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 utilities sectors. This could mean working in business or industry in an environmental consultancy as an environmental manager or consultant working on environmental impact assessments. Opportunities also exist in local or national government in departments like 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. NGO’s also own nature reserves and opportunities here can include practical conservation and recording biodiversity. Other roles exist in the PR, fundraising and campaigning and lobbying departments of organisations like 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 there has also been an increase in the number of people studying environmental courses so there is still strong competition for graduate jobs. Here are some tips on how to get started.

Experience is critical and volunteering is a great way to start as it will give you something to add to your CV and help you gain skills, experience and confidence. Work experience and internships are often the next step and are a great way to start 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 an 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 your CV and as a way of finding out about new developments as they often provide newsletters and networking events. Understanding the industry also demonstrates your interest and commitment which is something all employers will 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

There is very comprehensive section of the website for students and recent graduates including advice, guidance and publications on all aspects of further study and career guidance, including a range of career profiles. There is also a jobs section.

Countryside Jobs Service (CJS)

Includes sections on jobs, training and news with current job vacancies in countryside and environmental conservation, education, interpretation and recreation throughout the British Isles.

Earthworks Jobs

An on-line database of jobs and studentships from all over the world covering all aspects of the environmental industry.

Access this page and more industries at reading.ac.uk/careers/resources
ENDS jobsearch

ENDS job search is a specialist site for environmental 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.

Countryside Jobs Link

Has a good list of links to job pages on the websites of UK national organisations, local government, and organisations in the voluntary sector

Environment Job

Environment jobs website with many, many jobs across the UK environment sector, and voluntary opportunities too. There is a specific category for graduate and entry level jobs.

environmentjobs
National and international job and volunteering opportunities searchable for internships and entry level jobs.

The Wildlife Trusts

Jobs and volunteering opportunities for certain Wildlife Trusts throughout UK.

GreenRoles

Another environmental jobs website

Jobs Go Public

Public sector jobs in the local government and charity sector

You may also be interested in...

- Biology and Biotechnology
- Charity and Development Work
- Energy and Utilities
- Government and Public Administration