

# You Can Make a Difference

## Learn about Careers in Waste Management

### So You Want to Pursue an Environmental Career?

Almost any career field that interests you—from computers to science to law to communications—can be applied to environmental fields. These careers are open to people from all backgrounds, regardless of race or gender or any disabilities. You don't have to wait until you find a job, however, to start your career in solid waste management. You can begin today by finding volunteer positions, student jobs, internships, and academic programs that can give you educational, real-world experiences.

### Community Service

You can start learning about careers in waste management by joining a community group or another service organization that does environmental work. Whether as a paid employee or a volunteer, you can learn firsthand what communities and individuals can do to manage their waste and what it would be like to pursue this type of environmental career. EPA's booklet **Service Learning: Education Beyond the Classroom** (available by calling 800 424-9346 or visiting [www.epa.gov/osw/publicat.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osw/publicat.htm))

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### A Day in the Life...

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to manage your community's recycling program, or create new policies that help people manage their waste?

Visit **OSW's Careers Web site** ([www.epa.gov/osw/careers](http://www.epa.gov/osw/careers)) for more information. This site offers detailed profiles of employees in several diverse fields within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in non-government organizations. Environmental engineer, lawyer, computer specialist, and professor are some of the jobs profiled. Each profile gives you a glimpse of the employees' daily activities, as well as their diverse career experiences and educational backgrounds. In addition, these jobs illustrate how environmentalists in any career field can help support waste reduction and resource conservation.

If you are interested in working for EPA, you can access the Agency's automated recruitment and job application system at the **EPA EZhire Web site** ([www.epa.gov/ezhire](http://www.epa.gov/ezhire)). Also visit the **Partnership for Public Service Web site** ([www.calltoserve.com](http://www.calltoserve.com)) for additional information on federal service (see "Answering the Call" on the left side of the home page).



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contains information, case studies, and a comprehensive list of resources on environmental service programs. You can also contact your school guidance counselor to find out about opportunities in your area.

### Student Employment

If you are interested in working for EPA or another federal agency, you can apply for student employment to gain valuable work experience while you are still in school. Students enrolled at least part-time in high school through graduate school are eligible to apply. Your work experience can range from summer jobs to positions that last as long as you are a student, and can be directly related to your academic field of study. For more information, visit the **U.S. Office of Personnel Management Web site at <[www.opm.gov/employ/students](http://www.opm.gov/employ/students)>**.

### Internships

Undergraduate and graduate students can also apply for internships, fellowships,

and other student jobs at EPA headquarters and regional offices across the nation. Opportunities exist within several different EPA regional offices covering a wide range of environmental issues, and participation in many of these programs can lead to full-time employment. For more information, visit **EPA's Office of Human Resources and Organizational Services Web site at <[www.epa.gov/epahrist](http://www.epa.gov/epahrist)>**.

### Advanced Education

In a competitive economy, higher education is an important step in a successful career. Hundreds of universities across the United States offer environmental degree programs covering topics such as ecology, environmental studies, natural resources, geosciences, marine biology, technical writing and communications, information technology, administration, and environmental policy and law. The following resources can help you identify which institutions have the programs that interest you most and how to apply:

- **Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center**  
<[www.ateec.org/career/careers.cfm](http://www.ateec.org/career/careers.cfm)>

Contains information on environmental programs in high schools, 2-year colleges, 4-year universities, as well as broad descriptions of typical environmental technology jobs.

- **Brown Center for Environmental Studies**  
<[envstudies.brown.edu/Dept/espigm.htm](http://envstudies.brown.edu/Dept/espigm.htm)>

Provides links to environmental studies programs at more than 100 universities across the United States.

- **Society for Conservation Biology**

<[conbio.net/SCB/Services/Programs](http://conbio.net/SCB/Services/Programs)>

Includes a database directory of almost 200 higher education environmental programs that can be searched by subject, state, type of degree, and school.

## What Is EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW)?

OSW helps protect human health and the environment by overseeing a national program for the responsible management of hazardous and nonhazardous waste. OSW works closely with states and tribes, industry, environmental groups, and the public to set national environmental goals and policies, assume leadership roles in environmental education, and write flexible regulations. One way OSW can accomplish its goal is to encourage people like you to pursue a career in waste management.

Solid Waste and Emergency Response (5305W)  
EPA530-F-02-011  
[www.epa.gov/osw](http://www.epa.gov/osw)  
February 2003

