



 Queens Library

**GREEN JOBS GUIDE**

Queens Library



## ***Table of Contents***

### **Introduction**

What are green jobs? .....3

### **Education & Professional Development**

Entry-level Job Skills Training Programs .....6  
Continuing Education & Building New Job Skills .....12  
College Degrees .....16  
Graduate School .....21  
Internships .....25  
Professional Networking Opportunities .....27

### **Career Areas in Green Industries**

Civil Service .....31  
Climate Resilience & Preparedness .....35  
Energy Efficiency .....41  
Environmental Education .....45  
Environmental Protection & Remediation .....51  
Green Construction .....57  
Natural Resource & Wildlife Conservation .....63  
Public Transportation .....66  
Recycling, Compost & Waste Reduction .....72  
Renewable Energy .....77  
Research, Design, Policy & Consulting .....85  
Sustainable Food & Agriculture .....91  
Union Careers .....98  
Water Conservation & Management .....100

## **Introduction: What are green jobs?**

What are green jobs? And how do you find them?

These are questions many people who use the Queens Library ask. The Library has set out to answer them in this Green Jobs Guide.

Green jobs are jobs that improve the environment—the natural world we all depend on and need to protect. For more about how we depend on the natural world, [click here](#). Our guide will help you learn about jobs in many fields—jobs that can improve the environment we live in. The guide can also help you find jobs and training programs that meet you at your level of education and work experience.

Here are just a few examples of green jobs that you can find in New York City and nearby areas and why these jobs are green:

- Driving a bus is a green job because public transportation cuts down on the pollution that comes from cars.
- Teaching kids about renewable energy in after-school programs helps kids understand how clean energy can slow global warming and improve our economy.
- Selling fruits and vegetables at a farmer's market is a green job. Local, small farms help protect our clean water supply and preserve the open spaces that are home to birds and animals.
- Installing solar panels is a green job because solar energy creates electricity without pollution.
- Creating new ways to design and pay for energy-efficiency programs is a green job. This work saves energy, and saving energy prevents pollution. That's because the power plants that generate our electricity and the furnaces and boilers that heat our homes and hot water run on coal, natural gas, and oil. These fossil fuels are some of the biggest polluters around.

New York City is home to many green jobs. And here's some more good news: The number of green jobs in our area and around the country is growing. Some of these jobs are at companies designed to protect the environment. An example of this kind of job is one with a company that installs insulation in homes and other buildings to help save energy. Other green jobs are at companies, government agencies, and not-for-profit organizations that do many things, not just protect the environment. Not-for-profit organizations have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money. The New York City Department

of Education, for example, hires engineers and architects to help them cut their energy use, even though their main job is to educate New York's children.

In addition to this guide, there are many websites and books that can help you learn more about green jobs. They can tell you what kinds of jobs are available and the types of green jobs are expected to grow in the coming years. One of the best of these resources is the Green Career Center. It is part of the federal government's Careeronestop.org. The Green Career Center can tell you all that. Plus it has information about job-training opportunities and how much certain kinds of jobs pay.

Once you understand what your job and training opportunities are, you can look for jobs using the websites listed in this guide. They are generally sprinkled throughout each section of this guide. They are also collected at the end of each section. And don't forget to use other tools that are important when looking for a job: networking—talking with people you know about possible jobs—is especially important. So are informational interviews with people in your field.

Green jobs are jobs you can feel good about. Good luck with your search.

## **Education & Professional Development**

## ***Entry-level Job Skills Training Programs***

This section is for workers whose highest level of education is a high school diploma or GED. Sometimes workers with a high school diploma or GED have a hard time finding jobs.

Luckily, there are programs that can help people with a high school diploma or GED gain job skills and employment opportunities. Some of these programs are called green-job training programs. They teach the entry-level jobs skills and the life skills you need to succeed in the growing green economy. These training programs can't guarantee you a job, but many of them help their trainees find jobs, using placement programs and other follow-up services.

Other environmentally-friendly fields offer jobs to people with high school degrees or GEDs, too. These include public transportation, construction, recycling and waste reduction, water conservation, and stormwater management. You can learn a little about jobs in these fields in this section of the Green Jobs Guide. To learn more about the kinds of jobs available in these fields, how these jobs help the environment, and to find more job-listing websites, check out each of this guide's job area sections.

### **Green Job Training Programs**

Several green job-training programs teach the job skills you need for a first job in areas like energy efficiency and waste reduction. Here is a list of New York City programs:

[Bronx Environmental Stewardship Academy](#) (Bronx)

[Fortune Society](#) (Long Island City, Queens)

[Green City Force](#) (Brooklyn)

[Green Ladders](#) (Long Island City, Queens)

[ReNEW](#) (Manhattan)

There is also job training available for people who are interested in working in brownfield remediation, or cleaning up sites that have been polluted with dangerous chemicals. In

New York City, a program in the Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation connects people who've gone through training at community workforce development organizations with companies looking to hire workers in this field. These workforce development organizations include the [Fortune Society](#), [Saint Nicholas Preservation Corporation](#), and [Strive](#). For more details about how this works, see the Environmental Protection and Remediation section of this guide.

## **Public Transportation**

Public transportation is a good field for people with high school diplomas and GEDs. Of course, it's good for the environment, too, because subways, light rail, commuter trains, and buses do a lot less polluting per person than cars do. In New York City, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and New York City Transit (NYCT) have many openings. NYCT is the part of the MTA that runs New York City's subways and buses. The MTA does a lot of on-the-job training, so you might not need a specific set of skills to start working for the MTA.

To apply for any job at the MTA, you must go through the Authority's [website](#). You cannot send the MTA a cover letter and résumé in the mail. The website lists the different MTA agencies and the jobs they are looking to fill. To use the website, simply register on the upper right corner of the [Careers webpage](#) and then you can look at all the jobs that are available now.

Sometimes, passing a civil service test can help you get a job at the MTA. Civil service tests are given by the city's [Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#). You can find the schedule for these tests [here](#). That schedule is also available through the website and the print version of a newspaper called [The Chief Leader](#).

There are also transit jobs available through the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. You can apply for these jobs through the Port Authority's [Careers webpage](#). If you have already registered at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority website, you don't need to re-register. Your username and password will work on this website, too.

[New Jersey Transit](#) offers train, [light rail](#), and bus services. You can apply for jobs through its [Careers webpage](#).

[Amtrak](#) is the country's passenger train service. It runs trains in 46 states, including New York. You can search for jobs on its [Careers webpage](#).

For more job possibilities, check out the Public Transportation section of this guide.

### **Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Programs, Apprenticeship Programs & other Construction Skills Training**

Working in construction can be a good way to make a living for people with high school degrees or GEDs. Construction jobs are getting greener as more architects and engineers design buildings with the environment in mind.

In construction, there are two kinds of jobs: union jobs and non-union jobs. Construction unions guarantee salaries and benefits to working members. Union jobs also require a lot of training. That training is provided through union apprenticeship programs. Many of these apprenticeship programs offer training in green construction.

Getting into an apprenticeship program can be very hard to do. Openings in these programs are limited. To find apprenticeship openings, check out [this website](#) from the New York State Department of Labor. Read these postings carefully. They often have very detailed requirements.

Pre-apprenticeship programs can help some people join building trade unions without having to wait for apprenticeship programs to open up. In New York City, there are at least three pre-apprentice programs: One, called the [Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills](#), is available to African American, Latino, and Asian American high-school seniors in New York City schools. Another is at [Nontraditional Employment for Women](#). It helps women enter the building trades. The third, for veterans, is called [Helmets to Hardhats](#). Several [construction unions](#) also have their own pre-apprenticeship programs.

For people interested in non-union construction jobs, a program called [BuildingSkillsNY](#) provides eight to ten weeks of training in construction skills, including green construction skills.

Whether someone works in a union or non-union construction job, people who work in this field emphasize that it is important for construction workers to have construction skills

before getting additional training in subjects that can help them find work on green construction sites.

## **Recycling, Composting and Waste Reduction**

New York City's [Sanitation Department](#) is one of the biggest employers in the recycling, composting and waste reduction field. A large number of the department's 9,000 employees work in recycling, composting, and other kinds of waste reduction.

To work for the Sanitation Department collecting recycling, compost, and other materials, you must first get a job as an entry-level sanitation worker. There is no separate hiring for people interested in recycling. Sanitation workers, like police officers and firefighters, are assigned jobs by their supervisors. To get an entry-level sanitation job, you have to take a written test as part of the application process. Click [here](#) for more information about the test and the application process.

## **Private and Not-For-Profit Recycling, Composting, and Waste Reduction Programs**

A lot of New York City's recycling, composting, and waste reduction is done by private companies and by not-for-profit organizations. They have jobs for drivers and other workers who collect, transport, and process recycling, compost, and other materials that can be put to use instead of being thrown in a garbage dump.

You can find a list of private haulers, recycling businesses, and not-for-profit groups that work in the Recycling, Composting, and Waste Reduction section of this guide.

## **Water Conservation and Stormwater Management**

There are also entry-level jobs for people interested in keeping our water safe and clean. New York City's [Department of Environmental Protection](#) runs a [large number of water conservation programs](#) that do just that. It also has jobs in stormwater management and green infrastructure. Green infrastructure uses systems like green roofs and porous pavement to prevent sewer systems from overflowing and polluting our waterways when there's too much rain or snow. These jobs are listed on the [NYC Careers website](#).

In fact, almost every green job field has some entry-level jobs for people with high school diplomas or GEDs. To find out more about these jobs and to learn how you to look for them, check out the job area sections of this guide. Good luck!

### **Construction Apprenticeship, Pre-Apprenticeship & Training Programs**

[BuildingSkillsNY](#)

[Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills](#)

[Helmets to Hardhats](#)

[New York City Building Trades Unions](#)

[New York State Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program Openings Listings](#)

[Nontraditional Employment for Women](#)

### **Green Job Training & Workforce Development Programs**

[Bronx Environmental Stewardship Academy](#) (Bronx)

[Fortune Society](#) (Long Island City, Queens)

[Green City Force](#) (Brooklyn)

[Green Ladders](#) (Long Island City, Queens)

[ReNEW](#) (Manhattan)

[Saint Nicholas Preservation Corporation](#)

[Strive](#)

**Public Transportation Job Websites**

[Amtrak](#)

[Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#)

[New Jersey Transit](#)

[Port Authority of New York & New Jersey](#)

**Recycling, Composting and Waste Reduction Job Boards and Websites**

[4th Bin](#)

[Build It Green! NYC](#)

[City Harvest](#)

[Goodwill](#)

[Habitat for Humanity's ReStores](#)

[Housing Works](#)

[New York City Department of Sanitation](#)

[RefashionNYC](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

[Wearable Collections](#)

**Water Conservation and Stormwater Management**

[New York City Department of Environmental Protection](#)

## ***Continuing Education & Building New Job Skills***

Learning new job skills can help people move up from entry-level positions. New York City is home to many programs that can help you do just that. Most of these training programs focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, building operations and real estate management. Some focus on things like how to start a green business, an environmentally-friendly event planning, or green hotel and restaurant operations. There are also a handful of programs that teach farming skills to the city's budding farmers.

### **Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy & Other Green Job Skills**

Community colleges and college and university continuing education programs are good places to learn new job skills. The [City University of New York](#) is a great place to start. To begin with, its classes are some of the most affordable in the city. CUNY's many colleges and community colleges teach both non-credit classes and for-credit classes. For-credit classes count toward a college degree, such as an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree. Non-credit courses don't count toward college degrees, but they can still teach you many valuable skills. CUNY's classes cover subjects such as solar installation, green building operations and maintenance, HVAC electrical controls, green roofs, and operating a green business.

New York University also offers a few classes that can increase your green job skills. These classes are offered at the [Schack Real Estate Institute](#).

For workers in 32BJ, the building workers union, there's a great program that's available to building workers of all kinds. It's called the [Green Supers Program](#). It offers classes on subjects like energy efficiency, water conservation, and indoor air quality. Around New York City and Long Island, there are also private, not-for-profit and union training centers that focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and building operations. [Solar One's Green Workforce Training Center](#), in Long Island City, is one not-for-profit training center that offers a wide range of classes. [The Association for Energy Affordability](#), in the Bronx and Manhattan, is another. If you are a member of a building trades union, contact your union for information about training.

## Small Business Skills

People interested in starting their own businesses can also find free and low-cost help to achieve their goals. [America's Small Business Development Center](#), funded by the federal [Small Business Administration](#), offers free help at sites throughout New York City and New York State. It offers one-on-one consultations with advisors and workshops on specific topics of interest to potential business owners. [The New York City Economic Development Corporation](#) also offers help to people interested in starting their own businesses. It can help with other job-skills training, such as computer training, as well. The NYCEDC has also helped create [affordable workspaces](#) for budding business owners.

New York City's [Department of Small Business Services](#) can also offer help to people interested in starting their own businesses. Additionally, most of New York City's boroughs offer help to people who want to start businesses through what are called economic development corporations. You can find them listed below.

## Farming

Learning to farm in New York City is easier than you think. The city offers several programs for people interested in becoming farmers. The largest one is the [Farm School NYC](#). It teaches New Yorkers to become urban farmers. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farm internships and apprenticeships can be found on the website of the [National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service](#). Two Brooklyn farm programs—one called [Urban Agriculture for Refugees and Immigrants](#) and the other called [The Youth Farm at the High School for Public Service](#)—also offer training.

Remember, one great way to get a higher-paying and more rewarding job is to improve your job skills. These programs and resources can teach you how.

