

## Unterrichtseinheit: Changes in the world of work

# The world of work in times of climate change

Climate change is one of the major challenges of our time. The world of work is also changing as a result, with increasing demands for greater climate and environmental protection, sustainability, and resource conservation. More and more people are therefore working professionally in climate protection and sustainability. Among them: craftsmen and craftswomen. Craftsmanship is essential for sustainability, climate protection, and energy transition. Without it, we wouldn't have smart homes, renewable energy, thermal insulation, or modern mobility technologies. Achieving political climate protection goals and sustainability targets, that many advocate for, would be impossible without craftsmanship. Sustainability has been a core part of craftsmanship long before it became a popular trend and need – it's deeply ingrained in the DNA of many craft businesses that plan for future generations.

### Task 1 ☆ ☆

Read the following texts about three young crafts(wo)men and the role that climate and environmental protection play in their work life.

#### (A) Up above: Green Roofs, Solar panels, and clean energy



Picture 1: John, roofer (source: AMH)

"Hi! I am John and I am a roofer. Roofing today is really about sustainability and protecting the environment. For example, we install **Green Roofs** that reduce heat, filter rainwater, improve air quality, and support wildlife. Or **Solar Roofs**: solar panels generate clean energy and reduce carbon footprints. We also use **energy efficient materials** as often as possible, i.e. recycled metals and local woods treated with low-emission oils.

I've always been interested in climate protection, and I've also been good with my hands. That's why I decided to become a roofer. Recently, I completed my three-year **apprenticeship** (\_\_\_\_\_), passed the **chamber examination** (\_\_\_\_\_), and received my **chamber certificate** (\_\_\_\_\_) – I am a full craftsman now. But next, I want to become a **master craftsman** (\_\_\_\_\_), which is also called Bachelor Professional, and ultimately, I aim at obtaining my **master craftsman's diploma** (\_\_\_\_\_). I'm very ambitious about this."

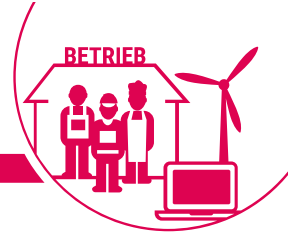
#### (B) Hear hear: about hearing loss and environmental protection



Picture 2: Hannah, hearing care professional (source: AMH)

"Hello, I'm Hannah, and I work as a hearing aid specialist. My interest in this profession began early because my brother was born with hearing loss. Interestingly, my work now also involves a lot of environmental protection, which I find exciting. For example, we make sure that our hearing aids are produced in a resource-friendly way with **recycled materials** to reduce waste. Our **digital** hearing aids use less power than analogue ones, extending battery life. We also have **recycling programmes** for old devices and batteries to keep **harmful materials** out of landfills.

I completed a programme called **Vocational Baccalaureate** (\_\_\_\_\_), which combines an **apprenticeship** (\_\_\_\_\_) with a **high school diploma** (\_\_\_\_\_). In a few months, I also will have finished my **further vocational education** (\_\_\_\_\_) as a **master craftswoman** (\_\_\_\_\_) and will then start to qualify as an **economist in crafts management** (\_\_\_\_\_)."



(C) A tree is known by its fruit



Picture 3: Lisa, carpenter  
(source: AMH)

"Hey, I'm Lisa. I grew up in the countryside and have loved the forest ever since. My interest in forests and wood led me to pursue a **dual degree** (\_\_\_\_\_) in Construction Engineering after finishing my A-levels. I passed the **chamber examination** (\_\_\_\_\_) of my carpentry **apprenticeship** (\_\_\_\_\_) in addition to graduating from university with a **bachelor's degree** (\_\_\_\_\_).

As carpenter, I work with **sustainable wood**, because we use **FSC-certified wood** from responsibly managed forests only. We also use **reclaimed wood** from old buildings to reduce the need for new lumber. When we plan new projects, we focus on **minimizing waste** by using materials efficiently and repurposing or donating scraps. It is

very important to me that I can contribute to environmental protection in my daily work. As my father always said: A tree is known by its fruit!"

Task 2 ☆ ☆

- Choose text (A), (B) or (C). How does John, Hannah or Lisa contribute to climate and environmental protection in his/her work life? Write down the blue words and define them in English. If necessary, do further research on them.
- How did John, Hannah and Lisa become crafts(wo)man? Fill in the German translation in the brackets. Then draw a diagram illustrating the path John, Hannah, or Lisa took to get to his/her profession. If necessary, do further research on the terms.

**Word bank**

Meisterbrief – Abitur – Gesellenprüfung (2x) – Betriebswirt/in im Handwerk – Gesellenbrief – Meister/in (2x) – Ausbildung (3x) – Duales Studium – Berufsabitur – Bachelor-Abschluss – Weiterbildung

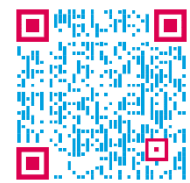
- Get together with two partners who have worked on the other texts. Explain your results to one other. Then, find out more about environmental protection and sustainability in other (craft) professions.

Task 3 ☆ ☆ ☆

- Ask craftsmen or craftswomen in your family, neighbourhood, or at a local craft business: To what extent do climate protection and sustainability play a role in their daily work? Present your findings orally in class.

OR

- Thought experiment: Imagine that after finishing school, you want to dedicate your career to climate protection and therefore decide to learn a craft profession. What kind of craft profession would it be and why? What would your career path look like? Research on the internet and prepare a small presentation.<sup>1</sup> Use the new vocabulary.



Scan me: Apprenticeship in the craft sector

Bildnachweise:

Abb. 1: <https://www.amh-online.de/bilddetail/?berufe=30&themen=&id=684>

Abb. 2: <https://www.amh-online.de/bilddetail/?berufe=47&themen=&id=876>

Abb. 3: <https://www.amh-online.de/bilddetail/?berufe=74&themen=&id=1293>

Quellen:

<https://www.ddh.de/nachhaltigkeit-daecher-ohne-nebenwirkungen-19112021>

<https://www.ihr-hoergeraet.de/wie-nachhaltig-sind-hoersysteme/>

<https://www.tischler.nrw/fuer-kunden/service-beratung/nachhaltigkeit>

<https://sustainablyforward.com/living-green-roofs/>

<https://theconstructor.org/green-building/green-building-a-growing-trend-for-energy-efficiency-and-eco-friendly-construction/573089/>

<https://www.boomandbucket.com/blog/sustainable-construction-practices-efficiency-and-environmental-impact>

<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-aids>

<https://www.hearinglife.com/hearing-blog/hearing-technology/how-do-prescription-hearing-aids-work>

<sup>1</sup> Das Handwerk: Ausbildungsberufe A-Z. Online: <https://www.handwerk.de/infos-zur-ausbildung/ausbildungsberufe-z>