



The Guide to Environmental Careers in Australia 2010

2nd Edition

The Guide to Environmental Career in Australia 2010 was written following a research project undertaken by RMIT University and The Environmental Jobs Network.

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Chapter One: Why Have a Guide?...

Years ago, the environmental industry was easy to describe and define. As the 'environment' has moved into all aspects of business and society, the industry has grown. As it's grown, the more difficult it has become to describe, to map and to track. This is a drawback when providing career advice but of great benefit for career development and fulfilment. The industry's diversity makes it difficult to track all the career opportunities out there, just as it is seemingly impossible to measure the size of the industry in terms of number of positions or turnover. But the breadth of career opportunities is what makes it a great career choice. The opportunities are immense and constantly evolving, so much so, that there really is a job in the environmental industry for everyone, regardless of your experience, skill, interest and knowledge. All you need to do is work out the best place to start.

This is where this guide steps in to assist you in thinking about your role in the environment profession, and how to find the job you want.

In 2004, RMIT University and the Environmental Jobs Network published the '*Guide to Environmental Careers in Australia 2004*', following a piece of in depth research that examined the types of environmental jobs within Australia. It was the first piece of research of its kind and filled a massive gap in the understanding of environmental employment and career opportunities in Australia at that time. Five years on, the environmental industry has grown rapidly, and with good reason. Intensifying environmental issues, developing policy areas and larger environmental budgets have created a wave of new environmental roles, now often termed as green jobs, or collectively known as the green collar workforce. Whole new sectors within the environmental industry have been created, existing sectors have grown and matured, and environmental roles have been created in completely different industries altogether.

This guide has been written to update the first edition, to take into consideration this growth and development. It's been written following a research project undertaken by RMIT University and the Environmental Jobs Network in 2009 which aimed to document the range of professional environmental jobs across Australia and identify the types of skills associated with these jobs. It identified the types of jobs that are now included in the broad category of green collar jobs, the skills, education and experience required to secure these roles (specifically detailed information on the generic and environmental specific skills) and identified the main tasks undertaken in the range of roles that now exist. The research also looked at the significant changes within the sector since 2004, and the potential future trends of employment within the environment industry in the next few years. The research involved three separate pieces of work, that collected data from 432 environmental professionals and 4 environmental recruitment consultants. The information collated in the surveys has been used to write this guide and career outline interviews over the telephone have been used to develop the career profiles.

This *Guide to Environmental Careers in Australia 2010*' is split into four main sections. The section titled **The Environmental Industry** provides a history of the industry, an outline of the current issues in identifying and measuring it, a summary of recent reports and research into green collar workers, and the personnel challenges and opportunities it faces in the future.

The Careers section details information gathered from the main survey, it outlines several career pathways and proposes a structure in which to look at and research the industry further. This section also includes information about the different sectors within the industry, and provides general information about job titles, common activities, education and skill requirements, sector openings, top tips and The sector's future. Through out this section career profiles are featured.

The Career Advice, contains information collated from the research with both professionals and recruitment specialists. It emphasises the importance and provides advice on; knowing the sector you want to enter; knowing the roles that interest, and are open, to you; knowing and selling yourself. It also

contains practical advice on how to apply for roles, and outlines the general and education considerations when securing employment within the industry.

The Rational and Research provides further information about the project, why it was undertaken and how the research was completed.

RMIT University and the Environmental Jobs Network are proud to present '***The Guide to Environmental Careers in Australia 2010***', and are sure that it will become a central career-advice resource for all who are looking to enter the green collar workforce.