



**RMets**  
Royal Meteorological Society

# Careers for Climate



*Engage  
Enthuse  
Educate  
Empower*

# HOW CAN THE ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY SUPPORT YOUR CAREER FOR CLIMATE?

The Royal Meteorological Society (RMetS) is the UK's Professional and Learned Society for weather and climate. It works to strengthen the science, raise awareness of the importance of weather and climate, support meteorological professionals and inspire enthusiasts.

RMetS plays a key role as the custodian of both the science and the profession of meteorology in the UK and has an important role internationally as one of the world's largest meteorological societies. The Society is owned by its membership but exists for the benefit of all.

**Programmes of work are broad and diverse, with activities and events held for members, the public, educators, policy and decision-makers, and the wider weather and climate community.**

Showcased in this booklet, are a broad range of careers in which individuals make a difference in tackling climate change, from roles in research and government, to law, farming or psychology. Key considerations for developing your career for climate are set out on the back page, with information on how the Society can support you included throughout.

## Grants and Bursaries

The Society has a number of grants and bursaries to support those studying or working in weather and climate. The Legacies Fund provides small grants to help members finance expeditions, carry out research or attend meteorological conferences.

Similarly, the Carers' Fund provides small grants to help members take part in weather or climate-related events they may not otherwise be able to attend because they have caring responsibilities.

## Mentoring Scheme

The Society recognises the wealth of expertise amongst its membership and that mentoring from someone outside your organisation can be of great value. Members benefit from mentoring pairings that support them with insight, advice and guidance.

Mentoring activities include advice on professional development and how to grow professional networks, as well as improving skills such as leadership and communication.

## Get Involved

There are many ways you can be part of the Society, from volunteering as a student ambassador, to joining a local centre, to sitting on a committee. Many events and activities, such as the RMetS Early Career and Student Conference, can also be logged as part of ongoing career development to enhance your CV.

## Join Us

Enjoy exclusive insights, networking opportunities and cutting-edge resources to support you in your climate-related profession. The Royal Meteorological Society can help you advance your career and ensure respect and recognition via one of its two Chartered programmes.

To find out more about the Society, become a member, or benefit from career support and a wealth of climate and weather resources, please visit [rmets.org](https://rmets.org).

## Build your Career for Climate with the Royal Meteorological Society



# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “CAREERS FOR CLIMATE”?

Hannah Mallinson, Science Engagement Manager at the Royal Meteorological Society



With every year that passes, the impacts of climate change become increasingly evident around the world. This highlights the need for collective rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt. At the Royal Meteorological Society, we are passionate about promoting the broad range of careers available that contribute to tackling climate change, as well as supporting the needs of those considering or already working in and around climate. Through the 16 profiles in this booklet, we aim to showcase the wide variety of ways you can have a role that tackles climate change: a “career for climate” or “green career”.

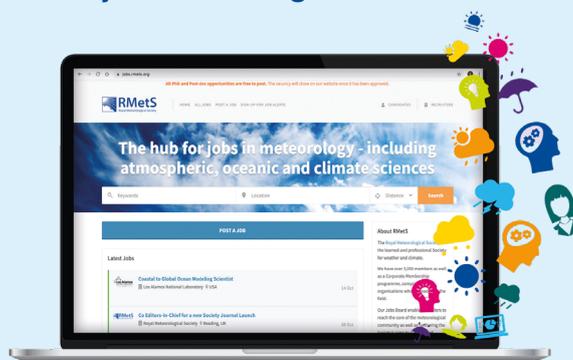
**A green career can be any job, role or occupation ‘that directly contributes to - or indirectly supports - the achievement of the UK’s net zero emissions target and other environmental goals, such as nature restoration and [adaptation]’.<sup>1</sup>**

Green jobs can be in any sector, not just those we perceive to be green. So, you could be supporting traditional industry in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, developing new technology for energy systems, or helping to manage and make day-to-day business more sustainable. Every job has the potential to become “green” as the UK transitions to net zero, but only with a workforce equipped with green skills.

Green skills broadly describe “the knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a sustainable and resource-efficient society”.<sup>2</sup> They can be broken down into occupational and technical knowledge, such as environmental auditing or clean energy engineering; transferable skills, such as decision-making, leadership, or creativity; and transformative capacities, such as systems-thinking and disruptive thinking.<sup>3</sup> Whether or not you are passionate about having an active role in tackling climate change, the future of jobs is green<sup>4</sup>, so developing these green skills (through on-the-job experience or training) should be a priority to improve your future employability and increase the range of opportunities open to you.

