

Green Impact Auditors: Career development opportunities

Congratulations for completing your [Green Impact](#) Auditor training, and for adding great value to the programme through your role as an auditor. In Green Impact, it is vital that we ensure the integrity of the awards levels we are presenting, and for the staff teams to feel a degree of importance is placed on their actions in order to instil their positive behaviours and make a real impact on the sustainability of your institution. It is however, a valuable experience for you as an auditor too. How you use the skills you have developed and phrase your learning and experience will influence how useful it becomes! The current graduate job market can be a tough place, so anything you can do to boost the appeal of your CV and applications is vital in putting you at an advantage.

This document will outline some of the key skills and knowledge you will have gained from your training, how to phrase them when approaching your CV, applications or interviews to get the most from them, and places to look for careers in sustainability.

Key Skills

“Indeed, employing people with the right environmental skills, knowledge and expertise could save UK businesses £55bn a year, through energy and resource savings, according to the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)” - Sustainability skills and good business skills are increasingly the same thing”

With this in mind, it is clear that the skills employers are looking for, whatever discipline you are entering, will relate more and more to sustainability as the agenda continues to widen. But what are sustainability skills?

National charity Change Agents UK say that the top skills and behaviours they are looking for when taking on recent graduates for their first paid roles in sustainability are:

Skills	Behaviours
Communications (written/verbal)	Professionalism
Project and time management	Motivation and enthusiasm
Attention to detail	Passion
Ability to take initiative	Open-minded/diplomatic
Leadership	Approachable
Flexibility	Creativity
Organised	Team worker

All of these skills and behaviours can be exemplified through your role as an auditor; it is just how you go about articulating the experience and the outcomes that will impact how an employer rates them.

Here are a key areas you can use the experience to highlight your attributes:

□ Make the training sound **professional**: if you were selected/interviewed for the auditor role, so make sure you demonstrate you had the skills and attitudes desired by the panel.

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- You were given a lot of **responsibility** to audit professional departments in a short time frame: this is key for showing your ability to work quickly, efficiently and as a trusted member of a team.
- You had to **report** your findings: this will have demonstrated attention to detail and the ability to communicate to senior members of the Green Impact team.
- Auditing is a time bound exercise: you had to complete a new set of tasks quickly but accurately, so can show strong **time management** skills
- You were required to use discretion and respect the confidentiality of the departments within which you were working. This exemplifies an ability to be **diplomatic** and to understand the environment in which you were working
- You had to work well as part of a **team**: during training you took part in group exercises and during the audits you had to work with a partner to assess the practices within the department.
- **Communication skills** were integral to your success as an auditor: communication between peers within training, communicating diplomatically with staff during the audits, and communicating the result back to your Green Impact trainer all show different ways in which you had to communicate well.
- You were trained in **environmental auditing skills** and the key environmental impacts and opportunities that staff and student have to make a difference: even outside of an environmental role these are key skills that employers look for to show empathy, passion and an understanding of your environment.

Roles and Opportunities

A quick search of graduate jobs reveals interesting results. Looking for roles that are specifically aimed at those wanting to be auditors, or those in the sustainability sector, or training schemes within a while variety of industries, the results are conclusive: the key skills discussed above are always relevant! As the Guardian article alludes to, no matter what sector you choose to focus your career in, showing you understand sustainability and the skills and behaviours needed to develop within their organisation, you will be in demand.

So, here are some useful websites to get you started in terms of looking for roles or gaining advice on how to get into the sector:

<http://www.iema.net/jobs-environment>

<https://goodmoves.com/>

www.environmentjob.co.uk

jobs.thirdsector.co.uk

www.graduate-jobs.com

Follow [SOS-UK](#) on social media to keep up to date with latest news and opportunities;

