

SKILLS FOR A GREENER FUTURE THROUGH GEOGRAPHY

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Cheltenham
Education
Partnership



Pate's Grammar School



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AGENDA

Introduction

What are Green Jobs?

How Might you get one?

Next steps...



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- **Work-based learning tutor for Geography.**
- **Employability Lead for Natural & Social Sciences.**
- **National Teaching Fellowship (2004).**

WHY ME?



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The Guardian

Gloucestershire - No.1 for Student
Satisfaction in UK Geography
2024, 2023, 2022 & 2020!

THE TIMES

No.1 for Teaching Quality
in UK Geography 2025

GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY

No. 2 for 2024
Graduate Outcomes
in the Southwest



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IS OUR CLIMATE EDUCATION FIT FOR PURPOSE?

‘Britain’s children are being failed by schools when it comes to learning about the climate crisis, with the subject often wholly missing from the curriculum, sidelined, or mistaught, students and education experts have said.’

Harvey (2022)

BASIS FOR THIS CRITICISM

- 9 / 10 secondary teachers said climate relevant to their subject area.
- Two-thirds felt climate change was **not taught in a meaningful way** within their subject.
- Concerns raised by student Scarlett Westbrook about **having to list benefits of climate change** in a GCSE Geography exam paper in 2020.
- An MP proposed in November 2021 to make it law that **basic knowledge of climate issues** be part of the National Curriculum in England.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SEC OF STATE FOR EDUCATION 2025

‘More comprehensive inclusion of climate and environmental sustainability in the National Curriculum will ensure that all schools are required to educate young people on these issues and to ensure that they leave school prepared for the future.’

Dr. Morgan Phillips, Global Action Plan





WHAT ARE GREEN JOBS?



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'What sparked your interest in climate science?'

"Spending my youth outside playing in mud turned into a career looking at old mud. Discovering how we can use microscopic fossils in sediments to measure climate change captured my imagination, and I still get to spend plenty of time getting muddy on fieldwork!"

Dr Louise Best



“Studying Geography at the University of Gloucestershire was one of the best decisions I ever made. The **combination of human and physical geography provided me with essential skills** in research, data interpretation, problem-solving, and policy—skills that have been invaluable in my current role.

Since graduating, I have worked on the UK government’s Levelling Up funding, **helping businesses** begin their decarbonisation journey. I also collaborated with Wildlife Trust Wales to **evaluate and calculate the carbon footprint** of their nature-based outcomes, **outlining future strategies** for their nature-based solution projects.

Currently, I **work as an Energy Project Officer** for the Greater South East Net Zero Hub, where I support the public sector, including the NHS and schools, in their efforts to decarbonise and reach the UK’s Net Zero goals.”



Molly graduated in 2022

A woman with dark hair, wearing a bright pink blazer over a black top and a rainbow-colored lanyard, is seated at a table. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a conference or exhibition hall, with other people and displays visible in the distance.

EXAMPLES OF A GEOGRAPHY DEGREE LEADING TO CAREER

CHANGE OVER THE LAST YEAR

LinkedIn Global Green
Skills Report 2024

11.6%

Global demand for green talent grew twice as quickly as supply between 2023 and 2024—with demand increasing by 11.6% and supply by 5.6%.

