



# ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS RESOURCE GUIDE



Brought to you by



Welcome to the Environmental Careers Resource Guide, brought to you by Heritage Conservancy and Schuylkill River Greenways. If you are interested in an environmental career, this guide is for you! In this resource packet, you will find information about college majors, where to apply for jobs and internships, volunteer opportunities, and more.

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# EDUCATION

## Majors & Environmental Connection

There are many different paths you can take when building your environmental career, and not all of those paths start with a degree in environmental science. The environment is something we interact with every day, and so many majors and career paths intersect with it. Below you can explore how different majors could apply to an environmental career:



**Agriculture:** Climate change and our growing population create demand for sustainable agricultural practices. Some jobs in this field could include research, farming and food production, horticulture, farmland preservation, and food science.

**Anthropology:** A degree in anthropology will prepare you to have a greater understanding of the interconnectedness of people, culture, and the environment. Jobs in this field could include museum curator, education, project manager, resource technician, and researcher.

**Art:** Art and the environment are well-connected. Organizations may hire graphic designers and artists to create a variety of print or digital materials for them including educational materials, website design, and photography.

**Biology:** There are many potential environmental careers in biology. Environmental biology deals with how living organisms impact and are impacted by their environment. Some potential jobs in this field include research, field technician, and laboratory technician.



# EDUCATION

**Communications:** In order for us to make change to help our planet, there must be a bridge between scientists and laypeople. Environmental jobs in communications could include jobs in education, journalism, politics, marketing and public relations, social media, and fundraising.

**Chemistry:** There are many environmental career paths you could take with a degree in chemistry. Some job responsibilities of an environmental chemist might include collecting samples of soil or water and analyzing them, evaluating the impacts of hazardous substances and developing remediation plans, or working with businesses or manufacturers to help them mitigate negative environmental impacts of their work.

**Education:** There are many environmental applications to an education degree. You could teach K-12 environmental science, ecology, earth and space science, and more. You could also work as an informal educator at an environmental organization, park, or nature center and work with community members and schools to develop engaging environmental education activities to run programs or to supplement students' curriculum.

**Event Management:** Many environmental organizations have large events to pull community members together, have work days like trash clean ups, or fundraising events. Combining an event management degree with a passion for the environment is a great way to make change.

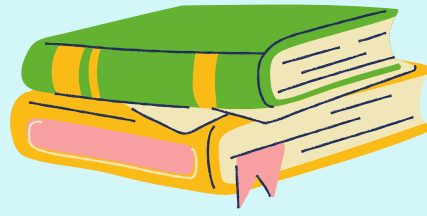
**Finance:** Whether a business or organization is in the private sector, government, or nonprofit sector, there is a need for a finance and accounting department. You could be a financial manager, advisor, or chief financial officer.

**Geography:** Understanding geography and Earth's features is extremely important for environmental scientists. Studying environmental geography can prepare you for a career in consulting, research, education, and mapping, as well as prepare you in skills such as using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other software/programs commonly used in the industry.



# EDUCATION

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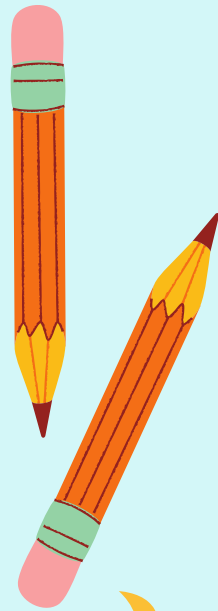
**History:** Some environmental applications to this area of study include research, museum curator, or history of science. Preservation of historic structures and environmental conservation are both important parts of preserving the culture and natural resources of a community.



**Sustainable Fashion:** The fast fashion industry is thought to be a large contributor to climate change and the need for sustainable clothes manufacturing and fashion is high. Jobs in sustainable fashion could include fashion designer, sustainable sourcing manager, sustainability manager, business owner, and product innovation.

