

# *Careers and the Environment*

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**Duration 40 mins**

## **Abstract**

Given the present economic conditions in Ireland, a cynic might consider that a presentation on environmental career opportunities might be a very short one. However, while opportunities for environmental scientists are scarcer than ever, they still exist. Regulatory compliance by industry and the waste sector is still required and involves graduates working both as regulators and representing the interests of the regulated. Some sectors in environmental consultancy in Ireland remain very busy, although salaries have been cut substantially. And while there is the present economic down-turn, environmental issues will not somehow go away; their pervasive effect is likely to spread even further in the next decade, thereby sustaining many long-term opportunities.

Duncan's talk will review career opportunities for environmental professionals in the public and private sectors, including in environmental regulation, consultancy and industry. He will suggest ways to address the classic Catch-22 which faces all environmental science graduates and post-graduates: to get a job you need experience, but you can't obtain that experience without first having a job. Key growth sectors in environmental management will be identified, with the presentation suggesting ways by which graduates and post-graduates can make themselves more attractive to employers. A vast amount of information is now available on-line which allows both up-skilling and research on potential employers. Duncan will also be available after the session for further discussions.

## **Biography**

Dr Duncan Laurence has been continuously employed in environmental management since 1986. He has worked as an academic and as a regulatory official in both the UK and Ireland, being employed by the EPA between 1996 and 2000. Since then, he has run his own consultancy in Wexford, specialising in environmental policy and legislation and its effect on infrastructure projects. He has an extensive knowledge of European, Irish and UK waste legislation and of Irish planning,

environmental impact assessment and habitats law. He is the author of a leading law book on waste regulation in Britain and is a regular speaker at conferences. He has also provided training to local authority and EPA staff on the enforcement of environmental legislation.

As a retained consultant to one of the largest environmental and engineering consultancies in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Co Ltd, Duncan is well-placed to provide information on trends in environmental work areas and career paths. He holds a degree in environmental sciences, an MSc and is both a Chartered Wastes Manager and a Chartered Environmentalist. His PhD involved a study of hazardous waste reduction opportunities in steel production companies.