



# Sustainable Development Specialist

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*My role is highly varied; I work on a range of projects and with a large number of people to embed all aspects of sustainability within the railway industry. The role can be challenging but also very rewarding. I am passionate about global environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity and equality and my work involves encouraging others to make it their priority as well.*

## **Why I chose my job**

I love my job as I like working with people and supporting organisations to change. My role is interdisciplinary so I need to be a generalist on a lot of subjects. I may go from one meeting where I might be discussing the way air pollutant particulates move around a station to the next meeting with someone to discuss how freely available social datasets can be used in mapping programmes to target the best investment decisions for stations. There is a huge variety of roles in the environmental field and I would highly recommend it as a career.

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

My role usually involves meetings to discuss current and future priorities and initiatives. These vary from meetings with government to discuss policy, to interviews with journalists to get an article in a magazine and internal meetings with the facilities manager about how to engage my work colleagues in using the correct bins!

## **Key skills**

- Personality to engage and influence,
- Good understanding of Science, Maths and English
- Ability to motivate
- Interest in natural world

## **Qualifications**

The subjects that you take at GCSE don't usually matter too much, however good grades are important. The majority of people in the industry have an Environmental Science related degree, and increasingly people also have a postgraduate qualification; however this is something that could be done later in your career.

## **Salary & Progression**

An entry level salary of £21-25,000 is realistic, progressing to an industry average of £30-40,000. Those based in London would expect perhaps £5,000 in addition to this.