

Water: The Maintained Wonder

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On account of their services, education, and benefits, wastewater plant operators keep Georgia water a maintained wonder. Thus, the occupational growth rate of 8% is no surprise.

Wastewater plant operators complete many tasks, like maintaining infrastructure, experimenting on water, and cleaning. They also maintain the machinery in the plant; it helps clean contaminated water and supplies it to homes across Georgia. Additionally, they have to collect samples of and run tests on water and communicate the results to maintain or improve the quality. Wastewater plant operators must also clean the machinery; metro Atlanta is “home to 6 million people” (Metro Atlanta Chamber) who depend on sanitary water for drinking, hygiene, manufacturing, and more.

A wastewater plant operator’s education requirements are fascinating to learn. One “must have a high school diploma or GED” (Georgia Association of Water Professionals) and a license as a Wastewater Operator from the State of Georgia. At least one year of experience is beneficial, and a mandatory license as a Wastewater Operator from the State of Georgia, or a passed examination for one’s “level of certification” (Wastewater and Industrial Treatment Certification) is included.

Considerations to obtain this occupation are many. I would consider becoming a Wastewater Plant Operator because of its contribution to the community, acceptable salary, and environmental benefits. A recent survey asked about the safety of disposing of flushable wipes, medications, fats, oils, and grease, or orange juice in the kitchen sink. 7% answered with flushable wipes, 1% with medications, 7% with fats, oils, and grease, and 85% with orange juice (GPB Education). Although 15% of incorrect responses seems low, it is equal to 900,000 out of 6,000,000 incorrect responses from Atlanta. Thus, I would appreciate knowing I would be

removing pollutants from wastewater if I had a job as a wastewater plant operator. The “starting salary range is \$36,543.75-\$54,080.00, depending on class level and experience.” (Georgia Association of Water Professionals). Lake Lanier is also polluted, and I could help clean it if I became a Wastewater Plant Operator. Therefore, other water workers could focus on their plan to conserve water: to assess watershed planning and conditions, develop land, manage stormwater assets, prevent pollution, and gain public awareness, instead of worrying about water plants (Metropolitan North Georgia Planning District). According to ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, “Traces of...coronavirus...have been recently detected in wastewater treatment plant-derived sludges...” (Tran et al.) By testing water and cleaning the machinery, I could impact the world by testing water for coronavirus and cleaning, even if the effects are little.

Indeed, it is reasonable to understand why “[e]mployment for Wastewater Treatment Operators are growing at a rate of 8% faster than the average growth for all occupations” (EnvironmentalScience.org), when exploring considerations to be one, occupational requirements, and help to the community. With these factors in mind, it is evident that they keep Georgia water a maintained wonder.

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