

Working for the Environment

Areas of Environmental Careers

Resource Recovery -recycling, waste - to- energy conversion

Water Quality - monitoring, treatment and equipment

Land and Water Resource Management. - planning and use

Waste Management - solid and hazardous

Energy - production, efficiency, alternative sources

Agricultural Scientist - organic farming, sustainable agriculture, pest management

Environmental Advocacy - nonprofit

Wildlife Management - management of wildlife resources and their habitat

Career Profile – Here's an occupation typically considered by people who are interested in working on behalf of the environment: [Environmental / Environmental Scientist](#)

Where Is The Demand ? *

• Geographic Information Systems Specialist

use computer modeling of geographic information to see how the environment is affected by various factors and what would happen if changes were made

• Field Chemist

collects and analyzes samples of water, air soil, etc., to monitor pollution or regulatory compliance

• Hydrogeologist

underground water expert

• Environmental Educator / Communicator

teaches, professors, and instructors in environmental matters, and professionals who deal in environmental information, such as journalists, filmmakers, and photographers

• Environmental Engineer

those who have understanding of chemical and or biological processes, since resolution of environmental problems often requires chemical or biological processes

• Environmental Manager

brings management skills to bear on coordination of an entity's environmental work

• Industrial Hygienist

responsible for health and safety concerns in the workplace; helps measure these concerns, such as air quality and radon

• Planner

responsible for community planning; today planners must take environmental issues, economic forces, social dynamics, and sustain ability models into account

• Recycling Markets Developer

develops new markets for recycled goods

• Risk Assessment Expert

determines how clean is clean - how much risk is involved in releasing a particular element into the environment - in order to set regulatory standards

• Toxicologist

studies the toxicity of an environment - soil, water, or air - or individual compounds and chemicals to determine if they pose a risk

• Wetlands Ecologist

examines the relationship between the wetlands and the actions that affect it

* Source: Environmental Careers Organization

Myths and Misconceptions

All environmental jobs will be in a beautiful place...

Most environmental jobs will not take you to the Yosemite or the rocky shores of Maine. You could end up working in a small room, possibly with no windows, or in the middle of a garbage dump.

Just because you love the environment, doesn't assure you will get the job.

Yes, an employer will be looking for motivation, but in addition, will be looking for your technical expertise as well as a variety of functional skills such as handling multiple deadlines and dealing with a diverse and possibly adverse public.

You need to have a technical background to be an environmental manager.

Presently, a person with a technical background will be in demand for many job opportunities. However, as the industry evolves, the environmental manager of the future sees the big picture, understands environmental issues, and can plan for the next millennium.

The best place to find an environmental job is at an environmental company.

Today more companies know that it is good business practice to be "green" conscious, not only for their employees, but for their present and potential customers. You may find yourself internally consulting for Fortune 500 companies.

Some Related Job Titles

(Source: SIGI 3 computerized interactive guidance system available at no cost to Cornell students: Enter your Cornell NetID and password to gain access to SIGI 3. New users click on "Register" and enter new information to set up your personal account. Make a note of your login information so you can save your material and return at a later date. Print materials as suggested while completing the program.)

Forester:

procurement forester	forest information specialist	forest ranger
resource manager	land and timber manager	field forester
forest ecologist	regional forester	park ranger
consulting forester	technical forester	urban forester

Geologist:

geological technician	hydrogeologist/hydrologist	marine geologist
mineralogist	petroleum geologist	production geologist
paleontologist	glacial geologist	petrologist
mining geologist	mathematical geologist	astrogeologist
geoarcheologist	engineering geologist	geophysicist
structural geologist	military geologist	geochemist
environmental geologist	exploration geologist	geomorphologist
earth science teacher	state/county geologist	

Agricultural Scientist:

agronomist	animal geneticist	field agent
entomologist	animal scientist	sales representative

plant pathologist	horticulturist	environmental scientist
extension specialist	extension agent	cooperative manager
crop scientist	conservationist	soil scientist
plant physiologist	botanist	agricultural inspector
plant geneticist	aquaculturist	
Wildlife Biologist:		
wildlife manager	habitat specialist	game biologist
conservation officer	wildlife ecologist	wildlife intern
urban biologist	wildlife technician	extension wildlife specialist
waterfowl biologist	game warden	environmental specialist
wetland ecologist	park ranger	non-game specialist
wildlife control agent	wildlife law enforcement officer	wildlife damage control specialist
endangered species specialist		

