



Discover Environmental Careers

June 2011

Dear Reader



Welcome to your summer vacation!

Final exams will soon be a distant memory as the freedom of summer replaces the chaos of the classroom. Why not spend some time planning for the future during your two months of fun and relaxation? June's *ECO Explorer* is chock full of reasons to celebrate summer

vacation and, yes-ways to prepare for the upcoming year (not that we're counting down the days).

So what will you do? Ask **Volunteer Canada** how you can make your community greener and get some environmental work experience to boot! Whether you'll be returning to high school in the fall or beginning your next big adventure as a graduate, let us guide your "**Next Steps**". You can also use the "**Top Five Green Careers**" as your inspiration. Then get outside and enjoy your vacation!

Until September,

The Career Awareness Team

In This Issue

[Jump Start Your Career-Volunteer!](#)

[Next Steps](#)

[Five In-Demand Green Jobs](#)

[ECO Action! stars](#)

[Career Interest Matching Tool](#)

[Green Summer Camps](#)



Jump Start Your Career-Volunteer!!



The summer months are long and there is work to be done! We know you're not interested in mastering a deep-fryer or answering phones. But you may find yourself faced with the common job-experience conundrum: you need experience for the job and you need a job for the experience. What's

a student to do?

Why not join the 12.5 million other Canadians donating their time to volunteer efforts and contribute to the 2.1 billion hours of annual volunteered time (*Canadian Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 2007*)?

Volunteer Canada has identified youth as one

ECO in the News

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The Lacombe Globe

[Des élèves d'Étienne-Brûlé remportent un concours vidéo national sur l'environnement](#)
(French Only)
L'Express

Quick Links

[ECO Job Board](#)

[Video Contest](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[ECO Canada](#)

Status update -

Found a great new social network. And it's green!

Enjoy updating your status and posting to

of the four primary volunteer groups in the country. Many youth volunteer to support their job search, skills development, and networking. And just as we thought, most youth are willing to volunteer for organizations that support environmental issues (*Bridging the Gap*, 2011).

Volunteering can also be a great way to explore your interests or get your foot in the door with a potential employer. To get the most out of your volunteering experience, here are some helpful tips:

1. Find a volunteer position that you find interesting
2. Decide on how much time you are willing to commit and seek out opportunities that fit your schedule
3. Consider the type of skills you have to offer and the skills you'd like to gain

Where can you find volunteer opportunities near you? Start with [Volunteer Canada's](#) list of volunteer centres to see what your city has to offer. In partnership with Manulife Financial, Volunteer Canada has also developed a [Volunteer Quiz](#) or "VQ" to categorize your personality into one of six volunteer types, including environmental.

Use the volunteer matching tool from [getvolunteering.ca](#) to find opportunities near you that also fit your (environmental) interests and skills. And if you're looking for other environment-related volunteer opportunities, be sure to check out [the Canadian Environmental Network](#), [Environment Canada](#), and [Parks Canada](#).

Do something new this summer. Indulge in your passions. Become a volunteer!

your online profile? Eager to tackle environmental projects with other eco-conscious teens and teachers? Declare your passion for the planet as a member of the [Teens for Planet Earth](#) social network. Add ECO Canada as a friend and invite others to do the same!



Next Steps

Many of you may be going back to high school in the fall, and will have started thinking about life after graduation. Others may be graduating and entering into a post-secondary institution, or wondering how to launch a meaningful career. Whatever stage you're at, it can be a very stressful time, with many decisions to be made. Here are some suggestions and resources that may be of use to you.

High school is a great place to try out new activities and discover new skills. Consider letting your passion for the environment help you make some positive changes in the community by joining your school's environmental club next year. If your school doesn't have a club, get some friends together and start one!

If you're making decisions regarding **post-secondary** education, make sure to check out our [Program Directory](#). This is a great resource for exploring post-secondary institutions that offer environmental programs. Search by province and institution, and link to faculty websites. Start mapping out your future today! Don't forget that post-secondary institutions also have numerous student organizations and clubs, which are a great way to get involved, boost your resume, meet people, and focus on the environment!



For those of you **graduating** from high school—congratulations! The next stage in your life will be an exciting one. If you're like many other students who aren't quite sure what profession to pursue after you've graduated, check out our [Occupational Profiles](#). These allow you to view a day-in-the-life of over 100 environmental professions, and find out where your passion lies.

If you are making a shift to a post-secondary institution or moving straight into the workforce, we encourage you to update your [ECO Member Profile](#). By switching to a post-secondary student or professional profile, you'll have access to all the best resources and information to suit your individual needs.

Whatever your next step may be, ECO Canada wishes you the best in your future!



Five In-Demand Green Jobs

1. Environmental Engineer

With environmental issues at the forefront of Canada's economic priorities, there's an increased need for environmental engineers to develop sustainable methods of confronting environmental issues and reducing industrial impact throughout the environmental sector.