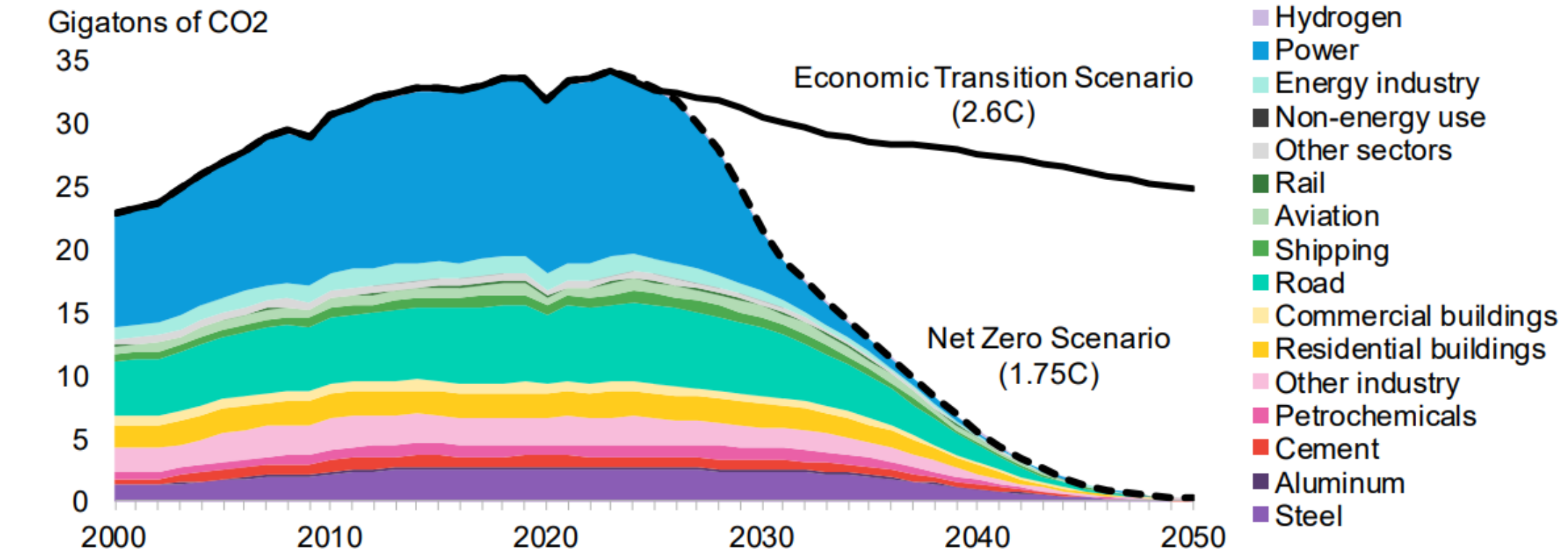
1 in 2

By 2030 — halfway to the deadline for fulfilling nationally determined contributions (NDCs) — one in five jobs will lack the green talent to fill it. By 2050, this gap will balloon to one in two jobs.



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Figure 1: Energy-related emissions and net-zero carbon budget, Economic Transition Scenario and Net Zero Scenario



Source: BloombergNEF

Source: Bloomberg NEF, 2024

This article is more than 1 year old

'We're facing a critical UK's green revolution skilled workers

The country's net zero transition may
But it desperately requires many more
electricians and workers than it has



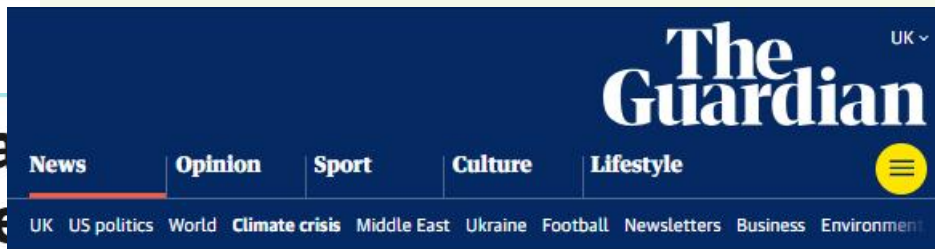
Green jobs vaca surging, but are enough skilled fill them?



Stuart Stone

25 November 2024 • 7 min read

SHARE



Green economy

Britain's net zero economy is bo says

Green sector growing at triple the rate of the UK econo
providing high-wage jobs and increasing energy secur



Net zero is the industrial opportunity of the 21st century, the CBI says, and
economy was widely distributed around the UK. Photograph: Bloomberg/Getty

Damian Carrington *Environment editor*

Mon 24 Feb 2025 06.00 GMT



Share

The net zero sector is growing three times faster than the ove
economy, analysis has found, providing high-wage jobs across
while cutting climate-heating emissions and increasing energy

The net zero economy grew by 10% in 2024 and generated £8

gfirst LEP

“Over the last
year, there has
been a 100%
increase in unique
job postings
within the Green
economy.”