Suggested Reading

(Some of these resources may be located in the Cornell Career Services Library, 103 Barnes Hall, in the ALS Career Development Office or in the A&S Career Services library)

Conservation Directory

Listing of U.S. government agencies
 International and regional organizations and commissions
 U.S. government agencies and citizens groups
 Canadian government agencies and citizens groups
 Colleges and universities with conservation programs in U.S. and Canada
 Environmental database and services
 Fish and wildlife commissioners and directors in U.S. and Canada
 Bureau of Land Management Districts
 Subject Index
 National wildlife refuges in U.S. (parks, seashores, and grasslands)
 Periodicals and directories of interest

Careers In The Environment

General introduction to each field (air and water quality management, energy and resource engineering, planning and design, forestry and outdoor recreation, biological and life sciences, agricultural and animal sciences, solid and hazardous waste management)
 Projected growth, salary range, related professions, major employers, educational requirements, projected trends and employment growth, and sources of further information

EnviroDirectory / Mid Atlantic / New England

Services, products, government agencies, references, and index of companies

Directory of National Environmental Organizations

Alphabetical listing of national organizations, subject index, geographical index, and federal and international environmental organizations

Earthwork (by the Student Conservation Association)

Resource guide to nationwide green jobs

Job Hunting

Networking

Graduate schools

Surveying the field

Government green jobs

Working for nonprofit organizations

Jobs in environmental management

Green "Hot Jobs"

Opportunities for minorities and women

Directory of organizations offering green jobs

Environmental Career Directory

Advice from the pros on various environmental fields

The job search process

Job opportunities data banks

Career Resources (listings for sources of help wanted ads, professional associations, employment agencies and search firms, career guides, professional and trade periodicals, and basic reference guides and handbooks)

Green at Work

Job seeking advice, career profiles, company and resource directory, additional resources (recommended reading, environmental information providers, watchdog groups).

Reference Binders

General Information about environmental careers, education programs, and a list of environmental groups.

Articles and pamphlets about careers in environmental protection (such as air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste management), land and water conservation, ecology, forestry, marine science, natural resource management, oceanography, and parks and recreation.

Job Hunting Bulletins may be found in the Job Hunting Section in the Career Library

National Environmental Employment Report (monthly)

100 + current jobs in environmental policy, communications, advocacy, conservation, engineering, research and education in nonprofit, corporations and the government.

Websites

Cornell Center for a Sustainable Future - <http://www.sustainablefuture.cornell.edu/index.php>

[Environmental Careers Organization](http://www.eco.org)

www.eco.org

internship listings from various government and nonprofit organizations, including the EPA and BLM, information about environmental career opportunities.

[Environmental Jobs and Careers](http://www.ecoemploy.com)

www.ecoemploy.com

searchable database of companies by geographic region, including Canadian government agencies, resume tips for people applying for environmental jobs

[The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable](http://www.p2.org/) <http://www.p2.org/>

The NPPR yellow pages
National survey of industrial P2 Experience
National P2 List servers
The international directory
Listing of other related web sites
Listing of state programs
Glossary of P2 terms and definitions

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov/) <http://www.epa.gov/>

Interesting stories and EPA updates
Projects and programs
News and events
Laws and regulations
Database and Software
Offices, labs and regions

[Office of Solid Waste Environmental Career Opportunities](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm) <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm>

Organization Mission
Type of Positions
How To Be Considered

[The Water Environment Federation](http://www.wef.org/) <http://www.wef.org/>

Representing 40,000 water experts this group's site includes news and regulatory updates, technical discussion groups, and job listings

Morris K. Udall Scholarship Program

The Udall Scholarship is an award of \$5000 for undergraduate study. Applications are sought from sophomores and juniors who intend a career in environmental policy or who are Native Americans and intend a career in health care or tribal policy. You must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and a work, academic, or volunteer record that demonstrates your career intentions.

If you are interested in applying, contact Beth Fiori, Fellowship Coordinator, at btfl@cornell.edu before mid-December for an appointment.

