



Mitesh Mudaliar: Driving Sustainability with Leadership and Collaboration at Horizon Energy Group

When Mitesh Mudaliar joined Horizon Energy Group as Quality and Environmental Manager in 2021, he found himself quickly immersed in the complex and growing world of sustainability. A year later, his role expanded to include the responsibility of leading the company's sustainability efforts—a task that meant stepping up his influence and driving business leaders across the organisation to embed sustainability into every facet of their operations.

“It was a big shift,” Mitesh reflects. “Some of our business units had already begun integrating sustainability into their planning and operations, while others were just starting their journey. I knew we needed a robust strategy, a flexible framework, and a clear plan to bring consistency across the board.”

Recognising that the role required new leadership skills and approaches, Mitesh turned to the Sustainability Leadership Programme (SLP). “I needed to take my leadership,

influencing, and collaboration skills to the next level,” he says. “The SLP was about expanding my sustainability leadership toolbox, connecting with other leaders to leverage their experiences and insights, and gaining more confidence through practice.”

Building Leadership and Capability

From the beginning, Mitesh found that the SLP was not just about understanding the mechanics of sustainability, but also about self-reflection and personal leadership

“The SLP was about expanding my sustainability leadership toolbox, connecting with other leaders to leverage their experiences and insights, and gaining more confidence through practice.”

growth. "One of the first things I learned was that influencing and mobilising others to achieve change starts with understanding my own sustainability story, values, and motivation," he explains.

The programme equipped Mitesh with practical tools that helped him plan his time better, manage distractions, and lead with greater confidence. "I realised the importance of taking the time to recognise my own personality profile, as well as those of others," he says. "This insight was key to improving my communication and collaboration skills. I don't have to be a hero and do everything myself. Sustainability leadership is about building capability—empowering others to lead initiatives while I mentor and coach them."

This shift in thinking has been instrumental in Mitesh's work at Horizon Energy Group. By applying what he learned, he's finding it easier to bring people along on the organisation's sustainability journey, driving meaningful change across the business.

From Planning to Action

The impact of Mitesh's involvement in the SLP can be seen in Horizon Energy Group's recent achievements. One of the most significant milestones has been the completion of the company's first-ever sustainability report. This report is the culmination of months of consultations, target-setting, planning, and collaboration between Mitesh's team and leaders from across the organisation.

"The timing of the SLP couldn't have been better," Mitesh says. "The tools I learned during the programme helped me drive consultation and collaboration processes that were critical to embedding sustainability into our broader business strategy. The result was our inaugural integrated report, which reflects a collective understanding of what sustainability means for Horizon Energy Group and how we'll achieve our goals."

The clarity that has emerged from these efforts has not only helped guide Horizon Energy Group's sustainability strategy but has also won over some of the company's early sceptics. "By integrating the SLP learnings into my approach, I've been able to turn some of our critics into sustainability champions," he shares proudly. "That's been one of the most rewarding parts of the journey so far."

Looking Ahead: Elevating Collective Capability

Looking to the future, Mitesh is optimistic about the endless opportunities for applying the lessons from the SLP. He's already begun scheduling meetings, workshops, and training sessions with stakeholders across Horizon Energy Group to further elevate the company's collective capability in addressing sustainability challenges.



“By integrating the SLP learnings into my approach, I’ve been able to turn some of our critics into sustainability champions.”

"My vision is to drive meaningful change not just in how we think about sustainability but in how we operate," he explains. "I'm confident that we can make a positive impact on some of the biggest issues we face today, from emissions reduction and waste minimisation to climate-related risk assessment and diversity and inclusion."

With a clear strategy in place and a deep commitment to empowering others, Mitesh is poised to guide Horizon Energy Group towards achieving its sustainability goals and setting a new standard for sustainable business practices.

"We're just getting started," he says with a smile. "The future is bright, and I'm excited to continue leading the charge."



The **Sustainability Leadership Programme** is Australasia's most comprehensive course on sustainability leadership, offered in partnership with the [Sustainable Business Council](#) and [Catapult](#). This intensive short course equips leaders with the tools and confidence needed to create measurable impacts. [Find out more.](#)