## Farming and Sustainable Agriculture Programs

[Farm School NYC](#)

[Sustainable Farming Internships and Apprenticeships](#)

[Urban Agriculture Training for Refugees and Immigrants](#)

[The Youth Farm at the High School for Public Service](#)

### **Green Job-Skills Training Programs**

[32BJ Green Supers Program for building maintenance workers and operators](#)

[Association for Energy Affordability, Inc](#)

[Green Jobs Training Center \(Howard Beach, Queens\)](#)

[GPro Green Professional Building Skills Training](#)

[New York University Schack Real Estate Institute](#)

[Solar One](#)

### **Small Business Help**

[America's Small Business Development Center New York](#)

[Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation](#)

[New York City Department of Small Business Services](#)

[New York Economic Development Corporation](#)

[Queens Economic Development Corporation](#)

[Queens Library Small Business Help](#)

[South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation](#)

[Staten Island Economic Development Corporation](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

*U.S. Small Business Administration's Green Business Guide*

## **College Degrees**

Earning an undergraduate college degree is one of the best ways to increase your income. To gain a college degree, you can study full-time at a traditional four-year college or you can study first at a community college. Many 4-year colleges have admissions requirements you need to meet to get in. Many community colleges accept almost everyone with a high school degree or GED. You can study part-time, in-person, or online. No matter which way you choose to study, getting a four-year bachelor's degree or a two-year associate's degree can really improve your chances of getting a good-paying and rewarding job that helps the environment.

Want more proof that getting a college degree is a good idea? [People with college degrees make an average of \\$17,500 a year more than people who don't have college degrees](#). Even considering the cost of college, those higher earnings can really add up. Also, on average, [people with college degrees are three times less likely to be unemployed](#). A college degree is a great investment of time and money.

These days, more and more colleges and universities are offering degrees and classes that can help their students get green jobs. College majors and minors include programs like environmental studies, environmental engineering, ocean and marine biology, urban planning, and landscape architecture. But almost any degree can be used to help the environment. Studying political science, for example, can help you understand why politicians adopt green practices and policies. A communications degree can help you get environmental information out to the public. A business degree can help you start a green business. In cases like these, an environmental minor can be especially useful. People with scientific and technical skills, like scientists and engineers, can find their skills to be in high demand when they graduate from college.

### **Resources**

There are many great resources for people interested in studying for green careers in college. The [Princeton Review](#) offers a wealth of valuable information. Its [Career Profile](#) webpage can help you find out about college degrees that can lead to the kind of career you want. It can also [help you find colleges](#) that offer programs in the fields you're interested in. The Princeton Review offers [great advice on applying to college](#). It offers helpful [information about scholarships and financial aid](#). It even has a [green college guide!](#)

Another great resource is the website of the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#). The organization helps colleges and their students meet the environmental challenges we all face. One of its best resources is [a listing, college by college, of courses and majors that can eventually lead to green jobs](#). It also lists green [college majors](#) and [minors](#) at colleges across the country and [associate degrees at community colleges](#) as well.

Lastly, for more information about the type of work you can do with your green college degree, visit [this great webpage](#) sponsored by Arizona State University's School of Sustainability.

Many New York City and New York State colleges and universities are leaders in training students in fields that help the environment. The [City University of New York](#) (CUNY) and the [State University of New York](#) (SUNY) offer degrees at campuses that are close to home at an affordable cost. SUNY even has [an entire college devoted to environmental sciences and forestry](#). The [SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees](#). In New York City, private universities like [Columbia University](#) and [New York University](#) are also leaders in this field.

### **Four-Year or Two-Year Degree?**

Community colleges can be great places to start if you've been out of high school for a long time. They're great, too, if you're looking for a very affordable education, or if your high school grades or GED scores are low.

Community colleges usually offer two-year associate's degrees that can give you technical training and help you get a leg up when you're looking for a green job. The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education lists many community colleges and the [green associate degrees they offer](#). Many students who start at community colleges eventually transfer to four-year colleges to get a bachelor's degrees.

### **Scholarships**

There are a growing number of scholarships available to students interested in studying for green careers. Check out the resources below to find out more about them. Also, many

individual colleges offer scholarships to students interested in environmental degrees, so remember to check out the scholarship offerings at the colleges you apply to.

To find out more about studying for a green career and about community and 4-year colleges, check out the websites listed here:

## **CUNY**

[CUNY Admissions Webpage](#)

[CUNY Admissions Profiles \(including average SAT scores, ACT scores and grade point averages\)](#)

[CUNY Green Classes and Degree Programs](#)

## **SUNY**

[SUNY Admissions](#)

[SUNY Admission Information Summary \(including average SAT scores, ACT scores and grade point averages\)](#)

## **Princeton Review and Other College Resources**

[Arizona State University Green Careers Listings](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Associates Degrees Webpage](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education College Majors Webpage](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education College Minors Webpage](#)

[First in the Family: Advice About College from First-Generation Students](#)

[Princeton Review College Advice](#)

[Princeton Review College Locator by Major](#)

[Princeton Review Green College Guide](#)

[Princeton Review Scholarships and Financial Aid Guide](#)

### **Green College Guides**

[Princeton Review Green College Guide](#)

[Sierra Club Cool Schools Listings](#)

### **Scholarships for Students Interested in Green Careers**

[15 Environmental Scholarships](#)

[American Planning Association Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

[Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Environmental Studies Scholarship](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency Fellowships and Scholarships](#)

[Landscape Architecture Scholarships](#)

[Mother Nature Network Scholarship Listings](#)

[National Environmental Health Association Scholarship](#)

[Princeton Review Scholarships and Financial Aid Guide](#)

[Sierra College Scholarship Listings](#)

[Sustainability Major Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

[Tufts University Listings of Nationwide Environmental Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

[Women's Environmental Council Scholarships](#)

## **Graduate School**

Graduate school programs offer advanced degrees completed after finishing an undergraduate degree. Graduate school is a great way to prepare for a job that helps the environment. Graduate school can teach you the high-level skills you need for many green jobs and helps you get a job and earn more money, too.

There are different kinds of graduate degrees. Master's degrees usually take between one and two years, if you study full-time. You can earn many master's degrees part-time and online, too. Professional degrees, like law degrees, often take three years, or more if you study part-time. Medical degrees take four years, with as many as six years of specialized training after that. Doctoral degrees often take at least six years.

No matter what kind of graduate degree you choose, you're much less likely to be unemployed. People with graduate degrees are even more likely to have jobs than college graduates. People with graduate degrees earn a lot more, too. On average, they earn between \$1,327 and \$1,714 a week. Compare that to \$1,108 for someone with a college degree and \$827 a week for the average worker.

More and more universities are offering degrees and classes that can help their graduate students get good, green jobs. You can get graduate degrees in fields like public policy and law, sustainability management, hydrology, environmental engineering, environmental economics, and many others. But almost any graduate degree can be used to help the environment. Studying architecture, for example, can help you design buildings that are good for the environment. A statistics degree can help you use data to create less pollution. A fine arts degree can help you become a photojournalist whose photographs of nature or pollution stir people to action. In cases like these, taking some courses that relate to the environment can be especially useful. People with scientific and technical skills, like scientists and engineers, can find their skills to be in high demand when they finish their degrees.

## **Resources**

There are lots of great resources for people interested in studying for green careers in graduate school. The [Princeton Review](#) offers lots of valuable information. Its [Career Profile](#) webpage can help you find out what kinds of degrees can lead to the kind of career you

want. It can also [help you find universities](#) that offer programs in the fields you're interested in. It has [great advice on applying to grad school](#) in addition to [information about scholarships and financial aid](#). It even has a [green college guide](#)!

Another great resource is the website of the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#). The organization helps colleges, universities, and their students meet the environmental challenges we all face. It lists [masters](#) and [doctoral programs](#) across the country that can eventually help you get green jobs.

For more information about what work you can do with your green college degree, visit [this webpage](#). It was put together by [Arizona State University's School of Sustainability](#).

Many New York City and New York State universities are leaders in training graduate students in fields that help the environment. The [City University of New York](#) (CUNY) and the [State University of New York](#) (SUNY) offer affordable, well-respected degrees at campuses that are close to home. SUNY has [an entire college devoted to environmental sciences and forestry](#). The [SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees](#). In New York City, private universities like [Columbia University](#) and [New York University](#) are also leaders in this field.

## **Scholarships**

There are a growing number of scholarships available to graduate students interested in studying for green careers. Check out the resources below to find out more about them. Since many of these listings come from articles, there's some overlap. Also, many individual universities offer scholarships to students interested in environmental degrees, so remember to check out the scholarship offerings at the universities you apply to.

To find out more about studying for a green career and about graduate school, visit the websites listed here:

### **[CUNY](#)**

[CUNY Graduate Admissions Webpage](#)

[CUNY Green Classes and Degree Programs](#)

**SUNY**

[SUNY Graduate Admissions Webpage](#)

**Princeton Review and Other Graduate School Resources**

[Arizona State University Green Careers Listings](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Masters Program Listings](#)

[Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Doctoral Program Listings](#)

[Princeton Review Graduate School Advice](#)

[Princeton Review Graduate School Program Locator](#)

[Princeton Review Green College Guide](#)

[Princeton Review Scholarships and Financial Aid Guide](#)

**Green College Guides**

[Princeton Review Green College Guide](#)

[Sierra Club Cool Schools Listings](#)

## **Scholarships for Students Interested in Green Careers**

[15 Environmental Scholarships](#)

[American Planning Association Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

[Columbia University's Earth Institute Listings of Nationwide Environmental Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency Fellowships and Scholarships](#)

[Green MBA Scholarships](#)

[Harvard University Sustainability Science Fellowships](#)

[Iberdrola US Foundation Energy & Environment Scholarships](#)

[Landscape Architecture Scholarships](#)

[Mother Nature Network Scholarship Listings](#)

[National Environmental Health Association Scholarship](#)

[Princeton Review Scholarships and Financial Aid Guide](#)

[Sierra College and University Scholarship Listings](#)

[SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Grant and Scholarship Programs](#)

[Sustainability Major Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

[Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, Inc. Founders Fund Scholarship](#)

[Tufts University Listings of Nationwide Environmental Scholarships and Fellowships](#)

[Women's Environmental Council Scholarships](#)

## ***Internships***

Internships are on-the-job training programs for students and recent graduates. These short-term positions help you learn more about the fields you're interested in and make professional connections that can advance your career. Some internships are paid, while others are not. For more about federal rules that govern whether interns must be paid, click [here](#).

One of the best ways to find internships is directly through your college or university's career development center or through your academic department. These offices often have ongoing relationships with businesses and organizations in your field and can provide other helpful resources.

Checking the websites of organizations and/or businesses you're interested in is another good way to find out about internship possibilities and application procedures. So is calling an organization's internship coordinator or human resources department.

A handful of websites list internships at green businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations across the country as well as internationally. One of the most helpful website belongs to the [National Council for Science and the Environment](#). It lists opportunities at environmental non-profits and government agencies.

Want a position in environmental sciences specifically? Try the [Smithsonian Environmental Resource Center](#), affiliated with the federal government's Smithsonian Institution.

Other national resources include the federal [Environmental Protection Agency's internship website](#), the website of the [Student Conservation Association](#), and [Idealist.org](#), which lists internships and jobs at non-profits. Also try [InternMatch.com](#) and [Internships.com](#), two websites that can help students find internships in a wide range of categories.

Internships based in the New York City area abound. For internships at green businesses, check out [Green Dream Jobs](#) and [Cleantech NY Connect](#). Also, below are just some of the websites of New York City-based government agencies and environmental non-profits that can help you find an internship tailored to your interests.

[Audubon Society](#)

[Build It Green](#)

[Clinton Foundation](#)

[CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities](#)

[Environment New York](#)

[Environmental Defense Fund](#)

[Grow NYC](#)

[Natural Resources Defense Council](#)

[NYC ACRE](#)

[New York City Brownfields Partnership](#)

[NYC Department of Environmental Protection](#)

[NYC Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Solar One](#)

[Sustainable South Bronx](#)

[Transportation Alternatives](#)

[WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#)

[Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

Remember, some internships are paid and others are not. For more about federal rules that govern whether interns must be paid, click [here](#).

## ***Professional Networking Opportunities***

New York is home to many professional opportunities for people interested in green jobs. In fact, New York is a leader in fields such as green building, clean technology, policy and law, green finance, and community planning. Almost always, jobs in these areas require a college or graduate school degree.

Even though New York is a leader in green jobs, those jobs aren't always easy to find. You have to know where to look, how to make connections in your field, and when more education might help you find the work you want.

Knowing where to look for green professional jobs is important. Many of the sections in this guide can help you find job boards that list jobs in your field. Other resources for finding jobs are [The Green Job Bank](#), [Idealist.org](#), [Indeed.com](#), and [LinkedIn.com](#).

Making connections in your field is also extremely important when you're trying to find work. If you're in college or graduate school, an internship can help you meet people who work in your area of interest and can help you learn more about the field you hope to enter. Check out the Internships section of this guide to learn more about internships and how to get them. If you're out of school, you can meet people in your field and keep up with current issues through professional associations, college and graduate school alumni groups, [meet-up groups](#), and other networking organizations. Volunteering with a non-profit group in your field can also help you make important connections.

If you're hoping to move to a green career field from a job that wasn't designed to help the environment, you may need to do it in steps. Be sure to draw upon the skills you already have. That way, you can make the case to an employer that you've got the background you need to do the job well. Here's an example of how that can work: Let's say you currently work in procurement but want to move into solar energy. You might get a job in procurement for a solar company, and then, from there, find more solar opportunities available to you. Additional education in the field you want to enter can help, too. This guide's sections on college and graduate school can help you find training in green fields in the New York area and around the country.

The websites and other resources listed below are just some of the resources that can help you make connections and find green professional jobs in the New York area. Good luck with your search!

## Networking Resources

**GreenDrinks NYC.** Founded in 2002, this sustainability networking group holds monthly events that bring together New Yorkers interested in all things green:

<http://www.greendrinksnyc.com>

**GreenDrinks Queens** is the Queens branch: <http://www.greendrinks.org/NY/Queens>

**GreenDrinks Brooklyn** is the Brooklyn branch: <http://bklyn.gd>

**GreenDrinks Staten Island** is the Staten Island branch:

[http://www.greendrinks.org/NY/Staten Island](http://www.greendrinks.org/NY/Staten%20Island)

**Greenpoint Community Environmental Bulletin Board** is not specifically a jobs networking group. But this neighborhood environmental group can connect Brooklyn people with environmental interests. <http://www.gcefund.org/docs/bulletin.pdf>

**Solar One—Green Energy, Arts and Education Center**: S1 is a thriving urban sustainability, education, and cultural center. Its events and public programs are a great way to meet other environmentally minded people. It also provides job-training programs in areas such as solar installation and energy auditing.

