CAREERS IN….

The Green industry is a new, innovative, and growing field. This field can be broadly defined as jobs that involve protecting wildlife or ecosystems, reducing pollution or waste, reducing energy usage and lowering carbon emissions, etc. Also known as “green-collar” jobs, they have been created by a shift to a more energy-conscious, energy-sufficient society.

Interests & Skills…

- Critical thinking
- Knowledge of energy conservation/sustainability
- Interdisciplinary skills
- Understanding of, and interest in, green initiatives
- Problem-solving skills
- Research skills

Work Environment:
The biggest misconception about green jobs is that they are primarily for researchers, scientists, and PhDs. Many jobs in the green economy are similar to those in other industries. For example, manufacturers, businesses, etc. focused in the green industry need project managers, accountants, assemblers, IT professionals, customer service reps, marketing professionals and account executives, just like other companies. These workers can have traditional occupations for those particular companies, while some may require additional “green skills and knowledge,” such as an apprenticeship, professional certificate, or further education.

Possible Job Titles:

- Electrical/Environmental Engineer
- Solar Lab Technician
- Wind Analyst
- Non-Profit
- Green Interior Designer
- Ecologist
- Green Building Inspector/Auditor
- Horticulturist
- Project Manager
- Environmental Educator
- Executive Director, Nonprofit
- Financial/Business/Research Analyst
- Geologist
- Natural Home Builder
- Construction Worker
- Climatologist
- Cost Estimator
- Energy Management Analyst
- Green Architect
- Researcher/Developer
- Sustainability Program Director
- Operations Manager
Enhance Your Qualifications:
Students interested in green careers can think about the skills, education, or training needed in one of the green job industries or focus on a particular passion for a job in the green collar industry. Since this field is so broad, a focus on some of the basic skills such as math, science, design, engineering, environmental economics, etc. that pertain to your area of interest would be helpful. Volunteering for a green nonprofit, event, or initiative in your community can provide great learning experience. Internships in related fields are also helpful, depending on your major and the field you are interested in pursuing. Research, networking, and staying up-to-date on green initiatives are important in any area of the industry you decide to enter.

Related Web Sites:
Occupational Outlook: Green Jobs www.bls.gov/green/
American Solar Energy Society ases.org/
Green Jobs Ready greenjobsready.com/

Other sources:
Please drop by the Career Development and Advisement Center to learn more about careers in the green industry. Visiting departments on campus, such as the Science department, can also prove to be valuable in addressing some of your questions.

Compliments of:
The Career Development and Gloria S. Williams Advisement Center
http://www.wpunj.edu/career-advisement
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