

Resource**Work Voices #11****Elizabeth Sarmiento - Environmental Project Manager**

It is helpful to view one segment at a time

Elizabeth Sarmiento is from Honduras and works as a project manager with [Valley Verde](#), a non profit company based in San Jose. The company provides gardens and supplies to low income families, and Elizabeth and her colleagues teach the families about nutrition and growing their own food in a way that yields healthy food while having minimal impact on the environment.

Elizabeth describes her journey working odd jobs and attending evening classes to learn English. She transferred to [Foothill College and joined the ESL program](#), eventually moving to De Anza College to study in the [Environmental Studies Department](#).

She describes all the different employment options in the environmental studies field. For example, she talks about opportunities in water conservation and water resource management and in landscaping which is a huge field in itself. There is also the option to become an educator in any of these fields.

Elizabeth emphasizes that almost any job can promote sustainability and awareness of environmental impact.

Preview activities/Introductory questions

Warm up questions

How would you apply the term “green” to your everyday life?

Are there ways you could be greener in your life?

How could you apply this to what you eat?

Vocabulary

Nutrition, organic, sustainability, non-profit, landscaping, conservation, resource management.

Focus questions

- Where did Elizabeth learn English?
- Describe her work as a project manager and explain what is she trying to do?
- Why does she feel her work is important?
- “We can promote sustainability in any job” Explain what she means and give examples.

Discuss responses.

Post viewing

Research

a Training courses

- Investigate the different training programs for employment in the environmental field. List the different organizations that provide training and the programs they offer.
- Find training programs offered in the [Department of Environmental Studies at De Anza College](#) – as an example.
- What information would you need about each program in order to apply for it?

b Job opportunities

- Investigate the different fields for employment in the environmental field.
- List the range of job options you could pursue – water resource management, solar energy, energy efficiency, landscaping etc.

Summarize findings for a and b in two paragraphs to share and discuss with the class

Reflection

- Why does Elizabeth recommend this work?
- What kind of personal qualities would work well for her work?
- What personal qualities does she bring?

Write a short reflection paragraph in response to these questions

Contact assignment

Interview someone who works in an area related to environmental sustainability that interests you. Record the interview if possible.

Post it to your class blog – if you have one.

Further resources

- Environmental Studies Department at [De Anza College](#)
- Green and Sustainable Business Programs at [City College of San Francisco](#)
- Alternative Energy Program information at [Diablo Valley College](#)
- KQED Education ESL [Eco-Literacy Resources](#)