



OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

OOH HOME | OCCUPATION FINDER | OOH FAQ | HOW TO FIND A JOB | A-Z INDEX | OOH SITE MAP

Search Handbook

Go

Environmental Scientists and Specialists

PRINTER-FRIENDLY

Summary

What They Do

Work Environment

How to Become One

Pay

Job Outlook

State & Area Data

Similar Occupations

More Info

Summary

Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health Career Video



Quick Facts: Environmental Scientists and Specialists

2024 Median Pay	\$80,060 per year \$38.49 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	Bachelor's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	None
Number of Jobs, 2023	84,600
Job Outlook, 2023-33	7% (Faster than average)
Employment Change, 2023-33	6,100

What Environmental Scientists and Specialists Do

Environmental scientists and specialists conduct research or investigations to protect the environment or human health.

Work Environment

Environmental scientists and specialists typically work in office settings and laboratories but may spend time in the field. Most environmental scientists and specialists work full time.

How to Become an Environmental Scientist or Specialist

To enter the occupation, environmental scientists and specialists typically need a bachelor's degree in natural science or a related field.

Pay

The median annual wage for environmental scientists and specialists was \$80,060 in May 2024.

Job Outlook

Employment of environmental scientists and specialists is projected to grow 7 percent from 2023 to 2033, faster than the average for all occupations.

About 8,500 openings for environmental scientists and specialists are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

State & Area Data

Explore resources for employment and wages by state and area for environmental scientists and specialists.

Similar Occupations

Compare the job duties, education, job growth, and pay of environmental scientists and specialists with similar occupations.

More Information, Including Links to O*NET

Learn more about environmental scientists and specialists by visiting additional resources, including O*NET, a source on key characteristics of workers and

occupations.

What They Do ->

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Environmental Scientists and Specialists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/environmental-scientists-and-specialists.htm> (visited August 04, 2025).

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