

Green Skills for young people

Being Green

Being "green" means doing things to help the environment.

It means making choices that don't harm the planet, like not wasting things, using resources carefully, and not causing pollution.

You can be green by doing simple things like turning off lights and recycling, and by choosing products that are good for the environment.

Being green also means thinking about how we use energy, like not driving too much or using too much electricity.

By being green, we can help keep the planet healthy for ourselves and for future generations.



What is the Environment?

When we talk about "the environment", we mean everything around us. This includes things like trees, water, air, animals, and everything else in nature.

We need to take care of the environment because we depend on it for things like food, water, and clean air.

We can harm the environment by doing things like polluting, using too much energy, and not taking care of plants and animals.

By taking care of the environment, we can help make sure it stays healthy and can continue to provide us with the things we need to live.



Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change is happening because of human activities like burning fossil fuels (like coal, oil and gas) and cutting down forests. These activities produce something called “greenhouse gases” and these increase the level of global warming across the planet. This changes our climate and is having a big impact on the environment.



One of the biggest impacts of climate change is rising temperatures. This can cause problems like melting ice caps, which can lead to rising sea levels that can flood cities and towns. It can also cause more extreme weather events, like hurricanes, droughts and forest fires, which can be dangerous for people and animals.



Climate change is also causing changes in the natural world. Plants and animals are struggling to adapt to the new climate and are changing their behavior.



Another impact of climate change is on our oceans. As the planet warms, the oceans are becoming more acidic. This can be harmful to the animals that live in the sea, like coral reefs and shellfish. It can also affect people who rely on the ocean for food and jobs.

Climate Change and Net Zero

Net Zero is a way of reducing the amount of greenhouse gases we produce, which are the gases that cause climate change.

There are many ways we can achieve Net Zero. One way is by using renewable energy, like solar and wind power, instead of burning fossil fuels. This can slow down the effects of climate change. Another way is by being more efficient with how we use energy, like turning off electronics when we're not using them.

Net Zero also involves changing the way we produce and consume things. This means making more sustainable choices, like buying products made from renewable or recycled materials, and reducing waste by recycling.

Net Zero also involves changing the way we travel- walking or cycling more, using electric vehicles rather than petrol or diesel and using trains and buses rather than cars.

By working towards Net Zero, we can have a big impact on the environment. It can help reduce the amount of pollution we produce, protect wildlife and habitats, and slow down the effects of climate change.





Net Zero and the World of Work

Net Zero is changing the world of work in many ways. Companies are starting to recognize the importance of reducing their carbon emissions and are making changes to their operations to help achieve Net Zero.

One way this is happening is by changing to renewable energy. Companies are installing solar panels, wind turbines, and other forms of clean energy to power their operations. This helps reduce their carbon emissions.

Another way Net Zero is changing the world of work is through more sustainable practices. Companies are rethinking how they produce and transport goods and are finding ways to reduce waste and emissions. This can involve things like using more sustainable materials, reducing packaging, and finding ways to recycle or reuse waste.

Net Zero is also creating new job opportunities. As companies invest in renewable energy and other sustainable practices, there is a growing need for workers in areas like engineering, transport, construction and services.

New Green Businesses

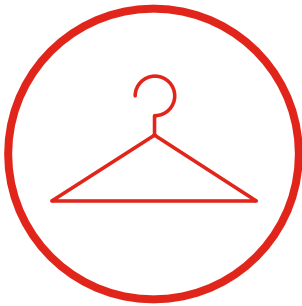
There are many new green businesses that have emerged as a result of climate change and the push towards Net Zero. Here are a few examples:



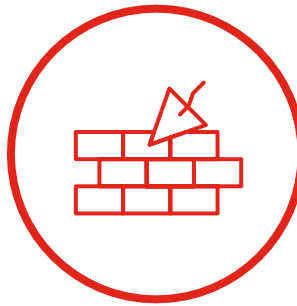
Renewable energy companies: These companies are helping to reduce carbon emissions and provide clean energy to power homes and businesses.



Electric vehicle manufacturers: As more people look for ways to reduce their carbon emissions, electric cars, trucks, and buses are becoming more common.



Sustainable fashion: The fashion industry is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, but there are now companies that produce sustainable fashion made from recycled materials or organic fabrics.



Green construction: As buildings are responsible for a significant portion of carbon emissions, there has been a growing demand for green construction companies that use sustainable materials and design energy-efficient buildings.

New Green Jobs

These new green businesses are creating green jobs are well-suited for young people who are passionate about protecting the environment and working towards a more sustainable future.

