

About Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System Operators



Employment Outlook

This occupation is expected to grow at a slightly faster rate (10.0%) between 2008 and 2018 than the statewide average of 9.1 percent for all occupations. Reasonable employment opportunities exist; an estimated 387 total job openings are expected between 2008 and 2018, largely due to the need to replace workers who retire or leave the occupation.

Wages

In 2011, hourly wages for water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators range from \$15.99 for entry-level workers to \$30.03 near the top of the pay scale. The average hourly wage is \$22.36. This translates to \$46,514 annually for a full-time, year-round position.

Selected Skills

- Apply chemical laboratory tests
- Follow hazardous materials specifications
- Monitor temperature gauges and thermometers

License Requirements

Water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators in Oregon must be licensed. Visit www.deq.state.or.us/permits/licenses.htm for certification and license information relevant to this occupation.

Learn More About Green Jobs...

QualityInfo.org/Green



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For additional brochures, please contact Lmipubs.emp@state.or.us

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GREEN JOBS

Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System Operators

GREEN Jobs in Oregon



Water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators control an entire process or system of machines, often through the use of control boards, to transfer or treat water or liquid waste.

GREEN JOBS

Not all water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators are “green.” Green workers have essential job duties in at least one of five categories included in the definition of a green job. Green jobs work to:

- Increase energy efficiency
- Produce renewable energy
- Prevent, reduce, or mitigate environmental degradation
- Clean up and restore the natural environment
- Educate, consult, and provide other services that support the above

A Day in the Life of Water Treatment Plant Operators: Melodie Hobbs and Donnie Cagle

What’s in a day’s work for a wastewater professional?

Donnie Cagle says: “It might look something like this: repair a pump, change a valve in a hazardous confined space, install a flow meter and sampler into a sanitary sewer pipe, perform three laboratory procedures and solve 29 process control problems.”



For Melodie Hobbs: “We use a biological process here to clean up the water. We’re taking all the wastewater – all the stinky, soapy, greasy water. We clean it up and put it back into the river. Our plant is really efficient.”

Cagle concurs. “Efficiency is what this career is all about. This is a technically challenging job and it’s providing a good service to the community. We’re all affected by the waterways that surround us, and the better job we do, the better savings we can pass on to our customers.”

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Education and Training

Workers must have additional training beyond high school to gain the necessary skills for this occupation. Those with additional training beyond high school and related work experience have a competitive advantage in this labor market.

Some training programs in Oregon geared toward this occupation include green courses or green components of courses. Selected programs include, but are not limited to:

Water and Environmental Technology

- Clackamas Community College

Water/Wastewater Plant Operations

- Linn-Benton Community College

Waste/Water Recycling and Wetlands

- Treasure Valley Community College

Visit the Oregon Green Career Pathways website, OregonGreenPathways.org, for more information on skills, opportunities, and training in water and liquid waste treatment.

Visit QualityInfo.org/Green for more information about green jobs in Oregon.

