



Agnieszka Wojdowska and Peter McNulty Process Optimisation Engineers

Irish Water’s Process Optimisation Engineers, Agnieszka Wojdowska and Peter McNulty oversee the processes that ensure treatment plants across County Wicklow are working efficiently, identify any problems and help find the solutions to fix them.

Polish native Agnieszka holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Protection and is a Water and Wastewater Optimisation Specialist. She makes sure the water and wastewater treatment processes at treatment plants across the Greater Dublin Area are working efficiently and are compliant with regulatory standards. Dublin born and bred Peter is a Wastewater Engineer who studied Civil Engineering at UCD and TCD. His role involves diagnosing issues at wastewater treatment plants, advising on remedies and working with seven Local Authorities and different Irish Water departments to implement solutions and changes.

Speaking about her job, Agnieszka says, “Every day is different and brings a new challenge. Each treatment plant is different, some designed and built many years ago and with different technologies. This coupled with changing weather and environmental conditions, makes my job very interesting as each plant needs an individual approach.” Peter adds, “By ensuring our plants are operating at the best level possible we can continue to treat approximately 1.6 billion litres of wastewater on a daily basis making it safe to return to the environment and 1.7 billion litres of drinking water every single day making it safe for everyone to use. Our work is quite collaborative which can lead to better outcomes including cost saving benefits and compliance improvements. Since 2014 we have worked with our Local Authority partners to improve effluent quality from wastewater treatment plants benefiting the environment.

Speaking about why engineering interested them as a career, Agnieszka said, “When I was a little girl, I loved science experiments. I would always get chemistry kits for my birthdays and my father even built me a small laboratory at home. When I was about ten I remember pretending to treat water from a nearby river using a sock and sand filter system.” For Peter it was a love of maths that inspired him to study engineering, “John Brown, Mathematics Teacher and author of the Applied Mathematic Textbook, was the best teacher I have ever come across in a formal setting and

definitely the reason I became an engineer. Engineering is varied with so many sub divisions and niches that you should be able to find something that you really enjoy doing as I have been lucky enough to. They say if you enjoy what you do you never work a day in your life. It's a cliché but it's true."