

Task 1: Compare Job Adverts

Selected four entry-level ESG/sustainability consultant job adverts from UK sites: ESG Analyst at KEO International Consultants (London), Graduate Sustainability Consultant at Buro Happold (Bath/London), 2026 Graduate Consultant - Sustainability (various), and Graduate Sustainability Consultant at Jacobs (London).

Key skills across adverts: Strong analytical skills for ESG risk assessments, data analysis, and research on regulations/trends (mentioned in all four). Client-facing communication and stakeholder engagement to present findings and build relationships (common in KEO, Buro Happold, and Jacobs). Project management basics, like supporting ESG strategies, roadmaps, and reports (KEO, 2026 Graduate, Buro Happold).

Knowledge areas: Familiarity with ESG frameworks (UNPRI, TCFD, GRI, SDGs) and regulations (CSRD) highlighted in KEO and Jacobs. Sustainability topics like climate resilience, embodied carbon, circular economy, and low-carbon design in Buro Happold and 2026 roles. Environmental compliance, reporting, and sector trends (energy, construction) across all.

Common skills: Analytical/research (100%), communication/engagement, proficiency in Excel/PowerPoint. Common knowledge: ESG standards/frameworks, sustainability strategies/regulations. These overlap shows employers want versatile starters who research, advise clients, and align projects with green goals core for entry-level impact in green energy consulting.

Task 2: Self-Assessment

SWOT Analysis

Strengths: Motivated in sustainability/ESG with Greenpeace UK fundraising (Oct 2025-Feb 2026), raising funds via public engagement built persuasion and stakeholder skills. Level 4 Business Skills for Workplace at University of Wales Trinity St David (65% average), covering project management, business analytics, sustainability modules. Group projects on ESG reporting/sustainable models sharpened research, data analysis, teamwork. Key skills: communication (written/verbal), time management, MS Office.

Weaknesses: No paid internships or corporate ESG experience entry-level only. Starting BA Hons Business Management at Middlesex University Jan 2026, so limited advanced credentials yet. Less exposure to specific frameworks (TCFD/GRI) or tools beyond basics.

Opportunities: Booming UK green energy/ESG demand entry roles need fresh talent like mine for analytics/engagement. University Policy & Business Society for networking/workshops on responsible business. Voluntary/project experience aligns with job reqs for research/communication.

Threats: Competitive graduate market; need to stand out pre-degree finish. Rapid ESG regs (CSRD) require quick upskilling. Economic shifts could slow hiring.

Evidence of Readiness: Academic: Consistent 65% in Level 4 modules proves time management/reliability for analytics/project work. Work: Greenpeace role delivered real impact engaged public on climate campaigns, mirroring client-facing needs. Extracurricular: Ongoing student projects presented ESG findings to peers, building presentation skills for reports/strategies. Society membership preps responsible business knowledge. Cover letter shows tailored enthusiasm for green consulting. These match 75% of common job skills (analytics, communication), positioning me for employability in fast-paced teams.

Task 3: Employment Goals and PDP

Employment Goals

Short-term (1-2 years): Secure entry-level ESG Consultant role by Dec 2026 post-graduation start, focusing on green energy firms (e.g., KEO/Jacobs). Build 1-year experience in ESG assessments/reporting. Important for hands-on framework exposure (GRI/TCFD), addressing no-internship weakness aligns with aspiration to drive sustainability impact like Greenpeace but paid.

Long-term (3-5 years): Advance to Senior ESG Advisor by 2030, leading client strategies on carbon reduction/regeneration. Crucial for expertise in regs/strategies, turning volunteer grit into career power fuels goal of influencing corporate green shifts at scale.

Personal Development Plan

Weakness 1: Limited ESG framework knowledge

Actions: Complete free GRI/TCFD online courses (Coursera/UNPRI); read 2 reports/month.

Timeline: Start Jan 2026, finish courses by Jun 2026. Resources: £0 (free platforms), university library. Measure: Pass quizzes (80%+), apply in mock report (peer review).

Weakness 2: No corporate experience

Actions: Apply 20 entry jobs/month via Indeed/LinkedIn; volunteer for society ESG projects; network 5 contacts/quarter at events. Timeline: Job apps Jan-Jun 2026; first role by Dec 2026.

Resources: LinkedIn Premium (£30/month), society fees. Measure: 5 interviews, 1 offer; log networks in spreadsheet.

Weakness 3: Advanced tool skills

Actions: Master Excel advanced (pivot/VBA) via LinkedIn Learning; practice PowerPoint for ESG decks. Timeline: Daily 1hr Jan-Mar 2026. Resources: University access (£0). Measure: Build sample ESG dashboard, get mentor feedback (2.1+ equivalent).

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