



Five Ways to Discover Your Green Passions

By Carol McClelland, PhD

Knowing your passions is the key to your success.

The sooner you can bring your unique tapestry of passions into focus, the sooner you can begin to focus your quest for your green career.

Follow this list to discover how to leverage your everyday actions to target your passions.

1. **READ – What you are drawn to read gives you a tremendous source of clues about your passions.** For a week or two, record the titles of all of the articles, websites, books, blogs, and magazine articles you are drawn to read. When I say drawn to read, I mean:
 - You are excited to read it
 - You feel engaged while you read it
 - If you try to pass over it, it stays with you until you return to read it
 - The content sticks with you long after you complete the article
2. **VOLUNTEER – Where you are motivated to give your time, talent, and energy provides you with another source of insight.** Even if you don't have time to volunteer at the moment, you can think about where you'd like to dedicate your energy. Don't limit yourself to the volunteer opportunities that are available in your local area, instead open your mind to opportunities worldwide!
 - What kinds of organizations excite you?
 - What causes are you drawn to support?
 - How do you want to make a difference in your community or the world?

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3. **TALK – What do you enjoy talking about – discussing, explaining, teaching, debating, and sharing?** Pay attention to the topics that engage you in this way. The quality of your voice is very telling. If you speak faster, with more passion, with more energy, it's very likely you are talking about one of your passions! Have a notepad nearby to record your discoveries.
4. **LEARN – What you are driven to learn about will also tell you a lot about what inspires you.** Perhaps you already know what you might want to study. If so, take some time to brainstorm all the areas you'd like to learn about. If the topics aren't top of mind, go online to your local community college, university, or green community center. Scan the list of courses and record the ones that interest you. You don't have to take the classes, just recognize that you are curious to learn about those topics.
5. **SOLVE – The problems you are drawn to ponder and solve are another source of clues to your passions.** Do you try to figure out how to use less energy in your house or business? Are you driven to find better ways to recycle? Do you wonder why businesses are having a hard time jumping into the green economy? Anything you are intrinsically drawn to solve is a good clue to your passions.

Now What?

When you see your full list of interests and passions on paper, take some time to read it over.

- **Does one topic pop out at you?**
- **Do any themes appear?** Record the themes you see so that you have them at your finger tips.
- **Feel free to combine ideas if you see something that fits together.**
- **Prioritize your top three topics/passions.** Use these passions to focus your exploration of possible directions for your career.

When you identify your passions, your entire green career quest benefits from that clarity.

Green Career Expert, Carol McClelland, PhD, is the author of *Green Careers For Dummies* and Founder and Executive Director of **Green Career Central**, an online resource center with easy-to-use tools, coaching programs, and training events to help professionals, students, and career counselors make sense of the green economy. Download our current free report to help you navigate the green economy at www.greencareercentral.com

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