

PREPARING FOR A SUSTAINABILITY ROLE

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Who are we?



We are the alliance for sustainability leadership in education.

Our passion is to create a world with sustainability at its heart. That's our vision.

We exist to lead and empower the post-16 education sector to make sustainability 'just good business'.

We believe

- That UK and Irish education should be a global leader in sustainability
- That educational institutions have a responsibility as anchors in their communities to be agents of change
- That education has a unique opportunity to transform lives and communities
- That education is at the heart of global sustainability
- That every student should have access to sustainability education
- That education should reflect best practice in operational sustainability
- In being flexible and adaptable to find solutions for a resilient future
- In the value of international collaboration

Preparing for a sustainability role:

February 2020

EAUC SUSTAINABILITY CAREERS GUIDE

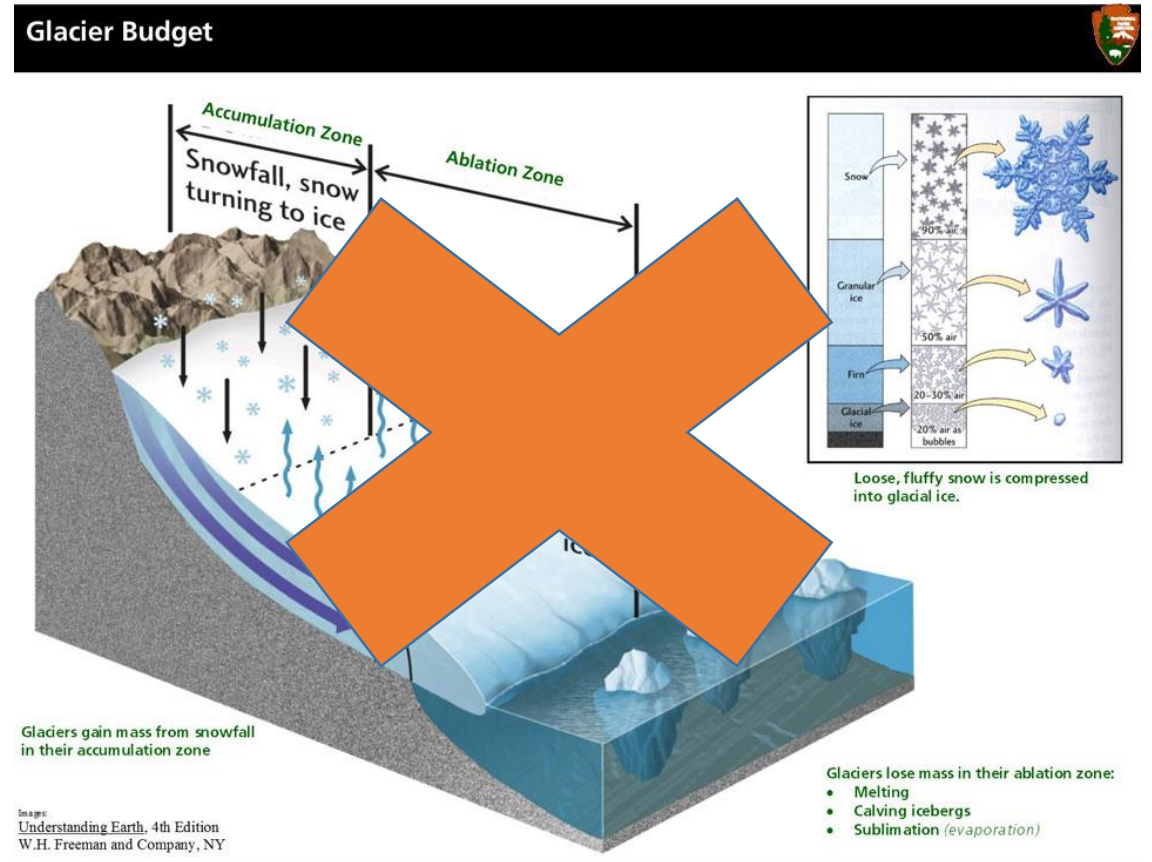
PREPARING



- **Foundational sustainability knowledge**
- **Specialist knowledge**
- **Degrees and courses**
- **Next steps**

Foundation sustainability knowledge

- This is useful!!!



Foundation sustainability knowledge

- This is useful!!!
- The term 'sustainable development' (SD) can be defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (United Nations, 1987).
- SD balances three interlocking priorities, attempting to consider economic, social and environmental concerns simultaneously – all about systems thinking.
- Interested but not sure where to start?
 - Coursera – 200+ free online sustainability modules
 - Blogs (Climate Reality Project)
 - News articles



Specialist knowledge



Do some research:

- Best practice (sector leaders; case studies UK and abroad)
- Government bodies and charity leaders (Environment Agency / Scottish Environmental Protection Agency; The Wildlife Trust/RSPB/National Trust; Sustrans)

Professional Associations:

- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
- Royal Geographic Society (RGS)
- The Geological Society (GS)
- Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
- Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM)
- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)
- Institute of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (ICRS)
- Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIRD)

Degrees, Courses & Experience

There are many pathways to a sustainability role.

