

Environmental Careers

Career Fields
(What to major in?)

Job Sectors
(Where to contribute?)

Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM):

Environmental science and engineering, geosciences, ecology, biology, agricultural science, data science, etc.



Liberal Arts and Education:

Economics, public policy, law, history, arts, architecture, communication, education

Examples:

- Rachel Carson (DDT, *Silent Spring*)
- Marc Edwards (Flint water crisis)
- IPCC (climate change)

Government & Policy

Examples:

- EPA, USGS, NOAA, USDA, etc.
- Local agencies



Examples:

- Erin Brockovich

Government & Policy

- **Develop and enforce** policies (regulations, incentives) to protect human health and the natural environment
- **Fund** environmental research, education, and programs
- **Study** environmental issues and **evaluate** solutions
- **Design/plan** green communities (e.g., urban planning, sustainable agriculture)



Research & Academia

- **Produce** new knowledge
- **Observe and explain** environmental problems
- **Evaluate** risks or benefits of technologies and policies to people and the planet
- **Develop** solutions
- **Inform** policy
- **Educate** the public



Research & Academia



Citizens



Law



Environmental Law

- **Represent** environmental interests in court
- **Advocate** for protection of at-risk communities (environmental justice)
- **Advise** policymakers and clients on regulatory issues



Industry & Consulting



Examples:

- Renewable energy developers
- Environmental consulting firms

Non-Profits



Examples:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Sierra Club

Industry & Consulting

- **Develop and implement** environmental solutions
- **Produce** green products and energy
- **Reduce** emissions of pollutants
- **Remediate** (clean up) contaminated sites
- **Ensure** regulations are met



Opportunities for Citizen Engagement

Economics

Use purchasing power to encourage green products and practices

Politics

Express support for sustainable, science-based policies. Vote!



Volunteering

Participate in "citizen science" and community service

Non-Profits

- **Analyze** policies and solutions
- **Engage** in conservation efforts
- **Advocate** for people and the environment (e.g., comment on proposed regulations)
- **Communicate** environmental awareness to the public

