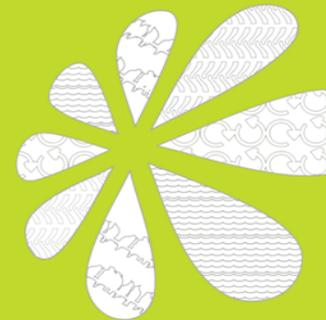


Rebecca Devall

Degree: BA Economics with Geography

Year: 3



Why sustainability?

I first became interested in sustainability at school. A teacher introduced me to current environmental issues and their importance in everyone's life. This inspired me to create an environmental group "Green Feet". Members of my group met weekly to discuss sustainability issues and think about how we would try to implement proactive change within the school and the wider community. Sustainability is something that affects everyone and is only going to be more important in the future; I am passionate about making a real change whether that is on a local or global scale.

Describe your work placement and volunteering with the Sustainability team.

Working for the University of Exeter Sustainability team gave me a broad range of experience. I began volunteering with the Student Reuse project; an event held at the beginning of each year to recycle and reuse items that students have left behind the year before. I then began a placement with the team. From day one I was given the opportunity to work on real projects, research tasks and University events. Key responsibilities included research, for example, of the quantity of glass used by the University, investigating the recyclability of paper cups used on campus and creating compliance reports. This placement gave me the opportunity to experience all aspects of a job focused around sustainability.



What skills have you gained?

The professional skills I have learnt and developed are report writing, leadership, independent research and the importance of team work. I feel that these skills in particular will directly increase my employability.

Personally this placement helped me develop my organisational skills, time management, communication skills with a wide range of people and overall confidence. These personal skills will also be transferable to the workplace.

What are you going to do next? Will sustainability feature in your future career?

Sustainability will definitely play a part in my career. Firstly I aim to gain more experience in this vast area. My ultimate career goal however is to work in education and teach others the importance of sustainability.

What is one thing that everyone can do to make a difference?

Recycle! The student diet and lifestyle generates material that can be recycled (wine bottles, milk bottles and cans). If all students recycled items rather than throwing them in the landfill, they would make a difference.

To keep up to date with opportunities in Sustainability, email sustainability@exeter.ac.uk to sign up to our opportunities mailing list.