It really is an exciting time to be considering a green career – the sector is rapidly growing in the UK and will only continue to do so as we transition to a net zero economy. New industries and jobs continue to be created as we decarbonise, offering an array of fresh opportunities. There are options for everyone with various pathways into different jobs in different sectors, making it an accessible industry. We hope this is demonstrated through the individual profiles that follow and that, irrespective of background, you gain inspiration for where you could make a difference professionally in tackling climate change.

Find your career for climate at [jobs.rmets.org](https://jobs.rmets.org)



<sup>1</sup> Green Jobs Taskforce (2021). Green Jobs Taskforce: Report to Government, Industry and the Skills Sector. London, GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-jobs-taskforce-report>.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Industrial Development Organization (2022). What are green skills? Available at: [www.unido.org/stories/what-are-green-skills](https://www.unido.org/stories/what-are-green-skills).

<sup>3</sup> United National Children’s Fund (2024). Skills for the Green Transition: Solutions for Youth on the Move. New York, UNICEF. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/skills-green-transition>.

<sup>4</sup> World Economic Forum (2023). The future of jobs is green: How climate change is changing labour markets. Available at: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/04/future-of-jobs-is-green-2023-climate-change-labour-markets/>.

# CAREER PROFILES



Rosemary Tawn

**Technical Consultant  
(Data Science), TNEI**

**“I chose courses and topics...that I felt would make a positive difference to the world...”**

## **What does your job involve?**

As a consultant in the energy sector, understanding the relationships between weather and energy using observational and model data is central to my job. This sector has a strong focus on decarbonisation in the coming years to get to net zero and minimise our impact on the climate. There are many changes in terms of the increase in renewables and low-carbon technologies, such as heat pumps and electric vehicles, that affect the way the energy system will behave and be operated in the future. My job focuses on understanding these changes and developing solutions to allow the energy transition to happen quickly and fairly.

## **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I first studied a degree in physics, as I was interested in how the world works. I then obtained a PhD in wind energy forecasting, which helped me understand how to apply scientific skills to solve real world problems, and help progress renewable energy! After my PhD, I joined TNEI as part of their data science team and I have spent the last two years getting involved in interesting and varied projects across the energy sector.

## **Why did you choose this career path?**

I chose courses and topics that interested me and that I felt would make a positive difference to the world, particularly in terms of climate and sustainability, which are areas I particularly care about.

## **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

I would say it is important to think carefully about where your passions lie and what you will find rewarding to work on. Then consider what career paths match this and the skills you might need. Generally, communication skills, the ability to work independently, and enthusiasm for the role are really important alongside subject expertise. Finding a company whose values align with mine was also important for me.



Ashish Ghadiali

**Founder/Director, Radical Ecology**

**“Don’t get too comfortable doing things you don’t really believe in.”**

## **What does your job involve?**

Radical Ecology is a non-profit organisation that I co-founded and now lead. Its purpose is to disrupt siloes of thought and practice that make tackling the climate emergency difficult. We do that by facilitating unexpected collaboration – often between art and science, or between academia and civil society, or between the global north and the global south. We believe that this dialogic approach can generate new insights and new knowledge.

For example, we established the research and public engagement project, *Addressing the New Denialism*, in collaboration with the University of Exeter’s Global Systems Institute. In the run-up to COP26 we were puzzled by the fact that, while many leading scientists and government officials could tell us how much it might cost the global economy to limit global warming to 1.5°C, none of them could tell us how much it would cost to exceed 1.5°C. We brought together a philanthropist by the Open Society Foundations and a top climate scientist (Professor Tim Lenton) and posed the question that led to the study ‘Quantifying the human cost of global warming’.

This study has had some influence and raises fundamental questions about what we value and who we value.

## **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I am a filmmaker and grassroots activist. In 2019, I became part of a climate justice collective *Wretched of the Earth*, and in 2020, I got involved with the co-ordinating committee of the COP26 Civil Society Coalition, eventually leading on political strategy. I think that being able to demonstrate this experience was key when seeking the funding to set up Radical Ecology.

