



\*\* Please note – the information contained in this handout is accurate as at January 2011. Information regarding employment prospects/salary/growth is based on information derived from [www.skillsinfo.gov.au](http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au), [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au) and Careers and Employment's own research.

2011

Please note: the information contained in this document was current as of January 2011. Refer to [www.swinburne.edu.au/courses/](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/courses/) for the most current updates. Refer to the School of Sustainability website [www.tafe.swinburne.edu.au/sustainability/](http://www.tafe.swinburne.edu.au/sustainability/) for further information and a list of the courses offered in this area please.

### Overview

Sustainability from an organisation's perspective is focused on meeting "the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs....not compromise the environmental, social and human needs of our descendants". (Source [www.wbcsd.org](http://www.wbcsd.org))

Sustainability is increasingly becoming an important business objective in both government and industry. In recent times, there has been strong growth in compliance and in job descriptions that specifically address sustainability issues. Most growth opportunities exist through applying sustainability concepts to traditional disciplines, such as:

- Business management
- Engineering
- Product design and manufacturing
- Event management
- Hospitality and tourism
- Building and construction
- Finance
- Information technology

"Green-collar careers" as they are often referred to, are currently experiencing significant growth, with demand for business-focused sustainability solutions outweighing the supply of suitably experienced people. This emerging industry focuses on operational efficiencies, balancing economic considerations and social development within the constraints of the environment, and measuring and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions.

In recent times, there has been strong growth in the number of jobs that specifically address sustainability issues. However, most opportunities exist through applying sustainability concepts to traditional disciplines. Employers are recognising the business benefits of operating in ways that benefit people and the environment. For this reason, many students choose to complete a Sustainability course in conjunction with another course, either at TAFE or Higher Education level. Alternatively, some students will have graduated in other disciplines and return to study Sustainability as their skills are required to be developed in this area.

A large percentage of Sustainability jobs focus on communication and education, but increasingly, existing roles are being adapted to include sustainability principles. Examples include: electricians specialising in sustainable energy; green marketing; plumbers with awareness of water saving and recycling; water-smart farming and forestry within the agriculture industry; sustainable purchasing; green design, building and construction. There are also increasing opportunities in a wide range of niche industries, including wind, solar, hydrogen (fuel) and bioenergy.

The job outlook for people working in sustainability is likely to improve in the next five years, especially due to government investment in sustainability training and schemes.

## Job titles may include

- Climate Change Consultant/Leader
- Carbon and Sustainability Consultant/Leader
- Energy Analyst
- Energy Auditor
- Environmentalist
- Landcare Worker
- Natural Resource Manager
- Sustainability Advisor / Officer

## Areas of Potential Employment

Graduates who complete Sustainability courses will be sought by employers in the following areas\*:

- Environmental management of land and water - including developing, implementing and reviewing plans
- Waste management for disposal of commercial, industrial, medical and household wastes
- Environmental legislation management and enforcement – including inspection and auditing of workplaces, processes, plants, chemical and physical hazards
- Environmental sustainability
- National park management
- Environmental policy development and provision of advice to government and industry
- Conservation and management planning for fish, wildlife and forests
- Energy systems and management
- Research and laboratory investigations
- Conservation planning
- Design (e.g. building, manufacturing and engineering)
- Sustainable production
- Change management and organisational change
- Social sustainability
- Non-Government Organisations (NGO's)
- Community development
- Social research
- Resources management
- Compliance monitoring
- Government agencies
- Policy development
- Hospitals
- Education

*\* Note - Employment prospects will depend on experience and other qualifications.*

## Sustainability at Swinburne

Swinburne was the first university to sign a Sustainability Covenant with the Environment Protection Authority (VIC). It is the only Australian university that houses national-level sustainability centres, located at the Hawthorn and Wantirna campuses respectively. Swinburne is Australia's leading body that brings together government, industry and community and fosters the development of sustainable practices. Swinburne's programs are designed to provide a cross-sectoral understanding of sustainability.

The issue of sustainability impacts on all fields of endeavour and is becoming an increasingly important business objective both in government and industry. Studying in this area will build your capacity to work in a wide range of sectors to create a more sustainable approach to doing business. Further information on the National Centre for Sustainability can be found at [www.swinburne.edu.au/ncs](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/ncs)

## Further Education and Pathways

Credit pathways may be available from TAFE to Higher Education.

