

Achieving Chartered Environmentalist status

Requirements and information for applicants

Contents

	Page
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Eligibility requirements.....	1
3. CEnv competences	1
4. How to apply	3
4.1 Completing the application form	
4.2 Equivalence report	
4.3 Identifying suitable supporters	
4.4 Professional review interview	
5. Assessment and award.....	5
6. Application and renewal fees	5
7. Continuing professional development and revalidation	5
8. Contact details.....	5

1. Introduction

Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) is a professional qualification that can be applied across all sectors. It provides a respected benchmark for individuals working to mitigate and solve environmental challenges. It recognises commitment to environmental best practice and to continuing professional development (CPD) as well as a high degree of expertise. CEnv is awarded by the Royal Society of Chemistry under licence from the Society for the Environment.

The award of CEnv is considered separately from admission to a category of membership.

Each application for CEnv is rigorously assessed by at least two appropriately experienced members, constituting a peer-review process.

2. Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to apply for CEnv through the Royal Society of Chemistry you must be able to meet all of the following:

- be MRSC or FRSC;
- hold a master's level qualification, or be able to demonstrate an equivalent level of knowledge gained through experience (refer to section 4.2);
- have at least four years' relevant experience at or above master's level with key responsibilities relating to the environment and/or sustainability;
- be able to demonstrate that you meet the CEnv competences.

3. CEnv competences

The CEnv competences are split into four key areas as outlined below.

A	Application of knowledge and understanding of the environment to further the aims of sustainability
A1	Have underpinning knowledge of sustainability principles in the management of the environment. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• critically analyse, interpret and evaluate complex environmental information to determine sustainable courses of action;• understand the wider environmental context in which the area of study or work is being undertaken;• understand the importance of maintaining and enhancing natural cycles and biodiversity in achieving sustainability;• reformulate and use practical, conceptual or technological understanding of environmental management to develop ways forward in complex situations.
A2	Apply environmental knowledge and principles in pursuit of sustainable environmental management in professional practice. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conceptualise and address problematic situations that involve many interacting environmental factors;• determine and use appropriate methodologies and approaches;• critically evaluate actions, methods and results and their short and long-term implications;• actively learn from results to improve future environmental solutions and approaches, and build best practice;• negotiate the necessary contractual and agreed arrangements with other stakeholders.
A3	Analyse and evaluate problems from an environmental perspective, develop practical sustainable solutions and anticipate environmental trends to develop practical solutions. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyse and evaluate problems, some complex, from an environmental perspective working sometimes with incomplete data;• demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and addressing problems;• demonstrate a critical awareness of current environmental problems and anticipate the impact of future environmental trends;• critically analyse and embrace new environmental information and seek new knowledge, skills and competences in the field of environment based on the most recent scientific, social, economic, cultural and technical developments and understanding.
B	Leading sustainable management of the environment
B1	Promote behavioural and cultural change by influencing others in order to secure environmental improvements, that go beyond minimum statutory requirements. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• develop good practices [best practice] by actively learning from results to improve future environmental solutions and approaches;• help, mentor and support others to understand the wider environmental picture;• advocate sustainability concerns and environmental issues, encourage others to actively contribute to environmental protection and sustainability.
B2	Promote a strategic environmental approach. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• demonstrate self-direction and originality in developing strategies for sustainable development and environmental improvement;• actively collaborate and engage with other disciplines and stakeholders and encourage multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches to environmental challenges;• identify constraints and exploit opportunities for the development and transfer of environmentally appropriate technology;• identify areas of uncertainty and risk including health and safety, environmental, technical, business and reputational.
B3	Demonstrate leadership and management skills. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• exercise autonomy and judgement across environmental and sustainability issues;• motivate and influence others to agree and deliver environmental objectives;• identify individual needs, plan for their development, assess individual performance and provide feedback;• reflect on outcomes, identify and pursue improvements on previous practice.

C	Effective communication and interpersonal skills
C1	Communicate the environmental case, confidently, clearly, autonomously and competently. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver presentations to a wide spectrum of audiences; • lead and sustain debates; • contribute to and chair meetings and discussions; • identify, engage with and respond to a range of stakeholders.
C2	Ability to liaise with, negotiate with, handle conflict and advise others, in individual and/or group environments (either as a leader or member). <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the motives and attitudes of others and be aware of different roles; • influence decision-making; • seek the opinions and contributions of others; • promote development opportunities and activities; • champion group decisions and manage conflict for the achievement of common goals and objectives.

D	Personal commitment to professional standards, recognising obligations to society, the profession and the environment
D1	Encourage others to promote and advance a sustainable and resilient approach by understanding their responsibility for environmental damage and improvement. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform and encourage others to consider environmental sustainability issues and the consequence of their decisions and actions.
D2	Take responsibility for personal development and work towards and secure change and improvements for a sustainable future. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise the value of CPD to the profession; • have a strong desire to learn; • value and actively pursue personal professional development.
D3	Demonstrate an understanding of environmental ethical dilemmas. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the nature of professional responsibility; • identify the environmental ethical elements in decisions; • address and resolve problems arising from questionable environmental practice.
D4	Comply with relevant codes of conduct and practice. <i>This normally includes the ability to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrate how you ensure your work complies with codes of conduct and practice.

