

# VINAYA ACHAREKAR

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## EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy

Berkeley, CA

Master of Development Practice (MDP), Minor in Sustainable Business

May 2025

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Bangalore, India

Master's in Social Work (MSW), School of Social Work

July 2018 - Dec 2021

Manipal Institute of Technology

Manipal, India

Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech), Department of Aeronautical Engineering

July 2011 - May 2015

## SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Technical Skills	Data Analysis (R, Tableau, MATLAB), Salesforce, Microsoft Office, ESG Reporting
Analytical Skills	Strategic Planning, Program Design, Project & Grant Management, Policy Research
Interpersonal Skills	Leadership, Team Coordination, Stakeholder Engagement, Communication

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AgriSolar, Berkeley, CA

Jul 2024 - Present

Co-founder and Sustainability Lead

- Developed **solar-powered irrigation** model for farmers, integrating **climate finance** & revenue-sharing for affordability.
- Deployed **6 solar water pumps**, providing reliable irrigation and **reducing farmers' dependence on diesel systems**.
- Conducted **market research, stakeholder engagement**, and business modeling across six rural regions in Nigeria.
- Secured **\$20K in funding** and designed investment strategies to expand clean energy access & decarbonization initiatives.

India Energy & Climate Center (IECC), Berkeley, CA

Jan 2025 - Present

Graduate Researcher – Policy & Sustainability Accounting

- Conducting **techno-economic analysis** of SAF in India, evaluating **investment feasibility** and policy incentives.
- Led SAF cost-benefit analysis, showing India's **33% lower production costs** vs.U.S.,creating investment opportunities.
- Developing policy frameworks **assessing Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions** reduction strategies to align with climate targets.

Kraken Technologies, Berkeley, CA

Jun 2024 - Dec 2024

Policy Research and Business Development Intern

- Developed internal database of **200+ PUC** precedents, streamlining regulatory analysis and improving business expansion.
- Conducted regulatory research on energy market policies across **10+ U.S states**, enhancing Kraken's strategic positioning.
- Supported **competitive analysis** of Kraken's Infracore product, identifying market entry strategies and pricing models.

Darfur Women Network, Indianapolis, IN (Remote)

Apr 2021 - Aug 2023

Development Director

- Launched **climate resilience** programs, implementing waste reduction and resource optimization to improve sustainability.
- Secured **\$100K+ in funding**, expanding circular economy initiatives and increasing program outreach.
- Led and managed a team of **20+ volunteers**, enhancing community engagement and program impact.

Tata Consultancy Services, Bangalore, India

Sep 2015 - Apr 2021

Technical Writer and CSR Coordinator: Rolls-Royce Control Systems Project

- Authored engineering documentation for aircraft engines, ensuring **compliance with aviation safety regulations**.
- Managed **8-member** team, implementing agile methodologies to streamline workflows, **reducing** processing time by **20%**.
- Spearheaded **CSR initiatives**, integrating GHG reduction and **ESG strategies** to align with corporate climate goals.

## CLIENT PROJECTS

Intuit, Berkeley, CA

Aug 2024 - Dec 2024

Graduate Sustainability Consultant: California Green Business Network

- Analyzed climate policy landscapes in Illinois and Nevada, **identifying regulatory gaps** and opportunities for expansion.
- Developed scalable **ESG reporting** framework, integrating small business success stories to enhance engagement strategies.
- Conducted **funding landscape analysis** and strategic expansion opportunities for corporate sustainability.

General Motors, Berkeley, CA

Jan 2024 - May 2024

Graduate Policy Consultant: ZEROgrid Initiative

- Designed **carbon accounting & sustainability framework**, for alignment with climate & industry regulations.
- Assessed **renewable energy impact and adoption**, delivering policy recommendations for net-zero strategies.
- Conducted **compliance analysis**, integrating policy recommendations for carbon reduction.

## ACADEMIC PROJECTS

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- Conducted a **Google sustainability project**, researching and analyzing Google's sustainability initiatives, competitor strategies, and corporate climate policies. Assessed technology-driven environmental solutions, and sustainability reporting trends to evaluate net-zero commitments and GHG emissions disclosures.
- Analyzed factors influencing **Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption**, such as race, income, price sensitivity, range anxiety, charging infrastructure, and government incentives, and provided recommendations to enhance EV adoption.

## FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

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- **Climatebase Fellow:** Developed expertise in GHG accounting, carbon offset strategies, ESG frameworks, and climate risk assessments. Conducted research on corporate sustainability reporting, net-zero strategies, and renewable energy procurement, aligning with industry best practices and regulatory compliance frameworks.
- **IDEX Accelerator Fellow:** Developed social enterprise business models and impact measurement frameworks.

## ASSOCIATIONS

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- **Student Advisory Board – Center for Responsible Business, UC Berkeley Haas:** Led initiatives on business and human rights, SDG engagement, and funding strategies.
- **Student Advisory Board – Center for Equity, Gender & Leadership, UC Berkeley Haas:** Designed programs for corporate sustainability and DEI initiatives.

## VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

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- **SunRise Forever Inc:** Volunteered as a grant writer and manager, researching and developing grant proposals, successfully raising \$100K for community projects. Conducted donor research and engagement, identifying new funding opportunities and partnerships.
- **Gilgal Inc, Atlanta, GA:** Conducted capacity-building workshops for women transitioning from substance dependency.
- **FEDINA, Bangalore, India:** Led human and labor rights training for garment workers, supporting sustainable supply chains and advocacy.