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**ECO
LEADERS**

APRIL 6-7, 2022 / ONLINE

**Conference
Program
2022**

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Introduction

Thank you for participating in our sixth annual [National Wildlife Federation EcoCareers Conference!](#)

The EcoCareers Conference is a vital part of advancing the National Wildlife Federation’s strategic goals of supporting and providing educational resources to help millions of young people build conservation and sustainability career and job skills into their higher education and professional lives.

The annual EcoCareers Conference helps prepare students and young professionals for sustainability careers by providing information on green economy trends, examples of career paths across varying sectors and employment types, and ideas for academic pathways and student-led projects on campus.



Photo by Tom McGrath

The goals of the conference are as follows:

1. Discover careers and career paths available in the clean economy, career preparation strategies, and career development opportunities across various economic sectors.
2. Enhance understanding of effective career plans including degree programs and project-based learning credentials, while becoming familiar with programming offered through the NWF EcoLeaders and EcoCareers.
3. Explore online sustainability career skill resources that can help high school and college instructors and counselors enhance academic offerings and career support for sustainability for students across all disciplines and departments.
4. Meet other students and professionals across fields interested in leading for a green economy including, students, faculty and employers to build professional networks and learn about ways to support one another.

We hope you enjoy your experience and learn a great deal on how to prepare yourself and/or your students to participate in the green workforce of the future!



Photo by El Paso Community College

The NWF Leadership, Careers, and Campus Team, Courtney Cochran, David Corsar, and Kristy Jones



Agenda

Day 1 - Wednesday April 6 - 11:00 AM EDT – 5:00 PM EDT

Time	Session	Speakers
11:00 – 11:10	Opening and Welcome Address	Opening: David Corsar (NWF) Welcome: Jomar Floyd (NWF)
11:10 – 11:45	“Why We’re Still Talking About Flint” Keynote Address by Dr. Karen Williams Weaver	Dr. Karen Williams Weaver
11:45 – 12:45	Panel: Health and Wellness Careers	Moderator: Kasandra Richardson (NWF) Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jennifer Atkinson (University of Washington, Bothell) • Hannah Malvin (Hannah Malvin Coaching & Consulting, LLC) • Ashanti Carter (School of Medicine and Health Sciences - The George Washington University) • Jon Polley (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center)
12:45 – 1:00	Break	
1:00 – 1:30	Creator Spotlight: Vic Barrett	Vic Barrett (Powershift Network) Interviewer: Courtney Cochran (NWF)
1:30 – 2:30	Workshop – Academic and Career Planning Overview and Self-Reflection	Laura Thorne (Green Career Advisor) David Corsar (NWF)



Time	Session	Speakers
2:30 – 3:15	Panel: Careers in Environmental Justice	<p>Moderator: Crystal Jennings (NWF)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Lillie Sewell (Lillie Leaf Solutions) • Dr. Sacoby Wilson (University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health) • Marisa Valdez (Tishman Environment and Design Center; The New School)
3:15 – 3:45	Break	
3:45 – 4:45	Workshop – Job Applications 101	Speaker: Lisa Yee-Litzenberg (Green Career Coach)
4:45 – 5:00	Closing: Overview of what to expect on Day 2	David Corsar (NWF)



Day 2 - Thursday April 7 - 11:00 AM EDT – 5:00 PM EDT

Time	Session	Speakers
11:00 – 11:10	Opening and Welcome Address	David Corsar (NWF)
11:10 – 11:45	Keynote Address by Marcus Sibley	Marcus Sibley, NWF
11:45 – 12:30	Panel: Environmental Education Careers	Moderator: Brendon Barclay (NWF) Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jillian Morris (Sharks 4 Kids) • Oday Salim (NWF & University of Michigan) • Donna Volkmann (Fairfax County Public Schools)
12:30 – 1:00	Break	
1:00 – 1:30	Entrepreneur Spotlight: Sean Armstrong	Sean Armstrong (Redwood Energy) Interviewer: Kristy Jones (NWF)
1:30 – 2:30	Workshop: EcoLeader Badge Opportunities Learn about the NWF EcoLeader badges for wildlife crossings, environmental education, pollinator gardens, and more!	Speaker: Courtney Cochran (NWF)
2:30 – 3:30	Panel: Careers in Urban and Municipal Planning	Moderator: Emily Preziotti (NWF) Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonio Carriere (One Atlas) • Eboni Hall (American Forests) • Arnaldo Perez-Negron (Rubicon) • Phoebe Romero (Office of Sustainability at City of Austin)



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION 2022 ECOCAREERS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Time	Session	Speakers
3:30 – 3:45	Break	
3:45 – 4:15	Workshop – Event Reflection and Career Planning	Laura Thorne (Green Career Advisor) David Corsar (NWF)
4:15 – 4:50	Artist Spotlight: Warren Dickson	Warren Dickson
4:50 – 5:00	Closing: Overview of upcoming opportunities	David Corsar (NWF), Courtney Cochran (NWF), Kristy Jones (NWF)



Special Thanks

The National Wildlife Federation, and especially the EcoLeaders team, would like to offer our sincere thanks to our EcoCareers Corporate and Campus Sponsors, listed below. The support of institutions like these make the exciting and impactful work of preparing the emerging green workforce possible!



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Biographies

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Karen Williams Weaver

Founder, Karen Williams Weaver Foundation

Dr. Karen Williams Weaver was born and raised in Flint, Michigan. She is the youngest of three children born to Dr. T. Wendell Williams, a pediatrician and Marion Coates Williams, the first African- American teacher in the Flint public school system. Dr. Williams Weaver attended Flint public schools and is a graduate of Flint Northern High School, where she was in the National Honor Society, Psychology Club, and active in the school orchestra. After graduation, she attended the University of Michigan-Flint before transferring to Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi where she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology. Always a strong academic, she went on to obtain a Master of Arts (MA) degree in Applied Psychology from Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY, followed by a Ph.D. in Child and Family Clinical Psychology from Michigan State University with a specialization in pediatric psychology.



Dr. Karen Williams Weaver served as the first female Mayor of the City of Flint from November 2015 until November 2019. While serving as Flint’s mayor, she was the 2nd Vice President of the African American Mayors Association and on the Advisory Board of the US Conference of Mayors. In December 2019, US presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg selected her to be a surrogate for his campaign, as did Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016.

