



### Vocational and tertiary Courses

Careers for sustainability are developing quickly. Universities and vocational training providers are responding to this trend with the development of courses that link industry practices with climate change and sustainability.

For further information, please contact

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## Sustainability career focus



NSW Business Chamber represents over 30,000 businesses in NSW and connects over 100,000 businesses across Australia through the State and Territory Chamber Network.

NSW Business Chamber's purpose is to champion the cause and growth of business. Through research, knowledge and policy achievements, we offer solutions that stimulate business growth nationwide and globally.

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Career information

# Sustainability is everyone's job, but some get paid for it

When students currently in school enter the workforce, they are going to have to deal with issues of environmental change and global warming – no matter what their chosen field is.

## Green jobs

The Australian Conservation Foundation describes 'green jobs' as jobs that "contribute to better environmental outcomes or increased sustainability". Not only are today's students and graduates asking about jobs for sustainability, but the number of these jobs is growing and this particular job sector is considered to be recession-proof.

Green jobs are not only good for the environment and the community, but numbers are growing rapidly. Sustainability roles are varied and found within all industries, with responsibilities relating to a department or industry sector or working across departments and the community to streamline, improve and enhance environmental and social friendliness.

## Business wants

Businesses are starting to take responsibility for their social, environment, and economic impact. Classified ads are appearing for environmental protection, community engagement and sustainability managers for all types of businesses.

Sustainability roles could involve;

- > Working in partnership with local communities, employees and customers.
- > Managing the use of resources.
- > Complying with environmental legislation.
- > Education for sustainability.

## Getting started – tips for students

### Experience and qualifications.

People who feel passionately about sustainability are encouraged to get involved in these issues. Passion on its own is, unfortunately, not enough. You will need qualifications or experience to back up your commitments.

### Understand business.

Regardless of the industry if you are looking for work that includes sustainability roles and responsibilities, experience in a business environment and knowledge of how the industry operates is vital.

### Know the work involved.

There are many different areas within sustainability – education, auditing, reporting, scenario planning, business development, resource usage, legislation and developing dialogue with customers, staff and suppliers to name a few. Get an understanding of the industries and sustainability areas which are of interest to you.

### Know the sustainability employers.

Spend time researching who does what in the industry before approaching prospective employers. Most companies and their staff are happy to tell you what they are doing for sustainability.

### Keep up to date.

There are many specialist magazines and websites for both industry specific and a range of sustainability issues. It is important to be aware of new developments within both.

### Networking helps.

There are many conferences and events taking place all over the country where people get together and discuss issues of sustainability and business – not all are expensive to attend and some offer discount rates if you are an enthusiastic student.

### The fundamentals.

As with many other jobs, computer skills, writing ability, good communication and problem solving skills are always desirable, if not essential.



## What are the jobs?

In many cases it is the same job that already exists. Businesses from local hairdressers to international financial companies are doing things differently. The job hasn't changed but businesses are changing the way they operate and often just using the same resources in a smarter way.

Lots of sustainability jobs are about communication and education but there are many roles that have been adapted to include sustainability.

- > Electricians: renewable energy
- > Green marketing
- > OHS: environmental health and safety
- > Plumbers: water savings and recycling
- > Environmental law
- > Agriculture: water-smart farming and forestry
- > Purchasing officer: sustainable purchasing
- > Green design, building and construction
- > Urban planning
- > Cleaner: environmentally friendly products
- > Public transport
- > Office manager: reduce energy waste
- > Government: policy implementation
- > Chef: using locally grown produce
- > Manufacturing: reduce waste
- > Transport and logistics: reducing movements
- > Mining: saving fuel and/or rehabilitating land
- > Science: ecologists and engineers

## New jobs

A new industry has emerged around measuring and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions with titles like.

- > Energy auditor
- > Climate change consultant

Sustainability jobs are increasing rapidly as businesses realise that to maximise economic returns, the risks associated with social and environmental issues like climate change, require that sustainability must be part of the way they operate.