

CHIRAG BHIMANI

Environmental, Sustainability & Climate Policy Leader



EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Senior environmental and climate policy expert with 30+ years of experience spanning regulatory leadership, emissions trading systems, carbon markets, Best Available Techniques (BAT), industrial decarbonization, environmental governance, and digital compliance. Former Divisional Head at the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (State Environmental Protection Authority), current CEO of a major Zero Liquid Discharge textile park project, and co-founder/CEO of nature-based solutions and carbon credit ventures. International advisory and expert experience includes OECD (Paris), GIZ (Germany), CEEW (India), Adelphi (Germany), Vesta (USA), and participation in global climate forums including COP28, INC 4, and COP30.

30+ YEARS	GLOBAL EXPOSURE	TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP
Environmental Regulation, Policy, Climate and Sustainability	OECD, GIZ, CEEW, Vesta and International Climate Forums	ETS, BAT/BREF, CEMS, Carbon Markets, MRV, ZLD and CDR

CORE EXPERTISE

- Climate Policy, Carbon Markets, Carbon Pricing and Credit Monetization
- Emissions Trading Systems (ETS), Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV), And Carbon Registries
- Industrial Decarbonisation, Best Available Techniques (BAT/BREF), Air Quality and Emissions Management
- Environmental Regulatory Frameworks, Permitting, Compliance and Digital Environmental Governance
- Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) And Data-Driven Environmental Compliance
- Coastal & Marine Carbon Removal, Blue Carbon and Nature-Based Solutions
- Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), Wastewater Management, Resource Recovery and Circular Economy
- Stakeholder Coordination, Institutional Capacity Building, Public-Sector Innovation and Reform

SELECTED CURRENT & RECENT LEADERSHIP ROLES

Founder & CEO — Earth Group Inc., Canada | India | Jan 2026–Present

Leading science-led coastal and marine carbon dioxide removal (CDR), including enhanced weathering, marine alkalinity enhancement and blue carbon pathways; developing digital carbon registry, MRV and high-integrity credit issuance in collaboration with Vesta, USA.

Co-Founder & CEO — Dhara NbS LLP, India | Nov 2025–Present

Building a science-driven carbon removal platform focused on biochar, MRV, carbon project structuring, registry validation/verification, sustainable biomass and regenerative carbon solutions.

CEO — Rupam Eco Green Textile Park Association (ZLD-CETP Project), India | Nov 2021–Present

Overall leadership of a 6 MLD ZLD-CETP project, planned to reach 15 MLD across three phases; responsible for regulatory compliance, operations, technology optimization, monitoring, governance, stakeholder coordination and future expansion.

Technical Advisor — Universal Carbon & Water Registry, India | Jan 2024–Present

Strategic technical guidance on carbon and water credit projects, methodologies, MRV, registry frameworks, governance, project eligibility and environmental integrity.

Expert Group Member (India), OECD BAT Working Group — OECD, Paris | Aug 2019–Present

Contributing technical expertise to BAT guidance and reference documents, reviewing draft technical material, benchmarking international best practices and supporting evidence-based recommendations on pollution prevention, emissions reduction and resource efficiency.

India Head & Technical Director — Optimor Ventures LLC, New Jersey, USA | Jul 2024–Present

Leading technical advisory for ESG, carbon market solutions, carbon accounting, MRV, digital carbon marketplace architecture and ESG risk due diligence.

Technical Advisor — Meso Carbon India Pvt. Ltd., India | Jul 2023–Present

Advising on regulatory compliance, permitting, hazardous-material logistics, spent activated carbon handling/regeneration, BAT, environmental risk, QA/QC and circular-economy options.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS & PUBLIC-SECTOR LEADERSHIP

Gujarat Pollution Control Board (State Environment Protection Authority), India — Divisional Head / Senior Environmental Regulator & Policy Lead (Jan 2013–Jan 2019); Deputy Environmental Engineer (Dec 2002–Dec 2012); Assistant Environmental Engineer (Mar 1996–Nov 2002).