<http://www.solar1.org>

**Urban Green Council**: The Urban Green Council is the New York chapter of the [US Green Building Council](#), the country’s leading green-building group. Urban Green offers a “wide range of educational and networking events for our members and the green building community at large; conducts research; and advocates for change that will make cities more sustainable.” <http://www.urbangreencouncil.org/Home>

**Young Professionals in Energy**: The New York chapter of the networking group [Young Professionals in Energy](#) connects young professionals working in all parts of the energy industry, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean technology. The group holds a range of events—social and educational ones, along with service events that connect people with the community. <http://www.ypenenergy.org/ypenewyorkcity/>

**For Entrepreneurs and others interested in clean technology:**

**[cleantechNYconnect](#)**: Put together by the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#), cleantechNYconnect is an online community that helps people interested in clean tech innovation to share their ideas and learn about the important work that other New Yorkers are doing in this field. <https://www.cleantechnyconnect.com>

**[NYC Accelerator for a Clean and Resilient Economy \(NYC ACRE\)](#)**: NYC ACRE is a resource for start-up companies and organizations working in clean technology. It provides office space and administrative support, along with mentors and a community of like-minded entrepreneurs to work with. <http://www.nycacre.com>

**Political Action**

**[New York League of Conservation Voters](#)**: NYLCV is a statewide environmental group that works with elected officials and political candidates to advocate for clean air and water, renewable energy, and land and wildlife conservation. The group holds mixers for interested members that are good places to meet others who work in the environmental field. <http://www.nylcv.org>

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**[Idealist.org](#)**: This website isn't just a job-search website for people interested in non-profit work. It also matches volunteers with organizations that need them. On Idealist.org, you can find many interesting green groups that are looking for volunteers. <http://www.idealists.org>

## **Career Areas in Green Industries**

## ***Civil Service***

Local, state, and federal government jobs covered by civil service laws are called “civil service jobs.” Almost all government jobs in the New York area are covered by these laws.

Civil services laws were designed to make sure hiring is fair. They were also created to make sure workers are treated fairly once they are on the job. For instance, if a civil service worker is having trouble at work, there is a special review process they go through. They are given chances to improve. Civil service workers can usually only be fired if they can't or won't do their jobs. That's different from workers who work for most private employers. Private companies can often fire non-union workers for almost any reason at all. Members of labor unions have some job protections. Almost all New York area workers can appeal to government agencies if they feel they have been discriminated against at work because of their gender, race, disability, or sexual orientation. Civil service workers also often have better benefits than the benefits many private companies give their workers.

Because many green jobs are government jobs, many of them are civil service jobs, too. To get one, you might have to take a civil service test of one kind or another. You also might not. For example, only about two out of ten federal civil service jobs require a test. Click [here](#) for a list of federal civil service jobs that require a test.

Whether you will have to take a civil service test to get a government job often depends on which government agency is doing the hiring. It can also depend on how much education and experience you have to have to get the job. No matter if a job requires a test, one thing many civil service jobs have in common is that people applying for jobs are ranked on hiring lists. They are ranked in order of their test scores or abilities.

If you don't have to take a civil service test, your resume and job experience often serve as the test. That means that once your resume and application are read and approved, your application will be ranked and your name will be added to a list of people qualified for this job. If a government agency has job openings for this job, you will be called for an interview as your number on the list comes up.

Here's an example of how this all works: Say you want to apply for an entry-level job at the New York City Sanitation Department to get work as a recycling collector. (Read more about Sanitation recycling jobs in the Recycling, Composting & Waste Reduction section of this guide.) First, to apply for this job, you must take a civil service test. Be sure to study for

the test. Practice guides are available at many libraries, online, and at bookstores. Information about a Lower Manhattan bookstore that specializes in civil service test guides is listed in the resources below.

If you pass the test for an entry-level sanitation job, your name will be added to the list of approved applicants. The higher your score on the test, the closer to the top of the list you will be. If you are number 207 on the list because you got a good grade on the test, and the Sanitation Department puts out a call for 250 new workers, you will get an interview. If you are number 1217 on the list, you will have to wait until the Sanitation Department needs more workers and calls up more people on the list. You can often stay on a list for a year or longer before your number gets called. So don't count on getting hired quickly by a government agency.

Civil service jobs aren't just for entry-level employees and union workers, by the way. Many government jobs that require college or graduate degrees, and government jobs for people in management, are also covered by civil service laws.

Each government agency has rules about what kind of workers it will hire without using a civil service test.

Here are some things you should know about large government agencies that hire civil service workers:

### **New York City government**

Most New York City government jobs are covered by civil service laws and require tests. These include green jobs such as air pollution inspector, environmental technician, and transit electrical helper.

Hiring for New York City government civil service jobs is usually run by the agency doing the hiring. The tests themselves are given by the City's Department of Citywide Administrative Services. Click [here](#) for a list of job titles that require that you pass a civil service exam. [This link](#) will connect you to a list of tests happening soon.

Often, city agencies need to hire new employees before a test can be scheduled. People apply for these jobs directly, without taking a test first. These kinds of jobs—the New York

City jobs you can get without taking a test—are called “provisional” jobs. If you get one of these provisional jobs, you start it just like any other employee, even though you haven’t taken the test. If a test for that job gets scheduled, you have to take that test and pass it to keep your job.

## **New York State**

New York State agencies, like the [Department of Environmental Conservation](#), have many civil service jobs. Some of these jobs require a test. For other jobs, there is no official test. But your experience and education count as a kind of “test.” In cases like this, your application will be read and ranked. Once jobs become available, your name will be called from a list for an interview. There are other New York State civil service jobs that don’t require you to get on a list. They still offer civil service job protections. For these jobs, people are hired simply because their job qualifications.

## **Federal Agencies**

Most federal jobs are covered by civil service laws. As mentioned above, eight out of 10 federal civil service tests don’t require a test. That means that getting a federal civil service job depends a lot on your résumé and application. Please note that résumés for federal jobs should be written differently than most résumés. They should provide extremely detailed information about the job experiences and education that make you a good candidate for the jobs you are applying for. There is a great website that discusses how to write a résumé for a federal government job, called the [Federal Jobs Network](#). In fact, [Federal Jobs Network](#) can tell you almost everything you need to know about federal jobs and how to apply for them.

Here are more resources that can help you look for a civil service job:

### **Jobs with the City of New York**

[General Information About New York City Civil Service System](#)

[New York City Government Careers Website](#)

[New York City Current & Upcoming Civil Service Exams](#)

[New York City Civil Exams Archive \(lists job categories covered by exams\)](#)

### **New York State (and local government) Jobs**

[General Information about New York State Civil Service](#)

[Job Openings with Cities, Towns and Villages in New York State](#)

[Metropolitan Transportation Authority Civil Service Exam Schedule](#)

[New York State Job Openings](#)

### **US Government Civil Service Job Resources**

[Federal Jobs Network](#)

[USAJOBS—Federal Government Job Listings](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions About Federal Government Jobs](#)

### **Other Resources**

Civil Service Book Shop, 212-226-9506, 38 Lispenard Street, New York, NY 10013

[Queens Library Civil Service Study Guides webpage](#)

## ***Climate Resilience & Preparedness***

The earth's climate system is increasingly becoming unstable, mostly because of pollution that comes from burning coal, natural gas, and oil. They are burned in power plants, factories, homes, cars, and trucks. This pollution traps heat in the earth's atmosphere. This extra heat is melting huge ice formations in cold parts of the world. The ice turns to water that pours into our streams and rivers. It drains into our oceans, causing sea levels to rise. The extra heat in our atmosphere is also making hurricanes, heat waves, rain storms, droughts, and wildfires more intense than they were even 10 years ago. Hurricane Sandy is just one example. All of these changes effect plants, animals and the natural systems we depend on, too. For more about how we depend on the natural world, click [here](#). These changes to our weather and the rest of the natural world are called "global warming" or "climate change."

It's very important to stop the pollution that's changing our climate, of course. Check out the Environmental Protection and Remediation section of this website for information on jobs in that field. It's also very important to prepare for and protect against these changes, so that we can live through them safely. Now, there's a new field of work designed to help do just that. It's called "climate resilience, preparedness and recovery."

The field is new, of course, because climate change is pretty new. Most jobs in this field are with government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and planning groups. Not-for-profit organizations are groups that have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money. There are very few private companies that work in this field. But that might change as the needs and the field grows.

Jobs in this field help our local, state, and federal governments prepare for these emergencies and recover from them when they happen. Here's an example: New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs New York's subways, buses, and many commuter trains, needs to plan how to protect its subway stations, train tracks, train cars, and buses so they won't stop working after a big storm like they did after Hurricane Sandy.

People who work in this field are helping make these kinds of plans. Once the plans are approved, they will help build out the system so that it works better during and after emergencies. Workers in this field help private companies and other important community institutions—hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and others—do similar things. They are helping us plan for the long-term changes that global warming can cause.

Right now, almost all of the jobs in the field are for people with college degrees. Sometimes, graduate degrees are needed, too. Of course, organizations that do this work will need help from office workers and maintenance people, technology specialists, and people in other fields. Construction workers will be needed to help build projects like the sea wall now planned for Lower Manhattan. But it is likely that folks in these fields won't need special skills.

Most of the jobs in this field are in government. At the federal level, these are jobs with the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), the [National Parks Service](#), as well as other agencies and federal government departments. At the state level, New York State has jobs at the [Governor's Office of Storm Recovery](#), the [Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services](#), the [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) and other agencies.

New York City's government is doing a lot of work in this area also. City agencies that work in this field include the [Department of City Planning](#), the [Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning & Sustainability](#), the [Office of Emergency Management](#), the [New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation](#), the [New York City Housing Authority](#), and other city agencies. Town and county governments in Long Island, Westchester, and New Jersey sometimes also have jobs in these fields. There are regional agencies involved in this work, including the [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) and [the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey](#).

New York City is home to a growing number of not-for-profits, colleges, and universities that work to help cities and towns prepare for and recover from climate change. One of the most important programs located in New York is the [Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program](#). It works with cities around the world. Another non-profit organization that works in climate preparedness and recovery in New York City is [the Nature Conservancy](#). [Columbia University's Earth Institute](#) and the [City University of New York's Institute for Sustainable Cities](#) are two university centers involved in this field. But those are only some of the organizations doing this work. The job listing websites below, especially [Idealist.org](#), can help you find listings at many non-profit organizations. (One of the great things about the Idealist website is that it allows you to search using terms that make it easy to find jobs in the fields you're interested in.)

At the moment, there aren't very many jobs with private companies that do this kind of work. Some companies that do are utilities, including [Con Edison](#), [National Grid](#), and LIPA/[PSE&G Long Island](#). Other private companies in this area include large insurance companies, architecture and design firms, and private consulting companies.

For more information about the type of training and education you might need to work in climate resilience, preparedness, and recovery, check out these webpages that are part of the federal government's [CareerOneStop.org Green Careers Center: Governmental and Regulatory Administration](#), [Environmental Protection](#), and [Research, Design and Consulting](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about different kinds of careers, about salaries and benefits, and other helpful information.

Another helpful website is the [Green Job Bank](#). And general job-search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#), are good places to look, too.

To begin your job search, check out the websites below.

### **Government, Not-For-Profit, Academic, and Private Industry Jobs**

[100 Resilient Cities](#)

[Booz Allen Hamilton](#)

[C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[City University of New York Institute for Sustainable Cities](#)

[Columbia University Earth Institute](#)

[Consolidated Edison](#)

[Enterprise](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)

[ICLEI/Local Governments for Sustainability USA](#)

[IEM](#)

[LIPA/PSE&G Long Island](#)

[Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#)

[National Grid](#)

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

[National Parks Service](#)

[New York City Department of City Planning](#)

[New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation](#)

[New York City Housing Authority](#)

[New York City Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning & Sustainability](#)

[New York City Office of Emergency Management](#)

[New York State Association of Regional Councils](#)

[New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

[New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services](#)

[New York State Governor's Office of Storm Recovery](#)

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey](#)

[Regional Planning Association](#)

[Resilient Communities for America](#)

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

[U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

[U.S. Public Health Service](#)

[World Wildlife Fund](#)

[World Resources Institute](#)

## **Job Boards**

[American Institute of Architects New York Chapter](#)

[American Planning Association](#)

[American Public Health Association](#)

[Climate Change Policy & Practice](#)

[Emergency Management](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[Insurance Journal](#)

[National Emergency Management Association](#)

[Next City](#)

[New York Metro Chapter, American Planning Association](#)

## ***Energy Efficiency***

You can watch a video about Energy Efficiency on YouTube [here](#).

Energy efficiency is about using less energy to provide the same service. Energy-efficient light bulbs are a great example. They give off the same amount of light using less electricity. The same goes for energy-efficient cars. They travel the same distance using less gas.

Unfortunately, [more than half of the energy we produce in the United States goes to waste](#). The amount of energy wasted may be as high as 85 percent. Energy waste harms the environment and our wallets. The more energy we waste, the more pollution we create. Paying for energy that is not put to good use but is wasted does not reflect good judgment.

The field of energy efficiency is filled with opportunities. In terms of employment there is a wide range of jobs in this field. We use energy, although we could use it more efficiently—in almost everything we do. Think about it: transportation can be made more energy-efficient; so can the devices, equipment, and appliances we use all the time. Processes can be made more efficient too—the way something is produced in a factory, for instance, can be designed or redesigned to use less energy.

In New York City many jobs in the energy efficiency field have to do with improving the way energy is used in buildings. There are jobs for everyone, from entry-level workers, who might work for a utility company swapping out old-inefficient light bulbs for new energy-saving models, to architects, engineers, and finance experts. These professionals can make old and new buildings more energy-efficient by designing buildings that need a lot less energy to operate or by redesigning and re-engineering building heating and cooling systems. Finance experts can figure out how to reduce the cost of energy-efficiency upgrades or to reduce energy bills. Here are just some of the jobs available in this field: energy auditor, retrofit installer, crew leader, sales representative, insulation technician, and HVAC contractor.