**Technology:** The advancement and understanding of technology is important for scientists to better understand environmental systems, the effects of climate change, and creating innovative solutions to many environmental issues we face.

**Writing:** A career in writing has many different environmental connections. You could have a career in journalism, education, public relations, social media, research, creative writing, grant writing, grant reporting, and much more!



**Zoology:** If you love animals, a zoology path might be right for you. If you study zoology you could work with animals in a variety of different settings, such a zoo or aquarium for educational purposes, or an animal rehabilitation center.

## **Applying to College**

- Volunteering, internships, and community study can be a great way to introduce yourself to the environmental organizations in your area, develop skills, and determine if you like what you are doing.
- Try shadowing someone working in the profession you are considering. This can help you see daily job tasks, and help you narrow down your interest.
- Once you have a list of the schools you would like to apply to, keep a spreadsheet of important deadlines for your applications, as well as specific things that each school might be requesting.



# ORGANIZATIONS

There are a variety of sectors and different places you could work for, including government jobs, private-sector jobs (for-profit businesses and companies) and nonprofit organizations. Each is run a little differently, so do your research and think about what you would like from your employer. Here are a few organizations you could consider, but there are many more to be found. **Click on the organization's name to visit their website.** **Then, click on the location to see where it is located!**

Organization	Location	Internship	Volunteer	Specific Program
<a href="#"><u>Alliance for Watershed Education</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Find a center near you</u></a>	X		X
<a href="#"><u>Barn Nature Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Doylestown, PA</u></a>	X	X	
<a href="#"><u>Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>New Hope, PA</u></a>	X		
<a href="#"><u>Briar Bush Nature Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Abington, PA</u></a>	X	X	
<a href="#"><u>Churchville Nature Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Churchville, PA</u></a>	X	X	
<a href="#"><u>Fairmount Water Works</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Philadelphia, PA</u></a>	X		X
<a href="#"><u>Heritage Conservancy</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Doylestown, PA</u></a>	X	X	
<a href="#"><u>Independence Seaport Museum</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Philadelphia, PA</u></a>	X		X
<a href="#"><u>John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Philadelphia, PA</u></a>	X	X	X

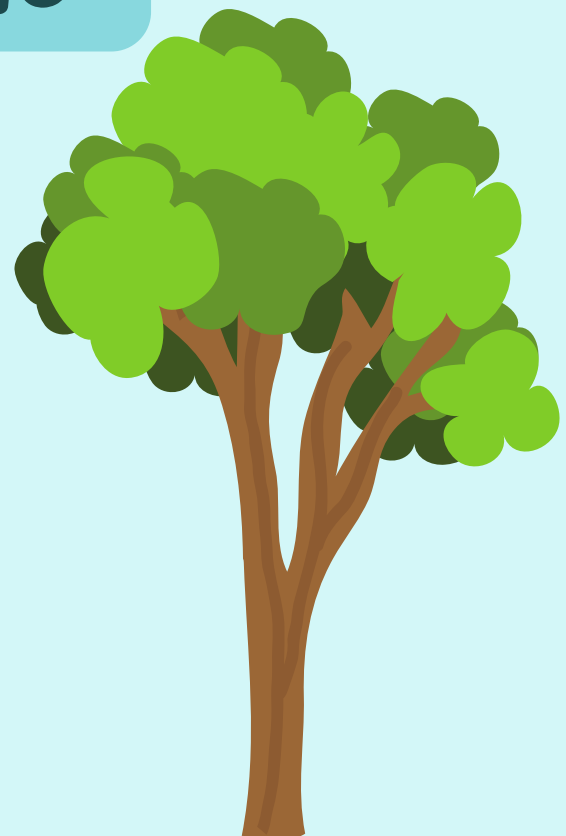
# ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Location	Internship	Volunteer	Specific Program <sup>5</sup>
<a href="#"><u>Morris Arboetum</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Philadelphia, PA</u></a>	X	X	
<a href="#"><u>Peace Valley Nature Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Doylestown, PA</u></a>	X	X	
<a href="#"><u>Schuylkill River Greenways</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pottstown, PA</u></a>	X	X	
<a href="#"><u>Silver Lake Nature Center</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Bristol, PA</u></a>	X		
<a href="#"><u>The Franklin Institute</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Philadelphia, PA</u></a>	X		X

# SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Click on the program name to learn more!

Program	Location
<a href="#"><u>Alliance for Watershed Education Fellowship</u></a>	Varied
<a href="#"><u>Discovery Program</u></a>	Student Conservation Association
<a href="#"><u>Eagle STEM Mentorship</u></a>	Independence Seaport Museum
<a href="#"><u>STEM Scholars Program</u></a>	The Franklin Institute
<a href="#"><u>River Ambassadors</u></a>	Independence Seaport Museum



# JOB BOARDS AND NETWORKING

Click on the job board's name to visit the website!

<a href="#"><u>Alliance for Watershed Education</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Idealist</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Orion Grassroots JobSource</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Snagajob</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>American Conservation Experience</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>LinkedIn</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>PA State Jobs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Student Conservation Association</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>ECO Jobs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>MobilizeGreen</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Philadelphia Parks and Recreation</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>USA Federal Jobs</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Green Job Search</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>North American Env. Educators</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Schuylkill Action Network</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>WeConservePA</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ziprecruiter</u></a>			

## WHERE ELSE CAN I LOOK?

Social Media	Common Keywords	General Places	
<a href="#"><u>@beautifulPHL</u></a>	Environment	Local watershed associations	Coalition websites
<a href="#"><u>@Greenbizworld</u></a>	Land	Local parks and recreation	County websites
<a href="#"><u>@Greenphillyblog</u></a>	Nature	Environmental Advisory Councils	Local non-profits
<a href="#"><u>@SBNPhila</u></a>	Outreach	Guidance Counselors	Local universities
<a href="#"><u>#greenjobs</u></a>	Resources	Local library	State websites
<a href="#"><u>#PHLjobs</u></a>	Watershed	Community colleges	Township and borough websites

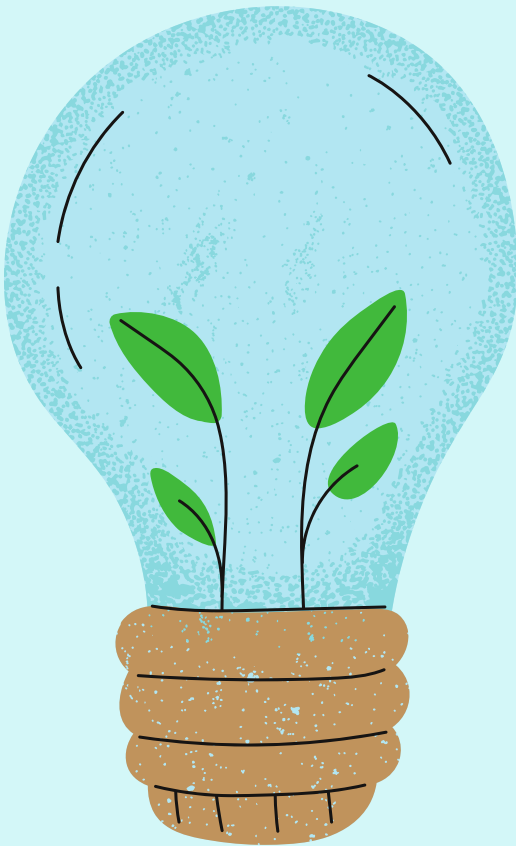


# INTERVIEW TIPS

- Make sure to dress your best!
- If the interview is in person, arrive a little early so you can gather your thoughts before walking inside.
- Do lots of research on the organization you are interviewing with prior to your interview. Pick out a couple interesting things that you noticed on their website, or about their work, and ask specific questions in your interview.