Many of these jobs require minimal experience and can provide valuable skills and training for those just entering the workforce. By working in these green jobs, young people can make a positive impact on the world while building rewarding careers.

Examples are:

- Sustainability coordinator
- Environmental educator
- Community outreach specialist for environmental organizations
- Green event planner
- Eco-tourism guide
- Renewable energy salesperson
- Organic farmer or gardener
- Bike mechanic
- Conservation technician
- Recycling centre operator
- Urban forestry technician
- Green building apprentice
- Environmental journalist
- Green marketing assistant
- Sustainable fashion sales associate
- Environmental scientist assistant
- Wildlife conservation technician
- Renewable energy project assistant

Core Green Skills

If young people are interested in pursuing green jobs, there are several core green skills that they will need to develop.

These skills include:



Environmental awareness

Young people should have a basic understanding of environmental issues and the impact that human activities can have on the planet.



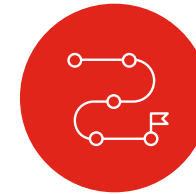
Critical thinking

Being able to analyze information and identify potential solutions is an important skill for green jobs. This can involve analyzing data on energy use, waste reduction, and other environmental factors.



Communication

Effective communication skills are important for working with others and building relationships with clients, colleagues, and stakeholders. This can involve presenting ideas, writing reports, and speaking with others about environmental issues.



Creativity

Developing new solutions and ideas is important in green jobs. This can involve developing innovative ways to reduce waste, create sustainable products, or promote environmental awareness.

Core Green Skills continued

If young people are interested in pursuing green jobs, there are several core green skills that they will need to develop.

These skills include:



Technical skills

Many green jobs require technical skills, such as knowledge of renewable energy technologies, data analysis software, or environmental regulations.



Teamwork

Collaborating with others is essential in green jobs. This can involve working with other professionals, community members, or stakeholders to develop sustainable solutions.



Problem-solving

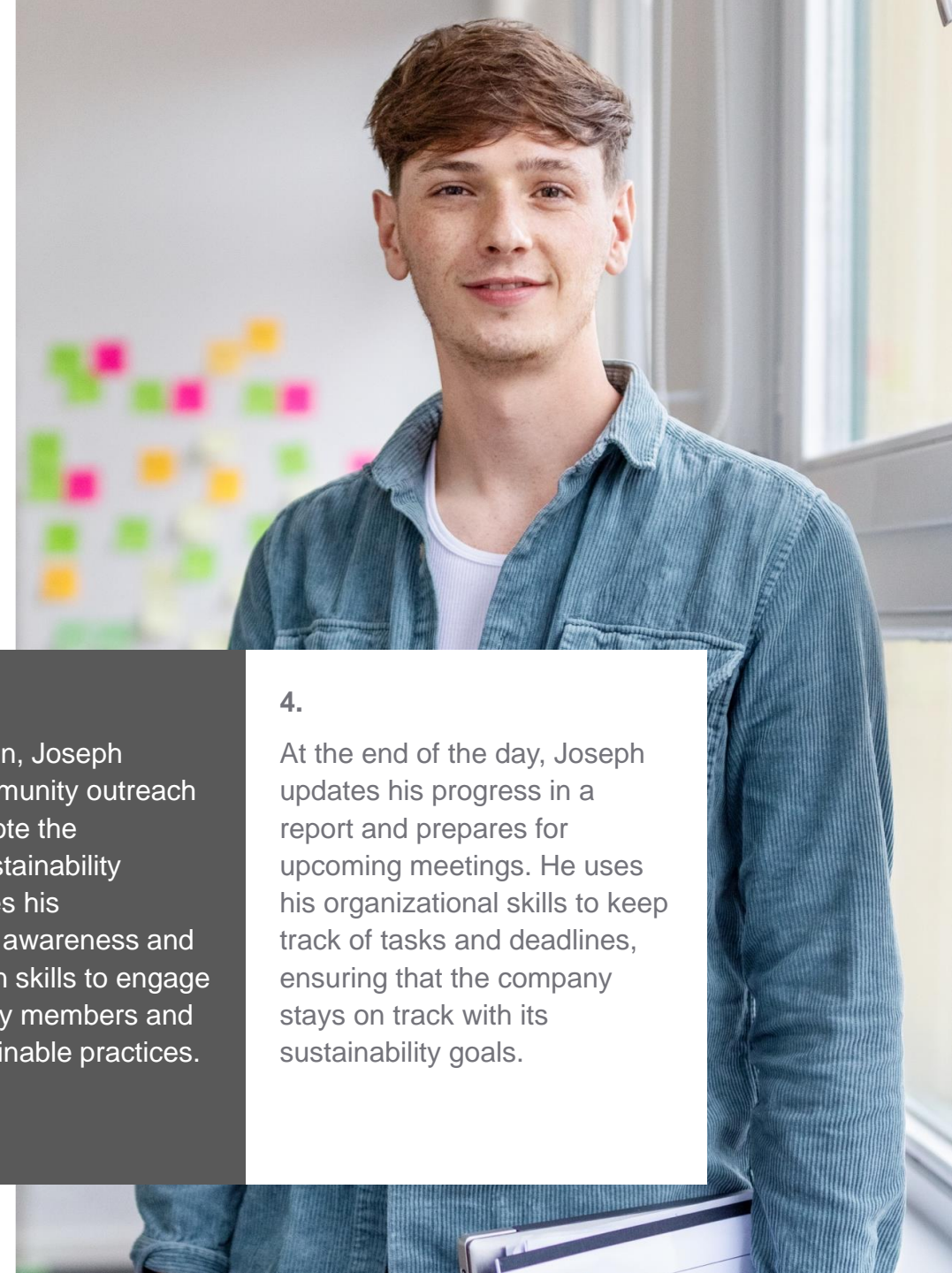
Being able to identify and solve environmental problems is a key skill in green jobs. This can involve developing strategies for reducing carbon emissions, reducing waste, or protecting biodiversity.



