

Understanding green jobs

“green
alliance...”



Green jobs are characterised by an “activity that directly contributes to, or indirectly supports, the achievement of the UK’s net zero emissions target and helps mitigate climate risks.” *

In simpler terms, they are jobs that contribute to tackling climate change and preserving or restoring the natural environment.



Types of green jobs

01

Ecologist

Green jobs exist across all skill levels, from entry level jobs requiring minimal training or prior experience (such as working in a second-hand shop) to highly specialized ones like a heat pump technician or environmental lawyer.

02

Sustainable construction

As all sectors of the economy decarbonise and work to reduce their environmental impacts, all jobs will have a green element.

03

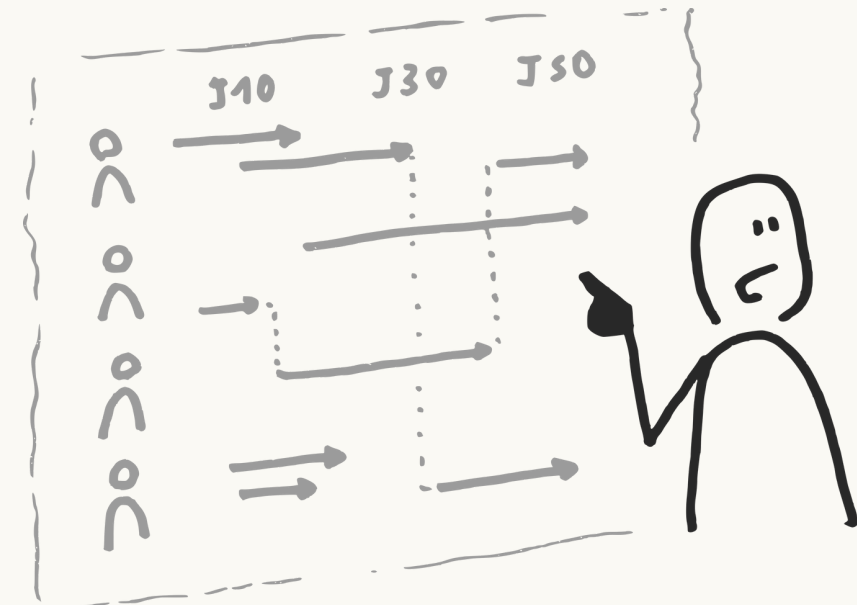
Solar panel installer

04

Environmental lawyer

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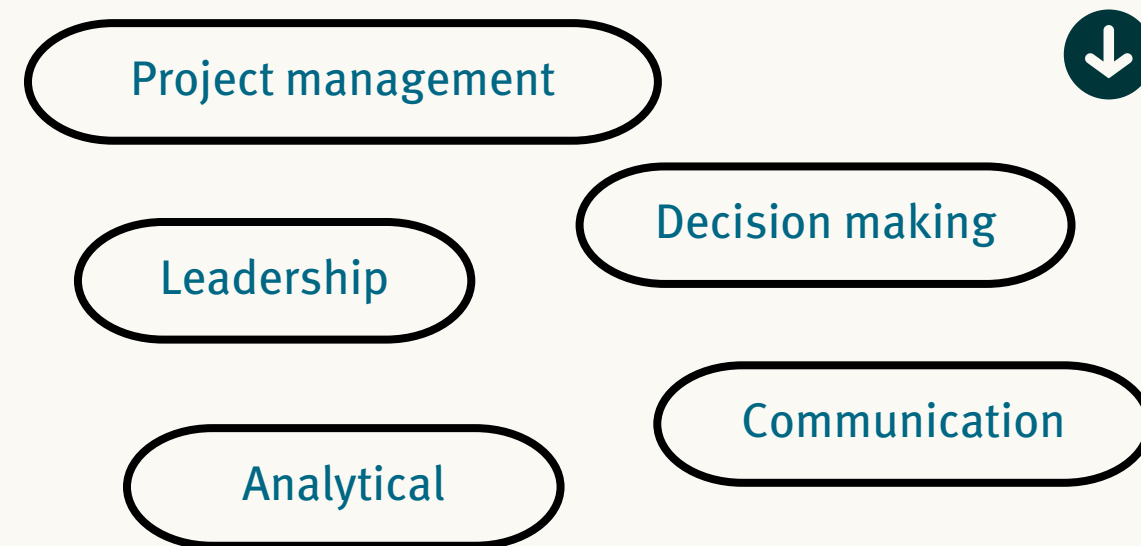
Community engagement officer



