

Sustainability Studies

What can I do with this degree?



A Sustainability Studies master of science or master of arts degree provides access to careers that cultivate a lasting environment for life on Earth. The need for environmental protection services is creating excellent job opportunities for those with advanced degrees. The conservation industry is constantly evolving and, therefore, requires an evolving workforce. There are many green vocations that are in higher demand and occupations are changing to include environmentally conscious knowledge. This graduate degree prepares committed leaders to address emerging sustainability issues. The skills, on-campus organizations, and job opportunities listed here are just a taste of the pursuit for a sustainable life.

Sustainability Skills

- Ability to evaluate the complexity of human/environment systems
- Community and international development
- Complex problem-solving
- Environmental ethics and policy
- Education
- Gathering, analyzing, and marketing information
- Global knowledge and perspective
- Interconnectedness, teamwork, accountability, and responsibility
- Interpersonal, written, and mass media communication
- Leadership, management, and entrepreneurial skills
- Life cycle analysis
- GIS

Possible Work Settings

- Amnesty International
- Anadarko
- Austin Resource Recovery
- Bay Cove Human Services
- Child Protection Services
- City Year
- Colorado River Foundation
- CPS Energy
- Earth 911
- Earth Justice
- Eco Products
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
- Goodwill
- Green Building Initiative
- Green Guy Recycling
- Green Mountain Energy
- Green Peace
- Habitat for Humanity
- International Food Policy Research Institute
- International Monetary Fund
- International Rescue Committee
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
- National Geographic Society
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- National Resources Defense Council
- Paper International
- Parsons Corporation
- Peace Corps
- Planned Parenthood
- Rainforest Alliance
- Rock Water Energy
- San Antonio River Authority
- San Antonio Water System
- San Marcos Watershed Initiative
- Save the Children International
- Select Energy Services
- Sierra Club
- Student Conservation Association
- Sustainable Agriculture Education Association
- Sustainable Food Center
- Sustainable Travel International
- Teach for America
- Texas Campaign for the Environment
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Disposal Systems
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
- The Nature Conservancy
- United Nations Children's Fund
- Urban Roots
- U.S. Forest Service
- World Bank
- World Food Programme
- World Wildlife Fund

POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS

...in Resource Management

The resource management industry is in need of persons who possess ingenuity and leadership to radicalize composting and recycling practices. The growing population requires an increased awareness of toxic waste, composting practices, recycling habits, and a reimagined response to consumption.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

Waste management can involve jobs from policy activism and regulation, to corporate scale recycling. Advertising or education for curbside composting practices or reusable bottles, outdoor campaigning or working in web design.

Professional Organizations

- Air and Waste Management Association
- Ecology Action of Texas
- International Solid Waste Association
- National Recycling Coalition Inc.
- Recycling Organizations of North America
- Solid Waste Association of North America
- The Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals
- The ReUse People of America

...in Water Management

The growing population is expected to boost demand for water treatment services and aquaculture. Job opportunities are excellent for those looking to radicalize sustainable farming practices, or maintain current water resources. The National Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, and Oceana are examples of groups who work towards improving water systems.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

Work settings range from tourism and education, to oil-field management. Water conservation and activist groups are also hiring.

Professional Organizations

- American Water Resources Association
- Instream Flow Council
- Irrigation Association
- Save Our Springs Alliance
- Texas Rural Water Association
- Texas Section American Water Works Association
- Texas Water Quality Association
- Texas Water Utilities Organization
- Water Aid

...in Energy

A Master in Sustainability can lead to jobs developing and promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy trading, energy storage, and biofuel. Jobs, from energy auditors to those who develop wind farm systems, are growing rapidly.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is transforming the way society thinks about energy usage. Oil and gas companies are evolving to include sustainability departments. Energy companies also have excellent job opportunities.



Professional Organizations

- American Solar Energy Society
- American Wind Energy Association
- Association of Energy Conservation Professionals
- Houston Renewable Energy Group
- National Center for Appropriate Technology
- Solar Austin
- Solar San Antonio
- Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association

...in Humanities and Education

Promoting social and environmental responsibility by working with endangered animals or forgotten communities is an excellent way to utilize this degree. There are excellent ways to promote sustainable living. For example: A sustainably motivated camp director, teacher, peace and conflict resolution employee, or team member of a non-profit organization.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

This group includes workers who assist the public in a number of ways.

