

Environmental Science and Planning

Environmental Science and Planning are fast-growing fields that largely deal with aspects of environmental land use, planning, and management. However, both career paths are involved in different parts of the process.

The Environmental Science and Planning field centers around the alternation of natural science and public policy and social institutions that influence the way we manage the environment and our natural resources. Environmental Planning careers research and develop methods and programs that use natural resources and landscapes more efficiently with minimal damage to the surrounding environment. They often focus on the use of natural resources and attempt to predict any risks or problems that may arise, and then create plans to combat these risks.

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Careers and Employment

Most careers in Environmental Science and Environmental Planning involve spending time reading, researching, planning, working in the field and laboratory collaborating with other scientists, planners and policy makers. However, some Environmental jobs involve the direct oversight or implementation of field sampling and remediation or construction programs, meaning that you may have to spend some of your time outdoors, possibly in adverse weather conditions.

Some of the top employers of those specializing in Environmental Science and Environmental Planning are environmental consulting firms, green industry, as well as various government agencies. However, nonprofits, corporations, and real estate developers their services.

It's important to note that critical thinking, computer skills, and communication skills are fine traits to possess if you're looking for a career in Environmental Science and Environmental Planning.

The Job Market:

The job outlook for Environmental Science and Environmental Planning careers is strong. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, both fields are projected to grow faster than average, largely due to the rapid population growth, worsening environmental conditions, the rapid development of sustainable technologies, and the constant reconsideration of environmental policies and laws.

Job Descriptions:

While environmental jobs span a number of services and industries environmental science and planning professionals should be familiar with the following tasks:

- Evaluate land use issues
- Remain compliant with applicable zoning and engineering plans
- Organize correspondence, reports, data and other project information
- Research local, state and federal environmental policies
- Analyze remediation strategies
- Proactively maintain client and stakeholder relationships
- Show innovation in strategy across various projects
- Work well in an interdisciplinary environment with other technicians, scientists, and engineers
- Create and maintain technical documentation
- Collect and analyze data
- Maintain records and databases to support standard project operations
- Provide technical feedback on environmental policy

Career Options

There are many different career options in the Environmental Science and Planning field. Each career focuses on different aspects of the science and planning processes.

- Data Scientist
- Engineering Geologist
- Environmental Scientist
- Environmental Remediation
- Environmental Educator

- Environmental Lawyer
- Environmental Planner
- Environmental Policy Analyst
- Land Use Planner
- Power Transmission Scientist
- Preservation Planner
- Public Involvement Specialist
- Recreation Planner
- Recreational Consultant
- Recreational Open Space Analyst
- Registered Environmental Assessor
- Environmental Statistician
- Surveyor Cartographer
- Traditional Cultural Property Expert
- Transportation Modeling Specialist
- Transportation Planner
- Urban Planner