

AI is transforming careers everyday but Blue Jobs are forever.

Water scarcity, aging infrastructure, and climate change continue to put pressure on water and wastewater systems across the country. New tools, including artificial intelligence (AI), are increasingly used to support this work, helping utilities detect leaks, monitor water quality, and better anticipate flood and system risks. While these technologies might be able to improve efficiency, they do not replace the need for experienced, knowledgeable professionals.

Even as technology evolves, the water sector will always depend on people to operate, maintain, and protect water systems and public health over the long term. In the U.S. alone, 29,700 water operators are needed over the next decade to replace retirees. This is in addition to other crucial hires—including lab technicians, public health officials, conservationists, economists, cybersecurity analysts, regional planners, and engineers—who will also be needed to protect and care for our water resources, aquatic ecosystems, and the health of our communities.

The water industry presents opportunities for rewarding careers—not just jobs. Long-term growth, job stability, competitive pay, and meaningful work that gives back to our communities are key features of careers in the water sector. Blue jobs are available to anyone in the water sector, regardless of their skills, interests, and background.



Discover Career Paths in the Water Sector!



Explore Career Resources @
EFCN's Educators Resource Hub



efcnetwork.org/future-water-leaders

Careers Across the Water Workforce

Explore A World of Opportunity in the Water & Wastewater Industry



Careers from Source to Tap



Conservation

Conserves water sources and aquatic ecosystems

- Aquatic & Fisheries Scientist
- Ecologist*
- Environmental Scientist*
- GIS & Mapping Technician
- Hydrogeologist
- Interpretive Naturalist
- Natural Resource Technician
- Marine Biologist
- Meteorologist

Monitoring

Monitors and analyzes water quality

- Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
- Diver
- Environmental Engineer
- Laboratory Analyst
- Mechanical Engineer*
- Water Quality Technician
- Surveyor*

Treatment

Treats 'raw' and wastewater for use/disposal

- Aquatic Scientist
- Biochemist
- Chemical Engineer
- Environmental Engineer*
- Mechanical Engineer
- Microbiologist*
- Treatment Plant Operator
- Wastewater Operator

Usage

Manages water use for efficiency and quality

- Agricultural Scientist
- Aquaculturist
- Botanist
- Electrical Engineer
- Water Quality Technician
- Hazardous Waste Technician
- Landscaper

Supply & Distribution

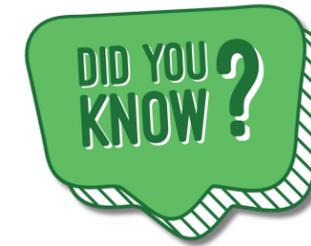
Manages water infrastructure and services for efficient transport, use, and storage

- Agricultural Engineer
- GIS & Mapping Technician*
- Diver
- Landscape Architect
- Plumber*
- Process Controller
- Pumping Station Operator
- Septic Tank Servicers
- Sewer Pipe Cleaners
- SWPP Inspector
- Town and Regional Planner
- Water Operator

Auxillary & Support

Provides support at all stages of water cycle

- Actuary
- Administrator
- Cybersecurity Analyst
- Training Practitioner
- Accountant
- PR Professional
- Project Manager
- Economist
- Electrician
- Environmental Health Officer*
- Equipment Operator
- IT Specialist
- Lawyer
- Leisure & Recreation Provider
- Geologist
- Instrument Mechanician
- Laboratory Analyst
- Meter Reader
- Marketing Specialist
- Political Scientist
- Zoology



There's a career path for you in the water sector, regardless of your education level.

Many entry-level positions offer on-the-job training. So, whether you plan on attending college or are eager to land a job right after graduation, **there is a blue job out there for you.**



Bachelors Degree

Comprehensive understanding of the discipline required.

- Aquaculturist
- Chemist
- Biologist
- Ecologist
- Engineer (Agricultural, Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical)
- Fisheries Specialist
- Hydrogeologist
- Landscape Architect
- Scientist (Agricultural, Aquatic, Environmental)



Associates Degree

Specialized education and on the job training required.

- Interpretive Naturalist
- Laboratory Analyst
- Surveyor
- Water Quality Technician
- Boilermaker
- Botanist
- GIS & Mapping Technician
- Interpretive Naturalist



High School/GED Diploma

Diploma (or equivalent) required. On-the-job training and certificates offered.

- Diver
- Electrician
- IT Specialist
- Meter Reader
- Process Controller
- Plumber
- Pump & Pumping Station Operator
- Water & Wastewater Operator

* Many careers and majors are needed in every stage of water resource conservation and management.