To continue her commitment and passion for community and economic justice for people of color and underserved populations, she created the Karen Williams Weaver Foundation (KWWF). KWWF is a national voice of advocacy for communities to garner resources necessary to rebuild infrastructure in a way that protects health, creates economic opportunities and safeguards the fundamental right to safe and affordable water.

Professionally, Dr. Karen Williams Weaver has held several leadership positions, including Interim Executive Director of the African American Mayor’s Association, Director of Behavioral Services at Mott Children’s Health Center and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Ennis Center for



Children. She is also an entrepreneur and owner of Shea Lavelle Boutique a specialty store for natural skin, hair and body products.

Dr. Karen Weaver has also served in the Flint and Genesee County community and held board member positions including, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Hurley Medical Center Board of Managers, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Priority Children and Flint NAACP Freedom Fund Chair.

Her love for the arts led her to serve on the board of the Flint Institute of Arts as well as past president of the Pierians Inc., Flint Chapter, a group dedicated to exposing the arts to inner city youth. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a lifelong member of Vernon Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC).

Dr. Karen Williams Weaver has received many awards and honors including, but not limited to: Special Recognition Award from National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) for helping to bring mental health screening for teens to the Flint/Genesee county area; National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Gamma Delta Chapter Living Legend Award; and the Flint Branch Humanitarian Award, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Vanguard Award for Outstanding Service, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Feminist Majority Foundation, the Phenomenal Woman of Courage Award from the National Dental Association.

Dr. Karen Williams Weaver says, “my philosophy of life is: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13). From a child up, my parents always inspired me to be a leader, and stand up for what I believe in. They taught me the importance of having God in your life first and foremost, love of family, and being active in your community.”

Dr. Karen Weaver has been married for 35 years to Dr. Wrex A. Weaver, III. He is a second-generation dentist in the City of Flint. They are the proud parents of three adult children, Adrienne Marie, Alanna Nicole, and Douglas Quentin, and granddaughter Brooke Lynn.



Keynote Speaker

Marcus Sibley

Director of Conservation Partnerships for the National Wildlife Federation



Marcus Sibley is an Environmental & Social Justice Activist, Speaker, and Poet with a deep and profound commitment to justice and progress. He's the Director of Conservation Partnerships for the National Wildlife Federation Northeast Regional Center, where he works to build capacity for the fights for animal, human, and environmental rights. In his jurisdiction which includes NJ, NY, and CT, he works closely with affiliates NJ Audubon, Environmental Advocates of NY, and Connecticut Forests and Parks Association, and he also works closely with the NWF National Environmental Justice Team and the NWF International Team.

The Newark, NJ native also serves as the NJ NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Chairman, the President of the Southern Burlington County NAACP Branch, and the Chairman of the New Jersey Progressive

Equitable Energy Coalition (NJPEEC). A multiple award winner for environmental advocacy and social justice, he also serves on the Lead-Free NJ Coalition Advocacy Committee, the New Jersey Communities for Accountable Policing Coalition, and the New Jersey Offshore Wind Coalition. A Rutgers University alum with undergraduate and graduate degrees in Social Work, the Leadership Development Specialist presented across the country for the previous fifteen years prior to the pandemic.

Mr. Sibley is grateful for his purpose, his loved ones, and every opportunity to share information because education truly is power.