- Sending a follow up email to thank your interviewer for their time, and to tell them that it was nice to meet them is a great way to make connections and stand out from other applicants.
- If you haven't heard from your interviewer about a week out from the interview, don't be afraid to send a follow up email to reiterate that you are a good candidate for the position, and ask about next steps.
- Remember, rejection is a normal part of the job search process that everyone faces at some point in their career. Don't be too hard on yourself; interviewing will get easier the more you get used to it!
- If you aren't chosen for a job, ask your interviewer for input about how you could improve your resume or interview skills.



## Questions to Ask Yourself

It is important to have an idea of what you want from a place of work. It can feel overwhelming to start, but here are a few key questions to ask yourself as you begin the application and interview process for internships and jobs.

- What skills do I want to be able to use most often, day to day?
- Do I want to work outside, in an office, or travel often for work?
- Are career advancement opportunities within the organization important to me?
- Do my values align with the organization's mission and work?
- Am I more of an independent worker, or do I want to work collaboratively?
- What do I see myself doing in 5 years? Will this job help me reach that goal?

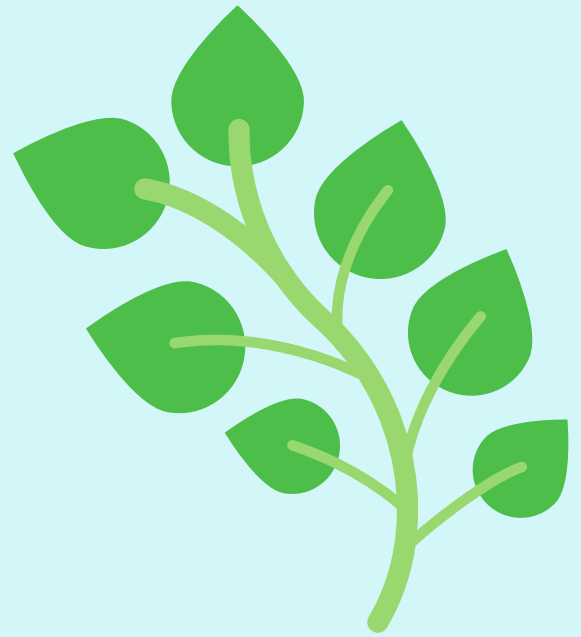
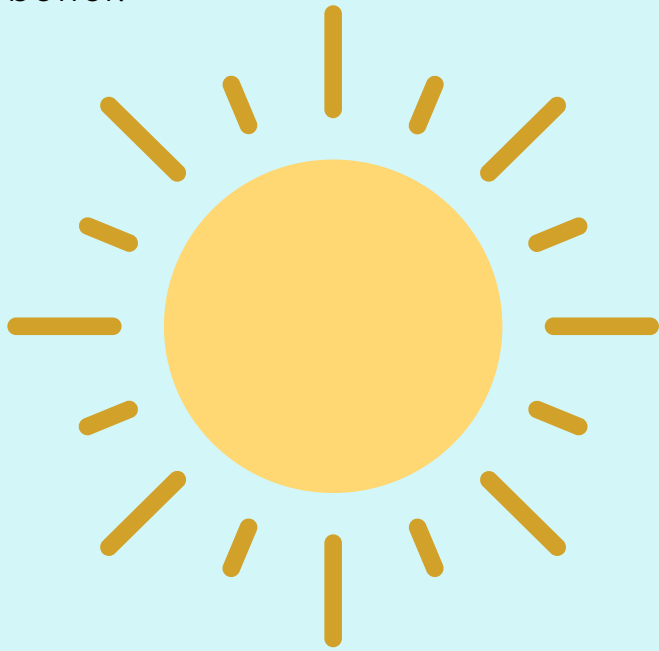
# INSPIRATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

The following individuals have made extraordinary contributions to environmental conservation and have left a lasting impact on the world. Their stories are inspirational and give us hope for a better future! [Click on the name to learn more.](#)

**Mollie Beattie:** In 1993, Mollie Beattie became the first female to be appointed the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During her 3 years with the agency, she accomplished the addition of 15 national wildlife refuges, reintroducing the gray wolf into the northern Rocky Mountains, as well signing over 100 conservation plans.

