



National Careers Week Benjamin Yeboah | Site Chemist

Benjamin Yeboah, based at our Bilsthorpe depot, shares his career journey as a Site Chemist with us for National Careers Week.

Can you share a little about your career journey and how you got to where you are today?

After earning my degree in environmental science, I completed a master's in environmental and energy engineering and took courses in waste management, health, safety, and environment. My progress has been driven by determination, a can-do spirit, guidance from experienced individuals in the industry, and daily challenges have led me to my current position.

What inspired you to pursue this career path?

From a young age, I have been committed to advocating for environmental protection. My university internships in the gold mining, oil drilling, and waste industries, reinforced my interest in the fields of environmental, health, safety, and energy engineering.

How has your role evolved since you first started?

I began my career as a basic site chemist, with a strong foundation in waste coding and classification, legislation, and guidance. Over time, I progressed through various roles, assuming additional responsibilities for managing the safe disposal of wastes by applying the waste hierarchy.

My career has evolved into leading a team to achieve best practices in waste management. In recent years, my involvement in these areas has enhanced my skills in people management, problem-solving, strategic decision-making, and financial thinking. Every day presents an opportunity to learn, but working with highly experienced individuals in the waste industry has been particularly significant.

What advice would you give to someone looking to enter the recycling industry?

Start with entry-level roles to gain basic knowledge and experience in the industry. Network with professionals and stay informed on legislation, guidance, and innovations as this will help to pursue further career opportunities in the recycling industry. Stay positive and think creatively.

How do you see the industry evolving in the next five years?

Using Enva as a benchmark, I observe significant growth in the industry, with an emphasis on exploring innovative recycling technologies and safety. This aim is to become more environmentally friendly and reduce waste sent to landfill by adopting more efficient disposal methods.

If you could go back and give your younger self career advice, what would it be?

I would have advised myself to take more risks, be more curious, and persist in continuous learning.

What skills and qualifications are most important for someone in your field?

Key qualifications include a diploma in chemistry or a related field, with additional certifications like COTC, relevant health and safety subjects, leadership and people management. Key skills include attention to detail, problem-solving, strategic decision-making, and working under pressure.

Thank you, Benjamin.