



Candidate information pack

Job title: Deputy Director, Sustainable Business

Vacancy ID: 33010

Location: National

Date: January 2026

The role

We're looking for a Deputy Director to lead our Sustainable Business team, this role sits within our Corporate and National Services Directorate.

As consumers/partners become further aware of the ever-growing impact on our climate and the impact they are having on the environment, a growth in sustainable business has risen exponentially over the last few years.

A key outcome of the role will be to enable delivery of the Environment Agency sustainability strategy: eMission, which includes:

- Leading the response to the climate crisis (net zero carbon by 2045-50)
- Leading the transition of our operations to a circular economy
- Leading the halt in decline in nature and supporting its recovery in our own operations and estate.

You will:

- Lead an established implementation team. That team designs how eMission gets built into business as usual. This will mean changes to the architecture of the organisation (for example business planning and business cases).
- Responsible for corporate governance by assuring Executive Directors Team and the Board on the EA's Environmental compliance and accreditation to ISO (International Standards Organisation).
- Through strong programme management and appropriate governance arrangements, manage organisation risk of failure to deliver on eMission.
- Lead a team of technical experts and business partners to support the business in delivery of the above.
- Work with DEFRA Group property to share good practise and set the standards we need to deliver eMission outcomes.
- Work with our other supply chain partners to drive innovation to help us meet our eMission outcomes.

Salary and benefits

Join us in this role and you will enjoy the following benefits:

Grade Rate: £81,000 pro-rata - if part time or an assignment)

Location: National

Hours of work: 37 hours FTE.

Leave entitlement

Your leave allowance in this role will be 27 days/ 200 hours or equivalent, depending on working pattern, plus bank holidays. Your allowance will be pro-rata if you work part time, or you are on an assignment to a role at a higher grade that attracts an increased entitlement. Your entitlement depends on your grade, your contracted hours, and your length of continuous service.

We offer up to two days paid environmental outcome days each year. These give you the opportunity to take part in community activities with a clear environmental outcome for people and wildlife.

Enhanced maternity, adoption and paternity leave, and sickness absence provisions are available.

Additional paid leave is available for employees taking part in public duties, trade union activities, special/trained forces and for health and safety representatives.

Work/life balance

We support and encourage flexible working hours and practices at all levels to help you achieve a good balance between your work life and your personal life. We will encourage you to keep developing your skills and professional knowledge throughout your career.



Pension

We will enrol you into the Environment Agency Pension Fund (EAPF) on commencing employment if your employment contract is for 3 months or more. The EAPF is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It is a career average scheme, which means you will build up benefits based on your pay each scheme year rather than your final salary.

We will base your pension contributions on your actual pay and you will receive tax relief on your contributions. The pension contribution rates currently range between 5.5% to 12.5%. Whilst you are in the scheme, we will pay an employer contribution into your pension pot. We currently pay 19%, so this is a very generous scheme.

Relocation

For eligible roles, we may be able to offer financial assistance with the cost of relocation. This is normally in cases where the role is critical to the delivery of our business and where the vacancy has proven hard to fill due to scarcity of the required specialist, niche, or technical skills available in the market. Please speak to the hiring manager through the details provided in the advert to discuss whether the role you are applying for fits into this category.

Relocation support is not guaranteed and will be discussed upon request subject to you being offered a post with us.

Location

If you are contractually based in one of our eligible locations, you will receive a London Weighting allowance.

Future incident response

Incident response is an integral part of what the Environment Agency does. Our remit is wide ranging, and we are responsible for many incidents that affect the natural environment, human health, and property in England. When incidents happen, we strive to keep people safe and minimise serious and lasting damage to the environment and the communities we serve.

Everyone that joins us will undertake training and participate in our incident response. There are many exciting roles you could be doing anything from being on the scene of a waste fire advising the emergency services, to gathering and reporting vital information while working from home or one of our offices, visiting communities to warn and inform people about flood risk, providing specialist advice, or ensuring that urgent work in your team or department continues whilst your colleagues respond to incidents.