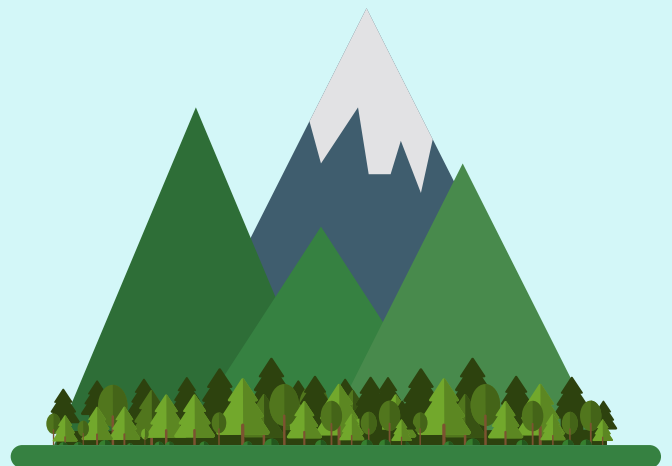


**Hattie Carthan:** Throughout the 1960s, Hattie Carthan facilitated the planting of over 1,500 trees in Brooklyn, New York. Planting trees and getting others involved in taking care of the environment was her way of giving back and improving her community. Her efforts united and changed her community for the better.



**Christiana Figueres:** Christiana Figueres is a leader and a diplomat and was an essential player in the creation of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. She has written two books to share her passion for the environment and inspire people around the world to take action.

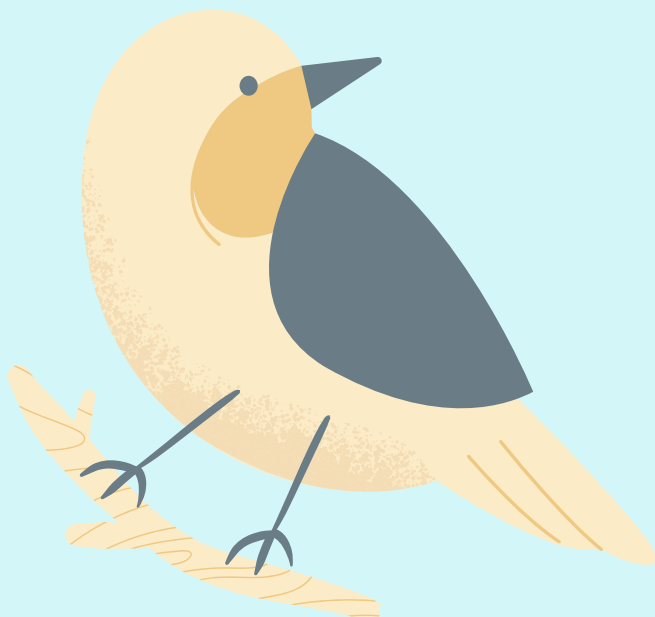
**Dr. John Francis:** Nicknamed the "Planetwalker", Dr. John Francis gave up motorized vehicles for 22 years to combat the effects of fossil fuels on the environment. Volunteering to clean the beach and help the animals after the 1971 oil spill in San Francisco Bay inspired him to dedicate his life to protecting and advocating for the earth. He founded the environmental non-profit Planetwalk to raise environmental awareness and encourage others to make personal commitments to protecting the environment as well.



