

Impact Report

June 2022–23

A sustainable future shaped by
environmental professionalism

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Foreword

from the Chair, **Dougal Driver** CEnv



When assessing the Society for the Environment's impact over the last year, we should first return to our stated purpose: to uphold the professional standards for environmental practice globally, and to champion their importance in our aim for a sustainable future.

Reviewing our activity to achieve this vital purpose, it's clear we've had another hugely positive year.

At the centre of our progress is our recent standards review, and I'm hugely proud of how it has removed barriers to gaining our professional registrations. This has been delivered without minimising the quality of the standards – whilst opening up opportunities for more professionals to develop and showcase their environmental expertise.

The importance of ensuring professional development opportunities for all can't be overestimated, in a time when we are facing climate and environmental emergencies. We need experts to have the opportunities and tools to lead the way in finding and delivering solutions, which is also why in the last year we developed a brand-new website and visual identity.

Our new website and logo, developed with B Corp agency Studio Republic, have been designed with diversity and accessibility concerns in mind. This means anyone can access our website regardless of any visual, hearing, and/or physical impairment(s) they may have.

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Foreword

from the Chair, **Dougal Driver** CEnv

It's also vital for our registrants to share their expertise and learn from each other, as environmental experts applying their knowledge in a variety of disciplines. Our new website means we can now better facilitate the sharing of good practice, with brand-new features like the ever-growing and freely accessible Knowledge Hub, bringing together trusted expertise on a range of topics, all in one place.

These are just a few notable examples of how we are keeping pace with what the environment, employers and the profession need from us and our standards. Many more examples can be found throughout this report – from our policy work, annual awards and more.

As a huge contributor to these successes, I would like to thank my longstanding predecessor as Chair, Professor Will Pope HonFSE CEnv, for his leadership and dedication. I look forward to working with you, our stakeholders, to build on this great work over the coming months.

Foreword

from the Chief Executive, **Dr Emma Wilcox** CEnv



I am delighted to introduce the first ever Society for the Environment impact report. I hope you find the report insightful and a useful illustration of what we – together with our amazing partners – have achieved during the last 12 months.

Now seems like the perfect opportunity to explain what this report hopes to achieve.

As Dougal has so well summarised, as an organisation we have a clear mission to make a difference in tackling the climate and environmental emergencies. But how we do know whether this mission is successful and we are having the kind of impact we are aiming for? That's where this impact report comes in.

We want this report to showcase the impact of our work over the last year. This report will demonstrate how our activity has helped to make a difference to the environment – and by extension, society, and the economy, as part of a holistic approach. In measuring our impact, we assess our progress towards our stated purpose using a combination of qualitative and quantitative metrics.

A huge part of professional standards is the drive to continuously review and improve – and we know that this ongoing review is absolutely necessary to maintain high quality. In this way, we see this report very much as a journey. In detailing our progress, we are open and transparent about how we have addressed limitations to improve our impact. Looking forward, we are clear about the areas needing further improvement and where more reliable metrics are needed to measure our impact.

CONTINUED >

Foreword

from the Chief Executive, **Dr Emma Wilcox** CEnv

This report showcases our successes, and for that I am hugely grateful for the efforts of our wonderful staff – a small team of just eight people going above and beyond to make a difference.

The report also shows how we work effectively in partnership with other environmental leaders. It would therefore be remiss of me not to close by thanking our amazing volunteers, who give so generously of their time and expertise, often over and above what is expected of them.

Lastly, we are nothing without our fantastic community of registered environmental professionals, who we are honoured to register, showcase, and represent. It is only through working collectively that we can deliver on our vision of ‘a sustainable future shaped by environmental professionalism’.

At a glance

Our people



8,000+

registered environmental professionals

Registered environmental professionals are based in

95

countries



81

Honorary Fellows

Our partners



25

Licensed Members

14

Employer Champions



630,000+

collective membership of our Licensed Members

Our social reach



16,000+

LinkedIn followers



4,000+

X (Twitter) followers



37,000+

YouTube video views

Our standards



A photograph of a wind farm at sunset. In the foreground, two workers wearing high-visibility vests and hard hats walk away from the camera on a gravel path. One worker is carrying a toolbox. In the background, several large wind turbines are visible against a sky with soft, colorful clouds. A green curved line is drawn across the upper part of the image, and a blue circular graphic is in the bottom left corner.

SocEnv Society for the Environment

Our professional standards

Introducing our standards

Professional standards are at the core of who we are. In this section we explore what this means in practice and how they help us to make a difference.

OUR MISSION



We define the standards for professional competence in environmental practice, ensuring key decisions are made by verified professionals. As a collective, we can tackle the environmental crises and create a sustainable future.



What are professional standards?

“Professional standards describe the skills, knowledge and behaviours that characterise excellent practice and support professional growth”¹.

Why do we need professional standards for the environment?

We are facing environmental and climate emergencies, and solutions to these crises must be robust and backed up by proven evidence. Put simply, professional standards are essential to ensuring the tangible change we need.

Where do SocEnv fit into this?

Collectively, our CEnv, REnvP and REnvTech registrations represent a single professional standard for environmental practices. When sharing knowledge for the public benefit, content can be trusted when the creators have met an externally verified standard. In this way our work helps to tackle the increasing issue of greenwashing.

¹ <https://hwb.gov.wales/professional-learning/identifying-professional-learning-needs/professional-standards>

Who needs to meet our professional standards?

- **Our registrants:** Anyone who holds one of our registrations, regardless of the discipline or sector in which they work, has proven environmental competence.
- **Our partners:** Our partnerships are based on a mutual commitment to professional standards, embedded in the licenses of our Licensed Members and commitments made by our Employer Champions.
- **SocEnv:** We hold our internal practices to similarly high standards, whether that be through our working practices or environmental impact.

With a network encompassing over 8,000 registered professionals and 25 Licensed Members, our standards have a significant reach across the environmental profession.

How do we ensure the quality of our standards?

To ensure ongoing quality and robustness, we undertake regular reviews of our standards. You can find out more about our latest standards review on page 12.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A ROYAL CHARTER?

Our Royal Charter defines a clear purpose. It positions integrity, professionalism, and a focus on public benefit at the core of our work. Royal Charters are granted to professional institutions only if they can demonstrate high levels of professional skill and experience among their members and have long been recognised as a hallmark of professionalism in the UK.

Find out more about our Royal Charter: socenv.org.uk/royal-charter

Our registrations

What are our registrations and why do they matter?

Environmental professional registration is the antidote to the growing issue of greenwashing.

Being a registered environmental professional is about having

proven knowledge, experience, and

commitment to apply sustainable thinking. Professional registration is widely recognised as a mark to be trusted and carries a strong reputation for quality around the world.

There are more than 8,000 professionals holding one of our registrations: Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP) and Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech).



A clear pathway of professional development

Each of the three professional registrations are aligned in a way that enables structured progression from REnvTech to REnvP to CEnv. However, it is also the case that each registration can be the perfect fit for an individual's career level and future plans.

Registered environmental professionals having an impact

To become a CEnv, REnvP or REnvTech, professionals must prove environmental competence by demonstrating their:

- **Knowledge** ■ **Skills** – leadership and communication
- **Behaviours** – ongoing CPD commitment and code of professional conduct.

As a result of having proven their competence, being a registered environmental professional helps to provide assurance of competence to employers, clients, and stakeholders. As told by our registrants in these new profiles, available via our website:



I wanted to develop and implement procedures, and to have the environment considered as more than just a tick box exercise.