Some of our staff are required to carry out an incident role that involves being on on-call (standby) to work out of hours, this is usually 1 in every 8 weeks. Other incident roles are activated when they are needed. For these you will be given notice beforehand and have some flexibility on when and how you contribute. We want you to develop skills and feel confident in your incident role and will provide you with all the relevant professional training and peer support you need to deliver it.

Incident response has many rewards, including financial benefits for out of hours work. It provides our people with opportunities to develop new skills and work in a dynamic environment alongside new colleagues, local communities, and emergency response partners. We want the Environment Agency to be a life enhancing place to work. We will work with you to ensure you are able to participate in a way that suits you and supports a healthy work-life balance.

The Environment Agency is committed to be an inclusive employer. To achieve this in our incident roles workplace adjustments are available to support those with additional support needs, for example colleagues with a disability or a neurodiverse condition and/or colleagues with caring responsibilities.



Personal development

Performance management Individual performance plans, learning and development matched to your agreed career objectives and progression plans.

Learning and development A range of training courses, leadership development initiatives and access to learning and development materials are available, covering technical, managerial and personal skills.

Examination leave Paid leave for exams and revision for approved studies.

Professional subscriptions* We will pay the membership fees for one relevant professional association.

Mentoring and coaching access to support development and career progression.

Apprenticeships We offer over thirty different, fully funded, apprenticeship qualifications across our business. These allow eligible employees to gain technical qualifications (for example in civil or maintenance engineering) or in general business skills (for in Management, Leadership or Project Management). A number of these are offered up to and including degree level, allowing employees to obtain a Bachelor of Science (BSc) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) qualification that is fully funded by the Environment Agency.

If you are successful in securing a permanent role at the Environment Agency and meet the eligibility criteria you will have the opportunity to complete an apprenticeship that is linked with your role.

Work/life balance

Flexible Working Flexible working patterns including job share, home-based or hybrid working, and flexible working hours.

Travel and transport A range of travel and transport benefits. Discounts on Haven Holidays and HotelStay.

Shopping and leisure A variety of discounts at online stores and leisure experiences.

Health and wellbeing

Occupational health Access to Duradiamond Healthcare advisory service.

Eye care Free eye tests.

Employee assistance service Access to Workplace Wellness available to you and your family.

Sports and social club Opportunity to benefit from a wide range of subsidized events and discounts.

Health discount Optional discounts provided by a number of external providers and health clubs.

Local benefits These vary from region to region.

Finance

Interest free loans* For season tickets, bicycles and safety equipment.

Financial education club Providing guidance on how to manage your finances including information on credit scores, pensions, buying your first house and getting debt-free.

Tenancy deposit loan scheme*

For employees directly employed by the Environment Agency, access to an interest free loan to pay for some, or all of a deposit on a privately rented home. The loan can be paid back over a period of up to 12 months, directly from the monthly salary.

The following benefit is only applicable to eligible roles:

- Free Car Parking

*May be subject to completion of probationary period.

Diversity and inclusivity

The Environment Agency values a diverse workforce and welcomes applications from all sections of the community who wish to join a workforce which values difference and welcomes everyone.

We aim to create and maintain a diverse workforce (including our Board and Executives) that better reflects the UK's economically active population. We recognise the challenges that individuals with (multiple) protected characteristics may experience in the job market. We are committed to being an inclusive employer and ensuring equal opportunities. Therefore, we particularly welcome applications from people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (B.A.M.E) communities; people with a disability; female; those part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans community (L.G.B.T+); gender diverse people, and candidates from lower socio-economic backgrounds who are under-represented across our workforce.

We will consider flexible working patterns for all our vacancies, including job share.

We recruit based on merit. This means our selection process is designed to be fair, open and equal.