## **Why did you choose this career path?**

I think it is less a career path than active citizenship and I have been very fortunate to make a living from this work in recent years.

## **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Don’t get too comfortable doing things you don’t really believe in.



**Jacob Bieker**  
**Senior Machine Learning  
Research Engineer,  
Open Climate Fix**

**“I want my career to help people in some way...”**

**What does your job involve?**

My job involves building and training machine learning models and the associated infrastructure, such as data pipelines, to forecast renewable energy generation for electricity grids. These forecasts are used by operators of electricity grids, such as National Grid in the UK, to better balance the grid, and reduce its carbon footprint by cutting the number of backup generators required to keep it stable.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I did my undergraduate degree in physics and computer science, then a master's in astronomy, during which I used machine learning in my thesis. I also interned at Google and NASA, which provided useful experience for running things at scale and working with satellite data. I then worked at a startup, Scale AI, on the 3D research team, before moving on to Open Climate Fix. I gained a lot of experience building large and performant data pipelines, and learning how to develop models for different use cases.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

I want my career to help people in some way, while also allowing me to work on interesting problems. Working in climate tech fulfils both of these goals.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

The best way to get experience is to build something you are interested in! I obtained internships at Google and NASA based partly on personal projects that I had worked on and I could use to demonstrate my skills.



**Lydia Brown**  
**Disaster Relief Associate,  
Howden Group**

**“Surround yourself with...highly motivated and passionate people...”**

**What does your job involve?**

I specialise in offering guidance to both public and private sector entities on navigating the complexities of disaster risk management and financing. This involves conducting thorough analyses of the context through desktop reviews and engaging with stakeholders, followed by utilising climate modelling to deepen understanding of changing hazards. This insight is then communicated in an easily digestible format to help understand risk and enhance resilience to shocks. Recommendations span from evaluating mitigation strategies to promoting nature-based solutions, recommending alternative interventions and innovative financing methods. Example projects involve protecting marine ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass from tropical cyclones.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I have a BSc in Physical Geography from Durham University where I took modules in mountain hazards, oceans, natural hazards, and risk and resilience. I went on to do a master's in Risk and Disaster Science at the Institute of Risk and Disaster Reduction at UCL.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

From a young age my dad immersed me in the outdoors, introducing me to mountaineering, ski touring, climbing and sea kayaking. In sixth form, my cousin lost her life in an avalanche on Ben Nevis, which made me wake up to the risks and power of nature. The experience led me on a lifelong need to understand disasters and work to mitigate their risks.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Surround yourself with the right people, good people, highly motivated and passionate people, and together you will succeed. The climate space in particular is based on the concept of collaboration, innovation and collective action, driven by a shared commitment to do what is right for the planet.

# CAREER PROFILES



**Leo Hickman**  
Editor, Carbon Brief

**“Curiosity is the key ingredient.”**

## **What does your job involve?**

I edit the website Carbon Brief. We are a team of 24 journalists spread across four continents who specialise in explaining, rather than reporting, the latest developments in climate science and related policy.

## **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I have been a journalist for more than 25 years, having started my career at the Guardian newspaper in 1997. Over time, I have moved from being a general features writer and editor, towards the specialism of climate change. I actually studied art history at university, proving that you can move across fields throughout your career.

## **Why did you choose this career path?**

I did not set out from university to be a journalist, unlike many of my peers. I wanted to work in the “media”, ideally television or music. But I stumbled across a novel thing in the mid-1990s called the Internet and taught myself HTML.

It was a skill that was soon in hot demand – including at the Guardian. That was my big break and I stayed there for 16 years, learning journalism on the job!

## **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Curiosity is the key ingredient. Endless curiosity about the world around you. Keeping asking “why” about everything. If you have that, then you will make an excellent journalist. And scientist. And lawyer. And...



**Emma O'Brien**  
Lawyer, ClientEarth

**“It became clear early on in my legal career how inextricably linked human rights and climate change are...”**

## **What does your job involve?**

I work as a lawyer for ClientEarth, which is an environmental NGO that uses the law to try to effect systemic change to protect the planet. I work on ClientEarth’s Accountable Corporations team, focusing on strategic litigation against corporates – taking cases against big companies to hold them responsible for their impact on and engagement with climate change.

