



Sustainability and Energy Consultant

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I work with the design and construction teams to ensure that the building is incorporating the sustainability and energy efficiency measures. Once the building is completed, I assess the building against the sustainability measures.

Why I chose my job

I chose my job because I like solving puzzles and I am up for a challenge! Since high school I have also had personal concerns about the future of Earth and its inhabitants. Therefore, I wanted to become a specialist to contribute towards reversing the negative effects of industry on the earth and its atmosphere.

The day-to-day

On a day-to-day basis I give consultancy to different design team members regarding the energy efficiency and environmental design of the buildings they are working on. I also assess the final building designs and constructed buildings to ensure that they are in accordance with the relevant standards.

Key skills

The most important skills in this area are:

- Building services and architectural design knowledge
- Understanding of environmental impacts
- Strong leadership
- Good time management

Qualifications

There are certain subjects known as 'facilitating subjects'. That means they're great all-rounders and are not going to hurt your future career if take them at GCSE (whether it's an environmental career you care about or something completely different). These are: English, Maths, at least one Science (two is even better) and a foreign language at GCSE. Aim for A*-C grades. If you're especially interested in the environment but aren't sure which direction to take the Geography is a good, broad, subject to study at GCSE. Economics would also be useful if you are interested in going into the sustainable business field.

The majority of environmental jobs require a degree (or equivalent qualification). You can look on the UCAS website to see what qualifications you will need to get onto a specific degree course.

Salary & Progression

The average starting salary for graduates is £20,000 increasing with experience and seniority to £39,416 for Sustainability Managers and £50,000 + for executive roles.

Where to find out more

British Research Establishment www.bre.co.uk