

David Le Page 2025

Environmental journalist, editor, human rights and climate justice advocate. Currently director and co-founder of Fossil Free South Africa (since 2014), leading campaigns for fossil fuel divestment and a democratic just transition in South Africa. Over three decades of experience in journalism, communications, sustainability, climate change, sustainable investment and NGO leadership. Former editor of the Mail & Guardian Online (2003), contributor to national media, regular speaker on sustainability and social justice.

Strengths and values

- Skilled communicator and editor with a track record of impactful advocacy
- Strong leadership in nonprofit and campaign settings
- Collaborative, ethical, and people-focused management style
- Deep commitment to human rights, climate justice, and equity

UCT engagement as alumnus

- UCT alumnus (BA, 1989)
- Long-term advocate for socially responsible investment and climate policy change at UCT, (since 2013)
- Member of the UCT ethical investment task team, 2025–2016

Employment history

2014–present: Co-founder, coordinator and director, Fossil Free South Africa

- Leading national campaigns on fossil fuel divestment, ethical public relations and advertising, fossil fuel advertising bans, excellence in climate journalism
- Building coalitions with students, civil society and academia
- Building expertise in ethical and socially responsible investment practices
- Public advocacy, fundraising, and organisational leadership

2005–2017: Independent journalist and academic editor

- Articles in Business Day, Sunday Times, Mail & Guardian
- Clients included WWF South Africa, Project 90 by 2030, Foundation for Human Rights, Electric Book Works
- Specialist in climate, energy, and sustainability reporting
- Editor of academic papers and research reports

2010–2011: Climate change journalist and board/staff member, Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI)

- Attended COP 16/17 as SAFCEI communications officer
- Wrote and edited publications on faith and climate change

2008–2011: Editor and consultant: Research Africa, Incite Sustainability

- Editor at Research Africa
- Led editorial projects on sustainability and governance at Incite Sustainability

2003–5: HIV journalism, communications and advocacy

- Communications for Treatment Action Campaign, producer at Community Health Media Trust

1998–2001: Journalist, Mail & Guardian

- Covered economics, science, technology, environment
- Editor of Mail & Guardian Online, revitalising the brand

1992–1997: Early career in advertising copy-writing (Ogilvy, Leo Burnett, Bates, Herdbuoys)

Education

- 1987–1989: BA, English Literature, University of Cape Town
- 1986: Matric, Damelin College, Johannesburg

Selected achievements

- UCT committed in principle to fossil fuel divestment in 2022 following a nine-year campaign
- Co-founder, Fossil Free South Africa (2014)
- Contributing organiser during establishment of democracy campaign My Vote Counts (2012)
- Speaker, TEDxTableMountain (2012): ‘The Case for the Maximum Wage’
- Board member, Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute 2009–2011
- Initiated climate briefings for SA media editors ahead of COP15 (2009) in partnership with Project 90 by 2030
- Regular public speaking, media appearances, and advocacy on climate and human rights issues