## **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I studied Law and Politics at Trinity College Dublin, before doing a master’s at LSE. I then trained as a lawyer at a US law firm in London, where I became increasingly interested in corporate accountability and climate litigation. When I qualified as a solicitor, I moved to a group litigation firm which focuses on taking class actions against large corporations. I worked there for two years on the team representing 700,000 Brazilian claimants in the Mariana Dam disaster case against the mining giant BHP.

## **Why did you choose this career path?**

I am driven by a strong sense of justice and fairness, and I have always wanted to focus my

career path on human rights. It became clear early on in my legal career how inextricably linked human rights and climate change are, and how humanity’s failure to respect and protect the planet has an impact on us all, in particular on the most vulnerable. As the climate emergency and its implications for humanity become increasingly urgent, I want to play a part in trying to effect positive change, and I believe the law offers a means of doing that.

## **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

It is a cliché, but try to find something that feels worthwhile to you, that motivates you and gives you a sense of purpose (people always say find something you’re passionate about, but I have always found it more helpful and less intimidating to just focus on something that feels worth doing). The climate space is huge and you can’t be an expert in everything, but read as much as you can about the topics that interest you. Talk to people, use LinkedIn and other networks, find out about events and meet people doing the kind of work that excites you.



**Carly McLachlan**

**Director, Tyndall Centre Manchester**  
**Professor of Climate and Energy Policy, University of Manchester**

**“Listening, learning, reflecting and sharing your view in an open way is key...”**

**What does your job involve?**

I lead an interdisciplinary research team that brings together social scientists, scientists and engineers to address climate change. We work on both reducing emissions and enhancing resilience and adaptation. My own research focuses mainly on city and local authority level action on climate, and I have also done some work on decarbonising live music. Our team do a lot of work with policy makers and other stakeholders, on local to global scales.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I did a BSc in Management which included a range of disciplines to understand and shape organisational practice: psychology, sociology, accounting, statistics, environmental management etc. My dissertation was on carbon trading and by the end of my degree I knew I wanted a career in sustainability. I had some fixed-term research roles before undertaking a PhD on renewable energy siting controversy. I got a lectureship soon after and then moved on to an academic knowledge exchange role.

This role really shaped my ongoing work, as stakeholder partnerships are key to all I do and how I lead our research team now.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

I always felt the work had purpose and potential impact in an important area. As an academic you have to make your own partnerships and collaborations to drive the research you think is important. I really enjoy the freedom and creativity of this part of my role.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Being open to ideas from different perspectives is key; no one holds all the answers – otherwise we would have sorted it all out by now! Listening, learning, reflecting and sharing your view in an open way is key, and something you can do from the first to the last day of your career.



**Paul Monks**

**Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero**

**“...say “I don’t know” when you don’t.”**

**What does your job involve?**

As a science adviser in government, I ensure the development and delivery of the department’s policies are underpinned by the best science and engineering advice available, and decisions by the ministers and senior officials are supported by that advice. Climate science plays a central part in my role, both in terms of understanding the mitigation required to meet net zero by 2050 and our adaptation response. Day-to-day advice can be across critical minerals, hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation and storage, renewables, nuclear power and negative emissions.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

From an undergraduate degree in Chemistry at the University of Warwick I went to a D.Phil. in Oxford on nighttime atmospheric chemistry. My first postdoc was at NASA in the laboratory for extraterrestrial physics (cool or what!) exploring the ozone layer and the atmospheres of Titan and Neptune. I subsequently worked at UEA, and then the University of Leicester, where I started my own group on atmospheric composition and climate. Over time, I became interested in the translation of science into policy, joining and

later chairing Defra’s Air Quality Expert group and becoming deputy chair of the Defra Science Advisory Council.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

Sometimes, I am not sure if I chose the path or it chose me. Throughout my career I was always given the latitude to be curious and explore. Air quality and climate are subject areas that affect people’s lives, so the sense of purpose in that science has always been motivating. It is a privilege to work alongside the civil service and ministers, ensuring that the science perspective is part of decision making.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

The most important piece of advice I would give anyone in a Chief Scientific Advisor role is to say “I don’t know” when you don’t. I often say, “I don’t know, but I know someone who does.” The breadth of the role means you must like reading a wide range of science and working to provide the broad consensus understanding.

