

FAQs for the Environment Officer (EO) role:

What does a typical day involve?

The Environment Officer role is a mix of field and office work, you will be in a key role representing the Environment Agency with customers that could be people we regulate or members of the public. No two days will be the same and you will have elements of reactive and planned work in your day. All Environment Officer roles will have an Incident response as part of the role.

Water Industry Environment Officer - A typical day could involve attending Wastewater Treatment works to carry out inspections, attending incidents such as the pollution of a watercourse, meetings with site operators and spending time completing inspection reports. You will need to consider enforcement action for any non-compliances and work closely with our enforcement team.

You will work as part of a team so you will be expected to attend team meetings and complete corporate requests such as health and safety requirements, training etc.

Land & Water Environment Officer - This role is very similar to the Water Industry Environment Officer role and therefore a typical day could involve planned inspection work at the premises we regulate eg at a farm, water company premises or industrial site or reacting to a pollution incident in a watercourse. You will need to consider that this role also includes ensuring compliance and where appropriate carrying out enforcement action, which could include serving notices or preparing evidence for court. (Training is provided)

You will work as part of a team, so you will be expected to attend team meetings and complete corporate requests such as health and safety requirements, training etc.

Waste Environment Officer – This Environment Officer role is a regulator for the waste industry. The role will involve inspecting waste management activities against permit conditions and directly applicable legislation to ensure compliance with permit conditions and environmental law. You will be expected to regulate a wide variety of waste industry sectors these include small individual operators to large corporate bodies, who use a wide variety of chemical, biological and physical treatment processes in their waste management activities. An ability to engage with people from all walks of life is essential and also provides great variety to the work.

You will also be part of teams tackling illegal waste activities which undermine legitimate industry sustainability and cause environmental harm, with a view to gathering intelligence, preventing, disrupting, and prosecuting criminal activity which impacts on our environment and legitimate industry.

How does the pay work?

You will enter the role on an EOA grade £27,749 and follow a structured development programme to reach EOB grade £33,000. This is expected to take up to 18 months and

is rewarded after demonstrating the required capabilities. During this development period, you must demonstrate the personal effectiveness skills essential to a regulatory role such as good communication and influencing skills.

How does incident response work?

The EO role requires you to respond to incidents. The Environment Agency operates a 24/7 incident response function. You will be required to have an incident role and make yourself available to respond to incidents or provide business continuity support during an incident. This may attract additional payment, and full training will be given.

Alternative working arrangements may be available to support you with your incident role. We do, however, make reasonable adjustments for staff in circumstances such as those with caring responsibilities. We have incident roles that can be taken in hours as well as those that take place out of hours.

Do you offer flexible working arrangements?

You can ask to work flexibly from day one of your employment with the Environment Agency. We offer flexible working patterns including job share, term time, compressed hours and flexi time scheme. Line managers consider all requests for flexible working, including both informal and formal, against business needs at the time of the request. Not all roles are suitable for all forms of flexible working. Working flexibly is not a right and it is always subject to business need. Flexible working must take account of the needs of our work, customers and employees.

If you want to discuss this option, please tell us when you are offered a role so we can discuss it further with your Team Leader.

What are the working hours?

Full time working hours are 37 hours per week. We don't have set start and finish times – this is all dependent on business needs, but often it is 9-5 for the average daily working hours with a daily 30-minute break.

What is flexi-time?

We operate a discretionary flexi-time scheme to help you manage your job and personal life more effectively. You have the option to build up flexi-time credit which allows you to take up to 15 additional days' leave each year. The use of flexi time scheme is at the discretion of management and subject to business needs. When you start in your new role your new line manager will further explain this scheme.

Is there parking available at the office?

Most offices have parking available for staff based at the office and visitors.

Can I work at home?

The role of Environment Officer is office and site based, however there may be days where it is possible to work from home with permission from your line manager, but you will be generally at the office or on site.

Will I be expected to travel as part of my role?

Yes, you will be expected to travel, for example to sites that we regulate and to attend pollution incidents.

Will I get a car?

You will be provided with a vehicle to use for your role, which includes the use of badged vehicles, pool cars, hire cars, and sometimes lease cars.

Badged Vehicles: Branded cars assigned for specific roles or departments.

Pool Cars: Shared vehicles available for use by multiple employees as needed.

Hire Cars: Rental cars used for temporary or short-term needs.

Lease Cars: Vehicles leased by the Environment Agency for long-term individual use, including personal use, by employees who meet specific eligibility criteria. Drivers of leased cars will pay a contribution towards the lease costs to cover their personal use of the car.

To be eligible for an Environment Agency lease car, your role must require frequent and/or unplanned travel that cannot reasonably be undertaken using public transport, a badged vehicle, a pool car, or a hire car for the majority of necessary journeys. New starters or those in new roles must use alternative transport methods for a minimum of six months before applying for a lease car. There is no contractual right to a lease car and the provision of a lease car is at the discretion of the Environment Agency.

Will I be away from home for my training?

The training that we offer is a mix of residential training, self-directed e-learning and virtual meetings. For EOs there are some core training courses that will require overnight stays for 3 days a week. You will be provided with these dates in advance so you can book on those most convenient to you. Other training courses may also be delivered centrally at venues, so unless you live right next to the venue, you will be away from home.