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Polly Courtice, founder of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, made a Dame in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2016 for services to sustainability leadership.

Polly Courtice will be made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in recognition of her achievement in building a world-leading institute at the University of Cambridge that has helped thousands of leaders from business, finance and public organisations to understand and find solutions to critical global challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity and social inequality.

As Founder Director of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Polly has built and led a team which has, over the Institute's 25 year history, catalysed significant action towards more sustainable practice in business and government.

The Institute educates leaders from around the world, and brings together groups of organisations to work collaboratively to tackle challenges they cannot solve alone. Examples of these groups include The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group, the Banking Environment Initiative and the Investment Leaders Group.

In response to the announcement Polly said:

"This is a wonderful recognition of the work of the Institute, its brilliant and dedicated staff and associates, and its global network of over 7,000 alumni. I'm delighted to be recognised for having built an institute that in many ways has pioneered leadership efforts to tackle global sustainability challenges."

"In recent decades there has been an important shift in the way many businesses have come to view their impact on society and the environment and we are glad to have played a small part in that.

"Through our work we have seen at first-hand the power of education and collaboration in helping leaders to understand and be more confident in the role of companies in dealing with issues such as climate change and inequality whilst also achieving growth and competitiveness. "

She continued: "Our position within the University of Cambridge has allowed us to draw on the extraordinary breadth and depth of its intellectual resources and support a more science-based approach to decision-making. This, combined with the support of our Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, has been pivotal in our success as an institute."

Polly was made an LVO in the 2008 Honours List, and last year she received the prestigious Bright Award from Stanford Law School in recognition of her contribution to global sustainability.

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Notes to Editors

About the Queen's Birthday Honours: <https://www.gov.uk/honours/types-of-honours-and-awards>

Polly Courtice short biography

Polly is Director of the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL). She is also Founder Director of The Prince of Wales's Business and Sustainability Programme, and Academic Director of the University's Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership. Polly is a member of the University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy Committee and the Board of Executive and Professional Education, and is a Board member of Judge Business School Executive Education Ltd. She is a Director of Jupiter Green Investment Trust and a Non-Executive Director of Anglian Water Services Ltd, and is on the environmental/sustainability advisory boards for AstraZeneca, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Lloyds Banking Group and Nespresso. In 2008 Polly was made a Lieutenant of the Victorian Order (LVO) announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Polly was awarded the 2015 Stanford Bright Award. She is a graduate of the Universities of Cape Town and Cambridge.

Read more: <http://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/about/people/director>

About the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)

The University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) brings together business, government and academia to find solutions to critical sustainability challenges.

Building on the world-class, multidisciplinary strengths of the University of Cambridge, the institute works to deepen leaders' insight and understanding through its executive programmes; builds deep, strategic engagement with major corporates and multilateral organisations, and creates opportunities for collaborative enquiry and action through its business platforms.

Over 25 years, CISL has developed a leadership network with more than 7,000 alumni from leading global organisations and has established an expert team of Fellows, Senior Associates and staff. HRH The Prince of Wales is the Patron of CISL and has inspired and supported many of CISL's initiatives.

CISL's recent achievements:

- **Educating leaders:** The Prince of Wales's Business & Sustainability Programme, run for senior leaders from business, policy and civil society by CISL, now has over 2,500 alumni and is used by leading companies including Astra Zeneca, Kingfisher, Nestlé, IKEA, Skanska, Tetra Pak and Unilever, as well as government agencies and development banks, to provide strategic context and support the leadership development of senior staff.
- **Paris Pledge for Action:** In December 2015, CISL ran the *Paris Pledge for Action* on behalf of the UN and French COP21 presidency, to amplify the support of over 1,300 business, investors, cities and regions for the Paris Agreement between nations.
- **Supporting China's New Urbanisation Plan:** In 2015 CISL delivered leadership programmes for mayors and senior officials from Beijing and Guangdong provinces to support the development of sustainable cities and their 2020 targets on infrastructure and the environment.
- **Cambridge research:** In 2015 CISL published research together with investment companies from its Investment Leaders Group and Cambridge academics modelling for the first time how investor sentiment on climate change can drive both short- and long-term financial impacts on portfolio values.
- **Climate policy:** In 2015 The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group (23 companies convened and supported by CISL) contributed to a series of 8 policy recommendations, which were promoted by a wide coalition of business groups and ultimately adopted in the final Paris Agreement on climate change.
- **Rewiring the Economy:** After consulting its leaders network, CISL launched a vision document (*Rewiring the Economy, 2015*) setting out ten tasks for business, government and finance organisations to lay the foundations for a sustainable economy. The framework has been used and referenced by governments, major companies, and global policymakers.