Environmental health workers and specialists use their passion for the environment and their knowledge of the natural sciences to protect the environment and human health. They may clean up polluted areas, advise policymakers, or work with industry to reduce waste.

TRENDS & INDUSTRY INFO

Issues like climate change and fracking have spurred more public interest in the environment. The country’s aging infrastructure will also have to be replaced. These issues will likely fuel job growth. There are different routes within the field of Environmental Health and your preparation will require different skills depending on your path.

Sustainability is a burgeoning industry that is growing as technology advances and the world’s natural resources become more and more scarce. Green jobs and careers in sustainability are also beginning to replace jobs that once existed in dying industries, resulting in a rapid growth rate. Green investments, alternative energy (wind and solar), change in the regulatory regime, sustainable forestry, LEED building, eco-tourism and “smart growth” are just a handful of the areas that will all be the leaders of job growth over the next few decades. Fast Growing Jobs include:

- Urban Growers
- Water Quality Technicians
- Clean Car Engineers
- Recyclers
- Natural Scientists
- Green Builders
- Green Design Professionals
- Wind / Biofuel Energy Workers

Environmental scientists and specialists work in offices and laboratories. Some may spend time in the field gathering data and monitoring environmental conditions firsthand, but this work is much more likely to be done by environmental science and protection technicians. Fieldwork can be physically demanding, and environmental scientists and specialists may work in all types of weather.

FACTS & STATS

The job outlook for Environmentalists is excellent, employment projected to grow 15% from 2012 to 2022. This is faster than the average for all occupations. Also higher is the average for employment of environmental scientists and specialists, projected to grow 11% from 2014 to 2024. Heightened public interest in hazards facing the environment, and increasing demands placed on the environment by population growth, is expected to spur demand.

Projected Percent Change in Employment, 2014-24
Environmental Scientists and Specialists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental scientists and specialists, including health</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical scientists</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, all occupations</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.
A Career in
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Resume
Demonstrate your interest through relevant extracurriculars, internships and/or work experience.

Some Master’s programs expect prior professional job experience related to environmental policy after graduation and before the program.

Skills Required
• Broad, interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues;
• In-depth grasp of political, economic, and social aspects of environmental issues;
• Excellent writing ability;
• Research: analyze the nature and sources of problems and their solutions;
• Multicultural interchange: work positively with diverse cultures and ethnic groups;
• and field experience, if entering a life science career in this industry.

Additional Skills Required for Policy Side
• Understanding of environmental laws and policies (if entering policy side).
• Public speaking: articulate your views efficiently and positively in various formats, including a speech, panel, debate, and group discussion (if entering policy side).

Hiring Process and Timelines
This industry hires all year long. Formal internship offerings vary by field. Consider organizations dealing with politics or the environment, and volunteer work on campus or through class projects.

SAMPLE JOB TITLES
• Environmental Writer
• Lab Technician
• Marine Biologist
• Mining Engineer
• Physicist
• Seismologist
• Energy Manager
• Environmental Public Relations Specialist
• Resource Manager
• Water Quality Specialist
• Disaster Management Specialist
• Community Liaison
• Sustainability Content Manager
• Environmental Health Specialist

UMD CAMPUS RESOURCES
• Office of Sustainability
• Sustainability Minor
• UMD Environmental Student Organizations

OTHER RESOURCES
• National Waste & Recycling Association
• MidAtlantic Chapter of the Environmental Information Association
• Eco Jobs

WHERE ARE UMD ALUMS?