

## Community Waste Officer

A community waste officer is responsible for environmental and waste reduction within a local authority. This is done through recycling schemes, with the recovery and re-use of a wide range of materials including glass, paper, cardboard, plastics, metals and textiles.

### The Work

You could be:

- organising recycling of a range of materials for use in new products
- improving existing recycling systems and developing new ones to meet national targets
- collecting and comparing statistics to write reports on meeting future targets
- negotiating contracts with outside companies to recover and re-use materials
- advising local businesses on recycling and waste disposal
- managing budgets, producing financial forecasts and submitting data to regulatory bodies
- producing materials and giving presentations about recycling initiatives and to inform the public
- organising the distribution of recycling and composting bins and boxes
- keeping up to date with current policies and legislation on waste management.

### Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organization you work for
- the demand for the job.

Pay rates for recycling officers are usually around £24,000 to £28,000 a year, rising up to around £36,000 with more experience. Senior managers may earn up to £45,000 or more.

### Conditions

- You would normally work a 37-hour week, Monday to Friday.
- You would spend part of your working day supervising recycling plants.
- You might have to travel to different sites.
- You may visit schools and community groups to give talks on recycling.
- You will spend time visiting companies to advise on waste management.

### Getting In

- Many entrants have a degree (SCQF Levels 9-11) or have relevant work experience, but some employers may accept an HNC (SCQF Level 7) or HND (SCQF Level 8).
- Suitable degrees include environmental science, environmental management, sciences, wastes management or sustainability.

- Postgraduate qualifications are useful. The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) website has a list of relevant courses.
- You might be able to start at technician level and then move on to be a manager.
- For many jobs a full driving licence is essential.

Community waste officers work within local authorities, community organisations or private waste management companies.

You can search for jobs on the local authority website [www.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk) under waste management.

## What Does It Take

You need to be:

- interested in environmental issues and sustainability
- good at solving problems
- decisive with sound judgement
- attentive to detail
- able to write accurate reports and make presentations
- well organised to work under pressure to meet deadlines
- responsible and aware of health and safety
- willing to keep up to date with legislation.

You should have:

- IT skills
- good communication and negotiation skills
- confidence to speak in public.

## Training

- Training is normally on the job with courses available through the [Chartered Institution of Wastes Management \(CIWM\)](#) and [Waste Management Industry Training and Advisory Board \(WAMITAB\)](#).
- CIWM has a Structured Learning and Development Scheme (SLD) to help graduates to gain the practical skills needed for a career in wastes management.
- The CIWM also offers a continuing professional development (CPD) scheme.

## Getting On

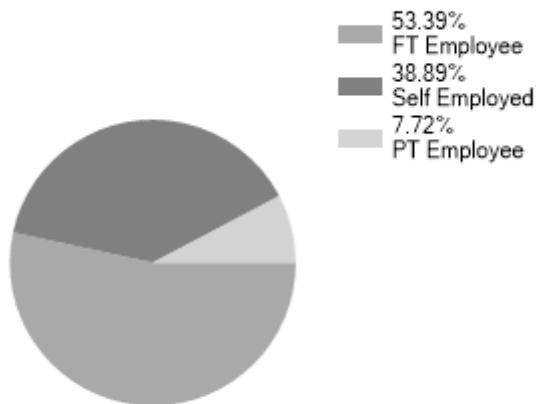
- Recycling officers often move into a broader career in waste management.
- Taking a postgraduate course may help you to progress to higher management jobs.
- You could become a consultant to waste management companies and local authorities.

## Contacts



## Statistics

Employment Status UK %

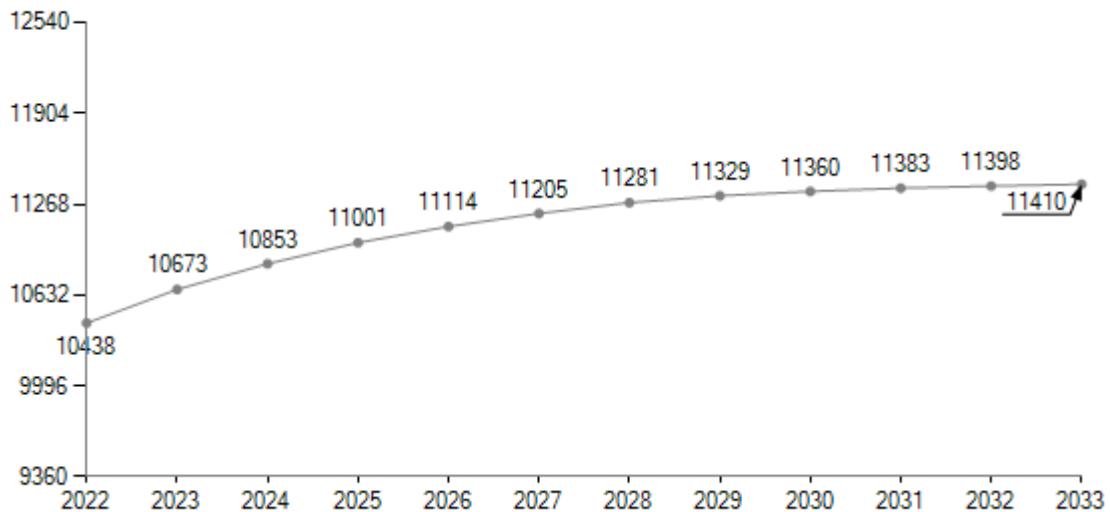


### Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)