

Society for the Environment: Sustainability Through Environmental Professionalism

The Society for the Environment is the body responsible for the registration of environmental professionals and is the custodian of the **Chartered Environmentalist** and **Registered Environmental Technician** registers. Since 2004, it has established a sound platform as the body tasked with championing and registering the expertise of environmental professionals.

Working as a partnership with 25 Licensed Bodies, the Society ensures the quality, relevance, and awareness of its registrations, enabling its partners and registrants to work together. It is in a unique position to bring together a range of disciplines and sectors to reflect the multi-disciplinary practice of environmental professionals.

There are over 9,000 environmental professionals to date and new registrants are continuing to join every year. The Society has also recognised exceptional contributions of over 70 individuals by awarding them Honorary Fellowships.

The Society operates under a Royal Charter, which mandates it to promote the advancement of, the dissemination of, knowledge of, and education in good environmental practice for the public benefit.

Membership & Chartered Environmentalist Status (CEnv)

In 2004, the Society for the Environment was granted a royal charter to award **Chartered Environmentalist** status to dedicated and experienced environmental professionals. Individuals with this designation are identified by the **CEnv** post-nominals.

Today there are over 7400 Chartered Environmentalists registered, drawn from a range of diverse fields including engineering, forestry and waste management. Chartered status reflects a high level of skill and experience, setting Chartered Environmentalists apart from others working in their field; it enhances career prospects through establishing proven expertise, experience and commitment to professional standards.

In the UK and across the world, Chartered Environmentalists utilise their specific expertise to lead departments, advise governments, and work hands-on as practitioners.

Stand Out from the Crowd

As the prominence and reputation of Chartered Environmentalists continues to grow in the profession, chartered status is increasingly seen internationally as a highly desirable demonstration of an individual's competence. Registration as a Chartered Environmentalist demonstrates that an individual has been judged by their peers to be working at the highest possible standards in the environmental profession. Chartered Environmentalists must be able to demonstrate the following attributes:

- High-level of theoretical knowledge of sustainability and environmental issues;
- Successful application of this knowledge to lead sustainable management of the environment;
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills;
- A personal commitment to maintain professional standards and to recognise obligations to society, the profession, and the environment.

The use of the post-nominal letters "CEnv" allows Chartered Environmentalists to signal this level of knowledge and expertise to employers, the public, and potential clients.

Showcase Continuing Commitment to Professionalism

All Chartered Environmentalist commit to following a Code of Professional Conduct and undertaking Continued Professional Development (CPD). This demonstrates that the individual consistently maintains their ability to practice at the high standards expected of Chartered Environmentalists.

Make a Difference

Having Chartered Environmentalists leading and making decisions helps to enhance public trust in environmental services and those responsible for environmental-related decisions.

Join the Network

Joining the directory of environmental professionals on the Society for the Environment's website allows Chartered Environmentalists to be available to those looking for experts in their sector. It also helps them find relevant contacts to build their professional network.

Increased Opportunities

Becoming a Chartered Environmentalist provides a wealth of new opportunities for professional development:

- Invitations to speak at events hosted by the Society, Licensed Bodies, and partner organisations;
- Discounted access to a variety of events, conferences, and networking opportunities;
- Opportunities to showcase your good practice case studies through the Society website and newsletters;
- Opportunities to attend cross-disciplinary events hosted by other professional bodies.

Eligibility

The first prerequisite required to be eligible for registration as a Chartered Environmentalist is to be a member of one of our 25 Licensed Bodies. Each Licensed Body may have their own requirements for membership, and these must be fulfilled before an application for CEnv status can proceed.

Registration as a CEnv is open to any individual who demonstrates the required professional competences set out in the section below. Individuals generally develop these through a combination of education and work experience.

The application process for becoming a Chartered Environmentalist requires master's degree-level thinking, demonstrated either through achievement of a relevant master's degree or through the submission of written work deemed to be at an equivalent level by the registration assessors.

Finally, in order to be eligible for CEnv status, a candidate must be willing to comply with the Society for the Environment's **Code of Professional Conduct**, as laid out below in the "**How to Apply**" section.

Competences

In addition to eligibility criteria stated above, successful Chartered Environmentalists must demonstrate twelve competences, across the following four broad areas (full details of these competencies are noted in Appendix 1):

- A. Application of knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainability.
- B. Leading sustainable management of the environment.
- C. Effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- D. Personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession, and the environment.

Application Process

To become a Chartered Environmentalist, you must first become a member of one of our 25 Licensed Bodies licensed to award CEnv status to members meeting the above criteria. Professional Members and Fellows of the Institute of Chartered Foresters wishing to become Chartered Environmentalists need to complete the appropriate application form and submit it to the Institute's Member Services department.

Candidates whose application is deemed acceptable, will then be invited to attend a peer-reviewed interview held as part of the Institute's annual Professional Membership assessments.

On being admitted to the Society of the Environment as a Chartered Environmentalist, you would be required to sign the Society's Code of Professional conduct, which commits you to the following standards:

- Act in accordance with the best principles for the mitigation of environmental harm and the enhancement of environmental quality;
- Strive to ensure that the uses of natural resources are fair and sustainable, taking account of the needs of a diverse society;
- Use skills and experience to serve the needs of the environment and society;
- Serve as an example to others for responsible environmental behaviour;
- Not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, or discrimination; and
- Commit to maintaining personal professional competence and strive to uphold the integrity and competence of the profession.