Lauren Bovingtondon CEnv
Chartway Partnerships Group,
Head of Sustainability



REnvP provides both recognition within the industry, and confidence in one's skills and knowledge.

Alex Fintoni REnvP
A Greener Future,
Carbon Analyst



We are aiming to publish a series of new REnvTech profiles over the coming year. See page 17 for more on our plans to raise awareness about REnvTech, REnvP and CEnv.

Improving our registration standards

As part of our ongoing commitment to professional standards and good practice, in the last year we completed a comprehensive review of our registration standards. This review was led by our Registration Authority (RA).

Key aim: Ensure the ongoing quality and robustness of our registrations. Remove barriers to registration where at all possible, while maintaining the highest of standards.

Objectives: Review and make improvements as appropriate to standards across the three registrations, notably the competences, eligibility criteria, and professional review assessment. Develop new practice directions to provide an overview of these changes.

We identified some key indicators against which our standards should be assessed. These indicators are listed below alongside information on how the review has led to improvements:

- **Simplicity** – we have ensured there are broadly the same assessment processes across all three registrations and simplified previously complicated requirements.
- **Clarity** – we have adopted more concise, clear language and removed ambiguity.
- **Distinctiveness** – although the same and linked in many respects, we have ensured all three registrations remain distinctive and stand-alone.
- **Diversity** – we have taken steps to ensuring anyone and everyone can apply for registration, as long as they meet the eligibility criteria and standards.
- **Accessibility** – there are now greater options for format of evidence provided as part of evidence submissions, providing more choice and flexibility.

Looking ahead

For the first time the RA will soon be producing guidance notes, to explain the changes made across all three registrations, focussing on why changes were made and how they are intended to be interpreted.

The RA are also reviewing our CPD policy, with the intention to make it simpler, clearer, and easier to understand.

Our reach

Why we want to reach more people

Put simply, the more people we reach the more our standards achieve their intended benefit. By expanding opportunities to achieve environmental professional registration, more individuals can embrace their leadership position in tackling the climate and environmental emergencies. Further to this, by increasing access to good practice created by the experts, more people and organisations have the opportunity to implement tangible change.

A growing reach

The combined reach of our registrants, Licensed Members and Employer Champions – amongst other partners – is significant. In the last year this grew even further – some notable examples are below.

Registered environmental professionals work in a wide range of sectors, including:



Agriculture



Engineering



Arboriculture and forestry



Environmental sciences



Built environment



Environmental management



Ecology and fisheries



Resource management



Energy



Water

In 2022-23, we welcomed a new Licensed Member – Engineers Ireland, increasing our reach to the engineering sector via their membership of over 25,000+ engineering professionals.



Welcoming the first professional body to our SocEnv family with their HQ outside of the UK is hugely positive. Environmental challenges do not stop at geographical borders. We look forward to broadening our Chartered Environmentalist community and facilitating further professional connections to address the challenges we face and turn opportunities into meaningful results.

Dr Emma Wilcox CEnv

Chief Executive of the Society for the Environment

The British Institute Of Agricultural Consultants (BIAC) and The Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) also became Member Bodies, and we hope they will soon gain their registration license, enabling their members to gain environmental professional registration.

LinkedIn reach



Our significant LinkedIn following increased further between **June 2022 – 23**, by around **3,000**.

Our social media based **#IAmCEnv** campaign also gained more than **12,500** views.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE >



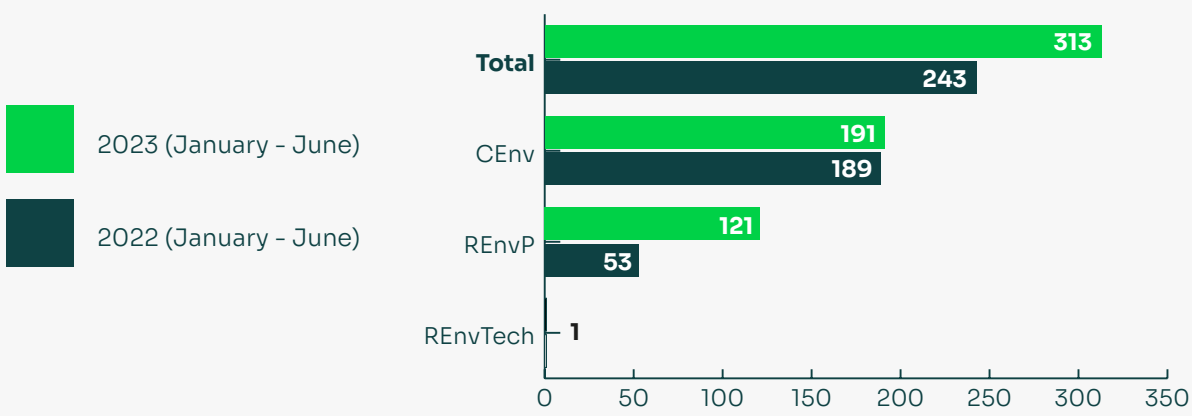
International reach



Currently registered environmental professionals are based in **95 countries**, with **15%** of registrants based outside of the UK.

While a number of our Licensed Members have offices outside of the UK, Engineers Ireland are our first to be based outside of the UK. This is a small but significant step, as we work towards boosting global awareness of environmental professional registration, in recognition of the global nature of the environmental crises that we face.

Growth in new registrants



REnvP goes from strength to strength



In the first quarter of 2023, we announced a greater number of new Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP) registrations compared to any previous three-month period – an REnvP record quarter.

REnvP was introduced in 2021 following extensive research into the need for proven practitioner level competence across sectors.



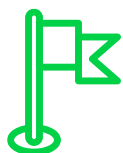
Bring a Registered Environmental Practitioner compliments my CEng Chartership from IOM3 by confirming that I work in a more varied field beyond core geotechnical work. As a modern geoenvironmental company, recognising that I, and others across the business, have a strong understanding of contaminated land – and how to deal with it – is vital.

Rob Plews CEng REnvP.

Associate Director at The Shadbolt Group, achieved REnvP during Q1 of 2023



CEnv Milestones in 2022-23



Two of our Licensed Members, The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) both reached milestones in 2022 – 2023.



We're delighted to have passed the milestone of 2,000 Chartered Environmentalists registered by IEMA. Chartered Environmentalists are at the heart of the sustainability transition, applying their skills and leading organisations around the world in the transition to a net zero, greener future.

Martin Baxter CEnv.

The very first CEnv registrant via IEMA and Deputy CEO of IEMA



This significant milestone stands as a testament to the IES commitment to excellence in professional standards and its unwavering dedication to fostering a thriving community of environmental professionals engaged in the transformation to a more sustainable society.

Adam Donnan CEnv.

IES CEO, reacting to the IES registering their 1000th Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) to date



With both numbers continuing to rise, the growing need for competent environmental professionals is evident.

Employers championing professional registration

We have 14 Employer Champions – organisations that have gained due recognition for investing in the professional development of their staff. They have demonstrated a commitment to supporting, developing, and truly valuing the environmental professionals they employ and work alongside.

