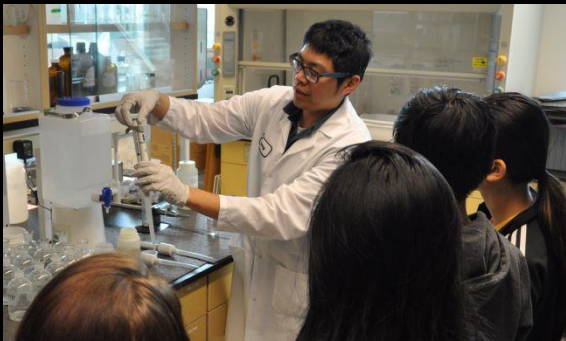


Careers in Clean Water



King County Wastewater Treatment Division





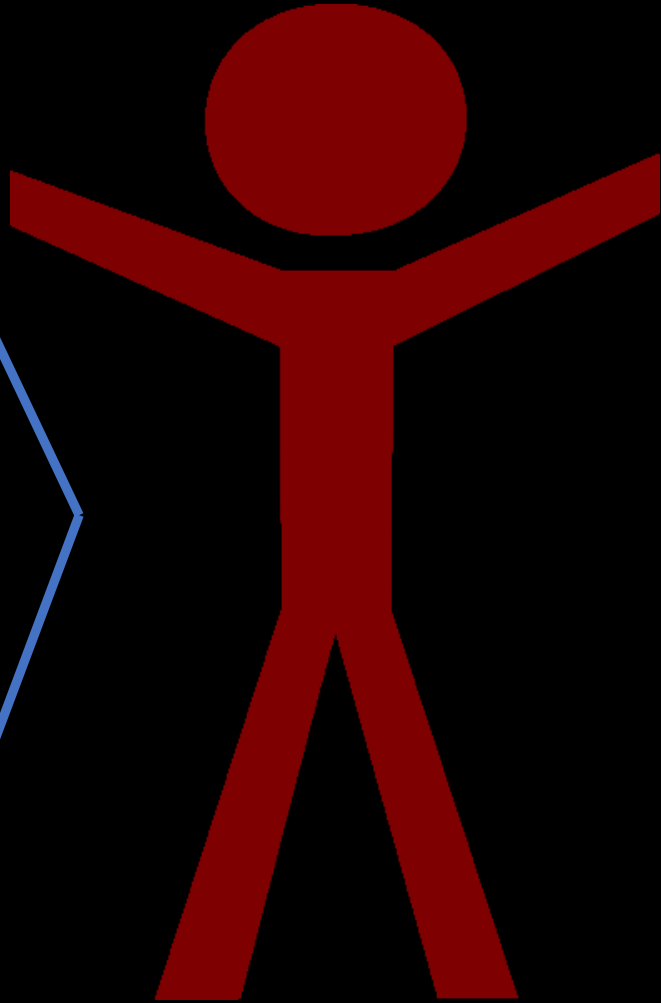
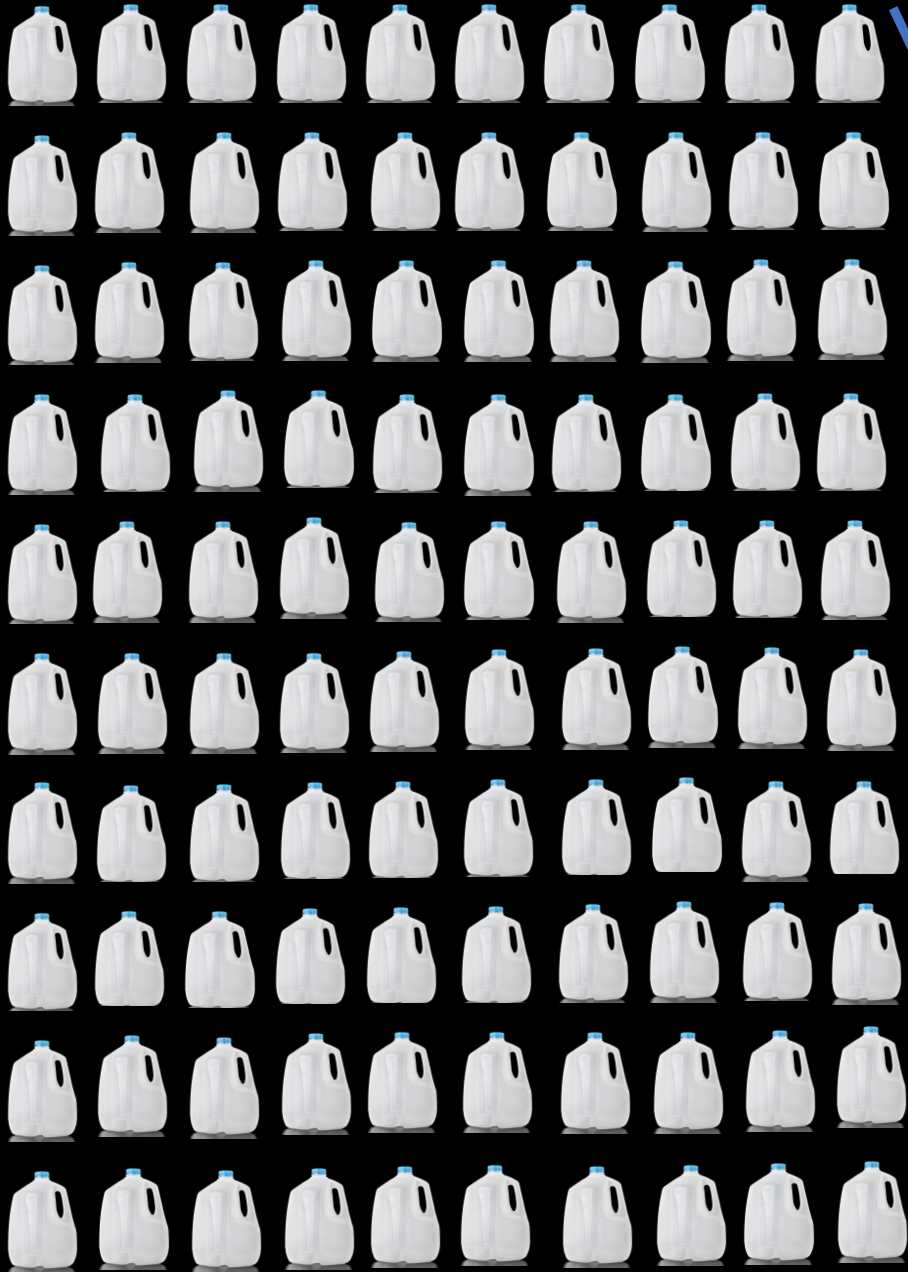