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE
SKILLS STRATEGY
2022-2027**

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE:
FUTURE-PROOFED**

WHAT'S THE GREENEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE?

Students Dan, Gaby & David
collecting water samples with the
help of Mohamed
in Morocco!



Green Skills

- **Technical**, eg surveying, map-making, water analysis.
- **Transferable** ('soft') eg public speaking, campaigning, team working, critical thinking, problem solving, creative thinking.
- The **abilities** needed to make the world more sustainable and fairer.

Green Jobs

- Jobs that **make the environment better** or may help us respond to the climate emergency.
- They foster a **sustainable future**.
- Note: Sustainability knowledge could be considered a necessity for every job description.

Green Attributes

- **Personal qualities** beyond knowledge and skills, but also important for employability.
- May include **attitude, curiosity**, intercultural and ethical competence, commitment and breadth of understanding.

Green Values

- **Principles & beliefs** that prioritise environmental sustainability, social justice and non-violence.
- Highlight **concern for nature**.

An aerial photograph showing a vibrant yellow field on the left, a central row of green trees, and a green field on the right. The trees cast long shadows to the right.

GREEN JOBS?

- Accountant
- Actor
- Banker
- Nurse
- Chef
- Builder
- Ecologist
- Farmer
- Doctor
- Civil Servant
- Teacher
- Landscaper
- Lawyer
- IT worker
- Technician
- Vet
- Planner
- Police
- Renewables Engineer

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. On the left is a vibrant yellow field, likely rapeseed. A straight line of mature green trees runs vertically through the center. To the right of the trees is a green field with visible furrows. Long shadows are cast by the trees and the furrows, indicating low sun. A small road or path crosses the tree line.

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WHAT GREEN SKILLS CAN YOU NAME?

Clue: we heard a few in the film.

GREEN SKILLS?

[illegible]

GREEN SKILLS

Technical	Transferable	Geographical
Graphs & charts	Teamwork	Map reading
Visualisation	Critical thinking	Map making
Observation	Literacy & numeracy	Spatial thinking
Interviewing	Information processing	Landscape interpretation
Problem solving	Communication	Spatial literacy
Integrating human & physical	Creative thinking	Air photo & remote sensing interpretation

Youth respondent:

“There's a lot of dooming
– we need to be talking
about solutions and the
jobs and skills solutions
we can do and that would
be appealing.

Looking at the link
between the economy,
the environment, politics
– to give us a dynamic
perspective on the crisis.”

global
action
plan

“Make it accessible and
interesting.”

Student perspectives on education and the climate and nature
emergency – a snapshot

Prepared by Global Action Plan

February 2025

OUR LIVES. OUR PLANET.



HOW CAN I GET A GREEN JOB?



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What problem
do you
want to solve?