# CAREER PROFILES



Caitríona Vines

**Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Programme Advisor, Environment Agency**

**“I still don’t have a set idea of where I want my career to go, so my path has twists and turns.”**

#### **What does your job involve?**

My team manage a programme of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) projects which build and maintain flood risk management assets. This is key for increasing our communities' and habitats' resilience to climate change. Specifically, my role involves supporting project teams with their funding requirements and overseeing the funding availability for the capital FCERM programme.

#### **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I went into higher education in my later twenties when I studied a BSc in Environmental Science. Prior to that, I spent time working and travelling, and I had various roles in data and finance management. After university I moved into a role in energy management in local government, supporting schools in resolving issues with their energy supplies. This role built on customer service, financial and problem-solving skills I had from previous jobs and university experience. When I moved to the Environment Agency six years ago, I found my wide-ranging skills well-suited to programme management.

#### **Why did you choose this career path?**

I still don't have a set idea of where I want my career to go, so my path has twists and turns. I thought about what is important to me in life and where I work. These preferences include helping people, having a varied and interesting role, and working in an organisation that offers great opportunities and a good work-life balance, all whilst making a positive impact, on and learning more, about our environment.

#### **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Reflect on all your experiences to date and consider what personal skills you have used along your journey so far. Skills such as communication, empathy and influencing can be learned through life experiences. Learning to be adaptable will also help you identify and seize opportunities as they arise, which can help you gain experience and steer you to new places.



Christophe Christiaen

**Head of Innovation and Impact, UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment / University of Oxford**

**“There are many ways to contribute to the climate agenda and all skills are needed, not only technical or scientific ones.”**

#### **What does your job involve?**

At the Centre for Greening Finance and Investment, we translate climate and environmental science into formats and metrics for financial institutions that want to better understand the climate risks their investments are exposed to. I work with financial institutions and green fintech (financial technology) businesses to get insights from our research adopted in the real world. I have also been seconded part-time in a UK pension fund to try and implement the academic theory into practice.

#### **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I studied a combined business-engineering degree and ended up working in the space sector, looking at applications of remote sensing across various industries. Finance is a sector that wants to support climate action to reduce their risk exposure, but lacks the analytical tools to do so in a meaningful way. This led me to collaborate with researchers from different disciplines and join academia to help make their outputs more usable and impactful for non-academic audiences.

#### **Why did you choose this career path?**

I always wanted to work on sustainability topics and have followed job opportunities in relevant areas. Whether we like it or not, finance touches on all aspects of our economies and societies. Therefore, we need them to be on board and use their influence to advance the climate agenda. The more passionate and driven individuals with relevant scientific skills we can have work with or within the finance sector, the better!

#### **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Keep an open mind! There are many ways to contribute to the climate agenda and all skills are needed, not only technical or scientific ones. Communication, project or stakeholder management skills are critical to bring good ideas to life, and to ensure research outputs are taken up and make a difference in the real world.



**Andy Love**  
**Sustainability Consultant and Founder, Shade the UK and Love Design Studio**

**“...it may help to build your confidence by working towards a chartership or focusing on some related accreditations...”**

**What does your job involve?**

Shade the UK is all about adapting the built environment and public spaces to a changing climate. Our mission is to have zero deaths from overheating and ensure that the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people is safeguarded during hot weather.

We have delivered workshops, competitions, research pieces, technical climate resilience projects, and thermal modelling reports. We have also been part of think tanks and policy maker roundtables, influencing change. Next year we want to work with festivals and universities and are looking to set up Shade the UK societies at universities.

Our sister company, Love Design Studio, is a sustainability consultancy, working with others to create sustainable buildings and promote ethical business practices. We are a team of environmentalists, designers, engineers, and technicians.

As the founder, it is my role to keep the vision alive and to bring in and deliver purpose-driven projects. It is also my role to carry on building a diverse team to ensure we can meet our goals.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I studied Maths at the University of Nottingham but did not know where to take it after finishing. I pottered around, working at Wetherspoons for a year (which I loved) until joining London South Bank University's Sustainable Energy Systems MSc. I never looked back and grew my understanding of the sustainability world in the construction industry over the following 14 years.

I am a Low Carbon Consultant, Low Carbon Energy Assessor and BREEAM Assessor. You don't necessarily need qualifications to add value to a sustainability consultancy team, but it may help to build your confidence by working towards a chartership or focusing on some related accreditations to become more attractive to companies.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

Many reasons, here are a few: the moral compass my parents gave me, an enlightenment experience at Glastonbury, and a life-long interest in running my own thing.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Be purpose driven, not career driven. Have a can-do attitude. Own your mistakes.



