



APPLICANT GUIDE

SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZED – SBEP

SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PROFESSIONAL – SBEP

SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PROFESSIONAL IN-TRAINING (SBEPt)



YOUR GUIDE TO SBEP DESIGNATION

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in obtaining the Sustainable Blue Economy Professional (SBEP) or Sustainable Blue Economy Professional in-training (SBEPT) designation with ECO Canada.

ECO Canada's certification process is overseen by the Canadian Environmental Certification and Approvals Board (CECAB). CECAB is a national board dedicated to recognizing competent blue economy professionals. The Board oversees the final ratification of candidates, contributes to the maintenance of the certification process, and ensures that the Sustainable Blue Economy Professional (SBEP) Code of Ethics is upheld.

About the Blue National Occupational Standards (NOS)

In 2021, ECO Canada, with funding from the Future Skills Center, introduced Canada's first National Occupancy Standards for (NOS) for the Blue Economy (BNOS). These standards are instrumental in supporting the growth of Canada's Blue Economy by defining key competency requirements for individuals seeking employment in this sector. They provide a framework for professional recognition and guide the development of new training programs to meet future workforce demands.

The project identified six key sectors in the Blue Economy, each requiring unique competencies. Within these sectors, essential employment roles were identified, and comprehensive competency profiles were developed encompassing technical, personal, regulatory and environmental skills necessary for the job. The outcomes of the BNOS project laid the foundation for the SBEP designation, enabling ECO Canada to align this designation with the evolving workforce.

Who is a Sustainable Blue Economy Professional?

A Sustainable Blue Economy Professional is dedicated to advancing sustainable practices in industries and activities related to oceans and coastal areas. As leaders in their sectors, they are committed to continued innovation, ethical standards, and developing their skills while also fostering growth in others. An SBEP plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable development within the Blue Economy, balancing economic opportunities with the need to preserve marine environments for future generations.

Designations Offered

This guide was developed to assist those who are applying for one of the following designations through ECO Canada:

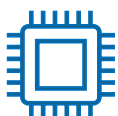
- *Sustainable Blue Economy Professional - Specialized (SBEP)*
An SBEP – specialized, is an expert who has been contributing to a specific sector in the Blue Economy workforce for 5+ years and has demonstrated sector-specific competencies that align with roles in their sector. A specialized SBEP also demonstrates proficiency in all the core competencies for workers in the Blue Economy. SBE Professionals who are specialized are essential for driving forward the sustainability of their sector, ensuring that economic development within marine and coastal environments is conducted sustainably and responsibly.

This professional is proficient in one or more sectors such as:



Offshore Minerals and Resources

Economic activities related to the exploration and extraction of minerals and abiotic resources from offshore sources, including the operation and maintenance of equipment and services.



Ocean Technology

Economic activities related to the production of high-tech marine products including but not limited to sensor technology, remote sensing, subsea vehicles/robotics, autonomous systems, harsh ocean environment technology, marine simulation, or marine engineering to support the development of other subsectors; or the usage of marine resources to produce knowledge, goods, and services to support other industries.



Marine Transport, Ports and Shipping

Economic activities related to the transportation of freight and facilities and services incidental to shipping and handling of cargo.



Marine Renewables

Economic activities related to the production and generation of renewable energy using non-exhaustive natural forces, including but not limited to wind, wave, tidal, or osmotic energy.



Fisheries and Aquaculture

Economic activities related to the farming, harvesting, or catching of biotic marine life, including all activities related to processing, production, and preparation of seafood for consumption or feed.



Coastal and Marine Tourism

Economic activities of all indirect and direct facilities related to ocean tourism and leisure, including but not limited to cruises, marine sports, recreational fishing, aquariums, excursions to marine habitats, or services and accommodation located in a place near or adjoining the coast.

- *Sustainable Blue Economy Professional (SBEP)*

An SBEP is an individual with over five years of work experience spanning multiple Blue Economy sectors or related adjacent industries. This professional will either possess skills aligned with multiple sector-specific competencies or bring relevant expertise from an adjacent industry that matches the competencies of a particular sector, despite lacking direct work experience within that sector. SBEP's play a critical role in advancing the sustainable development of the Blue Economy, leveraging their diverse experience and interdisciplinary knowledge to foster practices that support economic growth, while preserving marine and coastal environments.

This professional is proficient in the following core competencies:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Problem Solving
- Teamwork
- Attention to Detail

- *Sustainable Blue Economy Professional in-training (SBEpt)*

An SBEpt is an emerging expert that has less than five years' experience working in the Blue Economy. As they progress in their career, a Sustainable Blue Economy Professional in Training will continue to develop their expertise and competencies, contribute to innovative solutions and play a crucial role in the transition towards a sustainable and resilient Blue Economy workforce.