Opening Remarks

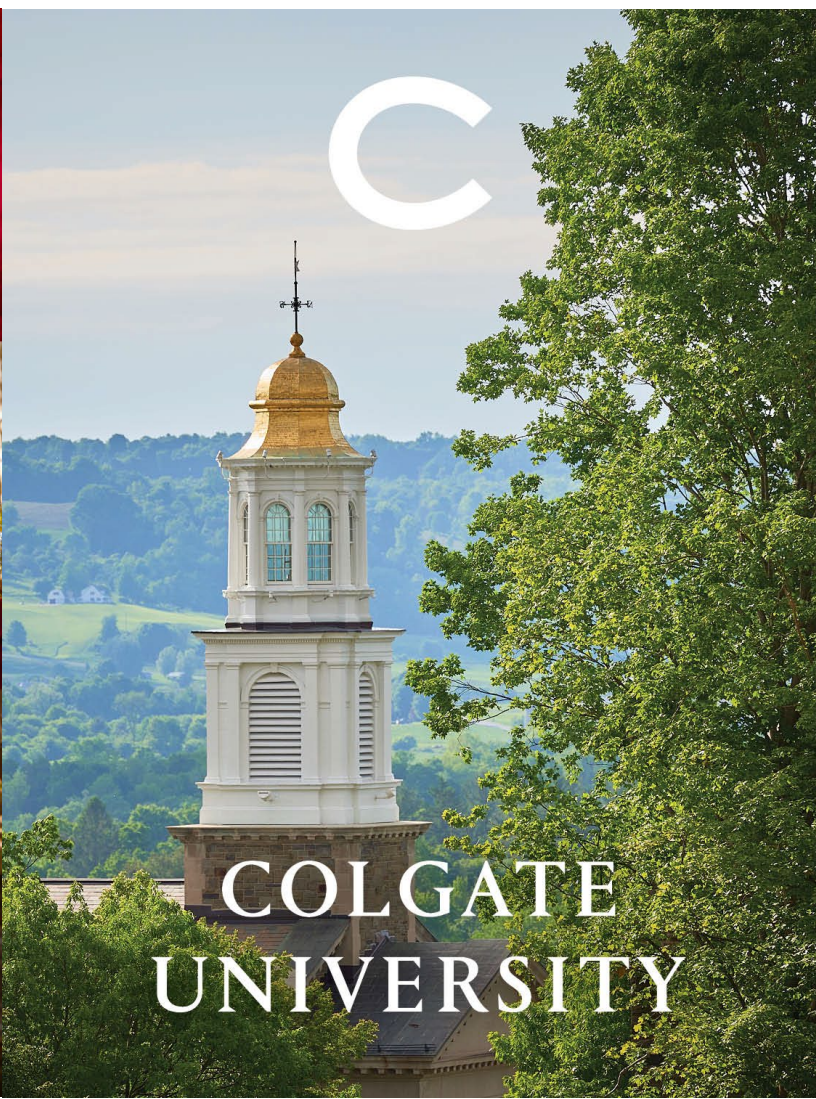
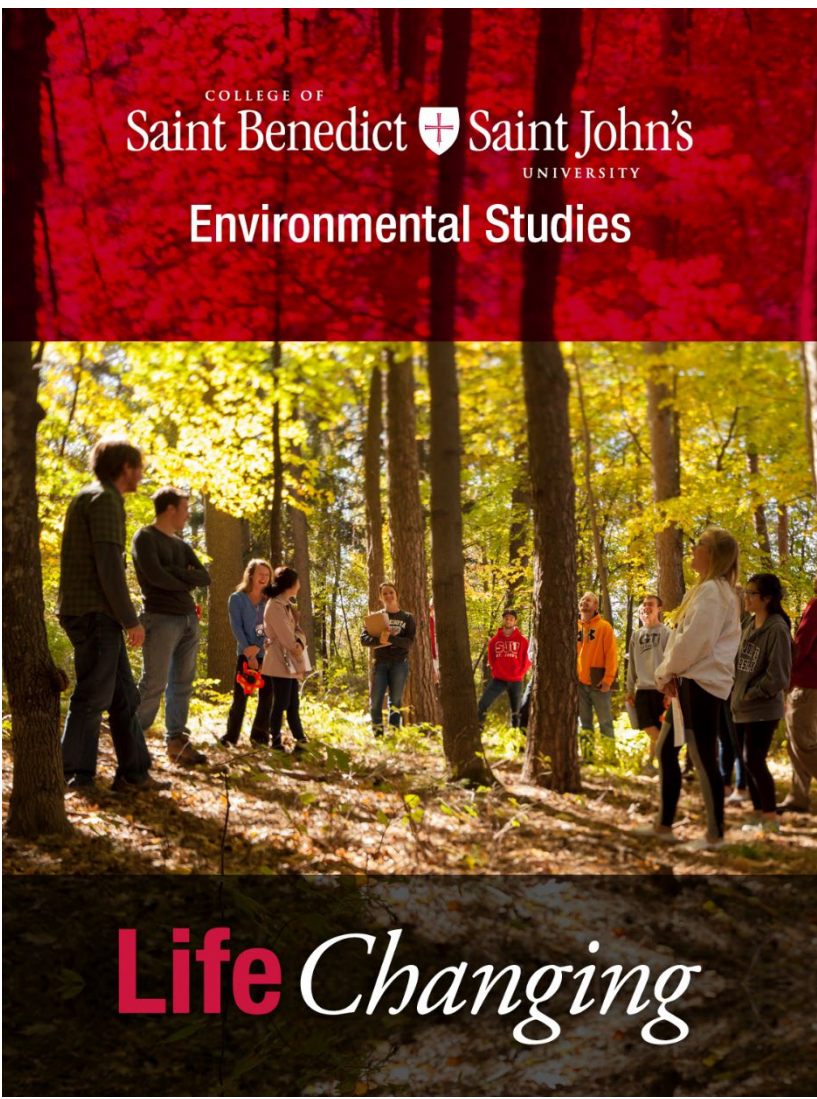
Jomar Floyd

Board Member; National Wildlife Federation

Jomar Floyd began developing his leadership skills during his college years in Florida. From organizing sustainability projects on campus to lobbying state officials and congressional members, Jomar emerged as a leader both at Florida A&M University and within his community. Jomar was one of the founding members of the Florida YES (Youth Environmental Sustainability) Coalition. Jomar lobbied with student leaders across Florida for the promotion of renewable energy investments and the Student Green Energy Fund for state colleges and public universities in Florida.



From 2011 to 2016, Jomar was Co-Chair of NWF's Emerging Leaders Council. He received the NWF 2014-2015 Emerging Leaders Fellowship and the 2015 NWF National Conservation Youth Leader Award. Jomar earned a Bachelor of Science, Health Care Management, at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and a Master of Public Affairs at Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs.



Spotlights:

Vic Barrett

Network Organizer, Powershift Network



Vic Barrett (Pronouns: He/Him) was raised in the great state of New York as a first-generation Honduran-American! He is proud of his roots, with his family being part of the Garifuna community. He appreciates the uniqueness of his heritage of being Afro-Indigenous and Afro-Latino which inspires a lot of his connection to the natural world and the ways we can challenge ourselves to understand it better. Vic is deeply invested in finding the best ways to exchange stories and lived experiences as a tool for promoting better understanding amongst people. He is incredibly motivated in building bridges to help people understand that Black, brown, and Indigenous leaders hold a lot of the knowledge and values we need to

not only beat this climate crisis but also beat the negative values that have perpetuated the climate crisis! Outside of organizing Vic enjoys playing his PlayStation, chilling in his hammock, and cuddling with his cat.

Sean Armstrong

Managing Principal, Redwood Energy

Sean Armstrong is the Managing Principal of Redwood Energy and has worked for 25 years in building electrification, designed the retrofit and new construction of more than 10,000 all-electric residences for disadvantaged populations, co-authored five practical guides to building electrification, provided legal and technical support to dozens of gas bans nationwide, helped develop the 2016/2019/2022 and 2025 Title 24 California Energy Codes, and has received sustainable design awards from the United Nations, the U.S. Department of Energy and the SoCal Building Industry Association.



Performance:

Warren Dickson

Artist, Producer, and Creator

Warren Dickson of 3rd Rock Hip-Hop is an artist, producer, and creator from Watts, CA. He has worked with industry Moguls such as Grammy Award Winning producer Cory Rooney (Jennifer Lopez, MJ Blige) & DJ Pooh(Snoop Dogg, GTA). In 2014, he partnered with artists Archie Hill & Rhonda Phillips to help build a Hip Hop-based environmental education company called 3rd Rock Hip-Hop. Their goal is to help bring the message of sustainability to the inner city and to bring the Hip-Hop culture to the Green community.



