

The Science of Water

Irish Water Scientist Emily Mulqueen discusses her vital role in safeguarding our drinking water as part of Science Week 2021



Irish Water is delighted to take part in National Science Week 2021 which runs from 7 - 14 November. This year Science Week will focus on Creating Our Future, a national conversation between the general public, the research community and policy makers.

Ensuring that our water and wastewater services are delivered in a sustainable manner is a top priority for Irish Water and we are already implementing energy efficient design for all projects as well as energy efficiency measures into the operation of our treatment plants where possible.

Throughout Science Week, we will be highlighting these energy efficiency projects as well as profiling a number of our scientists and the role that science has in their role in safeguarding our water supplies and the environment.

Emily Mulqueen is a Drinking Water Compliance Analyst with Irish Water, working with the East and Midlands Environmental Regulation team. Her role is to ensure that the drinking water that reaches customers' taps is fully compliant.

Speaking about her role with Irish Water, Emily said "My role gives me the opportunity to contribute to business decisions which lead to an improvement in the quality of something as fundamental as drinking water. It's a role that involves close collaboration with local authorities, the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and brings with it a lot of responsibility including safeguarding the water supply for homes and businesses in the region. I am currently the compliance point of contact for Longford, Westmeath and Offaly. This role allows me to work with people from various disciplines, which always keeps the job interesting."

Speaking about why science interested her as a career, Emily added "I was interested in the outdoors and the environment from an early age. I like to understand the detail behind environmental processes and wanted to learn how things worked. If you have an interest in science, you never lose that inquisitive nature that brought you into science in the first place. My favourite thing about working in science is that it is so broad, you can always identify new areas to learn about."