



Zero Waste Consultant and Business Owner

Job Description

Develops and implements **waste reduction plans** to minimize waste and enhance recycling efforts with local government and businesses. They educate business owners and employees about **best waste management practices and alternative products** to ensure everyone understands their role in achieving sustainability goals.

Salary

Entry — \$71,000
Middle — \$99,500
Top — \$128,000

Core Tasks

- Analysis of waste generated by businesses to identify areas for improvement.
- Collaborate with businesses to create innovative plans to reduce waste at all levels. Track and report on the success of waste initiatives to business management.
- Develop improvements or new strategies to continue reducing waste.

Workplace / Environment

- **Work hours**
Approx. 40 hours/week
(At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- **Environment**
Typical office setting with frequent visits to business sites and zero waste events.
- **Travel**
Local travel to businesses, partners, or to participate in events.

Education / Prerequisites

Education Level

Bachelor's degree in a relevant or closely related field like environmental science, engineering, etc.

Licensing

WA Business License, Zero Waste Consulting Certification

Pre-Job Preparation

Experience in consulting, business management, and knowledge of zero waste strategies.

Experience

Soft Skills

- Communication and Conflict Management
- Attention to Detail
- Time Management

Technical Skills

- Data Collection and Analysis
- Business Management
- Technical Writing



Career Path: Moji Igun

About Me

Zero Waste Consultant and Founder of Blue Daisi Consulting

Bachelor's of Mechanical Engineering, and
Minor in International Studies

Early Directions

"I thought I was going to be a rocket scientist when I was younger. When I was obsessed with space. High school Moji loved math and science, I loved the hands-on puzzles that math and science ended up being. I remember vividly in AP Physics making a [Rube Goldberg machine](#) and I loved doing that. But I was also always in a bunch of clubs. I was an ice skater, I skated competitively all through high school and college. I was on my Newspaper Club. I worked part time during school. I was in student government. I loved so many different things. [I had so many interests](#), and I loved high school that let me explore all of those things before deciding exactly how I wanted to use that."

A Winding Path

"I was going to study aerospace engineering in college, and then I got to college, and I thought that was [way too narrow](#), so I ended up majoring in mechanical engineering. But [I didn't like any of the job options](#) that were available through our career fair. After graduating, I went to take a gap year with AmeriCorps, which went back to my roots and helped support math and science in ninth grade classrooms. I did that for a year, and then decided that I wanted to give engineering one more try. I went to work in the construction industry where I was a quality engineer. It was my first "big girl job," I was making a full time salary and I started to do more sustainable things at home because I had the money to buy more expensive sustainable swaps. I realized as I was doing it at home, how hard it was for someone who really cares about the environment to make sustainable choices, I wanted to [make it easier for everybody](#) to be more sustainable.

Designing Your Dream

"So after my time in construction, I was like, [why not design my dream job?](#) Both of my parents have their own small businesses, so they both modeled that for me growing up. I decided to learn about business and I took some [local classes at women in business or small business centers](#). I had this slight sense of delusion that I knew what I was doing, and I think that propelled me forward to actually go out and try it, instead of being scared of even getting started. That's how [I ended up creating Blue Daisi Consulting](#). It's problem solving. It's analysis from engineering school. It's specifically working on a sustainability issue. This is my dream job. "

About My Job

"I have a job that I feel is important, and people appreciate the work that is being done."

Pros

- "Having my own business is an **added bonus**, I get to self-direct, I get to choose what my day-to-day work looks like, what products I get to work on. I love that about it."
- "A lot of my work relies on connecting with people, either to share information with them or to convince them to try a zero waste alternative to what they already are doing. And **I love people, I'm an introvert, but I love people**. So getting to chat with people, learn about what their organizations or their business do, and problem solve with them, **is really, really fun**."

Cons

- "I would say, as a business owner, someone who's self employed, **there is a lot of risk in that**. I don't just get a paycheck every two weeks that's reliable. I have to go out and find that business and make that paycheck happen. So it's a lot more difficult, **it's just a different type of work**. I find that to be a challenging part of the job."