Our culture

Our aspired culture will enable us to deliver our goals and is summarised in the following statements, collectively known as 'How We Do Things':

- One team, one mission – create a better place.
- Focus on outcomes: deliver our commitments.
- Think big, act early, be visible.
- Seek partnership, show leadership, take responsibility.
- Innovate, move fast, stay agile.
- Value difference: include everyone.
- Be kind, stay safe and grow.

Our policies on bullying, harassment and discrimination.

We believe in providing a work environment that is free from bullying, harassment and discrimination, and that recognises the dignity of all our employees. We aim to ensure that our culture is built on mutual trust and respect, and everyone is treated with the dignity they deserve.

We will not tolerate bullying and harassment or discrimination, it is embedded in our code of conduct and we have policies and guidance in place to support and protect all our employees. We have the following measures, should you witness, or be subject to bullying and harassment. You can:

- Talk to one of our Respect at Work advisors;
- Call the Employee Assistance Programme;
- Contact a trade union representative;
- Speak to your manager, or another you feel comfortable with;
- Speak to a colleague.

Disability Confident Scheme

We are committed to the Disability Confident Scheme. We guarantee an interview for any person with a disability, defined by the Equality Act 2010 if:

- They have a physical or mental impairment;
- The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to perform normal day-to-day activities.

This positive action policy provides disabled applicants (which can include neurodiverse people and people with hearing loss and visual impairment) with the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities beyond the initial application stage by offering an interview providing the candidate meets the 'minimum criteria' for the job. By 'minimum criteria' the applicant must provide us with evidence in their application form which demonstrates that they meet the level of competence required for each essential competency, as well as meeting any of the qualifications, skills or experience defined as essential. To apply under this scheme, please go to the "Equality and Diversity" section of your online application.

Please note, the Disability Confident Scheme secures an invitation to interview, providing you meet the minimum criteria, it does not guarantee a job. At interview, all applicants will be marked solely on merit.

Reasonable adjustments

Interview Stage:

Candidates will be asked about any workplace adjustment that they might require during the interview process. This may include, for example, written version of interview questions, use of specialist software or additional time to complete an exercise, use of a sign language interpreter if a candidate is deaf.

On Appointment:

Any workplace adjustments you require will be discussed and put in place before you start work.

Disability leave

Disability leave is a workplace adjustment to help you manage your disability at work. You may need additional time off to support you with the assessment, treatment or rehabilitation for your medical condition and disability leave is designed to cater for this.

If you have a “physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities” (Equality Act 2010) you may be eligible to request disability leave. This can include neurodiverse people and people with hearing loss or a visual impairment.

Employee networks

We have an increasing number of employee networks and forums that support our employees and help us build an inclusive culture, including:

- Autism and ADHD
- Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (B.A.M.E)
- Cancer
- Carers
- Chronic Pain
- Disability (such as dyslexia plus, hearing loss, visual impairment)
- EU Citizens
- Fatigue
- Faith and belief (such as Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh)
- Gender Equality
- LGBT+
- Mental Health
- Respect at Work

Watch the video below to hear from some of our employees, and hear about their experience with us: [Value difference: include everyone - YouTube](#)



Further information

We will consider flexible working patterns for all our vacancies, including job share, so please let us know more at the assessment stage of the process.

Eligibility to apply and continuity of employment

Employment agency workers and contractors are considered to be external candidates and should therefore only apply for positions that are being advertised externally. They are not eligible to claim continuity of employment should they be successful in securing a position with the Environment Agency.

If you have been a member of a Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) in the last 12 months, we will not be able to continue with your application based on agreed appointment rules related to employing ex-RFCC members. We would welcome an application from you once the 12-month period have passed.

For applicants who currently work in local government or other bodies listed in the Redundancy Payments (Continuity of Employment in Local Government etc.) (Modification) Order 1999, you may be eligible for continuous service for the purpose of calculating any future redundancy payment.