Purpose

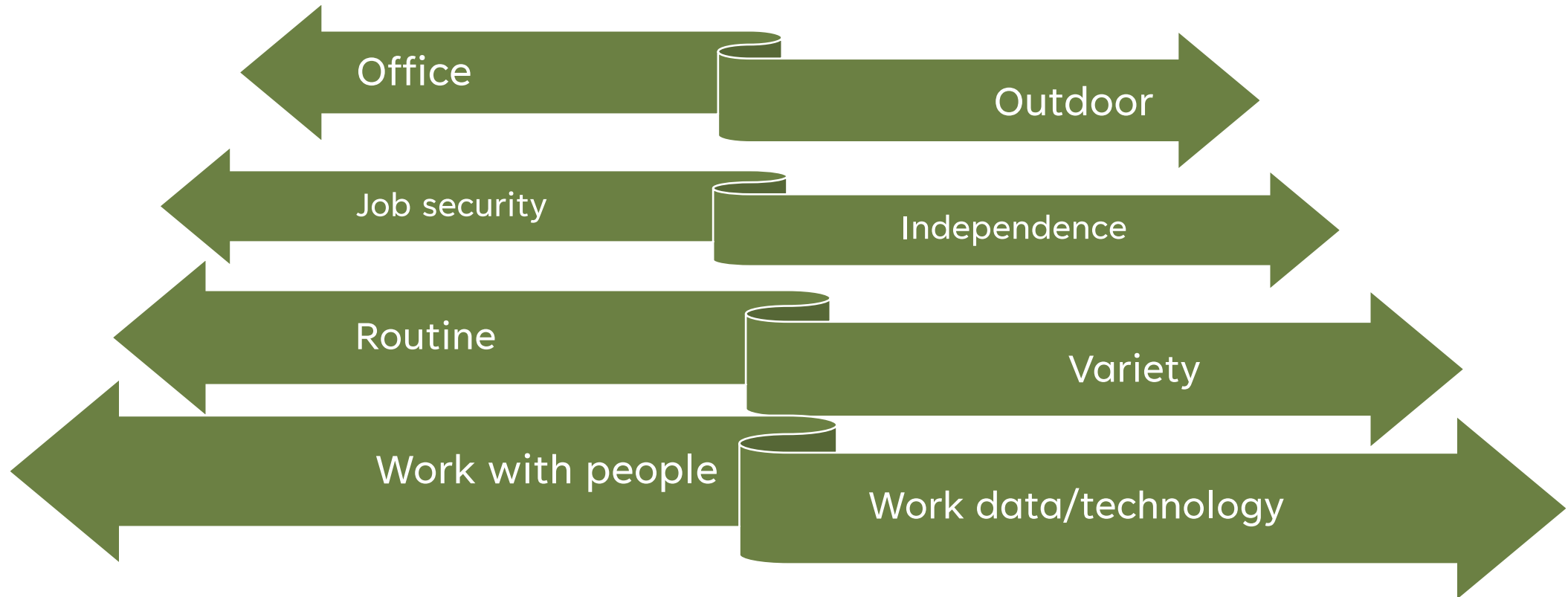
What do
You
like doing?

Motivation



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YOUR LIKES & INTERESTS?





NEXT STEPS?



