What Can I Do with a Degree in Environmental Science?

*Courtesy of SFU Career Services

For informational purposes only

Examples of Environmental Science major careers, including careers that may require further education beyond a bachelor’s degree:

1.) Waste Reduction Coordinator
   - Part environmentalist, part bureaucrat and part public relations specialist. Coordinators manage programs to collect and handle recyclable waste and make a difference in communities through education and promotion of the three R’s. Works for government, engineering consulting firms and industrial inspection companies.

2.) Environmental Scientist
   - Monitor humanities impact on the earth through research. Conduct field studies and write environmental assessment reports. Works in government labs as well as private consulting and engineering firms that minimize people’s impact on the environment.

3.) Park Warden
   - Supervise, manage and control the safety of people, animals and environment in parks. Ranger duties are 80% public relations, 10% law enforcement and 10% paperwork. Works for the government.

4.) Environmental Technician
   - Use their practical knowledge of science to lower pollution levels. Duties include quality control, testing contaminated sites, testing atmospheric conditions and hazardous waste removal. Work in plants, forests, offshore sites and government agencies.

5.) Environmental Consultant
   - Conduct both qualitative and quantitative investigations to assess land that may have been polluted and develop a plan to clean up contaminated sites. They may also advise companies on government regulations and how to pollute less. Works for a variety of interests both public and private.

6.) Ecologist
   - Ecologists study how living things interact with and their environments. Studying the environment also involves looking at temperature, rainfall, altitude and pollution levels. Field research is required to gather data for analysis to draw conclusions. Works for government, natural resource industries and companies involved in land development.
7.) **Environmental Lawyer**
   - Experts on environmental legislation who write and interpret environmental laws. Pursue environmental legal interests for the public, government and corporate sectors. Requires both a scientific and legal education.

8.) **Environmental Accountant**
   - A branch of accounting that identifies measures and reports on environmental costs. Works for both private industry and public sector agencies. Requires a scientific degree and accounting certification.

9.) **Environmental Protection Officer**
   - Responsibilities include tasks associated with education prevention and law enforcement. Conduct investigations and enforce environmental legislation on behalf of the government. Requires both a scientific and criminal justice education.

10.) **Wetlands Expert**
    - Finds ways to use plants to clean up contaminated soil and water. Test soil for pollutants and develop plant species that can degrade the contaminants. Works for the government, private industry and academia. Requires a PhD.

11.) **Paralegal**
    - Performs preparatory work required to research case and develops documentation required to write a brief in cases that involve technical or scientific issues. May interview prospective witnesses. Works for law firms, prosecutors and public defenders.

12.) **Editor**
    - Review, evaluate and edit manuscripts, articles, news reports and other material for publication, broadcast or interactive media and co-ordinate the activities of writers, journalists and other staff. Employed by publishing firms, magazines, journals, newspapers, radio and television networks and stations.