

NPSIA Works: Career Futures

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Description of the Field

The environmental industry includes consulting and related engineering, scientific, and technical services, and the manufacturing of products for the conservation, protection and enhancement of the environment. Specific areas of specialization include resource conservation and environmental protection, pollution assessment, hazardous waste management, environmental planning, education, or advocacy as well as environmental law.

Rising interest and concern in the state of the natural environment, particularly climate change, has led to growth of the environmental industry, both domestically and internationally, over the past two decades. Further adding to the demand is the shortage of skilled workers. As a result, there is an increasing demand for individuals who are multi-disciplinary and have varied environmental skills and training. Employers can include government departments and agencies, consulting establishments, professional associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Generally, a Master's degree is needed for breaking into the environmental industry especially into the work described above. As well, practical and field experience is often requested by potential employers. Students with degrees in international affairs must often develop a technical specialty. For instance, those interested in private consulting, may wish to consider specialized study in forestry, environmental law, or land use. In general, a good knowledge of economics will be required, since most environmental analysis has a strong economics component.

This has become an international industry with an increased demand for applicants with a background in international affairs.

Selected Alumni Job Titles

Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Environment Canada
Senior Policy Advisor, Sustainable Water Use Strategies, Environment Canada
Executive Director, Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy
Environmental Advisor, Montreal Metropolitan Community
Director of Operations, Secretariat, National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
Social Development Specialist, ESSA Technologies
Director of Climate Change and Energy, International Institute for Sustainable Development
Associate Information Officer, Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, UNEP
Policy Analyst, CEC, Latin and South America, International Affairs Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Program Officer, Environment and Energy, Canadian Embassy, Global Affairs Canada
Senior Energy Economist, World Bank
Senior Environmental Advisor, Environment and Development Policy Branch, CIDA
Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Development, Strategic Policy Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Senior Policy Analyst, Trade and Environment, Environment Canada
Senior Policy Advisor & Lead Negotiator, International Emissions Trading, Environment Canada
Senior Programme Officer, Land & Livelihoods, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Trade Policy Officer, Procurement, Trade and Environment, Global Affairs Canada

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