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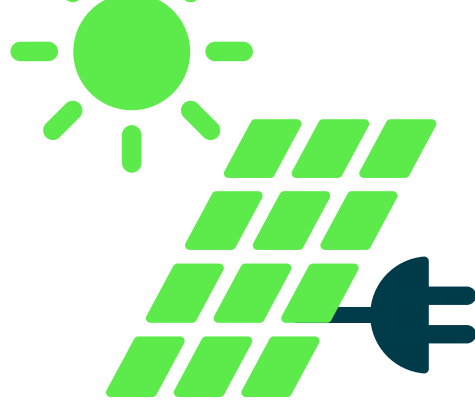
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Green careers guide

Ashis Dash
India



Ashis Dash India



What did you study?

I studied LL.M. in Environmental Law & Policy, from the University of Dundee in UK.

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

While working in the mining industry, I realized that it has a huge environmental footprint. At the same time, mining is essential for modern ways of living, including the ways and means to tackle climate change. For example, solar panels, wind turbines, electric mobility, all need raw material inputs from mining. So I pursued my Masters to gain exposure on how to make mining sustainable at the source itself. I also wanted to gain a deeper understanding of climate change and how it affects all areas of work.

Why does climate change matter?

Because it is for our survival as human species. While most animal and plant species are able to cope with varied temperature changes, we as humans cannot survive wider temperature fluctuations without either using AC or room heating systems. So climate change is really more about us (humankind) and the generations to come.

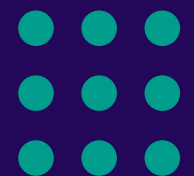
Further, as engineers design products and build structures, they need particular awareness of climate change to build things, which are sustainable in the long-term and have a smaller environmental footprint over the life-of-the-product.

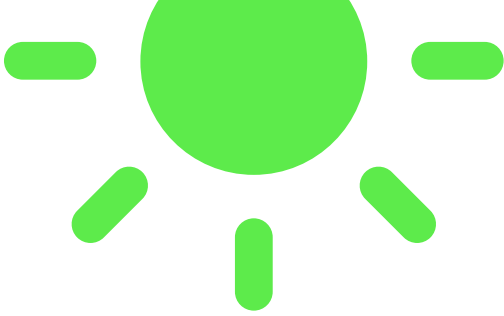
How did your studies help you get into the career you're in today?

University of Dundee provided me unique opportunity to pursue my masters in environmental law, having only a prior background in engineering. Besides specialized academic knowledge in environment and climate change, it also exposed me to diverse nationalities and taught me to admire each others' uniqueness, build meaningful relationships and work together. These experiences have helped me particularly during policy-making discussions with the Government of India as well as while interacting with industry leaders and stakeholders. Climate change and environment are frequent issues in majority of the policy discussions today and having a clear understanding of it has helped in aligning my views with India's goals for UNFCCC and SDGs.

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

Exploring different fields/roles very early in my career has been the most rewarding experience for me, as it provided me unique insights and helped understand the perspective from different angles. I am lucky to many mentors who have guided me all along and continue to do so.





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

I am working as the CEO, Sustainable Mining Initiative and Joint Secretary General, FIMI (Federation of Indian Mineral Industries). I work closely with the Government of India and mining industry to mainstream sustainability in the mining business and improve the ease of doing business in India. I represent the Indian mining industry at various Government Committees and have been assisting the Supreme Court in various mining-environment assignments.

What exciting projects have you been involved in?

I was involved with the NITI Aayog and suggested major mining reforms, some of which are on its way of implementation by the Govt. In another instance, I have been involved with the Govt. of India in design and roll-out of the Sustainable Development Framework (SDF) for mines. I helped in developing an evaluation template and managed the stakeholder consultation process for Govt. of India. Now it is annually mandated for all mines in India to report their annual sustainability performance, which is rated on a scale of 1 to 5. Such a bottom-up approach has led to a healthy competition among mines and improved sustainability at the ground level.

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

Having an inter-disciplinary approach, commitment and enthusiasm helps a lot. I think this applies to all sectors. Mining is a business of scale. So even small improvements in this sector leads to large outcomes, which gives a lot of satisfaction.

