



Name: Maxwell A. Ayamba

Job title: Policy & Advocacy Officer

Organisation name: Sheffield Black and Ethnic Minority Environmental Network (SHEBEEN)

Starting your career

What attracted you to a career working in Sheffield's environment?

I am an environmental journalist/lecturer in sustainable development at Sheffield Hallam University, so obviously I am passionate about the environment in general not only Sheffield.

How did you find out about the career opportunities that were available?

By attending meetings, networking, reading newspapers and environmental magazines

How did you get your career started?

I did my masters degree in Environmental Management and Conservation at Sheffield Hallam University and have been involved in the environment in Sheffield before working for SHEBEEN

Your career path

How long have you been working in the industry?

I have been an environmental journalist since 1994 and worked with SHEBEEN since 2003.

What jobs have you done and how did you progress?

I was a Board Member of the International Environment Forum (IEF) from 1999 – 2000. I have been lecturing in sustainable development at Sheffield Hallam University since 2002. I currently sit on several committees and boards e.g. Groundwork Sheffield, Ramblers Association UK, Peak Park Equality Standard Audit Group and the Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committee (REPAC) of the Yorkshire & Humber Region.

Training and skills

What qualifications did you achieve before entering your career?

Masters Degree in Environmental Management Conservation

What job-specific skills training and development have you undertaken since starting your career?

Diversity and Equality Training



What have you gained from your training and development?

I have gained a wide range of experience, skills and contacts through my work in the environmental sector and that has helped me in my career progression

Your working day

What is a typical day for you?

Attending workshops, seminar, conferences, board meetings or writing reports, doing presentations or giving a talk, etc. It varies from day to day depending on what I have in my diary.

What takes up most of your time?

Board and committee meetings

What is the best bit about your job?

I like every bit of my job else I won't be doing it

The future

What are your aspirations for your career?

Difficult one to answer – but who knows tomorrow? I hope to one day work with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in any part of the world.

How would you like to develop your skills further in the future?

It depends on what is on offer and what time I have available, at the moment I am enjoying what I am doing because that is my speciality. As a journalist I also write feature articles about the environment and that is an area I would like to keep developing.

Who has been an inspiration or influence on your career?

Dr. Ian D. Rotherham, Principal Lecturer/Reader at Sheffield Hallam University and former Sheffield City Council Ecologist

If you had to “sell” a career in Sheffield’s environment in one sentence, what would you say?

Sheffield environment is green, safe, clean and fun to work in.