

# Let's talk green jobs

**Green jobs are everywhere!**

From tackling the climate emergency to varied roles, green jobs are great for people and the planet! And as the need to reduce our carbon footprint becomes more urgent to address a climate emergency, there will be many green jobs in the future.

Many jobs have the potential to become green. So help protect the planet whilst doing work you enjoy. Find out more about green jobs and what it might mean for you.

## What is a green job?

If a job helps to protect or restore the planet, it's green! Jobs like renewable energy engineers, recycling officers or countryside rangers traditionally do this. But more and more businesses and industries are trying to reduce their carbon footprint. So many jobs have the potential to become green! Sustainable fashion designer, office managers, packaging designers, electricians, chefs....the list goes on.



## What are the benefits of a green job?

### Make a positive difference to the world

Green jobs help tackle the climate and nature emergency. By doing a green job you could be helping to reduce air pollution, revive natural habitats and protect people against the impacts of climate change.

### Jobs for the future

The green jobs market is growing. And if we are to future-proof our planet it needs to continue. More jobs are likely to emerge: ones we've not even thought of yet. An ideal future would see all jobs considering the impact that organisation has on the planet. Many companies, like Lush cosmetics and TOMS, are already doing this. And with more organisations, like Apple and Netflix, committing to net-zero emissions targets, a green career is likely a way to future-proof your job too.

### You're not alone

Interested in a green career? Well you wouldn't be alone: a 2018 survey (by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) found that almost two-thirds of 16-to-24-year-olds were interested in pursuing a green career!

And businesses know this. That's likely why forward-thinking companies are looking to reduce their carbon footprint. It's a response to the climate emergency but also a way to attract future employees like you.

# What are the job options?

In 2020, Greenpeace found that 1.8 million new green jobs could be created very quickly with government support. Green jobs look to be a big part of our future and a growing area for when you are ready for job searching. So let's have a look at some of the current options.

## Nature conservation

The environment needs restoring and protecting. Many jobs exist with this aim. For example:



### Environmental campaigner

Their job is to put pressure on organisations, like companies and governments, to make the best decisions for the environment. They may gather support online or at events, through lobbying, influencing or taking action. [Read why Anthony](#), a junior digital campaigner at Greenpeace, enjoys his job.

## Greener living

We need greener transport, housing, energy and products. Many jobs help achieve this. For example:

### Bus driver

More people using public transport means fewer carbon emissions. And if the bus is electric then even better.



### Conservation officer

They'll protect and improve areas of environmental importance. They might carry out physical work to improve a site, help volunteers and increase awareness of conservation by planning talks and activities.

### Plumber in a green energy company

They'll often install, maintain and fix heating, cooling and water systems in buildings. And with more low carbon options - like air source heat pumps - being fitted in homes, green plumbers are essential.



### Environmental consultant

They'll do field work and desk based research so they can advise a client on an environmental issue. They aim to reduce or remove environmental damage.

### Wind turbine engineer

They work on designing windfarms. [Watch the video](#) telling the story of a typical day in the life of a wind turbine engineer.



Greener homes, transport and products often require innovation. There are many technologies out there which reduce carbon emissions like solar panels and electric vehicles, but jobs in design and engineering to create and improve these technologies are needed.

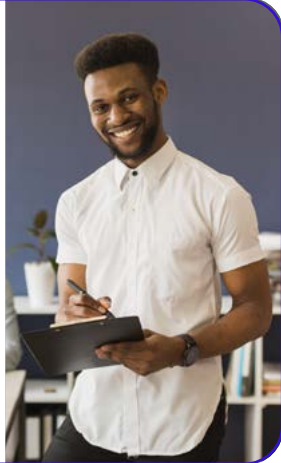
Workplaces need to be greener too which is why many companies are now hiring **sustainability officers** and **environmental managers** to develop, implement and monitor strategies to reduce their company's environmental impact. For example, Netflix announced in March 2021 a target to achieve net-zero emissions by the end of 2022.

## Can most jobs be green?

Yes! Some jobs, like a solar panel installer, are more obviously green. But any job that includes choices on how and which products to use can be green too. For example:

### Office manager

They're responsible for the smooth running of an office on a day-to-day basis. They're often responsible for choosing office supplies - like furniture and stationary. So they play a role in making the daily running of an office greener.



### Product designer

They'll create designs for anything from furniture and cars through to home appliances and the packaging they come in. If a company is looking to reduce their impact on the planet then the designer is essential.



## How do I find a green employer?

There are organisations out there whose core aims are to protect the planet. Greenpeace is one and a range of jobs are needed to make it successful. Fundraising managers, volunteer coordinators, receptionists, researchers, project managers, campaigners, HR assistants, marketing managers... the list goes on!

A job in an organisation like Greenpeace means you're going all out to help the planet. This is great but many organisations are trying to make themselves more climate-friendly too. Find out how green an employer is by looking at:

- ▶ **Sustainability plans:** Many have targets for reducing their environmental impact. For example, they may plan on halving their carbon footprint by 2022. Find out what the organisation's target is and how they plan to meet it. Do you think it's good enough?
- ▶ **Day-to-day running:** How the organisation is run can tell you a lot about how green they are. Do they buy products - like paper, stationary and desks - from sustainable suppliers? Does the office use renewable energy, like solar panels? It can be tricky to find this out but you can always ask them.
- ▶ **Environmental campaigns:** Does the employer give money or time to help protect the planet? Perhaps they support environmental charities or they might run their own campaigns.

If you're not sure, ask them.

## How do I get a green job?

There are different options for getting a green job, like apprenticeships, internships and graduate roles. Professional bodies are a good source of information. Here are some involved in green issues:

- ▶ [Renewable Energy Association](#)
- ▶ [Institution of Environmental Sciences](#)
- ▶ [Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment](#)
- ▶ [Landscape Institute](#)
- ▶ [Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management](#)
- ▶ [Institute of Water](#)

Ask your teachers or career advisors at school or college. They can help you research green apprenticeships, courses and skills you might need.

## What's next?

- ▶ **Read a blog:** '[What's it like to have a green job?](#)' for a first-hand account.
- ▶ **Find out more:** Ask your school or college about green job opportunities or research options yourself.
- ▶ **Hear from green employees:** Ask your school or youth group to invite a green worker to speak to you all.
- ▶ **Talk to friends and family:** Sharing your thoughts can help you work out what you are looking for.

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