Fieldwork

- "Sometimes I'm walking around Seattle neighborhoods and **saying hello to business owners**, usually restaurants or cafes, building my network."
- "Sometimes **I'm teaching workshops**, either in person or on Zoom."
- "Other times I'm **helping with zero waste events** in the city, physically hauling dishes or moving compost to help make those run more smoothly."

Office Work

- "I do zero waste consulting, which means **I help businesses, local governments, and community organizations**, find creative solutions for keeping stuff out of the landfill."
- "**Two days are never the same**. Sometimes I'm sitting in Zoom meetings with my team or my clients or meeting people in person."

Skills

- **"Focus on soft skills.** There are a lot of people who have technical knowledge about zero waste, that's the easy part. I think those are the key skills that are helpful, in really any job, but specifically sustainability work."
- **"Curiosity is really important.** The things that make you stand out are really your personality and who you are. Lean into your own skills.**Your individuality and bringing that into work is super, super powerful."**
- **"Be flexible.** Things are developing and changing all the time. Leave space for always having that sense of curiosity and exploration and letting things emerge and change over time. So if you have an idea of what you want to do now, go on that path, and if it changes in 10 years, **don't be afraid of changing and shifting and pivoting,** because that's just part of life."

Education/Experience

- **"What's really interesting is I don't have an MBA.** I didn't get a business degree in any way, but paying attention to the world around you, and seeing what issues there are, and specifically what issues need a business. Maybe a solution could be a community project or a nonprofit, or just a thing that you do individually, but being able to **discern what actually needs to be a business** is really key."
- **"You can start out in engineering.** You can start out in public policy. You can start in architecture and construction. You can be an artist. **There are so many pathways to the work that I do.** So I wouldn't stress too much about a specific major or pathway to get here. If you care about this, you can find your way here."

The Future of Zero Waste

"For the Zero Waste consulting space, I see that definitely growing, even though it's hard to say with our current federal circumstances. But zero waste work will always need to be done, and it's **completely apolitical in its fundamentals,** trash is going to keep piling up, and we need to do something about it. I can see more organizations, more cities, more counties, investing more thought and resources into that. I can see the **topic areas that we focus on expanding.** There are some new initiatives around zero waste fashion and how to make the textile industry more sustainable. I think that is a completely emerging area that has not really been touched on yet."

"I only see my business growing and expanding from here, I'm definitely excited. I've been doing this for seven years now. I'm really excited to develop "mini-me" people who can take over for me, so I can mentor them and step back so that I'm not always being hands on with all my projects, but I'm **empowering other people to do that.** With that comes **excitement about pursuing other creative projects,** I have so many interests, so many hobbies. There's so many other things I would love to do with my life and my time, so I'm excited to explore those too."

About Sustainability Ambassadors

We are here to **RAPIDLY ADVANCE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**. Empowering **YOUTH** to catalyze community sustainability, **TEACHERS** to integrate rigor with relevance for real-world impact, **COMMUNITY** to drive collective impact.

We support a year-round training program for over 60 highly motivated middle and high school youth, a Teacher Fellows Program, City-County CAP internships, and college-level interns, and work with hundreds of educators to design new models of problem-based, place-based learning around **a shared vision of educating for sustainability**.

Your Green Jobs Future

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Find career opportunities near you now! Use [Career Connect - Washington's](#) tool to find programs to build your career skills.

Interested in a future in solar? Take a look at the [Solar Jobs Census](#) to track solar job growth nationwide.

Explore [RVC's opportunities](#) to work with organizations led by communities of color.

Dive into the [Center of Excellence for Clean Energy's](#) robust career tools in the sustainable energy sector.

Grow your professional sustainability skillset with the [Seattle Youth Good Program](#).

See Seattle's [Clean Energy Resources Map](#) to examine what the city is planning for a greener energy future.

Check out the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) to explore the sector's current opportunities. :

Funder Acknowledgement



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