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Panel: Health and Wellness Careers

Moderator: Kasandra Richardson

Equity & Justice Communications Manager

Kasandra Richardson works as the Equity and Justice Communications Manager for National Wildlife Federation. Additionally, Kasandra co-leads NWF's Community of Care Committee, working towards creating more just, and people-centered work environments that support people in bringing their humanity to work. She has a background in environmental communications and programming, most recently working on NWF's digital communications team and before that working with the Midwest Invasive Plant Network.

She earned a BSPA in Environmental Management and an MPA in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management, both from Indiana University.



Dr. Jennifer Atkinson

University of Washington, Bothell

Dr. Jennifer Atkinson is an author and Associate Professor of environmental humanities at the University of Washington. She researches eco-anxiety, grief, and hope, and teaches seminars on climate and mental health that have been featured nationwide. Dr. Atkinson is currently working on a book titled *An Existential Toolkit for the Climate Crisis*, which offers strategies to help young people navigate the emotional toll of climate breakdown. Her podcast "Facing It" also gives people tools to channel eco-anxiety into action.



Hannah Malvin

Hannah Malvin Coaching & Consulting, LLC



Hannah Malvin is a coach and consultant with more than a decade of experience working in progressive politics. She's focused on making workplaces more equitable and boosting staff wellbeing, rooted in her training in positive psychology. She offers staff retreats, trainings, technical assistance, and coaching and has worked with Congressional offices, federal agencies, nonprofits, foundations, and fortune 500 companies.

Hannah is Program Manager for The Bridge Program, a public-private partnership and equitable hiring pathway for the environmental sector focused on people of color. She served as Senior Representative for Partnerships at The Wilderness Society, leading a strategic planning initiative to root relationships in equity by designing new systems of staff learning, knowledge sharing, and coordination. In 2016, she founded Pride Outside, now the main hub for LGBTQ outdoor inclusion initiatives with Congress, federal agencies, and conservation nonprofits. She was a legislative advisor to Congressman Mike Doyle, covering health, foreign affairs, immigration, and more, and was Staff Director of the Congressional Autism Caucus. Hannah earned a BA in Political Science from Brown University and certifications in applied positive psychology and applied positive psychology coaching from The Flourishing Center. She is Vice Chair of the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards Board of Directors.

Ashanti Carter

School of Medicine and Health Sciences - The George Washington University

Ashanti Carter serves as the Program Manager of the Rodham Institute, located at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the George Washington University. At Rodham, Ms. Carter produces content for the Rodham Impact Speaker Series, a bimonthly series of webinars that brings together thought leaders and community advocates from across the country.

Ms. Carter also leads the Health Education and Leadership Program (H.E.L.P.), a longitudinal pipeline program for high school students from Title 1 schools. H.E.L.P. provides scholars with the tools that will enable them to not only graduate from high school,



but also college. Ms. Carter, who is originally from Los Angeles, California worked as a teacher for the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and graduated with a Master of Public Health from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Higher Education Administration program at the George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Ashanti's goal is to serve as an administrator in Student Affairs in a post-secondary education institution.

Jon Polley

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Jon Polley is the Executive Chef at UPMC Magee-Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. Even though he graduated the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in Economics, Jon has never shaken his love of food and its magical powers, having spent more than half of his life in kitchens. On top of overseeing all food production operations at the hospital, Jon leads sustainability initiatives for both Magee as well as for Food Services across the UPMC system. His initiatives and interests include, but aren't limited to, reducing food waste, working with community food rescue organizations, cooking seasonally and plant-forward-ly (I know, I made that word up), composting and regenerative agriculture. He is a 2021 graduate of MAD Academy's Environment and Sustainability program in Copenhagen, Denmark, and continues to champion the many ways in which food can heal both people and planet.



Panel: Environmental Justice Careers

Moderator: Crystal Jennings

Director of Youth Leadership Programs; NWF

Crystal Jennings is the Director of Youth Leadership Programs at the [National Wildlife Federation](#). As a member of the Education and Engagement team of the Federation, Crystal oversees the integration and expansion of existing and new national program models for youth leadership development.

Specifically, Crystal oversees the Atlanta [Earth Tomorrow](#) program - a leadership development and environmental justice education program for youth from communities of color. Crystal coordinates the Earth Tomorrow Summer Institute, which provides students with in-depth opportunities to learn more about environmental justice issues, develop leadership skills and engage in outdoor activities. Crystal works directly with students, teachers and community partners to ensure the development of Earth Tomorrow and Earth Tomorrow modeled programs across the regions. Crystal is passionate about inspiring youth to take action on environmental justice issues impacting their day-to-day lives and seeing them take a life-long interest in ensuring justice for all.



Sarah Lillie Sewell

Lillie Leaf Solutions



Sarah Lillie Sewell is Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Lillie Leaf Solutions. As a fiercely passionate servant leader, Sarah builds programs that put a profit motive behind environmental stewardship and social equity. She began Lillie Leaf in 2015 to help the environmental sector develop new ways of addressing diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion in their work. Most recently, she launched and administered the Tree Equity: Career Pathways Initiative at American Forests to inclusively grow the urban forestry workforce, which has resulted in the training of hundreds and placement of dozens of individuals facing barriers to employment into entry-level tree care jobs.

Sarah has led Lillie Leaf efforts to partner with entities like the U.S. Forest Service, City Parks Alliance, Arbor Day Foundation, and many more to spearhead justice-driven initiatives that expand access to quality nature. From operating national conferences and



workshops to connecting BIPOC-led grassroots groups to key capacity-building resources, Sarah’s signature collaborative approach brings all voices to the table to grow and sustain resilient green communities. Sarah has a dual bachelor’s degree in Urban & Environmental Studies and a certificate in Geographic Information Systems from the University of Pittsburgh and her master’s degree in Public Administration from Bowie State University.

Dr. Sacoby Wilson

Associate Professor and Program Director; University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health

Dr. Sacoby Wilson is an Associate Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park. Dr. Wilson has over 20 years of experience as environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-based participatory research, water quality analysis, air pollution studies, built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, community resiliency, and sustainability. He works primarily in partnership with community-based organizations to study and address environmental justice and health issues and translate research to action.



