Beyond Earth Science: Leveraging your degree

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September 16, 2009
The Basics

- BA Earth Science, UCB, 1996
- MBA, McGill University, 2004

Current position:
  Sr. Project Administrator
  Maritime Division
  Port of Oakland
Interests and Goals – An Evolution

- Nature
- Environmental science
- Science, data, analysis
- Soil, groundwater, natural resources
- Technical work
- Projects
- Policy
- Transportation (service & goods)
- Real estate, asset management
- Construction
- Business & management
Building a Career
Examples of My Work Experience

- Removal of underground storage tanks
- Soil reuse and management
- Groundwater sampling
- Dredging & sediment testing
- Environmental permit negotiation
- Environmental impact reports
- Waste management & pricing
- Risk assessments & remedial plans
- Advocacy strategy
- Membership fundraising
And…

- Manage lease agreements and contracts
- Infrastructure & technology implementation
- Construction project oversight
- Cost & budget estimating
- Manage public meetings
- Public involvement processes, community affairs
- Public-private development negotiations
- Policy/master plans
- Manage people & consultants
Client vs. Consultant

- Focus & responsibilities
- Project perspective
- Project diversity
- Customer service
- Business development
- Hours worked
Public vs. Private Sector

- Breadth of topics & issues
- Uniqueness in the “market place”
- Public input
- Governance
- Process & bureaucracy
- Funding and profit ($)
Key Skills for Your First Job

- Self-motivation
- Analysis
- Writing
- Delivery of work product
- Communication
- Time management

People skills!
Opportunity…
Even in Challenging Times

- Utilities & energy
- Regulatory
- Regional planning
- Transportation
- Health, safety, & compliance
Tips

- Internship
  - Get a leg up on the competition

- Consulting
  - Great way to get your feet wet
  - Get to know the players in your field
  - Meet people

- Industry & regulatory
  - Experience your field from a different perspective
  - Figure out your “track”

- Work before going to graduate school