Career and Transfer Center
Monroe Community College

Career Profile:
Environmental Science

The majority of the opportunities for careers in the environment fall into several general categories. The **Environmental Planning** profession is one of the categories and generally focuses on either a specific area (neighborhoods, cities, regions) or a specific issue area (air quality, transportation). **Environmental Educators** are often the translators of technical information to the non-technical public. **Solid Waste Management** is one of the fastest growing fields in the country. Virtually all large cities as well as small towns face the problem of dwindling landfill space for municipal solid waste. Municipalities scramble to develop recycling programs and environmentally safe incineration systems. **Hazardous Waste Management** is another general area that is growing. Identifying wastes, categorizing them, disposing of them legally, and working to reduce their generation in the first place employs a large portion of hazardous waste workers. **Air and Water Quality Management**, along with **Land and Water Conservation** are fields that continue to grow as the government and more companies try to find solutions to the negative effects of the industrial age. Other career options include **Fish & Wildlife Management**, **Parks and Outdoor Recreation & Forestry**.

Environmental Scientists conduct research to identify and abate or eliminate sources of pollutants that affect people, wildlife, and their environments. **Geoscientists** study the composition, structure, and other physical aspects of the Earth. **Oceanographers** use their knowledge of geology and geophysics, in addition to biology and chemistry, to study the world's oceans and coastal waters. **Hydrologists** study the quantity, distribution, circulation, and physical properties of underground and surface waters. **Environmental Engineers** work in any aspect of environmental protection. The major areas include air pollution control, industrial hygiene, radiation protection, hazardous waste management, toxic materials control, water supply, wastewater management, storm water management, solid waste disposal, public health, and land management.

Salary Information:

- Environmental Scientist:
  $65,280 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- ***Environmental Engineers for the Rochester, New York:***
  $76,200 Median Salary Range (Career One Stop, 2008)

  [*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

Transfer Information:

- A Bachelor's degree is entry-level into many of these professions and a Master's degree may be required for some. Those students interested in working in the environmental or regulatory fields should explore coursework in hydrology, hazardous waste management, environmental legislation, chemistry, fluid mechanics, and geologic logging.

Additional Information:

- Environmental Career Center: www.environmentalcareer.com
- The Environmental Careers Organization: www.eco.org

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