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# Green careers guide

Sunday Toka  
Nigeria



# Sunday Toka Nigeria



## What did you study?

Environmental Dynamics and Climate Change.

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

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity in this 21st century. I was inspired by the need to proffer solution to the impacts of climate change in my locality as a result of damage done to the environment due to human activities. There is a lot of dearth in knowledge and expertise in climate change dynamics and assessment as I hope to use the knowledge I acquired from my study to bridge the gap to achieve a growing sustainable industrial development.

## Why does climate change matter?

Climate Change is real and important. It is the problem causing havoc around the world today because of the extent of global warming we experiencing and the impacts we face across the many sectors such as agriculture, health economic sectors and others.

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

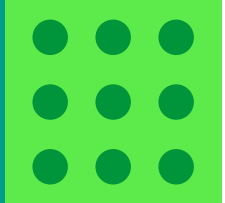
Acquiring the degree in an environment-related field offered me the opportunity to work with the State Government to develop policies that are currently being used to combat climate change and its impacts in Nigeria.

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

Other support I had was a scholarship I received from the Lagos State government to study Climate Change in the UK. Other achieved was various funded climate change conferences such as the COP 19 in Warsaw and Climate-related conflict in the sub-Sahara held in Morocco 2019, and other funded conferences where I was able to network, share ideas with other key stakeholders from other assistance countries to proffer to the extreme heatwaves, flooding and agriculture in the State.

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

I am into sensitization and advocacy to the local communities to create awareness on the negative impacts of climate change especially those in the coastal areas and school advocacy on climate change issues as well as waste management policy in the State.





## What exciting projects have you been involved in?

Environmental Business Initiative is a project I initiated in collaboration with colleagues and other notable academicians in the field of climate change. Part of what has made climate change projects so difficult to get going is the anxiety they produce in investors. This makes sense; a lot of climate change projects are new and use technologies not yet tested at large scales, risk factors that scare investment away especially in sub-Saharan Africa. What's more, it's not always clear how an investor will make their money back but with awareness and publicity on the importance and profitability of climate projects, the sky would be the limit. Also, I am part of Climate Change legal policies to enhancement the implementation of NDC in Nigeria, GHG Inventory and Vulnerability of impacts of flooding in coastal areas of the state.



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

Yes, my advice is to pursue a career that encourages sustainability and developments that consider future generations. Many researchers are now more interested in climate change. Even in my surrounding more people are showing interest in studying weather patterns. Studies of climate help us predict how much rain the next winter might bring, or how far sea levels will rise due to warmer sea temperatures. We can also see which regions are most likely to be affected by extreme weather, or which wildlife species are threatened by climate change.

