



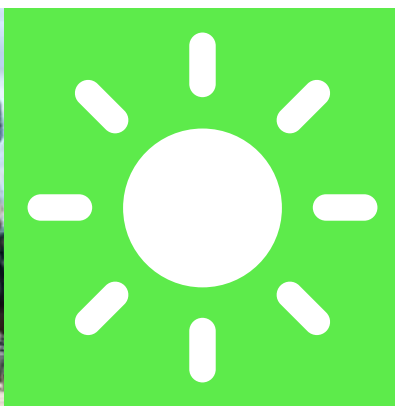
The Climate Connection

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Green careers guide

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Sweden



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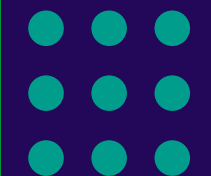
My name is Rebecka and I'm originally from the Dalarna region in Sweden. I'm not sure when my interest in climate change started but since I found out about the issue as a teenager I couldn't stop thinking about it. Like many others who go into the field I think I was baffled by how quiet it was around this massive and incredibly unjust problem, and how little that was being done. This made me want to learn everything there is to know about it (still working on this!) and see if I could make it a career.

So when it came to start studying at a university I knew that I wanted to get into the environmental sciences and was drawn to the UK as a way to improve my English. I was especially drawn to Glasgow because of the good universities and lively student life. I studied Environmental Management at Glasgow Caledonian University and really enjoyed my four years there. The degree focused on the need for effective management of energy, waste, natural resources, built environments and social issues under the threat of climate change. It provided me with a broad foundation and allowed me to look at the social aspects of a changing natural environment as well, and I wrote my dissertation on environmental justice. At the university I also managed to volunteer and get small jobs for the sustainability team which gave me really useful experience.



When I left university I got a graduate placement working with natural capital communications at a nature conservation agency in Scotland. After that I continued working at the same organisation but in the biodiversity team. Being there was a great first experience and I got to work on a lot of exciting projects like a nature video competition, climate change learning and development, how to get young people more involved in the organisation's work and exploring the options for a new national biodiversity strategy.

Since October I've been working at the British Embassy in Stockholm in the role of Climate Change Projects Officer. My current job is about supporting delivery of an ambitious COP26 and maximising cooperation between the UK and Sweden on climate and environmental matters. That means following ambitious new policy in both countries, sharing best practice in different sectors, looking at how work can be made more ambitious within COP26 objectives, speaking to people from different organisations with an interest in climate and work on climate communications.





My tips for those looking to pursue a career in the environmental sector would be to volunteer for everything that you can, especially during university. Approach the sustainability team or climate science teacher and ask if there's anything you can help with, or ask the people at work who seem to be doing really interesting stuff if you can listen in. I'd also recommend being open for a wide range of jobs when you start out your career. It's easy to feel like jobs or opportunities not labelled with 'climate change' specifically aren't a step in the right direction but they absolutely are! The climate field is so broad and interlinked so getting experience in many different areas is great for a more holistic understanding. For me personally, working at a nature conservation agency for the first years of my career gave me invaluable knowledge about the biology/nature sides of climate change that I didn't have coming out of my undergraduate. Tackling the climate and nature crises is an opportunity to improve everyone's quality of life while transitioning to a society where we live in harmony with nature – that's my motivation.

Images

speaking at a conference

Graduation in Scotland

Speaking in a comms video for the British embassy