Environmental engineers ensure that companies are in line with environmental regulations by inspecting facilities and conducting tests. They also ensure that all private and public operations have thorough environmental protection plans. Environmental engineers may choose to specialize in a variety of areas, including waste management, pollution, remediation, public health, and global issues such as ozone depletion, global warming, and acid rain.



What does it take to become an Environmental Engineer? A bachelor's degree in engineering and a keen interest in the areas of biology, chemistry, environmental science, and mathematics, for starters. Those who pursue a career in this position help to develop sustainable methods of confronting environmental issues and reducing industrial impact.



2. Environmental Technician/Technologist

Do you work well in group settings and excel in the areas of science, math, technology, and writing? Then you may enjoy a career as an environmental technician.

Environmental technicians aim to protect the environment and repair areas harmed by industry by determining the origin and environmental impact of pollutants and assessing levels of environmental contamination. They detect contaminated sites and pollutant trails through the collection of air, water, and soil samples.

If you are interested in a career as an environmental technician, you can gain relevant experience by obtaining a college technical diploma or by pursuing an environmental degree in the areas of technology, science, engineering technology, or environmental protection.

3. Remediation Specialist

With growing concern for environmental protection and an increase in knowledge regarding the effects of industry contamination, the reclamation of polluted soil and groundwater has emerged as a top priority throughout the environmental sector.

When landscapes are damaged by industry and contaminants, it's the job of remediation specialists to restore them back to their natural state. These individuals clean up destroyed and contaminated areas by collecting soil and groundwater samples, conducting inspections, and developing remediation plans.

Help to keep the earth clean-consider becoming a remediation specialist by getting an undergraduate degree in chemistry, soil science, hydrogeology, environmental earth sciences, environmental science, or chemical, environmental, civil, or geological engineering.



4. Air Quality Technician/Technologist

Several factors in the environment can significantly contribute to air quality degradation. Pollutants from industry, human processes, and emergency situations can all significantly affect air quality and pose harmful environmental threats. It's the job of air quality technicians to examine changes in pollution and collect air quality samples in order to trace the root cause of pollutants.

Would you like to join the fight for our right to breathe clean, fresh air? Consider a program in environmental technology, environmental studies, meteorology, and geographic information systems. If you aren't ready for that much school, you can still

pursue a career as an air quality technician- the minimum education needed is a technical diploma.

5. Hydrologist

Water covers approximately 70% of the earth's surface and is responsible for shaping the natural landscapes that you love to visit during summer vacation! Hydrology focuses on most water-related aspects of the environment, including distribution, movement, and the physical properties of H₂O.

Hydrologists examine the dramatic effects that water movement and precipitation can have on the natural environment and aid in the conservation of water by monitoring water usage and distribution. They often work within companies conducting studies to find new, more efficient ways of reducing environmental impact, so we can continue to enjoy these beautiful, natural areas for many summers to come.

Do you have a strong aptitude for math and science? Then you may be a good fit for a career in hydrology. The most applicable areas of study for those pursuing a career in this area include hydrology, environmental science, water resources, geology, terrain and water, and soil science.

For more information on these and over 100 other environmental occupations, log in to the ECO Canada website at www.eco.ca/occupationalprofiles.



And now presenting... the ECO Action! stars

Thank you to all of this year's participants who shared their time and talents with us for the second annual ECO Action! Video Contest.



In partnership with **Waste Management**, we are pleased to announce the four winning teams:



**École
Lacombe
Composite
High from
Lacombe,
Alberta**



**École
Secondaire
Etienne-Brûlé
from Toronto,
Ontario**



**Evan Hardy
Collegiate
Institute from
Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan**



**St. Mark
Catholic High
School from
Manotick,
Ontario**

Teams are presented with \$2,000 each to put toward their green initiatives and spread their message to the rest of their schools and communities.

Watch the videos on our ECO Action! Video Contest page and share them with your friends!

Career Interest Matching Tool

Think that making a list of your likes and dislikes, which subjects you ace, and the skills you've gained over the years is easy? Making a list of related careers is even easier.

Let ECO Canada's **Career Interest Matching Tool** plant the seed! Create a profile of your interests, skills, and favourite subjects and find out what environmental careers you can grow into. Happy career exploring!

Green Summer Camps

Enjoy the fun of summer camp while learning more about the environment. Check out this list of Green summer camps offered throughout Canada!

Camp Kawartha
Lakefield, ON

LEAP - Leadership Ecology Adventure Program
Powell River, BC

FUN Camps
Vancouver and Victoria, BC

Whale Camp
Grand Manan Island, NB

Centre écologique de Port-au-Saumon (French Only)
La Malbaie, QC

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