

SCALING UP GREEN

Sustainable development, green energy and emerging economies makes for an uneasy partnership, but NRI entrepreneurs Saurabh Sen and Ameet Shah, co-chairmen of Astonfield Renewable Resources, believe scaling up green energy is eminently possible. They were recently awarded the prestigious Global Green Award. The US Department of Commerce nominated Astonfield for the award in recognition of the company's leadership and success in promoting renewable energy solutions in emerging markets such as India. Known for making the promise of renewable resources a reality in India and Africa, Sen has been conferred with the Udyog Rattan Award and his company awarded the Excellence Award.



Sen and Shah started the company in 2005, to develop and provide world-class renewable energy solutions to growing nations. The company has a portfolio of nearly 1,000 MW of solar, biomass and waste-to-energy projects and is the largest multi-modality renewable energy company in South Asia. The company is also developing renewable energy plants using biomass and municipal solid waste-to-energy technologies and has project allotments and active business development operations in eight different states across India.

"We must first create a viable renewable energy generating industry, have it take hold and then scale up from there," the duo told us. "Certainly the ultimate goal is to have a 100 per cent electrified India, and one of the great advantages of many renewable energy technologies is their ability to work in a captive, off-grid environment. Once the renewable energy industry is augmented in India, and as clean energy reaches grid parity, the time will be right to push these solutions to the 'masses'." Astonfield plans to invest Rs 200 crore in renewable energy sector in India over the next few years.