For more information about the types of jobs available in the field of energy efficiency, and the training and education you might need to work in the field, check out the [Energy Efficiency](#) page of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government created CareerOneStop.org to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org also has information about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

Many jobs in the field of building energy efficiency require certain kinds of certificates. Generally certificates can be obtained by taking a class and passing an exam that shows you understand of the field.

For people doing the hands-on work of energy efficiency in buildings, the [Building Performance Institute](#) offers important certifications. Its [website](#) can connect you to places that offer [training](#), [testing](#) and [jobs](#) in the field. Other important energy-efficiency certificates are the [BOMI Building Systems Maintenance Certificate](#) and [GPRO](#).

A few more quick things about working in building energy efficiency: Many of the hands-on, construction jobs in the field aren't listed on energy-efficiency job boards. That's because most of this work is done by small building contractors who work as subcontractors for utilities and other programs that help make energy-efficiency happen. So, be sure to check out general job-listing websites like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#) when you are looking for jobs in this area. In addition, websites that are more specific to the field include [Affordable Comfort](#), the [Green Job Bank](#) and [Home Energy Pros](#).

The federal government's [Weatherization Assistance Program](#), and the not-for-profit groups that provide weatherization services for it are good sources for jobs in the energy-efficiency field. New York State Weatherization Agencies are listed on [this website](#).

## Training

In New York City and in the surrounding areas, there are many organizations and schools that provide training for people interested in jobs in energy efficiency.

For high-school graduates (or people with a GED) entering the workforce for the first time, several green job-training programs teach the job skills needed for a first job in energy efficiency. Here is a partial list of these programs:

[Bronx Environmental Stewardship Academy](#) (Bronx)

[Fortune Society](#) (Long Island City, Queens)

[Green City Force](#) (Brooklyn)

[Green Ladders](#) (Long Island City, Queens)

[ReNEW](#) (Manhattan)

There are plenty of opportunities for people with some work experience to learn more about energy efficiency. Some of these training programs are run by not-for-profit training centers and others are run by for-profit companies. Here are links to several training centers, training providers, training programs and training resources in the New York City area:

[32B| Green Supers \(and Building Employees\) Program](#)

[Building Performance Institute](#)

[City University of New York](#)

[Green Jobs Training Center](#)

[Laborers International Union of North America \(LIUNA\)](#)

[New York State Energy Research & Development Authority](#)

[New York University Schack Institute of Real Estate](#)

[Solar One](#)

[Urban Green Council](#)

### **Job Boards That Include Energy Efficiency Jobs**

[Affordable Comfort](#)

[American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers](#)

[New York Chapter, Association of Energy Engineers](#)

[Building Performance Institute](#)

[Conservation Services Group](#)

[Con Edison](#)

[Energy & Resource Solutions](#)

[Energy Manager Today magazine](#)

[EnerNOC](#)

[Green Job Bank](#)

[Green Jobs Network](#)

[Home Energy Pros](#)

[Honeywell](#)

[Johnson Controls](#)

[Lockheed Martin](#)

[National Grid](#)

[PSEG Long Island](#)

[Residential Energy Services Network](#)

[U.S. Green Building Council Career Center](#)

[Willdan](#)

## ***Environmental Education***

Teaching about the environment, how it works, and how to protect it is called environmental education. This is a small but growing field.

Environmental educators do their work in many different ways and in many different places. Most of these educators work in K-12 schools, schools teaching grades from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. They help kids and their teachers understand why the environment is important. Others work in what are called “informal educational settings.” These can be zoos, aquariums, museums, national parks, or botanical gardens. They can be afterschool programs or summer camps.

Some environmental educators work for not-for-profit organizations. Not-for-profits are organizations that have been set up to carry out a mission instead of to make money. They help interested people learn about why it’s important to protect our environment.

Some environmental educators even work in the business world. They teach business executives and other employees about how they can improve their effect on the environment.

As in many small fields, getting an internship or volunteering with an organization working in the field can often help you get a job. So can working as a student teacher. If you are interested in getting a job as an environmental educator, you should know that jobs in this field usually require at least a college degree. The exceptions are jobs for maintenance workers, clerical workers, gift shop employees, and others at organizations that provide environmental education.

**K-12 schools** are the biggest employers in this field. These include public schools, like the schools run by the [New York City Department of Education](#). Other K-12 schools include private schools, such as religious day schools and other independent schools. They also include charter schools. Charter schools are schools paid for with taxpayer dollars where students attend for free. Charter schools are run independently by local school departments.

There is a growing need for teachers of science, technology, engineering, and math (“STEM” field subjects) in K-12 schools. These teachers often teach about the environment. There are also jobs in schools for teacher trainers—knowledgeable teachers who help other

teachers learn particular subjects. If you want to work as an environmental educator in a K-12 school, having a degree in special education or in teaching non-native speakers of English can be especially helpful.

To find a job in a public school, start by checking out the [New York City Department of Education's Careers website](#). Manhattanville College's [Helpful Websites for Teachers webpage](#) also lists many websites that can help environmental educators find jobs in public schools, charter schools, private schools, and afterschool programs. Other job boards for school teachers are listed below. One of them—[Idealist.org](#)—lists many jobs in charter schools. One of the great things about [Idealist.org](#) is that it allows you to search using terms that make it easy to find jobs in the fields you're interested in.

**Informal environmental education** programs are probably the next-largest employer in environmental education. Informal education can happen in almost any place where people learn about the environment—in summer camps, museums and zoos, after-school programs, nature centers, parks, and more.

Some government agencies hire workers in this field. They include federal agencies, like the [National Park Service](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and the [U.S. Forest Service](#). At the state level, they include the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) and the [New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation](#). In New York City, they include the [New York City Department of Environmental Protection](#), the [New York City Department of Parks and Recreation](#), and the [New York City Department of Sanitation](#). Some of these jobs are civil service jobs. To learn more about how to become eligible for these jobs, see the section about Civil Service jobs in this guide.

Zoos, museums, nature centers, aquariums, botanical gardens, and other places where people learn about nature and wildlife are great places to teach, too. New York has many of these great places. One of them is the [Queens Zoo](#). It is part of the larger [Wildlife Conservation Society](#). The WCS also runs the world-famous [Bronx Zoo](#), the [Prospect Park Zoo](#), the [Central Park Zoo](#), and the [New York Aquarium](#). It is also known around the world for its work to protect endangered animals, like elephants, great apes, snow leopards, and loons. These organizations list jobs in their website's job boards. One of them is the job board of the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#). Other similar websites are listed below.

Not-for-profit organizations and businesses also need help from environmental educators. At not-for-profit organizations, educators can reach out to members and possible members, funders and others. Sometimes, environmental educators work on organization's websites or run special programs for members and donors.

Companies that advise other businesses on how to improve their effects on the environment also sometimes hire people with college degrees or work experience in environmental education. These companies are often called sustainability consulting firms. Environmental educators at these firms teach other companies' employees about how our natural world works and how to protect it. To find jobs with sustainability consulting firms, do an Internet search for "sustainability consulting firms."

Green job websites like the [Green Job Bank](#) are sometimes good places to find jobs in environmental education. So are general job-search websites, including [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#).

To learn more about the field of environmental education and begin your job search, check out the websites below.

### **Job Boards**

[American Museum of Natural History](#)

[American Public Garden Association](#)

[Association for Experiential Education](#)

[Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#)

[Audubon](#)

[Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#)

[Conservation Job Board](#)

[Environmental Career Opportunities](#)

[Green Chimneys](#)

[GrowNYC](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[Long Island Teaching Jobs](#)

[Manhattanville College's "Helpful Websites for Teachers"](#)

[NYC Careers](#)

[NYC Museum Educators Roundtable](#)

[Nassau County Board of Cooperative Educational Services](#)

[National Association of Independent Schools](#)

[National Parks Service](#)

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education News](#)

[New York Botanical Garden](#)

[New York City Department of Education](#)

[New York City Department of Environmental Protection](#)

[New York City Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[New York City Department of Sanitation](#)

[New York Restoration Project](#)

[New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

[New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#)

[New York State Outdoor Education Association](#)

[NYS Teaching Jobs](#)

[North American Association for Environmental Education](#)

[Online Application System for Educators](#)

[Outdoor & Environmental Education Jobs](#)

[Pathfinder: The Career Site for Afterschool and Youth Work](#)

[Queens Botanical Garden](#)

[School Spring from NETCHEMIA](#)

[Society for Conservation Biology](#)

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[U.S. Forest Service](#)

[Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

[Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative](#)

## **Environmental Education Programs, Networks & Resources**

[Alley Pond Environmental Center](#)

[Environmental Education Advisory Council of New York City](#)

[Green Chimneys](#)

[Long Island Nature Centers](#)

[National Science Teachers Association](#)

[New York City Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education Program](#)

[New York Restoration Project](#)

[New York State Environmental Education Centers and Programs](#)

[New York State Nature Centers](#)

[The Nature Conservancy LEAF Partner Schools](#)

[New York City Departments of Parks & Recreation Greenbelt Environmental Education Department](#)

[North American Association for Environmental Education](#)

[Wallerstein Collaborative For Urban Environmental Education \(New York University\)](#)

## ***Environmental Protection and Remediation***

Environmental protection and remediation are two sides of the same coin.

Remediation fixes parts of our environment that have been damaged. That means cleaning up a polluted piece of land or a waterway where dangerous industrial chemicals have been dumped, for example, or restoring a forest that has been logged illegally. Sometimes, it can mean rushing to stop an oil or chemical spill and then getting involved in the long process of cleaning up the damage to fish, wildlife, land, and water.

Environmental protection is preventing damage to the environment from happening in the first place or punishing those who cause the damage. Protection is a much bigger field than remediation because it can involve everything from the most immediate response, like patrolling our waterways to make sure that businesses or others aren't dumping dangerous chemicals into them, to writing laws that help protect endangered species. It can mean investigating illegal government or business activities as a newspaper reporter or working as an advocate to protect our water and air, our land, our wildlife, and our climate.

Some jobs in this field—especially at not-for-profit organizations and in government—can be very hard to come by. Not-for-profit organizations have been set up to carry out a mission instead of simply to make money. Jobs in non-profits can also be very rewarding.

It makes sense to describe jobs in remediation and protection separately because they work differently.

**Environmental remediation**—the clean-up of land and waterways that have been polluted or damaged—is a growing field. Almost all of the hands-on work is done by private companies and their employees. This involves scraping up contaminated dirt and bringing it to special landfills or planting special plants that can soak up dangerous chemicals. Pieces of land that have been polluted by dangerous chemicals are usually called “brownfields.” The federal government and New York’s state government are involved in deciding that some brownfields, usually the most contaminated ones, must be cleaned up. These sites are sometimes called “[Superfund](#)” sites. But the actual clean-up work is usually done by private companies. Usually, these companies are environmental consulting or engineering firms. New York City also has a brownfields remediation program: [The Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation](#) (NYC OER).

Sites and waterways that are less polluted are usually cleaned up because a company wants to develop a property, not because a government agency orders a clean-up. This work is done entirely through private consulting and environmental engineering companies and their employees.

People involved in doing the hands-on clean-up work need to have special training in the federal [Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard](#). (It's commonly known as HAZWOPER.) They should also have the other training and certificates that the federal government's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) says workers in this field need. These OSHA certificates include a lead-abatement certificate, an asbestos abatement certificate, an asbestos handling certificate, a confined-space certificate, and an OSHA 10-hour construction safety certificate.

In New York City, a program in the Mayor's OER connects people who've gone through training at community workforce development organizations, like the [Fortune Society](#), [Saint Nicholas Preservation Corporation](#) and [Strive](#), with companies looking to hire workers in this field. The OER also pays employers for on-the-job training. The people applying for these jobs must have HAZWOPER and other OSHA certifications. Workforce development groups can help train you in these skills.

There are other jobs in this field besides the so-called "construction and material-moving" ones. They usually require at least a college degree and include environmental technicians, hydrologists, environmental engineers and industrial ecologists, business specialists, lawyers, office workers, communications specialists, biophysicists, conservation scientists, microbiologists, and others. For more about the wide range of jobs in environmental remediation, check out [this helpful article](#) from the federal government's [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

The **environmental protection** field—preventing environmental damage from happening and punishing those who do it—has two big employers.

**Government** is the biggest employer. The federal government's [Environmental Protection Agency](#) is the biggest employer in this field. The EPA does everything from enforce clean-air laws to investigate new ways to manage waste from large farms. New York State has a similar agency, the [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) (NYS DEC). It has offices across New York State, including in New York City and Long Island.

Jobs with the NYS DEC are civil service jobs. Click [this link](#) to learn more about how to apply. Here are the basics: For some NYS DEC jobs, you need to take a written civil service test. If you pass, you will then be put on a list, and when your name comes close to the top of the list you will be considered for a job. For some NYS DEC jobs, you don't have to take a separate exam. Your education and experience are enough. But there is still a list you need to get on to get a job with the department. Some jobs at the NYS DEC require no test at all. There's no list you need to get on. You just need the right education and work experience.

New York City also has a [Department of Environmental Protection](#). Many of the jobs in the NYC DEP are civil-service jobs; applicants might have to take a test in order to apply. Or, if jobs are posted but no tests are available, people can still apply for and get these jobs. Once the tests become available, the people who get these jobs must take and pass these tests.

**Not-for-profit organizations** are the other big employer in this field. They and their employees can do a wide range of things to help protect the environment. A group called the [Environmental Investigations Agency](#) is one example. It investigates environmental crimes and dangers around the world and brings them to the government's and the media's attention. Queens' [Newtown Creek Alliance](#) works to protect and restore the borough's Newtown Creek. The [Environmental Defense Fund](#), a big organization based in Manhattan, lobbies the federal government for laws that protect our climate, our oceans, and the air we breathe. It also works with big businesses to help them improve the effects they have on the environment.

