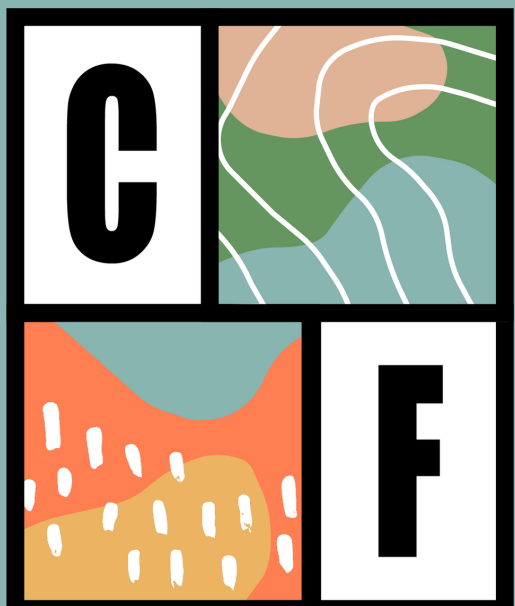




ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS



ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS

Here's our look at some
interesting careers!

Environmental Engineer
Minerals Surveyor
Energy Manager
Ecologist

Below are some other careers
you may wish to have a look at:

Forest/Woodland Manager
Nature Conservation Officer
Sustainability Consultant

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Environmental Engineers are involved in managing and reducing waste, and minimising pollution in order to protect, restore and preserve the planet.

As an Environmental Engineer, you'll design technologies and implement processes and systems to prevent and control a range of environmental risk, and also to restore and reverse environmental damage.

Engineering degrees are highly recommended for this line of work, although it is not a necessity to have studied one to become an Environmental Engineer.

You may have studied another subject that has relevance, such as; **Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Geoscience, Geology, Geotechnical Engineering & Environmental Science.**

It may also be possible to move into environmental engineering from other related occupations, such as environmental consultancy or sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Work experience with an environmental engineering organisation is valuable, but work within the environmental sector in general will be just as welcomed by employers.

You could focus on finding environmental volunteering opportunities with charities, wildlife trusts and also national parks.

Alternatively, you could approach organisations with an interest in environmental impact management, such as engineering consultancies, construction firms, environmental consultancies, waste companies, land remediation, defence companies & airlines.

You may also want to target organisations that specialise in the particular types of environmental issues you are interested in and approach them for work experience opportunities, vacation placements or a year in industry.

Joining an environmental society at University may also help.

MINERALS SURVEYOR

Minerals Surveyors are heavily involved in the preparation and processing of potential mineral sites. They conduct surveys to investigate the commercial potential of mining or quarrying, assessing risk, predicting environmental impacts and mapping mineral deposits.

You'll look at the economic viability of working on a potential site and support planning applications, as well as help to negotiate legal contracts and establish rights to work a mine.

Then, you'll manage and develop the sites and map and record the extent of mineral extraction. Once a site has been exhausted, minerals surveyors work with other professionals, including mining engineers and planning and development surveyors, to restore the land.

You can become involved in a wide range of operations including; Mineral Processing Plants, Methane Extraction Sites, Brickworks, Cement & Concrete Works, Recycling Centres and Waste Incinerators.

MINERALS SURVEYOR

Graduates from a range of disciplines can enter mineral surveying, but most employers prefer candidates to have a related degree, such as:

- **Civil or Mining Engineering**
- **Earth Sciences**
- **Economics**
- **Geology**

Gaining chartered status through RICS is advised. If you've studied an accredited degree, this will shorten the length of time it takes you to gain the professional qualification.

Pre-entry experience in a surveying/geological environment is highly regarded by recruiters. The British Geological Survey (BGS) occasionally has opportunities for voluntary work experience and summer field work.

For students interested in a career in any surveying profession, student membership of RICS is free. This is helpful for networking purposes and to keep up to date with developments in the sector.

ENERGY MANAGER

As an Energy Manager, you'll plan, regulate and monitor the energy use in an organisation or facility. Your aim will be to improve efficiency by evaluating energy use and putting in place new policies and changes where needed.

You'll coordinate all aspects of energy management, from reduction of carbon dioxide emissions to waste management and sustainable development. You need to have a good understanding of electrical and mechanical systems as well as knowledge of the energy use of organisations.

A degree is not essential but there are specialist subjects available that focus on energy and the environment, for example, energy engineering, sustainable energy and climate change.

Alternatively, one of the following subjects may also help your chances:

Architecture

Engineering

Environmental Science & Management

ENERGY MANAGER

Entering the career with an HND or foundation degree is also possible, particularly if it is in a related subject such as: **Building Technology, Business Studies, Environmental Studies or Engineering.**

You don't need a postgraduate qualification, but it may help you secure a more senior position in the future.

There may be limited vacancies as there's often only one person or a small team in an organisation and this can make competition fierce. You can increase your chances of getting a job by making sure that you have relevant work experience. Some courses offer a sandwich placement, which will be particularly relevant.

You could also try to get a part-time job or work experience within a company's energy management department. Any administration or management work that provides you with the necessary skills will be useful.

ECOLOGIST

As an ecologist, you'll be concerned with ecosystems – the abundance and distribution of organisms (people, plants, animals), and the relationships between organisms and their environment.

In this role, you'll usually specialise in a particular area, such as freshwater, marine, terrestrial, fauna or flora, and carry out a range of tasks relating to that area.

When starting out, you'll conduct surveys to identify, record, and monitor species and their habitats. With career progression, your work will become more wide-ranging.

A degree in a biological science or environmental subject is generally required. In particular, the following subjects may increase your chances; Applied Life Sciences, Botany/Plant Sciences, Conservation Biology, Ecology, Marine Biology or Zoology.

Some employers will look for candidates with postgraduate qualifications (an MSc or PhD), particularly for work requiring specialist knowledge.

ECOLOGIST

It's helpful to join your local Wildlife Trust and become a member of a relevant professional body, such as the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), which has reduced membership and conference rates for students.

Membership provides the opportunity to meet and network with potential employers and other ecological and environmental professionals.

Pre-entry experience is essential and helps you to develop vital field survey skills. There are many ways to gain relevant and quality experience. Some degree courses include a period of field-based work experience - if yours doesn't, try to take as many practical modules as possible.

Joining relevant societies will provide you with opportunities to get involved in ecological projects and you can find volunteering opportunities through job websites and the websites of conservation organisations.