In addition, if you can demonstrate that you have worked at the Environment Agency immediately before joining the Civil Service and are now being re-employed by the Environment Agency within a period of three years of leaving, you may also count your Civil Service employment for the purpose of calculating your service-related entitlements as outlined above. If you are unsure of your status, you should contact your own HR Team.

Right to work and eligibility for employment

Before applying, it is the responsibility of all candidates to ensure they have the correct right to work documentation.

If you require sponsorship, please ensure that the position you apply for meets the UK Visa & Immigration (UKVI) requirements. If selected, your appointment would be subject to you obtaining and maintaining the relevant work visa terms and conditions set for you by UKVI.

Skilled worker visa

For candidates looking to obtain a certificate of sponsorship and a skilled worker visa; in line with EA's policy, internal individuals can apply for a new Skilled Worker visa or renew an existing one only if their current right to work visa expires within three months.

External candidates who currently hold a skilled worker visa and need a new one to begin employment with the EA are exempt from the requirement that their existing visa must expire within 3 months before applying for a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS).

Candidates note, even if successful in post, EA cannot guarantee if a certificate of sponsorship can be issued as this will depend on the role and personal circumstances satisfying UKVI eligibility and availability of sponsorship certificates we are able to issue

Pre-employment checks

We apply the Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) check when recruiting employees to our posts. This includes a basic criminal records check.

For the great majority of roles in the Environment Agency this will be sufficient and only certain roles will require a higher level of clearance. Should this be necessary, you will be advised of this during the recruitment process.

Positions based at our London office or roles that require frequent travel to London require Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) level security clearance. This will be confirmed to you during the recruitment process.

Want to find out more?

To find out more about what it's like to work at the Environment Agency, please visit: environmentagencycareers.co.uk/working-here

How to apply

We use an online recruitment system. To make the application process simple and straightforward, and so that you know how it works and what we need from you, we've put together a few hints and tips. Make sure you have all the information you need about the vacancy. For some jobs, you'll be asked to download a candidate pack, like this one, where you'll find specific application instructions.

The first thing you need to do is sign up to our recruitment system. You will need a valid e-mail address to log in and apply for opportunities, as all communication from us will be via e-mail. You can do this via the vacancy you are interested in by selecting 'Apply' at the bottom of the advert.

Once you've clicked this link you'll then be asked:

- Do you have the right to live and work in the UK?
- Do you have the required qualifications or equivalent experience, which were stated in the job advert?
- Are you currently an employee of this organisation?

Simply answer yes or no and you can carry on with your application. You'll then see the 'Register' page. Simply complete the details and select 'Submit Registration' and register to the system. You only need to sign up to the system once; you'll just be able to login next time.

When it comes to the actual application, you need to fill out each section, please be aware that the system will automatically time out if you are inactive for more than 60 minutes. This will result in any unsaved information being lost so make sure you save what you are doing regularly.

