

Chartered Environmentalist Specification

*"Sustainability through
Environmental Professionalism"*

S o c E n v

Society for the Environment



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Section 1

Why become a Chartered Environmentalist?

Chartered Environmentalists embrace a wide range of disciplines and is an excellent way of recognising virtuosity in environmental management and sustainability. The designation benefits all concerned with the environment:

- The Public, who can be confident in the knowledge and competence of an environmental practitioner.
- Practitioners by identification as a professionally qualified environmentalist that puts them at the forefront of their profession.
- Employers, with confirmation of the professional ability and competence of employees and applicants.
- Governments and governmental bodies seeking to appoint advisers or consultants will be assured about an individuals competence.
- Professional Bodies, who will be able to benchmark the qualification for membership purposes.
- Higher Education, in setting and monitoring benchmarks for environmental courses, and promoting study programmes.
- Regulatory Bodies, who could be confident in specifying the CEnv designation in Acts of Parliament and Regulations.
- Legal credibility, enabling expert witness participation at a defined standard.
- Professional standing, recognising equality of excellence across a wide range of environment disciplines.

Registration sets Chartered Environmentalists apart from those who are unregistered. It establishes their competence, and in particular, demonstrates a commitment to professional standards and enhancing competence. Chartered status gives a proven edge to candidates applying for posts, whether or not this is a requirement in the job specification.

Employers of Chartered Environmentalists have the assurance of knowing their employees have had their competence assessed and their commitment to continuing professional development established to consistent and rigorous standards.

Recognition of Chartered Environmentalist

The Chartered Environmentalist status establishes professional environmentalists on a par with other professionals such as Chartered Engineers and Chartered Scientists. It serves the needs of a broad range of environmental professionals and it is expected that as numbers of national and international members increase, it will become the international benchmark.

How to become a Chartered Environmentalist

To enter the registration process, a candidate must:

- be a full (voting) member of a licensed body;
- have a minimum of 12 units of knowledge and/or experience, which will include at least four years relevant experience, depending upon the level and duration of academic study (see Section 3 of this booklet for more details);
- demonstrate knowledge of, competence in and engagement with sustainable management of the environment; and
- agree to comply with the Society's Code of Ethics and the Continuing Professional Development requirements of their licensed body.

Once Chartered status is achieved, retention will also require continued membership of one of the Society for the Environment's Licensed Bodies and payment of the annual fee. Chartered Environmentalists may transfer their registration, which is always through a Licensed Body to another Licensed Body during their career.

Chartered Environmentalist status is open to everyone who can demonstrate competence to perform work as a professional to the necessary standards and commit themselves to:

- maintain their competence;
- work within the professional code of ethics; and
- participate actively within the profession.

What is Competence?

Section 2 of this booklet sets out the thresholds for generic competence for registration as a Chartered Environmentalist. These standards have been developed with the support of all our Licensed Bodies and approved by our Registration Authority. Competence includes the knowledge, understanding and skills which underpin performance. Professional Environmentalists become competent through a mixture of education and experience. This enables them to develop as professionals to a level of competence which can be assessed to be of Chartered status.

How is Competence Assessed?

To become Chartered Environmentalists applicants must have their competence assessed by a professional review process. This process is undertaken by Licensed Bodies of the Society for the Environment. The assessment is undertaken by two practising environmental professionals, who themselves are Chartered Environmentalists, trained in the professional assessment process. Applicants are assessed against the areas of competence outlined in Section 2 of this booklet. The assessment process will take into account the CV and written reports provided by the applicant, as well as evidence provided during the Professional Review Interview.

Chartered Environmentalists must be competent to:

- A. Use knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainable development.*
- B. Analyse and evaluate problems from an environmental perspective, and develop practical sustainable solutions.*
- C. Demonstrate leadership in sustainable management of the environment.*
- D. Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills.*
- E. Demonstrate a personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment.*

Section 2

Chartered Environmentalist Specification

This specification defines the competences that have to be demonstrated for registration through a licensed body as a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). The competences are grouped into five Key Areas, together with examples of how an applicant might demonstrate compliance. It is recognised that each applicant will have a unique engagement with the environment, dependent upon his or her job role, experience and/or qualifications.

This specification is, therefore, a generic standard against which each candidate can be assessed with respect to their current levels of competencies that will tend to be sector specific.

Key Competencies

A Use their knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainable development.

A1 Understand fundamental sustainable development principles, in particular the environmental management component.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- Describe the relationship between economic, social and environmental issues.
- Understand the need for natural resource protection.
- Understand the need to create sustainable communities – places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.
- Understand the need for sustainable consumption and production and the requirement to achieve more with less.
- Identify global environmental issues and define how they can impact at a local level.

A2 Demonstrate an ability to contribute to sustainable development through the application of knowledge and understanding.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- Identify the limits of own personal knowledge and skills.
- Promote environmental improvement throughout the organization's customer and supplier networks.
- Have regard to relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks, including social and employment legislation.
- Operate and act responsibly, taking account of the need to progress environmental, social and economic outcomes.

A3 Explain the critical importance of maintaining and enhancing natural cycles and biodiversity in achieving sustainability.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- Identify links between natural resource degradation, habitat destruction and impact on species, consequent upon depleting natural resources.
- Understand important natural cycles (hydrological, carbon, etc.) and the potential impact of people and organisations on them.