Professional Organizations

- Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
- Humanities Texas
- Humanities Education and Research Association
- Interfaith Environmental Network
- National Council of Nonprofits
- National Science Teachers Association
- Save the Children
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- World Watch Institute
- Young Nonprofit Professionals Network

...in Land and Conservation Management

Increased conservation efforts and pressure to efficiently use resources is leading to more and better job opportunities. Job growth stems from efforts to increase the quantity and quality of food. Growth also stems from the need to balance output with protection and preservation of soil, natural resources, wildlife, parks, farming, forests and ecosystems. Inspectors, customer service representatives, tourism, environmental restoration planners, and environmental economists will succeed in this field.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

Examples of job settings include: working as a camp director, managing wildlife and outdoor recreation, agricultural conservationist, or someone who will help meet the increased demand for sustainable farming techniques.

Professional Organizations

- Bat Conservation International
- Earth First!
- Forest Stewardship Council
- Green Girls
- Keep Austin Beautiful
- National Audubon Society
- National Wildlife Federation
- Rainforest Partnership
- Soil Science Society of America
- Sustainable Food Center
- Texas Forestry Association
- Texas Section Society for Range Management
- The Pesticide Stewardship Alliance
- Urban Land Institute North Texas



...in Construction and Engineering

Sustainable construction and manufacturing that specializes in creative construction reusing ideas is a growing industry. Jobs vary from building inspectors and environmental designers, to those who retrofit buildings for efficiency, or construct healthy and safe buildings for communities in poverty.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

In these occupations, workers prepare and organize documents, provide information to the public, market and sell sustainable construction goods and services. Workers in these occupations build and repair homes, roads, office buildings, and other structures.

Professional Organizations

- Building Materials Reuse Association
- Central Texas Balcones Chapter
- Construction Materials Recycling Association
- Green Building Alliance
- National Association of Home Builders
- Urban Land Institute North Texas
- U.S. Green Building Council

...in Policy Making

New job opportunities are available for those pursuing a course of action that improves conservation, marketing green ideas and products, or overseeing sustainable practices in organizations. Possible positions include Chief Sustainability Officers at major corporations, people who help meet the increased demand for organic and sustainable farming techniques, and new government regulations.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

Increased awareness of environmental concerns is creating job prospects, particularly in state and local governments. Workers in these occupations establish plans and policies, manage money, write grants, and direct business activities.

Professional Organizations

- Air and Waste Management Association
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Friends of the Earth
- Green America
- Green Chamber of Commerce
- National Association of Environmental Professionals
- Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations
- Texas Green Network
- The Sierra Club
- United Nations Environment Programme

Texas State University-Student Organizations

- American Marketing Association
- Association for Childhood Education International
- Beekeeping Club
- Bobcat Blend Composting
- Climbers Coalition of Texas State
- Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organizations
- Counselors for Social Justice
- Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO)
- Environmental Service Committee (ESC)
- Graduate Student Affairs Council (GSAC)
- HEAT Establishment-Human Environmental Animal Team
- Hortus Colere- Horticulture Club
- International Student Leadership Association
- Student Leadership and Activities Organization
- Student Nutrition Organization
- Supporting Women in Geography
- The National Society of Collegiate Scholars
- University Ambassadors
- Water Aid Chapter at Texas State University



...in Corporate Management

Many businesses are responding to stakeholder concerns about the environmental impacts of their decisions and products. Therefore, big businesses are looking to hire those who can manage and analyze the impacts of their corporate scale decisions. Knowledge of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a key component of sustainability that these corporations are looking for.

Sample Job Settings/Titles

In this work setting, presentations to stakeholders may be necessary. Life cycle thinking, research skills, and strong communication skills are key to succeeding as a corporate officer of sustainability. Workers in these occupations are paving the way for corporation's monetary motives to promote Earth friendly and humane practices. Employment opportunities range from university settings to credit unions, or companies like Wal-Mart, Nike, and Circuit of the Americas.

Professional Organizations

- Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence
- Global Association of Corporate Sustainability Officers
- International Society of Sustainability Professionals
- National Association for Environmental Management
- Net Impact
- PE International
- The Environment Association for Universities and Colleges

Job/Internship Search Links

- www.idealists.org
- jobs.treehugger.com
- www.careeronestop.org/GreenCareers
- acre.com
- sustainablefoodjobs.wordpress.com
- www.sustainableindustries.com/jobs/search
- greenforall.org
- www.ecojobs.com
- www.greencareersguide.com
- <http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/career-center.aspx>
- jobs.theguardian.com/environment
- www.sustainabilityprofessionals.org
- www.greenjobs.net
- www.greatgreencareers.com
- www.sustainablebusiness.com
- www.thegreenjobbank.com
- jobsinsustainability.jobamatic.com

Information for this handout compiled from:

Texas State University Career Services, Career One Stop, Occupational Outlook Quarterly 2008, and listed companies' and organizations' websites

www.careerservices.txstate.edu

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