Dr. Wilson is Director of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) initiative. CEEJH is focused on providing technical assistance to communities fighting against environmental injustice and environmental health disparities in the DMV region and across the nation. Through CEEJH, Dr. Wilson is engaging communities in the Washington, DC region on environmental health issues including exposure and health risks for individuals who fish and recreate on the Anacostia River; use of best management practices to reduce stormwater inputs in the Chesapeake Bay; air pollution and health impacts due to industrial and commuter traffic in Bladensburg, MD; built environment, environmental injustice, and vectors in West Baltimore; cumulative impacts of environmental hazards on air quality in Brandywine, MD; goods movement, industrial pollution, and environmental injustice in South Baltimore, MD; environmental justice and health issues in Buzzard Point area of Washington, DC; industrial chicken farming on Maryland’s Eastern Shore; health impact of assessment in the Sheriff Road community; and other topics. In addition, he is working with schools in the region on pipeline development efforts in the STEM+H disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Health).



He has worked on environmental justice issues including environmental racism with community-based organizations through long-term community-university environmental health and justice partnerships in South Carolina and North Carolina including the Low Country Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC), in North Charleston, South Carolina; the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in Mebane, NC; and the Graniteville Community Coalition (GCC) in Graniteville, SC. He has provided technical assistance to REACH in Duplin County, NC; RENA in Orange County, NC; and the NC Environmental Justice Network.

Dr. Wilson has been very active professionally as an environmental justice advocate. He is Founder of 17 for Peace and Justice, a Co-Founder of the DC/Maryland/Virginia (DMV) Environmental Justice Coalition, and a Co-Founder of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition (MAJC). He is a member of the US EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB), on the board of the Citizen Science Association, a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology (BEST), Editor-in-Chief of Environmental Justice, a former member of the USEPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), a past Chair of the APHA Environment Section, on the Board of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, a former member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the CDC NCEH/ATSDR, and former Chair of the Alpha Goes Green Initiative, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is also a senior fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program.

Dr. Wilson has received many awards for his contributions and achievements as an environmental justice researcher and advocate. He recently the 2018 Taking Nature Black Environmental Champion Award. He also received the APHA Environment Section Damu Smith Environmental Justice Award in 2015. From the University of Maryland School of Public Health, he received the George F. Kramer Practitioner of the Year Award (2014-2015) and the Muriel R. Sloan Communitarian Award (2012-2013). He also received the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award from the University of South Carolina in 2011. He received a USEPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award given to Low Country Alliance for Model Communities, North Charleston, SC and Mitigation Agreement Committee. Additionally, Dr. Wilson received the Steve Wing International Environmental Justice Award in 2008.

Dr. Wilson, a two-time EPA STAR fellow, EPA MAI fellow, Udall Scholar, NASA Space Scholar, and Thurgood Marshall Scholar, received his BS degree in Biology/Ecotoxicology with a minor in Environmental Science from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1998. He received training in environmental health in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Wilson received his MS degree in 2000 from UNC-Chapel Hill and his PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2005.



Marisa Valdez

Tishman Environment and Design Center; The New School

Marisa Valdez (she/her) is a native New Mexican, STEM enthusiast and realist with environmental and social justice advocacy roots and EJ working group experience. She has earned an M.S. in Environmental Policy from The New School's Milano School of Policy, Management and Environment and a B.S. in Spanish and Environmental Science from The University of New Mexico. She has spent 10+ years developing environmental education and STEM projects that address community needs in the U.S. and internationally. Marisa has worked with State and federal agencies such as the National Forest and Parks and Receptions and is a Peace Corps, and Peace Corps Response alumni. Marisa currently works with AES Clean Energy as a Stakeholder Relations Analyst. When she's not exploring the creative possibilities of this work, Marisa can be found roaming the great outdoors, gleaming inspiration from all expressions of life, culture and stories of "his"tory.



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Panel: Environmental Education Careers

Moderator: Brendon Barclay

Manager of Education and Engagement, National Wildlife Federation

Brendon Barclay, Manager of Education and Engagement, National Wildlife Federation. Brendon manages the development and execution of the National Wildlife Federation/NWF's education programs throughout the state of Georgia. A primary focus of his work is the advancement of NWF's school-based programming, including Eco-Schools USA, Earth Tomorrow and Schoolyard Habitats, with an emphasis on integrating these programs in school districts in urban centers and promoting environmental education as a means to improving student academic performance and increasing children's connection to the outdoors. Brendon an Alumni of Morehouse College and has over 20 years of experience in environmental education, service learning, and team building facilitation.

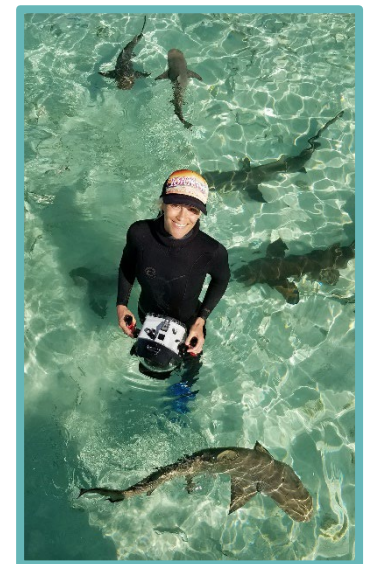


Brendon is an AmeriCorps Alumni featured in a national TV commercial campaign promoting civic engagement titled "Be The Change." The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), commercial series, spotlighted his work on "P&G Future Friendly" initiatives. He was the 2011 honoree of the Champion of Inspiration award from the Points of Light Institute. He served as a Federal Advisory Committee Member on the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, US Department of the Interior during the Obama Administration. In 2017 he received the Mentoring Award from the NWF's, Earth Tomorrow Program he joined the NWF fulltime in 2021.

Jillian Morris

Sharks 4 Kids

Born and raised in Maine, Jillian's love for the ocean started at an early age and has continued to play an integral role in her adult life. She has spent thousands of hours in the field working and diving with sharks across the globe. She is a marine biologist, shark conservationist, scuba instructor, educator and the founder of Sharks4Kids. She has filmed for numerous television shows and networks, has appeared on Shark Week and is a PADI Ambassadiver. She was named Scuba Diving Magazine's July 2016 Sea Hero, awarded the inaugural Shark Con Shark Hero Award in 2017 and was the Go Blue Awards 2020 Blue Ambassador of the Year. She is the author of Norman the Nurse Shark and Shark Super Powers and a member of the prestigious Ocean Artists Society.