Application Fees

Application fees are set at £400 and must be paid on application. You can enclose a cheque with your form or request an invoice, which you can then pay by credit /debit card or by bank transfer

Annual Subscription Fees

The subscription fee for membership of the Society of the Environment is paid annually in addition to the Institute's membership subscription, which are due by 1st January. The Institute will issue all members with a demand notice for the following year's fees each November/December.

You can find the current fees on the institute's website or by calling the Member Services Department on 0131 240 1425.

Appendix 1: Competencies

A - Application of Knowledge and Understanding of the Environment to Further the Aims of Sustainability

This covers the specific interface between the applicant's professional activities and the environment, requiring underpinning knowledge of the principles of sustainability, the ability to apply it, and the ability to analyse and evaluate problems.

A1 Have Underpinning Knowledge of Sustainability Principles in the Management of the Environment

- Critically analyse, interpret and evaluate complex environmental information to determine sustainable courses of action.
- Understand the wider environmental context in which the area of study or work is undertaken.
- Understand the importance of maintaining enhancing natural cycles and biodiversity in achieving sustainability.
- Reformulate and use practical, conceptual, or technological understanding of environmental management to develop ways forward in complex situations.

A2 Apply Environmental Knowledge and Principles in Pursuit of Sustainable Environmental Management in Professional Practice

- Conceptualise and address problematic situations that involve many interacting environmental factors.
- Determine and use appropriate methodologies and approaches.
- Critically evaluate actions, methods and results and their short and long-term implications.
- Actively learn from results to improve future environmental solutions and approaches, and build best practice.
- Negotiate the necessary contractual and agreed arrangements with other stakeholders.

A3 Analyse and Evaluate Problems from an Environmental Perspective, Develop Practical Sustainable Solutions, and Anticipate Environmental Trends to Develop Practical Solutions

- Analyse and evaluate problems, some complex, from an environmental perspective working sometimes with incomplete data.
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and addressing problems.
- Demonstrate a critical awareness of current environmental problems and anticipate the impact of future environmental trends. Critically analyse and embrace new environmental information and seek new knowledge, skills and competences in the field of environment based on the most recent scientific, social, economic, cultural, and technical developments and understanding.

B. Leading Sustainable Management of the Environment

These criteria entail a candidate demonstrating the ability to promote behavioural and cultural change, a strategic approach, and leadership and management skills.

B1 Promote Behavioural and Cultural Change by Influencing Others to Secure Environmental Improvements that Go Beyond Minimum Statutory Requirements

- Develop good practices [best practice] by actively learning from results to improve future environmental solutions and approaches.
- Help, mentor and support others to understand the wider environmental picture.
- Advocate sustainability concerns and environmental issues, and encourage others to actively contribute to environmental protection and sustainability.

B2 Promote a Strategic Environmental Approach

- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in developing strategies for sustainable development and environmental improvement.
- Actively collaborate and engage with other disciplines and stakeholders and encourage multi- and interdisciplinary approaches to environmental challenges.
- Identify constraints and exploit opportunities for the development and transfer of environmentally appropriate technology.
- Identify areas of uncertainty and risk including health and safety, environmental, technical, business, and reputational.

B3 Demonstrate Leadership and Management Skills

- Exercise autonomy and judgement across environmental and sustainability issues.
- Motivate and influence others to agree and deliver environmental objectives.

- Identify individual needs, plan for their development, assess individual performance and provide feedback.
- Reflect on outcomes, identify and pursue improvements on previous practice.

C. Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills

This covers the ability to communicate the case, liaise, negotiate and encourage others.

C1 - Demonstrate Leadership and Management Skills

- Deliver presentations to a wide spectrum of audiences.
- Lead and sustain debates.
- Contribute to and chair meetings and discussions.
- Identify, engage with, and respond to a range of stakeholders.

C2 - Ability to Liaise with, Negotiate with, Handle Conflict, and Advise Others in Individual and/or Group Environments (Either as a Leader or Member)

- Understand the motives and attitudes of others and be aware of different roles.
- Influence decision-making.
- Seek the opinions and contributions of others.
- Promote development opportunities and activities.
- Champion group decisions and manage conflict for the achievement of common goals and objectives.

Personal Commitment to Professional Standards, Recognising Obligations to Society, the Profession, and the Environment

Under the final section, the candidate must show a commitment to personal development, an understanding of ethical dilemma, and a compliance with all relevant codes of practice and conduct.

D1 Encourage Others to Promote and Advance a Sustainable and Resilient Approach by Understanding their Responsibility for Environmental Damage and Improvement

- Inform and encourage others to consider environmental sustainability issues and the consequence of their decisions and actions.

D2 Take Responsibility for Personal Development and Work towards and Secure Change and Improvements for a Sustainable Future

- Recognise the value of Continued Professional Development (CPD) to the profession.
- Have a strong desire to learn
- Value and actively pursue personal professional development.

D3 Demonstrate an Understanding of Environmental Ethical Dilemmas

- Understand the nature of professional responsibility.
- Identify the environmental ethical elements in decisions.
- Address and resolve problems arising from questionable environmental practice.

D4 Comply with Relevant Codes of Conduct and Practice