

Career Change with the Environment Agency

Jenny's story

Hi, I'm Jenny and I am an Advisor in **Water Resources Resilience**. I joined the Environment Agency in September 2023 as a career change.

I have always had a keen interest in the environment. After completing A-levels in Geography, Biology and English Literature I was still unsure of my future career choice. To keep my options open, I picked my favourite subject and went on to study BSc (Hons) in Geography at the University of Manchester. My degree involved studying a wide variety of topics, ranging from climate change to medical geography and hydrology to development. After growing up in the countryside, it was really exciting to move to a city and the variety of topics within my degree meant that my studies were always interesting.



I wanted to share my passion for the environment

I decided that I wanted to share my passion of the environment with others, so I completed a PGCE (secondary) in Geography at Manchester Metropolitan University. This was a steep learning curve, and was very challenging and intense but also rewarding. I then went on to teach Geography for eighteen years at three different schools. During this time I had two children and was lucky enough to improve my work life balance by having a part time role.



This also allowed me the time to work for an exam board, writing GCSE exam papers, presenting at conferences and leading teams of people who were marking exam papers.

Having had a taste of life outside teaching, I made the brave decision that I wanted to have a new career. I wanted to do something to improve our environment for future generations.

I began browsing the jobs that were advertised on the Environment Agency's website and was not only surprised at the wide range available, but also that I had the transferable skills needed. I took the time to look through different roles to find what I thought would suit me.

I applied for a job in Natural Flood Management. Although I narrowly missed out, the feedback I was given was extremely positive and helpful. This made me even more determined.

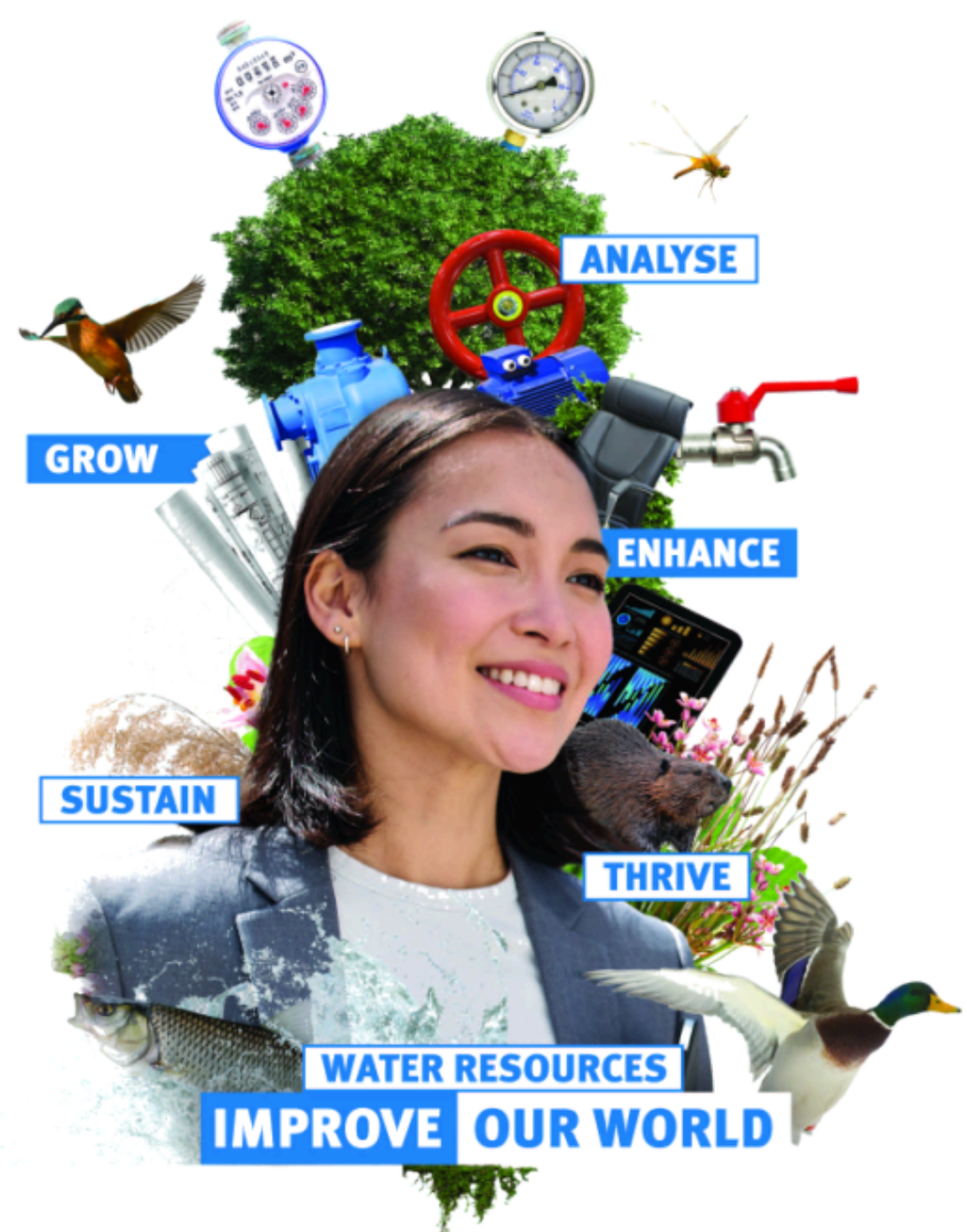
I then applied for a role in Water Resources Resilience, and was so excited when I secured the job. My role is involved with refreshing the National Framework for Water Resources, which is concerned with addressing how we will meet our future water needs.

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My days are varied and I can plan my own time. A day could involve joining in meetings on Teams, conducting literature reviews and being directed to complete tasks to assist more senior staff with their work. I am now a few months into the role and am getting into the swing of things!

There has been a lot to learn, but this is what has made it challenging and enjoyable. My highlight so far has been a trip to the Lake District where I was able to meet my team in person and visit a reservoir and water treatment works.

I am also working from home, so this is a very big change for me. I am loving managing my own time and everyone who I have come across has been so helpful and friendly. My work life balance has certainly improved. **If anyone is considering having a career change, then I would definitely recommend they go for it!**



Written by Jenny, Water Resources Resilience Advisor at the Environment Agency