

## Public Service and Career Opportunities

Michael Pizzolatto, Tulane Center for Public Service  
Charles Reith, Pace Global and Tulane Payson Center for International Development  
Beth Galante, Global Green New Orleans

Michael Pizzolatto discussed the variety of programs at the Tulane Center for Public Service that help students get involved with community partners such as the Green Project, the Bucket Brigade and city government. He advised that students planning for a career in public service intern or work in the field for two years before applying to graduate school.

Charles Reith explained that the key to getting a job in the public service field dealing with climate change is having experience researching and presenting a renewable energy assessment. He suggested that if one can dialogue with communities about the benefits of renewable energy and then assess, analyze and prescribe solutions, a world of opportunity awaits. This is especially true with regard to carbon 'management', where a good grasp of the scientific terms and phrasing is essential. One emerging career is 'carbon foot printing', which involves assessing green house gas inventories for individuals, homes, companies, communities, cities, states and nations. Another is brokering instruments to fund companies that are seeking a return on investment for producing renewable energies in the market. A third option is strategic planning or a career in corporate governance focused on the environment impact of business. Another exciting career is 'carbon prospecting', which involves traveling to developing countries and assessing and then helping to reduce their carbon foot print. This may involve initiating a community project that installs solar energy panels in remote villages for example. Funding for these kinds of projects is available through the Kyoto Treasury.

Reith then summarized the work he is doing for Pace Global, a Washington, D.C. based firm. Pace Global is involved in a wide spectrum of environmental projects, including carbon sequestration, energy planning and renewable energies. He has learned that to succeed in the field, it is important to stay current on climate change science and legislation. He stresses that knowing environmental regulation, the Kyoto Protocol and the joint implementation plan is paramount. Reith suggested a wealth of up-to-date information and networks are accessible online on a variety of carbon websites.

Next, Beth Galante from Global Green New Orleans emphasized that experience gives you an edge. She explained that most companies and graduate schools weigh heavily the internship and training experience of potential candidates. She then described the three-point strategy of Global Green: technical assistance, education and advocacy. In New Orleans, her organization, which is aligned with the International Green Cross, is drawing a line in the sand. Global Green is helping the city create seven green schools. Two are completely new and the other five are reconstruction projects. The organization also has twenty-three green building projects in the ninth ward, including homes, apartments and a community center.

When it comes to working in the non-profit environmental world, Galante suggested there are jobs for everyone from architecture to law to engineering to advocacy. Yet all applicants should be as highly skilled in their field as possible. Galante also explained the benefits of an emerging new occupational category, green collar jobs. These are environmental-related jobs that do not necessarily require advanced education. They are often low wage positions, but benefit the entire world. The important thing is that all of these environmentally related occupations, from green collar to policy positions, provide an opportunity for ordinary people to change the world.

Reported by:  
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