CDI GREEN CAREERS MYTH BUSTER

Think green careers aren't for you?

Eight common myths about working in sustainability - and what's really true

Green jobs are growing - in energy, water, recycling and repair, and inside almost every kind of organisation. But a few myths put people off before they start. Here's what's really true.

MYTH 1

"I'd need to be a scientist."

REALITY

Science helps, but green work also needs people who are good at persuading, organising and connecting with others - from behavioural scientists to communicators and community engagement roles.

MYTH 2

"Green jobs are only in green companies."

REALITY

Hospitals, factories, offices and shops all need sustainability skills. Whatever you're into, there's likely to be a green side.

MYTH 3

"It's all degrees and desk jobs."

REALITY

Skilled trades are in big demand. The UK needs more cable jointers to connect new renewable energy, and apprenticeships are a great way in.

MYTH 4

"Caring about the planet is enough."

REALITY

Passion is a brilliant start. Employers also look for teamwork, communication and the ability to plan and get things done.

MYTH 5

"It's too late for me to switch."

REALITY

If you've worked before, you already have useful skills. Many career changers mainly need to add some sustainability know-how.

MYTH 6

"One person can't make a difference."

REALITY

Collective action has worked before - the ozone layer is recovering and acid rain has largely been tackled. Your work can be part of the solution.

MYTH 7

"Tech has nothing to do with the environment."

REALITY

Data centres use a lot of energy and water. People in tech can design software and use AI in ways that are lighter on the planet.

MYTH 8

"I need to know exactly what job I want first."

REALITY

Martin Baxter of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) started by volunteering and shadowing colleagues. Talking to people who do the work is a great way in.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

1. Which environmental issue matters most to me - climate, nature, water, waste, fashion or food?
2. What do I enjoy most - making things, solving problems, persuading people, organising or caring for others?
3. Where could sustainability fit into the subjects, sectors or jobs I already like?
4. Who could I talk to, shadow or volunteer with to see what this work is really like?

EXPLORE

Green job profiles
What green roles involve day to day | greencareershub.com

Green Careers Hub
Free guide to green jobs and skills | greencareershub.com

Talk it through with your careers adviser. They can help you connect what you care about with where you could go.

Drawing on insights from Martin Baxter, Deputy CEO of ISEP