ATKINS

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group



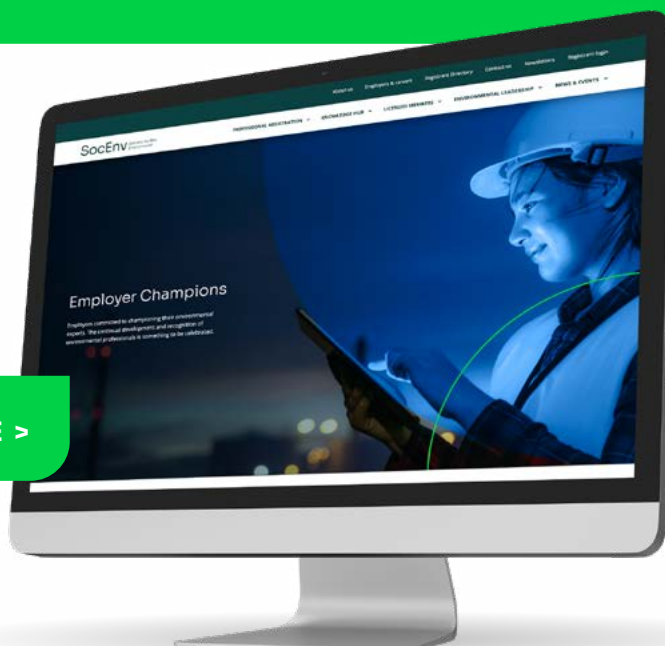
Atkins is delighted to be recognised as a Chartered Environmentalist Employer Champion. The achievement acknowledges the support we provide to staff across the business and the value we place on their development, which enables them to receive global recognition as Chartered environmental and sustainability professionals.



Sandra Lee CEnv

Atkins, Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group, Environment Manager

VISIT OUR WEBSITE >



Looking ahead

To support more people on their path to environmental professional registration, we will be holding regular online drop-in sessions for aspiring registrants to get answers to their questions. There will be separate sessions for each registration, with the REnvTech session forming part of efforts to boost the registration.

We will be emphasising the value of REnvTech (and indeed REnvP) as an excellent way of demonstrating environmental competence, and for some an important step on the road to gaining CEnv registration. Other activity to increase the profile of REnvTech will include showcasing REnvTech professionals in a new series of profiles.

We are also planning to expand our mentoring offer; with the associated benefits this can bring to the mentor (current registrants) and the mentee (aspiring registrants).

Our working practices



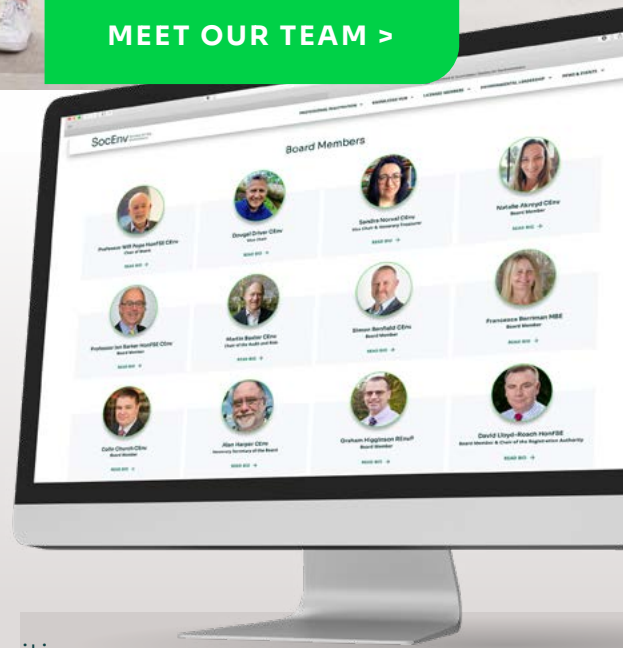
MEET OUR TEAM >

Ensuring our working practices reflect our high standards

We are a small but dynamic team working remotely to support, register and champion environmental professionals.

Quality and **inclusivity** are two notable keywords that sum up our working practices:

- We work remotely allowing flexibility and to better accommodate people who have historically been left out of the traditional workforce.
- We have been accredited as a Living Wage Employer. This recognition reflects our conviction that staff should get a fair day's pay for a hard day's work.
- We are Cyber Essentials certified, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to cyber security.
- We have invested in the professional development of our workforce, which saw our staff attend training and become certified carbon literate.
- We are so proud of Elaine and Katie, valued members of our Operations team, for successfully completing their apprenticeships in level 5 leadership and management and level 3 business administration respectively.
- We rely on the expertise of our volunteers to run our Committees, providing quality direction on vital areas of our organisation including our registration standards, audit and risk, and carbon reporting.



In focus: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We know that the environmental profession has a problem with diversity, being declared the second least ethnically diverse profession in the UK in 2017. Further evidence of this diversity challenge has materialised since then². To help address this huge issue, we are a partner of the Diverse Sustainability Initiative, working alongside fellow leaders in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) to systematically remove barriers. By enhancing diversity and inclusion, we are helping to establish accessible pathways into the environment profession for everyone and annually report on our progress.

In 2022–23, our work to fulfil our Diverse Sustainability Initiative commitments has included:

- **Our standards review:** helping to remove barriers to our registrations. Find out more about our standards review on page 12.
- **Our awards:** we have made our awards nomination process more accessible, providing the option of recording a video nomination as an alternative to the standard written application form. We also offered CEnv support for anyone struggling to complete their application. Find out more about our awards on pages 31–33.
- **Our website:** designed to be accessible for all, with readability and ease of access determining decisions, including around layout and colour schemes. Find out more about our website on pages 29–30.
- **Our Green jobs activity:** we are working to open up more routes into the profession, as well as professional development opportunities. Find out more about our green jobs activity on pages 25–28.
- **Our features:** shining a spotlight on EDI in practice. Just one example being the video below, recorded for our Spring 2023 #IAMCEnv campaign. Lara Ayris CEnv highlights the difficulties that arise when managing a business whilst having autism. But she doesn't let it stop her from achieving incredible things!

View our Diverse Sustainability Initiative progress report: diversesustainability.net/partners

² A challenging environment: Experiences of ethnic minority environmental professionals | www.the-ies.org



Looking ahead

We want our communications to suggest professionalism but also to be clear, open, and welcoming to all. To help with this, we will be undertaking a thorough review of all our communication channels to ensure a consistently accessible writing style is used. This includes avoiding the use of jargon where possible and clearly defining acronyms.

We are currently in the process of ensuring our management systems meets all the requirements of ISO 14001: Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and ISO/ IEC 27001: Information security management systems. We aim to gain certification for both these standards in 2023 – 24.

Our carbon reporting

Walking the talk

We are an organisation working at the forefront of the professional response to the Climate Emergency. In calling for everyone to take urgent, science-based action to tackle the challenges in front of us, it's important for this approach to be reflected in our own organisational environmental impact.

As a founding signatory and supporter of Pledge to Net Zero and Professional Bodies Climate Action Charter respectively, we have made important commitments to reduce our own environmental impact – as well as inspire others to do the same.



In focus: our commitments

In 2019 SocEnv committed to a Science Based Target reduction to Net Zero by 2050 for its business operations. This is based on limiting global temperature rise by no more than 1.5°C.

As a signatory to Pledge to Net Zero, we have pledged to:

1

Set and commit to deliver greenhouse gas reductions in line with Science Based Targets' 1.5°C climate change scenario. For those in the environmental consultancy sector it must cover buildings and travel as a minimum.



2

Publicly report greenhouse gas emissions and progress against this target each year.

