



Senior Sustainability Consultant

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My role is to provide sustainability support to a range of companies from across the construction industry, often those who manufacture products. Typically an organisation will approach us with a need to improve some element of their sustainability performance, and we will help them to understand where improvements can be made. My role is quite varied however, and I can also find myself involved on research projects, developing training material or attending meetings and events across the country.

Why I chose my job

I chose my job because it enables me to use the knowledge gained throughout my education and apply it to practical situations. I get to work on a wide variety of different projects and really enjoy being able to help companies improve their environmental performance. One particular interest of mine is getting them to think about the environmental impacts of their products across their entire 'life-cycle'. This gets them to think about the impacts associated not only with their manufacture, but also their transport, use, maintenance, demolition and disposal and how they can take steps to help reduce the impacts of these.

The day-to-day

My typical day is normally office based, although I am also often out and about attending site visits and meetings, giving presentations or carrying out training. I also carry out research activities, and earlier this year completed a four-year Engineering Doctorate research degree within my company. Recent projects I have been involved with have seen me carry out life cycle assessment studies, data analysis activities and helping to write a good practice guide on responsible sourcing of materials for the construction industry.

Key skills

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Excellent IT skills and a good knowledge of Microsoft Office Software
- Excellent organisation and time management
- An interest and demonstrable up-to-date knowledge in environmental issues
- Flexibility in terms of types of projects and people with whom you work

Qualifications

As a minimum, anyone interested in this line of work would need an undergraduate degree in a relevant environmental field. To get accepted onto these degree programmes, maths and science subjects at GCSE and often A-Level are needed. At school, I took both Maths and Environmental Science to A-Level, before completing an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science at Lancaster University. Since then I have also done further, postgraduate qualifications in more specialised sustainability areas; a masters' degree from Newcastle University and an Engineering Doctorate at Loughborough University. Although further qualifications are not always needed, they can sometimes help you stand out from the crowd a bit.

Salary & Progression

Graduate starting salaries in the environmental field vary depending on location and sector, but typically you should be able to start on around £22,000 per year. With experience this can increase and as you progress to Senior or Principal Consultant level you can often command a salary of between £30,000 and £60,000, again depending on location and sector.

Where to find out more <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-consultant>