

**Leanne Casey - Cross Industry Graduate Programme**  
**The Diversity of Science: New horizons around every corner**



Leanne Casey lives and breathes science. Her studies have been as diverse as her young career. Having studied a variety of scientific subjects, from Physics to Zoology and Hydrology to Environmental Modelling, Leanne's multi-disciplinary experience and passion for discovery has led her to the Irish Water family.

The Clare native, but Dublin based has always been fascinated by nature and especially the environment. This fascination has led Leanne to develop a keen interest in problem solving which lies at the very heart of scientific research. Her love of the outdoors also inspired her interest in climate science especially in the areas of energy, agricultural, and water solutions. In an ever-changing world we live in, which is dominated by climate change and the energy crisis, Leanne's scientific acumen is needed all the more acutely.

With her degree in Biological Science, Leanne did not hang around for long and joined the Climate Ambassadors, a programme co-ordinated by An Taisce.

"I got to take part in network gatherings on renewable energy, biodiversity, and peatlands and host an online 'Climate Café' environmental education workshop. I also co-ordinated a beach cleaning group in Galway, 'The Galway Beach Cleaners' in Salthill and the Claddagh Beaches and became a Co-ordinator for the Dublin-based charity, Flossie and the Beach Cleaners. Taking part in these events and meeting like-minded people furthered my interest in a career in science."

Lisa decided to further quench her insatiable thirst for scientific knowledge by completing an MEngSc in Water, Waste, and Environmental Engineering at University College Dublin (UCD). Leanne then joined the team at Irish Water as part of the Cross Industry Graduate Programme.

“I applied for the Cross Industry Graduate Programme because of the experience it offered in various areas of the water services industry. The unique opportunity offers cross-industry knowledge such as experience working for the client, consultancy, and contractor. It is also a great opportunity to work with partners such as RPS, Coffey, AECOM, Ward & Burke and Nicholas O’Dwyer.”

Leanne is “proud” to be part of the Irish Water family.

“My first rotation is with Irish Water where I worked with the Asset Delivery team in the Wastewater Division. The Wastewater Division is involved in all stages in the lifecycle of wastewater treatment plant development. Being a part of such large projects is interesting, especially because a significant wastewater treatment plant is now being built in Arklow, Co. Wicklow.”

Leanne’s role at Irish Water has led her to pushing out her boundaries and working on projects that inspire her the most.

“I was lucky to work on some challenging projects and learned a lot along the way. After learning about water and wastewater treatment for so long, it’s great to be involved in some current, real-life projects and seeing all the tasks involved in a project’s life cycle from design to construction and on to final operation.”

As more and more women in Ireland are turning to careers in science and engineering, Leanne would wholeheartedly encourage women to study science. One of the main benefits of a career in science, according to Leanne, is that you are always on a learning curve and rarely confined to a desk.

Leanne’s passion in research on developing water conservation technologies for horticultural systems to reduce their environmental impact led to the publication of her first paper in July of this year, which was a major accomplishment.

Irish Water is responsible for the delivery of all public water and wastewater services in Ireland. We are committed to continuously upgrading and developing critical infrastructure to support the growth needed in housing and across our economy, while protecting the environment and safeguarding water supplies.