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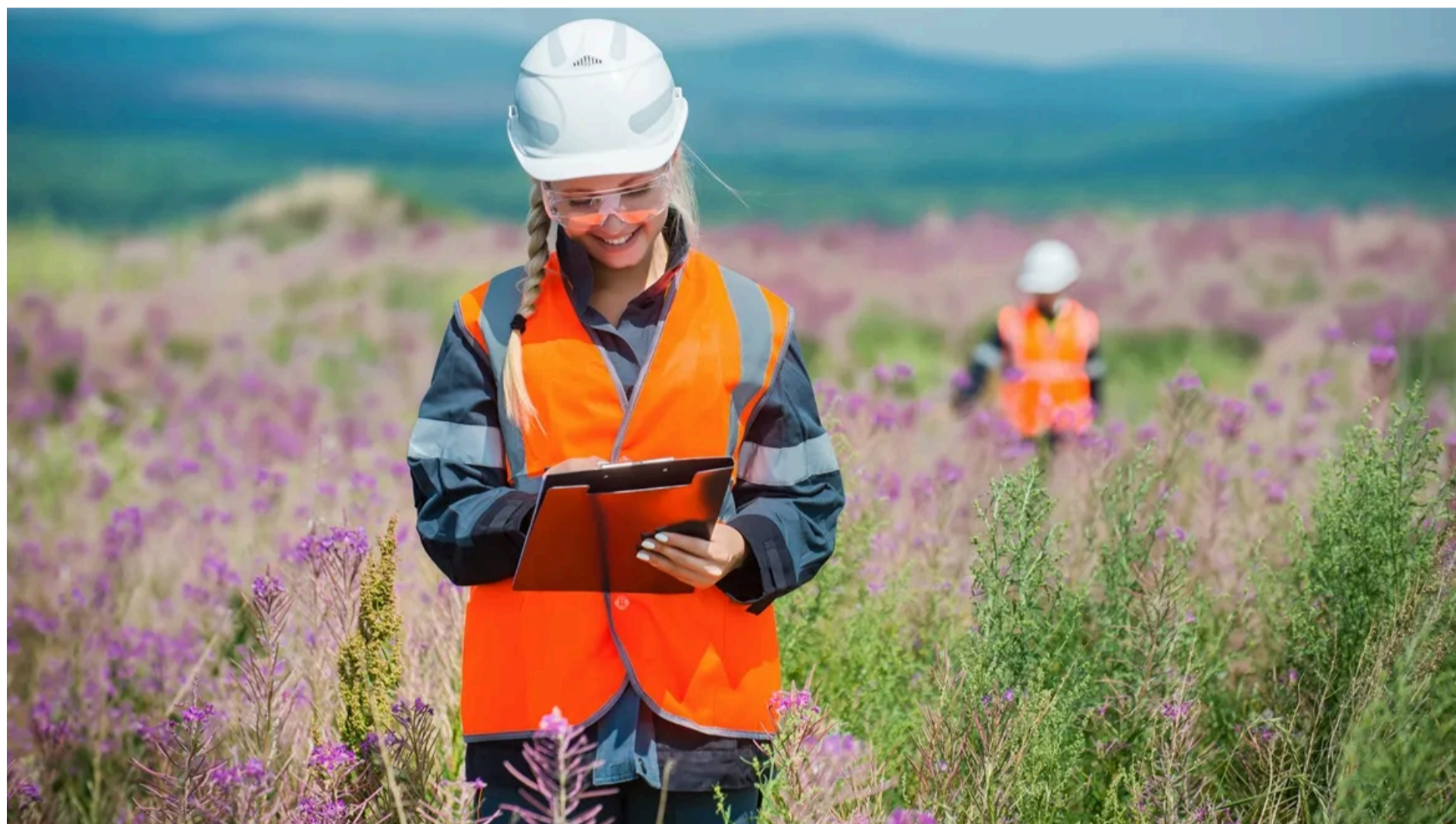
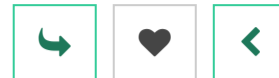
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Environmental planner

Also called: Environmental consultant, eco consultant

Environmental planners advise developers and industry on the social and environmental impact of proposed new projects.



What you'll do

You'll normally work for an environmental consultancy firm. Clients will get you to give advice on the environmental and/or social impact of new projects, such as a new housing development, a new power station, or a new road. You may also investigate existing developments to monitor ongoing environmental and social impact.

Day-to-day duties would include the following:

- Surveying areas for levels of pollution or contamination
- Conducting wildlife studies to see what animals live in the area and how they might be affected by human activity
- Calculating flood risk
- Assessing whether new developments adequately service (or are adequately serviced by) nearby human sites (e.g. Would a new housing estate have sufficient access to health services? Would a new road have enough capacity for the local population? etc.)
- Assessing whether new developments might disturb (or be disturbed by) nearby human sites (e.g. Would a new out-of-town shopping centre unbalance the local economy? Would a nearby factory create too much noise pollution for a new park? etc.)
- Making sure organisations are following environmental standards and laws
- Managing clean-up operations after environmental accidents or spillages
- Researching and analysing data
- Working with companies to reduce their emissions and limit the level of harmful substances in what they produce (either deliberately or as waste)
- Advising industry on recycling and waste disposal
- Writing reports and sharing findings with colleagues, clients, and regulators

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

You'll normally work 9–5, Monday to Friday, but you may have to work longer days if you're finishing off a report or need to survey wildlife that is most active in the early morning or late evening. You may sometimes have to work at the weekend to fit in with the needs of your client.