New York is home to many large and small not-for-profit organizations that do this kind of work. You can often find their jobs listed on the [Idealist.org](#) website. Remember, these organizations need experts and they also need office managers and assistants, tech support people, receptionists, interns, bookkeepers, and other staff. One of the great things about [the website](#) is that it allows you to search using terms that make it easy to find jobs in the fields you're interested in.

Jobs in environmental protection include police officer, program manager, information technology expert, environmental technician, lawyer, marine biologist, dive instructor, ecological technician, public relations specialist, fish and game warden, and many others.

For more information about the type of jobs available in environmental protection and remediation and the training and education you might need to work in the field, check out the [Environmental Protection page](#) of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The

federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

To begin your job search, visit the websites below. To find environmental engineering and consulting groups in New York City and around the country, you can do an Internet search for “environmental consulting firms” or “environmental engineering firm.” To find a list of companies that work in the field of environmental remediation, check out the ones on the website of the [Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation](#).

### **Job Boards**

[American Academy of Environmental Engineers & Scientists](#)

[Association of Environmental Engineering & Science Professors](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[Nassau County \(Long Island\) Department of Health](#)

[New York City Office of Environmental Remediation](#)

[New York City Department of Environmental Protection](#)

[New York State Attorney General’s Office](#)

[New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

[Redevelopment & Renewal Magazine](#)

[U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Crimes Section](#)

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

## **Remediation & Environmental Engineering Firms**

[NYC Office of Environmental Remediation TurboTraining Certified Professionals](#) (These professionals work at firms that do environmental remediation work.)

[AARCO Environmental Services Corp.](#)

[Barton & Loguidice](#)

[Clean Harbors](#)

[Creamer Environmental Inc, Remediation Contractors](#)

[Dresdner Robin](#)

[ENVIRON](#)

[Environmental Remediation Services, Inc.](#)

[Environmental Restoration LLC.](#)

[KAM Consultants](#)

[LVI Services](#)

[Miller Environmental Group, Inc.](#)

[Nobis Engineering](#)

[Sevenson Environmental Services, Inc.](#)

[Tetra Tech](#)

## **Workforce Development Organizations**

[The Fortune Society](#)

[Saint Nicholas Preservation Corporation](#)

[Strive](#)

## **Green Construction**

Watch a YouTube video about Green Construction [here](#).

Buildings and the ways they are located, designed, built, and kept up have a huge effect on our environment and on us. In the U.S., buildings use a whopping 39 percent of our energy and 72 percent of all our electricity. Most of that energy comes from fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels creates the pollution that is causing global warming and other kinds of pollution that dirties our air and can cause health problems like asthma, lung cancer, and heart disease.

Buildings also have a big effect on how much fresh water we use. In parts of the country that are facing droughts, water usage is very important because buildings affect how much rain and snow add to problems like stormwater pollution. Stormwater pollution is pollution that happens when rain overflows our combined sewer systems, which handle rain or snow and water from our bathrooms and kitchens. When it rains, overflows cause untreated sewage to spill into our rivers and oceans, closing beaches, hurting fish and other creatures, and making people sick.

The building industry is working hard to improve its effect on the environment. It is very quickly inventing and using new ways to locate, design, build, and maintain the buildings we spend so much time in. Here's an example of just how fast things are changing: In 2012, almost 45 percent of all commercial and institutional buildings—buildings built as stores, offices, hospitals, etc.—were built following guidelines put out by the [U.S. Green Building Council](#), an organization that works to improve the effects buildings have on our environment. In 2016, that number is expected to exceed 55 percent.

The field of green (or “environmentally-friendly”) construction is as diverse as the construction field itself. Workers in this field include everyone from union and non-union construction workers—laborers, electricians, carpenters, plumbers—to drafts people, office workers, architects, engineers, real estate developers, urban planners, building operators and employees, and local government officials, to name just a few. (For more about jobs in green construction, check out [this helpful article](#) from the federal government's [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).)

The green construction field has three big employers:

**Private companies** are the biggest employer in this field, by far. These companies include architecture, design and planning firms, engineering firms, construction contractors and subcontractors, landscaping companies, heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractors, real estate developers, building supply companies, waste haulers, and others.

**Government agencies** also employ people in this field. Here in New York City, that means the city government, through the [Department of Housing Preservation and Development](#), the [Department of City Planning](#), the [Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability](#), the [New York City Housing Authority](#), the [School Construction Authority](#), and other city agencies. The New York State government is also involved through its office of [Homes and Community Renewal](#), the [New York Energy Research and Development Authority](#), the [Dormitory Authority](#), and other agencies. At the federal level, there are jobs at the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), the [Department of Energy](#), the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), the [General Services Administration](#), the [Department of Defense](#), and other federal agencies.

**Not-for-profit organizations** also work in this field. They are organizations that have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money.

New York City is home to many fantastic nonprofits that work to improve the ways that buildings effect our environment. One of the most important is the [Urban Green Council](#). It is the New York chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council and is involved in moving the building and real estate field forward in New York. Some other New York City non-profit organizations that work in green construction are the [Association for Energy Affordability](#), [Build It Green! NYC](#), [Community Environmental Center](#), [Enterprise](#), and [LIISC NYC](#). These are only a few of the organizations doing this work. The job listing websites below, especially [Idealist.org](#), can help you find job openings at many non-profit organizations. One of the great things about [the website](#) is that it allows you to search using terms that make it easy to find jobs in the fields you're interested in.

**Building trade unions** are not employers. But many of them have training programs that can help their members and apprentices learn the skills they need to know to work on green building projects. To join a union, you must go through a union apprenticeship program. [Openings in these programs](#) are listed with the New York State Department of Labor. Read these postings carefully. They often have very detailed requirements.

**Pre-apprenticeship programs** can help interested workers join unions directly, without having to wait for apprenticeship programs to open up. There are at least three in New York City: One, called the [Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills](#), is available to African American, Latino, and Asian American seniors in New York City high schools. Another is [Nontraditional Employment for Women](#). The third, for veterans, is called [Helmets to Hardhats](#). Several [construction unions](#) also have their own pre-apprenticeship programs.

For people interested in non-union construction jobs, a program called [BuildingSkillsNY](#) provides eight to ten weeks of training in construction skills, including green construction skills.

Whether someone works in a union or non-union construction job, people who work in this field emphasize that it is important for construction workers to have construction skills before getting additional training in subjects that can help them find work on green construction sites.

For more information about the kinds of jobs available in green construction and the training and education you might need to work in the field, check out the [Green Construction page](#) of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

If you are looking for a job in green construction, one great place to turn is the [U.S. Green Building Council's Career Center](#). Also, a number of [the country's largest green building companies](#) are headquartered in the New York City area. They post professional and office jobs on their websites. These companies include [Turner Construction](#), [Skanska](#), [StructureTone](#), [Lend Lease](#), and [EWHowell](#).

Non-union construction workers can find building subcontractors listed through the [Subcontractors Trade Association](#). Subcontractors are usually the ones who do the hiring for non-union jobs. Members of building trades unions can find work through their unions.

Another helpful website is the [Green Job Bank](#). And general job-search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#), are good places to look, too.

To begin your job search or explore some training options, check out the websites below.

## **Job Boards**

[American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers](#)

[Association for Energy Affordability](#)

[New York Chapter, Association of Energy Engineers](#)

[Build It Green! NYC](#)

[Enterprise](#)

[E.W. Howell](#)

[The Green Job Bank](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[Lend Lease](#)

[LISC NYC](#)

[New York City Department of City Planning](#)

[New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development](#)

[New York City Housing Authority](#)

[New York City Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability](#)

[New York City School Construction Authority](#)

[New York State Department of Labor Union Apprenticeship Listings](#)

[New York State Dormitory Authority](#)

[New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#)

[New York State Homes and Community Renewal](#)

[Skanska USA](#)

[StructureTone](#)

[Turner Construction](#)

[U.S. Green Building Council Career Center](#)

[U.S. Department of Defense](#)

[U.S. Department of Energy](#)

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[U.S. General Services Administration](#)

[U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

[U.S. Green Building Council Career Center](#)

**Pre-Apprenticeship Programs, Apprenticeship Openings & Other Training Opportunities in the Building Trades and Real Estate Industry**

[Association for Energy Affordability](#)

[BuildingSkillsNY](#)

[City University of New York](#)

[Community Environmental Center](#)

[Edward J. Malloy Initiative for Construction Skills](#)

[GPRO](#)

[Helmets to Hardhats](#)

[New York State Department of Labor Union Apprenticeship Listings](#)

[New York University Schack Institute of Real Estate](#)

[Nontraditional Employment for Women](#)

## ***Natural Resource & Wildlife Conservation***

Our natural resources are the things all life on earth depends on—our lands, our forests and open spaces, our oceans, our lakes, rivers and streams, and our wildlife. (For more about how that all works, click [here](#).)

Jobs that save and restore natural resources are very rewarding. They are also very hard to come by. Some jobs in this field are open to people who have a high school education or a GED. But lots of times, people who want these jobs need a college education, a graduate degree, or other kinds of special training.

People who work in conservation can do [a wide range of jobs](#). Some work as park rangers in local, state or national parks. Others do clerical work at non-profit organizations that plant trees to make cities more livable. Some work as wildlife biologists or botanists, soil scientists, or fisheries experts.

The field has three big employers:

**Government agencies** are the biggest employer in the field. Here in New York City, that means the city government (through the [Parks Department](#), the [Department of Environmental Protection](#), and other city agencies); the state government, through the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) and the [New York State Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#); and the federal government, through agencies like the [National Park Service](#), the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#), the [US Geological Survey](#), and the [Bureau of Land Management](#).

**Non-profit organizations** are another big employer in the field. They are organizations that have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money.

New York City is home to many fantastic nonprofits that work to save and restore our natural resources, our wildlife, and our waterways. One of the most famous is the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#). It runs the world-famous Bronx Zoo and the Queens Zoo, too. But it is also known around the world for its work to protect endangered animals, like elephants, great apes, snow leopards, and loons.

Some other non-profit organizations that work in natural resource and wildlife conservation in New York City are Bette Midler's [New York Restoration Project](#), the [Alley](#)

[Pond Environmental Center](#), [The Nature Conservancy](#), [Audubon](#), and the [Bronx River Alliance](#). But those are only a few of the organizations doing this work. The job listing websites below, especially [Idealist.org](#), can help you find listings at many non-profit organizations.

**Consulting groups** also work in this field. They are private companies made up of experts, along with the kinds of support staff lots of businesses have—clerks, building maintenance, and other workers. Governments, businesses, and others hire consulting groups to learn about environmental conditions in particular areas and to advise them about how to follow laws that protect land, water, and wildlife.

For more information about the kinds of training and education you might need to work in natural resource and wildlife conservation, check out the [Environmental Protection webpage](#) and the [Research, Design and Consulting webpage](#) of the [Green Careers Center](#) at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about different kinds of careers, about salaries and benefits, and other helpful information.

To begin your job search, check out the websites below. To find environmental consulting groups in New York City and around the country, you can do an Internet search for “environmental consulting firms.”

### **Natural Resources/Conservation Job Boards**

[American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Job Board](#)

[Association of Zoos and Aquariums Job Board](#)

[Conservation Job Board](#)

[Ecolog-L Listserv](#)

[EcoEmploy.com](#)

[Ecological Society of America Job Board](#)

[Environmental Career Opportunities Job Board](#)

[Federal Government Job Board](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[National Association of Environmental Professionals Job Board](#)

[North American Association for Environmental Education Job Board](#)

[New York City Parks Department](#)

[New York City Department of Environmental Protection](#)

[New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

[New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#)

[Ornithological Societies of North America job board](#)

[Society for Conservation Biology international \(and national\) job board](#)

[Society of Wetland Scientists Job Board](#)

[Texas A & M University Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Job Board](#)

## **Public Transportation**

Watch a YouTube video about Public Transportation [here](#).

Public transportation, the subways, trains and buses that take people where they need to go, is great for the environment. That's because transit (another word for "public transportation") uses much less energy per person than private cars do. With less energy use, there is less pollution. In fact, for the average person, taking a bus or subway to work creates only one quarter to two thirds of the pollution of the pollution generated by driving a car or SUV. That includes the global warming pollution that is making hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires far more dangerous now than they were only 20 or 30 years ago.

Here in the New York City area, we're lucky because we have the best public transportation in the country. We are also served by national and regional train and bus lines.

Listed below is information about jobs in public transportation in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, and New Jersey. You can also find information about jobs at national train and bus services and a list of national public transportation job boards.

For more information about the kinds of jobs available in public transportation and the training and education you might need to work in the field, check out the [Transportation](#) page of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

### **New York City buses and trains and other services of the Metropolitan**

**Transportation Authority:** Most of New York City's public transportation is run by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, also known as the MTA. The MTA provides a mind-blowing 2.6 billion trips per year.

The MTA runs several transportation programs. New York City Transit is the biggest one. NYC Transit runs the city's subways, buses, and para-transit for people with disabilities. NYC Transit alone employs more than 45,000 workers. Some of them work in union jobs and others in non-union jobs. The MTA also runs commuter trains to Long Island, through the Long Island Rail Road. Through Metro-North Railroad, it runs trains to Westchester,

Connecticut, Rockland and Orange Counties, and several areas immediately to the west of the Hudson River.

To apply for any job at the MTA, you must go through the Authority's [website](#). You cannot send the MTA a cover letter and résumé in the mail. The website lists the different MTA agencies and the jobs they are looking to fill. To use the website, simply register on the upper right corner of the [Careers webpage](#), and then you can look at all the jobs that are available now.

Sometimes passing a civil service test can help you get a job or a promotion at the MTA. Civil service tests are given by the city's [Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#). You can find the schedule for these tests [here](#). That schedule is also available through the website and the print version of a newspaper called [The Chief Leader](#).