What skills do you need?

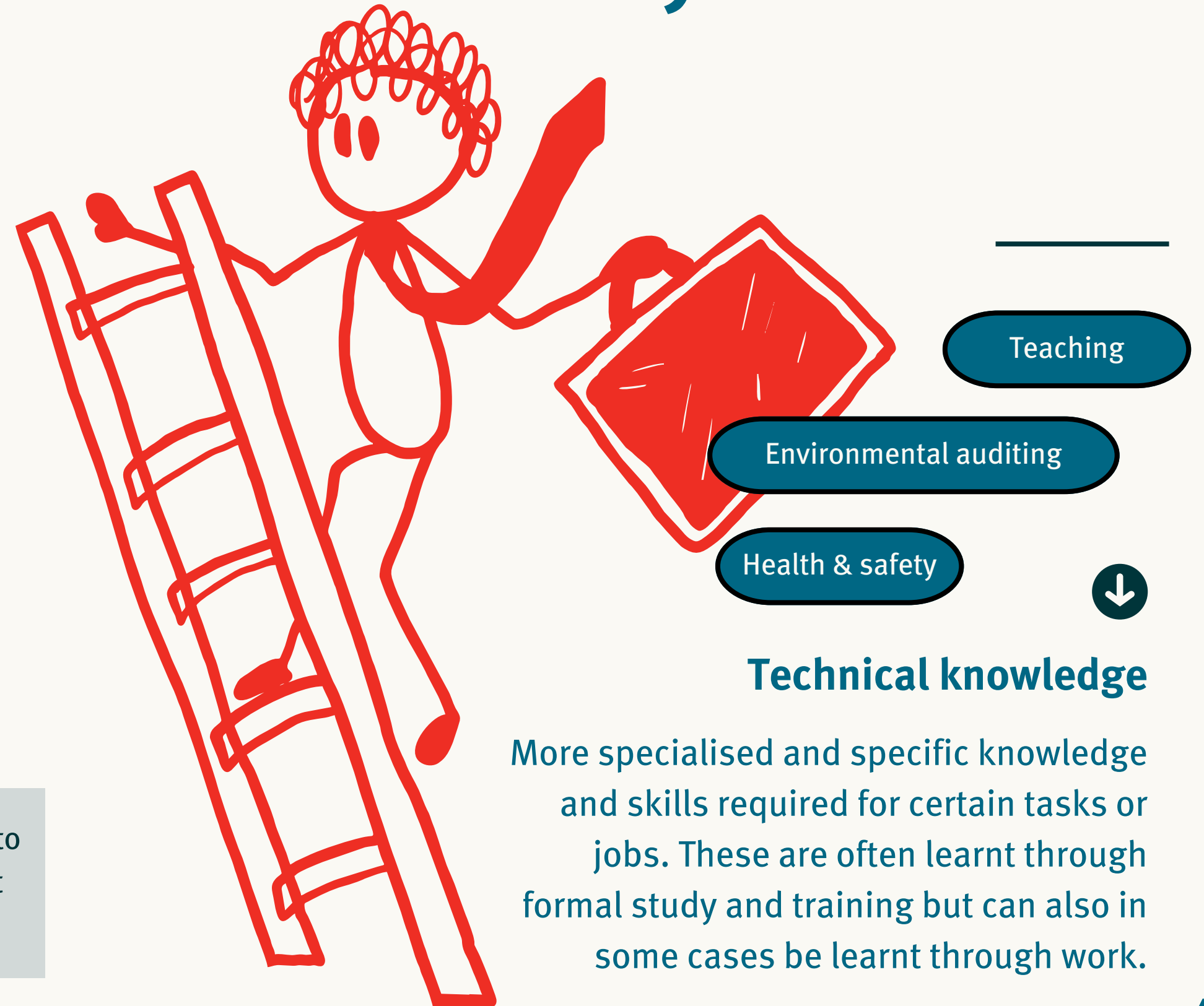
Transferrable skills

Skills that can be applied across a wide range of jobs. These are generally learnt throughout the course of your career.



Green skills can be thought of as green knowledge or behaviours. They include transferable skills and technical knowledge.

Think about what skills you already have and those you might want to develop. What have people said you are naturally good at? What would you like to dedicate time to learning?



