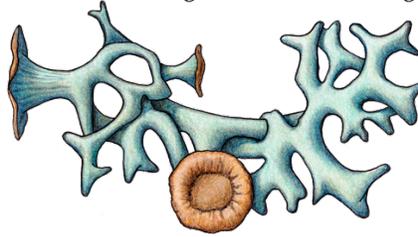


Natural History and Sustainability



Be Curious.

What does an environmental job look like?

The green job sector is one of the broadest, most exciting areas of employment because of the interdisciplinary nature of environmental work, especially here in the Bay Area. Most jobs fit into one of three categories:

1) Government agencies: There are several government agencies at the city, county, state, and federal level that manage natural resources, such as land, animals, plants, air, and water. These agencies are responsible for preserving and conserving natural spaces and educating the general public about the value of these resources. Jobs include conservation scientist, park ranger, nature interpreter, outdoor educator, biological technician, and many others. Government agencies on our Advisory Board include: Angel Island State Park, East Bay Regional Park District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the City of Oakland, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Alameda County Water District.

2) Private companies: The field of environmental consulting consists of private companies who conduct surveys and mitigation plans for natural resources in order to be in compliance with the law. For example, if a parcel of land is to be assessed for development or set aside for conservation, government agencies or private parties will hire environmental consulting firms to conduct inventories of plants, animals, and other natural resources. Environmental consulting firms on our Advisory Board include: LSA Associates and Environmental Science Associates.

3) Non-profit organizations: There are many non-profits in the Bay Area committed to environmental issues, ranging from small local outfits to giant worldwide organizations. These companies address the environment from several different angles, from social justice to clean energy to conservation and more. Work at non-profits is often extremely collaborative and requires multi-tasking, working on fundraising, report writing, research, and interfacing with the public. Non-profits on our Advisory Board include: The Watershed Project, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Save the Bay, Alameda County Resource Conservation District.

How well do environmental jobs pay?

Few people go into this field to get rich, but you can make a decent wage. Entry-level positions are not usually highly paid, but there is often opportunity for advancement. For example, the median wage for a career in the field of Conservation and Resource Management is \$33.16 per hour.

Will I like having an environmental job?

If you like working outdoors, if you like nature, and if you are motivated to dedicate your career to the greater good, than you will like an environmental job.

How does the Natural History and Sustainability program prepare me for a job?

While you earn one of our three Certificates of Achievement (Conservation & Resource Management, Natural History & Resources, and Urban Agroecology), you will have an opportunity to get direct work experience through our internship class, COPED 476F (Occupational Work Experience in Environmental Management). Our faculty will also work with you individually to develop a Student Career Plan.