



Alison Younts

B.S. in Environmental Engineering (2017)
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Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Lead Sustainability Consultant:

As the Lead Sustainability Consultant at Trayak, I manage a growing team of consultants working on sustainability initiatives and projects for our clients and supporting current users of our life cycle assessment (LCA) software. While with the company, I have been responsible for conducting LCAs and helping companies reduce their packaging environmental impact, database management, custom requirements for clients, training and presentations at conferences, general support of our user base, and continual growth of the software and company. I have been lucky to work on a wide variety of projects learning LCA framework and calculations, coding and database management, consulting skills, public speaking, and now people and project management.

Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:

My background in environmental engineering enables me to hit the ground running when it comes to critical thinking during a client project or assessment. In this role, I need to gather information quickly and be able to guide my clients using science-based methodologies to help them make informed decisions for their future packaging and product development. Although I am

not working as a traditional “engineer” in my role, I am still able to use my engineering background and knowledge to effectively problem solve, communicate with clients, and conduct research. Teamwork, time management, and technical understanding are also crucial with any consulting project.

What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Environmental Engineering?

Environmental engineering is a broad major that can encapsulate many facets of the environment. It can be an avenue into consulting, water management, civil engineering, and sustainability. Currently, sustainability is a “buzzword” and becoming a larger topic in any organization because companies need ways to calculate their impact, manage their resources, and improve. Environmental engineering can provide the knowledge behind considering environmental impact, waste management, air pollution, water management, renewable sources of energy, and product/package design that can all support the goal of improving sustainability. I would say, if there is a student, like me, who is passionate about sustainability and reducing environmental impacts, then environmental engineering is a great major to pursue!