For a full list of credit pathways and requirements, see the Swinburne website: [www.future.swinburne.edu.au/pathways](http://www.future.swinburne.edu.au/pathways)

For entry and admission requirements: [www.swinburne.edu.au/courses](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/courses)

## References and Relevant Websites

- Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility - [www.accsr.com.au](http://www.accsr.com.au)
- CSIRO - [www.csiro.au/science/Sustainability](http://www.csiro.au/science/Sustainability)
- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts - [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)

- Department of Sustainability and Environment - [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)
- Eco-Minds – [www.eco-minds.bayer.com](http://www.eco-minds.bayer.com)
- National Centre for Sustainability - [www.ncsustainability.com.au](http://www.ncsustainability.com.au)
- SustainAbility - [www.sustainability.com](http://www.sustainability.com)
- Sustainability Victoria website - <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1517-home-page.asp>
- The AustralAsian Sustainability Network - <http://www.xing.com/net/SustainabilityAustralia>
- Environmental Job Network - [www.environmentaljobs.com.au](http://www.environmentaljobs.com.au)
- NRM Environmental Jobs - [www.nrmjobs.com.au](http://www.nrmjobs.com.au)
- Carbon Jobs - [www.carbonjobs.com.au](http://www.carbonjobs.com.au)
- Australian Natural Resource - <http://naturalresource.alphalink.com.au>
- Melbourne Water - [www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au)
- Vic Government - [www.careers.vic.gov.au](http://www.careers.vic.gov.au)
- Graduate Careers Australia - [www.graduatecareers.com.au](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au)
- Science Alert – [www.sciencealert.com.au/jobs/sustainability](http://www.sciencealert.com.au/jobs/sustainability)
- World Business Council for Sustainability Council - [www.wbcsd.org](http://www.wbcsd.org)
- My Future - [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)
- Job Outlook - [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au)
- MyCareer – [www.mycareer.com.au](http://www.mycareer.com.au)
- Australian Job Search – [www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)
- Seek – [www.seek.com](http://www.seek.com)
- Skills Info - [www.skillsinfo.gov.au](http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au)
- The Age Article - [www.csl.org.au/wp-content/uploads/green\\_collar\\_careers\\_-\\_the\\_age\\_my\\_career\\_may\\_3\\_20081.pdf](http://www.csl.org.au/wp-content/uploads/green_collar_careers_-_the_age_my_career_may_3_20081.pdf)

#### Recruitment Agencies specialising in Sustainability jobs

- EnviroAppointments - [www.enviroappointments.com.au/home](http://www.enviroappointments.com.au/home)
- Pathways Australia – [www.pathwaysaustralia.com.au](http://www.pathwaysaustralia.com.au)
- Sustainability Jobs - [www.sjobs.com.au](http://www.sjobs.com.au)

#### What help does Swinburne Careers and Employment offer?

##### Career Services

- Career Counselling for Students
- Careers in the Curriculum (CIC) – Higher Education Students
- Plan Skills Development
- Career Seminars/Workshops for Students
- Resume and Cover Letter Checks
- Interview Practice
- Student Recruitment Service (Final Year Students)

##### Career Resources

- Career Resource Library
- Job Search Handouts
- Interactive Career Planning
- What Can I Do With My Degree/TAFE Qualification? (see website for resource)

##### SwinEmploy Employment Service

- All job advertisements for graduate placements, casual, vacation, part-time and full-time employment
- Links to employer websites
- Enables students to book online for events such as workshops, employer information sessions and interviews
- Access to Going Global (over 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK and US. Global key employer directories, work permits & visa regulations, country-specific cultural & interviewing advice & more)

**Download Careers and Employment job search handouts from SwinEmploy, including:**

- Addressing Selection Criteria
- Assessment Centres
- Cover Letters or Letters of Application
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Employer Expectations of Graduates
- Interviews - How to Plan, Prepare and Perform
- Informational Interviewing
- Job Hunting
- Networking: What Is It and How Do You Do It?
- Online Applications
- Psychometric Tests
- Skills and Attributes
- Thinking About Changing Your Course?
- Tips for facing the work environment and your first professional job

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