

Recycling officer

The role of recycling officer would suit someone who has an interest in sustainability and wants to work in the recycling and waste management industry.

As a recycling officer, you'll manage local recycling schemes and plan and develop waste reduction and reuse policies. You may also help to create and deliver educational programmes and organise community, school and media liaison initiatives. You might work for a local authority such as a county, district, borough or metropolitan council in a relevant department, such as environmental services, waste management or community services. Alternatively, you could work in the private sector for recycling contractors or environmental charities.



Skills:

You'll need to have:

- practical problem-solving ability
- strong communication, customer service and interpersonal skills
- presentation skills
- creative thinking in order to develop recycling and reuse promotion campaigns
- the ability to manage pressure, work to deadlines and prioritise your workload
- organisational and planning skills
- administration and general office skills
- an awareness of environmental issues, including an understanding of waste and recycling issues, and a willingness to keep up with relevant legislation.
- A full driving licence and access to a car is essential for many recycling officer posts.

Qualifications:

You don't always need a degree to become a recycling officer, although a qualification in environmental science, earth sciences, biology, chemistry or materials science may strengthen your application. For those without a degree, gaining some kind of further education (eg a Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND) in waste management or environmental sciences) could well be beneficial. However, commitment to the benefits of recycling and experience working with the public will also prove very useful. As you progress, you can work towards specialist qualifications through the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management.

Working hours:

You'll generally work a standard 37-hour week, Monday to Friday, with some extra hours and weekend work necessary for special events. Flexible working is often possible in local government departments.

Salary:

- Your starting salary as a recycling officer is likely to be in the region of £19,000 to £25,000, depending on your experience. Salaries in some community organisations are likely to be at the lower end of the scale.
- Experienced recycling officers may earn between £25,000 and £40,000.
- In certain senior-level roles, such as head of waste, you could earn in excess of £45,000.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/recycling-officer>