Green Jobs and Skills

Example 1

Joseph is a sustainability coordinator for a large company. His day begins by checking his email and reviewing his schedule for the day. His first task is to conduct an energy audit of the company's facilities, which requires him to use his technical skills and critical thinking to analyze energy usage data and identify areas for improvement.



1.

Next, he meets with the company's marketing team to develop a campaign promoting the company's sustainability initiatives. He uses his communication and creativity skills to develop messaging and visual materials for the campaign.

2.

After lunch, Joseph meets with the company's waste management team to discuss ways to reduce waste and improve recycling efforts. He draws on his problem-solving and teamwork skills to identify potential solutions and coordinate with other departments.

3.

In the afternoon, Joseph attends a community outreach event to promote the company's sustainability efforts. He uses his environmental awareness and communication skills to engage with community members and promote sustainable practices.

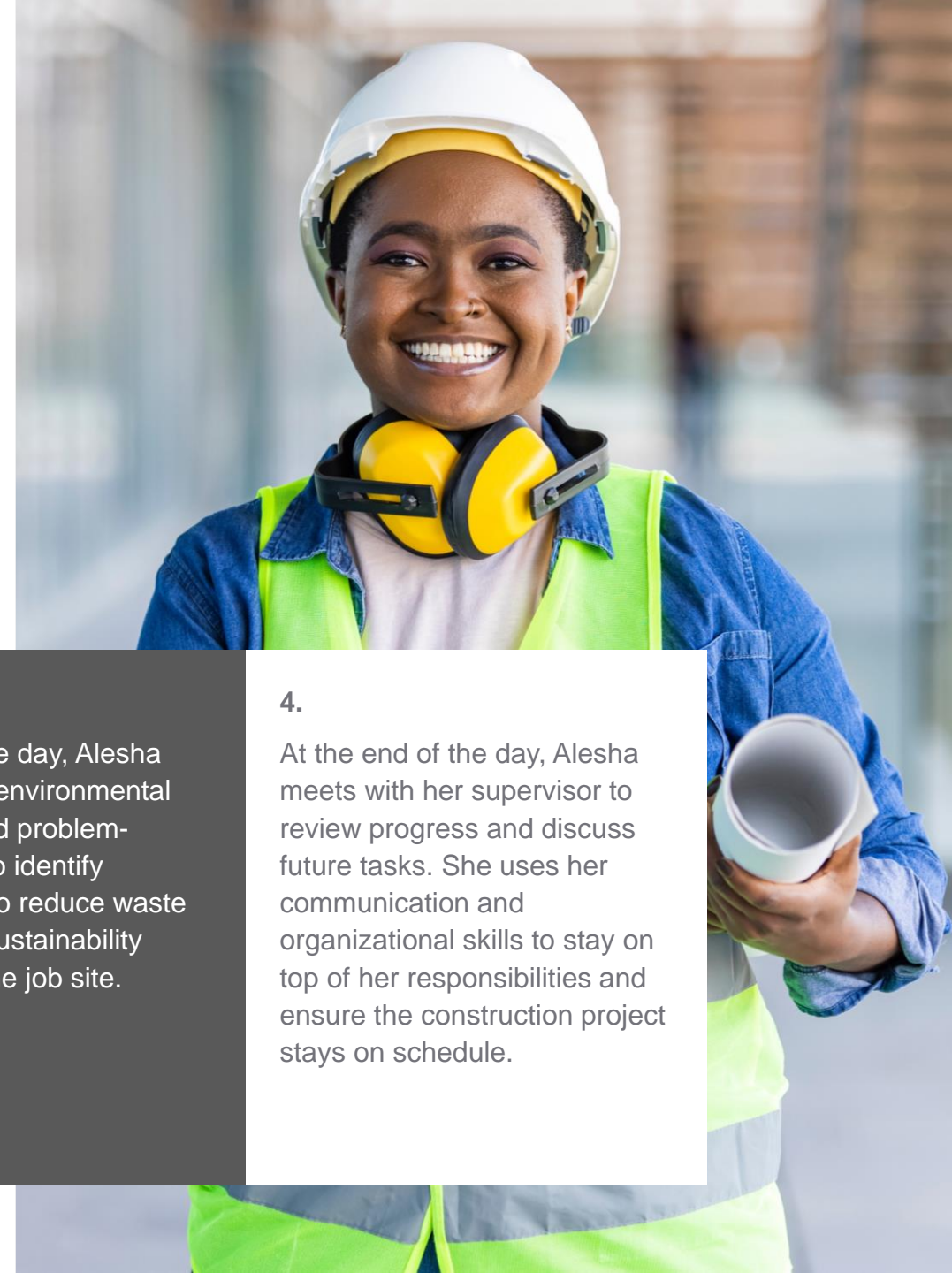
4.

