

Ten prompts to help you find a job in sustainability

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

If you don't know, start from there. Think about the skills, knowledge and experience you have acquired so far, and your natural strengths: the things you do quite easily that make you feel energised. From learning to coaching others, from analysing data to thinking strategically, in which job role would these be really important? Mind map all the professions that come to mind that you'd love to do where you can use your qualities.

WHICH SECTOR DO YOU WANT TO WORK IN?

Absolutely every sector has the potential to be operated more sustainably, but perhaps there are some sustainability aspects that you care about more than others: e.g. food, waste, energy, the natural world, social justice...

Watch some [TEDs on sustainability](#) to get inspired. think about what you'd love to contribute to and focus on that.

DO YOU FEEL YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH?

You have several options.

- Retrain in the area you are most curious/want to make an impact (think not only higher education courses but also professional qualifications that might be quicker and give you immediate access to work once completed; higher education with work placements or apprenticeships)
- Volunteer for a charity that operates in that area
- Start where you left off in your old sector with the intention of "job crafting", i.e. incorporate sustainability wherever you can and mould your position to your passion at any opportunity
- Be mindful that even if you don't have technical skills, you can still work in sustainability! Every sustainable company/sector will always need lawyers, marketers, IT and communication experts, managers... but you might find that you'll need to upskill to enrich your generic expertise and be more focused on sustainability.



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WHO DO YOU WANT TO WORK FOR?

Which companies are already doing good work in the area you are interested in? Or perhaps need help making their operations more sustainable? Think private or public sector, not-for-profit or corporations, small or big...

There is no right or wrong, it's where you think you'd work at your best that dictates the choice, and your values.

If your values are aligned with a potential company's values, chances are you'll stay and be happy there. Visit their websites for job openings, speak to their employees on LinkedIn to get insight, comment on their posts, send them a cold application...

HOW ABOUT GOING SOLO?

Have you thought about setting up your own company? Do you have an idea to address a current challenge sustainably?

There are plenty of free or subsidised start-up accelerators out there to help you make your idea into a reality.

DO YOU WORK YOUR NETWORK?

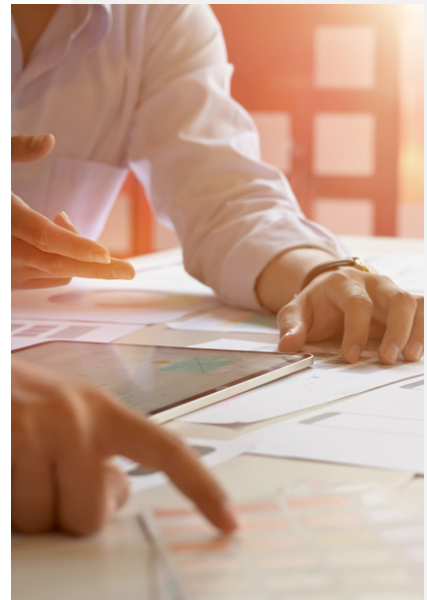
Think about who you know that can point you in the right direction and you could have a chat with. Think about any connection that works in the area/company you are interested in and buy them a coffee.

Look up people in roles you'd like on LinkedIn, then connect and interact with them.

Create content about your area of expertise or interest regularly on LinkedIn.

Network in person and online at events about the sector/topic you are interested in, talk to people and get back in touch with them for a more in-depth chat after the event.

Join a sustainability network or membership organisation, e.g. Women in Sustainability, IEMA etc.



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HAVE YOU ALREADY SENT 100+ APPLICATIONS?

Be flexible and patient.

It takes time these days to find the perfect job, and you might need to try several avenues before you land the perfect opportunity.

You might need to find an interim stepping-stone job to learn more about the topic/sector, perhaps with a small local company, before you launch into applying for the big companies that attract hundreds of applicants.

HAVE YOU SOUGHT HELP?

Approach a recruiter specialising in sustainability jobs.

This works best for people looking for senior positions, nevertheless, it is something you can try.

And of course, you can hire a sustainability coach to help you figure it all out!

Get in touch if that's what you need and we can have a chat!

IS YOUR MIND OPEN TO OPPORTUNITIES?

Open your mind to opportunities and serendipity.

Say yes to networking, meeting new people, going to conferences... you never know who you will meet or what you'll learn about...

perhaps something that will change your life.

DO YOU NEED TO WORK IN SUSTAINABILITY?

Consider how you can make an impact in sustainability *outside* your day job.

You can write articles about it, learn new skills in your own time, volunteer for a local sustainability charity, host a book club, join an activist group, create a sustainability-focus group in your current job, make art that focuses on sustainability themes...

The sky is the limit.