Oday Salim

National Wildlife Federation and University of Michigan



Oday Salim is an adjunct clinical assistant professor of law and director of the Environmental Law & Sustainability Clinic, as well as an attorney at the National Wildlife Federation in its Great Lakes Regional Center.

Prior to joining the clinical program, Professor Salim practiced environmental law in Pennsylvania and Michigan focusing on stormwater management, water quality permitting, water rights, environmental justice, land use and zoning, utility regulation, mineral rights, and renewable energy. He has litigated in administrative and civil courts at the local, state, and federal level, and also has done transactional work for individuals and nonprofits.

As an adjunct professor he has taught Energy Law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Wayne State University Law School, and Oil and Gas Law at Lewis & Clark Law School. For the last six years, Professor Salim has authored the competition problem for the Robert R. Merhige Jr. National Environmental Negotiation

Competition, which is hosted by the University of Richmond School of Law. In 2018, he was named one of the Grist 50 Fixers for his work on environmental and public health protection in minority communities.

He gives talks on various subjects including green infrastructure in urban areas, water affordability and ratemaking and conferring rights to natural resources.

Donna Volkmann

Fairfax County Public Schools

Donna Volkmann is committed to providing action-oriented environmental education and stewardship opportunities to all students. Donna is the Fairfax County Public Schools Educational Specialist for the Get2Green environmental stewardship program. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology and her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Secondary Science Education from Virginia Tech. Donna has over a decade of experience teaching AP Environmental Science and biology, has presented at the International Teacher-Scientist Partnership Conference, and was honored as an Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow at the US Department of Energy where she worked with educational outreach programs at National Renewable Energy Lab and Brookhaven National Lab. Donna has been an important contributor to the Joint Environmental



Task Force, a collaborative effort between Fairfax County government and Fairfax County Public Schools to develop environmental sustainability goals.

Donna's current work focuses on nurturing relationships with sustainability partners, providing professional development to support teachers in engaging all students in outdoor learning opportunities, expanding the Get2Green program to provide access to all students, and guiding school principals to be leaders of green schools.



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Panel: Urban and Municipal Planning Careers

Moderator: Emily Preziotti

Community Wildlife Manager; National Wildlife Federation



Emily Preziotti serves as the Community Wildlife Manager at the National Wildlife Federation. In her current role, she manages several national programs that work with communities (big and small!) to build wildlife habitat, foster community engagement, and support wildlife conservation. Emily enjoys making close connections with environmental leaders across the nation and supporting them in their efforts to create wildlife-friendly, sustainable, and healthy communities. Prior to joining the National Wildlife Federation, Emily worked in disaster preparedness, where

she focused on hazard mitigation, redevelopment, and resilience planning. She earned her bachelor's and master's degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia.

Antonio Carriere

One Atlas

Antonio P. Carriere is the senior-level urban planner for Atlas Technical Consultants. His focus is on community needs and develops short-term and long-term solutions to improve and revitalize forgotten communities. Antonio has based his entire career on researching sustainable and resilient built environments that enhance the quality of life for everyone, especially those disadvantaged, to find solutions to keep people safe, connected, and productive. In addition, he is a professional transportation planner with experience in national transportation policy, regional planning, and local government.



Before joining Atlas Technical Consultants, Mr. Carriere served as the Acadiana Section Director for the American Planning Association (APA), the Louisiana Chapter, a nationally recognized non-profit promoting greater civic involvement in urban planning and development. Mr. Carriere also serves as the President of the Board of Directors for NAMI. This national non-profit organization supports and educates families and individuals living with mental health conditions.



Most recently appointed as Chairman of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for the Louisiana Chapter. American Planning Association, Currently, he is finishing his Doctorate in Public Policy and Urban Affairs from Southern University and A & M College. He also received his Master's degree in Public Administration from Southern University and A & M College and his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Loyola University New Orleans.

Eboni Hall

American Forests



Eboni Hall oversees a new initiative to develop and implement American Forests' mission into academia. Hall creates awareness of urban forestry career opportunities for students, changes how students learn about urban forestry and uses scientific research to achieve Tree Equity. She works with academic institutions nationwide to expand urban forestry programs and courses, increase awareness of urban forestry as an interdisciplinary field and provide resources for career paths in urban forestry. Hall is also committed to providing innovative and effective approaches to share technical information with non-technical audiences – by linking the information to and implementing practices in communities it will impact. Hall graduated from Southern University and A&M College, The University of Georgia and Texas A&M University with degrees in urban forestry and natural resources.

Arnaldo Perez-Negron

Rubicon

Arnaldo Perez-Negron is an environmentalist, social entrepreneur, and passionate advocate of the circular economy. Being born and raised in Puerto Rico, surrounded by vast mountains and beautiful beaches, he developed a love for the environment and a strong will to protect it.

Now, as Circular Economy Specialist at Rubicon, Arnaldo focuses on helping customers across the U.S. in finding innovative and technology driven solutions to divert hard to recycle materials from landfills. Previously, he worked with the sustainability teams of several local governments including the City of Orlando, the City of Norfolk, and Pinellas County. Arnaldo was an Environmental Defense Fund Climate Corps Fellow in 2020, where he received rigorous training on how to help organizations plan, track and act on their sustainability goals.



After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences in 2018, Arnaldo decided to change careers from the medical field to the sustainability space to pursue his passion, and in 2021 completed his Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver. Today, Arnaldo calls Tampa, Florida home and spends his free time researching and working on circular economy solutions, enjoying the great outdoors, and traveling.

Phoebe Romero

Office of Sustainability at City of Austin



Phoebe Romero is passionate about the intersection of climate policy and racial equity. She currently works at the City of Austin Office of Sustainability focusing on air quality and climate action that reduces environmental impact and improves quality of life outcomes for historically impacted communities. She was formerly a Program Manager at CLEAResult, where she implemented utility energy efficiency programs for large commercial and institutional organizations across Texas. Prior to CLEAResult, she was an Environmental Defense Fund Climate Corps Fellow tasked with evaluating energy and water conservation initiatives at Huston-Tillotson University. She has a BA in Political Science and Latin American studies from Brown University and a

joint Professional Science Master's in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development from St. Edward's University and Université Catholique de l'Ouest.