3

Publish one piece of research/ thought-leadership each year on practical steps to delivering an economy in line with climate science and in support of net zero carbon. Alternatively, signatories may choose to provide mentoring and support for smaller signatory companies in setting targets, reporting and meeting the requirements of the pledge.

As a supporter of the Professional Bodies Climate Action Charter, we have committed to:

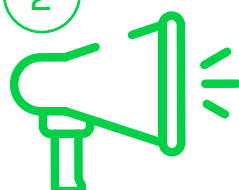
1

Chart the path to sustainability for our members.



2

Speak with a unified voice to and with professional bodies, government and the public.



3

Empower and inspire our members to drive sustainable growth



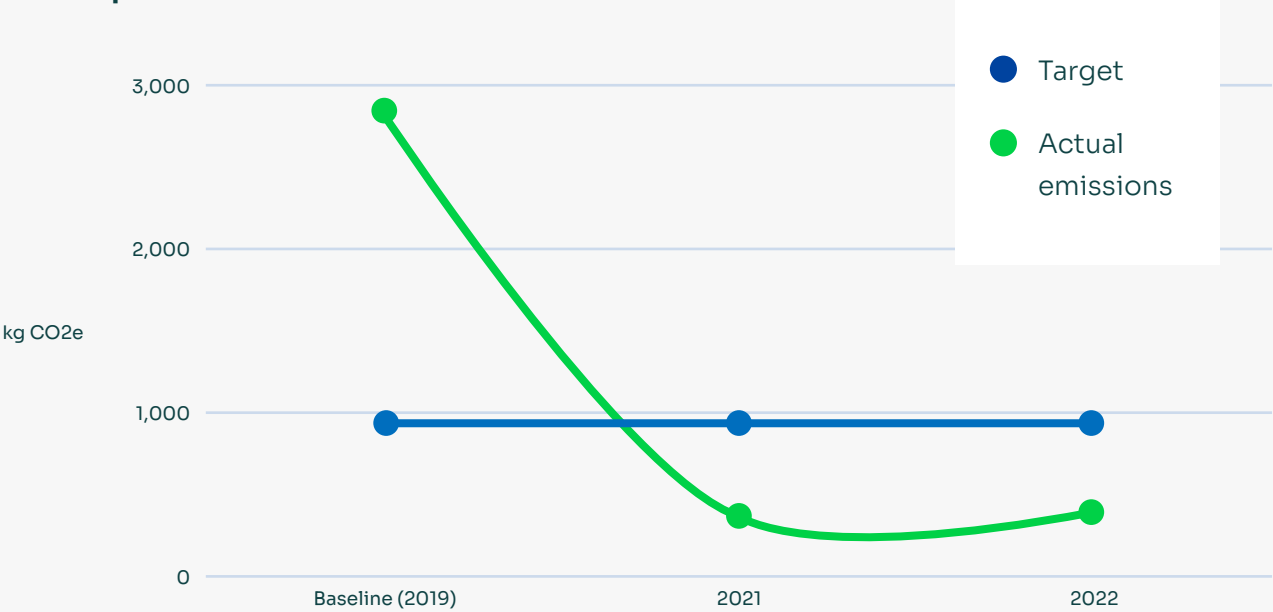
In practice

We have managed to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint from our baseline in 2019.

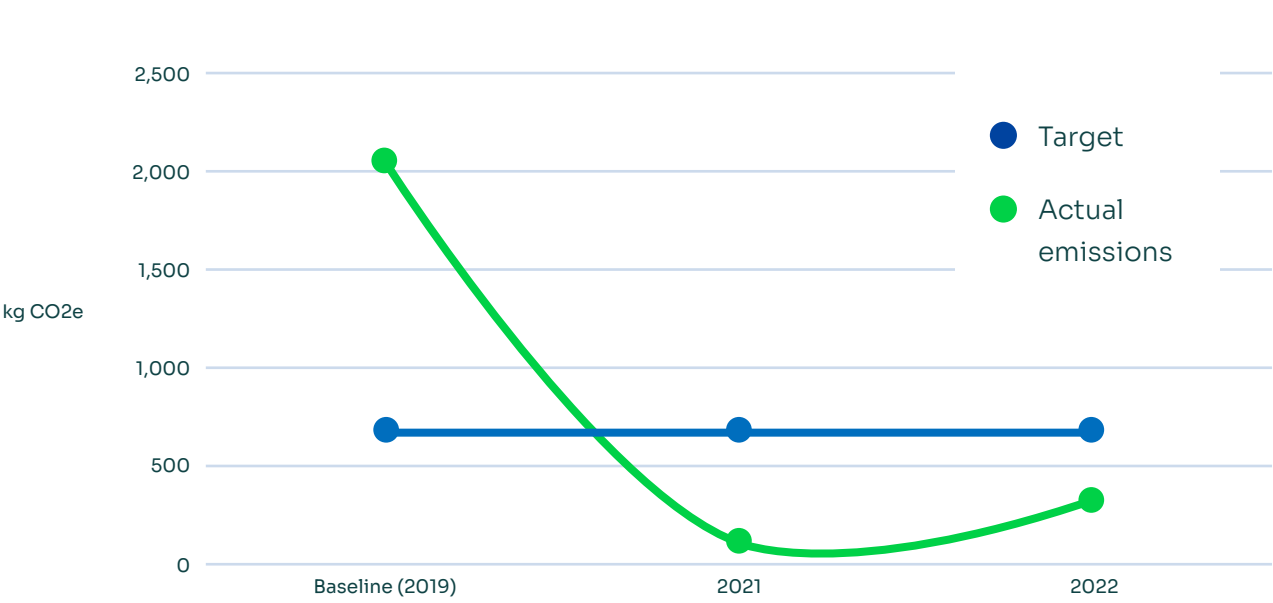
Our remote working practices as outlined on page 18 were initially needed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we have retained this predominantly virtual working model as restrictions have lifted. The associated carbon savings from doing so, most notably from heavily reduced travel, have been significant.

This has resulted in us surpassing our own expectations, when it comes to progress towards achieving our 1.5 °C aligned net zero target. Note our carbon reporting relates to performance against our targets for each calendar year.

Scopes 1 and 2



Scope 3



Looking ahead

Despite our significant progress towards net zero, we are always looking to do more to reduce the environmental impact of our working practices.

In the rest of 2023 and beyond our team, led by our Carbon Champions Katie and Sophie, are working to reduce the impact of our virtual working arrangements wherever possible.

We are particularly looking at the embedded carbon in IT equipment and the energy needed for online working covering emails, file creation and storage, websites, and social media. We are also looking at how our suppliers may be able to reduce their environmental impact.

SocEnv Society for the Environment

Showcasing environmental competence

SocEnv
Society for the Environment

Environmental
Professional
of the Year
2022

Green jobs



Employment in an activity that directly contributes to - or indirectly supports - the achievement of the UK's net zero emissions target and other environmental goals, such as nature restoration and mitigation against climate risks.

Definition of Green Jobs Taskforce



We are passionate about all things green jobs. We know that:

- Green jobs are growing.
- Green jobs are the solution for the environmental problems of today and the future.
- Everyone needs a green job to be part of the sustainable solution.

To get to where we need to be and turn all jobs green, we are calling for:

- Everyone, everywhere to have routes into a green job.
- Large scale investment in green skills, education, and training.
- Recognition for the huge professional development opportunities offered by green jobs.

