



Role Description: Gardens Volunteer

What does the Centre for Alternative Technology do?

The Centre for Alternative Technology, or CAT as it is affectionately known, aims to inspire, inform and enable people to achieve practical solutions for sustainability and to equip people with the skills, knowledge and understanding to help our society make this change.

We work towards this goal through our graduate school, visitor centre containing interactive displays demonstrating a wide range of sustainable technology, short courses, school and university visits, information service and Zero Carbon Britain reports.

What will you be doing?

As members of the Gardening Team, you will live and work at the Centre for Alternative Technology, helping to keep the display gardens around our Visitor Centre interesting, beautiful, and tidy. Residential volunteers work from 09:30 – 17:30 5 days a week, with breaks. Usually this is Monday to Friday. However, if you are on the weekend rota for watering you will have a day off in the week to compensate. Gardening tasks include:

Summer (April-Sept)

- Daily responsibilities like watering, opening and closing poly tunnels etc.
- Using hotbeds to raise plants from seed
- Planting out the annual vegetable, herb and flower beds
- Composting
- Lending a hand with children's activities and engaging with visitors
- Keeping the visitor centre weeded and tidy (this often includes weeding paths)
- Maintaining the educational garden displays
- Providing some fresh produce and flowers for the CAT café

Winter (Oct-March)

- Daily responsibilities that may include watering, opening and closing poly tunnels etc.
- Last of the summer harvesting
- Getting the polytunnels and gardens ready for winter
- Lending a hand with children's activities and engaging with visitors
- Winter maintenance and landscaping work
- Pruning
- Composting and leaf mould
- Building hotbeds and begin sowing
- Spring tidying the garden

What does CAT provide?

- Initial and ongoing training as required
- Support and direction from a gardening Supervisor.
- An environment in which to develop new and existing skills.
- The opportunity to meet new people.
- Free onsite accommodation.
- Free breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Free CAT membership for a year.
- 10% off most products in our Café and Shop.
- Free short course plus 50% off a second course.
- A certificate for your contribution to CAT.

Who are we looking for?

We're looking for people who:

Have experience or are comfortable:

- Working outdoors (whatever the weather)
- Living with others
- Are enthusiastic and keen to get stuck-in with tasks.
- Are friendly, polite and amenable to others.
- Are reliable and trustworthy
- Will follow their Supervisors instructions and CAT's policies and procedures.
- Have knowledge, interest or a willingness to learn about sustainability and CAT's work.

You will need the following up to date vaccinations and boosters:

- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis A

If you can't or don't wish to get any of these, you will be required to sign a disclaimer.