

Green and Ethical Careers Guide

What are Green and Ethical Careers?

The definition can vary widely – depending upon your own views and how far you want to take it. In a green or ethical career you could work as a ranger at a nature reserve, or in a business or legal role for a company that places environmental and ethical concerns high on its agenda. Or you may find yourself somewhere in between, while placing human rights campaigns or conservation of natural resources as one of your priorities.

This guide aims to provide you with some starting points for your own research into careers that match your philosophy. The rest is up to you!

Green and Ethical Careers

If you want to find out more about the ins and outs of ethical and green careers, what options are available and where you might want to start, point your browser at the following:

www.ethicalcareers.org is a comprehensive site, with advice and news.

www.changeagents.org.uk - a portal for UK environmental careers.

www.ciwem.org/information-and-resources/jobs-market.aspx - careers site from the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management.

The Green Guide has advice on how to live ethical lifestyles, but it also offers career advice: www.greenguide.co.uk

NGO Media produced a guide to Careers in Renewable Energy. Download the PDF here: www.ngomedia.org.uk/artman/uploads/CareersInRenewables.pdf

Countryside and conservation site NatureNet has a careers section, which includes information on Careerships and a Countryside job search service: www.naturenet.net/people/careers.html There's also a wealth of useful links for even more information.

If you are not sure which green sector to work in, this site explains each area and shows you the possible job areas you could work in: www.greenenergyjobs.com/career-guide

For a general Job Sector list, look at Prospects and choose the greenest options:
www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm

A great site for the more technically minded, Scientists for Global Responsibility provides detailed information about Careers within this area and proves that you needn't have studied a related subject to have a Green Career. www.sgr.org.uk/projects/ethical-careers

The Centre for Alternative Technology offers postgraduate courses of interest:
www.cat.org.uk/index.tmpl?refer=index&init=1

For more ideas for postgraduate study, use Prospects:
www.prospects.ac.uk/search_courses.htm



Corporate Responsibility

If you want to work within a business, legal or scientific role, but still show support for global ethics and the environment, you may wish to research potential employers first.

If this sounds like you, then read about Corporate Responsibility (CR). BIS, (the Government department for Business Innovation and Skills) defined CR as: “...*the voluntary actions that business can take, over and above compliance with minimum legal requirements, to address both its own competitive interests and the interests of wider society.*”

For more information about BIS see: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-business-innovation-skills

CR is often seen to apply to the following aspects:
Community/ Social; Environmental; Governance; Marketplace Conduct; Workplace Practices.

Other CR sites:

The Corporate Responsibility Academy: www.bitc.org.uk/cr_academy

The Corporate Responsibility Coalition:

www.corporate-responsibility.org

The Ethical Corporation site: www.ethicalcorp.com

There are thousands of companies out there – so how can you tell which are ethical and have concern for the environment? You can research companies for their ethical credentials using these ethical watchdogs:

Ethical Consumer is the leading organisation in researching of social and environmental records of companies: www.ethicalconsumer.org/home.aspx

Corporate Critic indexes and rates the Corporate Social Responsibility records of over 50,000 companies. To find out more go to: www.corporatecritic.org EIRIS is similar: www.eiris.org

Also of interest are the following organisations' websites:

www.corporatewatch.org.uk

www.crguk.org

www.ethicalperformance.com

For those interested in financial careers, the FTSE4Good Index measures the performance of companies that meet CR standards. Read more at:

www.ftse.com/Indices/FTSE4Good_Index_Series/index.jsp

Also see the Dow Jones Sustainability Index: www.sustainability-indexes.com and www.uksif.org/uksif.

Ethical Careers Fairs

Many universities hold careers fairs in this area, though many are not annual, so do your own internet search from time to time.

ww2.prospects.ac.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/Careers_fairs/p!epkgf

Ethical Companies

You may wish to look directly at specific companies which are 'known' to be ethical or environmentally sound.

The Ethical Company Organisation, www.ethical-company-organisation.org, lists the following as being worthy of their Ethical Accreditation (and there are many more on their site!):

Innocent Drinks – www.innocentdrinks.co.uk

Brother UK – www.brother.co.uk

Charity Bank – www.charitybank.org

Chelsea Building Society – www.thechelsea.co.uk

The Environmental Transport Association – www.eta.co.uk

Highland Spring – www.highlandspring.com

Also:

The Co-operative – www.co-operative.coop

Lush Cosmetics – www.lush.co.uk

Charities and organisations that offer graduate career and / or work experience opportunities:

Environmental Justice Foundation – www.ejfoundation.org

Woodland Trust – www.woodland-trust.org.uk

The Wildlife Trusts – www.wildlifetrusts.org

The Soil Association – www.soilassociation.org

Sustrans - www.sustrans.org.uk

The National Trust – www.nationaltrust.org.uk

RSPB – www.rspb.org.uk

Green and Ethical Job Searches

To search for a green job, try the job search facilities on these websites. There are also volunteering opportunities, which are well worth looking into to add to your CV and to gain valuable experience working within Green and Ethical sectors. There are many more out there, this is just a selection.

www.environmentjob.co.uk

www.environmentjobs.com (Stop Dodo)

www.environmentpost.co.uk

www.ethical-jobs.co.uk

www.ethicaljobs.net

www.greenjobs.co.uk

www.oneworldgroup.org/jobs

www.bsr.org/en/our-network/csr-jobs

www.fairtrade.org.uk/what_is_fairtrade/jobs_and_volunteering.aspx

www.countryside-jobs.com

www.endsjobsearch.co.uk

www.geographyjobs.co.uk

www.staffordshirewildlife.org.uk

www.evergreen.org.uk - an agency for environmental recruiters.

Keele Careers and Employability

The following topical books are available in the Careers and Employability Centre for you to read – just come in and ask:



Working with the Environment - T. Ryder & D. Penrith

Green Volunteers - F. Ausenda (editor)

The Ethical Careers Guide - G. Burrows (editor)

Charity & Voluntary Work - R. Jones

To discuss planning a career along these lines, visit Careers and Employability in Walter Moberly WM0.35, for a drop-in session. The times are at:

www.keele.ac.uk/careers/aboutus/seeinganadviser