What we're doing:

We know it's important to showcase those thriving in green jobs and their career journeys, for insight and inspiration. This section of the report contains examples of how we do this, including our annual awards, podcast series and features such as the video (right), released as part of the #IAMCEnv campaign.

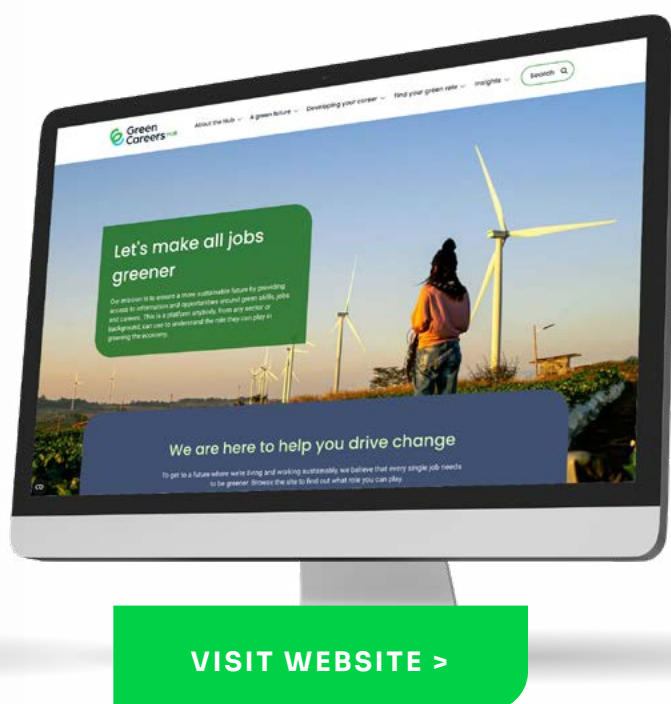


Green apprenticeships

We are also particularly engaged in the field of green apprenticeships, having been part of the employer group involved in developing the level 6 Environmental Practitioner Degree Apprenticeship. This apprenticeship has expanded routes into the environmental profession and its alignment with the REnvP registration also opens doors in apprentice careers.

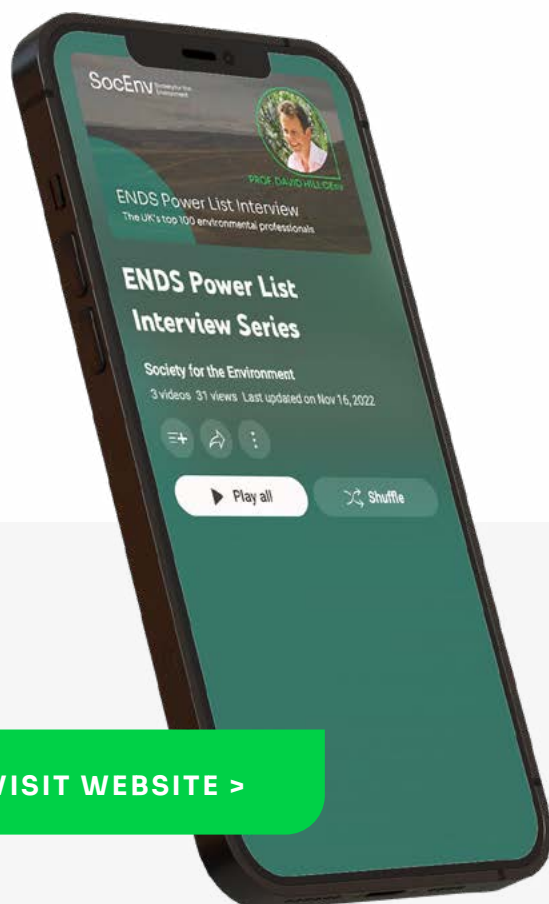
Our Chief Executive Dr Emma Wilcox CEnv sits on the green apprenticeships advisory panel (GAAP) and Chairs the green skills subgroup of the Environmental Policy Forum, working to identify the extent of the green skills challenge and areas where collaboration is most beneficial.

We are a partner of two new vital hubs working to spread the word about green jobs and their benefits:

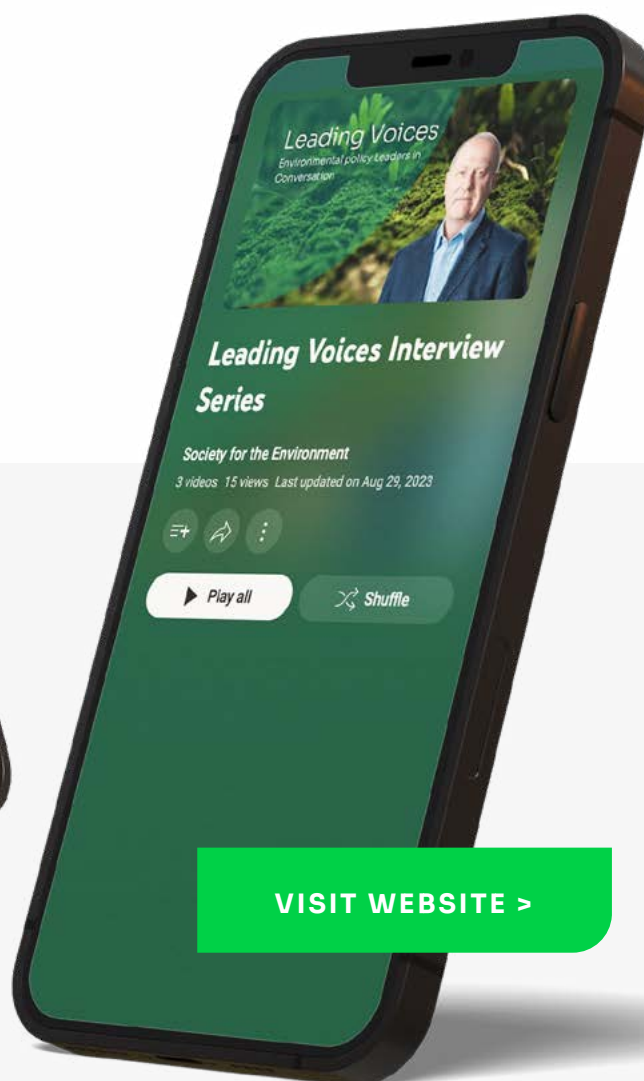


What does it mean to have a 'green job'?

Access our latest interviews with leading registered environmental professionals, including those honoured on the 2022 ENDS Power List, to find out.



[VISIT WEBSITE >](#)

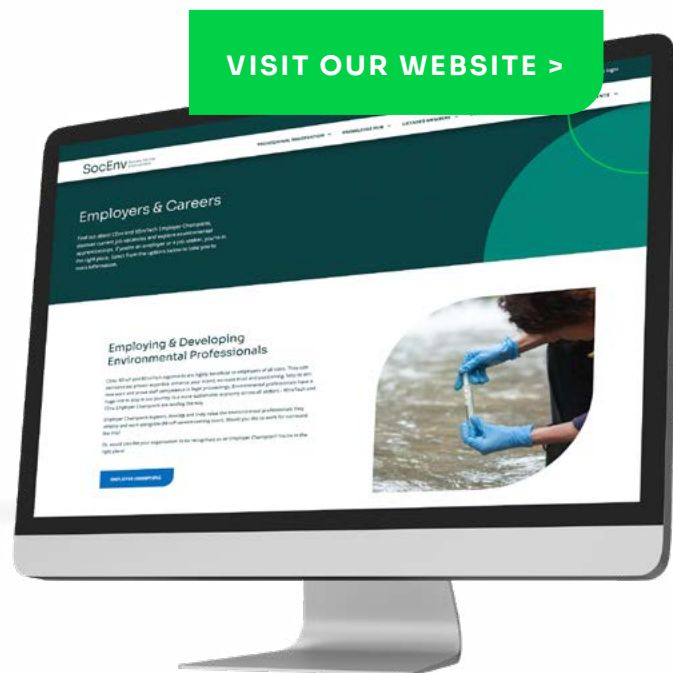


[VISIT WEBSITE >](#)

Looking ahead

Green jobs are a priority area for us going forward and we are looking to expand our activity where possible, including working in partnership with employers and universities to increase our reach to the education sector. Engaging more with those in education, teachers and careers advisors will help us to increase awareness of the benefits of green jobs, and the many professional development opportunities they offer.