**Clare Hill**  
**Regenerative Farmer & Mentor, Planton Farm**

**“Once I understood the climate change crisis we were facing, I knew I needed to play a role...”**

**What does your job involve?**

At Planton Farm, we focus on farming and growing food in a way which strives to be climate positive, also known as regenerative agriculture. Regenerative agriculture both seeks to slow (and ultimately reverse) warming, but also to develop food production systems which are adapting to our changing climate conditions. We put nature at the centre of how we design food and farming systems, and this leads to less reliance on fossil fuels, carbon sequestration, and more efficient use of rainfall, which in turn leads to flood and drought resilience.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I have a BSc (Hons) from Harper Adams University College in Agriculture and Agricultural Marketing. Following this, I have worked in the food and farming industry, working for Red Tractor, National Farmers Union, Sainsbury's, Daylesford Organic, and FAI Farms, before founding Planton Farm. My roles were initially focused on animal welfare, but this grew to include sustainability and, more recently, climate

change and the role of regenerative agriculture in tackling it. We are learning that we cannot look at things in isolation. Rather we need to take a systems thinking approach and learn how to manage the complexity as we deal with multiple problems. Planetary health, human health and nature decline are all interlinked and are at the heart of climate change.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

I didn't set out knowing what I wanted to do, but I have followed where my curiosity has taken me. Once I understood the climate change crisis we were facing, I knew I needed to play a role and so evolved my work to follow.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Become a systems thinker to help you break down the complexity of a problem. All food ultimately originates from soil, but so many decisions are made about food, far away from soil and the farmers managing it, so get practical experience on the ground if you can.

# CAREER PROFILES



**Galen Mudhar**  
Vehicle Technician, BMW

**“Your passion will mean you are eager to learn and stay on top of new developments.”**

#### **What does your job involve?**

My job involves the diagnosis, repair, and maintenance of vehicles from the BMW and Mini brands, including electric vehicles. With the industry-wide push towards electrification, and only a small percentage of technicians who are qualified to work on high voltage vehicles, there is an ever-increasing prevalence of these types of vehicles in my day-to-day work.

#### **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I carried out an apprenticeship (lasting three years) with BMW after completing my A Levels and deciding not to go to university. I finished my apprenticeship with a 'Level 2' qualification in high voltage vehicles. As BMW are keen to train their workforce to be prepared for the future, I further acquired a 'Level 3' qualification within the first year, allowing me to carry out more in-depth, specialised work on electric vehicles.

#### **Why did you choose this career path?**

I always had a passion for cars growing up. Seeing that there was a need for technicians at the same time as a monumental shift toward electrification and emissions reductions in the industry, I knew that I would always be at the forefront of the field in this career!

#### **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

As someone who had very little prior experience before beginning my apprenticeship, my main piece of advice is to have a strong passion for cars, or whatever technology you may be working on! Your passion will mean you are eager to learn and stay on top of new developments. It is also important to have a good ability to problem solve and think creatively under time pressures, as you will often find yourself having to diagnose issues that no one has seen before, or that are related to new products and technologies.



**Megan Kennedy-Woodard**  
Climate Psychologist,  
Co-Founder and Author,  
Climate Psychologists

**“Climate work is essential, but it is also inspiring, joyful and empowering...we can choose to enjoy the work we do, even when things feel difficult.”**

#### **What does your job involve?**

Climate psychology focuses on the mental engagement of individuals and groups when they experience the impacts of the climate crisis. This could be directly (surviving a climate disaster) or indirectly (being bombarded with scary news, images and information about climate change). I support the mental health implications of the climate crisis through therapy, coaching, training and communication tactics. I work with businesses, education providers, governments and nonprofits, always helping people move beyond difficult feelings of climate change (anxiety, apathy, grief, etc.) towards empowerment, motivation, connection and action.

#### **How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I began with a Bachelor of Arts, Politics and Psychology, followed by an MSc in Psychology, and Postgraduate Certificate in Psychodynamic studies, along with ongoing certified coach training.

