

THE ENVIRONMENT

Job sectors include air quality, conservation, corporate social responsibility (CSR), environmental assessment, waste management and water quality as well as the energy and utility sectors. This could mean working in an environmental consultancy as an environmental manager or consultant working on environmental impact assessments. Opportunities also exist in local or national government in a department such as Defra. Similarly, you could be employed in a museum or botanic garden like Kew or a leisure or recreation organisation such as a national park. Work here includes practical countryside and site management, providing advice and field survey work. NGOs also own nature reserves and opportunities here can include practical conservation and recording biodiversity. Other roles exist in the PR, fundraising, campaigning and lobbying departments of organisations such as the RSPB, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. Research and education provide opportunities in universities and research councils, government departments and with industrial clients, or teaching in organisations such as field study centres. There are growing opportunities in media and publishing to write and broadcast about the environment and in ecotourism where you could combine an enthusiasm for the environment with an interest in travel.

Over recent years there has been an increase in job opportunities in the sector, but this has been matched by an increase in the number of people studying for environment-related degrees; there is still strong competition for graduate jobs. Here are some tips on how to get started:

Experience is crucial and volunteering is a great way to start as it will give you something to add to your CV as well as help you gain skills, experience and confidence. Work experience and internships are often the next step and are an invaluable way of building contacts. Networking is very useful for finding out about jobs that are not advertised formally. Contacts can also help with speculative applications which can be used to create your own job opportunities. Another way to get your foot in the door could be to do a project or dissertation linked to a potential employer.

Keeping up to date with environment news and trends is also important as it helps you to locate possible opportunities and enables you to impress at interview. Joining a professional body can be useful for building your CV and as a way of finding out about [new developments](#); they often publish newsletters and organise networking events. Understanding the industry also demonstrates your interest and commitment; something all employers look for. You will also need enthusiasm and determination to be successful in finding a career in the environmental sector.

Key Resources

- [Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management \(cieem.net/i-want-to-be\)](http://cieem.net/i-want-to-be) (There is a comprehensive section of the website for students and recent graduates including advice, guidance and publications on all aspects of further study and careers, including a range of career profiles. There is also a jobs section).
- [Countryside-jobs.com](http://countryside-jobs.com) (Includes sections on jobs, volunteering, training and news with current job vacancies in countryside and environmental conservation, education (including grants and funding section) and recreation throughout the British Isles. Also, articles on environmental issues worldwide).

- Earthworks-jobs.com (An online database of jobs and studentships from all over the world covering all aspects of the environmental sector).
- Endsjobsearch.co.uk (ENDS job search is a specialist site for environment professionals looking for environmental, ecology and conservation jobs, wind energy jobs and sustainability jobs. Also has a careers advice section and The ENDS Report for news and labour market information).
- Countrysidejobslink.co.uk (Has a good list of links to job pages on the websites of UK national organisations, local government and organisations in the countryside sector. Also, sections on volunteering, training and careers advice and top tips to give you the best chance of landing a job in this competitive career sector).
- Environmentjob.co.uk/jobs (Environment jobs website with a huge selection of jobs across the UK environment sector plus voluntary opportunities too. There is a specific category for graduate and entry level jobs).
- Wildlifetrusts.org/jobs (Jobs and volunteering opportunities for certain Wildlife Trusts throughout the UK).
- Greenjobs.co.uk (Another environment job board).
- Jobsgopublic.com/vacancies (Public sector jobs in the local government and charity sector).

You may also be interested in...

- Charity and development work
- Energy and utilities
- Government and public administration

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