

Bidisha Bhattacharyya

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| www.linkedin.com/in/bidishabhattacharyya

Energy policy expert with 15 years experience in energy and environment policy, organizational management, and entrepreneurship across the public, nonprofit and private sectors.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

Washington, DC

Director, Domestic Climate and Energy Policy

- Authored climate policy papers with CAP President John Podesta, including a comprehensive economic climate plan ([A 100 Percent Clean Future](#)), A [report](#) laying out how climate action can benefit rural communities, and a [report](#) laying out recommendations on federal clean energy tax incentives, and a [report](#) on how climate action can be good for American autoworkers, which was endorsed by the United Auto Workers Union.
- Built and led a coalition of climate scientists and policy experts to recommend Day 1-100 actions on how to rebuild the federal climate science apparatus to support the scale and scope of the climate crisis. This was published in a public report ([Revamping Federal Climate Science](#)) co-authored with John Podesta in December 2020.
- Built and coordinated major environmental organizations, labor organizations, environmental justice groups around a set of climate policy priorities for Congress to enact in an economic recovery package.

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

Washington, DC

- Advise mission-driven organizations on organizational strategy and impact investing. Clients include regional economic development organizations and impact investment firms. 2018-Present

VILLAGE CAPITAL

Washington, DC

VP - Emerging Markets

2015-2018

- Policy: Convened Indian policymakers, investors, and 20 renewable energy startups selected from over 300 companies for two regional workshops to identify barriers and solutions to increase investment in the off-grid renewable energy space in India.
- Strategy: As member of the senior leadership team, set organizational strategy and implemented organizational restructuring plan and new processes to execute on strategy.
- Management: Built and managed a team of 15 people globally to fund, design and teach in 10 accelerator programs and selection 24 companies for \$500,000 seed investment across 3 continents.
- Partnerships: raised over \$1 million for the organization and developed partnerships with foundations, corporate donors and DFIs, including the Gates Foundation, Packard Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, MasterCard Foundation, and DFID.
- Project Implementation: Led projects ranging from launch of investor-facing product for the state of Virginia, Report on fintech in East Africa, and human capital barriers for African startups.

SIMPA NETWORKS

Bangalore, India

Head of Product Management

2012-2015

- Navigated India's rural electrification and renewable energy policies to build startup venture-backed pay-as-you-go solar company deploying off-grid solar energy solutions in energy-poor areas in India.
- Spearheaded Simpa's North India launch, leading on-ground market assessment in 10 districts of

Western Uttar Pradesh to determine customer income patterns and assess competitive landscape.

- Led multi-year, cross-functional project to create new off-grid solar product line and introduce new pricing and policies across 2000+ person rural sales channel in 9 districts of rural Uttar Pradesh, India.
- Achieved unit profitability for first time in India's first pay-as-you-go solar company's history through innovation in product design and developing partnerships with manufacturers worldwide.
- Raised \$1 million from development finance institutions to fund operations.

UNITED STATES SENATE

Washington, DC

Senior Energy Policy Adviser to U.S. Senator Al Franken

2010-2012

- Crafted energy/environment policy platform for United States Senator on Energy and Natural Resources and Indian Affairs Committees
- Drafted and introduced bipartisan legislation to increase deployment of efficient thermal energy systems and to enable community-owned wind in rural America.
- Positioned Senator as leader on Farm Bill Renewable Energy for America Program.
- Built coalition of financial institutions, labor groups, national organizations, and state and local government officials to launch "Back to Work Minnesota," to retrofit buildings in Minnesota.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, DC

Legislative Assistant to U.S. Member of Congress Betty McCollum

2008-2009

- Advised Current Chair of Interior Appropriations subcommittee on energy and agriculture policy.
- Wrote, introduced, and successfully passed water quality research legislation to expand research into endocrine disrupting compounds and chemical contaminants in the nation's water supply.

OXFAM AMERICA

Boston, MA

Masters Fellow

2007-2008

- Designed framework to government climate change adaptation plans across developing nations.
- Produced report as part of Harvard Kennedy School Masters Thesis: *Climate Change Adaptation Planning: How to Prioritize the Global Poor?*

AKANKSHA FOUNDATION

Mumbai, India

Impact Evaluation Fellow

Summer 2007

- Designed and implemented impact assessment report for supplemental education programs for youth living in slum communities in Mumbai.

COLLEGE POSSIBLE

St. Paul, MN

Program Associate

2004-2006

- Directed site operations at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, facilitating daily 2-hour college preparatory workshops for low-income high school students.
- Achieved strongest results of all program sites: student ACT scores increased by 23% and 100% students gained admission to college.

BREAKTHROUGH COLLABORATIVE

Minneapolis, MN

Teacher

2004-2006

- Designed and taught student-centered courses and workshops in math, psychology, art, and theater to low-income middle school students at summer and school-year programs.

EDUCATION

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Cambridge, MA

Master in Public Policy

2008

Concentration on International Climate Change Adaptation

Certificate in Humanitarian Studies 2008

Honors: Deans Fellow (Full merit-based scholarship), Phi Beta Kappa

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

Northfield, MN

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics, *magna cum laude*

2004

SKILLS

- Public Policy Development and Analysis
- Organizational Leadership and Management
- Project Strategy, Design, Development, Management
- Program Design and Management
- Design Thinking, Rapid Prototyping, User Testing & Iteration
- Languages: English (Native), Bengali (Native), Hindi (Fluent), French (conversational)