In Summer 2023 we are surveying professional bodies about the green skills challenge and their activity to address skills gaps and shortages. This work will inform our green jobs work in 2023 – 24, showing where our efforts are best placed, including collaboration opportunities.



Our website

Our new website has made its mark as the go-to platform for the global environmental professional community.

Launched in 2022 alongside our revamped visual identity, the all new socenv.org.uk is designed to be better in every way for all website users, via improved functionality and greater accessibility – reflecting the professionalism of environmental experts and providing learning opportunities for all.



SocEnv are a fantastic fit as a client for Studio Republic because they represent the highest standard of professionalism across all fields of environmentalism.

Jack De Wolf, Managing Director, Studio Republic



Accessibility

Accessibility is prioritised when it comes to website design and updates. This means questions of readability and ease of access determine decisions we make around layout and colour schemes.

We feel strongly about digital inclusion and the need to address the fact that around 98% of the world's websites are inaccessible³. To ensure our website is fully accessible, accessibility and inclusivity are prioritised when it comes to website design and updates.

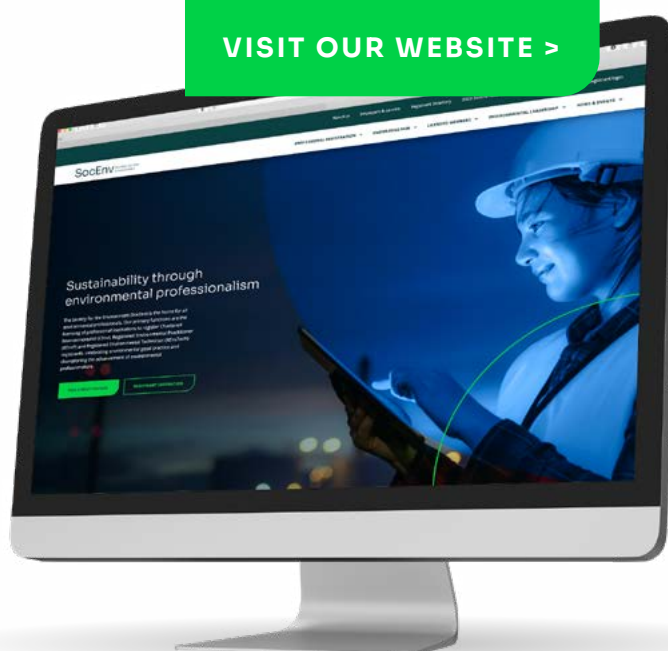
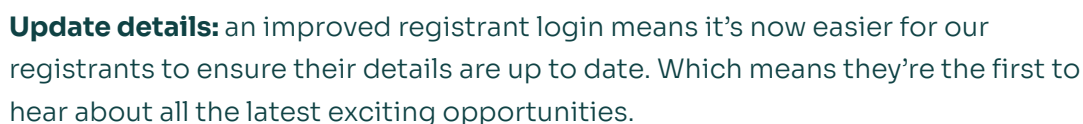
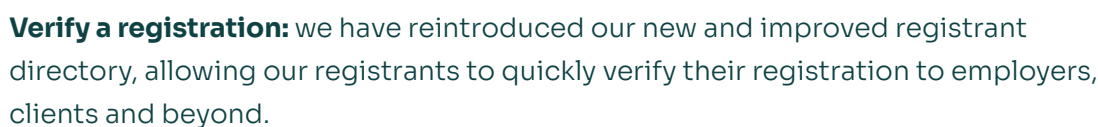
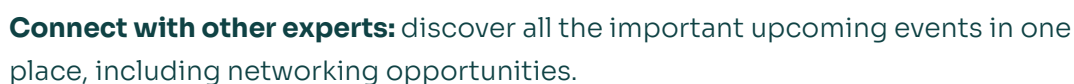
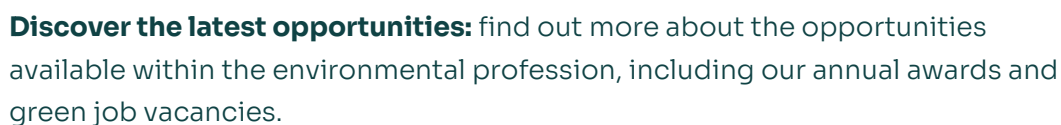
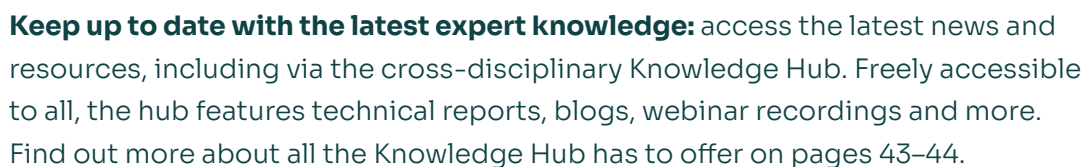
With the help of our website build and support team, B Corp agency Studio Republic, our site is thoroughly tested to ensure that anyone can access what they need regardless of any visual, hearing, and/or physical impairment(s) they may have. This includes using layouts and colour schemes which help with readability.

Carbon footprint

Our website build and support partners Studio Republic have in turn partnered with Ecologi to invest in reforestation projects around the world. To help offset the carbon costs of their work with us, they have funded the planting of 100 trees in Marotaola, Madagascar.

You can find out more about this work here: [Studio Republic | Ecologi](#)

³Why Digital Accessibility Should Matter to You - World Institute on Disability (wid.org)



Our awards

Our awards take place every year to celebrate outstanding environmental achievement.

The awards are designed to recognise those outstanding CEnv, REnvP and REnvTech professionals who have innovated and inspired in their recent work to protect, preserve, or enhance the environment. Judged against a rigorous quality criteria, our awards are unique in only being open to registered environmental professionals – those with demonstrable competence.

2023 was an exceptionally tough year for the judging panel, as we received a record number of nominations of an excellent standard.

The winners were announced at an inspirational virtual awards ceremony – you can find out more about them below.

Environmental Professional of the Year

This award recognises outstanding work to protect, preserve, or enhance the environment. In 2023, the award recognised a changemaker in the field of ecology and biodiversity.



WINNER!

Claire Wansbury
CEnv

Fellow and Technical
Director – Atkins Ltd



WATCH VIDEO >

Registrant Newcomer of the Year

This award celebrates those who have really hit the ground running as a newly registered environmental professional. In 2023, the award recognised a changemaker in the field of agriculture.



[WATCH VIDEO >](#)



WINNER!

