

Resource**Work Voices #14****Liu Cai, Energy Information Specialist**

It is helpful to view one segment at a time

Liu Cai is from China and is a native Cantonese speaker. He works in San Francisco for the Department of the Environment as part of an outreach team, Environment Now, that goes out into the community to provide information and promote sustainable waste policies, such as how to compost and recycle, use free pick up services and how to dispose of hazardous waste to improve the quality of the environment for all residents.

He describes the work of the [San Francisco Department of Environment](#) which ranges from working on clean transportation, climate change, zero waste strategies and green building and energy efficiency – all areas with ongoing employment opportunities. Liu also explains the work of the Energy Watch program which recommends upgrades in lighting fixtures to residents and commercial companies to conserve energy. It seems this work with lighting contractors and consultants is an important area of growth.

Liu Cai attended ESL classes at City College of San Francisco and also describes learning English in China when he was younger. He was trained at [TrainGreen SF](#) which is a 6 month program which Liu describes as not difficult and definitely inspiring.

Talking about his work, Liu says: “It’s our earth and it’s something that you should take pride in!”

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?

What does energy efficiency mean?

What is the connection to sustainability?

Vocabulary

Environment, energy efficiency, conserve, commercial, residential, upgrades, renewable energy, hazardous, zero waste, consultants

Focus questions

- Where was Liu trained?
- Describe his work and what it involves?
- Who does he work with?
- Why does Liu his work is important?

- What does Energy Watch do?
- Why does Liu think there will be employment opportunities in his area of work?

Discuss responses.

Post viewing

Research

a Training courses

- Investigate the different fields for employment in energy conservation.
- Find training programs in energy efficiency and conservation. What information would you need about each program in order to apply for it?

b Job opportunities

- Look for job opportunities in energy conservation.
- List the range of job options you could pursue in climate change, zero waste, green transportation, green building, environment and energy efficiency etc.

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

Reflection

- Why does Liu recommend this work?
- What kind of personal qualities would work well for this job?
- What personal qualities does he bring?
- "It's our earth and it's something that you should take pride in!" What is Liu saying here?

Write a short reflection paragraph in response to these questions

Contact assignment

Interview someone who works in an area of energy conservation that interests you. Record the interview if possible.

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

Further resources

- [San Francisco Department of Environment](#)
- Green and Sustainable Business Programs at [City College of San Francisco](#)
- Energy Systems Technology Management (ESTM) Department at [Skyline College](#)
- KQED Education ESL [Eco-Literacy Resources](#)