You'll usually be based in an office, but will also visit clients and spend time outdoors.

Career path and progression

Environmental planners might start out doing voluntary work with a local conservation group to develop an understanding of real-world ecology. Progressing to university study or a full-time job in conservation might be a good basis to move into an environmental planner or consultancy role.

You could alternatively take a more sociology-focused route, perhaps volunteering or working in local government and studying urban planning at university.

You could develop expertise and specialise in the type of environmental or social issues that you advise on, becoming a consultant ornithologist (a bird expert), herpetologist (a reptile and amphibian expert), or hydrologist (an expert on water systems), for example.

Skills required

Here are some of the skills you will need:

- Communication skills – writing and presenting
- Organisation and time-management skills – you'll likely be working on multiple projects at once
- IT and other technology skills
- Research skills
- Business skills and commercial knowledge – the work is always about how the environment affects business decisions and vice versa

A passion for the environment would be useful.

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

You would typically need a relevant honours degree to become an environmental planner. Degree subjects that focus on environmental or social issues would be useful:

- Environmental science
- Environmental management
- Ecology
- Wildlife management
- Geology
- Geography
- Social sciences
- Urban planning

You'll usually need a driving licence, as you may be visiting and working on multiple sites every day.

Some employers might ask for a postgraduate qualification in a specialist environmental area.

The [Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment \(IEMA\)](#) and the [Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management \(CIWEM\)](#) have more information about careers in the environment.

Related Know-how guides

Explore Know-how guides related to this career:

- [The five biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions](#) >

- Sustainable degrees: Sciences >
- Five careers to tackle climate change >
- Sustainable degrees: Earth and animal sciences >
- What you can do with a degree in... environmental science >
- Employer profile: Severn Trent Water, one of the UK's largest water companies >
- Get on the ladder: business and management >
- Employer profile: Veolia, the UK leader in resource management >

Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- Animal science >
- Environmental and Earth sciences >
- Geography >
- Geology >
- Social policy >
- Sociology >
- Zoology >
- Energy and Environmental engineering >

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- Environmental health officer >
- Geoscientist >
- Recycling officer >
- Town planner >

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Animal science at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Environmental and Earth sciences at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Geography at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Geology at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Social policy at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Sociology at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Zoology at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Energy and Environmental engineering at uni:

USA > UK > Canada > Europe > Asia > Australasia > Middle East and Africa > Ireland >

Apprenticeships:

UK >

College / Sixth Form:

UK >

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Environmental planner profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

 UK
 USA

Jobs

Conservation and environment professionals

38,911 **185** in your local area of Liverpool**Top 5 local areas**

1	Hampshire	1,138
2	Devon	1,021
3	Kent	942
4	Oxfordshire	898
5	Surrey	869

Salaries

Environment professionals

£36,115

Conservation and environment professionals

£36,209 **(Not enough data for this region)** in your region of North West**Top 3 regions**

1	South East	£37,331
2	South West	£34,904

Growth

2020-2035

Science, research, engineering and technology professionals

+41.4% ↑ 897,801 jobs

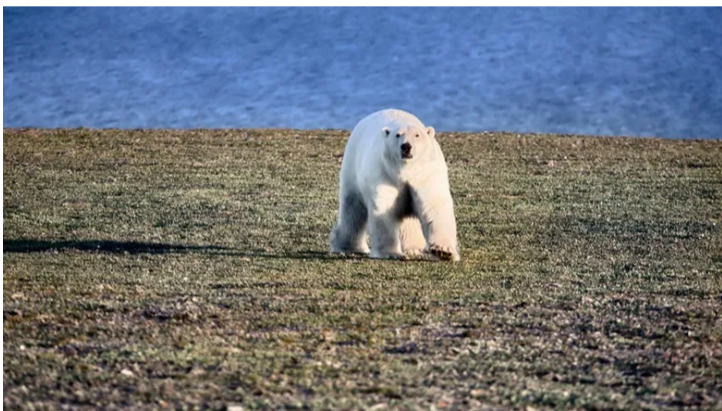
📍 **+38.5%** in your region of North West, an increase of 80,754 jobs

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People also liked...

Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



Oceanographer

Oceanographers study the seas and oceans.

[Read the profile >](#)



Climate change analyst

Research and analyse climate change policies and make recommendations for legislation, awareness campaigns, or fundraising approaches.

[Read the profile >](#)



Conservationist

Conservationists work to protect the environment and raise awareness of environmental issues.

[Read the profile >](#)