**William Oliver
CEnv**

Farmer, A H Oliver
and Son

An awards open to all

We are committed to ensuring all our registrants feel they are able to enter our awards. That's why in 2023 we introduced an option to submit a nomination in video format, providing greater flexibility and a choice of video or written submission to the preference of the individual.

We also offered all registrants support in putting together their nomination, through the expertise and dedication of diversity and inclusion champion, Gill Mulroe CEnv.

Honorary Fellows

We have awarded 81 distinguished individuals with the title: 'Honorary Fellow of the Society for the Environment' (HonFSE).

In line with our Royal Charter commitment to working for the public benefit, awarding these honours helps us to recognise these individuals' outstanding commitment. The HonFSE award helps us to raise awareness of their efforts amongst the environmental professional community and general public.

In 2023 the annual Honorary Fellow Lecture was delivered by environmental trailblazer, Professor Will Pope HonFSE CEnv. Watch below to discover Will's reflections on the industry as a whole, covering the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, COP and world population growth. [Watch Will's lecture here >](#)

Looking ahead

Going forward, we are determined to further expand recognition opportunities for our exceptional registrants.

This includes exploring potential new award categories to showcase how our registrants, as well as organisations, are making a difference.

Just one year into the video nomination option, we are also keen to raise awareness of this and encourage more registrants to highlight their amazing work through our awards.

EnvCast

Introducing EnvCast

EnvCast: ‘Environmental Professionals in Conversation’ is designed to provide insight into the lives of registered environmental professionals – and what it means to thrive within a ‘green job’.

What drives them? How did they get where they are today? Why do they do what they do?



Advice and inspiration

The selection of registered environmental professionals that we interview is as diverse as our register is, with our podcasts featuring environmental experts from across a variety of sectors and disciplines. Areas of expertise range from air quality to waste management, water to engineering.

For World Environment Day 2023, our Chair Dougal Driver discussed the chosen theme of ‘solutions to plastic pollution’ with Becky McLean CEnv, Head of Sustainability at Sweco (Swedish Consultants).

Reach

EnvCast reached more than 2,500 people between June 2022 – June 2023. While we don’t have reliable location figures for those accessing the podcast during this period, we know that since it was created in 2019 EnvCast has reached 105 countries.

Listen and subscribe

If you haven’t already, join the EnvCast conversation and subscribe today on your preferred podcast platform. [Visit here >](#)



Looking ahead

We are always aiming to increase the reach of EnvCast, allowing ever more people the chance to gain fascinating career journey insights and advice. We particularly want to highlight registrants working in sectors which haven't yet featured as much – such as engineering, arboriculture, and fisheries.

We aim to reach new and ever more diverse audiences through our green jobs work, including connecting more within the education sector, as outlined on pages 25–28.



SocEnv Society for the Environment

Facilitating
good practice
sharing and
collaboration

Policy and influencing

Why collaboration matters

We work in collaboration with professional bodies and organisations with the same dedication to professionalism, credibility, and environmental competence as ourselves. Our cross-sector reach enables us to effectively facilitate collaboration, with notable benefits in ensuring the concerns and priorities of environmental professionals are heard by decision-makers.

Shaping policy in collaboration

We collaborated with over 40 other expert bodies in writing to UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on the extensive benefits of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems). Following years of delays, the letter – coordinated by CIWEM – called for the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Shortly afterwards, the Government announced Schedule 3 would be implemented, mandating sustainable drainage (SuDS) in new developments.

CASE STUDY

Environmental Policy Forum

EPF at a glance

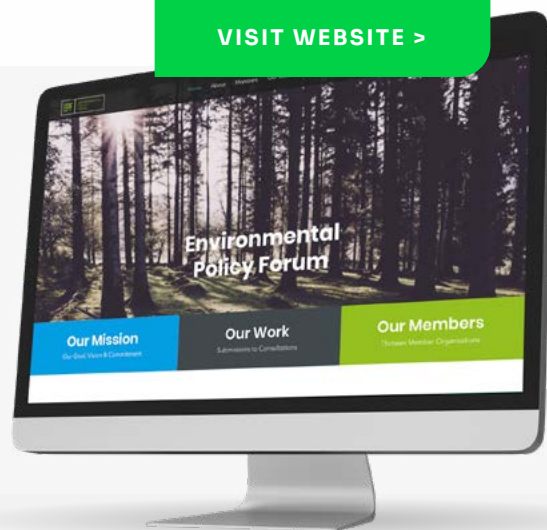
- A coalition of 13 professional bodies and learned societies
- Collective membership of around 70,000 environmental professionals
- Expertise driven collaboration

Working together to influence environmental policy and its formulation by ensuring that environmental sustainability is high on policy agendas, the EPF:

- Responds to Government consultations
- Issues letters to Ministers, and,
- Holds events to share insights and good practice on shaping policy.

Among our recent activity, the EPF provided input on the new long-term legally binding environmental targets for England. We were pleased to see some of our asks realised in the final targets, for example increased ambition on species abundance. Our focus is now on working with the Government and others on successful implementation of these vital targets.

[VISIT WEBSITE >](#)



Climate action

We have covered our own carbon reporting on pages 21–23, but another integral part of our Royal Charter is in encouraging others to reduce their carbon footprint. We know that collaboration and the sharing of good practice are essential if we are to reach net zero by 2050.

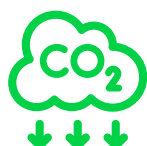
Reaching net zero – together

We knew we had to take leadership on this area, as we had organisations and professional bodies coming to us wanting to do the right thing and reduce their emissions – but not knowing how best to go about it.

Born out of this need for robust net zero guidance, we are a founding signatory and supporter of Pledge to Net Zero (PtNZ) and the Professional Bodies Climate Action Charter (PBCAC) respectively. Both initiatives help to address uncertainties felt around climate action, by facilitating the sharing of good practice via credible and science-based knowledge and tools, backed by the experts.



at a glance



Partner of
the UN Race
to Zero
campaign



UK and
Ireland hubs

170+
signatories



Signatories collectively cut nearly 600,000 tonnes of carbon from baselines (based on 2022 report back data). [Visit: pledgetonetzero.org](https://pledgetonetzero.org)



PROFESSIONAL
BODIES CLIMATE
ACTION CHARTER

at a glance



Aligned
with the UN
Sustainable
Development
Goals



UK, Australia
and New
Zealand hubs

45+ combined
signatories and
supporters



[Visit: professionalsclimatecharter.org](https://professionalsclimatecharter.org)

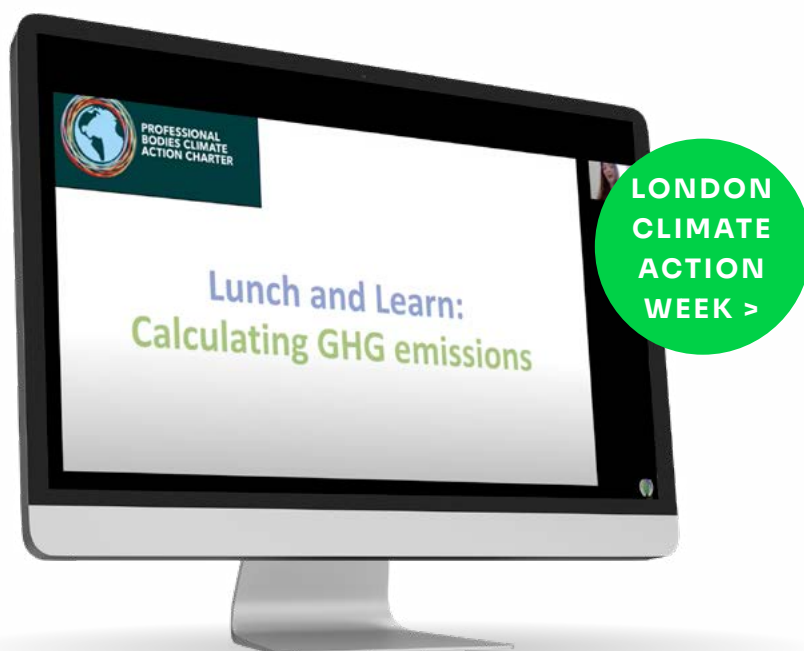
Impact through guidance

We have encouraged our partners to sign up to these initiatives, with our Licensed Members making up around a third of those PBCAC signatories and supporters. We have also contributed to guidance and support, including webinars and case studies, to help them deliver on their commitments and make a difference.