Degree pathways

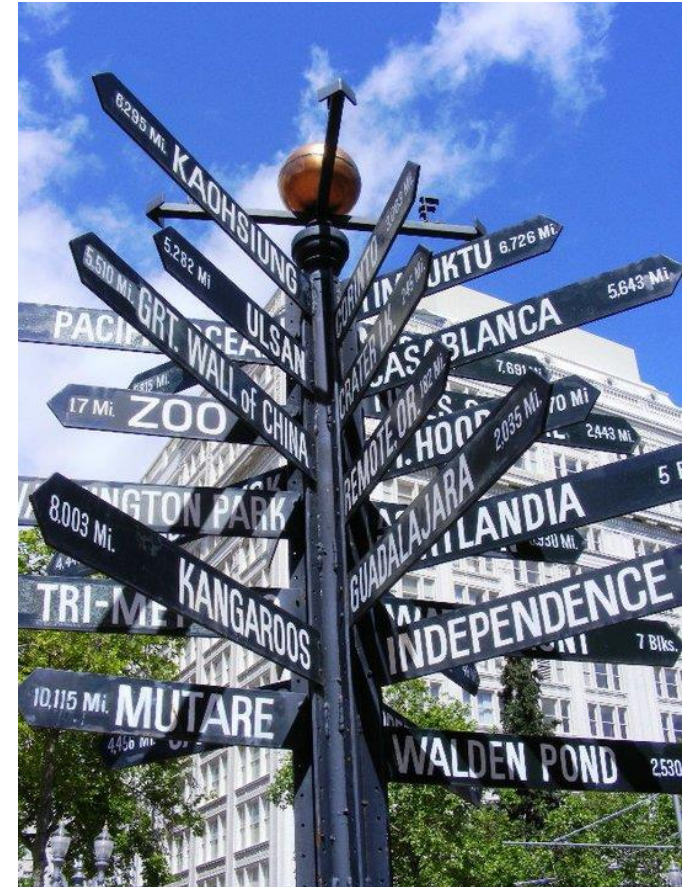
- Sustainability major vs non-sustainability degree
- Masters

Short courses

- MOOCs / Coursera

Experience

- Volunteering (student sustainability groups; community groups)
- Internships

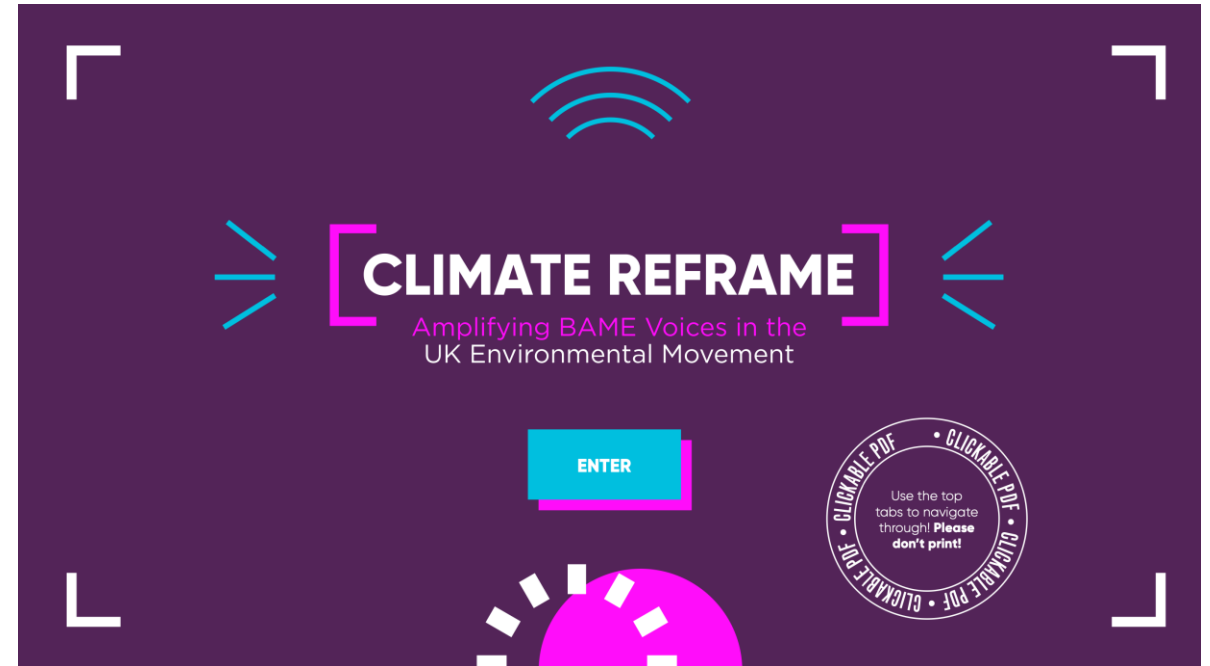


Next Steps

Personal knowledge and skills 'audit'

Networks and Resources

- Student Union/Association & campus initiatives
- [Young Friends of the Earth](#)
- [Climate Reframe](#) – BAME Voices
- [Women In Sustainability](#) – regional hubs, virtual events, networking
- [SOS-UK](#)
- [2050 Climate Group](#)



The Caveat

“I’m X and I’m not where I want to be”

The Caveat

“I’m 25 and I’m not where I want to be”

- me 6 years ago and 3 years after graduation

- Don’t worry if you don’t land the role you want straight after college or university – this is normal
- Try be true to yourself – find what makes you happy and don’t compare your journey to others

Thank you

www.eauc.org.uk/sustainability_careers_guide

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