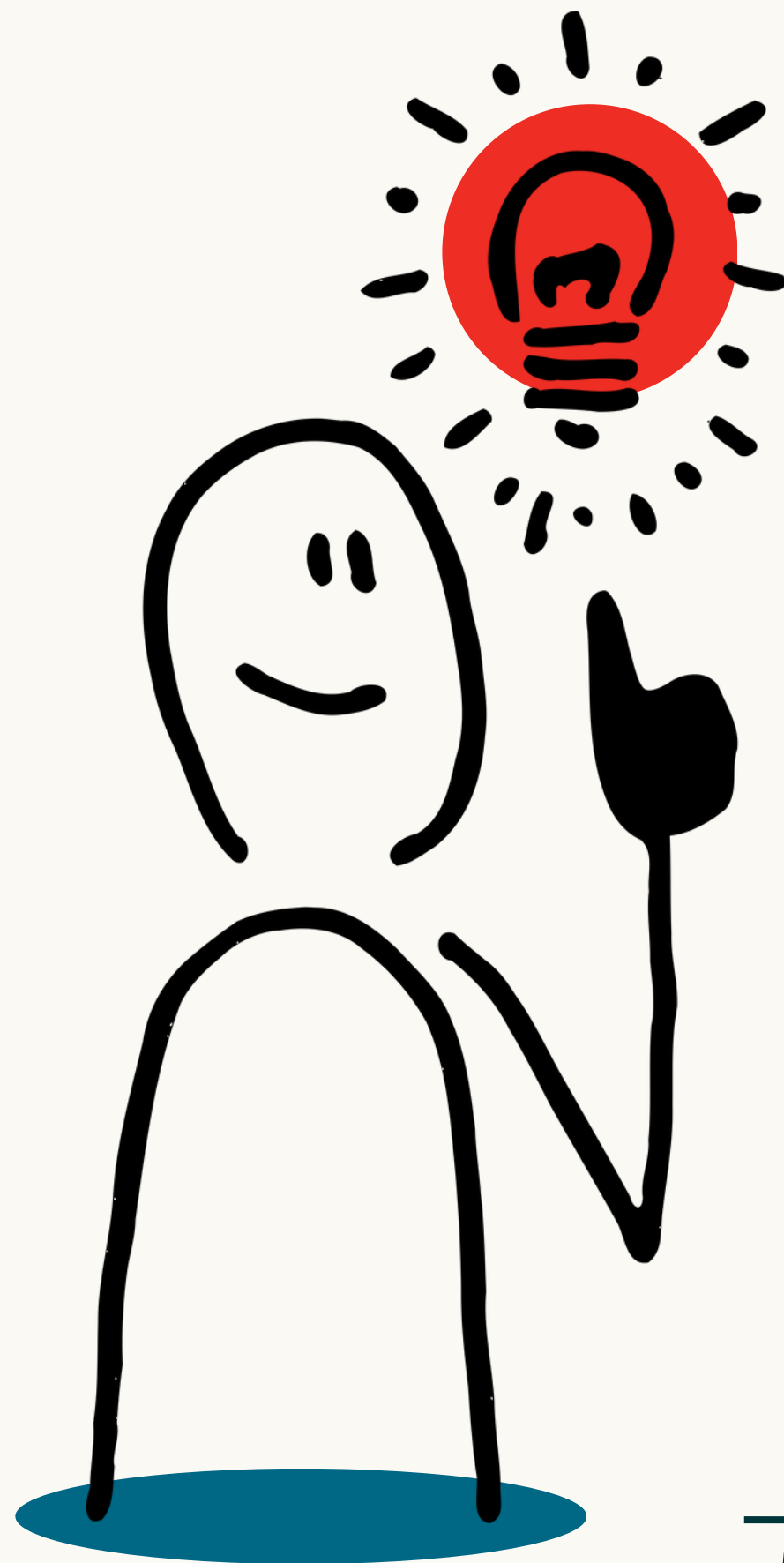
Technical knowledge

More specialised and specific knowledge and skills required for certain tasks or jobs. These are often learnt through formal study and training but can also in some cases be learnt through work.

Reflective exercise

Take a moment to write down/discuss what makes you want to act!

Think about your favourite school subjects & hobbies!



“Analytical”

GIS technician
Sustainability/ESG/CSR analyst
Environmental lawyer

“Creative”

Sustainable product design
Climate comms & education
Sustainable fashion

“People-focused”

Community engagement & outreach
Environmental policy advisor
Sustainability campaigning

“Hands-on”

Low carbon engineer
Ecologist
Conservation ranger

More info: [a quiz to help you think about which green job suits you best!](#)

