

CEMS 2022 Scholarship Application - Essay Response

I have always had a strong passion for the environment. In third grade, I learned about the positives of recycling and implemented a new recycling bin in my home to ensure my family was doing what they could to better the planet. Fast forwarding to a few years ago, I was developing recyclable flexible packaging solutions that worked towards achieving circularity in plastics usage. Shifting from manufacturing to the energy industry, I currently work as an environmental consultant actively working with fuels clients in Colorado and other US states. My main responsibilities include ensuring that my clients comply with all state and federal air quality regulations, submitting appropriate permitting and emissions inventories, and preventing unwarranted emissions. On top of full time work, I am also pursuing my master's degree in environmental and sustainability engineering to deepen my understanding of this field. In my professional involvements, I have focused my attention on solving complex environmental issues and want to continue doing so for the rest of my career. I would like to continue pursuing air quality work for clients in the fuels and manufacturing industries, directly addressing their greenhouse gas emissions, and assisting and implementing strategies to reduce a company's carbon footprint through alternative technologies and sustainable practices. Additionally, I would like to be involved in developing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting and metrics for companies as this encompasses the three pillars of sustainability as a whole. I would like to continue working in this field because climate change is a global issue and has already started to affect billions of people's lives today. It is one of our society's largest and most complex challenges that I want to be apart of solving, not just for our ecosystems, but for the people living on this planet too. Manufacturing and energy industries contribute to a large portion of the world's carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, so addressing those sources is a critical aspect of combating climate change. Developing ESG strategies for these types of companies is an important first step in identifying a baseline for what is being done today and how can their actions change in a positive manner in the future. As I look ahead in my career, I intend to work as an engineer to diminish greenhouse gas emissions for clients in a variety of industries and develop robust sustainability and ESG metrics to reduce their impact on the planet.