



Name: Danielle Law

Job title: Environmental Consultant

Employer: ECUS Ltd <http://www.ecusltd.co.uk/>



Starting your career

What attracted you to a career working in Sheffield's environment?

I am passionate about environmental issues and I was determined to work in the environmental sector. I was attracted to Sheffield as I am originally from the city and I was very keen to live and work in the area and contribute to the overall sustainability of the city and the wider environment.

How did you find out about the career opportunities that were available?

General telephone enquires, membership of a number of local environmental networks and internet research.

How did you get your career started?

By carrying out an MSc in Environmental Management for Business and Commerce and undertaking voluntary work experience in my spare time.

Your career path

How long have you been working in the industry?

Since 2003.

What jobs have you done and how did you progress?

- Sheffield City Council Environmental Regulatory services. Volunteer / work experience – researching, shadowing and supporting the council's Environmental Manager on the ongoing development and implementation of the EMS (Sept 2003)
- Business Environment Centre, BTCV. Volunteer / work experience – researching, shadowing and supporting the Environmental Business Advisor with EMS development, report writing, environmental audits (Oct 2003)

Progression: On completion of my MSc in Environmental Management for Business and Commerce, I was able to apply for a post at the BEC which came available shortly after my studies ended and I was successful.

- Business Environment Centre, BTCV. Environmental Business Advisor. (July 2004-Sept 2006)

Progression: having worked at the BEC for over 2 years, I had gained sufficient wide ranging experience and was able to use this knowledge, confidence and experience to progress to a higher level at ECUS.

- ECUS Ltd. Senior Environmental Consultant (Sept 2006 – present).



Training and skills

What qualifications did you achieve before entering your career?

BA First Class Honours in Geography
MSc Environmental Management for Business and Commerce with Distinction
AIEMA – Associate Membership of IEMA – (open book exam).

What job-specific skills training and development have you undertaken since starting your career?

I have undertaken a wide range of training and development activity, the most prevalent being:

- Work shadowing
- IEMA Foundation Course in Environmental Auditing
- IEMA Advanced Course in Environmental Auditing
- Introduction to Energy Management
- CIWM Waste Awareness Certificate and Train the Trainer (for the Waste Awareness Certificate)
- 'Develop the trainer in you'
- Stepping into Management
- Facilitation Skills (two courses)

What have you gained from your training and development?

So much! Enhanced confidence, new skills, knowledge about certain issues and the opportunity to meet new people.

Your working day

What is a typical day for you?

It is almost impossible to give a typical day, as my activities are so diverse and vary immensely depending on whether I am having an office day, where I will be contacting clients, dealing with enquiries and developing quotes, researching and report writing, writing and developing training courses; or whether I am out delivering training; or whether I am out and about carrying out site visits, sales meetings, environmental audits, or attending networking / environmental events.

I am responsible for:

- generating new business
- client liaison and management
- providing expert environmental support and guidance
- writing and developing Environmental Management Systems
- carrying out audits and writing reports
- developing and delivering a wide range of environmental training courses
- carrying out waste audits/attending events/presenting on behalf of Envirowise.

What takes up most of your time?

It depends! Training development and delivery and communication and client management at present!

What is the best bit about your job?

There are three key best bits for me:



- a) the diversity of activities which I carry out: from auditing to networking, researching to business development and report writing to training (I particularly love delivering training);
- b) the social interaction, relationship building, working with people and helping organisations to improve their performance and;
- c) the environmental improvements. The fact that I am working to mitigate environmental issues, doing my bit to encourage positive action, to ensure that businesses improve environmental performance.

The future

What are your aspirations for your career?

I am keen to progress to a more senior role to become a lead auditor and to further enhance my training skills. I would like to run the Environmental Management unit at ECUS, with a team of staff working with me; people management is important to me. I may also like to work at local or regional strategic level to influence policy and to address long term sustainability issues.

How would you like to develop your skills further in the future?

I am keen to find a mentor, someone who I respect and admire with whom I can meet regularly to share my experiences and to learn from their experiences.

Continuing Professional Development is very important to me so I fully intend to continue to learn and expand my knowledge, further develop existing skills and hopefully discover new skills in both the environmental and personal arenas. This will be achieved through attending relevant courses and through different experiences.

If you had to “sell” a career in Sheffield’s environment in one sentence, what would you say?

If you are passionate about protecting the local and global environment, working in Sheffield’s environmental sector provides a diverse, interesting, challenging, rewarding and enjoyable career!