We strongly recommend that all applicants read through the entire guide prior to submitting their application. Applicants may ask for further assistance at SBEP@eco.ca.

Fees

	SBEP	SBEpt
INITIAL APPLICATION FEE	\$300	\$200
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE – PRACTICING MEMBERS	\$230, prorated based on April 1 schedule	\$130, prorated based on April 1 schedule
FEE TO UPGRADE FROM SBEP WITHOUT SPECIALIZATION TO SBEP WITH SPECIALIZATION	\$100	N/A
FEE TO UPGRADE FROM SBEpt TO SBEP	N/A	\$150 + \$50 Examination Fee
ADDITION OF A FIELD OF SPECIALIZATION, POST-CERTIFICATION	\$100	\$50*

Fee Policy

- On April 1, all members are invoiced for the upcoming years renewal fee(s). If payment is not received within 30 days of the due date, a late penalty will apply and the member will be temporarily removed from the Roster until payment is received. This status will be lifted, and the member's name will be placed back on the Roster once payment is received.
- Application fees are non-refundable, even in the event of an unsuccessful application. The SBEP Ethics Exam fee is refundable if it has not been written.
- Fees and process are subject to change, and the website should be considered the most up to date place to find relevant information

Eligibility

Employment

SBEP	SBEP Specialized	SBEPt
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 5+ years of work experience that consists of a minimum of 2 years experience in a sector of the blue economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 5 years of work experience in a minimum of one sector of the blue economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer than 5 years of relevant employment experience

Education

- Applicants for both the **SBEP and SBEPt designation are required to have completed a minimum of either a 2-3-year college diploma or 3-4-year university degree**. Your highest obtained degree/diploma will be confirmed via a third-party verifier, BackCheck. BackCheck requires applicant consent to confirm credentials.

Application Process – SBEP and SBEP Specialized

Follow these 6 easy steps to start your designation journey.

1. Familiarize Yourself With Available Application Resources

As an SBEP applicant, you should read and familiarize yourself with this Application Guide as well as:

- SBEP Guidelines for Ethical Practice
- Exam Guidelines
- Blue National Occupational Standards (NOS)

2. Submit Your Application Fee

All SBEP applicants must pay the \$300 Application Fee, which includes the cost of the SBEP Ethics examination. This fee is payable online at <https://portal.eco.ca/public/eco-products>.

3. Submit Your Application Package Requirements and Write the SBEP Ethics Exam

Within 3 business days of submitting your application fee you will receive an email containing your Application Package, Skill Matching Tool, and documents to support your exam preparation.

Application Package

Your application will come in Excel format and prompt you to enter details relating to:

- **Your employment history:** provide detailed information about your workplace experience, focusing on roles that are relevant to the sustainable blue economy. This information will help ECO Canada to better understand your professional background and assess your eligibility for the SBEP designation.
- **Education and training:** list all relevant training and education that supports your application for the SBEP designation. This includes formal education such as degrees, diplomas, and certificates, as well as professional development courses, workshops, or other specialized training programs.
- **Professional references:** provide a minimum of 3 professional references who can attest to your experience, skills, and knowledge. These individuals should have direct knowledge of your work and be able to speak to your qualifications for the SBEP designation. Peer references must not be someone the applicant currently supervises.

Note: these professional references are contacted only if you are applying to SBEP Specialized, meaning you are applying in one or more of the 6 sub-sectors available.

- **Exam Details:** All SBEP and SBEP Specialized applicants are required to successfully write the SBEP Ethics Exam. Your application package will allow you to set your preferred date, time and proctor for the exam. If you are not ready to commit to an exam date, you can skip this step.

Complete Application Package documents should be e-mailed back to SBEP@eco.ca as soon as possible.

Skill Matching Tool

The Skill Matching Tool brings the Blue National Occupational Standards (NOS) into the SBEP application process. The Blue NOS were developed in 2022 as a tool to help build the workforce and support the expansion of new and transitioning jobs in the blue economy. Competency profiles were developed to identify the specific competencies required for different occupations across 6 sectors of the blue economy:



All applicants are required to complete the skill declaration tool. The tool has been designed to:

1. **Assess skills** in various areas related to the blue economy
2. **Determine eligibility** for the SBEP, SBEP Specialized, or SBEPT designation
3. **Guide career development** by highlighting areas of strength or areas where further development may be required

There are 2 key components to the Skill Matching Tool:

