

The Environmental Scientist

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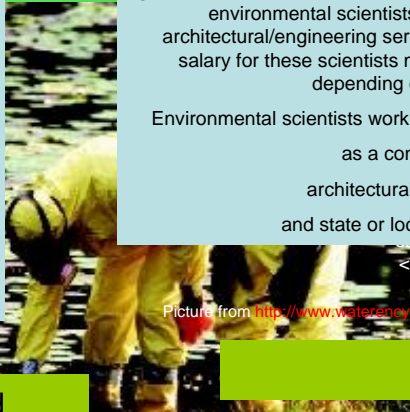
So what is an Environmental Scientist?

With much of the world becoming more aware of the environment and affects we as human beings have on it, the demand for environmental scientists is growing. From field research to consulting desk jobs, and with the need for an interdisciplinary approach to science and politics, the environmental scientist has one of the most diverse careers out there. Environmental scientists need to be knowledgeable in biology, geology, politics, and so more and be able to know how these all connect to each other. Although salaries are not high for these jobs, most of these scientists choose their career so that they can help the world become a better place to live for humans, animals, and plants. These scientists get jobs as field and lab researchers, consultants, and university professors.

Picture from Wikipedia.com

Some Career Pre-requisites

A bachelor's degree in a natural science is all that is needed to find an entry-level position. However, more and more the employers are looking for people with higher levels of education and a master's degree or a PhD is recommended when one is trying to find a job as an environmental scientist. Environmental scientists need a wide range of computer skills along with their science knowledge. From data analysis to remote sensing, and knowledge of how to use a Global Positioning System (GPS), are essential for the environmental scientist. Interpersonal skills are also very important. Many of the researchers will be working in teams and consultants need to be able to communicate well to their clients. Previous experience is also necessary for a career; because of the competition, most of the applicants will have experience, and without any, it may be hard to get a job.



Picture from <http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/En-Ca/Environmental-Protection-Agency-U-S.html>

Career Salary

Most of the research environmental scientists earn their research funds through grants. The local, state, and federal governments employed a little over half of the environmental scientists in 2004*. Others working in consulting or architectural/engineering services are paid by the clients that hire them. The salary for these scientists mostly ranges from \$39,000 to \$70,000 a year depending on who they are employed by:

Environmental scientists working for the Federal Government - about \$73,000*,
as a consultant - around \$51,000*,
architectural or related service - \$49,000*,
and state or local government around -\$47,000*.

<<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos050.htm>>

Methodology/Works cited

I used the internet as a source of research for this project. I used various sites from government to Wikipedia. I used the US Department of Labor site for Environmental Scientist and Hydrologist for specific info and sites like Wikipedia for the general info on these careers.

Sites used:

- Environmental careers organization -
http://www.eco.org/site/c.dnJLKPnNfKqG/b.795025/k.AA86/The_Environmental_Careers_Organization.htm

- Environmental Scientist and Hydrologist -
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos050.htm>

-Environmental science -
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_science

-Career Profiles -
<http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/profiles/dayInLife.asp?careerID=61>

Lifestyle

A lot of environmental scientists spend their time working in the field and doing a lot a physical activity to collect data for their research, and they might find themselves spending a few hours to a few days out in the field. Some more experienced scientists may spend more of their time in the lab or in an office. Any traveling will mostly be for meeting with possible clients. Since most of the research scientists' salary will be from grants, they might find it stressful to not have a secure source of income and to be constantly looking for and applying for the grants. The hours worked range widely depending on the specific job that the scientist has.

Job Security

The job outlook for environmental scientists is expected to grow steadily through 2014*. Most of these jobs will be concentrated at the consulting firms as public-policy will force companies to change according to the laws and regulations. Environmental awareness is also growing throughout the world, and this will create a greater demand for environmental research.

*US Dept of Labor
<<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos050.htm>>

My Conclusion

An environmental scientist is a great job for those who have a high concern to better the world and helping people and the environment. These are the people who will make sure companies are not damaging the world around us and will try to change policy and law so that we might see the world saved. Anyone looking into becoming an environmental scientist should try to go for a higher degree because of the high competition for entry-level jobs. It is also very important to gain some experience with the computer skills that are required as an environmental scientist. If one is looking for a different yet similar job, there are the conservation scientist (whose focus is ways to find ways to conserve energy), atmospheric scientists (focus on atmosphere/pollutants/etc), and biological scientist (focus on the life sciences).

Picture from
http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Dept_s/CEE/Facilities