At the end of the day, Joseph updates his progress in a report and prepares for upcoming meetings. He uses his organizational skills to keep track of tasks and deadlines, ensuring that the company stays on track with its sustainability goals.

Green Jobs and Skills

Example 2

Alesha is a green building apprentice working for a construction company. Her day begins with a safety meeting, where she is reminded of the importance of safety protocols when working on construction sites. Throughout the day, Alesha uses a variety of core green skills to assist in the construction of sustainable buildings.



1.

First, she works with the design team to review blueprints for a new building. She uses her critical thinking skills to identify areas where the building design can be improved to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability.

2.

Next, Alesha assists with the installation of insulation and other materials that promote energy efficiency. She uses her technical skills to ensure the materials are properly installed, and her teamwork skills to coordinate with other members of the construction team.

3.

Throughout the day, Alesha also uses her environmental awareness and problem-solving skills to identify opportunities to reduce waste and improve sustainability practices on the job site.

4.

At the end of the day, Alesha meets with her supervisor to review progress and discuss future tasks. She uses her communication and organizational skills to stay on top of her responsibilities and ensure the construction project stays on schedule.

Green Jobs and Skills

Example 3

Michelle is an eco-tourism guide leading a group of visitors on a tour of a nature reserve. Her day begins with a briefing on the reserve's history, conservation efforts, and the importance of sustainable tourism. Throughout the day, Michelle uses a variety of core green skills to deliver a memorable and sustainable tour.



1.

First, she uses her environmental awareness and communication skills to educate visitors on the flora and fauna in the reserve, emphasizing the importance of conservation efforts to protect the environment.

2.

Next, Michelle leads the group on a hike, using her creativity and critical thinking skills to identify the best route and engage visitors with interesting facts and stories about the reserve.

3.

Throughout the tour, Michelle uses her teamwork and problem-solving skills to ensure the group stays safe and that the tour operates in a sustainable way that does not harm the environment.

4.

At the end of the day, Michelle debriefs with her team to discuss the day's events and any potential areas for improvement. She uses her organizational skills to ensure that the tour is executed effectively and sustainably, leaving a positive impact on the environment and visitors alike.

About City & Guilds

Since 1878 we have worked with people, organisations and economies to help them identify and develop the skills they need to thrive. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility, prosperity and success. Everything we do is focused on developing and delivering high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to jobs and meet the changing needs of industry.

We work with governments, organisations and industry stakeholders to help shape future skills needs across industries. We are known for setting industry-wide standards for technical, behavioural and commercial skills to improve performance and productivity. We train teams, assure learning, assess cohorts and certify with digital credentials. Our solutions help to build skilled and compliant workforces.

general.enquiries@cityandguilds.com

www.cityandguilds.com/about-us

01924 930 801
City & Guilds
Giltspur House
5-6 Giltspur Street
London
EC1A 9DE

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is true and correct at time of going to press. However, City & Guilds' products and services are subject to continuous development and improvement and the right is reserved to change products and services from time to time. City & Guilds cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of information in this publication.

©2023 The City & Guilds of London Institute. All rights reserved. City & Guilds is a trademark of the City & Guilds of London Institute.