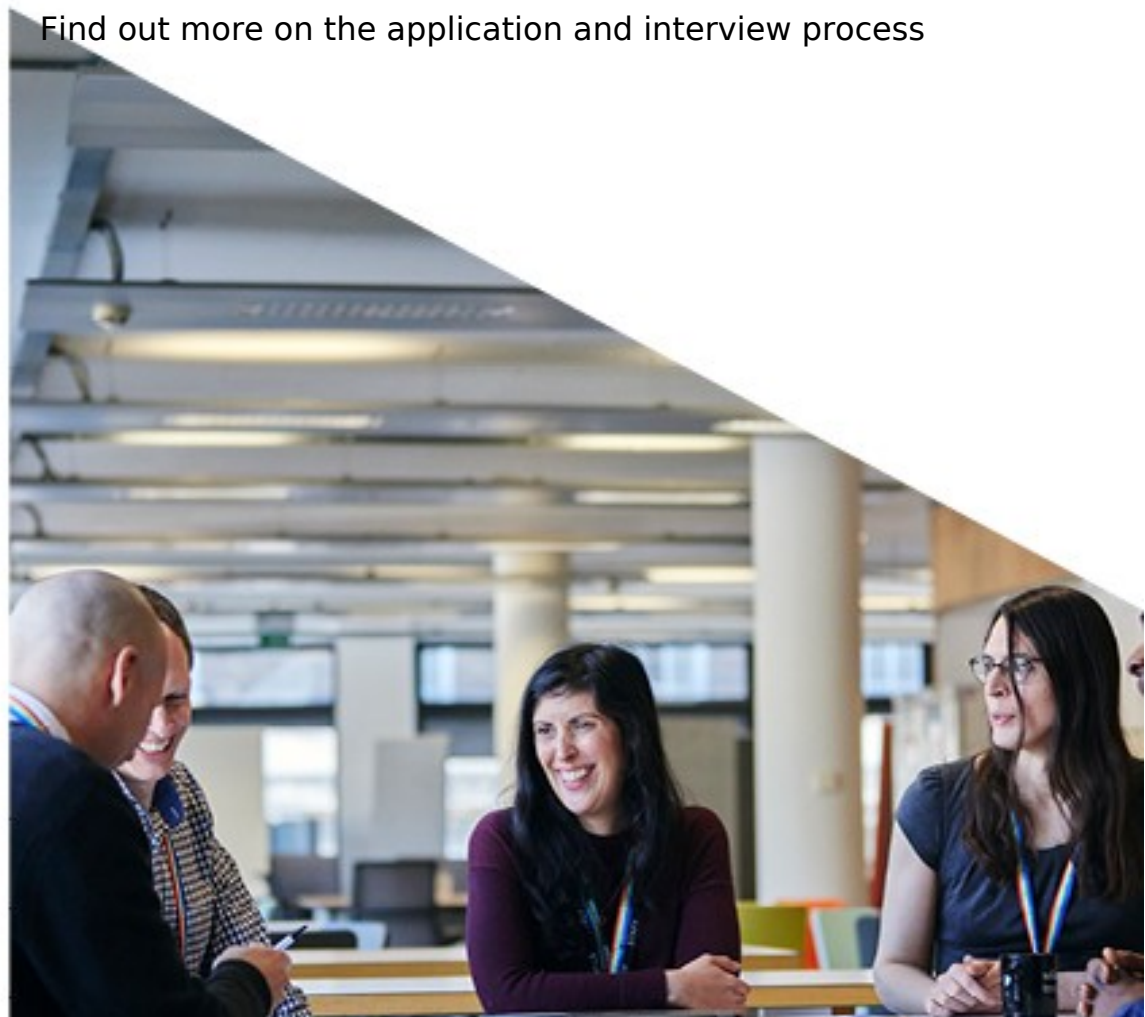
Start the process early to allow yourself time to answer the competency questions to the best of your ability.

Once you've finished, your details and information will be saved on the system for any future applications – of course, you can edit your details at any point.

When you apply to the Environment Agency for a job we will ask you to provide your personal data on our application form. We need this information so that we can establish your identity and your right to work in the UK.

You can read our Data Protection Statement on the application process page of our recruitment system. It is available for reference on each page of the actual application.

Find out more on the application and interview process



Submitting your application

In order to apply, please submit your CV and a covering letter.

Please Note: you must upload your CV and covering letter as one document/file on the recruitment system. Please do not submit them as separate documents.

Applicants should attach documents in one of the following formats:

- '.doc'
- '.docx'
- '.pdf'

Please Note: if your document has a '.dotx' file format this will not be recognised by our applicant tracking system and therefore will not be visible for sifting.

.Curriculum Vitae

Your CV should be no more than three A4 pages in length. It should be tailored to the requirements of the post and include details on your current and most recent role, skills, experience, notice period and salary.

