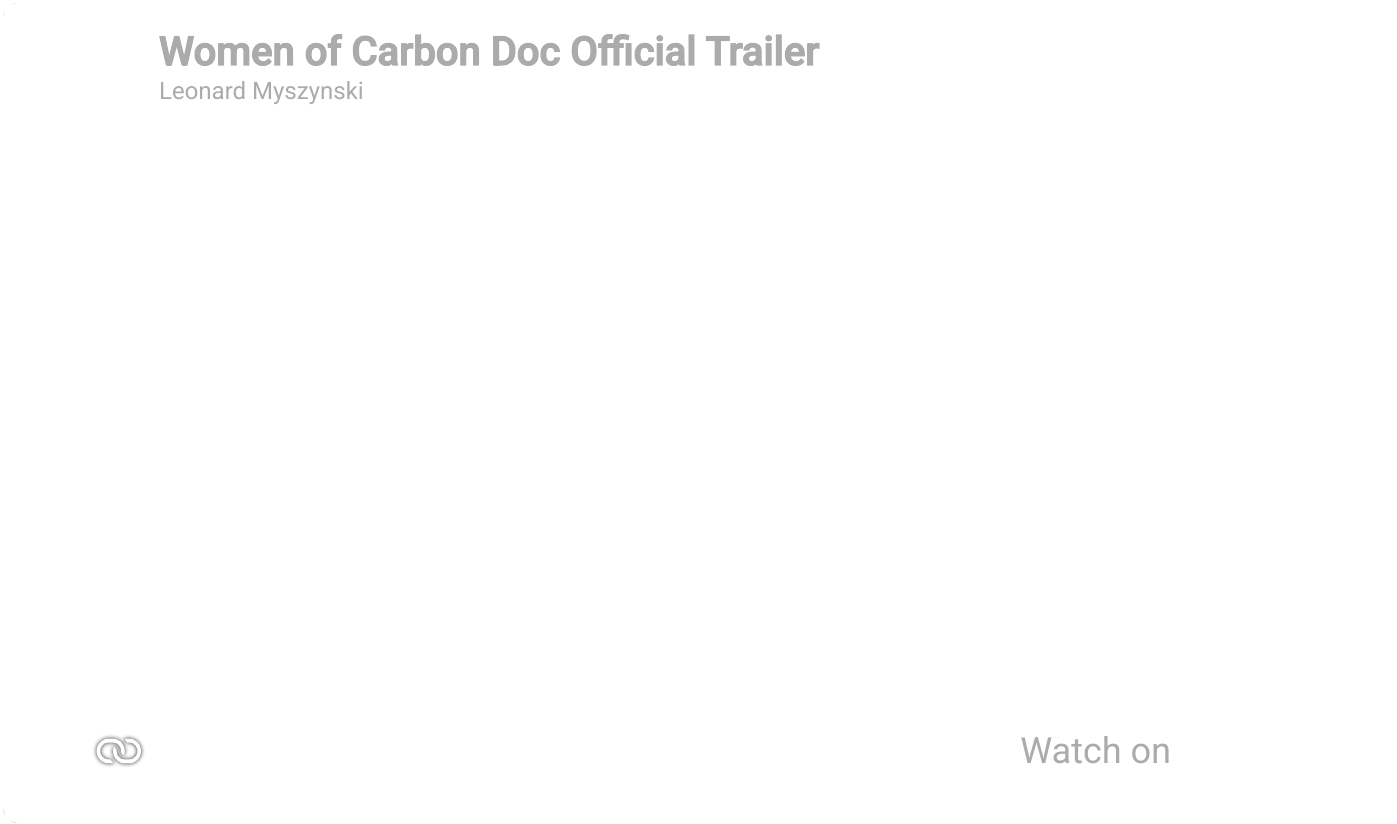
As a filmmaker, I was struck by what this film *doesn't* do. It doesn't scold. It doesn't rely on grainy footage of melting ice to shame the viewer. Instead, it offers clarity a competence. This is "earned hope"—hope grounded in work already underway. By t time the credits roll, the question shifts from a desperate "Can we do this?" to a defiant "Why aren't we doing this everywhere?"

Architects of the Future: The Fuller Perspective

"We are all astronauts on a little spaceship called Earth."

Buckminster Fuller believed that humanity's success depended on our ability to transition from "weaponry to livingry." This transition is exactly what the *Women of Carbon* are engineering today—moving us away from an extractive past and into regenerative future.

Watch the official trailer:



The Next Generation: EarthAtlas

This Substack is an extension of **Cool Planet Labs**, a think tank for revolutionary climate solutions. Our latest project, **EarthAtlas**, carries the torch lit by the *Women of Carbon*.

As a youth-led initiative, EarthAtlas is a solutions library where the next generation investigates and champions the breakthroughs—from plastic alternatives to carbon zero tech—that will replace our extractive economy with a nature-based one.

We are supporting a movement of young people who have stopped waiting for permission. By dismantling the fossil fuel status quo through their own research an innovation, they are answering Bucky Fuller's ultimate call: "**We are called to be architects of the future, not its victims.**" The tools for a vibrant world aren't just coming—through EarthAtlas, they're already here.

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