Career Planning Workshops

Laura Thorne

The Environmental Career Coach; Laura Thorne Consulting

Laura works with students, recent grads, and career changers from all backgrounds who are seeking environmental careers to gain confidence in their searches by crafting sound career navigation plans. Having been a biology student and career changer, and now a business owner, her coaching comes from experience, a passion for science, and a commitment to the well-being of our planet. She is well connected across the US in the environmental and sustainability fields through her involvement with the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) and as co-host of the EPR (Environmental Professionals Radio) Podcast. These leadership positions and her experience as a grant manager for habitat restoration projects means that she has exposure and experience in a wide variety of both public and private industries. Laura has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of South Florida, is a certified Project Management Professional (which means she is an expert in creating actionable plans), and has walked in your shoes!



David Corsar

Manager, Career Development Programs; National Wildlife Federation

David Corsar is the Manager for Career Development programming at the [National Wildlife Federation](#). He is responsible for developing the online career center portion of the EcoLeaders community and managing the annual EcoCareers Conference.

Before joining NWF, David completed a full 2-year Peace Corps service in the Republic of Armenia where he focused on professional and organizational development for local community-based NGOs. Prior to his Peace Corps service, David worked as an environmental engineer and project manager at a global engineering consulting firm, CDM Smith. David received Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA and a Master of Public Administration from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA.



Workshop: Job Applications 101

Lisa Yee-Litzenberg

President; Green Career Advisor

Lisa Yee-Litzenberg is a certified career coach with over 25 years in the environmental career arena. She is President of Green Career Advisor, a business she launched in 2016 to help people find and secure their dream green jobs. Prior to that, she spent 10 years developing and leading the career service office at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability and helped thousands of students to launch their green careers. Before her coaching work, Lisa spent 12 years as a professional conservation advocacy leader at the National Wildlife Federation where she worked on Great Lakes and wolf conservation initiatives. She developed a passion for increasing the diversity of environmental professionals and helping them grow into leadership roles. Lisa has a natural resource management degree from the University of Michigan. In her spare time, she is an avid soccer player, hiker, native pollinator gardener, and a volunteer Climate Reality Leader making a difference on climate change.



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Workshop: NWF Badges and Certifications

Courtney Cochran

Manager, EcoLeaders Community; NWF

Courtney Cochran serves as the manager of the [National Wildlife Federation](#)'s EcoLeaders online community - an online project-based leadership and career development program with an online support community which serves emerging environmental leaders from high school through young professionals.

As the manager of the NWF EcoLeaders community, Courtney works to help students and young professionals find and strengthen their leadership skills to be change-makers on their campuses and in their communities and to use the project-based leadership skills they've developed to find a fulfilling and sustainable career. Courtney earned her BA in Political Science from [Warren Wilson College](#) in Asheville North Carolina where she also worked for four years in the Environmental Leadership Center.



Kristy Jones

Director; Higher Education Programs; NWF

Kristy Jones is the Director of the [National Wildlife Federation](#)'s Higher Education Programs and oversees the EcoLeaders and EcoCareers programs, leads the national Campus Race to Zero Waste program, and helps support NWF's marine pollution efforts. Kristy has co-authored *Stemming the Tide: Taking Action on Campus Against Plastic Pollution*, *The Campus Wild: How College and University Green Landscapes Provide Havens for Wildlife* and "Lands-On" Experiences for Students and Higher Education in a Warming World – The Business Case for Climate Leadership on Campus.

Before joining the National Wildlife Federation, Kristy worked at the Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability as an office/research coordinator. Kristy also spent six years working for the Center for Field Studies at George Mason

University, and managing The Bahamas Environmental Research Center on Andros Island (a facility managed by GMU and The College of The Bahamas). She has a B.A. in Anthropology, a master's in Environmental Studies, and LEED Green Associate certified.



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Appendices



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION ECO CAREERS CONFERENCE 2022

Career
Planning
Workshop
Packet



Photo Credit: El Paso Community College

PART 1: TAKE A CAREER INTEREST SELF-ASSESSMENT

1. Fill out the following Career Interest Questionnaire: <https://www.jotform.com/form/201946299862065>
 - a. On a scale of 1-5 stars, with 1 being “Least Interesting” to 5 being “Most Interesting,” rate the activities.
 - b. Don’t focus on whether you can or cannot do these activities or if it sounds like something more or less lucrative; just focus on whether the activity sounds like something interesting to do, learn, and master.
2. Once you’ve rated all of the interests, record the totals for each of the vocational types in this table:

	<u>Realistic (R)</u>	<u>Investigative (I)</u>	<u>Artistic (A)</u>	<u>Social (S)</u>	<u>Enterprising (E)</u>	<u>Organizers (O)</u>
Totals (from JotForm)						
Description	People with athletic or mechanical ability, who prefer to work with objects, tools, machines, plants or animals, or to be outdoors.	People who like to observe, learn, analyze, investigate, evaluate or solve problems.	People who have artistic, innovating or intuitional abilities and like to work in unstructured situations using their imagination and creativity.	People who like to work with people to enlighten, inform, help, train or cure them, or are skilled with words.	People who like to influence, persuade, perform, lead, or managing for organizational goals or economic gains.	People who like to work with data, have clerical or numerical ability, carry out tasks in detail or follow others’ instructions.
Examples from the Green Economy	Environmental Engineers; Farmers; Forest and Conservation Technicians; Landscapers; Solar Installation; Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators	Agricultural Engineers; Animal Scientists; Computer Software Engineers; Geographers; Soil and Water Conservationists; Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	Architects (including Landscape); Craft Artists; Fashion Designers; Fine Artists; Interior Designers; Photographers; Reporters and Correspondents	Elementary, Secondary, and Postsecondary Teachers; Guidance and Career Counselors; Park Naturalists; Recreation Workers	Education Administrators; Entrepreneurs; Lawyers; Legislators; Managers/ Supervisors; Purchasing Agents; Sales Agents	Accountants; City and Regional Planners; Database Administrators; Law Clerks; Mapping Technicians; Office Clerks; Web Developers

Based on Holland’s Theory of Vocational Types, from “Overview of Career Development Theories,” Pennsylvania Department of Education; US Department of Labor; and Holland Party Game, by Carlo Luna, <https://www.slideshare.net/iamcarloluna/holland-party-game>

3. Which of the six Categories was rated highest? How do you feel about the description and examples?
4. Among the activities you rated highest, what do you like to do MOST? Why?
5. Among the activities you rated lowest, what do you like to do LEAST? Why?

