

What's important to you?

While it is possible to work in a socially responsible way in almost any job, choosing a career that allows you to help others or to create a better world can be particularly satisfying and meaningful. Of course, there are various criteria to consider when making your career decisions.

Which of the following will affect your choice of a career?

- Salary and financial issues
- Health, retirement, and other benefits
- Advancement options
- Working conditions
- Social status
- Location
- Opportunity to help others or to create a better world
- Social and environmental consequences of my job



Career counselors have lots of information about careers and can help you identify criteria for your decisions.

For more information

check out these books:

Making a Living While Making a Difference, Revised Edition. Melissa Everett. New Society Publishers, 2007.

On Value and Values: Thinking Differently About We in an Age of Me. Douglas K. Smith. Financial Times Prentice Hall, 2004.

The Nonprofit Career Guide: How to Land a Job That Makes a Difference. Shelly Cryer. Fieldstone Alliance, 2008.

The Ethical Careers Guide. Gideon Burrows (Ed.). New International Publications Ltd., 2006.

The ECO Guide to Careers that Make a Difference: Environmental Work for A Sustainable World. Environmental Careers Organization. Island Press, 2004.

The Idealist Guide to Nonprofit Careers for First-time Job Seekers. Meg Busse. Action Without Borders, 2008. Download free online version at: www.idealist.org/en/career/guide/firsttime/index.html



Published in 2008 by:
Psychologists for Social Responsibility
San Luis Obispo, California
and
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Washington, DC 20002

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Want to make a difference?

consider
CAREERS
FOR THE
greater
GOOD

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As you think about the future...

...give some thought to how your future will fit into the future of your community, the nation and the world.

The information in this flyer may help you to discover career possibilities that contribute to “the greater good.” Such fields of work are called by a variety of names, including “socially responsible” careers, “sustainable” careers, “doing well by doing good,” “careers that make a difference,” “green careers.”

Jobs in such fields are about making your life’s work count for something more than a paycheck. Careers such as this are built on an awareness of the consequences of what we do every day. These jobs:

- create products or provide services that promote human well-being.
- exist in companies and organizations that treat workers fairly.
- offer pay and benefits comparable to those in less socially responsible fields.
- create little or no environmental pollution.
- are not destructive to human beings.
- respect life in all forms

Opportunities for socially responsible careers exist in most sectors of the US economy, including (but not limited to):

- health care, human services
- education
- federal, state and local government
- public and private social services
- environmental protection
- sustainable energy production
- nonprofit organizations
- public service agencies

You can find out more about hundreds of socially responsible career opportunities online at:

www.graduationpledge.org/jobs.html

Here are a few examples...

...of the exciting kinds of work that fit the description we’re calling “Careers for the Greater Good.”

Chris Robinson

Chris Robinson has always been an idealist. These days, she’s able to work at it full time, serving in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica, helping women’s groups with education and community development.

Jack Markowitz

Growing up, **Jack Markowitz** never thought he’d want to be a teacher. In college, however, he was inspired by a couple of outstanding professors. After working in a government job for two years, he decided to go back to school and prepare for a high school teaching career. He now teaches sociology and psychology, and is a career counselor for students in his school.

Carmen Camacho

Carmen Camacho is an electronic engineer who chose to look beyond the usual firms in industry who were hiring her classmates. She discovered a rewarding opportunity in research and design of alternative energy systems. Her current project involves a major solar energy installation that her firm is building under a contract with a regional public utility company.

Gerald Sing

Right out of high school, **Gerald Sing** was able to find a job near home. He loves working outside, and now, every day the weather allows, he’s out there doing environmental restoration for major construction projects. For instance, when a utility company has to repair power lines or underground services, they inevitably tear up the earth. Gerald and his team come in with erosion controlling plants, restore the area, and maintain it for three years.

One thing you can do right now!

If the idea of a socially responsible career appeals to you, you can sign the “Graduation Pledge” that thousands of students have already signed. The pledge doesn’t commit you to any particular career field; it just says you want to find a career and carry out your job responsibilities in a way that considers the social and environmental consequences. Here’s the pledge:

“I _____ pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work.”



For information about pledge campaigns, go to:

www.graduationpledge.org

Then, click on “Info for Pledge Signers” to find:

- Ideas to consider when seeking socially responsible employment
- Links to currently available socially responsible jobs and internships
- Ideas for making changes on the job
- Links with information about socially responsible careers