Wastewater



On average, how many gallons of water does each person use in one day in the United States?





EVERY DAY



We're all connected to Puget Sound



It takes a village to run this system



650 people!

What jobs come to mind when you hear the term “green jobs”?

What jobs come to mind when you think about the field of wastewater?



Wastewater Careers

- Engineers
- Community relations specialists
- Project Managers
- Wastewater operators
- Industrial maintenance mechanics
- Laboratory specialist



Asset manager



Environmental monitoring specialist

What's the appeal?

- Jobs protect public health and clean water
- Competitive salaries
- Great benefits - health, vacation, retirement
- Job security

Know yourself: what do you prefer?

When you reach for a snack, do you tend to reach for something ...

Sweet

Both, please

Savory (salty)

Career Preferences Activity

What jobs are a good fit for you?

The following questions are designed to get you thinking about what kinds of working conditions would best suit you. Once you have a better idea of what work environment you prefer, you will be able to tell which jobs are a good fit. No answer is the right answer, and it is okay to like both choices equally!

Which do you prefer? Mark your preference – left, both (middle), or right for each category.

1. English, Social Studies,
Political Science

Math, Physics, Science

2. Hands-on work, being active

Working with computers, drawings, plans

3. Working outside

Working inside

4. Working with people

Working independently

5. Variety: different tasks each day

Stability: similar tasks each day

6. Changing work schedule

Standard work schedule: 8am-5pm

Notice where the majority of your preferences fall, then look at these suggestions:

Majority Left Side

Communications Relations Specialist
Construction Manager
Education Specialist
Facilities Maintenance Technician

Majority in the Middle

Project Manager
Treatment Plant Operator
Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
Industrial Wastewater Inspector
Sustainability Project Manager
Industrial Electrician

Majority Right Side

Engineer – multiple types
Laboratory specialist
Environmental Planner
Financial Specialist
GIS Analyst

Hands on or hands off?

Working with your hands; being active



Working with computers/ drawings / planning



What's your comfort zone?

Outside



Inside



How you like to spend your time?

Working with people



Working independently



Change: stressful or exciting?

Variety, change most days



Stability, predictability most days



Night Owl? Early Bird? Neither?

Changing work schedule



Standard 8:00-5:00



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Laboratory specialist
Environmental Planner
Financial Specialist
GIS Analyst

Tally your
responses!