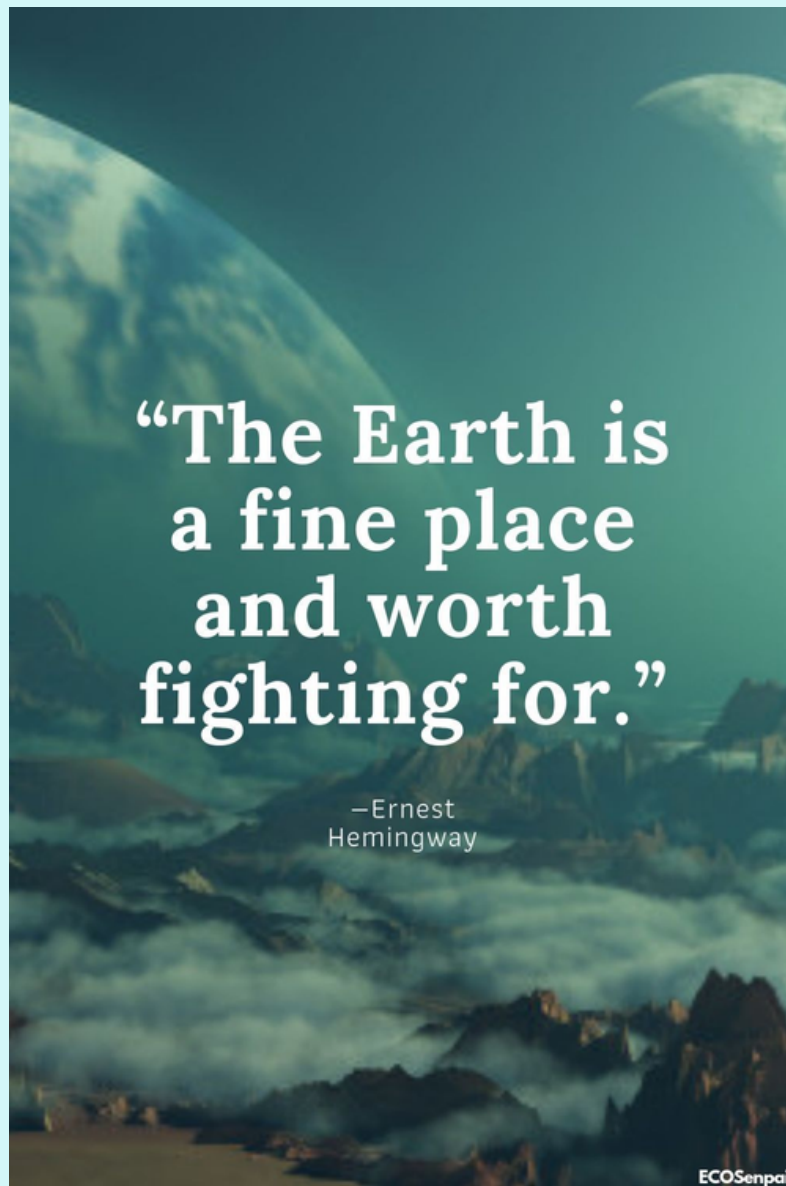


**Rue Mapp:** In 2009, Rue Mapp founded the non-profit organization Outdoor Afro to increase representation and access to outdoor spaces and nature for people of color. The organization connects thousands of people every year across the United States and encourages Black leadership in conservation and outdoor recreation. Rue Mapp was also invited by First Lady Michelle Obama to participate in the America's Great Outdoors Conference in 2010.

**David Suzuki:** David Suzuki is an environmental writer, activist, scientist, and professor. His passion is to share and communicate environmental science to the general public through his many published articles and television and radio programs. The David Suzuki Foundation strives to empower individuals to take action to care for the environment.



**Dr. Warren Washington:** Dr. Warren Washington joined the National Center for Atmospheric Resources in 1963. He was part of a team that designed a revolutionary computer model to help scientists predict and better understand the ways our atmosphere is changing due to climate change. His contributions to science and to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change earned him and his team a Nobel Prize in 2007.



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