

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS



## WHAT DO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS DO?

Environmental scientists study the natural world and how humans affect it. Their work often focuses on reducing pollution, protecting wildlife, and finding sustainable ways to use Earth's resources. They might test soil and water for contamination, monitor air quality, or develop plans to clean up oil spills or manage waste.

Some work outdoors collecting samples, while others analyse data in laboratories or write environmental policies in offices. Their findings can influence major government decisions and help companies operate in more eco-friendly ways.

## WHY IS THEIR WORK IMPORTANT?

Environmental scientists play a crucial role in tackling global challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and plastic pollution. Their research helps protect human health and biodiversity by ensuring that ecosystems remain balanced and that natural resources are used responsibly. Without them, many environmental issues might go unnoticed or unresolved.

## KEY SKILLS AND QUALITIES

To succeed in this career, environmental scientists need:

- **Analytical thinking** – to interpret data and spot patterns in environmental changes.
- **Communication skills** – to share findings with the public, businesses, and governments.
- **Problem-solving abilities** – to create sustainable solutions.
- **Passion for nature and science** – to stay motivated when work gets challenging.
- **Teamwork** – as many projects involve collaboration with other scientists or engineers.

## HOW TO BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

There's no single path into this career, but most professionals begin with a **degree** in:

- Environmental Science
- Biology
- Chemistry



- Geology
- Ecology

After university, you can gain experience through internships, volunteering with conservation groups, or working for environmental agencies. Some scientists go on to complete **postgraduate research** or **specialist training** in areas like environmental law, climate modelling, or sustainability management.

## WHERE THEY WORK

Environmental scientists can be found in many different workplaces:

- **Government departments** – advising on environmental policy and regulations.
- **Private companies** – ensuring industrial practices meet environmental standards.
- **Research institutions and universities** – conducting scientific studies.
- **Non-profit organisations** – campaigning for environmental protection.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

One day might involve taking water samples from a river; another might be spent analysing data on air pollution or writing a report on the effects of deforestation. The variety makes the job both exciting and challenging.

## FUTURE OUTLOOK

As awareness of environmental issues grows, so does demand for experts who can develop sustainable solutions. The career of an environmental scientist is not just a job — it's a contribution to the future health of our planet.

Find out more

<https://www.thethinkacademy.com/blog/edubriefs-environmental-science-for-kids-fun-hands-on-learning-at-home/#:~:text=Environmental%20Science%20offers%20an%20engaging,field%20provides%20the%20perfect%20foundation.>

Example Questions

- What do environmental scientists' study?
- What might they test on?
- What global challenges do they help tackle?
- What degree do you need to become an environmental scientist?



- Where do environmental scientists work?