

# GREEN JOB FACT SHEET

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Community relations specialists build and maintain ongoing relationships with diverse communities. They work to create trust and provide a line of communication between diverse communities and government agencies or private companies engaged in development practices. They are often deeply rooted in an Indigenous community and bring in-depth knowledge of diverse cultures, community issues, and governance.

## The Big Picture

Community relations specialists make sure that projects comply with environmental laws and protect historical sites and respected ways of life, by:

- **Monitoring**, analyzing, and communicating issues and opportunities.
- **Sharing** best practices and lessons learned among the groups involved.
- **Developing** project plans and permits that meet the needs of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.



## IS THIS CAREER RIGHT FOR YOU?

ARE YOU GOOD AT FINDING COMMON GROUND AMONG DIFFERENT PEOPLE?  
DO YOU CARE HOW DEVELOPMENT AFFECTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

If so, this might be the perfect career for you!

Community relations specialists must be able to see things from other people's perspectives. They meet with communities to identify their needs and work toward compromises. They do research, write reports, plan community engagement activities, and study relevant laws and regulations. To succeed in this job, you need patience to build relationships and trust.

## Salary

U.S. salaries range from about \$36,000 to \$95,000 per year and average about \$56,000.

## Where Can You GROW?

A career in community relations can include work as a **traditional ecological knowledge advisor, heritage interpreter, or conservation relationship consultant**. Some possible employers:

- Federal, state, or local government agencies
- Forest industry companies
- Research organizations
- Consulting firms

## Moving Forward >>>>

The road to working as a **community relations specialist** is **different for everyone**. Many people have training in a related field, such as forestry.

- **HIGH SCHOOL:** Study a wide range of subjects and focus on developing your communication skills.
- **COLLEGE:** Work toward a bachelor's degree in public administration, economic development, law, anthropology, natural resources, or a related discipline.

For more about green jobs, visit [www.plt.org/workingforforests](http://www.plt.org/workingforforests)