4. How to apply

4.1 Completing the application form

The CEnv application form is available to download from our website at rsc.li/cenv

When completing the form you should make sure that you address each of the competences in full. In each section, outline specific examples of projects or activities you have worked on and how they connect to your responsibilities relating to sustainability and the environment. These should be from the past 2-3 years. Try to reflect on how your involvement in each activity has helped to address the overall aims and contributed to broader impact in an environmental context. As a guide, you should be aiming to write around 250 words for each competence statement.

You must also provide a full CV along with your application form. This should detail both your education background and employment history.

4.2 Equivalence report

If you do not hold a master's level qualification and you have not previously been awarded CChem or CSci status you may also be asked to provide additional information in the form of an equivalence report. Please contact us before completing your application if you think this may apply to you.

4.3 Identifying suitable supporters

Your application for CEnv must be validated by two supporters who are able to confirm that the information you have provided is accurate. In most cases it will be appropriate to ask your line manager and one other close colleague. You should share your application with them and provide their names and contact details on the application form. We will contact them, usually by email, to confirm that they support your application for the award of CEnv. Ideally, your supporters will be members of the Royal Society of Chemistry and will preferably hold chartered status (CEnv/CChem/CSci) but this is not strictly necessary. If you do not work with anyone who meets these criteria please contact us for further advice.

4.4 Professional review interview

There is a requirement for each applicant to attend a professional review interview (PRI), usually lasting around 45 minutes. The PRI will confirm that you meet the minimum CEnv standard. Once the assessors are satisfied with your written application you will then be asked to confirm your availability for your interview. The PRI will be held by video call (eg. Zoom), unless you have a specific accessibility request, in which case we will facilitate a face-to-face interview. A technical test will be carried out between you and the RSC roughly 1 week prior to the interview to check that connectivity issues are identified and resolved before your interview. At a minimum a webcam, microphone and speakers will be required. On the day, if the technology fails for any reason, the interview will be rescheduled. We will verify your identity before commencing the interview using photographic ID (ie passport, national ID cards, drivers' licence). The original should be presented. Unless stated otherwise, all interviews will be recorded and kept for a maximum of 3 months unless an appeal is raised.

The result will be sent to you within seven days, by email.

An observer may be present. They won't take part in the interview and will usually be another assessor, for their own training.

If an observer will be present, this will be communicated to you prior to the interview

5. Assessment and award

The assessment process for the award of CEnv status is overseen by our Registration Committee. This is comprised of professionally qualified members from all of our external registers, charterships and awards who represent a range of experience across the chemical sciences.

Your written application for the award of CEnv will be reviewed by two assessors, who are members of the Royal Society of Chemistry (MRSC or FRSC) and hold CEnv status. The assessors will take both your formal education and your experience into account, and will be looking for evidence that you are committed to environmental best practice and that you meet all of the CEnv competences. Depending on the availability of the assessors and their current workload, assessment of the written application will usually take up to 8 weeks.

The assessors may request that you provide additional information to clarify your involvement in a particular project or activity outlined in your application. If this request is made, it will be communicated to you through the RSC.

If your written application is approved by the assessors, a professional review interview (PRI) will be arranged at a convenient time with the assessors and yourself. Depending on availability, this is usually between 1-2 months after you receive your confirmation email.

Successful applicants will receive an official letter and certificate of award. As soon as the award is confirmed you may begin using the designatory letters CEnv along with your existing Royal Society of Chemistry letters. The preferred format is to write CEnv before the letters denoting your category of membership eg CEnv MRSC.

If your application is not successful you will be provided with feedback and suggestions on areas for development, and you will be invited to resubmit an application after a period of time as recommended by the assessors. If you feel that the decision has not been made fairly, you are entitled to appeal. Details of the appeals process are available on request.

6. Application and renewal fees

Applying for and maintaining CEnv status is subject to an initial application fee and annual renewal fee. The application fee is £108. The fee to maintain CEnv is £59 annually and this is payable along with your membership renewal fees.

7. Continuing professional development and revalidation

A key requirement for holding chartered status is that you must demonstrate your commitment to continually maintaining and updating your professional expertise and competence. After being awarded CEnv, you will be expected to revalidate your status annually by signing a declaration on your membership renewal form to confirm that you are maintaining accurate records of your CPD activities.

Every year a sample of CEnv registrants will be asked to submit a CPD return, outlining the CPD activities they have conducted and the subsequent impact of these on the professional practice of both themselves and the users of their work.

Your CPD should be a mixture of learning and development activities with relevance to sustainability and the environment. They should include activities in at least three (exceptionally two) of the following categories:

1. Work based learning (eg supervising staff / students, reflective practice)
2. Professional activity (eg involvement in a professional body, mentoring)
3. Formal / Educational (eg attending training courses, writing articles/papers)
4. Self-directed learning (eg reading journals or other relevant material)
5. Other (eg voluntary work, public service)

8. Contact details

If you would like further advice, please contact us by email or phone.

email: CEnv@rsc.org

Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 432141

You can also write to us at the address below.

Membership and Qualifications

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