Be aware that the MTA doesn't always expect you to know everything about how to do a job before you get a job with them; they often offer on-the-job training. For instance, someone who has a commercial driver's license but no experience as a bus driver could be hired as a bus driver and then receive on-the-job training to learn everything she needs to know about her new job.

**Commuter and regional trains and buses:** A wide variety of smaller agencies provide train and bus service in the New York City area. Sometimes, the jobs they offer are jobs with local or county governments. Other times, local or county governments hire private companies to provide public transportation services, and the jobs are with private employers. In other instances, private companies provide bus service directly.

## Long Island

The [Nassau Inter-County Express](#) bus service runs buses throughout Nassau County and into Queens. You can apply for jobs through its [Job Opportunities webpage](#) or by calling 516-296-4261.

[Suffolk County Transit](#) operates most of the buses that serve Suffolk County. The County itself plans the routes and the schedules, but three private companies run the buses. They are:

[E.B.T., Inc.](#) 50 Court Street, Copiague, NY 11726-1588; (631) 842-7373

This company also provides school buses and their drivers for many school districts in Long Island and throughout New York State.

[Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc.](#) 10 Moffitt Boulevard, Bay Shore, NY 11706-7093; 631-665-3245

Suffolk Transportation also provides school buses, drivers, and para-transit service for people with disabilities.

[Twin Forks Transit, Inc.](#) P.O. Box 2050, W. Front Street, Greenport, NY 11944-2050; 631-477-1283

This company, whose website is called [Sunrisebusses.co](#), also works with Hampton Jitney, which provides buses from New York to eastern Long Island and other locations.

## **Westchester**

Westchester's bus system is called the [Bee-Line Bus](#). It's run by [Liberty Lines](#), a private bus company. To apply for a job at Liberty Lines, you must contact the company to ask for an application. You can do this by mail, email, or you can pick up an application in person at its office in Yonkers between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Liberty Lines is located at 475 Saw Mill River Road, Yonkers, NY, 10701. To ask for an application using email, email Neil Erickson at [nerickson@libertylines.com](mailto:nerickson@libertylines.com).

## **Northern New Jersey**

Northern New Jersey is served by several train and bus lines. The [PATH train](#) is one of them. It runs between Manhattan and northern New Jersey. On weekdays, it has almost 250,000 riders. You can apply for PATH train jobs (and other jobs at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey) through the Port Authority's [Careers webpage](#). If you have already registered at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority website, you don't need to re-register. Your username and password will work on this website, too.

[New Jersey Transit](#) offers train, [light rail](#) and bus services. You can apply for jobs through its [Careers webpage](#).

**Buses serving the Manhattan Port Authority Terminal:** At least 15 different bus companies run buses in and out of the Port Authority Terminal in Manhattan’s Times Square. Many of those companies list job openings on their websites, under headings like “Employment,” “Careers,” or “Job Openings.” Here is a list of those bus companies.

[Academy](#)

[Adirondack Trailways](#)

[Bieber](#)

[Community \(Coach USA\)](#)

Community Lines (no website available)

[DeCamp](#)

Express Bus Service (no website available)

[Greyhound](#)

[Lakeland](#)

[Martz Trailways](#)

[Megabus](#)

[NJ Transit](#)

[Olympia \(Coach USA\)](#)

[Peter Pan](#)

[Red & Tan \(Coach USA\)](#)

[Rockland \(Coach USA\)](#)

[Shortline \(Coach USA\)](#)

[Suburban \(Coach USA\)](#)

[Susquehanna Trailways](#)

[Trans-Bridge Lines](#)

**National train and bus services:**

[Amtrak](#) is the country's passenger train service. It runs trains in 46 states, including New York. You can search for jobs on its [Careers webpage](#).

At least six national and regional bus companies also do business in New York. A lot of these bus companies list jobs on their websites, under headings like "Employment," "Careers," or "Job Openings." When a company doesn't list their jobs in an easy-to-find place, you might have to call the company to find out how to apply. Here is a list of the regional and national bus companies that serve New York City:

[BoltBus](#)

[Greyhound](#)

[MegaBus](#)

[Vamoose](#)

[Trailways](#)

[Tripper Bus](#)

**National transit job boards:**

The [American Public Transportation Association](#) speaks out to support public transportation. It lists jobs in transit on its [Jobs webpage](#).

[Mass Transit magazine](#) has an [online job board](#). Most of the jobs listed are for people with college educations.

[Transit Talent](#), a national transit website, lists jobs at transit agencies around the country on its [job board](#). People who are looking for jobs can also post their résumés [here](#).

## ***Recycling, Composting & Waste Reduction***

Let's face it: Garbage is bad for the environment, which means it's bad for us. When we throw stuff out, it ends up in landfills and in our waterways—in our oceans, rivers and lakes. It creates all kinds of problems.

In landfills, rotting garbage creates greenhouse gases that trap heat in the earth's atmosphere and cause global warming. In the United States, landfills create as many greenhouse gases as 21 million cars. Decomposing garbage also produces other dangerous gases that lead to smog. Smog, in turn, can cause asthma, lung diseases including cancer, and heart disease.

When waste rots in landfills, it also sends out liquids that can pollute our waterways and our drinking water. And garbage that isn't collected can drift into our oceans, rivers and lakes, where it kills creatures like fish, sea birds, and seals.

Recycling, composting (turning food waste and organic materials like grass trimmings into rich, healthy soil), and other kind of waste reduction prevent these problems. Not only that, they create a lot of jobs—10 times more jobs per ton than putting waste in landfills or burning it in incinerators.

There are lots of ways to reduce waste. Recycling is the one most of us know best. It's turning old materials, like newspapers we've already read or soda cans we're finished with, into usable products, like new paper and new aluminum cans.

In fact, there are lots of other ways to reduce waste. Composting is becoming increasingly popular with New Yorkers. Our restaurants, cafeterias, and sports arenas are getting into it, too. Interested in starting your own community composting project? Check out [this website](#) from the New York City Department of Sanitation. The Sanitation Department offers compost workshops and classes and can help you get a community compost project up and running.

New York City's government, businesses, and community organizations are finding other ways to reduce waste, too. Groups like [City Harvest](#) collect healthy food that would otherwise be thrown out by restaurants, supermarkets, wholesale markets, and other places and brings it to neighborhoods where food supplies are limited and organizations that help people in need. [RefashionNYC](#) and [Wearable Collections](#) collect the clothes, shoes,

and other textiles that make up almost 6 percent of the city's waste. Groups like [Goodwill](#), [Housing Works](#), and the [Salvation Army](#) collect all those things, along with books, furniture, housewares, and more. There are small businesses and not-for-profit organizations that collect old computers and other unwanted electronics, too. (Not-for-profits have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money.) [Build It Green! NYC](#) and [Habitat for Humanity's ReStores](#) collect and sell salvaged building materials, such as lumber, kitchen cabinets, and flooring.

Just like in all fields of work, in recycling, composting and waste reduction, there are jobs for people at the entry level all the way up to jobs for managers, entrepreneurs, scientists, and executives. Jobs in this field include sanitation worker, truck driver, material sorter, compost program manager, recycling outreach worker, engineer, and sales representative.

For more information about the kinds of jobs available in recycling and waste reduction and the training and education you might need to work in the field, check out the [Recycling and Waste Reduction page](#) of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

### **Jobs with New York City and other local governments**

New York City's [Sanitation Department](#) is one of the biggest employers in the recycling, composting, and waste reduction field. The department as a whole employs more than 9,000 people.

To work for the Sanitation Department collecting recycling, compost, and other materials, you must first get a job as [an entry-level sanitation worker](#). There is no separate hiring for people interested in recycling. Sanitation workers, like police officers and firefighters, are assigned jobs by their supervisors. Jobs in recycling and waste reduction that usually require at least a college degree can be found in other city departments, including the [Department of Cultural Affairs](#), the [Department of Education](#), the [Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability](#), and the [NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation](#). These jobs can be found at [NYC Careers webpage](#). Many of these jobs, including entry-level sanitation jobs, require that people interested in applying take a written test as part of the application process.

## **Private and Not-For-Profit Recycling, Composting, and Waste Reduction Programs**

A lot of New York City's recycling, composting and waste reduction programs are run by private companies and by not-for-profit organizations. Many companies that work in private garbage hauling also provide recycling and composting services.

Below is a list of private haulers, recycling businesses, and not-for-profit groups that work in this field. Sometimes, private companies also provide recycling services for towns in Nassau County, on Long Island, and Westchester County, north of New York City.

### **Private Recycling, Composting, and Waste Reduction Companies**

[4th Bin](#)

[Action Environmental Services](#)

[Allegro Sanitation Corporation](#)

[Allocco Recycling Lt.](#)

[Boro Wide Recycling](#)

[Cardella Waste](#)

[Donjon Recycling](#)

[Electronic Recyclers International, Inc.](#)

[Faztec Industries](#)

[Liotta Bros. Recycling](#)

[M&M Sanitation Services](#)

[Metro Green LLC](#)

[Metropolitan Recycling](#)

[Mr. T Carting](#)

[Newtech Recycling Inc.](#)

[North Shore Recycling](#)

[Recyclebank](#)

[Recycle Depot Sanitation](#)

[Royal Waste Services](#)

[Sims Recycling Solutions](#)

[Suburban Carting Company](#)

[Taylor Recycling Facility](#)

[Tilcon](#)

[Tri-State Biodiesel](#)

[Trumvirate Environmental](#)

[Waste Management](#)

[Wearable Collections](#)

**Not-For-Profit Organizations:**

[Idealist.org](#) lists all types of jobs at not-for-profit organizations. One of its best features is a search tool that helps you find jobs in the fields you are interested in.

[Build It Green! NYC](#)

[City Harvest](#)

[Dress For Success](#)

[Film Biz Recycling](#)

[Goodwill](#)

[GrowNYC](#)

[Habitat for Humanity ReStores](#)

[Housing Works](#)

[Lower East Side Ecology Center](#)

[Recycle-A-Bicycle](#)

[Room To Grow](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

**National Recycling, Composting and Waste Reduction Job Boards**

[The Green Job Bank](#)

[Recyclingjobs.com](#)

[US Composting Council](#)

## **Renewable Energy**

Watch a YouTube video about jobs in renewable energy [here](#).

Renewable energy is energy that doesn't pollute. It comes from sources that never run out, like the sun, the wind, and the ocean's waves.

Renewable energy is important because producing energy using traditional power plants is the biggest cause of pollution in the country and in the world. In the U.S., most of our power plants run on coal, natural gas, oil, or diesel fuel. These are called "fossil fuels," and burning them causes global warming. Fossil-fuel power plants also cause other type of pollution that dirties our air and can cause health problems like asthma, lung cancer, and heart disease. Almost all of our cars, trucks, buses, trains, and ships use liquid fuels that come from oil, which has the same pollution problems.

Solar and wind power are the two best-known type of renewable energy. But other ways of producing renewable energy are starting to take off, too. The number of jobs in these fields are growing here in New York City and around the country. In fact, the federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics expects that [over the next 20 or so years, more than a million new jobs](#) in these fields will be created across the U.S. In the New York area, the number of jobs in solar energy and wind energy are predicted to grow, too. So are jobs in energy efficiency a big field that's about helping do more with less energy. Learn more about energy efficiency in the section about Energy Efficiency in this guide.

As in all lines of work, some jobs can be entry level. Companies that use water from dams or rivers to produce electricity need office clerks and janitors, just like other companies do. For other jobs, special training, college, or advanced degrees might be needed.

Below, you can find out more about different kinds of renewable energy and the types of jobs available in those industries. Some of the links that are included will also give you information about what type of education and training can help you move ahead in these fields.

## Wind Energy

Wind power uses the power of the wind to make electricity. Some small-sized wind energy machines can be used to power homes, farms, and small businesses. But most wind power is generated at wind farms. Wind farms are located in places with regular strong winds. Large wind-turbines, rotating machines that create electricity, generate power from wind.

Almost all wind farms in the U.S. are located on land, but there's a push to build offshore wind farms that can use the ocean's strong breezes and produce electricity close to the cities where it's needed most. The waters off Long Island might become home to an offshore wind farm soon. If that wind farm is built, it will create many construction jobs, along with jobs for engineers, sailors, boat captains, and others.

In fact, for people interested in working in wind power, there are many kinds of jobs. (Check out [this report](#) from the federal government's [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) that describes wind-power jobs.) There are jobs for clerical workers, administrative assistants, technicians, assembly workers, trade workers, scientists, engineers, heavy equipment operators, electricians, metal workers, lawyers, real estate professionals, sales staff, truck drivers, logistics professionals, managers and inspectors.

If you are looking for a job in wind power, one place to turn is this [helpful website](#) from the [New York State Energy Research & Development Authority](#). It can fill you in about job training, financial aid, and other programs that can help you find work in this growing field.

Another helpful webpage for people interested in wind power is the [job board](#) of the [American Wind Energy Association](#). The [Wind Energy Jobs page](#) of the [Green Job Bank](#) is also helpful. Other job search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#) are also good places to look.

For more information about the kinds of training and education you might need to work in wind power, check out the [Renewable Energy Generation](#) page of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other useful information.

## Solar Energy

Solar energy uses the power of the sun to create electricity, as well as heating and cooling. Here in New York, the solar industry is growing fast. That's thanks to big drops in the cost of solar panels and to government policies that are making solar power more affordable than ever.

If you've heard about solar power at all, you've probably heard of solar photovoltaics ("photo" means light and "voltaics" relates to electricity). Photovoltaics are the shiny solar panels you might have seen on a growing number of homes and businesses. But there are other kinds of solar power, too. Solar thermal, sometimes called solar heating and cooling, uses panels and other equipment to collect heat from the sun. That heat can be used to heat hot water or provide heat for a home or building. Because heat can be used to activate some air conditioning systems, the heat collected by solar thermal panels can also be used to keep buildings cool.

Concentrated solar power (CSP) is another kind of solar power. It works in very sunny places, like the American Southwest, by focusing mirrors or lenses so that they concentrate a huge amount of sunlight onto a very small area. The heat this process creates is used to make steam. That steam spins a turbine, which generates electricity.