#### **Why did you choose this career path?**

This was an area where I could use my skills and interests to reflect my values in what I think is both the biggest obstacle and opportunity that we have faced as a species. I think we owe it to every living thing that ever has or will have the gift of living on this beautiful, improbable planet. I think once you truly understand what the crisis means, and the intersectionality of it, there is no choice but to get involved.

#### **What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Think about what matters to you and what is important to you. Social justice, stewardship of nature, past or future generations, equality? This is your meaning. Then think about what is easy for you. Communication skills, logistics, science or people skills? Once you know what is natural to you, find a job that compliments this and something that will keep you interested in learning and practising. Finally, think about 'impact'. Climate work is essential, but it is also inspiring, joyful and empowering. Importantly, we can choose to enjoy the work we do, even when things feel difficult.



**Dr Natalie  
Whitehead**  
Co-Founder & Director,  
Exeter Science Centre

**“...to tackle global issues like climate change, we need the public to be on board...”**

**What does your job involve?**

As one of the founding directors of the charity Exeter Science Centre, I help to run the entire organisation, including designing and running projects. A particular focus is on global issues. In many of our projects we try to help people understand the science of climate change and what individuals can do to help tackle it, be it at home, work, or in their communities. We do this in many ways, including exhibitions, events, workshops and online resources.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I have a PhD and an undergraduate degree in physics and was a trainee engineer for a few years before this. During my studies, I did lots of science outreach activities, which was so fun and turned out to be incredibly helpful for our work! The experience of completing a PhD helped me feel comfortable working with a wide range of researchers, from climate scientists to psychologists, to help make their work understandable and meaningful for a public audience and use in our projects.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

I love to enthuse people about science, and I really felt (and still feel) that if we are going to tackle global issues like climate change, we need the public to be on board with science and the changes we need to make in society. This involves the need to understand the science of these issues, be more connected to scientists, and be enabled to help tackle these issues. Science centres are, to me, the best-placed organisations to facilitate this.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Get lots of experience in science outreach and public engagement – some schools and most colleges and universities already do this, so get involved! If you are near a science centre or other science engagement organisation, contact them and offer to be a volunteer or ask about work experience. The best way to find out more is to give it a try!



**Alex Brown**  
Dynamics Research  
Scientist, Met Office

**“...I wanted a role that applied mathematics in an interesting way.”**

**What does your job involve?**

I work on creating and improving new dynamic cores, which are essential components of any weather or climate model. A dynamic core approximates solutions to fluid dynamics equations, linking with other parts of the model to generate weather and climate predictions. If the dynamic core is not precise, stable and fast, the data we get from climate modelling would be unreliable and offer less guidance for climate change mitigation.

**How did you get to where you are in terms of qualifications and experience?**

I have a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and a master's degree in applied mathematics. The master's degree involved a research thesis in numerical methods, which showcased not only my knowledge of the subject, but also my ability to perform independent research. Through my current work, I am pursuing a PhD.

**Why did you choose this career path?**

After completing my master's degree, I wanted a role that applied mathematics in an interesting way. The role at the Met Office looked perfect. I had no prior knowledge of numerical weather and climate prediction, so I read up on the topic and found it fascinating.

**What is your best advice for someone wanting to work in a similar role?**

Make sure to read the key papers in the field you want to apply to. If you have any previous experience or an opportunity to participate in research projects that demonstrate your independent research skills, that is excellent. Improve your coding skills, especially coding numerical solutions to problems.

# ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREERS



For more information, head to [rmetS.org/careers](https://rmetS.org/careers)



**Monitor the job market** with our Jobs Board, Met-jobs, Climlist, LinkedIn, or Indeed



**Research potential employers** at least 6 months before graduating



**Send speculative applications** – there is no set time for job postings



**Prepare for interviews** by practising presentations or answering questions (with evidence)

## WHERE TO START?

### EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER



**Share your research** with a wider audience via social or traditional media



**Present your work** at conferences (RMetS Early Career and Student Conference)



Consider **working abroad** (Rupert Ford Award)

### EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL



**Take courses** to continue your professional development



**Network** – attend conferences and keep in contact with friends/colleagues



**Stay on top** of the conversation and key new ideas in your field



Gain **professional accreditation**, e.g. as an RMet or CMet



Submit your work **for awards**



**Volunteer** for a professional society - join a committee or get involved with climate engagement activities



**Seek a mentor** to help you develop skills, expand your network and further progress your career

## THINKING BIGGER?

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