PART 2: EXPLORE CAREER SECTORS

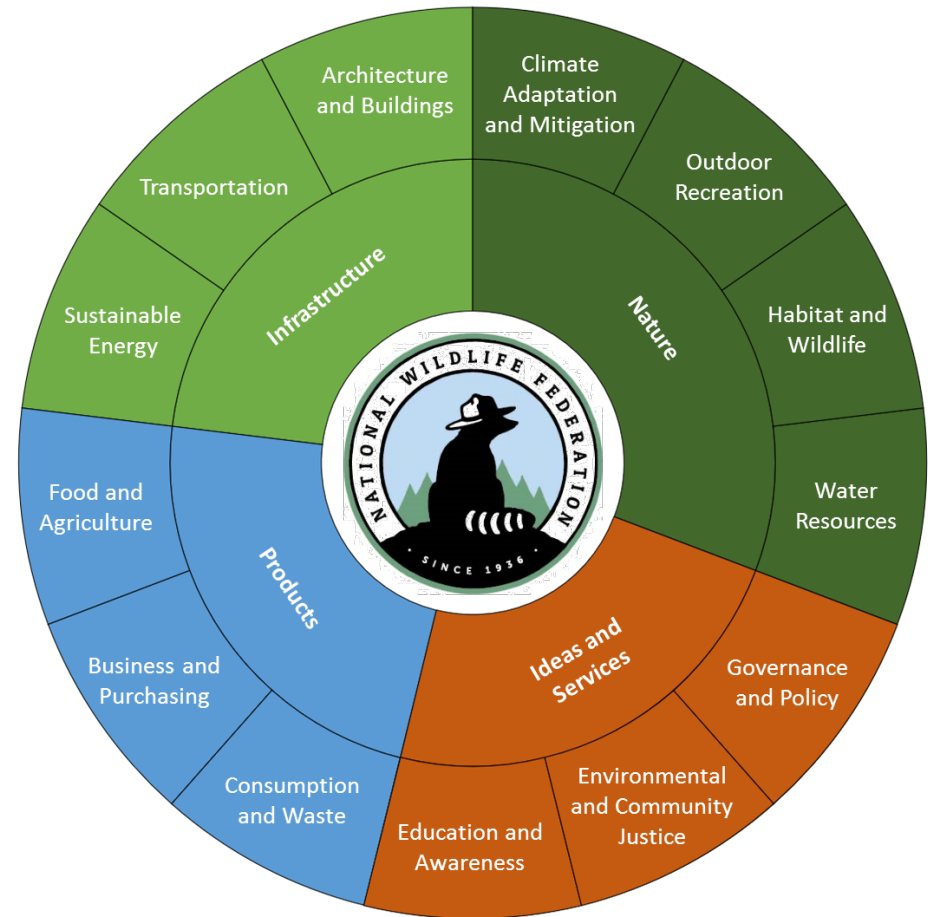
Using the Career Map to the right, identify 2-3 of the 13 listed career sectors you might be interested in.

My top choices are

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Visit the [EcoLeaders Career Center](#) to research a job in each of the career sectors you noted as a top choice, using these questions:

- A. This type of job matches my interests, job values, and skills in the following ways:
- B. What types of responsibilities does this job have?
- C. What kind of training or education do I need for this position?
- D. What kinds of organizations hire people to do this kind of work?
- E. What possible pay ranges are there for people who do this kind of work?



PART 3: CONSIDER CAREER CRITERIA

When choosing a sector of the green economy to specialize in, focus on the types of jobs that you feel are well-aligned with your interests, skills, and other aspects of your personality. Similarly, it's important to identify and rank career criteria in order to guide you in deciding the type of employment that's right for you (e.g., public/government employer vs. private; for profit vs. not-for-profit; employer size, location, culture; etc.)

Career Criteria that are typically considered include:

- Income range
- Geography
- Type of day-to-day work
- Environment (indoors, outdoors, mix)
- Organization type (companies, nonprofits, government, universities, etc.)
- Organizational Values
- Development potential



Photo Credit: Appalachian State University

However, there are many other criteria that may be important to you.

What criteria do you not see listed that you would consider important in deciding between different career path options?

List your top **three** career criteria and the reason why they are important to you:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PART 4: ENVISION SCENARIOS FOR YOUR FUTURE

Go back to page 2 in this workbook and identify the Top 3 career sectors and example jobs you selected. Describe below what these career options may be like for you.

Option 1: _____

A day at work for me would include:

What excites me about this option is:

The good things about this option are:

Possible drawbacks of this option are:

My dream job in this sector would involve doing the following as part of my work:

Option 2: _____

A day at work for me would include:

What excites me about this option is:

The good things about this option are:

Possible drawbacks of this option are:

My dream job in this sector would involve doing the following as part of my work:

Option 3: _____

A day at work for me would include:

What excites me about this option is:

The good things about this option are:

Possible drawbacks of this option are:

My dream job in this sector would involve doing the following as part of my work:



PART 5: WRITE OUT A CAREER PLAN

My Short-Term Education and Career Goal (1-2 years) is:

What might make it difficult for me to achieve this goal?

The steps I need to take to reach my short-term goals are:

Step	Date to complete step	What resources do I have that will help me complete this step (e.g., LinkedIn network, teachers/professors; books and websites; professional associations)?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

My Long-Term Education and Career Goal (2-5 years) is:

The steps I need to take to reach my long-term goals are:

Step	Date to complete step	What resources do I have that will help me complete this step (e.g., LinkedIn network, teachers/professors; books and websites; professional associations)?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Based on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Education and Career Plan