Meet the Scientist!

> As an economist, I study how humans use the environment for goods and services. I also study the value people place on natural resources and processes.

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Important Scientist Characteristics
Persistence is important. To create things that no one has created, and to solve problems that have yet to be solved, you need persistence, grit, and determination. You have to keep working at it until you find a solution or complete your mission.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:
Can algae be used to fuel airplanes, boats, and cars?

Technology or equipment used in research:
I use a computer most often for my work, and on that computer, I use a program called R. I create statistical analysis and web-delivered applications, called apps, to explore and understand the world around us through data.

Most Exciting Discovery
I am amazed at how complicated even the simplest of concepts can be! The world around us is awash in phenomena that generate data. We now have amazing tools to view and understand that world and data from which to make better decisions.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist? I was 20 years old, and I took a college class on environmental economics. I said to myself, "I want to be an environmental economist and save the planet!" Seriously. Now, I don't think I'm saving the planet, but I am fortunate enough to work as an environmental and resource economist. I address important questions about using our natural world and living more sustainable lives.