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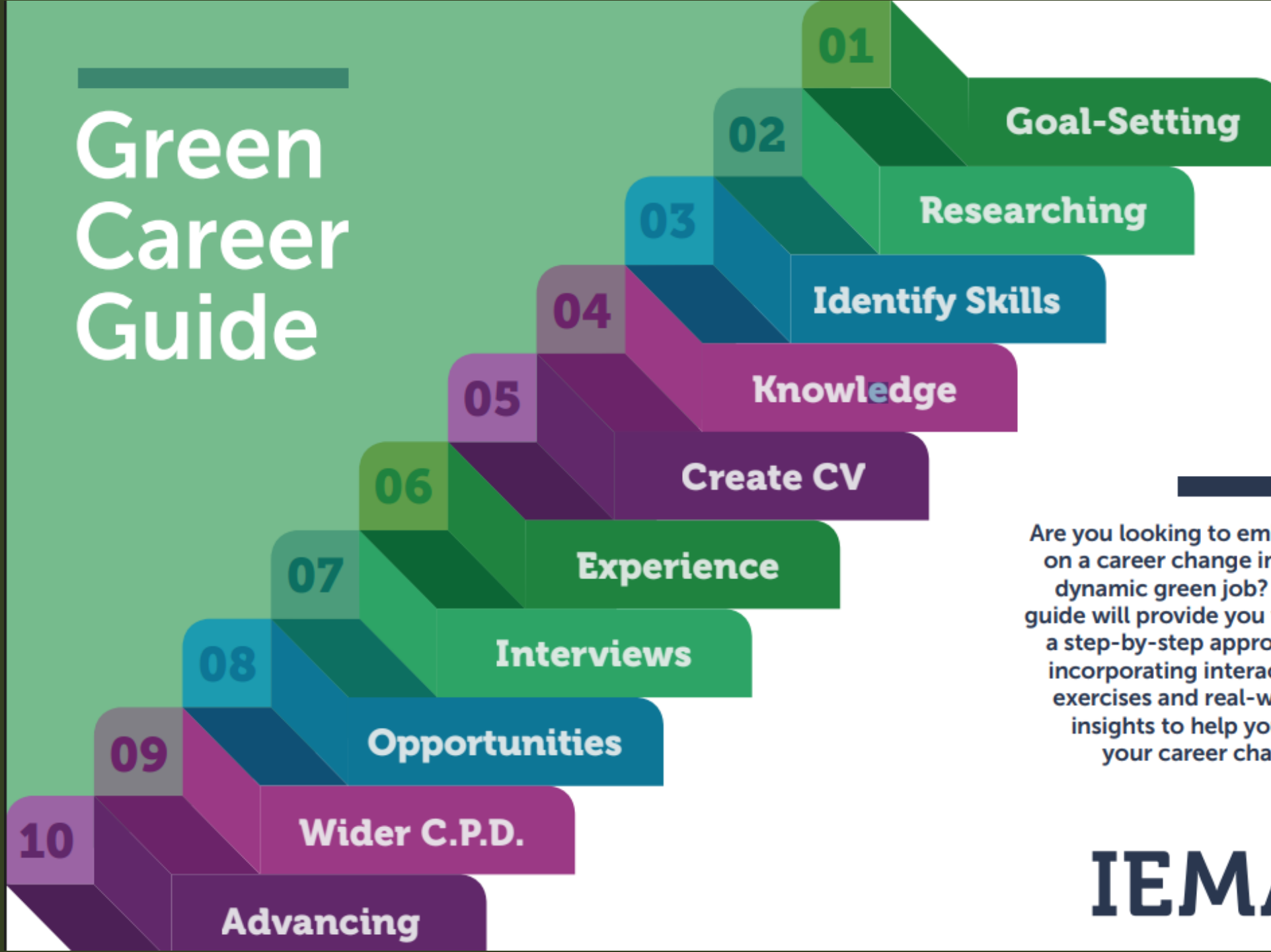
NEXT STEPS

- Talk to your teachers and career adviser.
- Talk to people working in green jobs about what it is like.
- Get experience – volunteer, work-shadow,
- Research jobs, skills, training, degrees, apprenticeships, careers.

LINKS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Resource	URL
Geographical Association (GA). Green Careers.	https://geography.org.uk/resources/green-careers-week-2024/
Royal Geographical Society (RGS). Choose a Career with Geography.	https://www.rgs.org/choose-geography/choose-a-career-with-geography
Conservation Careers.	https://www.conservation-careers.com/
University of Gloucestershire/Cheltenham Education Partnership Education for Sustainability Video Playlist.	https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLshVZXQoV1Zuha8SiQ0_8h_SK2MivKqHF
Green Careers Hub. Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA).	https://www.greencareershubs.com/
Ministry of Eco Education. Supporting whole-school sustainability transition.	https://www.ministryofeco.org/
Green Skills & Jobs Report by Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS) International with UNEP, ILO and UNICEF.	https://sos.earth/green-skills-and-green-jobs-report/
Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). Sustainable Futures.	For Educators: https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/sustainable-futures/educators For Students: https://youtu.be/JcrNpG2LIgE?si=0l25g8rK_YsQ0Stk

Green Career Guide



Are you looking to embark on a career change into a dynamic green job? This guide will provide you with a step-by-step approach, incorporating interactive exercises and real-world insights to help you on your career change.

IEMA

THANK YOU



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A landscape photograph of a field with a path leading to a distant horizon under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with tall, green grass. A path or track leads from the foreground towards the horizon. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

QUESTIONS?



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