

# The Parents' Guide to Green Careers Week 2022

*Green Careers Week is a fantastic new initiative being launched between 7th and 12th November 2022 to provide young people with an insight into careers that specifically protect the environment and will help the UK achieve its pledge of reaching Net Zero by 2050.*

Led by National Careers Week in partnership with a wide range of organisations including the **Met Office**, the **Natural History Museum**, **The Royal Society**, **STEM.org.uk**, **UK Space Agency**, and **WWF**, Green Careers Week promises to be an inspiring week, with plenty of information on how young people can get actively involved in careers that focus on positive environmental impact and change.



## ► **Why Green is a priority for teens**

According to a 2021 study by Bath University (speaking to 10,000 young adults across 10 countries including the UK), two-thirds of the 16-25 year olds surveyed were worried about climate change and three-quarters felt the future was frightening. Almost half said the way they feel about climate change adversely affects their day-to-day lives.

Young people want (and need) to be involved in finding solutions to our environmental challenges, so it's vital that we provide opportunities to show them how they can play an active role within the world of work. Knowing how they can find careers that play a significant part in improving our environmental credentials should contribute towards restoring their confidence in a positive and sustainable future.

## ► **What is a Green career?**

In the simplest terms, green careers include roles within businesses that benefit the environment and conserve natural resources. These roles have been growing over recent years and are bound to increase further as the necessity for greater energy efficiency and sustainability becomes more urgent. Some opportunities are more obvious than others, so let's take a closer look.

## The built environment

Building and construction accounts for nearly 40% of global CO2 emissions according to the World Green Building Council. Whether it's creating new structures or modifying existing ones, there's no doubt that any role within the built environment will need to look at ways of improving environmental impact. This reaches across architects, civil and structural engineers, manufacturers, procurement managers, site workers, and transportation managers to name a few. Notwithstanding roles within all of these areas can vary in skill level, each will have a significant part to play. Think outside the box for different careers:

- ▶ **Building performance analyst** - identify performance issues with energy, maintenance and comfort in buildings
- ▶ **Recruitment consultant** - specialising in permanent or temporary assignments within environment, planning, energy or civils
- ▶ **Waste Operations manager** - implementing best practices and ensuring compliance



## Consultancy

Not everyone is practical and hands-on, but that doesn't mean there aren't roles for people with business and project management skills to contribute to helping businesses go green. Sustainability consultants advise how companies can lower their carbon footprint through assessing and evaluating the business. What's interesting here is that virtually all large companies have sustainability teams. This means for students keen on certain industries but without the relevant skills (say film, but no acting or production ability) it's possible to get a role in that sector looking at their sustainability impact.

Likewise, choosing to work for a company that has a reputation for ethical practices won't tie them into to a job role but will enable them to pursue work with companies that are aligned with their values. Companies with well-regarded environmental initiatives operating in the UK include: Divine Chocolate, Innocent Drinks and Neal's Yard.



## Energy

Energy is crucial to climate change, not least because many greenhouse gases are generated through energy production. Renewable energy (where resources are replenished faster than they are consumed) will play an important role in moving towards a green Britain. Renewable energy sources include hydropower, bio, solar and wind energy. Roles can include project managers, solar power technicians, tidal power developers and wind energy engineers. Less obvious ways to be involved include:

- ▶ **Energy project officer** - Support the project managers in managing project budgets, monitoring expenditure and costs, realising project outputs and looking after technical equipment
- ▶ **Offshore consent manager** - support development of an offshore renewable energy project
- ▶ **Programme assistant to energy company** - First point of contact for small business to help them start their energy saving process with referral to in-depth technical support when needed



## The great outdoors

When thinking about the environment it seems natural to consider the great outdoors and there are plenty of roles that focus on protecting the land and wildlife around us. There are 15 national parks in the UK, covering over 10% of the land mass and welcoming 100 million visitors each year. They need looking after! Then there's local parks and commons, a myriad of stately homes with public access, and hundreds of nature reserves. Roles to consider:

- ▶ **Forestry creation officer** - Increase tree cover to 30% in the country's largest environmental regeneration initiative
- ▶ **Gardening assistant** - Traineeship to develop sustainable gardens in public access country estates
- ▶ **Nature conservation grazing manager** - manage livestock, with admin skills to record key information relating to stock welfare and habitat condition





## Farming, food production & distribution

We can't live without food! There may be variances in the impact of meat or meat free diets, but all our food has a significant environmental impact. It's not just in growing/producing it. Take a stroll round the supermarket to see first hand what's involved.

Food has to be harvested, processed, packaged and transported. Any role within the food industry has the potential to be 'green', including educating people to eat local, natural and in-season produce. You need only look at what sells in s/markets to know that for many consumers convenience often trumps good intentions. Jobs include:

- ▶ **Buyer** - Senior Tea Buyer and Blender and Ethical Sourcing Manager
- ▶ **Consultant** - deliver effective solutions to complex environmental problems occurring in agricultural
- ▶ **Head of food transformation** - support the food retail sector to deliver sustainable, healthy and affordable food for all



## And some surprises...

Your teen doesn't have to go mainstream to find a role they love. If they have interest, passion and the curiosity to find out more, they can find a job that's rewarding and satisfying - it might just need a little imagination and investigation! How about:

- ▶ **Amusement ride inspector** - ensuring health and safety of all rides
- ▶ **1st Option Safety** - providing health and safety training to the media and broadcasting industry, creating simulated terrorist situations to train reporters before they go to war zones
- ▶ **Urban grower** - indoor farming to produce pesticide free food using less water and fertilizer than traditional methods



## ► Does your teen have green credentials?

Show don't tell! If your teen is interested in a green career, they should try to get some first-hand experience to demonstrate their personal commitment and values. This could be joining environmental groups, helping community clear-ups, and most of all being able to demonstrate their own personal steps in being green (such as buying less and avoiding fast fashion, choosing local foods, recycling, using green transport).

If they're taking a gap year between school and university, many voluntary projects overseas involve green initiatives, such as providing access to clean water, making communities more resilient or conservation interventions - and there's no experience required.

## ► How you can get involved with Green Careers Week

- Follow [@Green\\_Careers](#), [@CareersWeek](#) and [@parentsguideto](#) on Twitter to explore what's on offer and download resources, films and opportunities as they're released
- Have conversations with your teen about their future and what careers interest them. Use the Green Careers Week resources to help guide conversations
- Look out for [#GCW2022](#) because many businesses will be visiting schools and colleges to showcase their green careers throughout the week
- If you're based near Lincoln, why not pop along to the Green Careers Week employer event on 9 November between 10.00 and 14.00 at Lincoln College

