

The Science of Compliance!

Wastewater Compliance Specialist, Claire Cremin



Where are you from?

I grew up by the sea. I'm from Mornington Co Meath. It's a village just south of Drogheda on the River Boyne estuary. Ennis is now my home, I've been living here for over 40 years.

What do you do with Irish Water?

I joined Irish Water in December 2014 as a Wastewater Compliance Analyst and since 2017, I am the Regional Wastewater Compliance Specialist with responsibility for the South East region. I work closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Inland Fisheries Ireland and other local stakeholders. My job is to protect the environment and ensure wastewaters from out wastewater treatment plants are returned safely back to the environment.

How did your career path lead you to Irish Water?

I have always worked in the environmental science area. I start working in Kilkenny County Council, but most of my career was with Clare County Council before joining Irish Water in December 2014. My role has a broad scope, from investigating pollution complaints and conducting farm inspections, catchment surveys, river monitoring and bathing water quality monitoring. For the last 12 years, I have worked in the wastewater compliance area, preparing licence applications and reporting to the EPA.

Educational background:

I have a Diploma in Environmental Science and both a post graduate Diploma and Masters in Environmental Protection from Sligo Institute of Technology. I also have a Certificate in Biodiversity and Conservation Management from the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Why did you choose science as a career?

I was always interested in the environment. I grew up on a farm, but my father also had a salmon export business and I spent all of my summer holidays helping out with the business. As part of this work, I helped out on a research project to monitor salmon movements in the River Boyne, by taking

scale samples from the fish and monitoring them for tags. From this data, the Department was able to monitor fish age, numbers and when salmon returned back upriver to spawn.

Best part of your job with Irish Water?

The best part of my job is working with so many talented people who are interested in their job and continuously strive for the highest standards. Colleagues acknowledge that everyone has an important contribution to make to a project, which makes for better collaboration in achieving the end goal. I enjoy the variety of the job; no two days are ever the same. It is rewarding to see new projects coming on line and to see the improvements and benefits they have on the receiving environment.

Advice for anyone interested in a career in science;

Science is amazing and we are learning new things all the time. There is such a wide diversity in the areas of science that you can work in.

Outside of work, what do you enjoy doing?

I enjoy cooking and sewing; I even used to make my own clothes. I also enjoy spending time in the garden. I enjoy swimming, being outdoors and going for walks, especially by the sea. I am a volunteer with the Ennis and Clare Samaritans and find this work very rewarding.