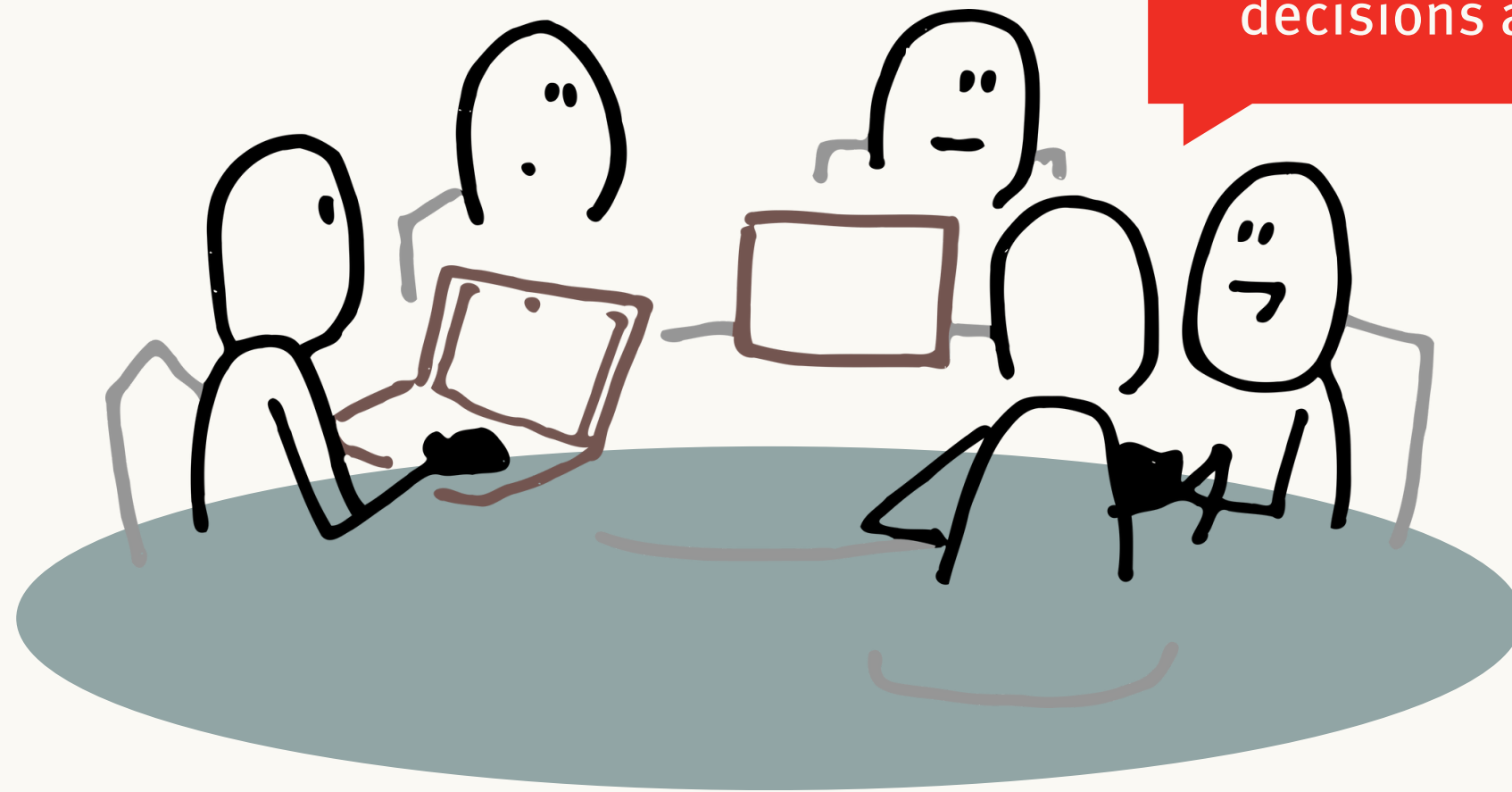
Pathways into green careers

It's important to have background knowledge and show why you are interested. You can consider qualifications such as:



Working in environmental policy

