



**WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING?**

Environmental engineers work closely with private companies, governmental agencies, and the public to provide safe water for drinking and protect our land, water and air resources. They work to protect human health and the environment while allowing modern society to thrive and the economy to grow. Environmental engineers work for local, state or federal governments; private engineering firms; or many industries. Work may include water treatment, waste treatment, pollution control, cleanup of polluted land and water, and studies of our resources and how to protect them. The profession is highly interdisciplinary and environmental engineers work with scientists, regulators, lawyers, and the public to address problems that affect many important aspects of our lives.



**Sample job titles:** Environmental Engineer, Water Resources Engineer, Water Quality Specialist, Radioactive/Hazardous/Solid Waste Manager, Air Pollution Engineer, Environmental Project Manager

**WHAT YOU MIGHT DO IN A DAY**

- » Design water or wastewater treatment plants for cities or industries.
- » Design and implement river, lake, and stormwater quality sampling and analysis programs.
- » Design solid waste disposal facilities.
- » Design and manage programs to clean up polluted land and water.
- » Work with private companies, governmental agencies, and public organizations to assure environmentally responsible development of new projects.
- » Develop recycling programs to maximize reuse of wastewater and solid wastes.
- » Develop long-term management plans for water, air and land resources.
- » Present environmental solutions at public meetings.

**WHAT TYPE OF EDUCATION DO YOU NEED?**

- » Environmental engineers need at least a bachelor's degree in civil, chemical, environmental or general engineering.
- » A master's degree can open opportunities with private engineering companies.
- » Many environmental engineers choose to get licensed as a professional engineer by graduating from an accredited program, earning four years of professional experience and passing both the fundamentals of engineering and the professional engineering exams.

**DEGREES OFFERED**

- » BS Civil Engineering
- » MS Civil Engineering – Environmental
- » MENG – Environmental
- » PhD Civil Engineering – Environmental

In addition to these degrees, the UNM Center for Water and the Environment conducts research into a wide variety of environmental problems.



**JOB PROSPECTS**

**Environmental Engineers**

- » No. 3 in Best Engineering Jobs in 2020
- » 2020 median salary \$87,620
- » Unemployment rate 0.2%
- » Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts increase of 5.1% in new environmental engineering jobs 2018-2028