



# Food Waste Entrepreneur

## Job Description

A Food Waste Entrepreneur **develops innovative solutions** to **reduce food waste** and **improve sustainability systems**. They identify opportunities to redirect waste into useful resources such as **compost**, **energy**, or **food** recovery programs. This role involves working with **businesses**, **communities**, and **organizations** to create scalable systems that support **environmental** and **economic impact**.

## Salary

WA Average

Entry — \$32,377

Middle — \$63,925

Top — \$166,757

## Core Tasks

- **Design** and **implement** food waste reduction and diversion systems
- **Build partnerships** with businesses, organizations, and community groups
- **Develop** composting, food recovery, and waste management programs

## Workplace / Environment

- **Work hours**  
**Approx. 40+ hours/week**  
(At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- **Environment**  
**Hybrid work** – home office, community spaces, and outdoor environments.
- **Travel**  
Local travel to community **sites**, **partner locations**, and **events**.

## Education / Prerequisites

### Education Level

BA or BS in Environmental Science, Sustainability, Business, or a related field

### Licensing

Compost Operator certification or similar program. If building a business, license required.

### Pre-Job Preparation

2–5 years experience in sustainability, waste management, environmental programs, project development, or community outreach

## Experience

### Soft Skills

- Communication
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Adaptability

### Technical Skills

- Composting systems knowledge
- Program development & coordination
- Grant writing & outreach
- Environmental systems understanding



## Career Path: Joycelyn Chui

### About Me

Co-Founder and Strategic Advisor at  
Restaurant 2 Garden

Studied Environmental Science from University  
of Washington

### High School Life

"In **high school** I did not want to do anything in the **environmental field**. I grew up doing a lot of dance, specifically group dances. I really learned to appreciate **teamwork** from that perspective and I wanted to be a **dance therapist** when I was in high school. I had a **knee injury** towards the end of high school and that really pivoted me even going more towards the **field of physical therapy** and **rehabbing** for people and athletes who got hurt during practice or during competition."

### College Choices

"When I started my college career here in the **University of Washington**, that's when my interest in environmental science started to sprout a little. I took a lot of **environmental science classes**, **marine biology**, ect. Those classes sparked my interest in **agriculture** and doing more **environmental research**, which led me to my first job out of college."

### Into the Real World

"I was able to find myself a job being a **translator** between **English and Cantonese and Mandarin**, but more importantly being a translator and being the **messenger** to bring **environmental programming** to these communities. So I was the bridge between the policy world to the environmental programs and communities who don't speak English as a first language. And that was that environmental seed taking root and turning into my environmental career.

I was able to reach out to a lot of Chinese, Cantonese-speaking, and Mandarin-speaking communities here in the **Puget Sound area**. I brought solid waste programs to these communities, learning about how to **reduce garbage, what is recyclable, and how to manage our community's food waste**. We also worked on **green stormwater infrastructure programs**. By doing these programs, I learned about the importance of **composting** and having a local way of **handling our organic waste** and how that is such a critical step to mitigate **climate change**."

# About My Job

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"Bringing people together to care for the earth is something I really love doing."

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## Pros

- "It feels like every day is a **new set of goals**, a **new challenge**."
- "I get to **interact with a wide range of folks** who are interested in environmental work and advancing environmental justice in our region."
- "Getting **to know everybody** in the community."
- "It's more than just gardening and growing food. There is a **huge social component**. It is such a well-loved community resource."
- "It feels like **I'm reconnected with my culture**, with my roots, with, you know, elder members of my family."
- "I can **do stuff at home** and **get the community connections**."

## Cons

- "There is **no playbook** or blueprints, we are **building the plane** as we fly it."
- "The industry in general are quite **homogeneous**, oftentimes I **find myself being one of the very few people** in the room who are BIPOC."
- "We **do a lot of work** during nights and weekends."

## Fieldwork

- "Every Saturday **we go to the Danny Wu Community Garden** to lead a **volunteer work** day."
- "**Meeting with a potential partner** to work to further the goals of the project."
- "We also **meet other team** members in person."
- "From my home office environment to the **in person meeting** space in the Chinatown International District neighborhood."

## Office Work

- "We have a **remote work environment** when we need to do **behind the scenes** work."
- "It could be **writing a grant** today."
- "**Talking to a potential funding organization** that wants to get to know our program."
- "We actually have a rented office space in the neighborhood to do **programming discussions**."

## Skills

- "Learn through firsthand experience."
- "See it for yourself and find out for yourself what you like and don't like."
- "The grit of not being afraid to fail because we are building a new system."
- "Be adaptable and don't being afraid of trying new things."
- "Stay curious about what works and what doesn't work."
- "Don't be afraid when people reject you."
- "Practice communication."

## Education/Experience

- "There is no definite education or experience."
- "If you have an interest in science that would aid our work."
- "Some background in biology, some background in chemistry, soil science would be helpful."
- "How you communicate with people, how you show up in a group and how you convey your messages across."
- "It is important to build that first impression when we are talking to other people. That is something critical across all industries."

## The Future of Composting and Zero Waste

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"I think this movement is going to grow in the future."

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"In terms of scaling and expanding, I think there is a lot of interest in other community gardens doing similar work. They already think about how to recycle nutrients, just a fancy way of cutting stuff down and letting the earth break it down and use it as soil amendments next year. Restaurant 2 Garden has a great role in helping other community members set up their own system, we are here to share what we have learned in the past, the pitfalls, and also share the love and knowledge of composting to other people who want to get into that. So we are offering low barrier volunteer work days for you to try it out, and we have communication materials that would help you build a system at home.

I think this movement is going to grow in the future. People are aware of the linkage between gas being emitted in landfills due to having organic waste in the landfill and the linkage to climate change. So food scraps and organic composting is quite an immediate and actionable step for people to take to help curb global warming and climate change. I believe that aids in the growth and the expansion of this movement moving forward."

# 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**.

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**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**