Environmental policy is about how laws and government decisions are used to tackle environmental problems.



What it involves:

Designing or advising on laws & regulations

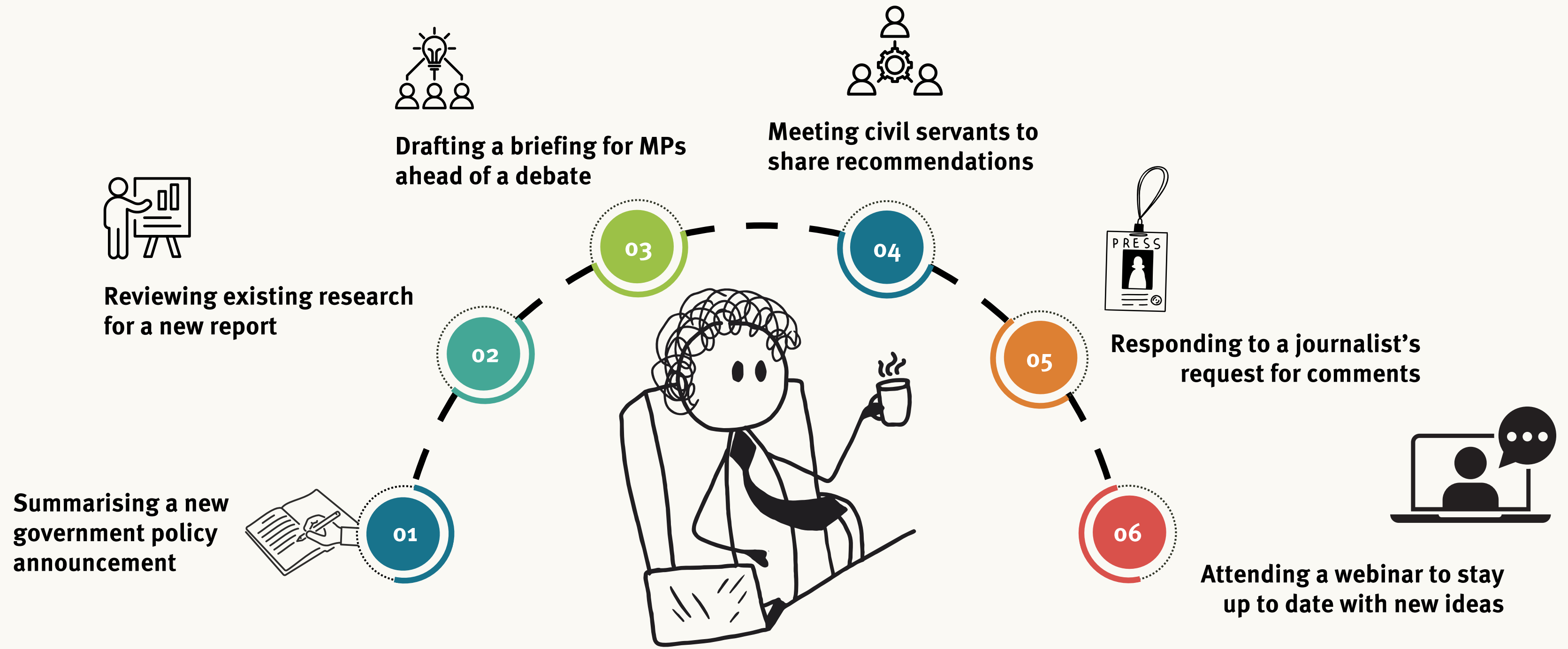
Researching solutions to climate & nature challenges