B Analyse and evaluate problems from an environmental perspective and develop practical sustainable solutions.

B1 Clearly analyse and evaluate environmental problems.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Identify and agree appropriate environmental assessment methodologies (which might include Life Cycle Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment).*
- *Use imagination, creativity and innovation to provide products and services that support the principles of sustainable development.*

B2 See beyond strict legislative compliance and anticipate environmental trends.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Understand current environmental legislation and anticipate its future direction.*
- *Demonstrate how future possible legislation might influence current decision-making.*
- *Anticipate possible environmental change and predict possible consequences.*

C Demonstrate leadership in sustainable management of the environment.

C1 Seek to positively influence others in respect of environmental issues, effects and sustainable development.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Actively learn from feedback on results to improve future environmental solutions and build best practice.*
- *Negotiate the necessary contractual arrangements with other stakeholders (client, subcontractors, suppliers, etc.).*
- *Encourage others to understand the wider environmental picture.*
- *Provide leadership ensuring development is carried out in a sustainable manner.*

C2 Promote a positive sustainable environmental culture and move towards sustainability.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Identify and influence users' needs and opportunities for environmental improvement.*
- *Assess marketing needs and contribute to marketing strategies.*
- *Identify constraints and exploit opportunities for the development and transfer of technology within own chosen field.*
- *Promote new environmental applications and/or solutions when appropriate.*
- *Influence others to promote behavior and culture change.*

C3 Demonstrate leadership and management skills.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Motivate others - agree objectives and work plans with teams and individuals.*
- *Identify team and individual needs, and plan for their development.*
- *Assess team and individual performance, and provide feedback.*
- *Mentor and support others in the work place.*

D Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills.

D1 Develop and communicate the environmental case.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Contribute to, chair and record meetings and discussions.*
- *Prepare letters, documents and reports.*
- *Exchange information and provide advice to colleagues.*
- *Engage with a wider audience by writing articles/guidelines/books etc.*

D2 Identify, engage with and respond to an appropriate range of stakeholders.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Be aware of the needs and concerns of others.*
- *Form and maintain productive working relationships with others.*
- *Understand and encourage stakeholder involvement and be accountable to them.*

D3 Develop effective means with which to liaise with and advise others.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Organise and lead work teams, coordinating project activities.*
- *Provide feedback to colleagues and recommend improvements.*
- *Present conclusions of environmental debates clearly and concisely when consulted.*

E **Demonstrate a personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment.**

E1 Ensure individuals and organisations are accountable and understand their responsibility for environmental damage and improvement.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Comply with the rules of professional conduct of own professional body.*
- *Promote and engage /comply with environmental reporting and disclosure within limits of client confidentiality.*
- *Work constructively within relevant legislation and regulatory frameworks, including social and employment legislation.*
- *Ensure that variations from environmental standards, improvement programmes and budgets are identified, and that corrective action is taken.*
- *Sign and commit to SocEnv Code of Ethics.*

E2 Take responsibility for own personal development and work towards and secure change and improvements for a sustainable future.

Some examples of how this could be demonstrated are:

- *Develop and evaluate opportunities and constraints for continuous environmental improvement.*
- *Identify the required cost, quality, safety, reliability, appearance, fitness for purpose and environmental impact of changes and improvements.*
- *Actively learn from feedback on results to improve environmental outcomes and establish best practice.*
- *Undertake reviews of own development needs.*
- *Prepare and evaluate action plans to meet personal and organisational objectives.*

Section 3

Education and Experience

To be eligible for consideration as a Chartered Environmentalist, candidates must accrue a total of 12 units where:

- 1 years relevant experience = 1 unit
- 1 years relevant education = 2 units
- The minimum qualifying academic/vocational qualifications are HNC/HND or NVO level 4.
- A maximum of **eight units** can be accrued for education.
- Part-time education courses can count pro-rata towards the education units and work experience can count towards relevant work units - if judged appropriate by the Licensed Body.
- A minimum of **four years** vocational experience is required.

Professional Behaviour

In addition to the requirements of the Licensed Body through which an application is made, applicants will also be required to comply with the following SocEnv Code of Ethics.

As a Chartered Environmentalist I will:

- 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 my 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, deceit or misrepresentation or discrimination; and,
- commit to maintaining my personal professional competence and strive to maintain the integrity and competence of my profession.

Maintaining Competence

Chartered Environmentalists are expected to undertake appropriate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) by:

- identifying and prioritising their development needs and opportunities;
- using appropriate guidelines from their Licensed Body together with competence benchmark standards;
- pursuing a development action plan using a range of appropriate learning opportunities;
- recording development achievements; and
- evaluating achievements and reviewing against needs.

Revalidation of Chartered Environmentalist

Formal revalidation of professional registration is not required once registered. Chartered Environmentalists are encouraged to ensure that they effectively maintain their professional competences up to date. They may be removed or suspended if they are found not to have maintained such competences.

Further Information

All applications and assessments for the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) process are conducted by a Licensed Body under license to SocEnv. All enquiries should be directed to one of them. A list of all current Licensed Bodies may be found on the SocEnv website: www.socenv.org.uk.

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