

LIU CAI TRANSCRIPT

Segment 1 – Introduction

>> **LIU:** My name is Liu Cai and I'm originally from China. I am a native Cantonese speaker and I'm currently working at the San Francisco Department of the Environment. My work consists of environmental outreach so the San Francisco Department of the Environment has an Environment Now outreach team that goes out to promote ordinances and certain outreach efforts to help residents get a better understanding of doing the right thing.

Segment 2 – How Does Environmental Outreach Impact The Community?

>> **LIU:** There a list of work that the San Francisco Department of the Environment does, that can range from climate change, zero waste, commercial/residential, green transportation, green building, environment and energy efficiency. I can highlight zero waste, commercial and residential, that is something that the Environment Now outreach team has worked closely with. As you know our city has a goal to reach zero waste by 2020 and there is mandated ordinance for residents and commercial to compost and recycle accordingly. So we are reaching out to different communities in the city to let residents know, to provide information on free pick up services, toxic materials, household hazardous waste and collateral information and tailor our message so residents can make improvements and we answer any questions residents may have.

Segment 3 – What Was Your Experience Learning A New Language?

>> **LIU:** I went to ESL classes. It takes time. You have to be motivated and encourage yourself to learn and understand the environment and develop your writing and reading skills. The way I learned English in China was just through listening to recordings. There were very few English programs; I was still watching Cantonese soap operas. It wasn't until I arrived in San Francisco that I started to pick up more English skills and have an understanding of the culture and nuances. Since I am a native Cantonese speaker, when I arrived in San Francisco, I started attending City College where I developed my English skills.

Segment 4 – What Do You Expect From This Career?

>> **LIU:** The San Francisco Training Green Program is part of City College of San Francisco and Goodwill Industries and the Economic Workforce Development Department to provide training in energy efficiency, which was the field I chose. You do basic conceptual math skills, energy efficiency, green building - the basics to start you off. That was a very inspiring program for me to be more engaged with the community and be more aware of the environment. And further down you can continue to get certified with the Building Performance Institute through training with Laney College.

The training program inspired and motivated me to learn more about what I can do about the environment. I worked on numerous projects to help reduce the impact on our environment, to reduce our carbon footprint.

Segment 5 – Tell Us About Your Training Experience

>> **LIU:** It is not a short course, it's about a six month training program and it is not difficult. It's very engaging and very good instructors work with you throughout the semester. There are math, green building construction basics, blueprint readings, energy efficiency – it's all in one program in different classes throughout the day. You do have to go through a pre-assessment test where you are evaluated for your skills. There are a number of different tests that you go through.

Segment 6 – What Opportunities Are Available In This Field?

>> **LIU:** I know when I worked with the San Francisco Energy Watch I know that the listed lighting contractors that worked with the city and county of San Francisco are creating more jobs for lighting consultants and lighting installation and there has been increasing demand since the incentive program was available for local businesses.

S F Environment has the outreach program and it is ongoing. One of my favorite campaigns is the SF Energy Watch program. This is the energy efficiency program where you reach out to different business corridors in the city to let owners and managers know about financial incentive programs they can use to upgrade their lighting fixtures and reduce energy costs. They work with the energy team and with lighting contractors. So there is a job increase in lighting consultants and lighting installation as well. It's in high demand in our community.

There is also a need for communication in different languages. It's very satisfying when you are able to connect with maybe a Cantonese or Mandarin speaking community and convey that positive message. It's a great thing and it's something I take pride in.

It's our Earth, our home, our city and it is something everyone should take pride in.

Segment 7 – Would You Recommend this job?

>> **LIU:** The department has a lot of great resources. I get to work great people. I am very happy with my work environment.

My colleague works with the toxics team who reach out to local businesses in the city to let them know how to take greater safety measures as far as the health of the workers, clients and customers at the business. She speaks Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin. Those are the languages that are needed in the department to reach out to non-English speakers.