Making sure decisions are fair & based on evidence

You'll find environmental policy work in:

Civil service & local government roles; Parliamentary researchers; Green think tanks & NGOs; public affairs teams in businesses

**** Typical day for a policy adviser includes tasks like researching, writing & influencing**



Working in policy at a think tank

Thinktanks are organisations that research issues and develop policy ideas, to try and influence government decisions.

Early career routes

- Internships at think tanks (from summer placements to full-year roles)
- Graduate programmes (e.g. Civil Service Fast Stream, Green Alliance traineeship)
- Entry-level roles (e.g. comms, operations, policy or politics assistant)



Routes into working in environmental policy

Career switchers

Many careers build skills that transfer easily into policy work, such as:

- **Journalism:** research, clear writing, explaining complex issues
- **Law:** policy analysis, working with regulation, building arguments
- **Academia/research:** evidence gathering, critical thinking

Job boards & resources

Resources	Links
Careers Overview - Green Jobs for Nature	A good explanation of the different types of green jobs and what they involve
Environmentjob	UK-focused green jobs board, with extra opportunities to volunteer!
How to get an environmental job	UK-tailored advice, including options for degrees, apprenticeships, professional qualifications
Climate Career Resources	A directory of resources to make climate professionals accessible to climate career seekers
So You Want to Work in Climate...	A crowdsourced collection of 750+ resources for people who want to work in climate, ranging from job boards, Slack communities, books and more.
CharityJob	UK charity job board
Begin your search on aDoddle - aDoddle	Map-based search for different volunteering opportunities in the UK
Remote Climate Jobs	Remote climate jobs delivered to your email inbox
Allen and York	Environment and energy job board
National Career Service Courses	Search for online/classroom courses to develop your skills on areas like the environment or to help get a job

Short courses & MOOCs



01

Courses

- OpenLearn's free online courses (1-20 hours of study time) on nature and the environment, as well as many other topics!
 - WWF's free courses on basic climate change-related concepts
 - EDX's courses/programs (tend to be more complex and suitable for university-level or higher)
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02

Job simulations

Free climate change/environment “job simulations” (2-3 hours), e.g. those by BCG and EY

03

Paid modules

Paid modules/programs/extended courses such as Voiz Academy or CPD/credit courses like from the ICAEW (career-focused, several months)

Learn more about Green Alliance's EDI outreach work



<https://green-alliance.org.uk/edi/outreach/>



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