The national [Solar Energy Industries Association's Solar Jobs webpage](#) is a great place to start looking for a job in solar power. SEIA also lists training programs, networking opportunities, and other helpful information. The New York chapter of the SEIA also has [job listings](#). Other useful webpages for people interested in solar power are the [Solar Today job board](#) of the [American Solar Energy Society](#) and the [Solar Energy Jobs page](#) of the [Green Job Bank](#). General job search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#), are also good places to look.

This [helpful website](#) from the [New York State Energy Research & Development Authority](#) is another place to turn. It can fill you in about job training, financial aid, and other programs that can help you find work in this growing field. New York State's [Green Careers NY](#) is a useful website, too. It lists job boards, training programs, job fairs, and other opportunities for people interested in green jobs.

The federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics has put out a [useful report](#) about the types of jobs available in the solar power field. And for more information about the kinds of

training and education you might need to work in solar power, check out the [Renewable Energy Generation](#) page of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

## **Biofuels**

Right now, almost all of our cars, trucks, buses, trains and ships run on liquid fuels made from oil. But there is an alternative—biofuels. They are fuels made from plants such as switch-grass and algae. New York City isn't a center of biofuels production or research, but this small industry is beginning to grow here and might become larger as researchers learn more about how to produce biofuels at a cost equal to or less expensive than oil-based fuels.

One biofuels company active in the New York City area is [Tri-State Biodiesel](#). You can find its job listings [here](#). [The Green Job Bank](#) is also a good place to look for a job in the biofuels industry. So are biofuels job boards like the one run by [Biofuels Digest](#) and one by the [Algae Biomass Organization](#). General job search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#), are also good places to look for jobs in this field.

The federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics has put out a [useful report](#) about jobs in the biofuels field.

For more information about the kinds of training and education you might need to work in biofuels, check out the [Renewable Energy Generation](#) page of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

## **Ground-Source Heat Pumps**

Sometimes called “geothermal heat pumps,” ground-source heat pumps use the relatively stable temperatures just below the earth's surface to bring warm air into buildings in winter and cool them in summer. Over their lifetimes, ground-source heat pumps are some of the least expensive ways to heat and cool buildings, including homes. In fact, these systems can save owners more than half on their heating and cooling bills.

This way of heating and cooling buildings is not nearly as well known as solar power or wind power. But the field is growing quickly and is creating jobs for everyone from construction workers and drillers to engineers and designers.

So far, there's no New York association of businesses that work in this field. But you can [find these businesses](#) through the website of the [International Ground Source Heat Pump Association](#).

This [helpful website](#) from the [New York State Energy Research & Development Authority](#) is another good place to turn. It can fill you in about job training, financial aid, and other programs that can help you find work in the ground-source heat pump field. New York State's [Green Careers NY](#) is a useful website, too. It lists job boards, training programs, job fairs, and other opportunities for people interested in green jobs.

[The Green Job Bank](#) is also a good place to look. So are other job search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#).

For more information about the kinds of training and education you might need to work in the ground-source heat pump field, check out the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#) and search under "ground source heat pump." The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

## **Geothermal Power**

Heat stored deep underneath the earth's surface can be used to run power plants that create electricity. [They work by pulling up hot water or steam from beneath the earth and using that steam to spin a turbine.](#) The American West has the most potential for geothermal power. New York doesn't have much at all.

[The Green Job Bank](#) is a good place to look for jobs in this field. (They will be far outside the New York City area.) So are other job search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#).

The federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics has put together this [helpful report](#) on jobs in geothermal energy. For more information about the kinds of training and education

you might need to work in the geothermal field, check out the [Renewable Energy Generation](#) page of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people who are looking for jobs find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

## **Hydroelectric Power**

Moving water, especially river water, can turn turbines that create electricity just as the wind and steam can. In fact, almost 20 percent of New York State's electricity comes from hydroelectric plants, including a very large hydroelectric plant near Niagara Falls.

There is some disagreement about whether hydroelectric power is friendly to the environment. Hydroelectric power doesn't create the kind of pollution that fossil-fuel power plants do. But new dams can hurt the environmentally important areas where wildlife, fish, and other water creatures live.

The [National Hydropower Association](#) is in the process of setting up an online job board. Check out their website [here](#).

[The Green Job Bank](#) is also a good place to look for jobs in this field. So are other job search websites, like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#).

For more information about the kinds of training and education you might need to work in the hydroelectric field, check out the [Renewable Energy Generation](#) page of the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

## **Wave and Tidal Energy**

Have you ever stood at the beach and been knocked over by a wave? If you have, you know that the ocean packs a lot of power. Scientists and engineers are looking for and finding new ways to use that power to create electricity. Some are designing and building underwater turbines. There are some underwater turbines generating electricity in the

East River right now. Others are figuring out whether buoys that bob with waves can produce electricity.

The wave and tidal energy industry is small but it's growing fast. It has a lot of potential to generate clean, pollution-free electricity close to the areas where that energy is needed most.

Right now, there aren't many jobs in this field in the New York City area or the U.S. in general. But [The Green Job Bank](#) is a good place to start looking for them, as are general job listing websites like [Indeed.com](#) and [LinkedIn.com](#).

For more information about the kinds of training and education you might need to work in the wave/tidal energy field, check out the [Green Careers](#) center at [CareerOneStop.org](#) and search under "wave energy" or "tidal energy." The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people who are looking for jobs find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

## **Renewable Energy Job Boards and Resources**

[Algae Biomass Organization Job Board](#)

[American Council on Renewable Energy's Jobs Resources Page](#)

[American Wind Energy Association Job Board](#)

[Biofuels Digest Job Board](#)

[CleantechNYConnect](#)

[GreenCareersNY](#)

[The Green Job Bank](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[International Ground Source Heat Pump Association Business Directory](#)

[National Hydropower Association](#)

[New York Solar Energy Industries Association Job Board](#)

[New York State Energy Research & Development Authority Job Board](#)

[New York State Energy Research & Development Authority Workforce Development and Training Programs](#)

[Solar Energy Industries Association Job Board](#)

[Solar Today Job Board](#)

[RenewableEnergyWorld.Com job board](#)

[Tri-State Biodiesel](#)

[Wind Turbine Technician Job Board](#)

## ***Research, Design, Policy & Consulting***

The health of our environment depends a lot on the decisions that governments and companies make. So does our own health, because pollution can make us sick. Often these decisions are made with the help of scientists, economists, planners, and policy experts who specialize in understanding and protecting our environment.

Here's an example: A few years ago, the New York City government created some rules to help make buildings more energy efficient. The government wanted to help buildings use less energy to perform basic operations, like provide heat and light. Those rules were designed by experts in the field. They understood the complicated ways that buildings use energy and how new rules could help them use less.

Our local, state, and federal governments aren't the only ones who need advice and experts to help them decide about how to protect the environment. Companies and other big institutions, like hospitals and school systems, do, too.

As Americans become more concerned about the environment, there are a growing number of jobs in environmental research, design, policy, and consulting fields. Almost all of them are for people with college degrees. Often, graduate degrees are needed, as well. Of course, organizations that do this work also need help from office workers and maintenance people, technology specialists, and people in other fields.

Some jobs in this field—especially at not-for-profit organizations, in government, and at colleges and universities—can be very hard to come by. Not-for-profit organizations have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money. These jobs can also be very rewarding.

There are five large employers in this field. They include government, not-for-profit groups, private companies and community institutions, colleges and universities, and consulting groups. Consulting groups are private companies made up of experts, along with the kinds of support staff many businesses need, including clerks, building maintenance, and other workers. Governments, businesses, and others hire consulting groups to learn about environmental conditions. Consulting groups also advise them about how to create and follow laws and policies that protect land, water, and wildlife.

**Jobs in government:** Many of the jobs in this field are in government. Governments make a myriad of rules about how things should be done. And, often, governments are the ones planning for society's future.

Many federal agencies offer jobs in environmental research, design, and policy. These agencies include:

- [The Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- [The Bureau of Land Management](#)
- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [The Department of Defense](#)
- [The Department of Energy](#)
- [The Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)
- [the Department of Justice](#)
- [The Department of Labor](#)
- [The Department of the Interior](#)
- [the Department of Transportation](#)
- [The Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#)
- [The Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [The U.S. Agency for International Development](#)
- [The U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)
- [The U.S. Forest Service](#)
- [The U.S. Geological Survey](#)
- [The White House Council on Environmental Quality](#)

For a link to a full list of federal agencies, check the end of this section.

New York state agencies are also involved in environmental policy, research, planning, and design. New York state agencies include:

- [Department of Environmental Conservation](#)
- [Department of Transportation](#)
- [Dormitory Authority](#)
- [Environmental Facilities Corporation](#)
- [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#)
- [New York Power Authority](#)
- [Energy Research & Development Authority](#)
- [Office of General Services](#)
- [Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#)
- [State University of New York](#)

Again, check the end of this section for a link to a full list of New York state agencies.

New York City agencies are involved in environmental policy, research, planning, and design, as well. These agencies include:

- [The Department of City Planning](#)
- [The City University of New York \(CUNY\)](#)
- [The Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#)
- [The New York City Economic Development Corporation](#)
- [The Office of Environmental Coordination](#)
- [The Department of Environmental Protection](#)
- [The Office of Environmental Remediation](#)
- [The Office of the Food Policy Coordinator](#)
- [GreenNYC](#)
- [The Health and Hospitals Corporation](#)
- [The New York City Housing Authority](#)
- [The Department of Housing Preservation and Development](#)
- [Housing Recovery Operations](#)
- [The Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning & Sustainability](#)
- [The Department of Parks and Recreation](#)
- [The Procurement Policy Board](#)
- [The Department of Sanitation](#)
- [The Department of Transportation](#)

A link to a full list of New York City agencies is at the end of this section.

Cities and towns on Long Island and in Westchester also have jobs in these fields. You can usually find them listed on the websites of local governments in these areas.

### **Jobs at Not-For-Profit Organizations:**

Not-for-profit organizations often want to influence the environmental decisions that governments, companies, and individual people make. For instance, many not-for-profits are working with state governments to figure out how to lower global-warming pollution. To do this work, not-for-profits need researchers and experts in policy and design.

Here in New York City, there are many fantastic environmental not-for-profits that do this kind of work. One of New York City's biggest environmental not-for-profits is the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#). It is responsible for such important accomplishments as the international mercury treaty to help stop mercury pollution around the world and U.S. energy-efficiency standards that cut pollution as they save us money on energy. Other New

York City non-profit organizations that work in this field are the [Environmental Defense Fund](#), [Audubon](#), the [American Museum of Natural History](#), [Environment New York](#), [Hazon](#), [WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#), and the [Community Environmental Center](#).

These are only a few of the organizations doing this kind of work. The job listing websites below, especially [Idealist.org](#), can help you find listings at many non-profits. One of the great things about the Idealist website is that it allows you to search using terms that make it easy to find jobs in the fields you're interested in.

**Jobs in Private Businesses and Community Institutions:** More and more, private companies and community institutions like hospitals are becoming concerned about how they affect the environment. These companies have begun to hire people to help their leaders and staff understand their effects and find ways to improve what they do. Often, the jobs these companies and institutions have available are for engineers, scientists, architects, supply-chain managers, and sustainability managers.

**Jobs at Colleges and Universities:** Colleges and universities are involved in important research that helps us understand how the natural world works. Their employees also study the effects of pollution and help figure out new ways to solve environmental problems.

Many colleges and universities in the New York City area are leaders in this field. They include the [City University of New York](#), [Columbia University](#), [Fordham University](#), [the New School](#), [New York University](#), [Pratt Institute](#), and [SUNY Stonybrook](#).

Colleges and universities have jobs for professors. These jobs are especially hard to come by and often require PhDs or other advanced degrees. Colleges and universities also have jobs for laboratory technicians, field researchers, administrators, support staff, technologists, and many others.

**Jobs with Consulting Groups:** Consulting groups are made up of experts who offer their knowledge and services to governments, businesses, community institutions and others. The New York City area has many environmental consulting groups that work in a wide range of issues, from brownfield remediation, to energy efficiency, to food policy.

For more information about the kinds of training and education you might need to work in environmental research, design, policy, and consulting, check out the [Research, Design and Consulting webpage](#) of the [Green Careers Center](#) at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, and other useful information.

Another helpful website is the [Green Job Bank](#). General job-search websites, like [Indeed.com](#), and [LinkedIn.com](#), are good places to look, too. To find environmental

consulting firms in New York City and around the country, you can do an Internet search for “environmental consulting firms.”

To begin your job search, check out the websites below.

### **Job Boards and Other Resources**

[CleanTech NY Connect](#)

[Climate Change Policy & Practice](#)

[Greenbiz.com](#)

[Green Dream Jobs](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[Jobs in Sustainability](#)

[New York City Accelerator for a Clean Resilient Economy](#)

[The Green Job Bank](#)

### **Colleges and University Job Listings and Resources**

[The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#)

[City University of New York](#)

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

[Columbia University](#)

[Fordham University](#)

[List of New York private colleges](#)

[New York University](#)

[Pratt Institute](#)

[SUNY Stonybrook](#)

[The New School](#)

**Local, State and Federal Government Job Boards**

[New York City Careers](#)

[StateJobsNY](#)

[USAJOBS](#)

**Lists of Local, State and Federal Government Agencies**

[New York City agencies](#)

[New York State agencies](#)

[U.S. Government agencies](#)

## ***Sustainable Food & Agriculture***

Getting food from farms to our tables has a big effect on the environment. In fact, food production eats up 10 percent of all the energy used in the U.S. and a big portion of our fresh water, too. Most food in the U.S. is farmed and manufactured in ways that cause serious environmental problems. But sustainable farming and food production, which is good for people and the planet, are helping to change that.

Jobs in this field can be very rewarding. They can also be very hard to come by. So here's a tip: Whether you're interested in becoming a farmer, starting your own food business, or working at a not-for-profit organization that helps bring healthy food to people who need it, volunteering or working as an intern is usually an important first step toward getting a job and learning the lay of the land.