Get an inside perspective





Job description

- Informs communities about upcoming projects while gathering feedback, concerns and ideas from its members.
- Supports communities during emergencies and major construction projects.



Education & experience

- Experience with public communications, customer relations and/or environmental studies
- Or the equivalent combination of education and experience



Required skills

- work effectively and equitably with culturally diverse communities
- conduct many tasks and projects concurrently
- understanding of project management fundamentals
- use plain language to simplify technical concepts



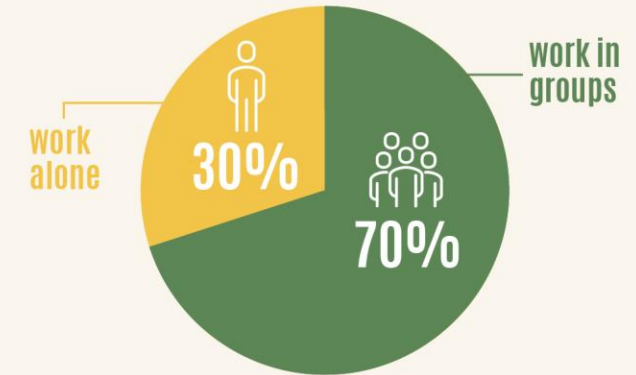
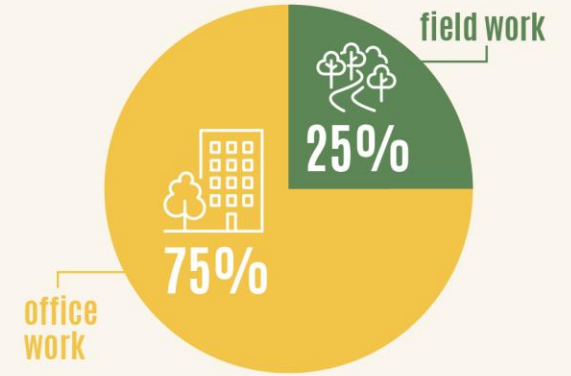
Typical workday

Provide information and updates to project managers, lead meetings, manage consultants and review their project deliverables, respond to email requests.



Community Relations Specialist

“ I enjoy the opportunities to directly interact with community members and local organizations to ensure projects create as little disruption as possible.”



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Check out more career cards!

Job description
Analyze and provide the most accurate data on samples collected from various treatment plant processes; for monitoring and permit compliance purposes.

Education & experience
Bachelor's degree (Chemistry, Biology) or equivalent experience.

Required skills

- familiarity with laboratory practices
- knowledge of data collection and analysis
- communication (oral, written, conflict resolution)
- detail-oriented
- troubleshooting

Typical workday
Collect water samples, perform tests, record and validate data, participate in meetings.



Laboratory Specialist

“ I gain satisfaction knowing we do our best to protect the environment from the waste we generate, and that we are part of making the earth a bit cleaner.”





80% office work
20% field work

Entry level salary
\$65,000



80% work in groups
20% work alone

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Job description
Plans, coordinates, and manages the scope, budget and schedule of an infrastructure project.

Education & experience
Bachelor's degree preferred (engineering, architecture) or relevant experience

Required skills

- organization
- time management
- technical communication - written and verbal
- work well with others

Typical workday
Facilitate meetings, delegate items to team members, research, give presentations or visit a project site.



Capital Project Manager

“ I started at the County because I wanted to make a difference where I live, with my job I feel like that is exactly what I am doing!”





80% office work
20% field work

Entry level salary
\$75,000



80% work in groups
20% work alone

King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Reflection



- Which jobs interest you the most and why?
- What surprised you about the careers you've learned about today?
- What are next steps you can think of to find out more about careers that interest you (whether they are wastewater jobs or not)?

Next steps



- Sign up for classes that are relevant to a subject you want to explore
- Research training programs and/or college majors
- Seek out career events as well as internships
- Ask for an informational interview with a professional in a career that interests you

CAREER EVENTS: Jobs for Clean Water

Interested in jobs that
protect human health
and the environment?



We're taking these events online!

Join the King County Wastewater Treatment Division for a virtual job-shadowing event to explore careers in clean water. Staff members will be leading short sessions to demonstrate the details of their job and share the steps needed to get hired.

Examples of careers in this field:

- **STEM:** Civil Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Water Quality Analyst
- **Trades:** Electrician, Treatment Plant Operator, Mechanic
- **Communications:** Community Relations, Environmental Educator, Project Manager

Questions?

Photo Citations

- Slide 7: <https://www.klcc.org/post/puget-sound-line-environmental-health-boost>