

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST



Your future's out there.

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Many environmental scientists protect the environment through jobs in solid and hazardous waste management, land use, and air or water quality. Their understanding of biology, chemistry, and physics helps them assess environmental quality and find ways to protect air, water, and land.

Environmental scientists work for natural resources and environmental protection departments. Federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service hire environmental scientists. Private environmental consulting firms, environmental laboratories, and corporations which discharge waste in the air, in water, or on land also hire environmental scientists to monitor discharges, assess environmental quality, and assure compliance with state and federal laws regulating pollution.

To be an environmental scientist, you need a bachelor's degree. You can major in soil science, water resources, meteorology, or environmental economics and policy. Some universities offer more specific majors, like groundwater management, water chemistry, air resources, water and wastewater treatment. All majors include courses in chemistry and biology. Other courses you take vary with your major. Examples include: Solid and Hazardous Waste Management, Development of Environmental Impact Statements, Geographical Information Systems, Water Chemistry and Analysis, Pollution Ecology, Hydrogeology, and Advanced Techniques in Environmental Analysis. Often environmental scientists earn graduate degrees.

In high school, take [mathematics](#), [biology](#), [chemistry](#), [physics](#), and [computer science](#). [Communication courses](#), both written and oral, are also important.



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