1. Assessment of General Sustainable Blue Economy Skills

Applicants will be presented with a list of the most common technical, personal and professional, policy, regulatory, and environmental skills that are relevant across all 6 sectors of the blue economy (e.g. Marine Emergency Duties, Problem Solving, Communication, Health and Safety Procedures, Ecosystem Identification, etc.) and be required to self-identify their level of experience with a given skill based on the following scale:

No Experience	Learning	Guidance Required	Independent	Lead
You have no experience in this work	You work only on preassigned duties related to this work	You can perform most aspects of this work	You can perform this work independently and may coordinate this work	You lead and have the overall responsibility for the quality and outcomes of the work
You haven't done, supervised or led this work in the past 5 years	You require supervision	You require occasional guidance	Your involvement is widespread and you may oversee aspects of this work	You have significant breadth and depth of knowledge and experience

2. Sector-Specific Specialization Assessment

If applying as SBEP Specialized the applicant will have declared at the start of the Skill Matching Tool which of the 6 sectors in the section above they wish to declare specialization in. Based on which are selected, their individual skill assessment worksheets will populate. On each sheet applicants will find a list of skills and descriptions associated with the specialization area. Applicants will again self-identify their level of experience with a given skill based on the following scale:

No Experience	Learning	Guidance Required	Independent	Lead
You have no experience in this work	You work only on preassigned duties related to this work	You can perform most aspects of this work	You can perform this work independently and may coordinate this work	You lead and have the overall responsibility for the quality and outcomes of the work
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SBEP Ethics Exam

All SBEP applicants are required to write the SBEP Ethics Exam. The exam will be written online in the Absorb Learning Management System (LMS). An account will be set up for you at the time of application and instructions on how to access your Absorb LMS account will be shared in advance of your exam date/time.

All applicants should review the Exam Guidelines documentation to ensure they are clear on the exam process, including study materials, date and time restrictions as well as exam proctor requirements.

4. Prepare for Final Board Approval

Once all required application information has been successfully received and complete, the file will be presented to the Approvals Board for final ratification. The Approvals Board meets the second Tuesday of each month, and candidates will be notified of the results of their approval within 2 business days from the meeting date.

5. Membership Fee Payment

Once certified, SBEPT members will be required to submit their first membership/renewal fee. The cost of this membership fee is \$230, prorated to an April 1 renewal date.

6. Celebrate Your New SBEP Status

Once designated and payment of membership fee is received new members will receive official confirmation of your SBEP or SBEP Specialized status. This includes a formal approval letter, a certificate, and information on accessing member benefits.

Application Process – SBEPT

Follow these 6 easy steps to start your designation journey.

1. Familiarize Yourself With Available Application Resources

As an SBEPT applicant, you should read and familiarize yourself with this Application Guide as well as:

- SBEP Guidelines for Ethical Practice
- Blue National Occupational Standards (NOS)

2. Submit Your Application Fee

All SBEPT applicants must pay the \$200 Application Fee. This fee is payable online at <https://portal.eco.ca/public/eco-products>.

3. Submit Your Application Package Requirements

Within 3 business days of submitting your application fee you will receive an email containing your Application Package and Skill Matching Tool.

Application Package

Your application will come in Excel format and prompt you to enter details relating to:

- **Your employment history:** provide detailed information about any workplace experience obtained to date, focusing on roles that are relevant to the sustainable blue economy. This information will help ECO Canada to better understand your professional background and assess your eligibility for the SBEPT designation.
- **Education and training:** list all relevant training and education that supports your application for the SBEPT designation. This includes formal education such as degrees, diplomas, and certificates, as well as professional development courses, workshops, or other specialized training programs.
- **Professional references:** provide a minimum of 3 professional references who can attest to your experience, skills, and knowledge. These individuals should have direct knowledge of your work and be able to speak to your qualifications for the SBEPT designation. Peer references must not be someone the applicant currently supervises.

Complete Application Package documents should be e-mailed back to SBEP@eco.ca as soon as possible.

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4. Prepare for Final Board Approval

Once all required application information has been successfully received and complete, the candidates file will be presented to the Approvals Board for final ratification. The Approvals Board meets the second Tuesday of each month and applicants will be notified of the results of their approval within 2 business days from the meeting date.

5. Membership Fee Payment

Once certified, SBEpt members will be required to submit their first membership/renewal fee. The cost of this membership fee is \$230, prorated to an April 1 renewal date.

6. Celebrate Your New SBEP Status

Once designated and payment of membership fee is received new members will receive official confirmation of their SBEpt status. This includes a formal approval letter, a certificate, and information on accessing member benefits.



Contact US

Should you require any assistance while in the application process, or have questions after becoming designation, please reach out to our Certification staff at any time:

SBEP@eco.ca

403-233-0748

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400-105 12 Ave SE
Calgary, AB T2G 1A1