

About Urban and Regional Planners



Employment Outlook

This occupation is expected to grow at a faster rate (12.4%) between 2008 and 2018 than the average rate of 9.1 percent for all occupations statewide. Reasonable employment opportunities exist for trained workers. A total of 411 job openings are expected over the 10-year period, due to both growth in the occupation and the need to replace retiring workers.

Wages

In 2011, hourly wages for urban and regional planners range from \$22.44 for entry-level workers to \$44.61 near the top of the pay scale. The average hourly wage is \$32.59. This translates to \$67,807 annually for a full-time position.

Selected Skills

- Apply economic principles and trends
- Interpret maps, charts, and tables for applied analysis and research
- Plan and design public works projects
- Research and apply land use regulations
- Write grant proposals and project or bid proposals

GREEN JOBS

Learn More About Green Jobs...

QualityInfo.org/Green



This workforce solution has been funded, either wholly or in part, with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, under grant #GJ-19828. The contents of this workforce solution do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement of same by the U.S. Government.

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Urban and Regional Planners

GREEN Jobs in Oregon



Urban and regional planners develop and conduct studies and develop proposals. They plan for the overall growth and improvement of urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Not all urban and regional planners are "green." Green workers have essential job duties in at least one of five categories included in the definition of a green job. Green jobs work to:

- Increase energy efficiency
- Produce renewable energy
- Prevent, reduce, or mitigate environmental degradation
- Clean up and restore the natural environment
- Educate, consult, and provide other services that support the above

Day in the Life of an Urban and Regional Planner: *Allen Kemplen*

What exactly do you do in your job?

I work with communities on projects that will be eligible for federal funds. I help local communities identify transportation concerns. It involves more than automobiles. It includes pedestrians, bicycles, public transit, trains, planes, airports, boats, and harbors. I work with many different groups to help them understand the process. I help them develop and organize their plans. I help them achieve their goals.



Does your job help benefit the environment?

My job definitely helps the environment. Transportation is one of the major contributors to global warming in the United States. So, whatever we can do to reduce that amount is very important to maintain a livable planet. This is one of the reasons why planners advocate for sidewalks, pedestrian facilities, bikeways, and transit stops. We want to make sure that each road project serves all users. That way, people are not forced to get into a car.

What are the most important skills you use in your job?

You need to have good analytical skills. Planning is not a well-defined science with definite formulas, like physics or math. You really need to think about policies and abstract issues and how to define them. This means putting them in a form that makes sense so you can find a solution. A planner also needs good communication skills. Verbal and writing skills are as important as knowing the technical side of planning.

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Education and Training

Workers must have a bachelor's degree to gain the necessary skills for this occupation. Those with a master's degree have a competitive advantage in this labor market.

Training programs for this occupation include, but are not limited to:

Planning, Public Policy, and Management

- University of Oregon

Community Development

- Portland State University

Visit QualityInfo.org/Green for more information about green jobs in Oregon.