Other Scholarship Information

Truman Scholarship Information

If you have a strong record of service and leadership and plan to work in public service - in fields such as government, engineering, agriculture, education, public policy, economics, public health, environmental management, public administration, technology policy - learn about this award which provides \$30,000 for graduate school. For more information about the scholarship, contact Beth Fiori - btfl@cornell.edu

Goldwater and Udall Scholarships Information

The Goldwater Scholarship provides \$7500 of undergraduate support for students planning careers in science. Applicants need a GPA above 3.8 and research experience. The Udall Scholarship provides \$5000 of undergraduate support for students planning careers related to the environment. It also supports Native American students planning careers in health care or tribal policy. Applicants need a GPA above 3.0. For more information about the scholarship, contact Beth Fiori - btfl@cornell.edu

TBI Summer Environmental Exchange Program <http://www.tahoebaikal.org/projects/>

Since 1990, TBI has developed numerous international environmental education, research, training and exchange programs involving students, scholars, and practitioners in science, policy, economics, and other related

disciplines. All TBI programs work to:

- (1) develop environmental leadership skills among young adults and professionals;
- (2) promote innovative, multi-disciplinary watershed management and protection methods and techniques;
- (3) promote sustainable economic development, and eco-tourism in particular; and
- (4) encourage cross-cultural exchange.

The Tahoe-Baikal Institute is a non-profit, public benefit organization that aims to promote international environmental cooperation. (TBI) was established to help preserve Lake Tahoe in California and Lake Baikal in Siberia, as well as other significant and threatened natural areas around the world. This preservation is realized through environmental education programs and international exchanges of students, scholars, and practitioners in science, policy, and other fields.

The centerpiece of TBI's activities is a university-level environmental exchange program which is conducted each summer on two continents, at Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal. The summer program makes use of the unusual and varied natural locales for which these regions are known. It draws widely on university and other institutional resources in the United States and Russia.

If you have any questions about the program, please see their webpage or e-mail the coordinator at tbi@etahoe.com Application packets are available upon request. See web site for application deadlines.

News from the Student Conservation Association

Make a difference and get real-world experience. Search for [internships](#) and [jobs](#). <http://www.thesca.org/>

A sampling of past available positions:

Fisheries Biologist/Educator. Located in Long Island City, Queens, this DEC site operates wholly within the five boroughs of New York City and faces the unique challenge of natural resource protection in an urban environment. Duties: assist in the completion of angler surveys and electroshocking surveys; provide instruction at fishing clinics; and conduct educational outreach programs for diverse audiences. Required: BA/BS in biology, environmental science, education, or related field. Desired: interest in fishing, experience working with children, comfortable working in an urban setting, clean driver's record.

Archival Steward. Significant innovations in environmental education, such as the first "nature trail," were pioneered at Bear Mountain by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in the 1920s. Located on a bluff above the Hudson River, the park includes the Trailside Museum and Wildlife Center, nature trails, zoo, seasonal museums, recreational facilities, and the Bear Mountain Conference Center. Duties: Review and preserve park's historical documents and photograph collections; work with research librarian to catalog and cross-reference documents; conserve documents with archival materials; develop and conduct educational programs on park history; pursue new connections with founding institutions. Required: college education or equivalent experience in related fields. Desired: degree in library science or related experience; computer skills.

Garden Rehabilitator. Mills Mansion is a large Gilded Age country estate overlooking the Hudson River in Staatsburg, NY. After fifty years of neglect, the once thriving complex of greenhouses, scenic walks, and flower beds has almost disappeared. Duties: Assist in the physical rehabilitation of the historic garden; develop educational presentations for school children; develop outreach opportunities to give garden tours to the public. Required: good public presentation skills, self-initiative, and ability to do physical labor. Desired: gardening skills or interest, teaching or public speaking experience, interest in history.

Greenpeace Campaigner Program

You can be part of one the most innovative ways Greenpeace is fighting to save our planet - the Campaigner Program. The Campaigner Program is an 18 month, paid, intensive Greenpeace campaign training program

dedicated to challenging the best and brightest environmental activists to become the leaders who will make visions realities. The Campaigner Program is grounded in the history, mission and vision of Greenpeace and its dedication to non-violent direct action.

The majority of the training will come directly through running Greenpeace campaigns hands-on, where participants will apply skills, knowledge and passion to help win some of the most pressing environmental campaigns of the day.

General Campaigners will work in teams to run 2 to 4 campaigns total over the course of the program. Other aspects of the Campaigner Program will include: spending time at Greenpeace offices in other countries; training with other organizations; and the opportunity to draft, plan and implement your own six-month project.

Diverse perspectives and experiences enhance the way Greenpeace selects and approaches issues, as well as the creativity and effectiveness of our campaigns. Greenpeace therefore strongly encourages applications from women, people of color, and other under-represented communities.

To apply, please go to: <http://www.greenpeaceusa.org/inside/jobs/>