



# Sustainability Manager

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BBC

W: [www.bbc.co.uk/responsibility/environment](http://www.bbc.co.uk/responsibility/environment)

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***My job is to reduce the environmental impact of the BBC and to have a positive impact on the people and places we reach. The BBC has a lot of impacts: we have hundreds of buildings; programme makers have to travel to film; we use diesel generators, and much more. All these things have to be measured and managed to reduce their negative impact.***

## **Why I chose my job**

I chose my job because I'm passionate about trying to make the world a better place, and I'm passionate about TV and film. Put those two things together and you've got my dream job! I love knowing that I've done a few things over the years that have really helped move forward the way the TV industry is responding to environmental issues. We're a small team but we all get on well and I enjoy the challenge of working through problems with them and seeing the different skills we all bring to the table to get the work done. We encourage flexible working which means our work hopefully doesn't intrude on our home lives too much...although the knowledge we all have about issues such as climate change means we're rarely able to fully switch off. I would highly recommend this field of work as both one which is likely to be a growth area in the future, and as something which is likely to bring a high level of personal satisfaction to anyone who cares about the world we live in and the people and species who live on it.

## **The day-to-day**

Depends on where I am. If I'm working from home – which we encourage as it avoids travel emissions and improves quality of life which enhances productivity – then I'll be working through hundreds of emails covering everything from queries on how to recycle loom bands through to thinking about our strategy for the next 10 years. If I'm at the BBC's offices in Salford then I'll be spending time with production teams, advising them on how they can lower their environmental impact and reviewing the carbon footprints they've submitted. Every month, or so, I also have to go to London for meetings which can't be done via video conferencing. These might be with colleagues from the rest of the industry at BAFTA or meeting senior managers at the BBC. I try to make everything I do have a

positive outcome both for the BBC and the environment.

## **Key skills**

Everyone in our team needs to be passionate about environmental issues; it would be impossible to succeed in the job without this. We all need to understand the key global environmental risks (climate change, resource scarcity etc.) and be up to date with the latest developments both in terms of science and how industries (not just broadcasting) are responding to it. We need people who are literate and can communicate in writing and verbally simply, clearly and with confidence. Everyone needs to be good with numbers, know their way around a spreadsheet, be able to manage their own time and stay motivated when things are tough. We expect our colleagues to work well together as a team and treat each other with respect.

## **Qualifications**

My academic background is unusual. I wasn't good at science at school – which I regret! Instead I did an English degree and for the first 15 years of my career I was a BBC journalist/correspondent, mainly on TV. When I first started this job in 2009 my experience in TV and my enthusiasm for environmental issues was enough to get me the job, nothing more. On the few occasions when we've recruited people since then, we expect people to have experience working within the media and ideally TV, plus either a relevant environmental degree or significant experience of working on environmental matters (though not necessarily in media). Membership of IEMA – an organisation for sustainability professionals – would also be a plus point. We're pretty relaxed about GCSEs and A levels in terms of subjects. They certainly wouldn't need to be loaded with science qualifications. A balance of subjects is good.

## **Salary & Progression**

Typically the people in my team start on around £40,000 per annum, with more experienced colleagues earning around £50,000.

## **Where to find out more**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/responsibility/environment/industry-collaboration>