Covering Letter

Your covering letter should be of no more than two A4 pages (Arial, 11pt)* and should outline your experience and suitability for the role, covering:

- Leads the organisation
- Influences and persuades others
- Delivers through others

Anonymity

Please complete your application ensuring your name or any other details that easily identify you are omitted, unless specifically asked to input them – this will be captured through the online portal, whilst ensuring applications can be considered anonymously.

Application questions

For some roles, we'll ask you some specific questions, e.g., if you have a preferred work location. If you are eligible for the Disability Confident Scheme and want your application to be considered on this basis, you can indicate this in the relevant section of your application form.

*Error messages when uploading files

This occurs when the file being uploaded is either corrupt or contains formatting that the recruitment system cannot process. The result is that the form page saves but it then cannot find the file that was uploaded and the candidate receives an error message.

You are advised to use only standard paper sizes e.g. A4, and to keep formatting simple where possible, with the file size being under 10MB.

This issue should not prevent you from applying

The Selection Process

Informal Discussions:

Candidates will have the opportunity to find out more about the role as there will be a virtual briefing session on **5th February 2026** at 3pm. Invitations can be acquired by emailing: directorofcorporateandnationalservices@environment-agency.gov.uk

Please note that this not part of the formal assessment process; it is intended to give candidates the opportunity to learn more about the appointment and the Environment Agency.

Assessments:

If shortlisted, you may be asked to take part in a Staff Engagement Exercise (SEE). This assessment will not result in a pass or fail decision. Rather, it is designed to support the panel's decision making and highlight areas for the panel to explore further at interview.

Interview:

You will be asked to attend a panel interview in order to have a more in-depth discussion of your previous experience and professional competence in relation to the criteria set out in "The Role" section. The interview panel may give a presentation topic to candidates for preparation ahead of the interview.

Interviews are scheduled to take place in person on 17th and 18th March in Birmingham

Further details will be provided to shortlisted candidates. An alternative date may be possible for candidates who cannot make this date, please indicate if you will need this on your application.

Offer and feedback:

The timeline later in this pack indicates the date by which decisions are expected to be made – all candidates will be advised of the outcome of their application as soon as possible thereafter.

Unfortunately, we are only able to offer feedback to candidates who are shortlisted and attend interview. Candidates who pass the interview, but are not offered a post may be kept on a reserve list for 6 months for similar roles that arise.

Timeline:

We will try and offer as much flexibility as we can, but it may not be possible to offer alternative dates for assessments or interviews. You are therefore asked to note the below timetable, exercising flexibility through the recruitment and selection process, in order to meet the dates given.

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

Application Closing Date 23:55 15th February 2026

Shortlisting w/c 16th and 23rd February 2026

Interviews 17th/18th March 2026

Submitting your application

Once you've filled out and completed everything, you'll be prompted to submit your application. Simply click the button and you're done.

Please be aware that once you've submitted your application, with the exception of the 'Personal Details' section you will not be able to edit your application further. If you decide to withdraw your application, you will not be able to submit another application for the same vacancy.

If, at any stage, you have questions or problems, please contact the SSCL Recruitment Team on 0345 241 5350 (Opt3) or email: defra-recruitment-enquiries@gov.sscl.com. Alternatively, you can contact SSCL via live chat [here](#).

Application withdrawal

If you wish to withdraw your application this can be actioned via:

Logging into the application centre under your relevant application listed below the 'your applications' section, you may select the 'review status' page of your application. You may then select 'withdraw'. Once selected you will be asked to complete a form asking for the reason for your withdrawal before your application can be removed. You can also opt to withdraw by notifying DEFRA-Recruitment-Enquiries@gov.sscl.com and declaring your intention to withdraw your application.

Setting up 'job alerts'

You can set up email alerts for future vacancies advertised on the EA jobs board. You will automatically receive an email when a job that matches your criteria becomes available. To do this simply click on 'create a new job alert', enter your job criteria and save. Other vacancies are also available via our partner People Scout. You can request more information on these opportunities at earecruitment@peoplescout.co.uk.





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