

Environmental Engineer

Clean water, contaminated sites and climate projects. Mostly consulting firms, with a real share of the year outdoors.

TYPICAL PAY

\$101,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$67k to \$150k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Consulting firms, municipalities,
mining and energy sites, governm...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Advanced Functions, Calculus, Physics and Chemistry are required. Marks in the high 80s or above at most schools.
- 2 Accredited environmental engineering degree** 4 to 5 years with co-op
 A four-year Bachelor of Engineering or Applied Science at a school accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. Civil or chemical engineering with an environmental option is just as accepted.
- 3 Engineer-in-training** About 4 years
 Register with your provincial regulator and work under a licensed engineer. Log your experience, including field work.
- 4 Professional practice exam** During your EIT (engineer-in-training) years
 A law and ethics exam, taken during your training years.
- 5 P.Eng (professional engineer) licence** After 4 years
 Apply with your experience record and references. Now you can sign off on site assessments, water system designs and remediation plans.

Pros and cons

- + Work that directly protects drinking water and land
- + Climate and infrastructure spending keep demand steady
- + A mix of field work and office work
- Pay is below oil, gas and mining for the same years of school
- Consulting runs on billable hours and deadlines
- Field work means mud, bugs, cold and hotel nights

Good to know

Walkerton changed the rules

In 2000, contaminated drinking water in Walkerton, Ontario, killed seven people and made thousands sick. The inquiry that followed rewrote Ontario's drinking water laws and made engineers and licens...

A fifth of the world's fresh water

Canada holds roughly 20% of the world's fresh water, though much of it is locked in lakes and glaciers that cannot be tapped. Protecting it is a big share of the job.

Optional boosts

Qualified person designation. Water and wastewater design. Project Management Professional (PMP). A master's in water resources or hydrogeology.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Environmental engineers (counted with civil engineers), wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Engineers Canada
 Professional Engineers Ontario
 Engineers and Geoscientists BC

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/environmental-engineer>



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