- Led environmental management and regulatory functions across multiple districts, covering air, water, waste, statutory approvals, environmental complaints, inspections and compliance.
- Served as a key leader for Gujarat's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), Real-Time & Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (RT&CEMS), Best Available Techniques Reference (BREF) work, and Ease of Doing Business / BRAP initiatives.
- Strategized and implemented ICT and e-governance systems, including the Board's XGN portal and online monitoring of water emissions, air emissions and ambient air quality.
- Served as nodal/coordinating officer for BRAP; GPCB achieved 100% compliance for prescribed parameters in the 2015 assessment, with recognition noted in the World Bank Group assessment report.

- Convener for GPCB's BREF preparation committee in collaboration with the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and GIZ; independently created and managed the BREF Information System (BIS).
- Technical Committee Member representing Gujarat in India's pilot ETS for particulate matter from stationary sources.
- Core team member for major awards applications; GPCB received five prestigious awards, including the National Award for e-Governance (Incremental Innovation) — Gold Award for 2014–15.
- Earlier regulatory roles included statutory consent review, environmental inspections, incident response, public hearings, hazardous-waste and biomedical/municipal solid-waste authorizations, and coordination with courts and government authorities.

INTERNATIONAL & POLICY ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

- Senior Technical Advisor, Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), India (Mar 2024–Jun 2026): developed an India-specific EPA AP-42 manual for selected sectors; supported CEMS-data-integrated decision support systems with SPCBs/PCCs; and contributed to scale-up of air-quality intellectual products.
- Senior Technical Advisor, GIZ India (Nov 2020–Oct 2021): independently managed projects on reduction of air pollution in three Indian cities and a BAT Reference Document for the textiles sector in India.
- Technical Advisor & Consultant, University of Chicago Trust, India (Feb 2019–Oct 2020): advised on scaling the five-star rating programme across Indian states and supported state-specific programme design and implementation.
- India Representative & Technical Project Consultant, Project Vesta, USA (Nov 2021–Mar 2023): advised on localization of Accelerated Rock Weathering for Indian coastal, geological, climatic and regulatory conditions, including site assessment, CRZ and marine permitting, environmental risk and stakeholder engagement.
- Ambassador, Island Innovation, Portugal (Jan–Dec 2023): promoted climate resilience, sustainable development, innovation and capacity building for island and coastal communities, with emphasis on SIDS and SDG-aligned initiatives.
- Technical Advisor, Gujarat Cleaner Production Council, India (Mar 2022–Feb 2024): provided guidance on pollution prevention, cleaner production, pollution-control technologies, policy formulation and capacity building.

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS & KNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Training and study exposure in emissions trading, industrial GHG benchmarks, online monitoring, hazardous-waste remediation, remote sensing and BAT/BREF development across Japan, Spain, USA, Germany, Netherlands and UK.
- Participated in Stockholm+50 (observer), COP28 Dubai (observer), INC 4 Ottawa (observer), and COP30 Belém, Brazil (observer).
- Delivered 30+ invited presentations and keynote lectures internationally and in India on climate technologies, environmental governance, emissions monitoring, BAT, water management and sustainability.
- Presented at forums including Harvard Kennedy School, OECD Expert Group on BAT (Paris), United Nations (UNECE, UNITAR, CTCN), University of Chicago Centre, NITI Aayog and Centre for Science and Environment.
- Keynote Speaker, ANE Global Meet & Expo on Green Energy & Environmental Technology, Dubai (2025), on advancements in carbon capture technologies.
- Authored/co-authored 8+ technical publications, journal articles, guidance documents and book chapters; contributing team member for CEMS — Continuous Emissions Monitoring System: A Technical Guidance Manual (CSE, 2017).

BOOKS AUTHORED

- Navigating Sustainable Seas: Carbon Markets & Trading
- Sustaining Paradise: Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Tides of Change: Plastic Pollution in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Navigating Blue Frontier: Exploring Blue Economy in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

EDUCATION	PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS
• Ph.D. in Climate Change Mitigation / Environmental Science — Dissertation: Study of Removal Potentials and Cost of CDR Options	• OECD BAT Expert Group • FAIRMODE (European Air Quality Modelling Network) • Institute of Engineers (India) • NASA Earth Observation Programs
• Master of Technology – Environmental Engineering — Thesis: Groundwater remediation using Permeable Reactive Barriers	
• Bachelor of Civil Engineering — First Rank; University Gold Medalist	