You can access some of this guidance via the links on this page.



The PBCAC have held events with signatories and supporters sharing good practice, including the Lunch and Learn session recording below.



Looking ahead

We will be producing even more guidance going forward to help organisations save carbon and will be publishing an offsetting toolkit.

We also plan to improve our tracking of the sector's progress in reaching net zero, demonstrating what's already being done and inspiring others to take robust action.

Spotlight webinar series

Raising awareness about environmental professional registration

We work in partnership with our Licensed Members to raise awareness of the benefits of becoming a CEnv, REnvP, and/or REnvTech – as well as the process involved in gaining one of these registrations. The purpose behind this activity is clear – to make more people aware of the benefits of environmental professional registration and provide the advice and tools to make the registration process as smooth as possible.

In practice: Spotlight webinar series

Since 2021, we have been co-ordinating a series of informative and inspirational ‘Spotlight’ webinars with our Licensed Members, each one providing tailored guidance to the members of each Professional Body.

Many of those series are now complete and feature the insights and advice of current CEnv, REnvP and REnvTech professionals.

These webinars, which have been viewed more than 6,200 times to date, are available to watch back for free via our YouTube channel.



Looking ahead

While we have anecdotal evidence on the impact of these webinars, we currently lack data to back this up beyond the number of people who have viewed the webinars.

In 2023- 24 we are aiming to measure the impact of these webinars, determining correlation between webinar attendance, and gaining an environmental professional registration.

Topical knowledge sharing

Knowledge Hub – in focus

In 2022 the launch of our new website also saw the creation of the Knowledge Hub – designed as a place of trusted information and expertise, insight, guidance, advice and CPD opportunities. Freely accessible to all, the Knowledge Hub helps us to deliver on our purpose to champion expert information for the public benefit.

- 300+ resources
- Consistently in the top 5 most visited of our webpages
- From technical reports to blogs, webinar recordings to podcasts

Topics featured include:

- Net zero
- Green jobs
- Circular economy
- Built environment
- Engineering

Content is open access with a mixture of original content and signposting to trusted external sources.

Just one example of a source on the Knowledge Hub is a topical webinar we held on World Environment Day 2023, in partnership with the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3).

In this webinar, two Chartered Environmentalists working in resource management shared what is being done in practice to #BeatPlasticPollution: Helene Roberts CEnv FIMMM – CEO at Robinson PLC and Iain Ferguson CEnv FIMMM – Environmental consultant.



Looking ahead

We will be building the Knowledge Hub content year on year, adding more CPD and original content on key topical issues. These resources will further showcase the incredible knowledge of registered environmental professionals.

We are also aiming to facilitate more opportunities for CEnv, REnvP and REnvTech professionals to share knowledge with each other, including through our growing 16,000+ strong LinkedIn following.

Soils and Stones Project

Introducing the project

Our Soils and Stones project is an example of what can be achieved through effective collaboration, from topical knowledge sharing to influencing policymakers.

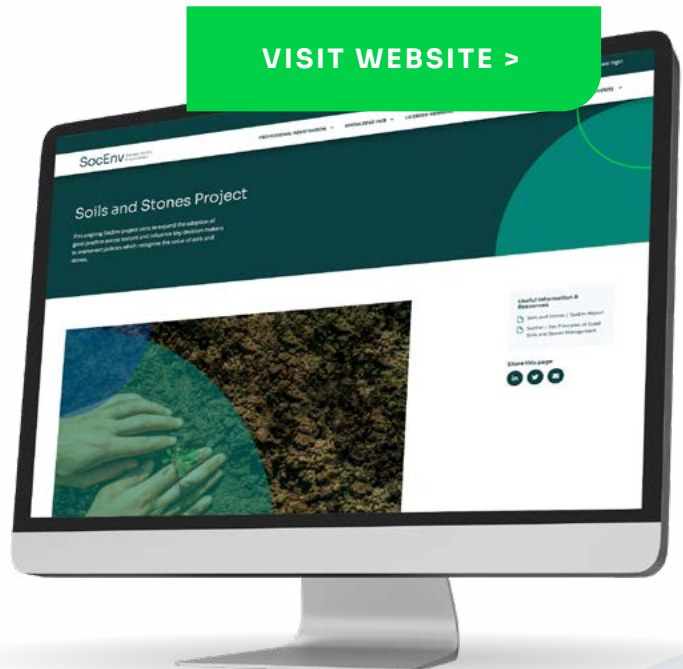
Since 2019, the project has been working to achieve recognition for the huge value of soils and related materials, by increasing the adoption of good practice and policies which reflect this value.

In Spring 2021, we published our hugely influential Soils and Stones report led by Chartered Environmentalists. A wide range of sectors were involved in shaping the report, including construction, resource management, forestry, engineering, and agricultural/land management. The report highlights existing cross-sector good practice, as well as setting out key asks for ensuring this good practice is more widely adopted.

Evidence to the MP inquiry into soil health

We know that our report has been influential with decision-makers, leading to an invitation in Spring 2023 to give oral evidence to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry into soil health. We were excellently represented at the inquiry by our Soils and Stones lead, Martin Ballard CEnv.

You can access our oral and written evidence to the inquiry via our website.

[VISIT WEBSITE >](#)


Ten Principles of Good Soils and Stones Management

Amongst our report's headline recommendations was the need for an overarching Soils and Stones framework, against which existing legislation and regulation can be reviewed and improved.

In 2023, this was achieved via the development of “The Ten Principles of Good Soils and Stones Management”, a document which seeks to provide a clear, straightforward outline of how to use and re-use soils and stones.

Developed by experts within the Regulation and Governance task group, the ten principles give soils a quantifiable value that will:

- Preserve, protect, remediate, and enhance natural soils as a living system.
- Present a hierarchy of options for excavated soils, stones and dredgings.
- Make soil a material consideration in all land-use and development projects.

We are calling for these principles to be embedded into all Government policies and mobilise the expertise of environmental professionals working across disciplines.



Looking ahead

It's been great to see the amazing work of the Soils and Stones project gain reach and recognition, including with key decision-makers.

Wherever resource allows, we will continue to embrace opportunities to expand our impact going forward.

Whether that be within the Soils and Stones project, or the potential for other CEnv-led special interest groups.

SocEnv Society for the
Environment

+44 (0)345 337 2951
enquiries@socenv.org.uk

297 Euston Road
London
NW1 3AD

socenv.org.uk

