

How can mining become more sustainable and energy efficient

Mining can be described as the extraction of minerals like gold and bauxite from the earth. In Guyana, mining is a major activity for many people. In Guyana mining has brought great wealth for the economy from the export of minerals. It has also provided jobs for many.

It is the responsibility of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) for enforcing the rules for mining. Miners are expected to obey the rules and act responsibly to the environment. Mining is done in remote areas.

There are six mining districts in Guyana: District 1 The Berbice mining district, District 2 The Potaro Mining District, District 3 The Mazamuni Mining District, District 4 the Guyuni mining district, District 5 The Northwest mining district, and District 6, The Guyuni mining district. Most of the mining takes place in district two to four.

Mining though beneficial to people, can cause erosion of lands, destroy habitats for animals and plants and can be very harmful to our environment. Miners can easily cause damage to water, air and land because they operate in far out areas and out of sight of persons that need to overlook the practise of miners.

For mining to be sustained in an energy efficient way, reduction of destruction and pollution of the environment has to be decreased, avoiding damage in the extraction process. Guyana has signed onto The United Nations Minimata Convention in 2013 to show its interest in reducing pollution. However, miners, are the best people to make a difference in the outcome of any good.

results that can be achieved to save the environment by using the best methods available.

Some main ways in which miners can become sustainable are by reducing water use and pollution, reclaim lands that were mined, use energy efficient machines and train workers to operate machines properly.

Water should be reused at different steps in extracting minerals in order to reduce the amount of water being used. Dangerous chemicals such as mercury should be replaced and kept out of rivers and lakes where it can destroy fishes and harm people who depend on the water.

In 2013 a pilot project was done by the Ministry of Natural Resources where it was shown that by back filling lands vegetation regrowth is possible. More money for such activities can result in many mining lands to return to its original state in the future. Miners can also be given the responsibility of filling holes they dug up in order to start the process of reclaiming the land quickly before equipment is moved from the mining area.

The use of new and efficient vehicles for transport in the mining areas can result in less fuel being used. We can use batteries for lighting and solar panels to charge the batteries. Better roads to access far out areas from the city can result in less fuel being used. For example many trucks get stuck on their way to Mahdia and delayed with supply of food and equipment for Mining.

We can train workers to use equipment and vehicles in the best way so they can do jobs in less time and reduce the use of fuel. We will also protect the most important resource, the human life, by having workers not cause accidents which can cause hardships on themselves and their entire families.

It is my wish that the sustainable and energy efficient methods be used to protect the environment and provide a future to Guyana's children.

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