



Senior Environmental Consultant - Construction

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W: www.skanska.co.uk/About-Skanska/Sustainability/

I work in the construction industry providing environmental support to project teams building large infrastructure schemes such as bridges, railways and tunnels. My role is to review the entire operation, carrying out environmental audits and assessments, identifying and resolving environmental problems and ensuring necessary changes are implemented. I help implement and monitor environmental strategies, policies and programmes that promote sustainable development and reduce the environmental impact of the project.

Why I chose my job

I chose an environmental career in the construction industry because I liked the idea of sustainably creating a lasting, physical structure that helps communities and improves society as a whole. The environmental field within construction offers a vast range of roles from technical specialists to community engagement roles to project management and business focused roles. As you progress in this field it is possible to develop the aspects you enjoy allowing you to mould your career to incorporate your interests. The thing I find most rewarding is the knowledge that I have been involved in projects that leave a positive legacy for future generations and they have been delivered in the most sustainable way possible.

The day-to-day

Every day tends to be very different as I deal with the changing demands and issues that arise on a large construction project. The tasks range from office based tasks like collating information for monthly environmental reports to site inspections that ensure the construction activities comply with our contract and legislative requirements. A key aspect of the role is collaborating with a range of different disciplines, suppliers, clients and regulatory bodies to ensure the project is performing to the highest environmental standards from 'cradle to grave'.

Key skills

- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Be self-motivated and able to motivate staff at all levels
- Concise and clear report writing
- Good organisational and time management skills
- Ability to multitask and prioritise objectives
- Ability to work with a diverse range of people from different professions and backgrounds
- Broad and up to date knowledge of environmental issues on a local, national and global level

Qualifications

For employment in this field a degree in an appropriate environmental subject is usually a minimum requirement (e.g. Environmental & Earth Sciences, Ecological Science, Geography, Geology etc.). At university it is also useful to become a student member of the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) to begin working towards becoming a full member.

The entry requirements to environmental degrees vary between university and course but most ask for good grades in core subjects at GCSE (English, Maths & Science) and A-Levels that include at least two from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Environmental Studies, Geography & Geology.

Salary & Progression

Graduate starting salaries are approximately £22,000 - £25,000 dependant on location and sector (£28,000 London), increasing to £30,000 - £45,000 with more years of experience.

Where to find out more

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-manager>