



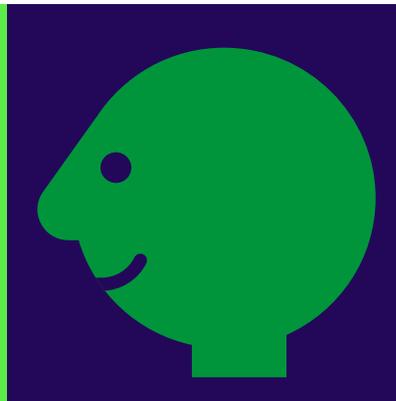
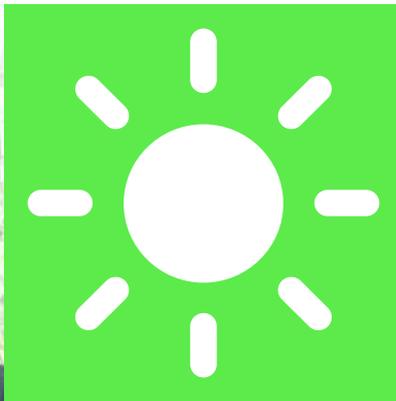
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Green careers guide

Cosmos Nike Nwedu
Nigeria



Cosmos Nike Nwedu Nigeria



Impact Story

What did you study?

I studied Climate Change and Energy Law and Policy.

What inspired you to study your subject at university, and to work in the green industries?

Existentially, growing up in a particular climate and seeing the weather change overtime, activated my interest in such a phenomenon. Even as a Nigerian, knowing quite well that my country has enormous renewable energy resources, yet prides itself in fossil fuel, gas flaring and costly environmental pollution, has always been a thing of concern to me. Therefore, it was simply a matter of digging for knowledge of a changing time and having a passion for national and global challenges. The desire, of course, certainly inspired me to undertake a blended course embedded in climate change and energy, with the need to deal with complex issues both of which raise concurrently, which issues are critical to green industries.

Why does climate change matter?

Climate change matters because it is an uncertain, pregnant problem and affects every aspect of human endeavour globally. Much like a security issue, climate change threatens human existence. There is no individual or country free from its relative, devastating impacts. Except humanity takes genuine, practical actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors, generations to come are more likely to face an unsafe future.

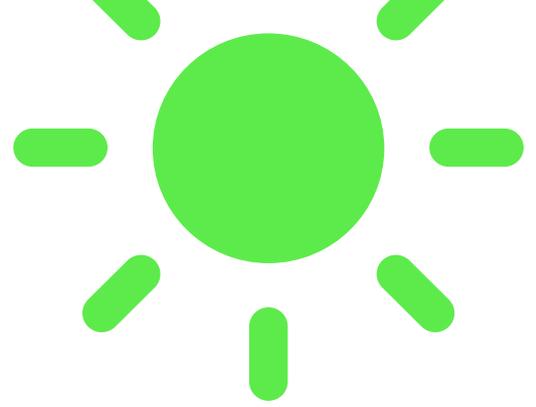
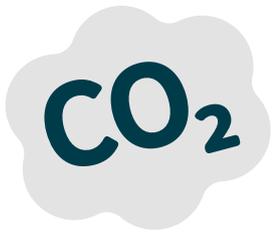
How did your studies help you get into the career you're in today?

My studies have equipped me with a relevant, real-world problem-solving skill set, cognate experience and perspective of an interdisciplinary expert. Even as a trained academic lawyer, my expertise does not only rest with legal practice, it involves research and teaching. I am also fit for any roles demanding a blended knowledge and expertise across different sectors. I have utilised my skills and knowledge to help organisations solve complex interdisciplinary problems, and continued to enjoy an interesting, life-changing career so far. There could not have been any course better for me than what I studied.

What other experiences and support have you had along the way?

The mentorship and career advisory support I have received from senior colleagues have proved a great, useful experience. I have had to collaborate with individuals outside my work environment and career purview for some projects, and to build a network of professionals. I have also occasionally appeared in courts for my clients.





What do you do now – what does your role involve?

My current role involves applying my interdisciplinary expertise and knowledge in law, climate change and energy to solve multiple problems for different organisations. That is to say my role is at the centrality of scientific activities that promote sustainability, green industries, and or economies. But it also involves using research to inform evidence-based insights for decision making, and teaching to impart transferable skills and knowledge to others. Though as an academic lawyer, I am always open to any legal related responsibilities.

What exciting projects have you been involved in?

The African Energy Book project on ‘Energy Transitions and the Future of African Energy Sector’ was one of the most recent projects in which I have had to involve myself. The project was a really interesting one because of its potential research and policy impacts, and as my contribution made a case for massive deployment of renewable energy in promoting safe climate and equitable access to cleaner, affordable and acceptable energy resources, such was solar, wind, hydro and biomass.

Do you have any tips for people seeking to pursue a career in your sector?

My first advice to anyone seeking a green career in climate change is to understand ‘your why’. Then you must be led by your strengths and passion for a common cause. You will also need to engage in independent research, and speak to or interact with people possessing good mentorship spirit in the climate change domain. To undertake climate change studies, one needs a good university capable of providing a cocktail of interdisciplinary skills and knowledge, which are needed to address multifarious issues that come to the cusp of climate change. There is no doubt that climate change offers a promising green career.

