

Project brief -Thinking further : Sustainable careers and skills

The Sustainability Officers at Solihull College and Solihull MBC are planning a partnership project to produce resources and guidance to help students looking for careers in sustainability. With the support of students, local businesses and universities a library of online resources will be produced and made accessible for students to learn more about sustainability careers. In addition to the online resources a series of online events will be hosted to launch the resources.

Elements of the project

Resources - A library of online resources will be developed to cover the 'Understanding sustainability jobs' , 'Preparing for a sustainability job' and 'Skills for sustainability jobs'.

Events - A series of short online 'lunch time events' will launch the resource library to make students aware of them. The events will give a preview of resources, showing how they can be accessed and will include key note speakers and experts to answer questions.

Who are the resources aimed at?

- Students in higher education (16-25 year olds - secondary school/sixth form students).
- Students that are making course/career choices

The main aims are to;

- Provide help to students to make informed career and study choices.
- Increase student awareness of careers in sustainability
- Create and promote relevant careers information and career materials for students in local schools and university / college settings.

The project also has the following benefits, it will;

- Build on positive feedback from the Your Green Future events
- Support the action in the SMBC Climate Change Prospectus under the 'clean growth' theme to ensure we support the green skills agenda through initiatives.
- Support the College's ESF Goal (Awareness, engagement and education in college setting) to raise engagement levels in sustainability and improve understanding of sustainability in general of students.
- Give students the opportunity to relate skills to career so they will be able to help relate sustainability to real life practice.
- Connect students and businesses providing real life case studies of how education in sustainability can relate to job roles.
- Engage students in the 'green group' at the college in doing interviews with businesses to produce video profiles.

Online resources

Understanding sustainability jobs

This resource will consist of around 6 video / text job profiles that will;

- Provide examples of 'sustainability jobs' for students that are interested in working in the sustainability area but aren't sure in what role or organisation.
- Show mainly examples of job roles from the private sector where sustainability is a core focus / main responsibility, there will be some information on public jobs at SMBC.
- Focus on a variety of career paths where sustainability is more immediately obvious like waste, energy, construction, biodiversity etc.

Preparing for a sustainability job

This resource will be about University and colleges courses, around 6 that include sustainability. It will include;

- Recorded interviews with course leaders.
- Students sharing experiences of their courses.

Skills for sustainability jobs

This resources will be about extra-curricular activities that can help with gaining further skills in sustainability

- Recorded talks about the benefits of joining 'green groups' in college / university
- Interclimate resources

Online events

The online events will take place over 2-3 days during a week in April (?), they will use Teams and take place at lunchtimes for approx. 1 hour to engage as many students as possible. For each session there will be key note speakers relevant to the sessions and presentations from the project leaders (MB and SL).

Session 1

To launch the 'Understanding sustainability jobs' resource, demonstrating the job profiles, showing how to access them on the website.

Session 2

To launch the 'Preparing for a sustainability job' online resource, providing an overview of the recorded interview and experiences that are available on the website.

Session 3

To launch the 'Skills for sustainability jobs' online resources, providing information about extracurricular activities and the benefits and skills gained from joining green groups in college / University. Interclimate Network will talk about their audit and COP debate activities and skills gained.