You might wonder exactly what sustainable food and agriculture is. It is food that's produced without dangerous chemical fertilizers and pesticides and, ideally, is produced close to where it is eaten. That way, transportation causes less pollution, food is fresher, and we help make sure local farmland isn't turned over to other uses, like housing developments or shopping malls. Once that happens, land rarely turns back into farmland again. For meat production, sustainable agriculture means that animals are raised in places where they can roam freely in pastures and aren't given antibiotic drugs that can breed dangerous bacteria.

More and more supermarkets, stores, and farmers markets sell sustainable food. And more and more farmers are raising it. Restaurants are getting in on the act, too, by buying local produce, reducing their energy use, composting their kitchen scraps, and making sure good food doesn't go to waste.

Many people are working to make fresh food more available in poor neighborhoods. They teach kids about gardening and farming and how to cook and enjoy vegetables and fruits. Not-for-profit groups like [City Harvest](#) are making sure that healthy food left over in supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias and farmers' markets is collected and shared with people in need. Not-for-profits are organizations that have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money.

People who work in the sustainable food and agriculture field can do a wide range of jobs. Some jobs include vendor, produce manager, business owner, educator, farmer, lawyer, advocate, organic food certifier, waiter, and gardener.

So far the sustainable food and agriculture field is small with many small employers. The biggest are probably supermarket chains that sell a lot of sustainably-produced food, like [Whole Foods Market](#) and organic food companies like [The Hain Celestial Group](#). The Hain Celestial Group is located just over the Queens border in Lake Success, NY. It makes Earth's Best organic baby food and Arrowhead Mills organic baking products, among other things. Other New York-area food businesses that are environmentally friendly include restaurants, cafeterias, and other food-service businesses that are members of the [Green Restaurant Association](#).

More and more non-profit organizations work in the sustainable food field, too. In New York City, they include [City Harvest](#), [Just Food](#), [Food Corps](#), and [GrowNYC](#). GrowNYC is in charge of many farmers markets and farm stands throughout the city. Its website lists jobs with [GrowNYC](#), along with [jobs with farmers and other farmers market vendors](#). To find jobs with non-profit groups, check out [Idealist.org](#). One of the great things about [the website](#) is that it allows you to search using terms that make it easy to find jobs in the fields you're interested in.

There are some local, state, and federal government jobs in this field, too. The [US Department of Agriculture](#) is focusing more on [sustainable agriculture](#) and food production than it has in the past. So is New York State's [Department of Agriculture and Markets](#). Both agencies are also working hard to help farmers and others prevent pollution, [save energy](#), and create energy using pollution-free wind and solar power. New York City's government has some jobs in this area, too, in the [Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability](#), the [Department of Education](#), and other agencies.

There are also a growing number of people interested in starting their own sustainable food businesses. Luckily, New York City's government offers a lot of resources in this area. [One of them is its Food Businesses Resources webpage](#). It can help you find kitchen space and business advice. It can also teach you about the many rules and regulations that New York City food vendors need to follow.

Other resources in the city include a growing number of very small farms. Many of them are located on large roofs. Some of them work with community organizations, while others

supply restaurants. Still others sell their food in local stores. These farms have few full-time jobs but they're almost always interested in volunteers. Volunteering at these farms can help you learn about what you might need to know to become a farmer.

For more information about the kinds of jobs available in sustainable agriculture and food production and the training and education you might need to work in these fields, check out the [Agriculture and Forestry page](#) of the [Green Careers center](#) at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

To begin your job search, check out the websites below. Some of these webpages don't list jobs, but they provide important information about how to get involved in this growing and exciting field.

## **Job Boards**

[City Harvest](#)

[Down to Earth Farmers Markets](#)

[Essential NY Jobs](#)

[FairTrade International](#)

[Fair Trade Resource Network](#)

[Farm and Food Jobs](#)

[Food Bank NYC](#)

[Food Systems Network NYC](#)

[Good Food Jobs](#)

[GrowNYC](#)

[GrowNYC Farm and Farm Stand Job Opportunities](#)

[Hot Bread Kitchen](#)

[NaturalIndustryJobs.com](#)

[Natural Resources Defense Council](#)

[New York City Department of Education](#)

[Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance](#)

[Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture Education Association](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture Jobs, Internships and Apprenticeships](#)

[Sustainable Live•Work•Play](#)

[Sustainable Food Jobs](#)

[Whole Foods Market](#)

### **Not-For-Profit Organizations**

[Brooklyn Food Coalition](#)

[City Harvest](#)

[Corbin Hill Food Project](#)

[EcoStation: NY](#)

[Edible Schoolyard NYC](#)

[Food Bank NYC](#)

[FoodCorps](#)

[FoodFight](#)

[Grace Communications Foundation](#)

[Green Restaurant Association](#)

[GrowNYC](#)

[Hot Bread Kitchen](#)

[Just Food](#)

[New York City Community Garden Coalition](#)

[New York City Food Policy Center](#)

[Queens County Farm Museum](#)

[Sustainable Flatbush](#)

[United Way of New York City](#)

[Wellness in the Schools](#)

### **Sustainable Farming Internships, Apprenticeships, and Educational Opportunities**

[Farm School NYC](#)

[Sustainable Farming Internships and Apprenticeships](#)

[Urban Agriculture Training for Refugees and Immigrants](#)

[The Youth Farm at the High School for Public Service](#)

**Government Jobs**

[New York City Careers](#)

[New York City Department of Education](#)

[New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets](#)

[US Department of Agriculture](#)

**NYC Urban Farms**

[Added Value](#)

[BK Farmyards](#)

[Brooklyn Grange](#)

[Eagle Street Rooftop Farm](#)

[East New York Farms!](#)

[Gotham Greens](#)

[10 NYC Urban Farms](#)

[North Brooklyn Farms](#)

[Riverpark Farm](#)

[Queens County Farm Museum](#)

[Tenth Acre Farms](#)

[The Youth Farm at the High School for Public Service](#)

## **Resources**

[Food Systems Network NYC](#)

[Creating Good Food Jobs in New York City: A Policy Paper by the NYC Food Policy Center at Hunter College and the City of New York School of Public Health](#)

[Northeast Beginning Farmers Project](#)

[New York City Food Business Resources](#)

[US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Educational and Training Opportunities in Sustainable Agriculture](#)

[USDA Alternative Farming Systems Information Center](#)

## ***Union Careers***

Labor unions are organizations for employees. They are designed to speak up for workers' rights and to represent workers in negotiations with employers. Often, these negotiations are over issues like how much workers get paid and what hours they work.

There can be many benefits to having a job in which you are represented by a union. For example, union workers usually make more money and get more in benefits than non-union workers.

Many union jobs are green jobs. That's true of union jobs in government. Environmental technicians, science teachers, and sanitation workers who work in recycling, for instance, are all covered by unions. So are many more kinds of government workers who do work that benefits the environment. There are green union jobs with private companies, too. Construction workers involved in green construction, manufacturing workers who build energy-efficient appliances, and HVAC repair people who fix energy-saving heating and cooling systems are just some examples. Some unions and environmental groups are also working together to speak up for good jobs that protect the environment.

If you are interested in finding a green job covered by a union, a good place to look is at the government agencies listed in many sections of this Green Jobs Guide. Many government workers are represented by unions. There are also union jobs with private employers listed. If you are interested in a union job in the construction industry, you don't go through private employers. Instead, you enter an apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship program. There's a lot more information about how to do this in the "Green Construction" section of this guide.

If you already have a union job and are interested in helping protect the world we live in, your union may be a great place to start. More and more, unions are training their workers in green job skills. The building workers union, 32BJ, for example, has a fantastic training program open to all its members called the Green Supers Program. It's a 40-hour course that teaches building superintendents and other building workers about ways they can operate their buildings that reduce pollution, save water, and save energy. Other unions train members in solar panel installation, energy efficiency, and other steps they can take to help improve our environment.

To learn more about green union jobs, union training programs that teach green job skills, and about ways unions and environmental groups are working together, check out these resources:

[BlueGreen Alliance](#)

[Consortium for Worker Education](#)

[GPRO—Green Professional Building Skills Training](#)

[Green Supers Program, offered by 32BJ](#)

[Labor Network for Sustainability](#)

## ***Water Conservation & Stormwater Management***

Without water, human life would be impossible. Not only are our bodies mostly water—between 55 to 80 percent—but we need water every day to survive. We need clean water to drink. We need water to produce food. And we need water because without healthy natural systems that rely on water forests, wetlands, and cropland waterways, our economy could not survive and the earth could not support us. Already, droughts in many parts of the U.S. are teaching us just how important water is.

Keeping our water safe and clean is an important job. So is making sure that our water resources are well managed and used wisely. That’s especially true because only 1 percent of all water on earth is safe for drinking and other human uses. If we run out of clean fresh water, we don’t have many alternatives.

There are a wide range of jobs in the field of water conservation and green stormwater management. Green stormwater management is sometimes called “green infrastructure” or “low-impact development.” Green stormwater management uses systems like green roofs and porous pavement to prevent sewer systems from overflowing and polluting our waterways when there’s too much rain or snow. These jobs include construction worker, green-roof installer, landscape architect, microbiologist, outreach specialist, pipefitter, hydrologist, public relations specialist, and urban planner.

The water conservation and management field has several big employers:

**Government agencies** are probably the biggest employer in this field. Here in the New York City area, that means the New York City government through the [Department of Environmental Protection](#) and other city agencies. It also means town, city, and county governments in neighboring counties like Westchester and Nassau; the state government, through the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#), the [New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation](#), and state [soil and water conservation districts](#); and the federal government, through agencies like the [National Park Service](#), the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#), the [US Geological Survey](#), and the [Bureau of Land Management](#).

**Consulting groups** also work in this field. They are private companies made up of experts, along with the kinds of support staff lots of businesses need like clerks, building maintenance, and other workers. Governments, businesses, and others hire consulting

groups to learn about water and wetland conditions in particular areas and to advise them about how to follow laws that protect water, land, and wildlife.

**Not-for-profit organizations** are another big employer in this field. They are organizations that have been set up to carry out a mission, instead of simply to make money.

New York City is home to many fantastic nonprofits that work to conserve and protect our water supply. One of the most famous is the [Waterkeeper Alliance](#). It works to connect not-for-profit groups across the country that help keep our drinking water and our lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans safe and clean.

Some other not-for-profit organizations that work in water conservation and green stormwater management in New York City are the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#); [Charity: Water](#); the [Bronx Council for Environmental Quality](#); [The Nature Conservancy](#); [Riverkeeper](#); and, the [Newtown Creek Alliance](#). But those are only a few of the organizations doing this work. The job listing websites below, especially [Idealist.org](#), can help you find listings at many not-for-profit organizations. One of the great things about [Idealist.org](#) is that it allows you to search its website using terms that make it easy to find jobs in the fields you're interested in.

### **Architecture, Engineering, Design & Planning Firms**

Architects, engineers, designers, and urban and regional planners can have a big impact on how much water we use and how well we protect the water we have. Think about it: An architect can influence how much water a building uses by deciding what kind of toilets, faucets, and showerheads are installed. Engineers design water systems in buildings. Designers make products that can use more or less water. And urban and regional planners can make sure watersheds—natural water systems—are protected. Again, businesses that employ architects, engineers, designers, and planners have the same kinds of support staff that lots of other businesses have, including clerks, building maintenance, and other jobs.

## Utilities

In many areas of the country, water is provided by public or private utilities. In some parts of Long Island, for instance, water is provided by [New York American Water](#). Many of these utilities have programs and employees that help customers save water.

Luckily, there are lots of resources that explain the kinds of jobs that are available in this field. [Work for Water](#) is a great website that explains the opportunities available in this field and lists jobs, too. The federal government's [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) has a report on the types of jobs available in water conservation. You can find it [here](#). Other helpful webpages include the [Green Job Bank](#), [Indeed.com](#), and [LinkedIn.com](#). To find environmental consulting groups in New York City and around the country, you can do an Internet search for "environmental consulting firms." The same goes for architecture, engineering, design and planning firms, and consulting groups—do an Internet search to find companies in these fields.

For even more information about the kinds of jobs available in water conservation and green stormwater management and the training and education you might need to work in these fields, check out the [Environmental Protection page](#) of the [Green Careers center](#) at [CareerOneStop.org](#). The federal government put CareerOneStop.org together to help people find work. CareerOneStop.org can also help you learn about salaries and benefits, along with other helpful information.

## New York City-Area Government Employers

### New York City

New York City's [Department of Environmental Protection](#) runs a [large number of water conservation programs](#). It also has jobs in wastewater management and green infrastructure. These jobs are listed on the [NYC Careers website](#). Many jobs on that website do not require that applicants pass a civil service exam before they get hired. (If someone gets one of these so-called "provisional" jobs and a civil service exam in that area is offered, the person must then take and pass the exam.)

## Long Island

Jobs with Nassau County's Soil and Water Conservation District are listed on its [website](#). These are not civil service jobs.

[Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District](#) jobs are civil service jobs. To get one of these jobs, you must pass a civil service exam. Suffolk County Civil Service exams are listed [here](#).

## Westchester

Jobs with [Westchester County's Soil and Water Conservation District](#), and with many cities and towns within the county, are usually listed through [the County's website](#). Most of these jobs are civil service jobs and to get one, you must pass a [civil service exam](#). Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, White Plains, and Yonkers are separate civil service agencies and offer their own exams.

## **Job Boards That Include Jobs in Water Conservation and Green Stormwater Management**

[American Water Resources Association](#)

[American Water Works Association](#)

[Clean Water Action](#)

[Conservation Job Board](#)

[Idealist.org](#)

[International Water Management Institute](#)

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[NYC Careers](#)

[New York American Water](#)

[New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

[Riverkeeper](#)

[Society of Wetland Scientists](#)

[Soil and Water Conservation Society](#)

[USAJOBS \(Federal Jobs Website\)](#)

[US Green Building Council](#)

[Water Environment Federation](#)

[Waterkeeper Alliance](#)

[Work for Water](#)